

# Kentucky Work Ready Communities

## CRITERIA and THRESHOLDS

### Graduation Rate

#### SOURCE:

Kentucky Department of Education. See RESOURCES tab on the Work ready Communities web site.

High school graduation rate calculated with the method used in reporting for the State of Kentucky.

**WORK READY COMMUNITY:** 82.32 percent\*. Inclusion of private or parochial graduation rates not already included in the traditionally reported figure is allowed at the discretion of the county.

**WORK READY COMMUNITY IN PROGRESS:** Must present a plan to raise the rate to 82.32 percent\* within three years.

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### National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC) Holders

#### SOURCE:

Kentucky NCRC Coordinator. See RESOURCES tab on the Work ready Communities web site.

The National Career Readiness Certificate is awarded based on the three WorkKeys® assessments - Reading for Information, Applied Mathematics, Locating Information. It is accepted throughout the nation by employers as a measure of work readiness. Kentucky has an NCRC initiative underway.

**WORK READY COMMUNITY:** Must present a plan to raise the rate to 15 percent of working-age adults (18-64) within three years. Plan should include promotional strategies, training availability, and encouraging employer recognition of the certificate.

**WORK READY COMMUNITY IN PROGRESS:** Same

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### Community Commitment

A measurement of commitment from community and government agencies to the process of becoming certified and remaining certified. This allows a community to demonstrate true collaboration and progress toward achieving strategic goals that bring together education, workforce, economic development and elected leadership.

**WORK READY COMMUNITY:** Application must show support (signatures/meeting participation) from the following stakeholders (at least one participant and signature per category):

1. Economic Development - Suggested participants
  - a. Heads of local economic development groups
  - b. Other local economic development leadership
2. Elected Officials - Suggested participants
  - a. County judge executive
  - b. Mayor(s)
  - c. Council members
3. Education - Suggested participants
  - a. Superintendents
  - b. Community college presidents
  - c. Adult education representative
  - d. Area Technology Center directors
  - e. College or university leaders

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4. Workforce Development - Suggested participants
  - a. Local WIB representative
  - b. Area Development District director
  
5. Business and Industry - Suggested participants
  - a. President, chamber(s) of commerce
  - b. Business leaders

**WORK READY COMMUNITY IN PROGRESS:** Same

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### Educational Attainment

The percentage of working-age (18-64) adults in a community with at least a two-year degree.

**SOURCE:**  
US Census: American Community Survey - 5-year estimates. See **RESOURCES** tab on the Work ready Communities web site.

**WORK READY COMMUNITY:** Must be at 25 percent and present a plan to raise this to 32 percent within three years (KY average) and 39 percent within five years (national average).

**WORK READY COMMUNITY IN PROGRESS:** Must present a plan to be at 25 percent within three years and at 32 percent within five years and 39 percent within seven years.

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### Soft Skills Measurement

A Certified Work Ready Community must have a program or programs to address work ethic/soft skills development and credentialing for both the secondary school and post secondary adult populations.

**SOURCE:**  
See **RESOURCES** tab on the Work ready Communities web site.

**WORK READY COMMUNITY:** Must provide evidence of the existence of a program or programs for both secondary and post secondary adults.

The specific design of these programs will be up to local officials, but must meet the following minimum standards:

- provide evidence of employer engagement in the program development process, including representation of the community'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,
- program 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.

If requested, the state will provide examples of programs and credentials created by other communities as models, but it is expected that local areas will develop programs that are responsive to the specific needs and requirements of their target employers or industries.

**WORK READY COMMUNITY IN PROGRESS:** Must present a plan to achieve the above list within three years.

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#### Availability of Internet as an indicator of digital literacy

**SOURCE:**  
See **RESOURCES** tab on the Work ready Communities web site.

The percentage of households in a community with broadband Internet available. Data must come from [www.broadband.gov](http://www.broadband.gov).

**WORK READY COMMUNITY:** An urban county must have 3Mbps speeds or greater available to 90 percent of housing units.

A rural county must have 3Mbps speeds or greater available to 90 percent of housing units with the exception of those they can show to be inaccessible (cost prohibitive) by technology other than wireless - where there must be 1.5Mbps speeds available to 90 percent of housing units.

**WORK READY COMMUNITY IN PROGRESS:** Must present a plan to meet the above goals within three years.

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#### Supplemental Criteria

**SOURCE:**  
See **RESOURCES** tab on the Work ready Communities web site.

Some important measures will be considered by the review panel as supplemental to the primary criteria in your application. It is possible that if your community falls just short in one area, but is very strong in one of the following measures, the panel may make take this into consideration.

**OCCUPATIONAL CREDENTIAL ATTAINMENT:** Explain in an optional narrative the prevalence of occupational credentials (industry recognized certificates). Sources for this may be employers, community colleges or other. This measure lacks a standard tracking method/standard goal so you should explain your methodology in determining and presenting this measure.

**GED ATTAINMENT vs. GED Goal:** Complete an optional narrative explaining your community's GED attainment rate as compared to the GED attainment goal. Goals can be found on the Kentucky Adult Education site (<http://www.kyae.ky.gov/>) under the Performance/Accountability tab (GED targets, under the category *County Goals and Targets*).

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