



Worker Training & Placement

ACT Certified Work Ready Community Initiative

ACT's [Certified Work Ready Community \(CWRC\) initiative](#) starts at the grassroots level providing a community-based framework that:

- Links workforce development to education
- Aligns with the economic development needs of communities, regions, and states
- Matches individuals to jobs based on skills

The foundation of a community's certification is based on individuals at the county level across the current, transitioning, and emerging workforce earning an ACT WorkKeys National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC) and employers recognizing that certification. The NCRC is a portable industry-recognized credential that clearly identifies an individual's skills in workplace documents, applied math and graphic literacy – skills required for 77% of jobs based on ACT's research.

By participating in ACT's CWRC initiative, counties, regions, and states are helping:

- Business and industry know exactly what foundational skills they need for a productive workforce – and to easily communicate their needs
- Individuals to understand what skills are required by employers – and how to prepare themselves for success
- Policy makers consistently measure the skills gap in a timely manner at the national, state and local levels
- Educators close the skills gap, via tools integrated into career pathways with stackable, industry-recognized credentials
- Economic developers use an on-demand reporting tool to market the quality of their workforce

[Wayne County](#) is among 6 counties in [East Central Indiana](#) to earn CWRC certification.

Manufacturing Matters

[Manufacturing Matters](#) (MM) is an initiative developed by a group of regional manufacturers and community leaders from East Central Indiana to address the perception of manufacturing, to help increase awareness of manufacturing careers, and most importantly, to help solve the skills gap. The program is designed to increase the skills of our residents and provide the local manufacturing industry with an employment pool of candidates that will help to increase their profitability and decrease turnover. Qualified candidates are pre-screened. Following successful pre-screening, candidates will be trained by Ivy Tech Community College to prepare for a nationally recognized certification. The program has evolved to include two tracks, the Certified Production Technician

(CPT) and the Production Associate. Participants are trained and educated on the most important aspects of manufacturing. In addition to the skills-based training, all MM programs include 30 hours of dedicated training time focused on employability skills such as communication, presentation, and teamwork skills. Full scholarships are available to qualified candidates and employer partners may refer incumbent workers. For more information on Manufacturing Matters, contact Kim Thurlow at kthurlow@ivytech.edu.

Richmond WorkOne Workforce Development Center

Partnered with the [Indiana Department of Workforce Development](#) (IDWD), [WorkOne](#) operates to assist Indiana citizens in accessing and improving their skills in order to find the jobs that will best fit their talents. WorkOne aims to help businesses save money through a variety of services ranging from candidate screening, job fairs, and other recruiting services. They also provide tips on how companies can qualify for grants and training.

Economic Growth Group (EGG) Workforce Development Training

New and existing businesses in Wayne County that have been denied funding, or that have received partial funding from the Indiana Economic Development Corporation, or the Economic Development Corporation of Wayne County may apply for skills training funds. These funds may be used for basic skills training, customized skills training, computer training, interpersonal and leadership skills, and programs to develop communication skills.

Hoosier Opportunity

[Hoosier Opportunity](#) is a jobs portal providing employers in Wayne, Jay, and Randolph counties a no-cost way to promote open positions to job seekers anywhere. Jobs listed on the website must pay at least \$10 an hour. Employers can create a profile where they can include information about their company's culture and benefits offered. Job seekers can fill out a profile and attach their resume which will appear in a database searchable by employers using the website. Job seekers will also receive weekly email updates about new positions added to the website in their career areas of interest. The three-county partnership supports the website with \$30,000 in advertising and social media annually. If your company has a facility in one of the three counties create a profile and post your jobs at no charge. Job seekers from anywhere looking for careers in East Central Indiana can create a profile and download the free app (available for Apple and Android devices) to track career opportunities.

Ivy Tech Community College

[Ivy Tech Community College of Indiana's Richmond campus](#) offers training for workers without needing to leave the region, or even the workplace. Whether it's the latest computer applications upgrade, training for new manufacturing or processing equipment, or working to develop key interpersonal skills, the college's Workforce and Economic Development (WED) Office works on a project-by-project basis with each employer to meet their needs in real time. Training can be customized using client materials and equipment and can be delivered any day of the week, any hour

of the day, on campus, or at the workplace to suit the needs of the employer.

Next Level Jobs

[Next Level Jobs](#) is part of Governor Eric Holcomb's Next Level Indiana agenda to continue the positive momentum of our state. Indiana is taking its workforce to the next level with a focus on the high-priority industries and high-demand jobs driving Indiana's 21st Century Economy forward. The program has two components:

[Workforce Ready Grant](#) – Free training for working-age Hoosiers in the state's highest demand jobs. These industries have higher median salaried jobs and are rapidly growing in Indiana. Sectors include:

- Advanced Manufacturing
- Building and Construction
- Health and Life Sciences
- Information Technology and Business Services
- Transportation and Logistics

[Employer Training Grant](#) – Employers in any high demand business sectors can be reimbursed up to \$2,500 for each new employee that is trained, hired, and retained for six months. There is a \$25,000 cap for each employer and the jobs must be middle skill, high-demand and high-wage jobs that require more than a high school diploma but less than an associate degree.

Purdue University Manufacturing Extension Partnership

[Purdue's Manufacturing Extension Partnership \(MEP\)](#) provides high value, affordable solutions to help businesses increase profitability and productivity. As advocates for Indiana business and organizations, their staff leverages resources in both the public and private sectors to help identify areas of improvement, streamline processes, and ultimately increase competitiveness.