

Kentucky Work Ready Communities

NARRATIVES/PLANS

Narratives and Plans - Instructions:

1. If your county does NOT meet the 82.32 percent graduation rate, you must complete Narrative 1 in order to apply to be a Work Ready Community in Progress.

Narrative 1: Graduation Rate: (WORK READY COMMUNITY IN PROGRESS) Present a plan to raise the graduation rate to 82.32 percent (state goal) within three years (three pages maximum).

2. All applicants must complete Narrative 2.

Narrative 2: National Career Readiness Certificate Attainment: Present a plan to raise the National Career Readiness Certificate rate to 15 percent of working age (18-64) adults within three years. Plan should include promotional strategies, training availability, and encouraging employer recognition of the certificate (three pages maximum).

3. If your county meets the Educational Attainment rate of 25 percent but is less than 39 percent you must complete Narrative 3.

Narrative 3: Educational Attainment: Present a plan to raise the Educational Attainment rate to 32 percent within 3 years [KY average] and 39 percent within five years [national average] (three pages maximum).

4. If your community does NOT meet the Educational Attainment rate of 25 percent you must complete Narrative 4 in order to apply to be a Work Ready Community in Progress.

Narrative 4: Educational Attainment: (WORK READY COMMUNITY IN PROGRESS) Present a plan to raise the Educational Attainment rate to 25 percent within three years and 32 percent within five years and 39 percent within seven years (three pages maximum).

Kentucky Work Ready Communities

NARRATIVES/PLANS

5. All applicants must complete Narrative 5.

Narrative 5: Soft Skills Program: Discuss your community program or programs to address work ethic/soft skills development and credentialing for both the secondary school and post secondary adult populations. 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. (four pages maximum)

Communities applying for Work Ready Community in Progress that do not have a program must present a plan to develop one as described above within three years.

6. If your community is a rural county and does not meet the broadband availability rate of 90 percent throughout the county because some areas are not accessible with 4Mbps speeds but you can show that these areas are covered 90 percent by 1.5 Mbps, you must complete Narrative 6.

Narrative 6: Broadband Availability: (rural county) County must have 3Mbps or greater speeds 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. Present data to show that these areas are covered by 1.5Mbps at 90 percent availability (three pages maximum).

7. If your county does not meet the broadband availability goals, you must complete Narrative 7 in order to apply to be a Work Ready Community in Progress.

Narrative 7: Broadband Availability: Must present a plan to meet the broadband availability goals, whether rural or urban, within three years (two pages maximum).

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8. If your county is presenting supplemental criteria (either GED, occupational credentials or both), you must complete Narrative 8.

Narrative 8: Supplemental Criteria:

GED: Please show your county GED attainment as compared to county goals (at <http://www.kyae.ky.gov/> under the Performance/Accountability tab - GED targets, under the category *County Goals and Targets*). (two pages maximum)

Occupational Credentials: Please show total numbers of industry-recognized credentials in your county among working age (18-64) population. Be sure to list the type of credential, number of individuals with each credential, sources and show any calculations. Employers and community colleges will be important sources in this effort. (three pages maximum)