



Employment Security Commission of North Carolina

Beverly Eaves Perdue
Governor

Moses Carey, Jr.
Chairman

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR UNEMPLOYED WORKERS

On May 8, 2009 President Obama announced that individuals drawing unemployment insurance (UI) benefits will receive special consideration for financial aid to pay for job training or education, and may also be able to keep UI benefits while enrolled. You are encouraged to take advantage of new opportunities for education and training.

Federal Pell Grant scholarships are awarded based on financial need and other factors and covers education and training expenses. They are accepted at nearly all universities and community colleges, and many trade and technical schools. Even if you do not qualify for a Pell Grant, you may be eligible for other educational assistance.

Applying for financial aid and finding training are not difficult. The Department of Education and the Department of Labor have created a single web site, www.opportunity.gov where you can find helpful information. If you are interested in pursuing these opportunities, here are the steps you should take:

- Decide what education or training meets your needs. Contact any college, other training provider or One-Stop Career Center for help in identifying potential education and training opportunities. To locate the nearest One-Stop Career Center, call the toll free number 1-877-US-2-JOBS for assistance, or visit www.servicelocator.org.
- Apply for the Pell Grant. Colleges/Universities can help you apply for Pell Grant scholarships and other federal financial aid. An application is also available at www.fafsa.gov or by calling 1-800-4FEDAID. While you will need to report last year's income when applying, your school can adjust your eligibility to reflect your current circumstances. When you go to apply, take a copy of your Monetary Determination Letter with you as evidence that you are a UI beneficiary. This letter does not guarantee you a Pell Grant but your school will use it to evaluate your eligibility.
- Not every education or training program will excuse you from the requirements you must meet to receive UI benefits. Approved enrollment in school or training does not add to your UI benefits.

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