

ACT Work Ready Communities: Maintaining criteria



After a county meets the ACT Work Ready Communities common criteria and becomes a certified ACT Work Ready Community, it can build on that status and strengthen its position as a desirable location for new and expanding businesses.

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 its maintaining criteria goals, it earns a “maintaining” status ribbon to add to its initial certification badge.

“Maintaining” status goals are similar to the initial certification goals. To achieve “maintaining” status, counties must continue issuing the ACT NCRC® to the current, emerging, and transitioning workforce. The total number of ACT NCRCs earned within the county will be calculated based on the criteria in the tables that follow. In addition to their residents earning ACT NCRCs, counties are also required to select one of three new criteria: improving certificate levels, completing job profiles, or providing college credit for the ACT NCRC.

In addition to listing newly engaged employers, counties will also ask employers who supported the ACT NCRC during the certification phase to reaffirm their support during the maintaining phase. By reconfirming their support, employers can gain greater understanding and usability of ACT WorkKeys® and the ACT NCRC.

WORKFORCE STATUS CATEGORIES

Current workforce

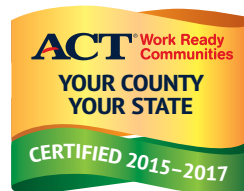
Currently employed: private or nonprofit
Currently employed: local, state, or federal government

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



ACT® Work Ready Communities

workreadycommunities.org

HOW WE “SIZE UP” COMMUNITIES*	
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	More than 1,000,000

HOW WE CATEGORIZE EMPLOYERS
Small employers (1–4 employees) <i>May aggregate to support their county</i>
Medium employers (5–99 employees) <i>Support their local county</i>
Large employers (100-plus employees) <i>May support all counties within 25 miles</i>

* Based on US Census Bureau population data

HOW WE CALCULATE ACT NCRC COUNTY WORKFORCE AND BUSINESS GOALS**					
County size	Current workforce	Transitioning workforce	Emerging workforce	ACT NCRC goal cap	New or replighted employers supporting ACT NCRC
Small counties	0.25%	7.5%	25%	1,400	same as certified goal
Medium counties	0.15%	6%	25%	3,000	same as certified goal
Large counties A	0.05%	5%	15%	4,600	same as certified goal
Large counties B	0.0375%	3.75%	10%	6,400	same as certified goal
Very large counties	0.025%	2.5%	5%	7,400	same as certified goal
Mega counties	0.01%	1.25%	2.5%	8,400	same as certified goal

** Maintaining goals are a combination of certified goals and actual maintaining goals

Counties will submit updated population and labor force data every two years in order for maintaining goals to be recalculated. For statewide programs, the state ACT Work Ready Communities team will provide updated demographic data every two years for all counties to recalculate goals during the maintaining status phase.

ADDITIONAL MAINTAINING CRITERIA (counties select one)	
Improving certificate levels	Certificate level improvement based on 30% of Bronze-level ACT NCRCs earned over past 12 months
Job profiles completed	Small county: one job profile Medium county: three job profiles Large county (A and B): five job profiles Very large county: eight job profiles Mega county: 12 job profiles
ACT NCRC for college credit	Community or technical college will provide college credit for the ACT NCRC, according to American Council on Education guidelines

Go to workreadycommunities.org for more information.