

ACT® Work Ready Communities Maintaining Criteria

After a county meets the Common Criteria and achieves Certified Work Ready Community status, their work does not stop. Every two years a county has the opportunity to document its continued workforce development efforts through ACT Work Ready Communities Maintaining Criteria. When a county has met their maintaining criteria goals the county earns a Maintaining status badge to add to its initial Certification badge.

The maintaining goals are structured similarly to the initial certification goals. In order to achieve the Maintaining status, counties must continue issuing NCRCs to the *current, emerging and transitioning workforce* – however – the county has flexibility in the allocation of these goals across the three workforce groups. The total NCRCs to be earned by the county will be calculated based on the criteria below. In addition to continuing to earn NCRCs – the counties will also be required to select from one of three new criteria: improving certificate levels, completing job profiles or providing college credit for the NCRC.

Lastly, counties will be asking employers that affirmed their support of the NCRC during the initial certification phase to re-affirm their support and be counted again during the maintaining phase (and newly engaged employers are, of course, always welcome).

Workforce current status categories:

Current Workforce	Currently employed private or non-profit Currently employed local, state or federal government
Transitioning Workforce	Currently unemployed Adult education participant Current or recent active duty military
Emerging Workforce	High school junior, senior or recent graduate College student or recent graduate

How we “size up” communities

Based on 2011 U.S. Census population data

Small Counties	Up to 29,999
Medium Counties	30,000 – 99,999
Large Counties A	100,000 – 399,999
Large Counties B	400,000 – 649,999
Very Large Counties	650,000 – 999,999
Mega Counties Over	Over 1,000,000

Categories of employers

Small employers (1-4 employees)
May aggregate to support their county
Medium employers (5-99 employees)
Support the county in which they are located
Large employers (100+ employees)
May support all counties within 25 miles

How we calculate county goals

Workforce and business goals...

County Size	Current Workforce	Transitioning Workforce	Emerging Workforce	Employers Supporting
Small	0.25%	7.5%	25%	5%
Medium	0.15%	6%	25%	5%
Large A	0.05%	5%	15%	2.5%
Large B	0.0375%	3.75%	10%	1.75%
Very Large	0.025%	2.5%	5%	1%
Mega	0.01%	1.25%	2.5%	0.5%

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Additional Maintaining Criteria [counties select one]:

Improving certificate levels	Certificate level improvement based on 30% of bronze certificates earned over past 12 months
Job profiles completed	Small county: 1 job profile Medium county: 3 job profiles Large county [A and B]: 5 job profiles Very large county: 8 job profiles Mega county: 12 job profiles
NCRC for college credit	Community or technical college will provide credit for NCRC

Counties will submit updated population and labor force data every two years in order for maintaining goals to be recalculated.

For more information, visit: <http://www.workreadycommunities.org>