



Certified Work Ready Communities and Work Ready Regions Fact Sheet

Certified Work Ready Community

As part of Georgia's Work Ready initiative, 107 counties have made a commitment to earn Certified Work Ready Community status, a designation showing they have the talented workforce that business demands and the means to drive economic growth and prosperity.

To be designated a Certified Work Ready Community, counties must drive current workers and the available workforce to earn Work Ready Certificates, demonstrate a commitment to improving public high school graduation rates and build community commitment for meeting these goals. Each community has created a team of economic development, government and education partners to meet the certification criteria. Counties are given three years to reach the goals necessary to earn the designation.

Those counties willing to complete the progress in 18 months will be eligible for state-funded grants. These accelerated counties serve as models for the initiative, showcasing successes and best practices for other communities to follow.

Those communities that would like to begin the process of becoming Certified Work Ready Communities should complete and submit the Notification of Intent to Participate form located at www.gaworkready.org. Information about accelerated community grants and individualized county goals are also available at the Web site.

Georgia's Certified Work Ready Communities in progress include:

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|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|
| ▪ Appling | ▪ Coweta | ▪ Gwinnett | ▪ Madison |
| ▪ Baldwin* | ▪ Crawford | ▪ Habersham* | ▪ Marion |
| ▪ Barrow* | ▪ Crisp | ▪ Hall | ▪ McDuffie* |
| ▪ Bartow* | ▪ Decatur | ▪ Harris* | ▪ Meriwether* |
| ▪ Berrien* | ▪ DeKalb | ▪ Hart* | ▪ Mitchell |
| ▪ Bibb | ▪ Dodge* | ▪ Henry | ▪ Monroe |
| ▪ Bleckley* | ▪ Dougherty* | ▪ Houston | ▪ Morgan |
| ▪ Brooks | ▪ Douglas | ▪ Jackson* | ▪ Muscogee |
| ▪ Bryan* | ▪ Early* | ▪ Jeff Davis | ▪ Oconee* |
| ▪ Bulloch* | ▪ Effingham | ▪ Jefferson | ▪ Oglethorpe |
| ▪ Butts | ▪ Elbert* | ▪ Jenkins* | ▪ Peach |
| ▪ Camden* | ▪ Emanuel* | ▪ Johnson* | ▪ Pickens |
| ▪ Candler* | ▪ Fannin | ▪ Jones* | ▪ Pike* |
| ▪ Catoosa* | ▪ Floyd* | ▪ Laurens* | ▪ Polk |
| ▪ Chattooga* | ▪ Forsyth | ▪ Liberty | ▪ Pulaski* |
| ▪ Cherokee | ▪ Franklin | ▪ Lincoln | ▪ Putnam |
| ▪ Clarke | ▪ Gilmer | ▪ Long | ▪ Rabun |
| ▪ Cobb | ▪ Grady | ▪ Lowndes | ▪ Randolph |
| ▪ Colquitt | ▪ Greene* | ▪ Macon | ▪ Rockdale* |



- Schley
- Screven*
- Seminole
- Stephens
- Stewart
- Sumter
- Talbot*
- Taylor*
- Telfair*
- Terrell
- Thomas*
- Tift*
- Toombs*
- Towns
- Treutlen*
- Troup*
- Turner*
- Twiggs
- Union
- Upson*
- Walker*
- Walton*
- Ware*
- Warren
- Wayne
- Webster
- Wheeler*
- White
- Wilkes*
- Wilkinson*
- Worth*

* Accelerated counties

Work Ready Regions

Building on the Certified Work Ready Communities, Work Ready Regions bring together their assets and leaders to create regional talent pools targeting existing strategic industries and to increase economic development opportunities.

Criteria for success includes creating industry-driven regional solutions to improving the high school graduation rate, engaging at-risk and out-of-school youth, supporting high school and middle school career coaches, retraining dislocated workers, increasing post-secondary graduation rates and upgrading the skills of the existing workforce. More information may be found at www.gaworkready.org.

Each regional effort is being led by a local businessperson associated with the strategic industry. This leader has assembled an industry network to ensure the region's work plan meets the needs of the industry, both current and future.

The seven inaugural Work Ready Regions include:

- Northwest Georgia for automotive advanced manufacturing (Catoosa, Chattooga, Floyd, Gordon, Murray, Polk, Paulding, Walker and Whitfield Counties)
- Western central Georgia for aerospace advanced manufacturing (Chattahoochee, Harris, Muscogee, Quitman, Stewart, Talbot and Taylor Counties)
- Middle Georgia for aerospace advanced manufacturing (Bibb, Bleckley, Houston, Peach and Pulaski Counties)
- Middle Georgia for advanced manufacturing (Dodge, Johnson, Laurens, Telfair, Treutlen, Wheeler and Wilkinson Counties)
- Eastern Georgia for logistics, distribution and warehousing (Bryan, Bulloch and Candler Counties)
- Western Georgia for automotive advanced manufacturing (Carroll, Coweta, Douglas, Haralson, Harris, Heard, Meriwether, Talbot, Troup and Upson Counties)
- Northeast Georgia for bioscience (Barrow, Clarke, DeKalb, Gwinnett, Jackson, Madison, Morgan, Oconee, Oglethorpe and Walton Counties)



Competitive regional grants are being made available by the state to drive new thinking and develop Georgia's "talented" regions. Applications for the grant should show demand-driven regions aligned by common natural and man-made resources and strong public-private partnerships with active participation from identified strategic industries. Regions will be expected to show research that conclusively supports their selected regional strategic industries.

About Work Ready

Georgia's Work Ready initiative is based upon a skills assessment and certification for job seekers and a job profiling system for businesses. By identifying both the needs of business and the available skills of Georgia's workforce, the state can more effectively generate the right talent for the right jobs. Since January 2007, more than 16,500 Georgians have earned Work Ready Certificates. Additionally, 20 companies hired 965 Work Ready Certified Georgians in 2007.

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To learn more about the Georgia Work Ready initiative, visit www.gaworkready.org.