



Chattahoochee Valley BRAC Region Sustainable Architecture and Construction Strategy Overview

The Work Ready Regions initiative links education and workforce development and aligns to a regional industry cluster. The Chattahoochee Valley BRAC (CV-BRAC) Region includes seven Georgia counties: Chattahoochee, Harris, Marion, Muscogee, Stewart, Talbot and Taylor; and one county in Alabama: Russell. The U.S. Department of Labor Fort Benning BRAC Workforce Development Grant awarded to the Valley Partnership Joint Development Authority (VPJDA) in March 2008 focuses its funding on meeting Fort Benning BRAC-driven workforce needs in three industries considered strategic to Georgia. One of these industries is sustainable architecture and construction. While not a Georgia Work Ready Region grant, the DOL grant is managed in the same manner as a Work Ready grant.

Work Ready Strategy for Sustainable Architecture and Construction

Vision

The CV-BRAC region will be the leading center in Georgia for training workers in the field of sustainable architecture and construction.

Differentiating the Region

- Fort Benning BRAC represents one of the largest and longest (in duration) infrastructure and housing development efforts ever undertaken in the U.S., offering significant opportunities to:
 - Create one of the nation's first regional efforts to help building contractors fully understand and apply sustainable construction methods and practices
 - Develop a skilled construction labor pool with Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) training
 - Close the substantial workforce gap created by the substantial construction demands related to BRAC
 - Build a long-term niche (beyond BRAC) for the region with a workforce skilled in sustainable construction practices, techniques and technologies

Building the Strategy

Goals

- Provide a ready workforce to meet the needs in the sustainable architecture and industrial construction field during the BRAC process
- Meet Fort Benning's workforce development needs following BRAC
- Create an effective and active sustainable architecture and construction industry network
- Establish educational pathway (from high school to post-graduation education) for the array of sustainable architecture and construction occupations
- Create sustainable architecture and construction workforce development programs that represent national best practices for addressing military-related construction needs
- Meet or exceed Georgia Work Ready Certification targets

Where will we compete?

- We will institute the philosophy that LEED certification and sustainable practices are as integral to the fields of architecture and construction as is workplace safety; this approach and the related techniques impact every construction occupation

How Will We Win?

Short-term

- Accelerate the planning and preparation needed to train the current construction workforce for the LEED criteria required for construction at Fort Benning
- Establish a target for the number of job profiles and career pathways to be completed over the next year
- Assess how receptive both BRAC-related construction firms and regional construction firms are to using the Work Ready System
- Develop a plan for identifying and pursuing potential sources of funding to support efforts to build a sustainable construction workforce
- Develop and implement sustainable curricula for each construction trade and integrate it in all construction and construction-related technical training
- Determine the demand for a Construction Trades Center of Excellence at Columbus Technical College for existing and transitioning workers, and a Sustainable Architecture and Construction Career Academy for new workers

Long-term

- Develop and implement a sustainable construction training program at Fort Benning
- Successfully manage talent development of regional sustainable construction workforce
- Institutionalize the Chattahoochee Valley Sustainable Architecture and Construction industry network
- Implement a plan to track and leverage resources, including federal, state and community funding for sustainable construction training and education
- Launch the Construction Trades Center of Excellence and Sustainable Architecture and Construction Career Academy
- Integrate Georgia Work Ready and Alabama Career Readiness Programs into the process of selecting candidates for the Sustainable Architecture and Construction Career Academy
- Prepare evaluation report to share with other BRAC military communities