

# Developing America's Workforce

County Roles, Barriers and Solutions - County Case Studies



## Mobile County, Alabama



2021 POPULATION: **413,073**  
U.S. REGION: **SOUTH**  
ARCHETYPE: **SMALLER  
INDEPENDENT ECONOMIES**

Mobile County includes an urban county seat, the City of Mobile, and surrounding rural areas. Home to major employers such as Airbus, the county's workforce development efforts serve not only county residents, but thousands of commuters from surrounding counties.

### Barriers



FUNDING

### Solutions

#### COLLABORATION ACROSS SYSTEMS

The [Mobile Area Workforce Alliance](#) convenes education and training providers from K-12 to post-secondary, representatives from the city and county, the Mobile Chamber and the Southwest Alabama Workforce Development Council (SAWDC AlabamaWorks!) to coordinate efforts and develop a strategic plan to promote career readiness.

#### INNOVATIVE APPRENTICESHIPS

Many of Mobile County's greatest successes in workforce development can be attributed to its innovative adoption of registered apprenticeships in fields that do not traditionally use an apprenticeship model. In response to an industry-identified workforce shortage in health care, the county was a leading force in identifying an earn-while-you-learn model for nursing. This idea has since been replicated for surgical technology through close partnerships between workforce development, business and education providers.



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