

ACT Work Ready Communities Application - for Virginia

The Commonwealth of Virginia is participating in the ACT Work Ready Communities initiative. To this end, the Commonwealth piloted a regional effort with the Dan River Region collaborative engaging the cities and counties in the Southern Virginia economic development region. The next step for Virginia is to continue to move forward replicating the emerging Southern Virginia region pilot in other interested economic regions. To further assist the Commonwealth in establishing a strong Work Ready Community partnership, ACT is inviting interested Virginia cities, counties, and regions that complete this application by January 16, 2015 to engage in its ACT Work Ready Communities Academy where ACT will help these local teams build and launch a successful WRC initiative based on the approach in the Southern region of Virginia

Participation in the ACT Work Ready Communities initiative is by application from a Virginia city, county or regional leadership team. If you are affiliated with a local economic development agency, workforce agency, education agency, chamber of commerce or lead business organization and would like to participate in the ACT WRC on behalf of a Virginia community, please assemble a local leadership team, then complete and submit this application. We will accept applications for the upcoming academy until January 16, 2015. Applications received after this date will be held until the next application window.

Cities, counties or regions accepted into the program will join the ACT WRC Academy where they will interface with other local teams from throughout the country with the first academy scheduled for March 2015. It is expected that a minimum of two members from the local team will participate in the Academy; however, more team members may attend. While ACT offers the Academy at no cost, attendees are expected to fund their travel and regional teams are expected to implement plans developed at the Academy to launch, certify and sustain their county as an ACT Work Ready Community.

Please call Fred McConnel at 319-321-9080 if you have questions, or visit our website at www.workreadycommunities.org for more information. Again, thank you for your interest in ACT WRC. We're excited about the prospect of linking education and workforce development to the economic development needs of your community.

Regards,
Debra Lyons
Vice President, Community & Economic Development
ACT, Inc.

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Contact information of person completing application

State:	<input type="text"/>
City, County or Region:	<input type="text"/>
Team Leader(s):	<input type="text"/>
Employer(s):	<input type="text"/>
Phone:	<input type="text"/>
E-mail:	<input type="text"/>

TEAM MEMBER INFORMATION

Local Government Rep:	<input type="text"/>
Title/Employer:	<input type="text"/>
Phone/E-mail:	<input type="text"/>

Economic Development Rep:	<input type="text"/>
Title/Employer:	<input type="text"/>
Phone/E-mail:	<input type="text"/>

Comm. or Tech. College Rep:	<input type="text"/>
Title/Employer:	<input type="text"/>
Phone/E-mail:	<input type="text"/>

Workforce Agency Rep:	<input type="text"/>
Title/Employer:	<input type="text"/>
Phone/E-mail:	<input type="text"/>

Business Rep:	<input type="text"/>
Title/Employer:	<input type="text"/>
Phone/E-mail:	<input type="text"/>

K-12 Rep:	<input type="text"/>
Title/Employer:	<input type="text"/>
Phone/E-mail:	<input type="text"/>

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

Please limit your responses to the space provided

1. NOTE: The criteria for a county to receive ACT Certified Work Ready Community status may be found by [clicking here](#). Please review before answering these questions. More information on ACT Work Ready Communities may be found by visiting www.workreadycommunities.org

How do you think the ACT CWRC common criteria will help your community build a consistent framework for community-based workforce development? What do you see as the greatest opportunities? What do you see as the greatest challenges?

2. **Building awareness and engagement among the business community is crucial for a successful ACT WRC effort. By completing this application, you are acknowledging the need to engage employers to achieve the goals to become and ACT Certified Work Ready Community. How do you envision engaging businesses on the value of the community becoming an ACT Certified Work Ready Community and their role in the recognizing the ACT National Career Readiness Certificate?**

3. Goals set are based on individuals earning ACT [National Career Readiness Certificates](#) (NCRC) and employers recognizing this certificate in support of their region becoming an ACT Certified Work Ready Community. Do agencies in your community currently use [ACT WorkKeys](#) system and issue NCRCs in ACT's RegiStar system?

Yes No

If no, please answer question 3a.

- 3a. If your region doesn't currently use the ACT WorkKeys System and/or does not issue ACT NCRCs, how do you envision bringing these tools to your community?

4. How would your community leverage its ACT Work Ready Community initiative to strengthen economic development?

5. **Successful ACT WRC often have funding for collateral support such as communications, marketing, service delivery to provide assessments, funds for coordinating the initiative and attending the Academy and to maintain. Does your local team have a plan to acquire the resources necessary to launch and maintain an ACT WRC initiative?**

6. **Your ACT WRC local leadership team is likely to include individuals with significant leadership responsibilities in their respective agencies. How do you intend to organize your team and ensure participants are committed to implementing plans and achieving their goals?**

7. **If you are applying as a region, please list the other counties that will be participating.**

8. **What additional information would you like to share for consideration in review of your application?**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COMMON CRITERIA AND TERMS

I am submitting this application on behalf of the City, County or Region of _____ in the Commonwealth of Virginia. By signing this application, I certify that I have the authority to submit this application on behalf of _____ City, County or Region. I understand that our application will be reviewed by the Commonwealth of Virginia WRC leadership team prior to ACT accepting my region for participation. I further understand that my community will be following the Commonwealth of Virginia’s Work Ready Communities Criteria as outlined on the Virginia page on the ACT Work Ready Communities website.

I further understand that my community will submit labor force and US Census data based on 2014 population totals and that ACT will calculate ACT WRC goals for each county based on the ACT WRC Common Criteria. ACT will post goals for all participating counties within the region and activate county-level dashboards at www.workreadycommunities.org. ACT will notify Virginia WRC leadership teams when ACT Work Ready Communities common criteria goals have been attained. By signing this application, I confirm that all team members have read and understood this statement and agree to actively participate in the ACT WRC Academy and on-boarding process.

Signature instructions:

If printing, sign your name in blue or black ink;
if e-mailing, type your full name.

Today's Date