National Skills Coalition is advocating for states to adopt a set of policies that expand equitable access to middle-skill training, credentials, and careers – particularly for those who have faced barriers to economic opportunity.

This effort includes scans of all fifty states to ascertain whether states have the policies in place to expand access to skills. NSC has also developed toolkits that provide resources, including model legislation, for policymakers and advocates to advance a skills equity agenda in their state. NSC’s skills equity agenda includes state policies on Job-Driven Financial Aid, SNAP E&T, Stackable Credentials, Alignment, Integrated Education and Training, and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Employment and Training.

Read more about NSC’s Skills Equity Agenda at nationalskillcoalition/skillsequity
SUMMARY

Job-driven financial aid policies address gaps in financial aid by making it possible for students (including part-time students, those in short-term programs, and working learners) to enroll in middle-skill training programs. Job-driven financial aid is among a set of “skills equity policies” being promoted by National Skills Coalition (NSC).

Middle-skill jobs that require education or training beyond high school but not a bachelor’s degree make up the largest share of the labor market. Employers looking to fill these middle-skill positions often voice concerns about their ability to find skilled workers. At the same time, limited access to skills training keeps too many people from filling good-paying jobs that can support families. Policymakers can respond to both of these issues by adopting a set of policies that expand equitable access to middle-skill training, credentials, and careers – particularly for those who have faced barriers to economic opportunity. NSC's skills equity agenda includes a suite of state policies intended to do just that.

This fifty-state scan finds that twenty-three states and the District of Columbia have adopted at least one form of job-driven financial aid. States without any policies in place can use NSC’s Job-Driven Financial Aid Policy Toolkit to establish one. Many of the states with policies already in place can also use the Toolkit to further expand job-driven financial aid.

TWENTY THREE STATES AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA HAVE ESTABLISHED JOB-DRIVEN FINANCIAL AID POLICIES
JOB-DRIVEN FINANCIAL AID POLICY

Many postsecondary programs prepare people for middle-skill jobs. In fact, occupationally-focused associate degrees and certificates account for over half of undergraduate awards, and certificates have become the fastest growing credential in postsecondary education.¹ Employers are using these credentials to make hiring and promotion decisions while working learners, many of whom are nontraditional students, are pursuing middle-skill credentials to improve their career prospects.²

However, many working learners cannot afford postsecondary training due to growing higher education costs and the limits of traditional financial aid policies.³ Short-term certificate programs that comprise less than fifteen weeks of instruction or less than 600 clock hours do not qualify for the federal Pell Grant—a major source of federal need-based financial aid. Moreover, students who are attending school less than half time, often those who are balancing work schedules and family responsibilities, have limited access to financial aid. While all states have programs that offer financial assistance to students pursuing higher education, many of these programs are not fully available to low-income, working adults.⁴

States can help solve these problems by adopting job-driven financial aid policies. Through these policies, states provide grants or tuition waivers to students in middle-skill training programs at community and technical colleges. Other states have made their general financial aid grant programs available to students who are enrolled less than half time. NSC counts states as having a job-driven financial aid policy in place if they have grant or tuition waiver policies⁵ that meet one or both of the categories described below.

AID TARGETED TO STUDENTS ENROLLED IN POSTSECONDARY MIDDLE-SKILL TRAINING PROGRAMS: States can expand access to middle-skill training by targeting aid to students in sub-baccalaureate programs typically offered at a community or technical college. This category includes:

- **Policies that generally support middle-skill training:** These policies range from those that support occupationally-focused certificate or degree programs broadly to those that guarantee free community college. Many states have general financial aid programs available to residents pursuing a range of credentials, from certificates to associate and bachelor’s degrees. NSC does not include such policies in this category since they do not specifically target students in sub-baccalaureate programs.

- **Policies that target multiple in-demand occupations or fields:** These policies are intended to address skill shortages by providing financial support to students who train for high-demand occupations. NSC does not include policies that only target a single occupation or field, as these are too narrow to significantly expand access to middle-skill training.

- **Policies that target industry-validated short-term and/or non-credit credential programs:** These policies are intended to fill gaps in federal financial aid by providing targeted support for students enrolled in short-term or noncredit programs that result in credentials with labor market value. NSC only counts policies in this category that are limited to short-term or noncredit credential programs.

To help state policymakers, advocates, and others ascertain which states have job-driven financial aid policies in place, NSC has scanned policies across the fifty states and the District of Columbia. The results are reported in this scan.

**Types of Job-Driven Financial Aid Policies**

States have different approaches to providing job-driven financial aid. For example, some states have created financial aid programs specifically for students in middle-skill training programs at community and technical colleges. Other states have made their general financial aid grant programs available to students who are enrolled less than half time. NSC counts states as having a job-driven financial aid policy in place if they have grant or tuition waiver policies⁵ that meet one or both of the categories described below.
AID AVAILABLE TO STUDENTS ENROLLED LESS THAN HALF TIME IN CERTIFICATE OR DEGREE PROGRAMS: States can expand access to middle-skill training for working learners who can only take a course or two at a time by making financial aid available to those enrolled less than half time (typically under six credit hours per term). States can do this by making their general financial aid programs available to less than half time students, or creating financial aid programs that are specifically targeted to part-time learners. NSC counts both types in this scan as long as the aid program allows less-than-half-time students to be enrolled in a sub-baccalaureate program.

Because NSC is focused on state policies that broadly increase working learners’ access to multiple middle-skill credentials and careers, NSC does not include programs that are:

- Limited to high school graduates or youth, including merit-based scholarships based on high school academic performance: NSC chose not to include such programs because they do not expand access to postsecondary credentials for working learners, such as adults and those without a high school diploma.

- Specific to one subset of the population: Some states have grants or scholarships for a specific population, such as former foster children or single mothers. While such aid may benefit people who are working learners, programs that are limited to a specific subset of the population are not intended to broadly expand working learners’ access to middle-skill credentials. However, since financial need is a major barrier to postsecondary education for working learners, NSC does count grants limited to those with demonstrated financial need. NSC also counts grants targeted at those twenty-four and older because many working learners are adults seeking to upgrade their skills.

- Broadly inclusive of all certificates, associate degrees, and bachelor’s degrees: unless such programs are available to students enrolled less than half time.

Since all states have some form of financial aid for postsecondary students, NSC does not make note of other programs that do not meet our criteria.

KEY FINDINGS

As shown in the summary table, twenty-three states and the District of Columbia have some form of job-driven financial aid. EIGHTEEN STATES AND D.C. HAVE JOB-DRIVEN FINANCIAL AID POLICIES TARGETED TO STUDENTS ENROLLED IN POSTSECONDARY MIDDLE-SKILL TRAINING PROGRAMS: These programs range from those that generally support middle-skill training to those that are limited to programs for in-demand occupations or short-term or noncredit credentials. States like Georgia and Iowa have multiple policies that complement one another. Others, such as D.C. and Nebraska, have a single program limited to noncredit credentials for in-demand occupations.

- Seven states have policies that generally support middle-skill training: California, Georgia, Iowa, Tennessee, and Texas all have programs that provide grants to students in occupationally-focused certificate and associate degree programs, though some exclude short-term certificate programs. Florida’s program differs in that it focuses just on certificates, providing grants to students in certificate programs of 450 or more clock hours at community colleges or career centers. Meanwhile, Oregon’s Promise program provides a tuition waiver for all residents enrolled in community college courses that are required for a career and technical education program, an associate degree, or a one year curriculum for transfer to another postsecondary institution.

- Eleven states and D.C. have policies that are limited to those enrolled in programs for in-demand occupations or fields: The eleven states include Georgia, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Nebraska, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Washington, and West Virginia. In Georgia and Iowa, these programs complement other financial aid programs that more generally support middle-skill training. For example, Georgia’s Strategic Industries Workforce Development Grant provides aid to students already receiving the HOPE grant (the state’s general middle-skill training grant) who are enrolled in specific occupational training programs.
• **Six states and D.C. have policies that are limited to short-term and/or non-credit credential programs:** The six states include Colorado, Iowa, Nebraska, Vermont, Virginia, and West Virginia. While all of these programs specify that supported certificate programs should lead to employment, states take different approaches for making that determination. For example, Virginia’s New Economy Workforce Credential Grant Program requires the Virginia Board of Workforce Development to recommend high-demand fields in which to offer noncredit workforce training. Meanwhile, the legislation that created Nebraska’s Community College Gap Assistance Program requires noncredit programs to lead to in-demand occupations and further specifies a set of in-demand occupational categories. States can also have job-driven financial aid programs by making aid available to student enrolled in school less than half time. **SEVENTEEN STATES AND D.C. HAVE SOME FORM OF FINANCIAL AID AVAILABLE TO STUDENTS ENROLLED LESS THAN HALF TIME.** Aid for less-than-half-time students takes a variety of forms.

• States like Illinois, Massachusetts, Minnesota, North Dakota, and Washington have made their general need-based financial aid programs, which provide support for certificates to bachelor’s degrees, available to less-than-half-time students.

• Arkansas and Kentucky have financial aid programs for adults twenty-four or older that are available to those enrolled in school less than half time.

• Michigan, Vermont, Virginia and West Virginia each have programs specifically limited to part-time students, including those enrolled less than half time.

• Programs in Georgia, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Tennessee, and Washington that target students enrolled in postsecondary middle-skill training are also available to those enrolled less than half time. Moreover, programs limited to short-term and/or noncredit credentials (available in six states and D.C.) are generally available to less-than-half-time students.
### SUMMARY OF JOB-DRIVEN FINANCIAL AID POLICY IN THE STATES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Targeted to students in middle-skill training program</th>
<th>Policy generally supports middle-skill training?</th>
<th>Policy limited to in-demand occupations or fields?</th>
<th>Policy limited to short-term and/or non-credit credential programs?</th>
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### Job-Driven Financial Aid Policy

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**Arkansas’ Workforce Improvement Grant** is a need-based grant for students who are at least twenty-four years old and are pursuing a credit certificate, associate degree or bachelor’s degree. Students must be enrolled in at least three credit hours to qualify.
### California

**Policy in Place?**

- **Aid Targeted at Students in a Middle-Skill Training Program?**
  - Yes

- **Aid for Students Enrolled Less Than Half Time?**
  - Yes

**Policy Details**

California’s Cal Grant C program is a needs-based grant offered to students in an occupational/technical certificate program or a non-transferring associate degree program. Certificate and Associate degree programs must be four months to two years in length. Students must be enrolled at least half time.

### Colorado

**Policy in Place?**

- **Aid Targeted at Students in a Middle-Skill Training Program?**
  - Yes

- **Aid for Students Enrolled Less Than Half Time?**
  - Yes

**Policy Details**

Colorado’s Tuition Assistance Program for Short Career and Technical Education (CTE) Certificates (CTE Grant Program) provides aid to low-income students enrolled in short-term certificate programs that lead to employment. The program is for students who are income-eligible for the federal Pell Grant, but are enrolled in short-term certificate programs that do not meet Pell Grant minimum credit hour requirements.

### Connecticut

**Policy in Place?**

- **Aid Targeted to Students in a Middle-Skill Training Program?**
  - No

- **Aid for Students Enrolled Less Than Half Time?**
  - No

**Policy Details**


## Delaware

**Aid Targeted to Students in a Middle-Skill Training Program?**
- **Policy in Place?** No

**Aid for Students Enrolled Less Than Half Time?**
- **Policy in Place?** No

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## District of Columbia

**Aid Targeted at Students in a Middle-Skill Training Program?**
- **Policy in Place?** Yes
- **Policy that generally supports middle-skill training?** No
- **Policy limited to multiple in-demand occupations or fields?** Yes
- **Policy limited to short-term and/or non-credit credential programs?** Yes

**Aid for Students Enrolled Less Than Half Time?**
- **Policy in Place?** Yes

The University of the District of Columbia Community College’s Division of Workforce Development and Lifelong Learning (WDLL) provides non-credit industry skills training at no cost to D.C. residents. There is no minimum credit threshold required for aid.

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## Florida

**Aid Targeted at Students in a Middle-Skill Training Program?**
- **Policy in Place?** Yes
- **Policy that generally supports middle-skill training?** Yes
- **Policy limited to multiple in-demand occupations or fields?** No
- **Policy limited to short-term and/or non-credit credential programs?** No

**Aid for Students Enrolled Less Than Half Time?**
- **Policy in Place?** No

Florida’s Public Postsecondary Career Education Student Assistance Grant Program provides need-based grants to those in certificate programs (450 or more clock hours) at participating community colleges or career centers. Students must be enrolled at least half time (equivalent of six semester credits).
GEORGIA

✓ AID TARGETED AT STUDENTS IN A MIDDLE-SKILL TRAINING PROGRAM?

Policy that generally supports middle-skill training? YES

Policy limited to multiple in-demand occupations or fields? YES

Policy limited to short-term and/or non-credit credential programs? NO

✓ AID FOR STUDENTS ENROLLED LESS THAN HALF TIME?

Georgia has two job-driven financial aid programs:
• The HOPE Grant Program provides aid to students pursuing certificates or diplomas in postsecondary technical training programs. Students do not need to meet a credit hour enrollment threshold to receive an award.
• Strategic Industries Workforce Development Grant provides aid to students already receiving the HOPE grant who are enrolled in specific occupational training programs.

HAWAII

✗ AID TARGETED TO STUDENTS IN A MIDDLE-SKILL TRAINING PROGRAM

✗ AID FOR STUDENTS ENROLLED LESS THAN HALF TIME

IDAHO

✗ AID TARGETED TO STUDENTS IN A MIDDLE-SKILL TRAINING PROGRAM

✗ AID FOR STUDENTS ENROLLED LESS THAN HALF TIME

ILLINOIS

✗ AID TARGETED TO STUDENTS IN A MIDDLE-SKILL TRAINING PROGRAM

✓ AID FOR STUDENTS ENROLLED LESS THAN HALF TIME

Illinois’ Monetary Award Program (MAP) provides grants to residents who attend approved Illinois colleges. Students must be enrolled in a degree or certificate program for a minimum of three hours per term.
INDIANA

- **AID TARGETED TO STUDENTS IN A MIDDLE-SKILL TRAINING PROGRAM**: No
- **AID FOR STUDENTS ENROLLED LESS THAN HALF TIME**: No

IOWA

- **AID TARGETED AT STUDENTS IN A MIDDLE-SKILL TRAINING PROGRAM?**
  - Policy that generally supports middle-skill training: Yes
  - Policy limited to multiple in-demand occupations or fields: Yes
  - Policy limited to short-term and/or non-credit credential programs: Yes

- **AID FOR STUDENTS ENROLLED LESS THAN HALF TIME?**

Iowa has three job-driven financial aid programs:
- The **Iowa Vocational-Technical Tuition Grant** provides aid to students in community college career and technical education programs that are at least fifteen weeks in duration. Students must be enrolled in a minimum of three credit hours.
- The **Iowa Skilled Workforce Shortage Tuition Grant** provides aid to students in targeted community college career or technical education programs for occupations with a workforce shortage. Programs must be at least fifteen weeks in duration, and students must be enrolled in a minimum of three credit hours.
- The **Gap Tuition Assistance Act** provides funding to community colleges for need-based tuition assistance to students in occupational continuing education certificate training programs.

KANSAS

- **AID TARGETED AT STUDENTS IN A MIDDLE-SKILL TRAINING PROGRAM?**
  - Policy that generally supports middle-skill training: Yes
  - Policy limited to multiple in-demand occupations or fields: Yes
  - Policy limited to short-term and/or non-credit credential programs: No

- **AID FOR STUDENTS ENROLLED LESS THAN HALF TIME?**

The **Kansas Career Technical Workforce Grant** is available to students enrolled in an eligible career technical education certificate or associate of applied science degree program for a high cost, high demand, or critical industry field. Students with financial need are given preference. Students may be enrolled less than half time.
**Kentucky**

**Policy in Place?**

- **Aid targeted to students in a middle-skill training program:** ❌
- **Aid for students enrolled less than half time:** ✔️

*Kentucky's Go Higher Grant* is a need-based grant given to students age twenty-four and older for one academic year when they enroll in a participating college less than half time.

**Louisiana**

**Policy in Place?**

- **Aid targeted to students in a middle-skill training program:** ❌
- **Aid for students enrolled less than half time:** ❌

**Maine**

**Policy in Place?**

- **Aid targeted at students in a middle-skill training program:** ✔️

  - Policy that generally supports middle-skill training? **No**
  - Policy limited to multiple in-demand occupations or fields? **Yes**
  - Policy limited to short-term and/or non-credit credential programs? **No**

- **Aid for students enrolled less than half time:** ❌

*Maine's Competitive Skills Scholarship Program* provides funding for low-income residents to earn postsecondary credentials in high-demand occupations. Programs must be on the state’s eligible training provider list, industry-recognized or endorsed by an employer consortium, accepted by a professional licensing board, or accredited by a regional or national accrediting body recognized by the U.S. Department of Education. Grants can be used to pay for tuition and fees not covered by other sources and certain support services.

**Maryland**

**Policy in Place?**

- **Aid targeted to students in a middle-skill training program:** ❌
- **Aid for students enrolled less than half time:** ❌
### Massachusetts

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<th>AID TARGETED AT STUDENTS IN A MIDDLE-SKILL TRAINING PROGRAM?</th>
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<td>Policy limited to short-term and/or non-credit credential programs?</td>
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Massachusetts has three job-driven financial aid programs:
- The Need Based Tuition Waiver Program provides tuition waivers to students with financial need enrolled in an undergraduate certificate or degree program. Students must be enrolled for a minimum of three credits per semester.
- Cash Grant Program complements the Need-Based Tuition Waiver Program by providing aid for costs such as mandatory fees and non-state supported tuition. Students must be enrolled for a minimum of three credits per semester.
- Massachusetts High-Demand Scholarship Program provides aid to students enrolled in a certificate, associate or bachelor’s degree program in occupations with workforce shortages.

### Michigan

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Michigan’s Part-time Independent Student Grant provides aid to low-income, part-time (enrolled 3-11 credit hours per semester), independent students in a certificate or degree-granting program lasting at least nine months.

### Minnesota

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<th>AID TARGETED AT STUDENTS IN A MIDDLE-SKILL TRAINING PROGRAM?</th>
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Minnesota has two job-driven financial aid programs:
- The Minnesota State Grant is a general need-based grant available to less-than-full-time students at a prorated amount. Students must be enrolled for a minimum of three credit hours per semester.
- The MnSCU Two-Year Occupational Grant Pilot Program provides aid to students with financial need who are enrolled in career and technical programs for high-demand fields at two-year colleges. There is no minimum program length. It is a pilot program for the 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 academic years.
MISSISSIPPI

- Aid targeted to students in a middle-skill training program: No
- Aid for students enrolled less than half time: No

MISSOURI

- Aid targeted to students in a middle-skill training program: No
- Aid for students enrolled less than half time: No

MONTANA

- Aid targeted to students in a middle-skill training program: No
- Aid for students enrolled less than half time: No

NEBRASKA

- Aid targeted at students in a middle-skill training program: Yes
- Policy that generally supports middle-skill training: No
- Policy limited to multiple in-demand occupations or fields: Yes
- Policy limited to short-term and/or non-credit credential programs: Yes
- Aid for students enrolled less than half time: Yes

Nebraska’s Community College Gap Assistance Program provides financial aid to low-income community college students taking non-credit courses that lead to jobs in high-need fields. Eligible programs must be part of a stackable credential program that leads to college credit, a degree, or certificate. Students may be enrolled less than half time.
NEVADA
Policy in Place?
× Aid targeted to students in a middle-skill training program
× Aid for students enrolled less than half time

NEW HAMPSHIRE
Policy in Place?
× Aid targeted to students in a middle-skill training program
× Aid for students enrolled less than half time

NEW JERSEY
Policy in Place?
× Aid targeted to students in a middle-skill training program
× Aid for students enrolled less than half time

NEW MEXICO
Policy in Place?
× Aid targeted to students in a middle-skill training program
× Aid for students enrolled less than half time

NEW YORK
Policy in Place?
× Aid targeted to students in a middle-skill training program
× Aid for students enrolled less than half time
North Dakota’s State Student Incentive Grant Program provides need-based grants for students in postsecondary certificate or degree programs, including those attending at least quarter-time.
## Oregon

**AID TARGETED AT STUDENTS IN A MIDDLE-SKILL TRAINING PROGRAM?**

- **Policy that generally supports middle-skill training?** Yes
- **Policy limited to multiple in-demand occupations or fields?** No
- **Policy limited to short-term and/or non-credit credential programs?** No

**AID FOR STUDENTS ENROLLED LESS THAN HALF TIME?**

Oregon Promise is a tuition waiver for all residents enrolled in community college courses that are required for a career and technical education program, an associate degree, or a one-year curriculum for transfer to another postsecondary institution. Students must be enrolled at least half time.

## Pennsylvania

**AID TARGETED AT STUDENTS IN A MIDDLE-SKILL TRAINING PROGRAM?**

- **Policy that generally supports middle-skill training?** No
- **Policy limited to multiple in-demand occupations or fields?** Yes
- **Policy limited to short-term and/or non-credit credential programs?** No

**AID FOR STUDENTS ENROLLED LESS THAN HALF TIME?**

Pennsylvania’s Targeted Industry Program provides aid to students enrolled in programs of study in energy, advanced materials and diversified manufacturing, and agriculture and food production. Awards can be used to cover tuition, books, fees, supplies, and specific living expenses. Students must be enrolled in an approved program of study that is at least ten weeks long. Students attending non-profit institutions must be enrolled at least half time in an approved program. All other students must be enrolled full time.

## Rhode Island

**AID TARGETED TO STUDENTS IN A MIDDLE-SKILL TRAINING PROGRAM**

**AID FOR STUDENTS ENROLLED LESS THAN HALF TIME**
SOUTH CAROLINA

AID TARGETED TO STUDENTS IN A MIDDLE-SKILL TRAINING PROGRAM

AID FOR STUDENTS ENROLLED LESS THAN HALF TIME

SOUTH DAKOTA

AID TARGETED TO STUDENTS IN A MIDDLE-SKILL TRAINING PROGRAM

AID FOR STUDENTS ENROLLED LESS THAN HALF TIME

TENNESSEE

AID TARGETED AT STUDENTS IN A MIDDLE-SKILL TRAINING PROGRAM?

Policy that generally supports middle-skill training? [YES]

Policy limited to multiple in-demand occupations or fields? [NO]

Policy limited to short-term and/or non-credit credential programs? [NO]

AID FOR STUDENTS ENROLLED LESS THAN HALF TIME?

Tennessee has two job-driven financial aid programs:

- **The TCAT Reconnect Scholarship** provides aid to students enrolled full time at a Tennessee College of Applied Technology who are pursuing a certificate or diploma.

- **The Wilder-Naifeh Technical Skills Grant** provides aid to students enrolled in a certificate or diploma program at a college of Applied Technology. Students can be enrolled less than half time.
TEXAS

✓ AID TARGETED AT STUDENTS IN A MIDDLE-SKILL TRAINING PROGRAM?

Policy that generally supports middle-skill training? YES
Policy limited to multiple in-demand occupations or fields? NO
Policy limited to short-term and/or non-credit credential programs? NO

AID FOR STUDENTS ENROLLED LESS THAN HALF TIME?

The Texas Educational Opportunity Grant Program (TEOG) provides aid to students enrolled at least half time in a two-year degree or certificate program.

UTAH

✗ AID TARGETED TO STUDENTS IN A MIDDLE-SKILL TRAINING PROGRAM

✗ AID FOR STUDENTS ENROLLED LESS THAN HALF TIME

VERMONT

✓ AID TARGETED AT STUDENTS IN A MIDDLE-SKILL TRAINING PROGRAM?

Policy that generally supports middle-skill training? NO
Policy limited to multiple in-demand occupations or fields? NO
Policy limited to short-term and/or non-credit credential programs? YES

✓ AID FOR STUDENTS ENROLLED LESS THAN HALF TIME?

Vermont has two job-driven financial aid programs:

- Vermont’s Part-Time Grant provides aid to Vermont residents enrolled in an undergraduate degree or certificate program for less than twelve credits per term.
- Vermont’s Non-Degree Grant provides aid to Vermont residents enrolled in a non-degree course that will improve employability or further study.
## VIRGINIA

**AID TARGETED AT STUDENTS IN A MIDDLE-SKILL TRAINING PROGRAM?**
- Policy that generally supports middle-skill training? **No**
- Policy limited to multiple in-demand occupations or fields? **Yes**
- Policy limited to short-term and/or non-credit credential programs? **Yes**

**AID FOR STUDENTS ENROLLED LESS THAN HALF TIME?**

Virginia has two job-driven financial aid programs:
- **The New Economy Workforce Credential Grant Fund** provides funding to community colleges for grants to students in noncredit workforce training programs.
- **The Virginia Part-Time Assistance Program** provides aid to financially needy students enrolled for 1-8 credits in an approved degree, certificate, or diploma program at a community college.

## WASHINGTON

**AID TARGETED AT STUDENTS IN A MIDDLE-SKILL TRAINING PROGRAM?**
- Policy that generally supports middle-skill training? **No**
- Policy limited to multiple in-demand occupations or fields? **Yes**
- Policy limited to short-term and/or non-credit credential programs? **No**

**AID FOR STUDENTS ENROLLED LESS THAN HALF TIME?**

Washington State has two job-driven financial aid programs:
- **The State Need Grant** provides aid for the state’s lowest income students to pursue a certificate, first associate’s degree, or first bachelor’s degree at eligible colleges and universities. Students must be enrolled for a minimum of three credits.
- **Opportunity Grant Program** provides aid to help low-income students complete up to one year of college and a certificate in a high-wage and high-demand career. Students must be enrolled at community and technical colleges in certain programs of study and can be enrolled less than full time.
### West Virginia

**Policies in place?** Yes

**Aid targeted at students in a middle-skill training program?** Yes

Policy that generally supports middle-skill training? No

Policy limited to multiple in-demand occupations or fields? Yes

Policy limited to short-term and/or non-credit credential programs? Yes

**Aid for students enrolled less than half time?** Yes

West Virginia’s Higher Education Adult Part-Time Student Grant Program provides aid to part-time students (3-11 credit hours) with financial need who are pursuing postsecondary education. The Workforce Development Component of the program provides aid to students who enroll in postsecondary noncredit programs for targeted industries and in-demand occupations.

### Wisconsin

**Aid targeted to students in a middle-skill training program?** No

**Aid for students enrolled less than half time?** No

### Wyoming

**Aid targeted to students in a middle-skill training program?** No

**Aid for students enrolled less than half time?** No
METHODOLOGY

NSC performed a scan of state financial aid policies in all fifty states and the District of Columbia using state websites, state code, and follow-up interviews with state administrators. Specifically, NSC:

1. Reviewed all state financial aid and/or higher education websites;
3. Conducted follow-up calls and emails with state financial aid offices as needed to answer any questions that arose and to confirm our findings.

NSC recognizes that no matter the effort, there may be state policies that not captured by the methodology used in this scan.

ENDNOTES

3 For more on these barriers, see Brooke DeRenzis and Rachel Hirsch. Skills in the States: Job-Driven Financial Aid Policy Toolkit. National Skills Coalition, October 2016.
5 NSC does not count loan programs in this scan.
6 Indiana has an Adult Student Grant to assist financially independent students pursuing a postsecondary certificate, associate degree or bachelor’s degree, but it is not counted in this scan because students must be enrolled in at least six credit hours.
7 NSC was not able to review Hawaii’s state code online.
National Skills Coalition organizes broad-based coalitions seeking to raise the skills of America’s workers across a range of industries. We advocate for public policies that invest in what works, as informed by our members’ real-world expertise. We communicate these goals to an American public seeking a vision for a strong U.S. economy that allows everyone to be part of its success.