



EDUCATION AND
LABOR CABINET

**Work Ready Communities Virtual Townhall
September 18th, 2023**

Current: Work Ready Communities

- Current Metrics:
 - Internet Availability and Speed of at least 25mbps
 - 90% High School Graduation Rate
 - 25% Working Age Population with an Associate's Degree
 - 15% or Less of Working Age Population without a High School Degree
 - 43% Working Age Population with Some College

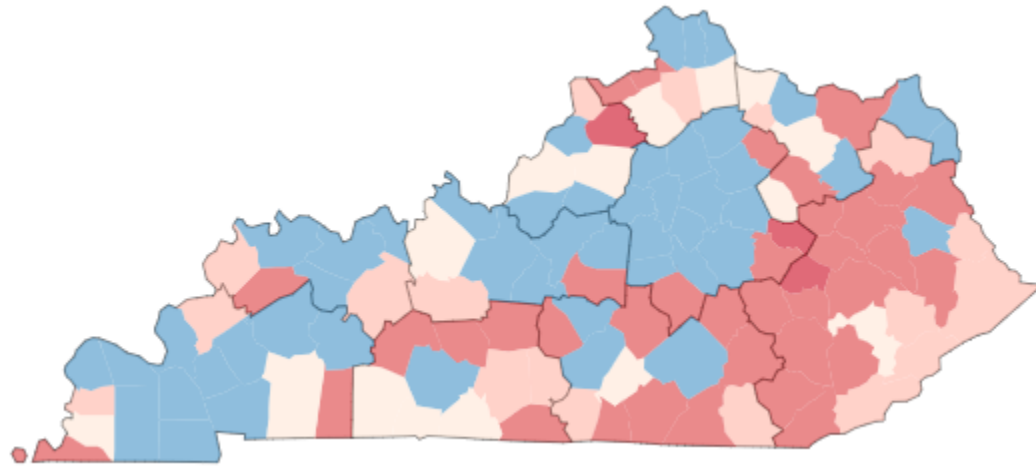
Narrative:

- Soft Skills Development
- Work Based Learning Opportunities
- Engagement of Underserved Population
- Occupational Supply & Demand

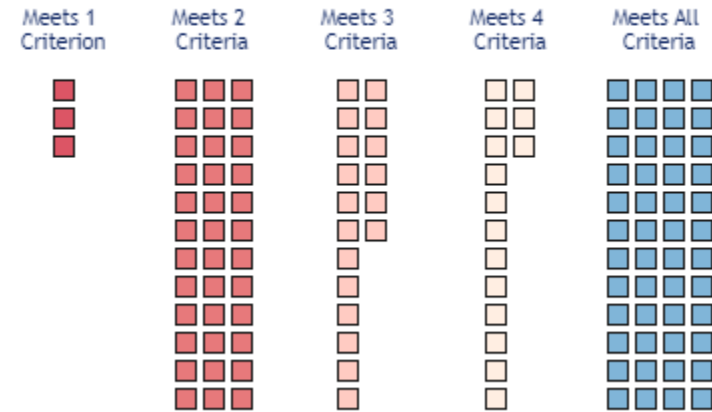


WORK READY COMMUNITIES

Last Update: October 2022



Distribution of Communities by Number of Criteria Met



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

Findings thus far...

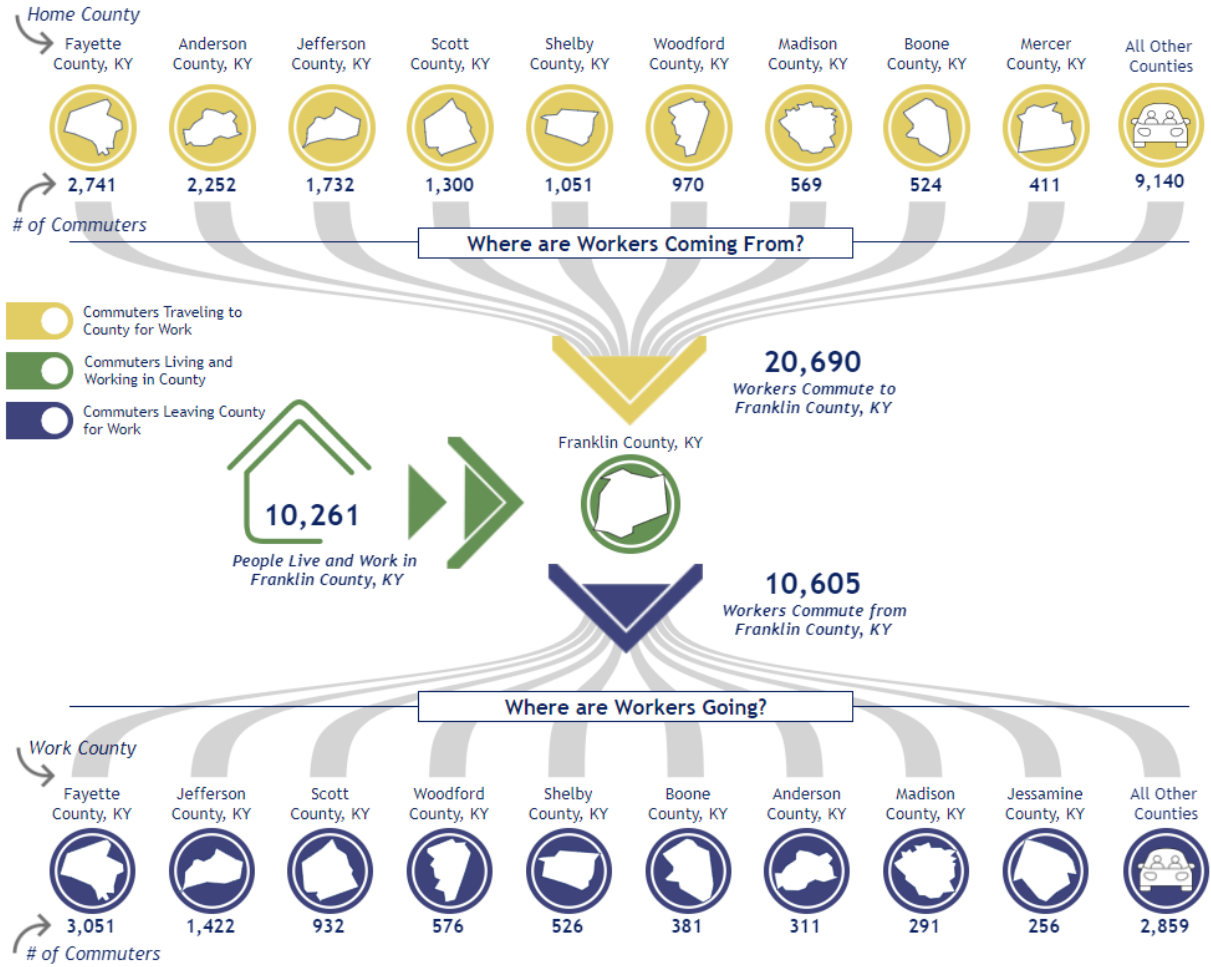
- WRC needs a revamp, the program needs to address current economic and workforce transition
- Communities need to be able to understand the supply of hard skills and soft skills
 - Communities need to understand the demand of the skills
 - What is the capacity of high schools/community colleges in building 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?



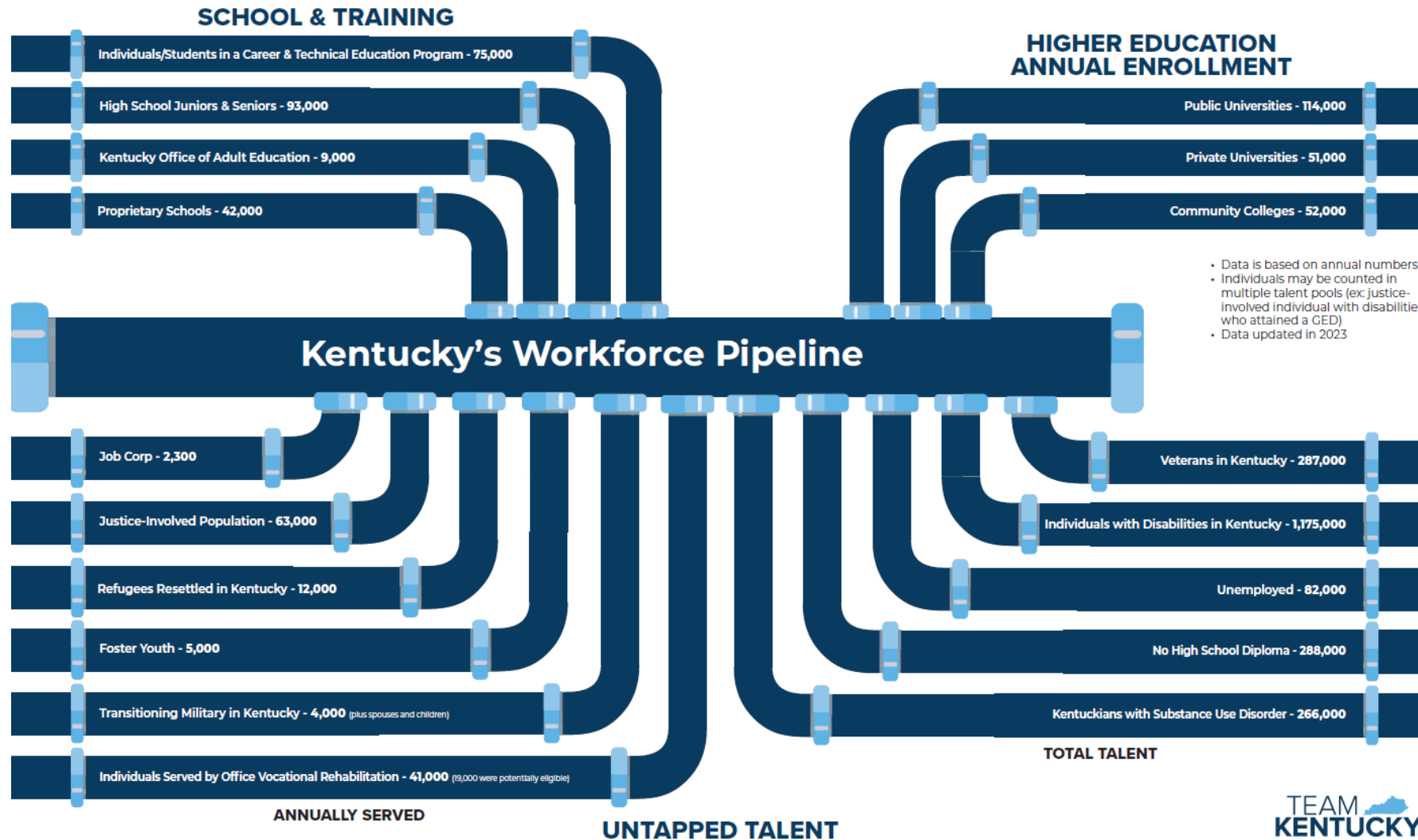
KENTUCKY COMMUTING PATTERNS REPORT

Last Update: June 2023

OVERVIEW



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



- Data is based on annual numbers
- Individuals may be counted in multiple talent pools (ex: justice-involved individual with disabilities who attained a GED)
- Data updated in 2023

Source: KYSTATS, Education & Labor Cabinet agencies, Department of Corrections, Job Corps & KY Office for Refugees, CHFS, National Survey on Drug Use and Health



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?