KENTUCKY Work Ready COMMUNITIES

Application for Recertification: Work Ready in Progress Status

Effective January 1, 2021

All applications for Work Ready Community status submitted on or after November 19, 2020 must use this revised application and criteria.

Sponsored by: Kentucky Workforce Investment Board
Kentucky Education and Workforce Development Cabinet

WORK READY COMMUNITIES APPLICATION

NAME OF COUNTY:	

Working Age (18-64) Population w/o HS diploma or HSE (%):		High School Graduation Rate (%)	
Population with some college (%):		Population with an Associate's Degree or Higher (%):	

	Number (#) Enrolled (Planned or Current)	Number (#) Awarded (Anticipated or Actual)
High School Work Ethic Seal		
Career Readiness Certificates (NCRC, KCRC, KY Essential Skills Certificate, etc.)		
Work Based Learning Opportunities		

	Rural (<50K) or Urban (>50K)? (Circle One)	Population (%) with availability to 25 Mbps
Internet Availability & Speed	**RURAL / URBAN**	

	Current Labor Force Participation Rate (%)	Goal over 3 years (%). (Write N/A for WRiP.)
Labor Force Participation Rate		

Please also complete the attached narratives and include documentation of community commitment.

NARRATIVES/PLANS

For each section, please provide a 2-3 paragraph explanation of your county's plan to achieve the related piece of Work Ready criteria.

1. All applicants must complete Narrative 1.

   > **Narrative 1: Graduation Rate**: Please explain your county's plan of action to achieve or maintain a 90% high school graduation rate. What challenges, if any, do you expect and how can you overcome those challenges?

2. All applicants must complete Narrative 2.

   > **Narrative 2: Working Age Population without High School Diploma or Equivalent (HSE):** Please explain your county's plan of action to decrease the percentage of working age individuals in your county to or below 15%. What challenges, if any, do you expect and how can you overcome those challenges?

3. All applicants must complete Narrative 3.

   > **Narrative 3: College Credit or Higher:** To be certified Work Ready, 43% of the population should have some college or a higher degree. Please explain your county's plan of action to achieve or increase this level of attainment. What challenges, if any, do you expect and how can you overcome those challenges?

4. All applicants must complete Narrative 4.

   > **Narrative 4: Associates Degree or Higher:** To be certified Work Ready, 25% of the population should have some college or a higher degree. (If you qualify for the exception outlined in the criteria, please explain so here). Please explain your county's plan of action to achieve or increase this level of attainment. What challenges, if any, do you expect and how can you overcome those challenges?

5. Discuss your Soft Skills Programs relative to High School Work Ethic Seal, Kentucky Essential Skills Certificate, and any supplemental programs for Career Readiness Certificates.

Narrative 5: Soft Skills Programs: Discuss your programs that address work ethic/soft skills development and credentialing for both the secondary school and postsecondary adult populations This includes the High School Work Ethic Seal, Kentucky Essential Skills Certificate, and any other supplemental programs for Career Readiness Certificates.

The programs must meet the following minimum standards:
- provide evidence of employer engagement in the program development process, including representation of the county's most prolific businesses and industries,
- provide evidence that employers recognize achievement of work ethic or soft skills credential in their hiring/advancement processes,
- programs must include measurable goals for annual improvement in the raw number and percentage of workforce credentialed,
- plans must include a strategy to assure employers of the sustainability of the programs, and
- programs must address, at a minimum, the following topical areas: attendance/punctuality, communication, teamwork, leadership, and critical thinking.

6. All applicants must complete Narrative 6.

Narrative 7: Work Based Learning Opportunities: Explain what Work Based Learning Opportunities (apprenticeships, internships, co-ops, etc.) are available in your county. How are these opportunities promoted? What plans do you have to increase these opportunities? What challenges, if any, do you expect and how can you overcome these challenges?

7. All applicants must complete Narrative 7.

Narrative 7: Broadband Availability:
Please explain your county's plan of action to get internet availability to the necessary percentage of the population (60% for rural counties, 90% for urban counties). What challenges, if any, do you expect and how can you overcome those challenges?

8. All applicants must complete Narrative 8.

Narrative 8: Engagement of Underserved Populations: Please discuss how your community has executed your plan to provide employment & engagement opportunities to individuals in the underserved categories (Disabilities, veterans, ex-offenders, foster youth, youth and young adults, recovery, homeless, unemployed, underemployed, and foreign-born). Plan should address potential barriers such as childcare, health, housing, and transportation that may exist.

9. All applicants must complete Narrative 9.

> **Narrative 9: Workforce Supply vs. Demand:** Please identify the top five occupational needs for each KWIB sector that are required currently and over the next five years. Discuss how your community works with your local workforce board to review and subsequently analyze occupational demand (by industry sector) in order to develop a system that supplies industry with the talent pipeline needed for a thriving business environment. You should also explain how your community is working with educational partners to fill those needs.

Submittal Format

All applications must be submitted in PDF format and submitted by email, with receipt verification, or a flash drive via verifiable delivery. It is the responsibility of the applicant to verify delivery/receipt of the application.

Email: workready@ky.gov

Mailing Address:
300 Mero Road - 4th Floor
Frankfort, KY 40601

Contact Information

For more information or clarification, please contact either:

Jacob McAndrews, Work Ready Communities Coordinator
Green River, Kentuckiana Works, Lincoln Trail, South Central, and Western Kentucky
Phone Number: 270-599-3617
Email: Jacob.McAndrews@ky.gov

Sara Jaggers, Work Ready Communities Coordinator
Bluegrass, Cumberlands, EKCEP, Northern Kentucky and TENCO
Phone Number: 502-234-8466
Email: sara.jaggers@ky.gov