



CATOOSA COUNTY A CERTIFIED WORK READY COMMUNITY

Georgia Governor Sonny Perdue proclaimed Catoosa County a Certified Work Ready Community in 2009.

Georgia's Certified Work Ready initiative enables communities to boost their economic development credentials

and help citizens improve their core job skills. The designation further shows that the community is serious about developing a capable work force.

To earn this designation, Catoosa County has demonstrated a commitment to constant improvement of high school graduation rates as well as continuing to encourage citizens to earn the Work Ready Certificates.

Work Ready Certificates are designed for individuals and allows workers to take a free job assessment and then become eligible to receive a certificate indicating their skill and knowledge levels to potential employers. The certificate guarantees that job seekers have the portable skills – reasoning, reading and basic math- to serve as a solid foundation for more customized training. Assessments are conducted through the Department of Technical and Adult Education. Catoosa County works in partnership with Georgia Northwestern Technical College in this endeavor. Gap training to help workers upgrade their job skills is also provided at no cost to the worker.

The Certified Work Ready designation also provides Work Ready job profiling. Designed to help employers build the right workforce for their needs, job profiling allows employers to profile required job tasks and skill levels to more easily match candidates to job opportunities. By comparing job profiles with individuals' certification levels, companies can make reliable decision about hiring, training and program developments.

We further support the recently launched Georgia Hire Work Ready, a new initiative designed to provide funding to small businesses that hire Work Ready Certified employees. Companies employing 50 or few people are eligible to receive \$250 per certified Work Ready individual hired, up to \$1,250 total, to assist with hiring and training costs. The funding for Hire Work ready comes from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).