

MASSACHUSETTS WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM

MassWorkforce Issuance

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☐ Policy ☒ Information

To: Chief Elected Officials
Workforce Development Board Chairs
Workforce Development Board Directors
Title I Administrators
Career Center Directors
Title I Fiscal Officers
DCS Operations Managers

cc: WIOA State Partners

From: Alice Sweeney, Director
Department of Career Services

Date: February 14, 2018

Subject: **ACT Webinar – Using WorkKeys 2.0 and the NCRC Certificate
(Connecting the Workforce: Using WIOA Funds with Career Credentials)**

Purpose: To notify Local Workforce Development Boards, One-Stop Career Center Operators and other workforce investment partners of a free, live webinar, *Connecting the Workforce: Using WIOA Funds with Career Credentials*, from ACT explaining how WorkKeys 2.0 and the National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC) can build customers' skills and fund career credentialing services for Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act (WIOA) participants.

Background: The Career Readiness Initiative (CRI) is a statewide, multi-agency effort to increase the educational attainment of Massachusetts's residents, and to provide job seekers with the opportunity to secure fulfilling careers in sustainable industries. The CRI is comprised of three tools: Career Ready 101/WorkKeys Curriculum, WorkKeys 2.0, and the National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC). These tools are part of the ACT Workforce Solutions System.

The WorkKeys 2.0 exam consists of three assessments pertaining to these topics. Clients who successfully complete all three assessments are awarded the National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC) at the Bronze, Silver, Gold, or Platinum level.

The Executive Office of Labor & Workforce Development (EOLWD) purchased four hundred eighteen WorkKeys 2.0 exams. These free exams are being

distributed to career centers according to criteria, including stated need and stated request by each regions testing sites.

ACT is offering a free, live webinar to discuss the following critical topics related to using the tools of the CRI in alignment with WIOA:

- Strategic use of WorkKeys 2.0 and the NCRC to support WIOA
- Methods for using WorkKeys 2.0 and the NCRC as part of business services (workforce recruitment assistance, training services, strategic planning, economic development, etc.)
- How WorkKeys 2.0 and the NCRC help with employer performance measures

While recent guidance from the U.S. Department of Labor will not count foundational skills credentials (like WorkKeys 2.0 and the NCRC) for the purposes of reporting on program performance, those credentials can be used to verify attainment of foundational skills in combination with other services for career pathways, apprenticeships, or additional credentials. However, there are opportunities to leverage WorkKeys solutions to improve Employer Performance Metrics currently under evaluation.

This webinar is offered one time only by ACT. Debra Lyons, ACT's Principal Strategist of Workforce Engagement, will host it. Please use the link below to register.

Date and Time: Tuesday, February 20, 2018
12:00PM – 1:00PM

Registration: Register through this [link](#) on ACT's website.

Please contact careerreadiness@state.ma.us with questions.