The Department of Education’s
*Experimental Sites Initiative*

**Second Chance Pell:**
Pell for Students Who Are Incarcerated

September 2015
Agenda

1. Overview of the Experiment
2. How to Apply
3. The Evaluation
Responsibilities of Institutional Offices

Administrative Capability
668.16(b)(1) and (4)
Objective

- Examine how providing Pell Grants to incarcerated students influences their participation in educational opportunities as well as academic and life outcomes.
- Examine any challenges or obstacles to an institution’s administration of title IV HEA programs to incarcerated students.
The experiment will allow participating postsecondary institutions to provide Federal Pell Grant funding to otherwise eligible students who are incarcerated in Federal or State penal institutions, but who will be eligible for release into the community; particularly those who are likely to be released within five years of enrollment in the program.
## Second Chance Pell: Pell for Students Who Are Incarcerated

### Waivers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Law/Regulation</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>Section 401(b)(6) of the HEA</td>
<td>Provides that students who are incarcerated in a Federal or State penal institution are not eligible to receive Federal Pell Grant funds.</td>
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<tr>
<td>34 CFR 668.32(c)(2)(ii)</td>
<td>For purposes of the Federal Pell Grant Program—...Is not incarcerated in a Federal or State penal institution;</td>
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Exceptions

The following student eligibility restrictions are not waived:

- Convictions for drug possession or sale while receiving title IV aid (Section 484(r) of the HEA)
- Involuntary civil commitment after incarceration for sexual offenses (Section 401(b)(6))
- Cost of attendance provision for incarcerated students (Section 472(6))
Student Consideration: Likely To Be Released within Five years

Likely to be released?

Is 5 years a “hard release”?
Requirements

Completion of Program

Must be able to complete program post release
Requirements

Employment

Must ensure students are not enrolled in a program that prepares them for careers in fields where they face legal barriers to employment.
Requirements

Academic and Career Guidance

Must provide academic and career guidance
Requirements

Supplement NOT Supplant

This experiment is intended to supplement not supplant existing investments in postsecondary prison-based education programs
Requirements

ATB/Career Pathway Provisions

Students without a high school credential and the Career Pathway provisions

See Dear Colleague Letter GEN-15-09
How to Apply

Letters of Application

• Should be on institutional letterhead
  • Signed by the institution’s financial aid administrator

• Must include the institution’s official name and OPEID, mailing address, email address, FAX number and telephone number of a contact person, and a request to be considered for participation in this Second Chance Pell: Pell for Students Who Are Incarcerated experiment.

• Send as a PDF file to: experimentalsites@ed.gov no later than October 2, 2015
Application Review

- **Round One**
  Review of the institution’s history of the administration of Federal Title IV Aid (for example, audits and program reviews)

- **Round Two**
  Review information about the institution’s intended program
Program Participation Agreement

FSA sends the school the Amendment to the PPA
School signs and returns hard copy document via delivery service

FSA sends the school a countersigned amendment to the PPA and a welcome letter
• School retains copies of both of those documents for their records
## Evaluation and Reporting

The Department’s evaluation of the experiment will include:

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<tr>
<th>Information Type</th>
<th>Possible Data Sources</th>
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| **Institution**  | ▪ Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS)  
                   ▪ Institutional Experimental Site Survey and Narrative Descriptions  
                   ▪ Common Origination and Disbursement (COD)  
                   ▪ National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS) |
| **Program(s)**   | ▪ Institutional Experimental Site Survey and Narrative Descriptions |
| **Students**     | ▪ Institutional Student Information Record (ISIR) Data  
                   ▪ Common Origination and Disbursement (COD)  
                   ▪ National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS)  
                   ▪ Institutional Experimental Site Survey and Narrative Descriptions |
Experimental Sites Initiative Website

https://experimentalsites.ed.gov
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