



EDUCATION AND
LABOR CABINET

Work Ready Communities Taskforce
Meeting Briefing Packet

January 7, 2026

9:30 – 11:00 am EST



AGENDA
9:30 – 11:00 am EST

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87476189373?pwd=wjFEfpzJ1j9kqbUAQkb2wRNYJrgFbQ.1>

Meeting ID: 874 7618 9373/ Passcode: 811064

Dial via phone: 1 646 558 8656

9:30 CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Welcome *Alisher Burikhanov, Executive Director
Kentucky Workforce Innovation Board*

9:45 Work Ready Communities – Next Generation Updates *Sara Tracey, Vice President
National Workforce & Education
TPMA*

- *Purpose: WRC is Designed for Collaboration*
- *Survey Themes*
- *Incentives Principles*
- *Draft Incentives Framework* *Jessica Fortner, Senior Consultant
TPMA*
- *Breakout Discussions*
- *Next Steps*

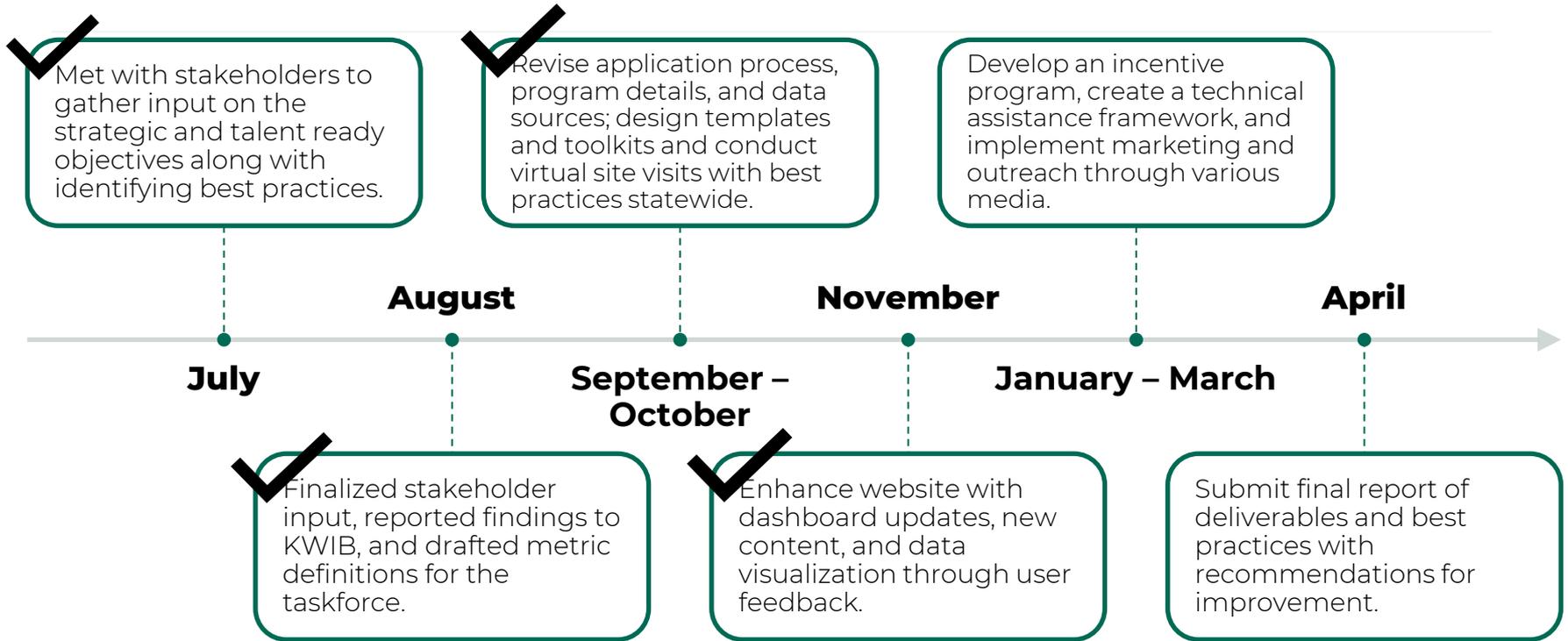
10:45 Closing Comments & Next Steps *Alisher Burikhanov*

11:00 ADJOURNMENT

Meeting Schedule:

- First Wednesday of the Month at 9:30 ET
- Next Meeting: February 4, 2026

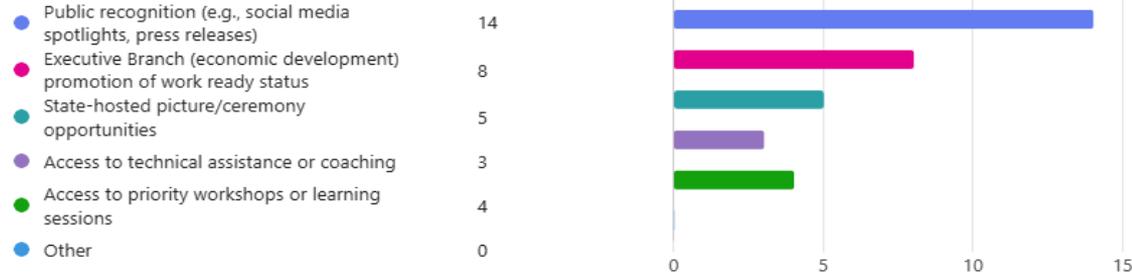
Timeline



Survey Themes

1. What types of no-cost or low-cost incentives would be most meaningful to communities participating in the Work Ready Communities program?

[More details](#)



2. If financial incentives become available, which allowable uses do you feel would provide the greatest value for communities?

[More details](#)



Considerations for the Incentive Program

Build Community & Employer Engagement	Flexible and Equitable	Aligned and Action-orientation
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Promotion, marketing materials and visibility allow communities to use their status to attract employers and industry.• Community driven	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Customization by community make up• Support in progress and work ready statuses• Include options for barrier reduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Align with other state initiatives• Real-time technical assistance• Help communities move from planning to action

Key Incentive Principles



Collaboration



Recognition



Coordination



Leverage Existing Resources

Incentive Framework Draft

Baseline Incentives (For All Communities)

- Public recognition (website spotlight, signage)
- Executive branch acknowledgment
- Promotion & marketing toolkit

Customizable Options (Based on Status)

Work Ready

Implementation Support

TA Booster Package – Barrier Buster

In Progress

Convening / Planning Support

TA Booster Package – Barrier Buster

Break Out

- When communities talk about “barrier removal,” what is the most significant gap they are trying to address?
- If funding were used as a strategic incentive, what would make it meaningful, and how should it be allocated across readiness levels and community types to ensure equity and impact?



Next Steps

- .Using today's feedback we will update the framework.
- .If you would like to share further input or insight with us, please email Jess or Sara to schedule a 30-minute meeting.

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