

Source: <https://kystats.ky.gov/Latest/WRC>

Gathering Input

- Focus Groups with Economic Developers on important factors of workforce development:
 - Economic Developers from Kentucky through the Kentucky Association of Economic Development (KAED)
 - Economic Developers representing Southern US States from the Southern Economic Development Council (SEDC)
- Local officials through the state workforce planning process
- WRC committee input
- Survey of WRC stakeholders
- Virtual Townhall of WRC stakeholders

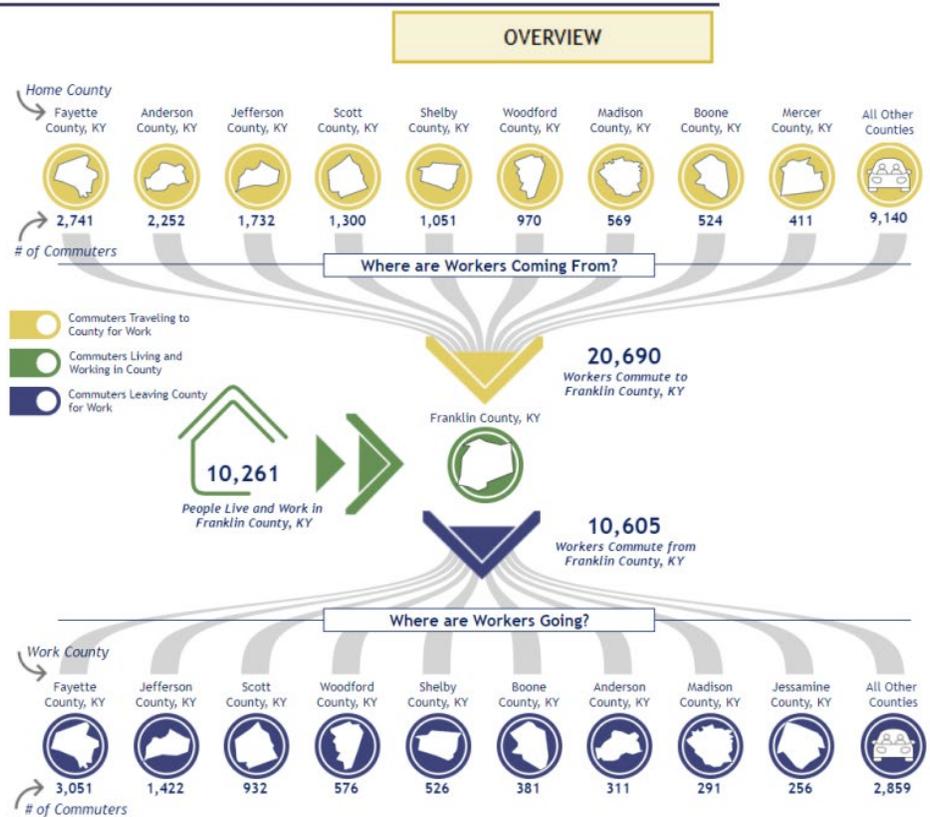
Finding thus far...

- WRC needs a revamp, the program needs to address current economic and workforce transition
- Communities need to be able to understand the supply of hard skills and soft skills
- Communities need to understand the demand of the skills
- What is the capacity of high schools/community colleges in building a pipeline for in-demand skills?
- Understanding of untapped talent and service providers that support these population pools
- Utilizing regionalism as a strength; reflecting on commuting patterns
- How are communities support workers – transportation, housing, and childcare? These are components that bring quality of life
- How are communities attracting talent?

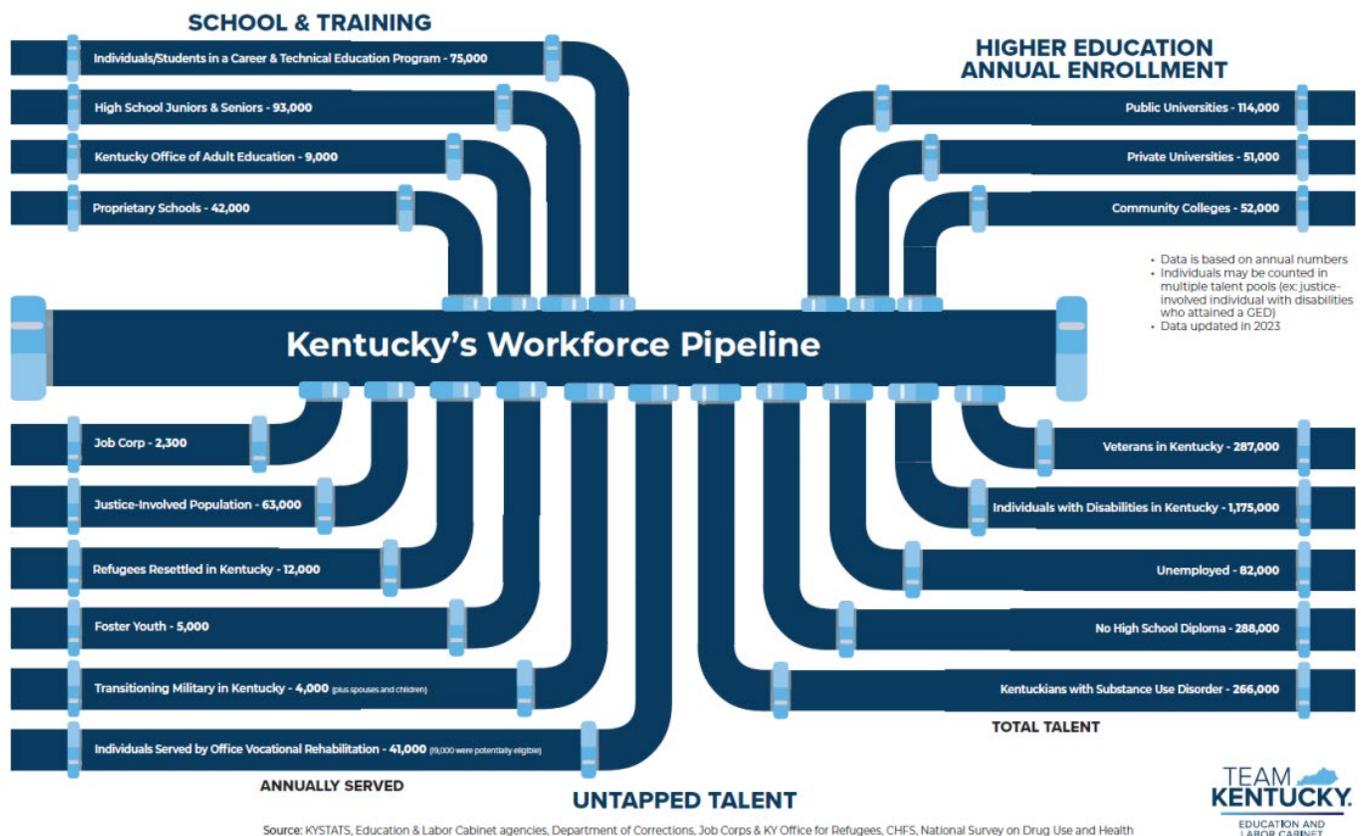


KENTUCKY COMMUTING PATTERNS REPORT

Last Update: June 2023



Source: <https://kystats.ky.gov/Latest/KCPR>



Work Ready Communities – Next Generation Ideas

- Data components that are skills based (#s of hard skills matching local industry demands)
- Data components that are soft skills based
- Baseline understanding of untapped talent pools
- Regional collaborative approaches that build on the availability of talent
- Understanding digital literacy and digital equity of a community
- Understanding of affordable housing, transportation options, childcare availability
- Examples of talent attraction strategies

Virtual Townhall Questions

- How has WRC helped your community?
- Do you want to see WRC revamped?
- What are the gaps in WRC that can be strengthened?
- What are your thoughts on the next generation of WRC?
- What changes are you seeing in your community that could be captured in a program like WRC?
- Other suggestions?

Discussion – “Is there value in Work Ready?”

The group agreed that the program has value but would like a consistent program with the same language used throughout the process. A suggestion was made to make the program a regional approach instead of a county-by-county program. This brought the discussion of adding the local workforce boards to the application process. The group agreed that they liked how the application process brought together local groups to collaborate, but the application criteria need to be fixed. The bigger counties would automatically be certified based on the criteria while smaller counties would have to work harder. They would like the program to be valuable for all county sizes.

The group also suggested to look over the degree criteria and metrics. It was suggested to count nontraditional degrees like certificates, work-based learning, soft skills, basic skills, and more. Counting these will help talent attraction to the workforce and grabbing untapped talent by showcasing the County’s Work Ready Community Status.

A discussion was had about broadband connectivity. It was stated that all counties have it, but this does not mean that the citizens can afford it, have great connection, or have the skills or tools to use it. This needs to be addressed in the application on how to better the services and strengthen technology skills.

The group also discussed workforce barriers that need to be addressed in the application. It was suggested that these barriers need to be worked on county-by-county.

1. Transportation: What are the strategies used to grow transportation access and infrastructure to meet community and business needs
2. Housing: What kind of housing trends are seen in the community (example: number of units being added annually) and what strategies are utilized to meet the demand? Suggestion on data gathering – check with local energy company for new meters added as a way to gauge growth.
3. Childcare: What is the existing landscape of access and affordability and what strategies are being taken to address the needs of the community? How many children served vs not; use Office of Early Childhood Education to capture providers.

Lori Ulrich and Alisher Burikhanov thanked all the participants in the Virtual Townhall.

Adjournment

Lori Ulrich, Chair adjourned the meeting at 12:19 p.m. ET.

DRAFT