



# The Department of Education's Pell Grant Experiments

# Statutory Requirements Being Tested

- Experiment 1
  - Generally, a student who has earned a bachelor's degree is not Pell Grant eligible
- Experiment 2
  - Students enrolled in academic programs with less than 15 weeks of instructional time and less than 600 clock hours, 16 semester credit hours, and 24 quarter credit hours are not Pell Grant eligible

# Experiment 1

## Federal Pell Grant Program –Eligibility of students with bachelor's degrees who enroll in vocational or career programs

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- Student otherwise Pell Grant eligible
- Student unemployed or under-employed
- Vocational or career program
- Program's length is one-year or less
- Student able to complete the program in no more than two years

## Experiment 2

### Federal Pell Grant Program—Eligibility of students enrolled in certain short-term training programs

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- Student otherwise Pell Grant eligible
- Program requirements:
  - At least 8 weeks of instructional time
  - At least 150 clock hours or 4 semester credit hours
  - Approved by FSA to participate in Title IV

## Experiment 2

### Federal Pell Grant Program—Eligibility of students enrolled in certain short-term training programs

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- Additional program requirements:
  - Addresses local or regional workforce needs
  - Training sufficient to meet employers' hiring requirements/standards and any applicable licensure requirements
  - Doesn't exceed by more than 50% the minimum number of clock hours if established by the state for such training programs

# Evaluation of Pell Grant Experiments

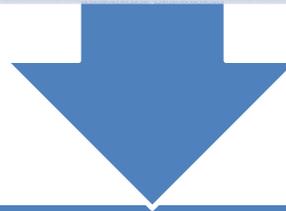
- Rigorous study needed to substantiate potential recommendation for statutory change to expand Pell Grant eligibility
- Random assignment (lottery) will create two equivalent groups – one that will be offered a Pell grant and one that will not
- By comparing outcomes (educational, employment, earnings) between these two group, we can identify the impact of changing Pell grant eligibility requirements

# Selection Process

## FSA Review and Screening

Past Compliance

School Diversity



## School participates if...

FSA invites via  
ExperimentalSites@ed.gov

School accepts

School and  
FSA sign PPA

# If School Accepts – Sign and Execute PPA

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- ED will send PDF of PPA to school's CEO as identified in PEPS
- School formally accepts invitation by signing the PPA Amendment
  - Print, sign and return two copies to ED team
  - ED counter-signs and returns copy to school

# New Program Approval in Experiment 2

- FSA's E-APP system cannot accommodate “too-short” weeks of instruction, clock hours, or credits hours
- Schools participating in Experiment 2 will use a PDF form to secure FSA's approval for new programs

# Participation Overview

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- Sign and return the PPA Amendment
- All programs must have accreditor, state, and FSA approval
- Recruit / inform students
- Attend web-based training for and use random assignment system
- Comply with additional annual reporting requirements

# Experiment 1 & 2 – Inform and Recruit

## Possible Methods

- Community Outreach
- Community Information
- Contact local workforce partners & CBOs

## Target Population

- Otherwise Pell Grant Eligible
- Unemployed or Underemployed
- Interested in Targeted Program

## Message

- “Chance” to get a Pell Grant

# Evaluation Requirements

## Lottery

- Schools enter student information
- System randomly assigns to **Offer Pell Grant** or **Do Not Offer Pell Grant** group
- Schools prepare package to reflect assignment

## Applicant level data

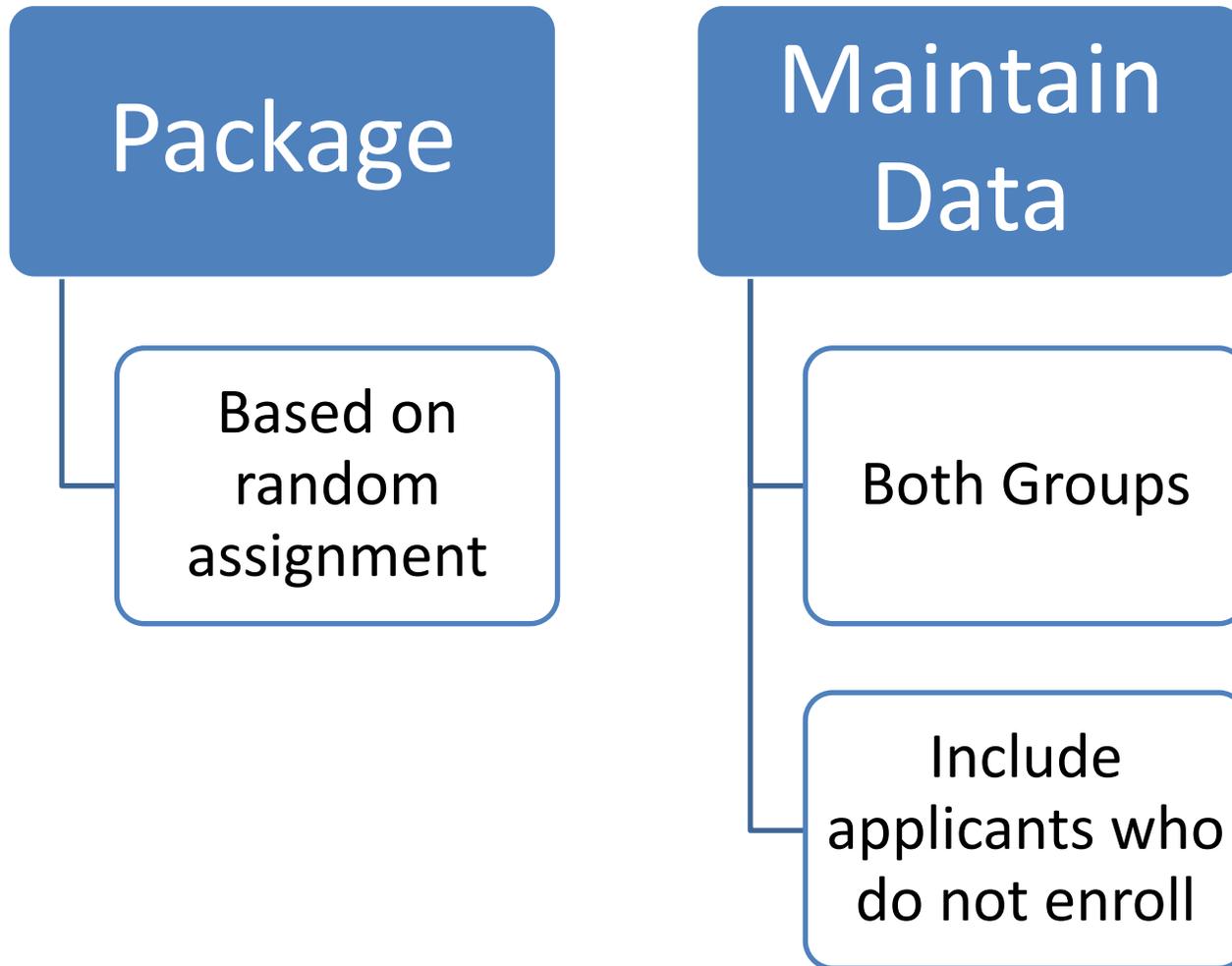
- Schools provides student-level records data for **all** applicants

# More Information on the Evaluation

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- Further training on how to use the random assignment system will be provided to participating schools by SPR
- For more information, visit study site at [www.pellexperiments.org](http://www.pellexperiments.org)

# After Random Assignment



# Annual Reporting Requirements

To FSA

Narrative  
description

To SPR

Applicant  
level data,  
including PII

# Draft Demographic Fields

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- Name
- SSN
- DOB
- Contact information
- Gender
- Dependency status
- Direct costs and total costs
- EFC

## Draft Financial Aid Award Fields

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- Pell Grant
- FWS
- FSEOG
- Subsidized Loans
- Unsubsidized Loans
- PLUS Loans
- Non-Federal loans to parents
- Non-Federal loans to students
- State Grants
- Institutional Grants and Scholarships

# Draft Academic Info Fields

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- Name of Program
- CIP code
- Credential level
- Applicant enrolled, Y/N
- Date started
- Date ended
- Credit / clock hours attempted and completed
- Measure of academic performance (e.g., GPA)
- Successfully completed program, Y/N
- Credential earned
- Utilization of support services (e.g., counseling, placement)
- Data from any prior enrollment received at school

# Future SPR Survey of a Sample of Students



## Education

- Credentials earned
- Financial aid received



## Labor Market Outcomes

- Employment related to training
- Wages



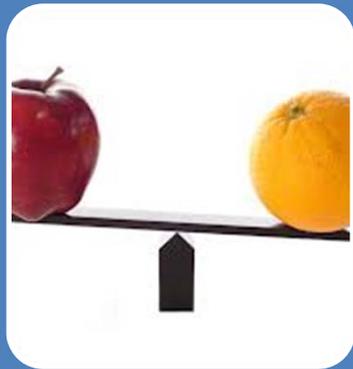
## Student specific information

- Demographic information
- Goals

# Future SPR Analysis of Earnings



Master Earnings File



Compare pre- and post-training earnings



# Questions and Answers