

## **ACT® Certified Work Ready Communities**

### *Pilot now available for individual communities*

ACT launched its national Certified Work Ready Communities initiative in 2011. For the first two years, only statewide leadership teams have been eligible to apply to participate -- and those statewide CWRC efforts, in turn, allowed counties in each participating state to engage with the ACT CWRC effort.

Over the last two years, ACT has received tremendous interest from ad-hoc communities in non-participating states all asking the same question: how can we be a part of the Certified Work Ready Communities movement absent a statewide CWRC program?

Starting in June 2013, ACT will accept applications directly from counties interested in participating, where there is not a statewide CWRC program in place. However, counties in a CWRC state will need to engage through their existing state programs.

A local CWRC leadership team should, at minimum, have representatives from local government, economic development, community/technical college, K-12 system, and business/industry.

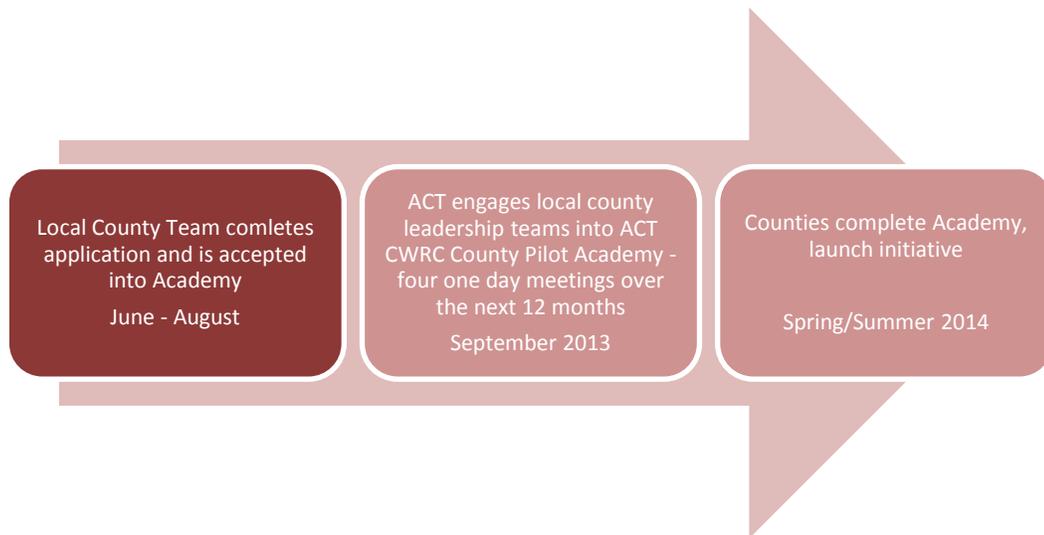
If you are interested in applying to be a part of the pilot, review the following information and links, assemble your local or regional leadership team, then download and complete the application. The pilot will accept multiple applications for counties that are part of an economic or workforce development region.

#### *What do Counties bring?*

- Each county will organize a cross agency team of government, educators, workforce, economic development and business/chamber leaders
- Two team members from each county will participate in the ACT CWRC Academy
- Counties commit to developing and launching a local CWRC program
- Counties will have ACT WorkKeys and ACT National Career Readiness tools accessible to individuals

#### *What does ACT bring?*

- ACT will fund the CWRC Academy for all participating pilot counties
- ACT will work with counties to establish initial goals
- ACT will provide data, process and tools to drive success
  - Data: NCRC and business engagement data for each counties
  - Process: The CWRC Academy to help counties build a CWRC initiative
  - Tools: Monthly website delivery of data, communication tools, and more



By participating in the CWRC initiative, counties can both identify skill gaps *and* quantify the skill level of their workforce. This helps educators build career pathways aligned to the needs of business and industry -- and it also helps a community stand out and be recognized for its workforce development efforts. A strong workforce is a tremendous economic development advantage.

After completing the CWRC Academy held in Atlanta, communities will be poised to launch their own CWRC initiatives which may serve as the foundation for a host of workforce and economic development projects.

For more information:

- [About Certified Work Ready Communities](#)
- [CWRC Common Criteria](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [Application](#)

And for even more information, please visit the CWRC website at <http://www.workreadycommunities.org>.