



The ACT Work Ready Communities Academy

The ACT Work Ready Communities initiative is a major element in the effort to build a national system for work readiness.

The ACT Work Ready Communities Academy is for leaders who want to join this 21st century approach to work readiness and economic development.

The ACT National Career Readiness Certificate™ (ACT NCRC®) is the core of this effort, with its focus on certifying three essential skills—Applied Mathematics, Locating Information, and Reading for Information. The ACT NCRC is an evidence-based credential that can document work readiness among new hires, transitioning workers, and current employees.

These certificates and the skills they verify help assure employers that individuals have the foundational skills to succeed. They also help individuals better understand what careers might fit them with additional training. ACT Work Ready Communities bring this supply and demand together for the good of economic development, creating a competitive advantage in the eyes of local and relocating employers.

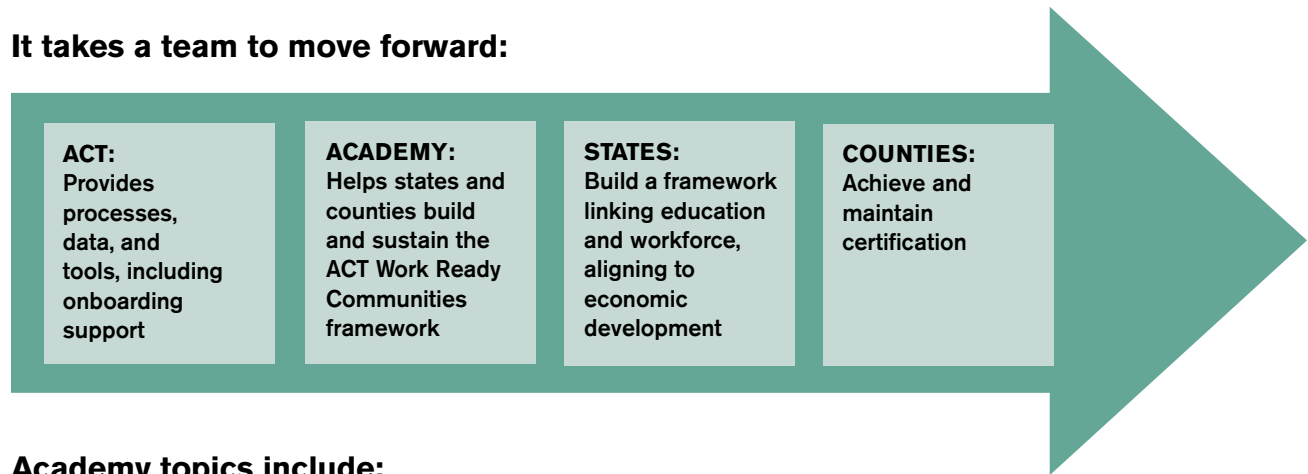
The ACT Work Ready Communities Academy is a 12-month, performance-driven program used by state and local leadership teams to initiate, deploy, and drive tailored efforts to certify communities as work ready based on individuals earning and employers recognizing the ACT NCRC.

To succeed at this goal, leadership teams shape a performance-driven strategy that uses ACT's premier testing infrastructure and data. The ACT Work Ready Communities initiative offer leadership teams the challenge of meeting a state's or community's unique circumstances, including—critically—the challenge of work readiness. Successful teams are those willing to invest the time and focus needed to succeed using this approach.

ACT® Work Ready Communities

workreadycommunities.org

It takes a team to move forward:



Academy topics include:

- **The basics:** ACT provides processes, tools, and data to build a platform for measuring and closing the skills gap at the county level based on the ACT NCRC.
- **Why we work with counties:** Everything is implemented at the local level. Why? Because county leaders are instrumental in working together to match local people to local jobs and aligning local workforce goals to local economic development initiatives.
- **The players:** ACT Work Ready Communities join employers, workers, state leaders, educators, economic developers, chambers of commerce, workforce professionals, community leaders, families, and media, among others.
- **Meeting challenges:** ACT guides teams to onboard participants and certify and maintain their efforts, including sharing best practices.
- **Leadership:** We help state and local teams determine which groups and individuals are critical to their success.

State leadership teams consist of senior staff with decision-making authority, including:

- Policy advisors from the governor's office
- State workforce development agency representatives
- State department of commerce or economic development representatives
- Community and technical college staff

- K–12 career and technical education staff
- Business and/or chamber representatives
- Other representatives

Ideally, local leadership teams should consist of:

- Chambers of commerce
- Economic development authorities
- Educators
- Elected officials
- Workforce agencies
- Employers and business leaders
- Civic organizations

After completing the academy and implementing the ACT Work Ready Communities framework, teams will have successfully established a sustainable, county-based ACT Work Ready Communities effort. Successful states, regions, and communities will enjoy established performance metrics and a documented return on investment that can be used to connect current workforce development efforts and jump-start new initiatives. State and county teams have the opportunity to sustain their ACT Work Ready Community efforts, leading to greater return on investment and better alignment.

How to get involved

Both statewide and local teams are invited to apply for the ACT Work Ready Communities Academy. Visit the website to download an application.

For more information, visit workreadycommunities.org.