



Ohio Life Sciences



# LIFE SCIENCE READY COMMUNITY OVERVIEW AND APPLICATION

[www.ohiolifesciences.org](http://www.ohiolifesciences.org)

# ARE YOU LIFE SCIENCE READY?

Ohio Life Science’s Life Science Ready Community Designation evaluates communities based on a structured scoring methodology that assesses their readiness for life sciences and biotech development. The scoring system incorporates three key factors: zoning and permitting, site readiness, and workforce. Each factor contributes to a **total maximum score of 40 points**, allowing for an objective comparison of sites across Ohio.

Ohio Life Sciences will maintain a list of Life Science Ready Communities, along with their designated level, and promote the list through its website and other channels to draw attention to communities in Ohio that are “ready” to grow the life sciences market.

## LIFE SCIENCE READINESS SCORING LEVELS

Listed below are the qualifications that a community must meet to qualify for one of the three levels of readiness. These levels will provide communities with a basic understanding of the requirements that companies within the life sciences industry have.

Level	Min Score	Max Score
Level 1: Emerging	10	20
Level 2: Advanced	20	30
Level 3: Premier	30	40



Source: UC Health

# LIFE SCIENCE READY COMMUNITY LEVEL DETAIL

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## LEVEL 1: EMERGING (10-20 POINTS)

Communities in this tier represent entry-level locations with fundamental attributes that allow for potential life sciences and biotech development. These sites may require additional improvements to reach higher readiness levels, but they offer a starting point for development.

- **Zoning & Permitting:** Basic zoning policies allow biotech laboratories and manufacturing with special use permits.
- **Site Development:** Limited infrastructure exists, providing basic utility access to accommodate at least one life sciences use.
- **Workforce Support:** A local workforce is present, and partnerships with technical schools may exist for entry-level training.
- **Industry Partnerships:** Minimal industry presence, with limited connections to life sciences organizations or companies.

## LEVEL 2: ADVANCED (20-30 POINTS)

This tier includes communities that are actively positioned to support life sciences and biotech development with moderate readiness. These sites benefit from improved infrastructure, favorable zoning policies, and a stronger industry network.

- **Zoning & Permitting:** Enhanced zoning allows for two or more life sciences developments by right, reducing regulatory hurdles.
- **Site Development:** Sites feature good infrastructure, supporting at least two industry uses, and may be featured within the JobsOhio Zoom Prospector online database.
- **Workforce Support:** Strong regional workforce availability, with at least one specialized workforce training program or biotech presence in the community.
- **Industry Partnerships:** Established partnerships with industry organizations or existing biotech, pharma, or medical device firms operating in the area.





# LIFE SCIENCE READY COMMUNITY LEVEL DETAIL CONT'D

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## LEVEL 3: PREMIER (30-40 POINTS)

This tier represents the most competitive and development-ready communities in Ohio, capable of supporting significant life sciences industry growth. These locations demonstrate top-tier infrastructure, workforce capacity, and active industry engagement.

- **Zoning & Permitting:** Exceptional zoning policies allowing three or more life sciences developments with no special-use restrictions.
- **Site Development:** High-capacity infrastructure, including certified sites within the JobsOhio or SiteOhio programs, supporting multiple life science industry uses.
- **Workforce Support:** Strong workforce availability across manufacturing, logistics, and R&D, with at least two dedicated training programs or active biotech facilities.
- **Industry Partnerships:** Robust collaborations with life sciences organizations, including established biotech companies and research institutions, driving regional innovation.



# READINESS AND IMPACT SCORING METHODOLOGY

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## SCORING CRITERIA AND WEIGHTS

### 1. ZONING & PERMITTING SCORE (MAX: 10 POINTS)

- a. Permitted Uses:
  - i. (2 points) Biotechnology laboratories and manufacturing uses are allowed by special use permits OR
  - ii. (5 points) Biotechnology laboratories and manufacturing uses are allowed by right.
- b. Expedited Approval Processes: (1 point) Zoning ordinances allow streamlined permitting.
- c. Overlay Districts: (1 point) Established life sciences overlay zones that reduce regulatory barriers.
- d. Identified Buildings and Land: (1 point) The municipality has identified buildings and/or land sites for biotech developments inside official municipal plans and planning documents (comprehensive plans, economic development strategic plans, land use plans, etc.)

### 2. SITE READINESS SCORE (MAX: 15 POINTS)

- a. Certified Communities:
  - i. Site Ohio-certified site (5 points) OR
  - ii. Sites that are available within the JobsOhio Zoom Prospector (3 points) OR
  - iii. uncertified sites (1 point)
- b. Site Size:
  - i. Large (>250 acres) – (5 points) OR
  - ii. Medium (50-250 acres) – (3 points) OR
  - iii. Small (<50 acres) – (1 point)
- c. Utility Infrastructure: Availability of utilities and infrastructure at the site: generator, electrical, steam, cold storage capabilities, gas, water and sewer.
  - i. (5 points) Sites that have a full range of utilities with ample capacity on-site.
  - ii. (1 point) for sites that have limited access or utilities not available at the site.

# READINESS AND IMPACT SCORING METHODOLOGY CONT'D

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## 3. WORKFORCE SCORE (MAX: 15 POINTS)

- a. County-Level Labor Pool: Based on the total civilian labor force within the county where the site is located:
  - i. 150,000+ workers (7 points)
  - ii. 75,001 – 150,000 workers (5 points)
  - iii. 25,001 – 75,000 workers (3 points)
  - iv. <25,000 workers (1 point)
- b. Existing Workforce Training Programs: (5 points) The presence of the biotechnology bootcamps, partnerships with local trade and technical colleges, engineering, or manufacturing training.
- c. Active Life Science Companies: (3 points) Existing biotech, pharma, agtech or medical device firms within the county.



# APPLICATION FORM

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## APPLICATION AND INSTRUCTIONS

### ***A complete application includes the following:***

1. Life Science Ready Community Application
2. All supplemental tables and exhibits, as required. A submitted application must be complete with all the required supporting tables and exhibits. Incomplete applications will be considered materially insufficient and may not be considered. Carefully review program guidelines on application submission, acceptance, and rejection.

### **Application Submission**

1. Complete the writable PDF application form and provide the signature of the authorized representative for the applicant.
  - Electronic signatures of the applicant's authorized representative will be accepted.
2. Save the application form under the naming convention: "(Community Name) \_LSR\_2025 Application Form"
3. Complete all required tables linked to the application form.
4. Compile all required exhibits as identified in the application form.
5. Exhibit documents can be Microsoft, Adobe, Excel, or other common application types.







## SECTION 1: APPLICANT INFORMATION

Municipality Name:

Address:

Primary Contact Name:

Title:

Email:

Phone:

## SECTION 2: COMMUNITY READINESS ASSESSMENT

### A. ZONING & PERMITTING

Does your municipality allow biotech laboratories or manufacturing uses by right, special permit, or other means? Please detail below:

Please provide any other relevant information regarding the zoning and permitting process for life sciences industry sectors (expedited approval processes, life sciences/mixed-use overlay districts, etc):

Has your municipality identified buildings and/or land sites for biotech laboratories and manufacturing uses in any municipal plans? Please detail below:

Score: \_\_\_\_ / 10



## B. SITE READINESS

- Does your municipality contain a site or sites that are currently available within the JobsOhio Zoom Prospector portal or are SiteOhio certified? Please detail below:

Please fill out the table below with your local site or buildings current infrastructure:

SITE UTILITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE		
Area Dimensions		
<i>Area of Focus</i>	<i>Size</i>	<i>Additional Comments</i>
Building or Site Area		
Height (If applicable)		
Building Utilities		
<i>Area of Focus</i>	<i>Range</i>	<i>Additional Comments</i>
Generator		
Electrical		
Steam		
Cold Storage		
Site Utilities		
<i>Area of Focus</i>	<i>Range</i>	<i>Additional Comments</i>
Water		
Sewer		
Gas		
Other		
<i>Area of Focus</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Additional Comments</i>
Describe the access and proximity to local infrastructure (highway, airport, rail)		



**C. WORKFORCE AVAILABILITY**

**County-Level Workforce Size:**

Please detail the existing workforce programs that are currently in place within your community (Biotechnology Bootcamp, local technical college programs, higher education facilities, community college facilities, etc).

Does your municipality have existing buildings containing laboratory space with active testing and experiments, and what biosafety level (BSL) are they rated? Please explain below.

**Score: \_\_\_\_\_ / 15**

**D. COMMUNITY NARRATIVE**

Please describe any other relevant information regarding your community’s vision on the local life science industry sector. This could include recent successful projects, future projects, local stakeholders' vision, or more:

### **SECTION 3: DOCUMENTATION & ATTACHMENTS (PLEASE ATTACH)**

- Zoning Maps and Documents
- Utility Capacity Reports
- Letters of Support
- Other Relevant Documentation

### **SECTION 4:**

**TOTAL SCORE:** \_\_\_\_/40

### **TIER LEVEL ACHIEVED:**

- Level 1: Emerging Site (10-20 points)
- Level 2: Advanced (20-30 points)
- Level 3: Premier (30-40 points)

### **PROGRAM CERTIFICATION**

I certify that the information provided is accurate and complete.

Signature:

Printed Name:

Title:

Date:

*Please submit the completed application and attachments to:* Ohio Life Sciences Association  
Life Science Ready Community Designation  
2281 Kenny Rd, Columbus, OH 43210

### **FOR QUESTIONS, CONTACT:**

Ohio Life Sciences Association  
ols@ohiolifesciences.org







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