

Vermont Department of Labor
PO Box 488
Montpelier, VT 05601-0488

Federal Pell Grant Information

Mailing date: xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx
ID: xxxx

Name
Address
Address

This letter is to advise you of an exciting new opportunity for education and training now available to unemployed workers. You may now be eligible for up to \$5,350.00 in federal Pell Grants to assist you in educational and training expenses as a result of the May 8, 2009 announcement made by President Obama.

In that important announcement the President stated that workers who are getting 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, **provided prior approval has been requested and received**; refer to reverse side of this notice for further information on this approval process. Studies have shown that workers with more education and training have more secure jobs and higher wages.

Federal Pell Grant scholarships must be used towards a degree and when awarded, may cover up to \$5,350.00 in education and training expenses. They are available at all Vermont colleges and other trade and technical schools. Even if you do not qualify for a Pell Grant, you may be eligible for other financial aid at those institutions.

Applying for financial aid and finding educational and training opportunities is not difficult. If you are interested in pursuing these opportunities, here are the steps you should take:

1. Decide what type of training best meets your needs. Need some help with this?
 - The U.S. Departments of Education and Labor have created a single web site, www.opportunity.gov, where you can find helpful information. Additional information about training and careers can also be found at www.careeronestop.org; or
 - Go to a VDOL Resource Center for help in identifying potential education and training opportunities. A list of VDOL's Regional Centers is provide on the reverse side of this notice; or
 - Visit the college or trade/technical school you hope to attend.
2. Apply for a federal Pell Grant by completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
 - If you have decided which college you are attending, the financial aid office there will help you apply for the Pell Grant and other financial aid.
 - You may also contact the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation at 1-800-642-3177 and on the web at www.vsac.org. An application is also available at www.fafsa.gov or by calling 1-800-4FEDAID.
 - If you are not sure what college you want to attend, a VDOL Resource Center near you will be able to assist.

Please note: Although you will need to report last year's income on the FAFSA form when applying, your school can adjust your eligibility to reflect your current circumstances by providing a copy of this letter to the school you select. For the next 90 days, it confirms that you are an unemployment insurance beneficiary. While it does not guarantee you a Pell Grant, your school will use this letter to adjust your eligibility. After 90 days, or if you lose this letter, you may provide alternative evidence that you are currently receiving unemployment insurance by going to www.labor.vt.gov and clicking on "Unemployment Insurance – Claimant Application" link located in the green box on the left hand side of every VDOL web page. Once you sign into the claimant application you may print your current claim information. If you do not have internet access, you may visit your local VDOL Resource Center to use a computer or call the Claimant Assistance line at 1-877-214-3332.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION related to YOUR Unemployment Insurance benefits:

If you are still receiving UI benefits if/when you receive approval for a Pell Grant, **you must call the Unemployment Claims Center Claimant Assistance line at 1-877-214-3332**, at which time you will be provided further instructions.

If you receive a Pell Grant to help with school expenses, your unemployment benefit eligibility will not be denied simply because you are enrolled in school or training, as long as you have contacted the Unemployment Claims Center Claimant Assistance line and taken the necessary steps in advance as instructed above.

While our economy is struggling, we have an opportunity to improve workers' skills and lay the foundation for a stronger economy in the future. We hope this information will give you some helpful information and encouragement to continue your education and training.

Please carefully consider this opportunity. If you need further information about this opportunity, please refer to the information contained within, information posted on our website at <http://labor.vermont.gov/Workers/Unemployed/TrainingOpportunities/tabid/1602/Default.aspx>, or visit your nearest VDOL Resource Center.

Vermont Department of Labor
Unemployment Insurance and Wages Division

Below is a list of VDOL's 6 Regional Centers. VDOL also has 6 satellite offices. To learn more about a potential satellite office nearer to you, please call the Regional Center closest to you.

Central Vermont

McFarland State Office Building
5 Perry Street, Suite 200
Barre, VT 05641
802-476-2600

Southern Vermont

200 Asa Bloomer Building
Rutland, VT 05701
802-786-5837

Southeast Vermont

56 Main Street, Suite 101
Springfield, VT 05156
802-885-2167

Southwest Vermont

150 Veterans memorial Dr, Suite 2
Bennington, VT 05201
802-442-6376

Northeast Vermont

1197 Main Street, Suite 1
St. Johnsbury, 05819
802-748-3177

Northwest Vermont

63 Pearl Street
Burlington, VT 05401
802-863-7676