

South Carolina Certified Work Ready Communities

South Carolina's Certified Work Ready Communities initiative aims to ensure the growth of South Carolina communities by creating an environment conducive to business and workforce development.

The state's work ready leadership team will continue to foster and build a coordinated and uniform partnership among stakeholders using the Work Ready Communities approach, leveraging and maximizing its collective workforce development efforts at the county, regional and state level.

South Carolina's vision is to ensure a ready workforce that serves as an economic development tool to attract and maintain businesses in the state. Its vision is to link education and workforce development together and align with economic development needs of the state, its regions and communities.

The Work Ready Community initiative enables community leaders to rally behind the concept of a ready-to-work workforce. Mayors, council members, superintendents, principals, teachers, and business leaders cheerlead this effort, creating a team approach to workforce development. The motivation for their engagement will be the achievement of being recognized as a Work Ready Community. This initiative will educate job seekers in ways to qualify themselves for the available jobs due to synergies that are created by community leaders working together with businesses.

South Carolina's CWRC effort has three primary elements:

- Matching job openings with job seekers
- Creating an inventory of skill sets
- Locally driven approach

What's unique about South Carolina:

- A more coordinated, structured and unified approach to maximize workforce and economic development efforts to meet the needs of current and potential employers.
- More credentials and job profiles than a majority of the state's nationwide
- Assessment tool is already being used as part of work training programs for new and expanding industry

State Work Ready Leadership Team:

Governor's Office
Christian Soura

South Carolina Department of Employment and Workforce
Pat Sherlock and Elisabeth Kovacs

South Carolina Department of Commerce
Jonathan Yarborough

South Carolina Technical College System
Susan Pretulak, Mandy Kibler, Rick Cothran

South Carolina Department of Education (K-12/Adult Ed)
Charmeka Bosket, David Stout

South Carolina Department of Vocational Rehabilitation
Anne Iriel

South Carolina Manufacturers Alliance
James Richter

Local Work Ready Community Leaders Teams will generally consist of:

- School Districts Rep (Superintendent, Principal, Adult Ed, etc.)
- Tech College Rep. (President, VP, etc.)
- Local Workforce Board Administrator/Representative
- Industry Reps. (2 or 3 major industries in the county)
- Chamber Rep
- County Economic Developer
- Other Elected officials
- Municipal Association
- Association of Counties
- Mayors, School Board, State legislators

For more information, contact Elisabeth Kovacs at ekovacs@dew.sc.gov