



PRESIDENT'S TRAINING INITIATIVE

Frequently Asked Questions

- ***What are the steps I should take to do this?***

We have outlined steps to take on our website, <http://www.dws.state.nm.us/> you can also look at www.opportunity.gov. In brief, the next steps you should take involve making a plan, visiting a CareerCenter and looking into applying for financial aid.

- ***I don't have Internet access, what should I do? Where should I go?***

Visit a local library for Internet access or any of the 22 Department of Workforce Connection Centers in New Mexico. To find a Workforce Connection Center, visit <http://www.dws.state.nm.us/dws-offices.html>.

- ***If it takes longer than expected to finish my education or training, can I continue receiving unemployment benefits until my training is complete?***

As long as you remain monetary eligible for benefits. There are a number of state and federal unemployment benefit programs through which a person might receive benefits. Depending on the circumstances surrounding your job loss and how long you have been receiving unemployment benefits, you may be eligible for one or more additional programs.

- ***What is a Pell Grant and what is FAFSA?***

A Pell Grant is a form of federal financial aid awarded based on financial need. In order to apply students must be enrolled at least halftime in an education or training program. Need is based on expected family income, cost of attendance, the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form and other factors. FAFSA is a free form that can be completed online at www.fafsa.ed.gov but you may also request a paper copy if you call 1-800-433-3243. This initiative directs college and university financial aid officers to use their "professional judgment" to possibly adjust your financial aid package.

- ***Why should I pursue education and training?***

As the economy recovers and new jobs are created, having an improved resume and skill set can help you more successfully compete for good paying jobs that are in high demand.

- ***What is an "approved training program," and can I collect unemployment benefits while attending training?***

State and federal laws require you to be able to work, accept work and be actively seeking work each week in order to receive unemployment benefits. To waive the work search requirement and continue collecting unemployment benefits while in training or a college degree program, the training you are enrolled in must be designated as "approved" by the New Mexico Workforce Connections or be enrolled in specific programs offered within the New Mexico Workforce Connection. To find out if a training or education program you are interested in is "approved training," you can check online at

<https://www.jobs.state.nm.us/> Special Services; Education and Training Services, click on Training Providers and School

If the course you want to take is not on the approved training list, **before enrolling**, you will need to request that the training or education program be approved. Contact your local New Mexico Workforce Connection Office. <http://www.dws.state.nm.us/>

▪ ***What does a New Mexico Workforce Connections office offer?***

The Workforce Connection Centers offer a wide array of free services and resources to help you become reemployed. They are a resource for job information and openings, in providing assistance in pursuing education goals, training or apprenticeships. Generally, they offer free computer access and a variety of workshops to help you achieve your job search or career goals.