



# ACT Work Ready Communities

## We all have a stake in making our country more competitive and closing the skills gap that threatens to paralyze our economy.

Change starts at the grassroots level by providing a community-based framework that:

- **Links** workforce development to education
- **Aligns** with the economic development needs of communities, regions, and states
- **Matches** individuals to jobs based on skill levels

The foundation of a community's certification is based at the county level—across the current, transitioning, and emerging workforce—on individuals earning and employers recognizing the ACT National Career Readiness Certificate™. The ACT NCRC® is a portable, industry-recognized credential that clearly identifies an individual's ACT WorkKeys® skills in reading for information, applied math, and locating information—skills required for virtually any job.

Many groups benefit when their states, counties, or regions join the ACT Work Ready Communities initiative.

- **Businesses and industries** can learn exactly what foundational skills are needed for a productive workforce and can easily communicate their needs to job seekers
- **Individuals** can understand what skills employers require and how to prepare for career success
- **Policymakers** can consistently measure skills gaps in a timely manner at the national, state, and local levels
- **Educators** can close skills gaps via tools integrated into career pathways with stackable, industry-recognized credentials
- **Economic developers** can use an on-demand reporting tool to market the quality of their workforce

**ACT**® Work Ready Communities

[workreadycommunities.org](http://workreadycommunities.org)

## Partnerships at all levels are essential for success

| PARTNERS  | CAPABILITIES  |
|---|---|
| <b>The National Workforce Solutions Advisory Board</b>  | C-level business leaders, economic developers, workforce policy experts, and educators who provide guidance and oversight   |
| <b>ACT</b> —the nonprofit organization with a track record of producing assessments and credentials | Delivers the process for involving states and counties, the assessment and certification tools, and rich workforce skill data updated each month  |
| <b>State ACT Work Ready Communities leadership team</b>   | A public-private team of chambers of commerce, business leaders, and education leaders whose purpose is to build a service delivery infrastructure and engage business leaders statewide while implementing processes at the county level |
| <b>Local ACT Work Ready Communities team</b>  | A county-level team that mirrors the state team in composition. This team uses the ACT approach to solve workforce issues through attaining and maintaining a certified ACT Work Ready Communities status.                                |

How do these partners come together to create change at the county level? ACT partners with communities and states to build this framework through the ACT Work Ready Communities Academy ([workreadycommunities.org/index/cwrc-academy](http://workreadycommunities.org/index/cwrc-academy)). ACT accepts applications from states, regions, and communities to participate in the initiative.

By working together and adopting the common criteria ([workreadycommunities.org/resources/Criteria\\_for\\_Certification.pdf](http://workreadycommunities.org/resources/Criteria_for_Certification.pdf)) for a community to be certified as “work ready,” states, regions, and counties are building a sustainable infrastructure to close skills gaps and attain a competitive advantage. By achieving ACT Work Ready Communities status, communities use a data-driven approach to demonstrate they have a skilled workforce that is valued by their local industry and a workforce development system in place that links education and workforce development together, aligns to economic development, and matches people to jobs.

**For more information, please visit the ACT Work Ready Communities website at [workreadycommunities.org](http://workreadycommunities.org).**