

Kentucky Certified Work Ready Communities

Kentucky's initiative certifies the quality of the workforce based on six criteria specified by economic developers, site selectors, businesses and industries. In addition to the National Career Readiness Certificate criteria, communities in Kentucky must meet goals for high school graduation rates, soft skills development, educational attainment, community collaboration and digital literacy.

Kentucky's objective is to provide a globally competitive skilled workforce responsive to the demands of business and industry already located and looking to locate in the commonwealth.

On behalf of the Governor, the Kentucky Workforce Investment Board certifies counties as Work Ready when each of the six criteria are met. Counties close to meeting the criteria and presenting plans to achieve the goals within three years can be certified as Work Ready In Progress, indicating a community commitment to meet the needs of business and industry.

Criteria for Kentucky Work Ready Communities

High school graduation rate

Meets legislated goal of 82.32 percent

National Career Readiness Certificate

Has a plan to certify 15 percent of working-age adults (18-64) within three years

Educational attainment

Meets goal of 25 percent of working-age adults with an associates degree or higher with plans to reach 39 percent within five years

Soft skills development

Has soft skills credentialing programs for both secondary students and post-secondary adults

Community commitment

Local leadership teams must include representation from the following groups:

- Elected leaders
- Education
- Economic Development
- Workforce Development
- Business & Industry

Internet access as indicator of digital literacy

Has 3 Mbps+ speeds available to 90 percent of housing units

Please visit the [Kentucky Work Ready Communities](#) Web Site for more information.