

# Kentucky Work Ready Communities

## COMMON QUESTIONS ABOUT THE PROGRAM

1. **Does being a certified Work Ready Community help us?** Absolutely! Employers and potential employers who may consider your community as a location want to know about your workforce. Being certified answers many of their questions and indicates that your community is serious about meeting their needs.
2. **How were the criteria and thresholds selected?** The Kentucky Work Ready Community Steering Committee, which consists of representatives from all major stakeholders in the project (including employers, education, workforce development, economic development, and more) worked to define the criteria initially. Further guidance was received by business and industry - their input drove the final selections.
3. **Can multiple counties make a Work Ready Region?** YES - While Work Ready Regions are not officially a part of this program currently, as long as the counties each meet the Work Ready Community criteria individually and become certified, contiguous counties within Kentucky can promote themselves as a Work Ready Region.
4. **Can any unit smaller than a county apply (such as a city or region not defined by county lines)?** NO - the smallest unit allowed to apply is a county. The reason for this has to do with how data is gathered and tracked. Standardized data for the criteria included are generally tracked at a county level.
5. **Our community does not meet the minimum criteria yet - can we still apply?** YES - In order for the program to have real value for business and industry, the criteria are intentionally stringent. In fact, we expect only a handful of counties to meet the criteria and immediately achieve Work Ready Community status. Most communities will apply for Work Ready Community in Progress - with detailed plans to meet the criteria where they fall short.
6. **How long will we have to meet the criteria if we become a Work Ready Community in Progress?** You will have up to three years to meet the minimum criteria. You will need to show continuous improvement within this three-year period.
7. **What if a Work Ready Community in Progress does not meet their goals in three years - can we reapply?** If you can demonstrate continuous improvement, the selection committee may decide to extend your goal deadline. If the committee does NOT extend your deadline and you lose Work Ready Community in Progress status, you must wait one year before reapplying.
8. **If our community meets the criteria and becomes a Work Ready Community, how long will that status last?** Work Ready Community Status will last for two years, at which time each community must be recertified to ensure they have not fallen below required criteria levels. The recertification process will be a shorter process than the original application and should be fairly easy as long as the local committee stays actively involved.
9. **Is there a cost?** NO - there is no application fee.

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10. **What is the process after we submit our application?** First, the Work Ready Community Review Panel will review the data to verify accuracy. Then the panel will review the narratives included. Based on this information, the committee will make a recommendation to the Kentucky Workforce Investment Board (KWIB), which will have final approval on granting Work Ready Community or Work Ready Community in Progress status. The process will vary in length depending on the timing of the application in relation to the next KWIB meeting. You will be notified of the outcome by the review panel.
  
11. **When can we apply?** You can apply at any time, though applications will be reviewed three times per year. The review panel will meet three times per year to review applications that have been submitted at least 30 days before the review panel meeting. Once established, the meeting dates, times and locations of review panel meetings will be posted on the program's web site.