

Department of Public Safety & Corrections
State of Louisiana

JOHN BEL EDWARDS
GOVERNOR



JAMES M. LE BLANC
SECRETARY

TO: All Postsecondary Institutions
From: The Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections
Re: Guidelines for Drafting and Submitting a Prison Education Program Proposal Utilizing Federal Pell Grants

INTRODUCTION:

On July 1, 2023, Federal Pell Grants will be reinstated for incarcerated individuals. Throughout 2021 and 2022, the U.S. Department of Education (DOE) moved through the negotiated rulemaking process (NRMP) that included a public comment period to review regulations for the use of and the process postsecondary institutions must follow to apply for, and be approved, to provide Prison Education Programs (PEP) in Louisiana Department of Public Safety & Corrections (DPS&C) facilities. The United States DOE released the final regulatory language in November 2022 on Federal Pell Grant reinstatement effective July 2023. The following proposal requirements include the required information that DPS&C needs to approve a PEP in DPS&C facilities.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this guide is to provide direction and assistance to postsecondary institutions who wish to offer a PEP in DPS&C facilities leveraging Pell Grants. All oversight entities are tasked with providing prior approval, including drafting a Memo of Understanding (MOU), to postsecondary institutions who wish to provide programming within our facilities and who demonstrate that they will operate in the best interest of the students. The required best interest criteria include the items listed on the DPS&C PEP Application.

REVIEW PROCESS:

The review process consists of the following phases:


- initial review,
- final review and evaluation by the DPS&C Pell Advisory Committee using the standardized DPS&C PEP Rubric,
- if applicable: request for additional information/programmatic changes,
- formal notice will be sent to proposer with proposal decision.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) PROCESS:

Once formal notice of approval is sent to the PEP, a standardized MOU will be sent for signatures from all parties.

QUESTIONS:

To submit an application, or for questions concerning the PEP Proposal Process, or about providing a PEP within the Louisiana Department of Public Safety & Corrections, please contact DPS&C Education Director, Muriel Leewright muriel.leewright@la.gov.



Muriel M. Leewright, Education Director
Louisiana Department of Public Safety & Corrections