

## Pell Initiative for Virginia (PIV) Fiscal 2025 Report Overview

Thursday, October 30, 2025

SCHEV Offices Ninth Floor Conference Room Monroe Building

The Pell Initiative for Virginia (PIV), administered by SCHEV, seeks to boost **enrollment and graduation rates of Pell Grant-eligible students** at state-funded colleges and universities. Based on 2020–21 data, SCHEV designated seventeen institutions as **enrollment or completion concentration institutions**: seven below the state average in enrollment, ten in completion, and one in both. SCHEV awarded the first competitive grants in **FY 2024**, with additional awards in **FY 2025 and FY 2026**; this document summarizes activities through **FY 2025 and goals for FY 2026**.

### Pell Initiative for VA Competitive Proposal Activity Fiscal 2024 – 2026

Item	Fiscal 24	Fiscal 25	Fiscal 26	Total Fiscal Years 24+25+26
Institutions Submitting Proposals	17	15	16	17
Proposals Submitted	36	27	17	80
Proposals Funded	31	19	17	67
Activities Funded	137	144	190	471
Total Dollars Funded	\$36,868,995*	\$36,614,692*	\$30,724,009*	\$104,207,696

\*A modest administrative fee and a reserve for contingencies and planned selective expansion has been escrowed

### Institutional Pell Initiative for VA Grant Award Activity Fiscal 2024 – 2026

INSTITUTION	FY 2024 ROUND ONE FOUR YEAR GRANT ENDING JUNE 30, 2027	FY 2024 ROUND TWO FOUR-YEAR GRANT ENDING JUNE 30, 2027	FY 2025 FOUR-YEAR GRANT ENDING JUNE 30, 2028	FY 2026 ONE-YEAR GRANT ENDS JUNE 30, 2026	TOTAL FY 2024 THRU FY 2026 GRANTS AWARDED THRU OCTOBER 28, 2025
CNU	\$161,900	\$496,715	\$923,500	\$1,157,000	\$2,739,115
GMU	\$536,112	\$691,111	\$3,520,045	\$6,000,000	\$10,747,268
JMU	\$1,000,000	\$750,000	\$0	\$1,477,400	\$3,227,400
LU	\$1,155,753	\$352,368	\$1,288,730	\$983,193	\$3,780,044
NSU	\$1,756,891	\$586,500	\$1,457,500	\$728,000	\$4,528,891
ODU	\$773,780	\$595,133	\$5,090,000	\$4,019,730	\$10,478,643
RU	\$1,411,040	\$114,000	\$1,191,932	\$1,299,570	\$4,016,542
UMW	\$3,668,668	\$0	\$1,326,446	\$537,000	\$5,532,114
UVA	\$2,431,000	\$600,850	\$3,743,672	\$2,216,000	\$8,991,522
UVAW	\$354,000	\$250,000	\$0	\$0	\$604,000
VCU	\$1,024,300	\$0	\$1,948,556	\$2,335,278	\$5,308,134
VMI	\$3,832,025	\$0	\$0	\$398,250	\$4,230,275
VSU	\$1,997,000	\$111,000	\$2,095,164	\$1,839,000	\$6,042,164
VT	\$3,461,560	\$569,980	\$3,467,623	\$4,491,266	\$11,990,429
W&M	\$840,971	\$665,425	\$258,394	\$1,412,034	\$3,176,824
RBC	\$0	\$1,029,325	\$3,423,000	\$500,000	\$4,952,325
VCCS	\$0	\$5,651,588	\$6,880,130	\$1,330,288	\$13,862,006
GRAND TOTALS	\$24,405,000	\$12,463,995	\$36,614,692	\$30,724,009	\$104,207,696

Using preliminary unofficial fall 2025 data on first-time, full-time students, three institutions showed satisfactory progress in enrollment while five needed improvement. However, reviewing official 2023–24 SCHEV data, six of the seven institutions targeted for total Pell enrollment improvement are showing gains, while one institution appears to be reporting high school dual enrollment data mixed in with undergraduate figures rendering that institution’s Pell statistics questionable. Official SCHEV total Pell enrollment data should be available early in 2026.

Improving completion rates is a longer-term challenge requiring institutions to align recruitment, academic advising, and student support with the needs and readiness of their students. First-to-second-year retention serves as an early indicator of completion outcomes, though current fall 2025 retention data is tentative. Among the ten institutions below the state average in completion, three are improving, four are not, two have unresolved data issues, and one cannot yet be determined due to staggered term structure.

During fiscal 2025, SCHEV staff

- Engaged in extensive communications with all seventeen institutions receiving PIV funding
  - Established healthy working relationships with personnel at PIV funded institutions
  - Held one mandatory all-PIV participant in-person meeting at Central Virginia Community College in October of 2024 and introduced a 'lessons learned' sharing session as part of the agenda
  - Authored and published two white papers on the **Institution-wide Barrier Review (IwBR)**: one on the IwBR itself and another on how to construct the IwBR report
  - Created and distributed three different PIV reporting forms for regular use
  - Developed and distributed detailed program proposal instructions
  - Responded to numerous queries from PIV participating institutions
  - Maintained daily contact with PIV participants
  - Conducted one on-site visit
  - Held multiple group on-line information and question and answer sessions
- Produced the Fiscal 2024 Pell Initiative for Virginia Report
- Monitored disbursements to institutions
- Assembled and briefed an external expert review panel for fiscal 2026 grant competition ratings
- Processed and awarded fiscal 2026 Initiative proposals
- Processed fiscal 2024 March and September institutional reports
- Analyzed the seventeen colleges' undergraduate enrollment and completion levels, Pell-eligible portions, magnitude of each institution's below average Pell magnitude to determine each institution's 'right-size' PIV grant amount
- Produced interim reports and information for PIV stakeholders
- Engaged with other SCHEV divisions to determine possibilities for streamlining PIV report analytics
- Submitted four PIV presentation proposals for professional conferences
- Presented PIV at one national conference and two state professional conferences
- Represented SCHEV at two national professional conferences and two state professional conferences
- Complete receipt and begin evaluating institutional IwBR reports

SCHEV staff will further intensify outreach and assistance to PIV institutions in fiscal 2026 through the following:

- Complete an on-site review of each PIV institution
- Establish a SCHEV-hosted website for PIV
- Produce a quarterly PIV newsletter
- Review all PIV IwBR reports and publish a compendium of the results
- Explore additional approaches to encourage institutional sharing of 'lessons learned' in PIV administration
- Explore the creation of a PIV Advisory Group and a joint training effort with four-year PIV institutions and VCCS using training materials developed by the VCCS through their PIV grants
- Develop more in-depth reporting instructions and explore additions to SCHEV's existing annual reporting protocols contained in the SCHEV Data Collection Calendar
- Develop and implement a new grant 'renewal' process
- Collaborate closely with each PIV institution in preparation for PIV activity/intervention consolidation in light of the 2027 expiration of the Fiscal 2024 PIV grants and the 2028 expiration of the fiscal 2025 PIV grants
- Continue to improve the timely processing of PIV budget adjustments and delivery of PIV disbursements to institutions
- Enhance the exposure of PIV through presentations at state, regional and national professional conferences
- Produce a set of policies and procedures for PIV

#### **PIV SHORT SUMMARY STATUS** October 28, 2025

The **Pell Initiative for Virginia (PIV)** aims to improve enrollment and graduation rates of **Pell Grant-eligible students** at state-funded colleges and universities. Based on **2020–21 data**, SCHEV designated seventeen institutions as below the state average—seven in enrollment, ten in completion, and one in both. A central feature of the Initiative, the **Institution-wide Barrier Review (IwBR)**, requires each institution to identify and address barriers to Pell student success by **December 2025**, using **competitive SCHEV grants** awarded in FY 2024–2026. Preliminary data show progress in Pell enrollment at most institutions, with six of seven improving, though one remains below average due to reporting issues. Completion improvement is slower, with three institutions showing gains, four not improving, two with data concerns, and one pending evaluation due to its staggered term structure.