

Kentucky Work Ready Communities

Overview

The Kentucky Workforce Innovation Board in conjunction with the Education and Workforce Development Cabinet presents the **Kentucky Work Ready Communities** program. The board will certify counties as Work Ready or Work Ready in Progress based on the quality of their labor force and the community commitment to continuous improvement of the workforce.

The program builds on the concept of “certified employability” from the individual level—as indicated by a person’s attainment of diplomas, degrees, certificates or other credentials—to the community level.

Benefits

Telling economic developers you have a skilled workforce is one thing, but earning **Certification as a Kentucky Work Ready Community** or **Kentucky Work Ready Community in Progress** status provides tangible evidence that your workers are skilled and the county is committed to keeping them skilled.

Work Ready Communities can:

- Attract new businesses and investment;
- Gain a competitive advantage over other communities;
- Help existing companies grow and add new jobs;
- Recruit creative, talented, and innovative people;
- Revitalize their economies and keep them growing.

Because certification requires collaboration and cooperation among key stakeholders (community college staff, secondary education, economic development professionals, elected and appointed officials, employers, chambers of commerce, school boards, community organizations, and others) communities can also reduce duplication of services and leverage resources to fill gaps and improve quality.



Process

Each community must gather local support and commitment to apply for the Work Ready Community designation. To earn the designation of a Certified Work Ready Community, counties will have to meet and maintain six criteria based on input from economic development and business and industry representatives. Counties with a realistic plan to meet all six criteria can apply for Work Ready Community in Progress status.

Once submitted, a review panel representing key organizations will review the application and make recommendations to the Kentucky Workforce Innovation Board for certification.

More

For further information about the program, visit our web site at:
workready@ky.gov