



ARC Awards \$47 Million for Economic Diversification in Region's Coal-Impacted Communities

October 17, 2022

Largest POWER funding package to date will support growth of food economies, entrepreneurship, workforce development, and more to create new jobs in Appalachia's coal-impacted communities.

Frostburg, Maryland, October 17, 2022 —Today, the [Appalachian Regional Commission \(ARC\)](#) awarded nearly \$47 million to [52 projects](#) in 181 counties through its [POWER \(Partnerships for Opportunity and Workforce and Economic Revitalization\) Initiative](#), which directs federal resources to economic diversification projects in Appalachian communities affected by job losses in coal mining, coal power plant operations, and coal-related supply chain industries. This is the largest single POWER awards package to date since the initiative launched in 2015.

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Including today's award package, ARC has invested nearly \$366.6 million in [447 projects](#) impacting 360 coal-impacted counties since POWER was established in 2015. [A new evaluation](#) conducted by Chamberlain/Dunn indicates that a majority of POWER projects met or exceeded output and outcome targets, with ARC's investments projected to have helped create or retain more than 39,600 jobs and over 100,000 workers and students for new opportunities in entrepreneurship, broadband, tourism, and other growing industries.

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ARC plans to release another request for proposals for the POWER Initiative in early 2023. To learn more about today's awardees and their work to boost industries that create a stronger economic future for Appalachia, visit www.arc.gov/POWER.

POWER Award Summaries by State

October 2022

ALABAMA (1 award)

Project Title: *Supporting Electric Vehicle Manufacturing and Maintenance in North Alabama*

Grantee: Wallace State Community College–Hanceville

Award Amount: \$1,169,958

Announcement Date: October 2022

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$1,169,958 to Wallace State Community College–Hanceville in Hanceville, Alabama, for the *Supporting Electric Vehicle Manufacturing and Maintenance in North Alabama* project. Wallace State Community College–Hanceville (WSCC) will partner with the American Trucking Association, Freightliner, Kenworth, and Mercedes-Benz to bring their Mechatronics, Automotive Services, and Diesel Technician programs into alignment with electric vehicle (EV) needs. These needs include technicians ready for smart manufacturing and the servicing of electric vehicles and electric heavy-duty trucks. Based on a previous POWER-funded study of automotive manufacturing in North central Alabama, WSCC will update its Mechatronics Program and create new EV programs in its Automotive Services and Diesel Technician programs to include the specific knowledge, skills, and abilities needed by the industry. Students and workers/trainees will receive on-the-job training, complete the appropriate National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) and electric truck certifications, and create a talent pipeline for high-wage EV careers. WSCC will serve 230 students by the third year of programming, preparing workers for new employment opportunities in an area that has experienced the loss of jobs in the coal sector.

GEORGIA (1 award)

Project Title: *Enterprise Corner*

Grantee: Rome-Floyd County Development Authority

Award Amount: \$50,000

Announcement Date: October 2022

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$50,000 to the Rome-Floyd County Community Development Authority (RFCCDA) in Rome, Georgia, for the *Enterprise Corner* project. RFCCDA has purchased a 200-acre site for the Enterprise Corner Industrial Park. This project will provide a design for water and sewer lines, both of which are needed to attract large-scale manufacturing businesses.

KENTUCKY (11 awards)

Project Title: *Rowdy Trailhead and Campground Project*

Grantee: Perry County Fiscal Court

Award Amount: \$1,500,000

Announcement Date: October 2022

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$1,500,000 to the Perry County Fiscal Court (PCFC) in Hazard, Kentucky, for the *Rowdy Trailhead and Campground Project*. Located off Highway 476 in the Rowdy community of Perry County, the project will support outdoor recreation and tourism by constructing 30 RV campground sites with full hookups for water, sewer, electric, and cable television, as well as communal facilities (bath house, laundry, and ATV wash bay) and on-site infrastructure (sewage treatment, dumping station, waterlines, and security). The campground will serve as the trailhead for Perry County's ATV trails, which connect to a 75-mile loop passing through Breathitt, Knott, Floyd, and Magoffin counties. In addition to county fiscal courts within the ATV trail network, PCFC will also partner with USDA Rural Development and the Kentucky Mountain Regional Recreational Authority. The project will create 38 jobs within its first 15 months and lead to an estimated 24,960 overnight stays in the first year. Additional funding is provided by the Abandoned Mine Land Economic Revitalization Program and the Foundation for Appalachian Kentucky.

Project Title: *TEK Center Skilled Trades Training*

Grantee: TEK Center, Inc.

Award Amount: \$1,500,000

Announcement Date: October 2022

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$1,500,000 to TEK Center, Inc. in Inez, Kentucky, for the *TEK Center Skilled Trades Training* project. The project will develop a Skilled Trades Training Center to support low-income individuals, individuals in addiction recovery programs, and dislocated workers such as former coal miners, all of whom are greatly impacted by the decline in coal production and the substance use disorder crisis. To encourage participation from these groups, this training center will offer short-term, industry-driven training programs of one year or less that streamline these individuals into well-paying, high demand jobs. Project partners include the East Kentucky Concentrated Employment Program, Martin County Economic Development Agency, Foundation for Appalachian Kentucky, Shaping Our Appalachian Region (SOAR), Johnson County Schools, and Floyd County Board of Education. The project will serve six businesses, 125 high school students, and 395 workers/trainees.

Project Title: *UPIKE Ag-Tech Innovation Center of Excellence*

Grantee: University of Pikeville, Inc.

Award Amount: \$1,500,000

Announcement Date: October 2022

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$1,500,000 to the University of Pikeville in Pikeville, Kentucky, for the *UPIKE Ag-Tech Innovation Center of Excellence* project. Located off U.S. Highway 23 in the Kentucky Enterprise Industrial Park, the project will develop an agricultural research facility in partnership with the City of Pikeville and

will serve seven counties in Eastern Kentucky. The facility will aid the region's growing sustainable agricultural sector via research activity conducted on behalf of private industry partners, space for ag-tech workforce programming and development, and entrepreneurial supports. The Center will focus on seed development, environmental conservation practices, and controlled-environment farming. Over the next three years, the project will help create 250 jobs and three new businesses. An additional \$4.4 million in funding is provided by the U.S. Economic Development Administration.

Project Title: *Growing Eastern KY's Controlled Environment Production Ecosystem*

Grantee: Kentucky Horticulture Council

Award Amount: \$1,458,212

Announcement Date: October 2022

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$1,458,212 to Kentucky Horticulture Council in Lexington, Kentucky, for the *Growing Eastern KY's Controlled Environment Production Ecosystem* project. The Kentucky Horticulture Council will partner with the University of Kentucky, Community Farm Alliance, and Kentucky Center for Agriculture & Rural Development to help prospective and established producers establish and grow controlled environment agriculture (CEA) operations that enable year-round growing. This project will not only advance entrepreneurial support for new and existing Kentucky farmers but also develop a competitive, career-ready workforce to support the expansion of CEA jobs in communities with unemployed and underemployed residents. The project will serve 484 businesses and 137 workers/trainees, improve 247 businesses and 110 workers/trainees, create 12 businesses, generate \$185,000 in non-export revenue, and leverage \$185,000 in additional private investment.

Project Title: *Agricultural Apple Sorting & Packing Facility*

Grantee: Big Sandy Area Development District

Award Amount: \$1,200,000

Announcement Date: October 2022

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$1,200,000 to Big Sandy Area Development District in Prestonsburg, Kentucky, for the *Agricultural Apple Sorting & Packing Facility* project. The project will conduct sitework at the East Kentucky Business Park to prepare for a new building addition that will serve as a regional apple sorting and packing hub across nine counties in Eastern Kentucky and Southern West Virginia, as well as provide business technical assistance to engaged entrepreneurs. This facility will enable Appalachian farmers to access domestic and international markets by supporting a vertically integrated chain from the orchard to the end-user. With upwards of a thousand acres of former mine lands in the region being converted to apple orchards, this ARC POWER grant will support the development of a new industry cluster. The project's activities will be supported by partnerships with the University of Kentucky, Shaping Our Appalachian Region (SOAR), Operation UNITE, and Morehead State University. The project is expected to be completed within 10 months and will serve 300 businesses, support the creation of 260 jobs, and leverage up to \$30 million in additional private investment.

Project Title: *Preparing the Future of American Agriculture: AgTech Apprenticeship*

Grantee: Kentucky Community & Technical College System

Award Amount: \$1,137,500

Announcement Date: October 2022

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$1,137,500 to Kentucky Community & Technical College System in Versailles, Kentucky for the *Preparing the Future of American Agriculture: AgTech Apprenticeship* project. The project will implement a hands-on training program for entry level workers and build a workforce pipeline for high-yield, year-round controlled environment agriculture, or agricultural technology (agtech), in Appalachia. Agtech's fast-paced, technology-enhanced, crop-producing environment requires a specific educational foundation, precise skills, and real-time decision making. Through partnerships with AppHarvest, Edgewater Recovery, Kentucky FFA Association, Elliott County, Addiction Recovery Care, Rowan County Drug Court, Rowan County Agriculture Advisory Board, East Kentucky Concentrated Employment Program, Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Sciences (MANRRS), and University of Kentucky, this project will place recruitment emphasis on workers recovering from substance use disorder and traditionally underrepresented workers in the agtech industry. The program will improve 350 workers/trainees through wage increases and career progression, improve one large-scale business through increased revenue from worker productivity and reduced product waste.

Project Title: *Appalachia Access to Capital—Phase II—Capital and Technical Assistance*

Grantee: Community Ventures Corporation

Award Amount: \$1,500,000

Announcement Date: October 2022

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$1,500,000 to the Community Ventures Corporation (CV) in Lexington, Kentucky, for the *Appalachia Access to Capital—Phase II—Capital and Technical Assistance* project. The project will capitalize a revolving loan fund (RLF) to increase New Markets Tax Credit (NMTC) investments in Kentucky, Tennessee, and West Virginia. Central Appalachia's coalfields do not lack NMTC-worthy projects; however, many communities do not understand how the program works, how to structure financing, and how to present to investors. CV will align and leverage complementary sources of capital for catalytic, large-scale projects that deliver new jobs or provide critical community infrastructure such as healthcare, education, and social services. The ARC funding will support second-phase technical assistance to Appalachian businesses and New Market Tax Credits allocatees seeking investments. Partners include Appalachian Community Capital, Fahe, Fairmont Community Redevelopment, the Mountain Association, Kentucky African American Chamber of Commerce (NOIR), and the Middletown Valley Bank. The project will improve 15 businesses and 10 communities, create 150 jobs and 15 businesses, and leverage \$10.5 million in additional private investment over six years. This project builds on Community Ventures Corporation's 2021 ARC POWER grant for the *Appalachia Access to Capital Initiative*.

Project Title: *The EKY Community Accelerator Project*

Grantee: Mountain Association

Award Amount: \$50,000

Announcement Date: October 2022

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$50,000 to the Mountain Association in Berea, Kentucky, for the *EKY Community Accelerator Project*. Communities often face concentrated decision-making with little input from residents. The Eastern Kentucky Community Accelerator will help communities organize, build strong local networks to develop solutions, and seize opportunities that create jobs and economic resiliency. The Mountain Association will act as the accelerator's fiscal sponsor, and What's Next EKY?! (WNEKY)—a robust network of community groups and regional partners—will serve as the leading organization. Additional partners include Grayson Gallery (Carter County), Letcher County Culture Hub, Jackson County Tourism, Brushy Fork Leadership Institute, and Vision Granted. Their roles include leading the "Learning Partner Community," being coaches, and coordinating the community accelerator. During the one-year grant, the region will have a tested model of how best to help communities move toward resilient economies. The project will serve three communities and produce a regional report outlining a new toolkit.

Project Title: *Eastern Kentucky Equine Community Center Planning*

Grantee: Kentucky Equine Education Project (KEEP) Foundation

Award Amount: \$50,000

Announcement Date: October 2022

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$50,000 to the KEEP Foundation in Lexington, Kentucky, for the *Eastern Kentucky Equine Community Center Planning* project. The project will assess the feasibility of, and provide a business plan for, the potential Eastern Kentucky Equine Center. The center would offer space for businesses related to the equine industry and outdoor recreation, as well as sector-specific workforce training to meet businesses' employment needs. Workforce training would focus on formerly incarcerated populations and individuals in recovery, and help develop a job and business pipeline for equine and mental health sectors. Furthermore, the center will help Southeast Kentucky leverage the state's strong equine industry and wild horse population as economic assets. The project will result in a feasibility study and business plan over the course of one year.

Project Title: *Southeast Kentucky Regional Experience Package Planning Project*

Grantee: Foundation for Appalachian Kentucky

Award Amount: \$48,422

Announcement Date: October 2022

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$48,422 to Foundation for Appalachian Kentucky (FAKY) in Hazard, Kentucky, for the *Southeast Kentucky Regional Experience Package Planning Project*. The project, fiscally sponsored by FAKY and led by Leslie County Betterment (LCB), will coordinate tourism initiatives in Southeast Kentucky to build and market regional experience packages. These packages will align and market similar and complementary initiatives so visitors may enjoy the wealth of experiences that Southeast Kentucky offers. The project's final output will be a pitch to investors and funders that demonstrates the need for and potential impact of

clustering products and developing regional experience packages. The project will serve five counties over the course of a year.

Project Title: *Southeast Kentucky Regional Trails Planning Project*

Grantee: Foundation for Appalachian Kentucky

Award Amount: \$46,838

Announcement Date: October 2022

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$46,838 to Foundation for Appalachian Kentucky in Hazard, Kentucky, for the *Southeast Kentucky Regional Trails Planning Project*. The project will create a comprehensive outdoor adventure development, marketing, and maintenance plan for Southeast Kentucky that capitalizes on the potential community economic and health impacts of outdoor recreation. The plan will include an assessment of existing outdoor recreation assets, infrastructure, and initiatives; a detailed vision of the future of the region, informed by community stakeholder input; and project-specific, modular, multi-phased workplans to guide progress toward that vision. The project will serve eight counties over the course of a year.

MARYLAND (1 award)

Project Title: *Broadband Customer Connect Program*

Grantee: Board of County Commissioners of Garrett County, Maryland

Award Amount: \$435,000

Announcement Date: October 2022

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$435,000 to the Board of County Commissioners of Garrett County, Maryland, for the *Broadband Customer Connect Program*. The project will install or support the installation of 7,500 feet of broadband conduit, enabling the deployment of fiber broadband services to 300 homes. Expanded service will benefit rural residents who have struggled to pay the thousands of dollars required to extend broadband services down long driveways to their homes. The grantee will work with all qualifying internet service providers to identify the homes in need and ensure that the appropriate cost reduction approach is applied to connect the unconnected.

OHIO (9 awards)

Project Title: *Connecting Underserved Carroll County, Ohio*

Grantee: Carroll County, Ohio

Award Amount: \$1,999,000

Announcement Date: October 2022

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$1,999,000 to Carroll County, Ohio, for the *Connecting Underserved Carroll County, Ohio* project. The project will build 86 miles of fiber optic network infrastructure to connect 11 communities to reliable and affordable broadband services. Through a partnership with Charter Communications, this project fills the funding and broadband deployment gaps in Carroll County's broadband landscape and ensures every home or business in the county has a funded commitment for broadband deployment. Furthermore, increased connectivity will help facilitate economic growth and diversification

necessary to overcome the downturn of the coal industry. The project will serve 384 homes and 53 businesses.

Project Title: *Appalachian RESILIENCY (Restoring our Environment, Supporting and Investing Long-term In EcoNomes and Careers for Youth)*

Grantee: Rural Action, Inc.

Award Amount: \$1,500,000

Announcement Date: October 2022

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$1,500,000 to Rural Action, Inc., in The Plains, Ohio, for the *Appalachian RESILIENCY (Restoring our Environment, Supporting and Investing Long-term In EcoNomes and Careers for Youth)* project. Appalachian RESILIENCY builds on the region's natural resources to address workforce development, green infrastructure, and the processing, aggregation, and distribution of agroforestry products in Ohio, Virginia, and West Virginia. The project will expand Rural Action's AmeriCorps program; offer paid high school internships with local businesses and non-profits in at least 10 counties; and provide training opportunities in ecological restoration, waste management (reduction, recycling, and upcycling), and clean energy. It will also create a new native planting stock and tree nursery and develop an agroforestry hub, including the placement of herb processing equipment at multiple locations across Appalachian Ohio. Appalachian RESILIENCY will partner with Appalachian Sustainable Development, Coalfield Development, and United Plant Savers. The project will serve 100 businesses in 20 communities and will create 20 jobs.

Project Title: *rePOWERing Main Streets: Fostering Entrepreneurship Across Appalachia*

Grantee: Economic and Community Development Institute, Inc.

Award Amount: \$1,500,000

Announcement Date: October 2022

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$1,500,000 to the Economic and Community Development Institute, Inc. (ECDI) in Columbus, Ohio, for the *rePOWERing Main Streets: Fostering Entrepreneurship Across Appalachia* project. ECDI and its eight partners will spark entrepreneurship across seven coal-impacted counties in Ohio and West Virginia through coaching and training, pitch competitions, and other resources. Additionally, they will implement county-specific programs and events to address the unique needs of local entrepreneurs and build capacity for local partners. As small businesses access education and resources to sustainably scale operations, they will be referred to ECDI and other local capital sources to continue growing, creating more jobs, and generating revenue in the region. This project will serve 350 businesses and 300 participants, improve 150 businesses and 153 participants, and create 75 jobs and 60 businesses. Additional funding is provided by the Small Business Administration and the U.S. Treasury Department's Community Development Financial Institutions Fund.

Project Title: *REACH: Rural Employment Advocating for Community Health*

Grantee: Access Tusc: Bridges to Wellness Pathways Community Hub

Award Amount: \$1,381,028

Announcement Date: October 2022

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$1,381,028 to Access Tusc: Bridges to Wellness Pathways Community HUB in Dover, Ohio, for the *Rural Employment Advocating for Community Health (REACH)* project. This project will implement a Level 1 Certified Pathways Community HUB—a nationally recognized approach to addressing social determinants of health—to improve overall population health in eight communities. The project will hire and/or retain credentialed professionals by aligning their care coordination agencies (CCA); connect CCAs to higher education partners for the execution of community health worker certification/training; develop partnerships with health information exchanges and/or electronic health records to bring in new networks for referrals, collaboration, and data reporting; and contract with partner agencies to ensure compliance and standardization of programs, Medicaid billing and reimbursement, and community support strategies. The project will serve 84 businesses and 74 workers/trainees, with 45 of those workers/trainees being newly credentialed health workers.

Project Title: *YSU Broadband and 5G Readiness Training Program*

Grantee: Youngstown State University

Award Amount: \$1,154,880

Announcement Date: October 2022

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$1,154,880 to Youngstown State University (YSU) in Youngstown, Ohio, for the *YSU Broadband and 5G Readiness Training Program*. The project will train 165 students with the skills and knowledge needed to enter the broadband industry sector in Appalachian Ohio. This project provides the students with access to a no-cost, industry-certified training program while also providing the broadband industry with the trained workforce it will need to carry out the projected \$500 million investment in broadband infrastructure over the coming years. This training program will take place at three different education centers across a six-county region over the course of three years. Key partners include Eastern Gateway Community College, and the Ashtabula County Technical & Career Center.

Project Title: *Expanding the Nursing Workforce in Appalachia*

Grantee: Washington State Community College

Award Amount: \$803,698

Announcement Date: October 2022

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$803,698 to Washington State Community College in Marietta, Ohio, for the *Expanding the Nursing Workforce in Appalachia* project. Washington State Community College (WSCC) will increase the number of registered nurses and address regional healthcare shortages by launching a second Associate Degree of Nursing program and a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree program. Project partners—Memorial Health System and WVU Medicine Camden Clark Medical Center—will provide nursing clinical/apprenticeship opportunities and commit to hiring successful graduates. Southeastern Ohio Port Authority, Marietta Chamber of Commerce, and Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services will provide economic development strategies, business support, and other supportive and workforce development services. The Washington County Career Center will create nursing pathways and promote the nursing programs. Over three years, the

project will serve 234 students from six communities located in economically distressed, at-risk, and transitional counties.

Project Title: *FlyOhio: Planning for Advanced Air Mobility in Ohio's Appalachian Region*

Grantee: Ohio University

Award Amount: \$50,000

Announcement Date: October 2022

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$50,000 to Ohio University in Athens, Ohio, for the *FlyOhio: Planning for Advanced Air Mobility in Ohio's Appalachian Region* project. This project will engage community stakeholders, conduct research and analysis, and prepare a report to document an Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) strategy for Ohio's 32 Appalachian counties. Ohio University will partner with FlyOhio and JobsOhio to explore AAM opportunities for the region's business, transportation, and logistical needs. In addition, Ohio University will partner with four Local Development Districts to identify locally focused AAM applications. The 12-month project will lead to a report documenting an AAM economic development strategy, including the development of local case studies, to foster economic diversity and create new entrepreneurial activities related to AAM. Ohio University is providing an additional \$50,000 in funding.

Project Title: *Thornton Ohio Institute of Technology*

Grantee: Appalachian Ohio Manufacturers' Coalition (AOMC)

Award Amount: \$50,000

Announcement Date: October 2022

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$50,000 to Appalachia Ohio Manufacturers Coalition (AOMC) in Marietta, Ohio for the *Thornton Ohio Institute of Technology* project. The project will create a strategic plan to inform a comprehensive career pathway toward manufacturing and machine-based jobs for Southeast Ohio, Kanawha and Wood counties in West Virginia, and Allegheny County in Pennsylvania. The plan will identify wraparound services needed by, and training opportunities for, skilled workers affected by job losses related to plant and mine closures. The Thornton Ohio Institute of Technology will work in partnership with Ohio University, Hocking College, Tristate Energy and Advanced Manufacturing Consortium (TEAM Consortium), and Watertown Enterprises. In addition, other partners will join AOMC in this one-year project.

Project Title: *Trumbull County Broadband Preliminary Engineering Study*

Grantee: Western Reserve Port Authority

Award Amount: \$49,970

Announcement Date: October 2022

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$49,970 to Western Reserve Port Authority in Youngstown, Ohio, for the *Trumbull County Broadband Preliminary Engineering Study*. The project will conduct a broadband engineering study for a proposed fiber optic loop designed to provide high-speed broadband service to four underserved communities in Trumbull County, Ohio. The study will examine alternative broadband deployment routes, including an analysis of existing providers. The study

will also identify partnerships to deploy broadband services in the coal-impacted region and recommend innovative funding opportunities to leverage public-private investment for the project's implementation. The one-year project will serve four communities.

PENNSYLVANIA (9 Awards)

Project Title: *Health Sciences Workforce Development Center*

Grantee: Fayette County

Award Amount: \$1,500,000

Announcement Date: October 2022

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$1,500,000 to Fayette County, Pennsylvania, for the *Health Sciences Workforce Development Center* project. This project will construct a 6,000-square-foot training center on the campus of Fayette County Career & Technical Institute (Fayette CTI), allowing Fayette CTI to enhance its Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) program and meet the growing healthcare workforce needs in Western Pennsylvania and Northern West Virginia. West Virginia University Medicine will provide curriculum recommendations to Fayette CTI and plans to interview upwards of 50 program graduates for jobs approximately one year after construction and programming begins. Over the course of eighteen months, following the completion of the new facility, the project will serve 170 students with 136 anticipated to graduate.

Project Title: *Erie to Pittsburgh Trails/PA Wilds Loop Construction—Phase II*

Grantee: Venango County, Pennsylvania

Award Amount: \$1,385,920

Announcement Date: October 2022

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$1,385,920 to Venango County, Pennsylvania, for Phase II construction of the *Erie to Pittsburgh Trail/PA Wilds Loop Trail*, closing gaps in connectivity along both trails. Both trails are part of the Industrial Heartland Trails Coalition, an initiative to connect the area's population centers via destination trails that will attract users locally and nationally. This project contributes to that larger effort by building on a strategy developed by Crawford County, Pennsylvania, using a 2019 POWER planning grant. This project will complete three miles of critical multi-use recreational trail development, rehabilitate a key bridge, and provide road crossing safety improvements. After two years, 15,840 linear feet of new trail will be built, attracting an expected 6,300 new day visitors and 2,100 new overnight visitors.

Project Title: *Tri-State Net Zero Manufacturing Initiative*

Grantee: Southwestern Pennsylvania Corporation

Award Amount: \$1,375,961

Announcement Date: October 2022

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$1,375,961 to the Southwestern Pennsylvania Corporation (SPC) in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, for the *Tri-State Net Zero Manufacturing Initiative* project. To help address both the global climate crisis and the region's economic reliance on coal, the project will help small and medium manufacturers participate in the growing supply chain for net-zero energy and decarbonization sectors. In partnership with Manufacturing Extension Partnership

(MEP) centers at Catalyst Connection, West Virginia University, and Ohio MAGNET, the project will engage and connect manufacturers with strategies and opportunities; incentivize the deployment of net zero supply chain and clean factory strategies by providing "Net Zero Manufacturing Mini-Grants"; and identify pathways to scale up net zero manufacturing, among other activities. The project will serve 47 counties across three states, produce two plans/reports, implement three programs, serve 300 businesses, create 120 jobs and 25 new businesses, and leverage \$360,000 in additional private investment.

Project Title: *Aviation Workforce Training Center*

Grantee: Saint Francis University

Award Amount: \$1,000,000

Announcement Date: October 2022

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$1,000,000 to Saint Francis University in Loretto, Pennsylvania, for the *Aviation Workforce Training Center* project. Through collaboration with industry partners—including the Johnstown-Cambria County Airport Authority, Cambria County, Nulton Aviation Services, and Sky West Airlines—to ensure compliance with FAA regulations and intersection with industry needs, the project will establish an Aviation Maintenance Technician (AMT) school at the John Murtha Johnstown–Cambria County Airport. The school will provide the coal-impacted workforce with aviation maintenance training and certifications, helping individuals create pathways into secure, well-paying, family-sustaining jobs in the growing aviation industry and related sectors. While focused on AMT, training will also synergize with more general trades needed by a variety of occupations, thus also helping dislocated workers from coal-related industries re-enter the workforce using skill sets transferable outside the aviation sector. By the end of the three-year grant period, 60 workers/trainees are expected to enroll in the training program, and five will graduate with certifications that will enable them to obtain employment in the aviation sector or similar field.

Project Title: *Child Care Works for the Southern Alleghenies*

Grantee: The Learning Lamp

Award Amount: \$756,690

Announcement Date: October 2022

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$756,690 to the Learning Lamp in Johnstown, Pennsylvania, for the *Child Care Works for the Southern Alleghenies* project. The project will increase child care supply and put more people back to work in a rural, coal-impacted region of west central Pennsylvania where there is not enough quality and affordable child care to meet local workforce demands. In addition to increasing child care supply, the project will bolster the early learning workforce through educational opportunities and encourage individuals to build their own home-based child care businesses. The project's four-pronged approach includes recruiting early childhood workers and directing them into education and career pathways through pre-apprenticeships and apprenticeships to increase skills and wages; piloting the micro-center child care model as a solution for the child care shortage in rural communities; launching a Staffed Family Child Care Network

campaign to increase the number of home-based child care providers in the region; and completing a child care expansion and quality improvement project currently underway in heavily coal-impacted Somerset County. By the end of the 3-year grant period, the project is expected to create 20 new family-based child care businesses; improve 18 existing child care businesses; improve wages and job prospects for an estimated 48 workers/trainees; and create career pathways for 230 high school students. An additional 468 working parents will have access to expanded child care options that will enable them to remain in or enter the workforce.

Project Title: *Realizing Automated and Advanced Manufacturing Processes (RAAMP)*

Grantee: The Pennsylvania State University

Award Amount: \$750,087

Announcement Date: October 2022

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$750,087 to the Pennsylvania State University in University Park, Pennsylvania, for the *Realizing Automated and Advanced Manufacturing Processes (RAAMP)* project. The project will facilitate short-form workshops emphasizing specific software/hardware workflows and key concepts of advanced manufacturing, which will be led by in-house staff and guest instructors invited from various sectors of industry. It will also purchase next-level equipment and support manufacturing innovation and workforce development through free access and training on leading-edge tools, equipment, and technologies. Through partnerships with the Ben Franklin Technology Partners and regional business owners, these combined efforts will help regional manufacturers modernize their production capabilities and address the shortage of skilled labor by training and upskilling an existing workforce disenfranchised by the eroding coal economy and empower Appalachians to obtain high-paying, tech-centric jobs. These efforts will improve 60 businesses, 180 workers/trainees, and 45 students through workshop training; create 10 jobs; and retain 30 jobs through modernization of business processes and professional development over the course of the 3-year grant period.

Project Title: *Bedford County Site Feasibility Study*

Grantee: Bedford County Development Association (BCDA)

Award Amount: \$50,000

Announcement Date: October 2022

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$50,000 to Bedford County, Pennsylvania, for the *Bedford County Site Feasibility Study*. The study will evaluate three sites in Bedford County to determine the best location for a new business park. The goal of the business park will be to cultivate an environment where new and existing manufacturers create well-paying jobs through increased private investment and capitalization on the resurgence of manufacturing.

Project Title: *Erie County Broadband Expansion Feasibility Study*

Grantee: Erie Area Council of Governments

Award Amount: \$50,000

Announcement Date: October 2022

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$50,000 to Erie Area Council of Governments in Erie, Pennsylvania, for the *Erie County Broadband Expansion Feasibility Study*. The project will analyze existing broadband infrastructure and coverage gaps and recommend implementation strategies for expanding and improving local internet access throughout Erie County. The applicant will contract with an expert consultant to perform the study and with the Erie County Department of Planning and Community Development to provide economic impact data and GIS services. The project will serve 16 communities over the course of a year.

Project Title: *Partnerships to Advance Learning in STEM (PALS) Strategic Expansion Plan*

Grantee: ASSET Inc.

Award Amount: \$48,661

Announcement Date: October 2022

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$48,661 to ASSET Inc. in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, for the *Partnerships to Advance Learning in STEM (PALS) Strategic Expansion Plan* project. This project will help four regional teams develop action plans to implement the PALS tutoring program, which engages pre-service educators to provide no-cost virtual tutoring to underserved K–8 learners in their communities. PALS tutoring addresses these challenges by focusing on learning acceleration to help K-8 students. In addition, PALS tutoring supports pre-service educators in building relationships, creating effective remote learning opportunities, and connecting their tutoring experiences to future classroom teaching. Project partners include Carlow University, University of Pittsburgh Johnstown, and the Pittsburgh Project. The one-year planning grant will result in action plans for PALS implementation for the regional teams located in Allegheny, Cambria, Greene, Indiana, and Lawrence counties. Long-term impacts include improving students' development of 21st century skills, increased academic achievement, and increased STEM skills.

TENNESSEE (1 award)

Project Title: *Appalachian Producers Cooperative: A Farmer-Owned Meat Processor for Appalachian Tennessee*

Grantee: Appalachian Resource Conservation & Development Council

Award Amount: \$991,546

Announcement Date: October 2022

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$991,546 to Appalachian Resource Conservation & Development Council in Johnson City, Tennessee, for the *Appalachian Producers Cooperative: A Farmer-Owned Meat Processor for Appalachian Tennessee* project. Through a partnership with the Appalachian Abattoir, Appalachian Sustainable Development, and the Cattlemen's Association of Washington County, the project will support the Appalachian Producers Cooperative (APC), the first farmer-owned cooperative established in Tennessee in over 50 years. The purpose of the cooperative is to address the critical community need of meat processing capacity to serve local farmers in East Tennessee and Southwest Virginia. By reinvesting in local food system infrastructure, there is potential to create an economy that generates livable incomes for thousands of Appalachian families. The project is expected to serve 200 businesses and 18 workers/trainees; develop a workforce

development program geared towards providing butchering (and related) skills; improve 50 businesses and 14 workers/trainees; create one business and 21 jobs; and leverage \$5M in private investment. Additional financial support is being provided by Washington County, Tennessee, through funds from the American Rescue Plan Act.

VIRGINIA (4 awards)

Project Title: *Food Sector Workforce Expansion in Central Appalachia*

Grantee: Appalachian Sustainable Development

Award Amount: \$1,500,000

Announcement Date: October 2022

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$1,500,000 to Appalachian Sustainable Development in Duffield, Virginia, for the *Food Sector Workforce Expansion in Central Appalachia* project. Appalachian Sustainable Development in partnership with ACEnet, Coalfield Development, Sprouting Farms, Rural Action, and the Appalachian Resource Conservation & Development Council will build on previous ARC and USDA investments to address new opportunities and challenges facing agricultural producers and food processors as they scale operations to reach wholesale markets. The project will implement three objectives to create an integrated workforce approach: 1) expand and replicate ASD, ACEnet, Sprouting Farms, and Coalfield Development workforce models to address employment gaps within the food sector; 2) coordinate demand channels from schools and food banks to increase the viability of distribution logistics to retailers in remote areas; and 3) connect emergent food hubs in Wheeling, Welch, Morgantown, and Charleston, West Virginia to workforce development models and hub management practices to foster wider regional food distribution. This project seeks to create a transformative workforce ecosystem, overlaid on a strong food sector value chain, to create economic and social benefits in rural communities in Southwest Virginia, Northeast Tennessee, West Virginia, and Southeast Ohio. This project is expected to serve 125 businesses; improve 88 businesses; create 40 businesses, 53 jobs and one plan; serve 310 workers/trainees; improve 35 workers/trainees; and leverage \$965,000 of private investment.

Project Title: *New River Water Trail Expansion Project*

Grantee: New River Valley Regional Commission

Award Amount: \$1,500,000

Announcement Date: October 2022

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$1,500,000 to the New River Valley Regional Commission in Fairlawn, Virginia, for the *New River Water Trail Expansion Project*. The project will construct or improve four public launches along the New River Water Trail, the regional anchor for outdoor recreation comprising a 37-mile-stretch of river access points. The project also includes a corresponding expansion of the New River Trail website, which guides residents and visitors to plan trips that connect the water trail to existing activities and businesses, including outfitters, dining, lodging, and camping services. In partnership with Pulaski County, City of Radford, Montgomery County, Giles County, the National Park Service, and the Friends of the New River, the project will mobilize a substantial volunteer effort to host regular New River Watershed Roundtable meetings; develop a signage plan,

website, and marketing and outreach materials; and conduct ongoing river stewardship efforts that will maintain the river access points into the future. This project will serve the 15 communities along the New River that maintain boat launches and offer important visibility and connection between the New River Water Trail and the recreation and tourism businesses that support it by attracting 1,500 new visitors each year.

Project Title: *Dick & Willie Passage Trail 6A Completion*

Grantee: Henry County, Virginia

Award Amount: \$665,000

Announcement Date: October 2022

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$665,000 to Henry County in Henry County, Virginia, for Phase 6A of the *Dick & Willie Passage (D&W) Trail Completion* project. The project will complete the last mile of an existing 2.96-mile gap in the D&W Trail, Virginia's longest public trail, connecting neighborhoods to opportunities for shopping, dining, entertainment, the Smith River Sports Complex, and the new Riverview Park. The project also includes improvements to the "Bike Barn," a low-cost bike loan program that allows tourists and visitors to affordably bike the entire length of the D&W Trail. The expansion of the D&W Trail has been a longstanding regional goal for outdoor recreation; it complements efforts in Patrick County to extend the D&W Trail north and wider efforts to connect with the Beaches-to-Bluegrass Virginia State Trail. Through a partnership with the City of Martinsville, the Martinsville-Henry County Family YMCA, and the Virginia Tourism Corporation (VTC), Henry County will complete the gap in the trail, maintain the trail and Bike Barn, and continue to promote the Dick & Willie Passage as an asset in Virginia's regional trail system.

Project Title: *Expansion of Dental Services for Central Appalachia*

Grantee: The Health Wagon

Award Amount: \$500,000

Announcement Date: October 2022

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$500,000 to St. Mary's Health Wagon in Clintwood, Virginia, for the *Expansion of Dental Services for Central Appalachia* project. This project, covering the counties of Buchanan, Dickenson, Lee, Russell, Scott, and Wise, will facilitate education and training of new dental professionals, as well as provide comprehensive oral health care services for individuals referred from the Health Wagon's mobile services and stationary clinics. Because the area is significantly impacted by job losses in coal mining, coal power plant operations, and coal-related supply chain industries, the project plans to support individuals impacted by the loss of coal jobs and lack of dental insurance and others who have dental health issues that prevent them from interviews and subsequent hiring. Workforce training will also provide clinical opportunities for students by providing them with the experience of working in rural communities. Students will also have the option to remove dental school debt through the Bureau of Health Professions Loan Repayment Program to establish or work in dental health professional shortage areas. Through partnerships with LENOWISCO Planning District, Virginia Dental Association Foundation, and Virginia Department of Health, this project will improve two organizations, create four jobs (a dentist, dental hygienist, dental assistant, and a

dental case manager), improve 2,000 patients through the provision of oral health services, and improve six trainees through clinical workforce training over the course of one year.

WEST VIRGINIA (15 awards)

Project Title: *Summers County Broadband Expansion Project*

Grantee: Summers County Commission

Award Amount: \$2,400,000

Announcement Date: October 2022

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$2,400,000 to the Summers County Commission in Hinton, West Virginia, for the *Summers County Broadband Expansion Project*. The project will build 28 miles of fiber optic network infrastructure to connect 489 homes and 179 businesses to reliable and affordable broadband services, enabling the economic growth and diversification necessary to overcome the downturn of the coal industry. This project directly impacts the currently unserved businesses and homes in the project footprint. The grantee will competitively select an internet service provider partner to maintain and operate the network and ensure that those connected have access to this enabling set of services.

Project Title: *Rock Creek Development Park Broadband Project*

Grantee: Boone County Community & Economic Development Corporation

Award Amount: \$1,692,507

Announcement Date: October 2022

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$1,692,507 to the Boone County Community & Economic Development Corporation in Madison, West Virginia, for the *Rock Creek Development Park Broadband Project*. The project will build 8.2 miles of fiber optic infrastructure and one wireless tower, which will facilitate the deployment of the wireless broadband services necessary to attract investment. The grantee will competitively select an internet service provider partner to deploy, maintain, and operate the network and ensure that wireless services are available throughout the project footprint. The project will act as a catalyst for the redevelopment of a larger former surface coal mine with businesses that rely on fixed and mobile broadband, including a planned 3,000-acre solar field and other diversified industries.

Project Title: *Creating WV's Largest Maple Syrup, Mushroom, Field, and Floriculture Production Systems*

Grantee: Region 4 Planning & Development Council

Award Amount: \$1,500,000

Announcement Date: October 2022

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$1,500,000 to the Region 4 Planning & Development Council in Summersville, West Virginia, for the *Creating WV's Largest Maple Syrup, Mushroom, Field, and Floriculture Production Systems* project. The Region 4 Planning and Development Council, serving as fiscal sponsor, will work with Fruits of Labor, Seed Sower, God's Way Home, Workforce WV Region 1 Jobs, and Hope WV to create opioid recovery-to-work training opportunities in agriculture. The project will launch a host of agricultural production systems, including floriculture, high tunnel, tap maple syrup, greenhouse, field, commercial mushrooms, and

honey. Goods produced will be sold to retail and wholesale markets. Fruits of Labor will also develop nine programs to provide training to participants (businesses, non-profits, entrepreneurs) across the state on how to start, expand, and/or scale existing operations in maple syrup, mushrooms, and/or floriculture. Unemployment rates in the area have been driven by the loss of coal and timber jobs. Creating the opportunity to enter the agricultural job market via floral design, groundskeeping, and value-added maple syrup and mushroom products offers a pathway for those in recovery to transition into productive members of society. This project is expected to serve 10 organizations, 10 businesses, 15 workers/trainees, 20 participants, and 10 students; improve eight organizations, eight businesses, 15 workers/trainees, 16 participants, and eight students; repurpose 200 acres of land for agricultural production; create 10 jobs; implement nine programs; generate \$250,000 in non-export revenues; and leverage \$150,000 in private investment.

Project Title: *Wheeling Food Ventures: Small Farm and Food Business Acceleration in the Ohio Valley*

Grantee: Grow Ohio Valley, Inc.

Award Amount: \$1,500,000

Announcement Date: October 2022

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$1,500,000 to Grow Ohio Valley, Inc. (GOV) in Wheeling, West Virginia, for the *Wheeling Food Hub Operations Project*. The project will provide business development support services to the small farm and food business sector in the upper Ohio Valley in furtherance of the POWER priority of “fostering entrepreneurial activities.” The overarching mission of Grow Ohio Valley (GOV) is to strengthen and expand revenues for farmers and food entrepreneurs selling fresh and value-added products. To do this, GOV works at every level of its local food system, from farms to markets. The Wheeling Food Hub Operations Project will involve Grow Ohio Valley leveraging its renovated warehouse property to provide local food entrepreneurs with the tools, guidance, and business development support services to scale up their production of packaged shelf-stable products to be distributed in larger markets. The project is expected to serve 35 businesses, improve 17 businesses, create five new businesses and nine jobs, and leverage \$525,000 in private investment.

Project Title: *Turning Coal to Gold: Boosting the Outdoor Economy through the Snowshoe Highlands Ride Center*

Grantee: Region 4 Planning & Development Council

Award Amount: \$1,500,000

Announcement Date: October 2022

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$1,500,000 to the Region 4 Planning & Development Council in Summersville, West Virginia, for the *Turning Coal to Gold: Boosting the Outdoor Economy through the Snowshoe Highlands Ride Center* project. The project will construct 27 miles of singletrack trail optimized for mountain biking and other ride center improvements to boost the area's tourism industry, which will help offset the decline in coal-related employment and revenues. Through a partnership with the U.S. Forest Service, Snowshoe Mountain Resort, Pocahontas County Convention and Visitor's Bureau, Poca Trails, and the Mon Forest Towns Partnership, this project will help the ride center attain a gold-

level certification and become one of the top seven mountain bike destinations in the world. Additional funding is provided by the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation.

Project Title: *West Virginia Grant Resource Centers*

Grantee: Marshall University Research Corporation

Award Amount: \$1,500,000

Announcement Date: October 2022

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$1,500,000 to the Marshall University Research Corporation in Huntington, West Virginia, for the *West Virginia Grant Resource Centers* project. The project will help communities and others identify appropriate funding sources, write grants, and develop competitive and thorough grant applications. The Centers are forecast to be housed at both Marshall University and its partner, West Virginia University. The centers will serve the entire state, with a particular focus on the most distressed communities and counties. The centers will support communities through direct assistance, workshops, data production for applications, relationship building with funders, and grant writing certification. The partnership between the two universities will leverage their assets related to grant applications for the benefit of the most distressed parts of the state in a time of unprecedented availability of federal grant monies. Over the course of three years, the project will improve 50 communities and 156 participants and create 15 jobs.

Project Title: *Seeing West Virginia's Future Through a Different Lens*

Grantee: Mountain State Educational Services Cooperative

Award Amount: \$1,499,998

Announcement Date: October 2022

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$1,499,998 to the Mountain State Educational Services Cooperative in Parkersburg, West Virginia, for the *Seeing West Virginia's Future Through a Different Lens* project. This project is a new, innovative, and holistic workforce development program to develop and revitalize the workforce in West Virginia's Mid-Ohio Valley region by infusing virtual reality (VR) career exploration and job training simulations in targeted industries with the expertise of existing wraparound service providers. This initiative is designed to provide multi-generational service beginning with eighth-grade youth and will expand to encompass unemployed, underemployed, or non-participating adults in need of inspiration, direction, and job training across nine coal-impacted and economically distressed, at-risk, and transitional counties. Together, the project partners will aim to increase the region's labor force participation rate, currently only 50.87%, and develop a qualified workforce pipeline to bolster economic development efforts and decrease the number of citizens living in poverty in the region. By the end of the 3-year grant period, the project is expected to benefit 2,850 adult workers/trainees and 2,970 students with career exploration simulations and virtual reality job skills training that will help identify talents and career interests and raise awareness of opportunities in in-demand occupation and enable them to earn a professional credential or certification.

Project Title: *Data Cabling & Fiber Optic Installation Training Program*

Grantee: Connec Train Corp

Award Amount: \$1,370,039

Announcement Date: October 2022

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$1,370,039 to Connec Train Corp in Charleston, West Virginia, for the *Data Cabling & Fiber Optic Installation Training Program* project. This project will support Connec Train Corp's (CTC) efforts to establish the first entry-level fiber optic and data cabling training program in West Virginia. The Data Cabling and Fiber Optic Installation Training program will provide a viable career pathway for residents of Cabell, Wayne, and surrounding counties who have lost employment due to reductions in the region's coal and mining industries, as well as COVID-19. In addition to coal-impacted job losses, West Virginia's telecommunication industry is facing severe workforce shortages and experiencing a dire need for local, skilled technicians to successfully carry out the massive broadband infrastructure projects planned in the state. Key partners include Unlimited Future Inc, which will provide classroom space and promotion of the program; Partnership of African American Churches, which will refer graduates from the Infinite Pathways Recovery Program and provide free transportation to the training site at Unlimited Future; and Coalfield Development Corporation, which will provide tuition stipends and on-the-job training wages for trainees. The 1.5-year project aims to enroll 80 workers/trainees and anticipates a 90% pass rate for the Electrician Technician Association exam, which will be administered at the end of the program and will qualify graduates for entry-level positions in broadband installation, maintenance, and repair.

Project Title: *Career Opportunities for Appalachian Legacy (C.O.A.L.)*

Grantee: Marshall University Research Corporation

Award Amount: \$1,118,814

Announcement Date: October 2022

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$1,118,814 to the Marshall University Research Corporation in Huntington, West Virginia, for the *Career Opportunities for Appalachian Legacy (C.O.A.L.)* project. This project is an innovative multigenerational approach to workforce and economic development established in response to West Virginia's economic challenges as a state severely impacted by the decline of the coal and manufacturing industries. This project will establish a regional, strategic, and transformational process that will build a competitive workforce; foster entrepreneurial activities; and invest in community leaders through a variety of activities and programs focused on workforce readiness and job placement for individuals and direct engagement with local businesses to match workers with employment opportunities. It will also support entrepreneurship and social enterprise with partnerships that provide an apprenticeship model to prepare individuals for the workforce through on-the-job training while earning a competitive wage. In developing and supporting business cultivation, the project will establish partnerships across the 15-county service area; facilitate business education and training in partnership with the West Virginia Chamber of Commerce; facilitate 12 virtual entrepreneurship and social enterprise forums; sponsor mentorship for businesses and individuals for the development of enterprise; and support local and regional business development incubators. By the

end of the 3-year grant period, the project is expected to improve 400 workers/trainees, 160 families, and 80 local businesses.

Project Title: *BEDA Food Truck Incubator Project*

Grantee: Bluefield Economic Development Authority

Award Amount: \$400,000

Announcement Date: October 2022

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$400,000 for the Bluefield WV Economic Development Authority (BEDA) in Bluefield, West Virginia, for *BEDA Food Truck Incubator Project*. The Bluefield WV Economic Development Authority has joined forces with the City of Bluefield, the WV Small Business Development Center, Lemon Grass Kitchen, Sprouting Farms, Fruits of Labor, and others to address the need for new and diverse industries in 10 counties in Regions I and IV of Southern West Virginia. BEDA seeks to enhance business development opportunities for the target communities by offering a Food Truck Incubator Program. This program will provide aspiring food truck entrepreneurs support, advisors, business planning, and online and in-person entrepreneurial training. Once coursework is complete, entrepreneurs will have access to a food truck for 10 events or 60 days to hone their skills and operations. The project is expected to serve 36 businesses and 36 participants; improve 26 businesses and 26 participants; and create 36 businesses and 72 jobs.

Project Title: *EAST Trail Master Plan*

Grantee: City of Elkins, West Virginia

Award Amount: \$50,000

Announcement Date: October 2022

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$50,000 to the City of Elkins in Elkins, West Virginia, for the *EAST Trail Master Plan* project. The project will develop a plan and blueprint for bike-optimized trails on five properties throughout Randolph County. It will also survey up to 10 miles of trail and conduct preliminary site planning for a community bike skills area to build the region's outdoor tourism economy. The master plan will help the collaborative known as Elkins Area Shared Trails (EAST) to create a network of multi-purpose trails to capitalize on the strong cycling and outdoor recreation culture of the nearby Mon National Forest. The project will also serve as a pilot project and shared learning opportunity for the 11 other communities that are part of the Mon Forest Towns Partnership, many of whom are seeking to replicate similar trail planning processes in other parts of the forest. The City of Elkins, in partnership with the West Virginia University Brad & Alys Smith Outdoor Economic Development Collaborative, Davis & Elkins College, Davis Health System, and others, will create a master trail plan for the Randolph County area and complete an outreach tour of the Mon Forest Partnership communities. The partnership plans to share its experience with the wider community by August 2023.

Project Title: *Fahe West Virginia Workforce Alliance*

Grantee: Fahe, Inc.

Award Amount: \$50,000

Announcement Date: October 2022

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$50,000 to the Federation of Appalachian Housing Enterprises, Inc. (Fahe) in Berea, Kentucky, for *Fahe West Virginia Workforce*

Alliance planning project. The project will convene stakeholders, collect data, and build on Fahe's current membership community to develop its plan for building "the Alliance" and inform its goals for serving as a connector for skilled workers, employers, and communities. This project will work to fill knowledge gaps in job placement and workforce opportunities so that stakeholders in West Virginia can form a more supported pathway to employment, leading to a future implementation project. Partners include Almost Heaven Habitat for Humanity, Coalfield Development Corp., Homeownership Center, Southern Appalachian Labor School, and many others.

Project Title: *Workforce Development Roadmap: Re-Training for Electric Utility and Other Energy Sector Jobs, Pre-Apprenticeship to Job Placement*

Grantee: West Virginia University Research Corporation

Award Amount: \$50,000

Announcement Date: October 2022

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$50,000 to WVU Research Corporation in Morgantown, West Virginia, for the *Workforce Development Roadmap: Re-Training for Electric Utility and Other Energy Sector Jobs* project. This planning project will aim to examine and address future workforce needs from pre-apprenticeship to job placement in the electric utility and other energy sectors in West Virginia. Leveraging partnerships with West Virginia University, the Center for Adult Experiential Learning (CAEL), Innosys, Pierpont Community and Technical College, Workforce WV, West Virginia Community and Technical College System, WV Economic Development, and the United Mine Workers of America Career Centers Inc., the project will create an "Energy Transition Jobs Road Map" over the course of the year-long planning project.

Project Title: *Workforce & Education Development for Applied Behavior Analysis*

Grantee: Augusta Levy Learning Center (ALLC)

Award Amount: \$50,000

Announcement Date: October 2022

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$50,000 to Augusta Levy Learning Center (ALLC) in Wheeling, West Virginia, for the *Workforce and Education Development for Applied Behavior Analysis (WE Develop ABA)* project. The project will enable a collaborative—including nonprofit, higher education, and state level partners led by ALLC and the Mountaineer Autism Project (MAP)—to conduct an analysis of gaps in access to quality Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) services for adolescents diagnosed with autism in West Virginia. Due to a shortage of providers, fewer than four percent of children diagnosed with autism are receiving evidence-based services in West Virginia. The project will develop a comprehensive statewide strategic plan to grow a workforce with training in ABA services. Appropriate training includes high-school diplomas, vocational accreditation, and/or master's degrees. The plan will include additional support for developing an ABA-trained workforce in high-need areas in West Virginia. The strategic plan will be developed over the course of a year-long grant period and submitted by ALLC at the conclusion of the planning project.

Project Title: *West Virginia Historic Preservation Training Center*

Grantee: Arthurdale Heritage, Inc.

Award Amount: \$35,580

Announcement Date: October 2022

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$35,580 to Arthurdale Heritage, Inc., in Arthurdale, West Virginia, for the *West Virginia Historic Preservation Training Center* project.

The project includes the hiring of a consultant to conduct a comprehensive survey of historic preservation training opportunities in the West Virginia region and develop an operating plan for the proposed training center. Investing in historic preservation trades and workforce development will directly benefit West Virginia's cultural and historic resources, which require specialized care. Preserving historic resources improves quality of life and reinvigorates community spirit, making way for additional progress. Project partner Preservation Alliance of West Virginia will collect research and materials on trade schools and historic preservation programs. The project will culminate in a final report that will outline key information necessary to create the West Virginia Historic Preservation Training Center.



POWER 2022 Award Summaries

In March 2022, the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) invested nearly \$21 million to diversify the economy in the Region's coal-impacted communities through the [POWER \(Partnerships for Opportunity and Workforce and Economic Revitalizations\) Initiative](#). These 21 investments are projected to create or retain nearly 1,200 jobs, leverage an additional \$7.8 million in the Appalachian Region, and prepare over 14,000 workers and students for jobs in technology, manufacturing, entrepreneurship, tourism, and other sectors. These investments will help to create a strong economic future for Appalachia.

KENTUCKY (4 awards)

2022 Awards

Project Title: *Addition of Long-Term Acute Care Hospitals in Eastern Kentucky*

Grantee: ARH Advanced Care, Inc.

Award Amount: \$1,500,000

Announcement Date: March 2022

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$1,500,000 to ARH Advanced Care, Inc. in Hazard, Kentucky, for the *Addition of Long-Term Acute Care Hospitals in Eastern Kentucky* project. This project will furnish equipment for two long-term acute care hospitals (LTACHs). One hospital will be located inside the Hazard Appalachian Regional Healthcare (ARH) Regional Medical Center in Perry County and the other inside the Tug Valley ARH Regional Medical Center in Pike County—areas that have been adversely affected by significant reductions in coal production. The two new LTACHs will provide long-term acute care in 13 Eastern Kentucky counties for patients with serious medical conditions who require care on an ongoing basis but do not require intensive care or extensive diagnostic procedures performed in a hospital. Project activities are expected to create 156 jobs and serve 330 patients in the first year.

Project Title: *Success Initiative at Work Ready Training Center*

Grantee: Southeast Kentucky Community and Technical College

Award Amount: \$1,500,000

Announcement Date: March 2022

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$1,500,000 to Southeast Kentucky Community and Technical College (SKCTC) in Cumberland, Kentucky, for the *Success Initiative at Work Ready Training Center (WRTC)*. Across the Kentucky-Tennessee-Virginia tristate area, the WRTC will offer academic training focused on the growing industry sectors of healthcare, advanced manufacturing, technology, and transportation and logistics for local residents, distance learners, high school students, local substance abuse recovery residents, and incarcerated individuals, creating both recovery and educational opportunities. Partnerships with Eastern Kentucky Concentrated Employment Program, Inc. (EKCEP) and KCEOC Community Action Partnership, Inc. will create links between local and regional businesses to provide trainings that meet business needs, and lead trainees directly to employment, thereby spurring economic growth and diversity in this coal-impacted region. Programming will be based at SKCTC's new campus in Knox County. Over the course of three years, the WRTC expects to

serve 1,397 students, with 630 receiving a credential or diploma. SKCTC estimates 50 businesses will demonstrate improvement by the end of the project by having access to the talent pool of 625 workers who are expected to participate in training provided by the WRTC.

Project Title: *The Kentucky Wildlands Regional Tourism Initiative*

Grantee: Eastern Kentucky PRIDE, Inc.

Award Amount: \$1,200,000

Announcement Date: March 2022

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$1,200,000 to Eastern Kentucky PRIDE, Inc. (PRIDE) in Somerset, Kentucky, for the *Kentucky Wildlands Regional Tourism Initiative*. The project will expand a regional outdoor recreation tourism branding initiative for 41 counties in eastern and southern Kentucky. The key components of the project include a robust regionalized tourism marketing plan, including online, print, billboard, and social media marketing; a hospitality workforce training program; and the expansion of the Kentucky Wildlands tourism website. Over the two-year project period, with the assistance of the Kentucky Tourism, Arts, and Heritage Council and local businesses, PRIDE expects to serve 118 communities, help retain 15,000 jobs, creating 100 of them, as well as increase local revenues by at least \$7.5 million. This project will help Eastern Kentucky PRIDE, Inc. become the tourism clearinghouse for the region, serving as a technical assistance resource to help coal-impacted communities across Eastern Kentucky capitalize on their natural and cultural assets.

Project Title: *BRIGHT Kentucky: Nurturing & Sustaining BRIGHT Entrepreneurs*

Grantee: Leadership Kentucky Foundation, Inc.

Award Amount: \$500,000

Announcement Date: March 2022

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$500,000 to Leadership Kentucky in Frankfort, Kentucky, for the *BRIGHT Kentucky: Nurturing & Sustaining BRIGHT Entrepreneurs* project. This project will expand the BRIGHT Kentucky program, which builds the capacity and skills of next-generation leaders in Eastern Kentucky, enabling them to innovate, collaborate, and advance community and economic development. Through five monthly three-day sessions that take participants to numerous communities across the 54 Appalachian Kentucky coal-impacted counties, participants will gain leadership skills and build their professional network as they connect with one another and with local leaders of successful businesses, non-profit organizations, and government agencies. Leveraging \$350,000 in private investment, the project will also facilitate networking with program alumni and form a sustainability fund to ensure the long-term sustainability of the BRIGHT program. Leadership Kentucky will partner with Shaping Our Appalachian Region (SOAR) on programming for program participants. Over three years, the project expects to serve 150 participants, create 20 new businesses, create 24 new jobs, serve 48 communities, and 48 businesses.

MISSISSIPPI (1 award)

2022 Awards

Project Title: *Infusing Virtual Reality in the Workforce*

Grantee: Mississippi State University

Award Amount: \$1,490,728

Announcement Date: March 2022

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$1,490,728 to Mississippi State University in Starkville, Mississippi, in partnership with TRANSFRVR, for the *Infusing Virtual Reality in the Workforce* project. The project will enhance the career and technical education (CTE) infrastructure in

the coal-impacted counties of Clay, Kemper, Lowndes, Noxubee, and Oktibbeha by infusing virtual reality (VR) career exploration and job training simulations into the education-to-workforce pipeline. Over the course of the three-year performance period, VR workforce training and/or career exploration will be delivered—in collaboration with East Mississippi Community College—to 10,398 youth in Mississippi's manufacturing, hospitality, healthcare, construction, transportation, and warehouse industries. These VR simulations set students on a pathway to middle-skills jobs that do not require a four-year degree in Mississippi's in-demand and high-growth industries that pay family-sustaining wages. Project award is supported by a cash match from the Mississippi Department of Education and East Mississippi Community College.

NORTH CAROLINA (1 award)

2022 Awards

Project Title: *Construction Trades – Program Growth*

Grantee: Western Piedmont Community College

Award Amount: \$760,000

Announcement Date: March 2022

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$760,000 to Western Piedmont Community College (WPCC) in Morganton, North Carolina, for the *Construction Trades – Program Growth* project. WPCC's project will expand upon existing construction and heavy machinery training to provide electrical, HVAC, and plumbing training programs for underemployed workers who need to be upskilled, high school students/graduates, and people who have dropped out of the workforce. WPCC will partner with Burke County School System to design a critical training curriculum to align industry needs for a pipeline of trained construction workers. In addition to Burke County School System, key partners include Burke County, Caldwell Community College & Technical Institute, Catawba Valley Community College, and local construction and building companies, who will serve on advisory committees and interview qualified program graduates for employment opportunities. WPCC's expanded construction training program will provide students opportunities to acquire stackable certificates, with each certificate taking from 8–16 weeks to complete. The project serves Alexander, Burke, and Caldwell counties, which have been impacted by recent closures of coal-fired power plants and reduced heavy freight traffic. The project anticipates serving 100 students during the three-year project.

OHIO (5 awards)

2022 Awards

Project Title: *Buckeye Hills Career Center Appalachian Impact Initiative Partnership*

Grantee: Gallia Jackson Vinton Joint Vocational School

Award Amount: \$1,500,000

Announcement Date: March 2022

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$1,500,000 to the Gallia Jackson Vinton Joint Vocational School in Rio Grande, Ohio for the *Buckeye Hills Career Center Appalachian Impact Initiative Partnership*. This project will construct two facilities and purchase equipment related to four workforce development programs. The project will offer to equip workers with necessary skills and certifications to enter regional employment sectors that are experiencing growth. The new opportunities replace jobs lost due to the contracting coal industry, particularly those associated with the closing of three coal-powered plants and the reduced freight train

traffic in the area. Over three years, the consortium expects to serve 155 students annually from seven coal-impacted counties in southeastern Ohio, with the expectation that 132 will receive credentials and/or secure employment in their field. The four programs are a Commercial Driver's License (CDL) program, a Broadband Communications (ground and lineman) program, a Heavy Equipment Operators and Engineering program, and a Heavy Diesel Mechanics program. All four programs will be held at the Buckeye Hills Career Center and will use existing classrooms in addition to the two facilities that will be constructed by the project.

Project Title: *Project POWER*

Grantee: Rio Grande Community College

Award Amount: \$1,473,578

Announcement Date: March 2022

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$1,473,578 to Rio Grande Community College (RGCC) in Rio Grande, Ohio, for *Project POWER*. In partnership with local business and industry, the project will establish a new workforce training center on RGCC's campus, providing educational programming, workforce training, and professional licensure and certification opportunities for existing in-demand jobs to unemployed, underemployed, and displaced adult workers in Athens, Gallia, Jackson, Meigs, and Vinton counties, which have been adversely affected by the loss of jobs in coal mining or coal-supply chain industries. The new Ohio Workforce Training Center will focus on creating new career pathways and preparing workers for successful careers in the medical and manufacturing industries. Over the three-year grant period, the project will renovate and expand an existing facility for the new training center and is expected to improve 337 workers/trainees with workforce training and certification opportunities that will enable them to obtain employment in the regional high-growth medical and manufacturing industries. Twenty local businesses are also expected to be improved with newly trained and certified current and new employees.

Project Title: *Ohio Appalachian Health Outcome Pathways Enterprise (HOPE)*

Grantee: Corporation for Ohio Appalachian Development (COAD)

Award Amount: \$1,386,000

Announcement Date: March 2022

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$1,386,000 to the Corporation for Ohio Appalachian Development (COAD) in Athens, Ohio, for the *Ohio Appalachian Health Outcome Pathways Enterprise (HOPE)* project. The project will establish a Pathways Community HUB aimed at extending the network of services provided by eight community action agencies that serve individuals and families in 14 coal-impacted counties of Appalachian Ohio with workforce development activities, substance use disorder (SUD) recovery-related supports, and various other social and health programs. The HUB will assist Ohio Appalachian communities in working together to support vulnerable populations and will help with the creation of meaningful workforce development opportunities on a career ladder in community health occupations. Over three years, the project is expected to increase the region's workforce of community health workers by 400 percent.

Project Title: *Lake to River Small Business Success (L2R SBS)*

Grantee: Youngstown Business Incubator (YBI)

Award Amount: \$1,350,000

Announcement Date: March 2022

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$1,350,000 to Youngstown Business Incubator (YBI) in Youngstown, Ohio, for the *Lake to River Small Business Success (L2R SBS)* project. The project will allow YBI and its partners to expand their work with small to medium enterprises (SMEs) across seven coal-impacted counties in northeastern Ohio, helping them in accessing capital, pursuing procurement opportunities, developing business plans, adopting advanced

technologies (in both manufacturing and non-manufacturing settings), and supporting startup formation. The program will provide access to business counseling, grant writing, technology enabling counseling, technical assistance workshops and bootcamps, counseling for advanced manufacturing projects, and supply chain diversity counseling. Notable partners include BRITE Energy Innovators, Valley Economic Development Partners, and two regional local development districts (Eastgate Regional Council of Governments and Ohio Mid-Eastern Governments Association). Over the three-year grant period, it is anticipated that 1444 businesses will be improved, 2515 business served, 240 jobs created, 300 new business created, and \$7.5 million leveraged in private investment. The project builds on YBI's extensive experience in working with additive manufacturing and 3D printing.

Project Title: *Freedom Landing Boat Dock Project*

Grantee: Village of Ripley, Ohio

Award Amount: \$865,800

Announcement Date: March 2022

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$865,800 to the Village of Ripley, Ohio, for the *Freedom Landing Boat Dock Project*. The project will rebuild a damaged boat launch ramp along the Ohio River and build a two-tier landing which, when completed, will be the only commercial passenger dock in Ohio between Cincinnati and South Point. The Village of Ripley is noted for its role in the Underground Railroad in the Midwest. Within two years, utilizing the area's natural and cultural assets, Freedom Landing will help increase tourism to Adams and Brown counties, and intends to serve approximately 31 businesses and leverage \$300,000 in private investment in these coal-impacted counties. Project support is also provided by State of Ohio's Ohio Capital Fund.

PENNSYLVANIA (6 awards)

2022 Awards

Project Title: *Steamfitter's Advanced Employment and Training Program*

Grantee: Tri-County Workforce Investment Board, Inc.

Award Amount: \$1,120,000

Announcement Date: March 2022

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$1,120,000 to Tri-County Workforce Investment Board, Inc. (TCWIB) in Butler, Pennsylvania, for the *Steamfitter's Advanced Employment and Training Program*. TCWIB will subcontract will Steamfitters Local 449 to implement this project, which will first identify the current and future workforce needs of skilled workers and contractors in 16 coal-impacted counties in Appalachian Pennsylvania by collaborating with multiple contractors and key stakeholders. Next, they will provide customized trainings to meet the diverse workforce needs, while making sure they align with current and expected labor market demands. There will be two types of trainings: advanced skill trainings (specific to the needs identified by contractors) and employability skills trainings (soft skills and customer service). Training sessions will be held at Steamfitters Local 449's Training Center and will be free to the workers/trainees served by this project. Over three years, the program is expected to serve 1,000 workers/trainees and improve the employability of 950 workers/trainees.

Project Title: *Opioid Education for Allied Health Professionals*

Grantee: Somerset County Foundation for Higher Education

Award Amount: \$845,043

Announcement Date: March 2022

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$845,043 to Somerset County Foundation for Higher Education in Somerset, Pennsylvania, for the *Opioid Education for Allied Health Professionals* project. The project will implement accredited opioid-related continuing medical education (CME) for physician extenders and allied health professionals across 52 coal-impacted counties in Appalachian Pennsylvania, focusing on identifying and intervening in opioid use disorder. Targeted allied health professionals include nurses (RNs), nurse practitioners (NPs), and physicians' assistants (PAs). CME will include, but not be limited to, opioid prescribing guidelines and indications, pain management alternatives to narcotics, identification of potential opioid use and misuse, and intervention strategies. Somerset—along with Rothman Orthopaedic Institute Foundation for Opioid Research and Education, Pennsylvania Orthopedic Society, and Keystone Association Management—plan to partner with colleges and universities to distribute this information to as many healthcare students as possible in the Appalachian Region. Over three years, the project is expected to serve 75 businesses, train 855 workers, and retain 225 jobs by implementing continuing medical education to health professionals in Pennsylvania and across the region.

Project Title: *Tristate Pathways 2.0: Connecting to the Right Skills and to Jobs aka TEAM Pathways 2.0*

Grantee: Westmoreland County Community College

Award Amount: \$669,625

Announcement Date: March 2022

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$669,625 to Westmoreland County Community College in Youngwood, Pennsylvania, for the *Tristate Pathways 2.0: Connecting to the Right Skills and to Jobs* project. The project will accelerate the adoption of flexible, short-term education and training options for in-demand occupations by engaging minority participants and workers who have been impacted by the transitioning coal industry, with a particular focus on energy and advanced manufacturing jobs. In partnership with the Tristate Energy and Advanced Manufacturing (TEAM) Consortium, this grant expands a previous POWER project that linked community colleges and employers in Pennsylvania, Ohio, and West Virginia. The new project will add 18 counties to the service area and include two new community college partners, bringing the total to 45 counties and 10 community colleges across the three states. Over three years, an estimated 3,800 students will be served by the project, as well as K-12 students who will engage in out-of-school activities in partnership with community-based organizations. In addition, the project aims to serve 100 small, medium, and large manufacturing businesses by providing training to 1,500 workers.

Project Title: *Alleghenies Marketplace*

Grantee: Southern Alleghenies Planning & Development Commission

Award Amount: \$509,948

Announcement Date: March 2022

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$509,948 to the Southern Alleghenies Planning & Development Commission (SAP&DC) in Altoona, Pennsylvania, for *Alleghenies Marketplace*, an online e-commerce marketplace to sell goods developed and/or sold by Startup Alleghenies Entrepreneurs. Serving six coal-impacted counties in West-Central Pennsylvania (Bedford, Blair, Cambria, Fulton, Huntingdon, and Somerset), the program will provide local entrepreneurs with technical assistance that encourages and supports sellers to develop a highly productive online store; the program will also give participants access to a specialized e-commerce platform that eliminates the barriers for early-stage companies to sell to customers. SAP&DC will partner with local economic development organizations that will work one-on-one with the startups and small emerging businesses. Over the two and a half-year grant period, the grantee anticipates that 100 early stage and emerging business will be improved, leading to \$1.725 million in new revenue, the creation of 72 new jobs, and the retention of 100 jobs. The project builds on two prior POWER grants that have helped create

an entrepreneurial ecosystem (Startup Alleghenies) to transform a regional economy that had been heavily dependent on the coal industry.

Project Title: *Creative Entrepreneur Accelerator Program*

Grantee: Pennsylvania Council on the Arts (PCA)

Award Amount: \$500,000

Announcement Date: March 2022

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$500,000 to the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts (PCA) in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, for the *Creative Entrepreneur Accelerator Program*. The program, in partnership with Bridgeway Capital, will assist entrepreneurs across coal-impacted counties in Appalachian Pennsylvania who work within creative industries such as marketing, architecture, design, media, visual arts, music, publishing, and craft manufacturing. This initiative will provide creative entrepreneurs access to small business consultation, financial resources, and evaluation services at no cost. In addition, eligible creative entrepreneurs who intend to start or operate a microbusiness will be eligible for a \$2,000 grant to support business formation or development upon consultation with and review by a Small Business Development Center or other reputable small business development entities. Over two and a half years, the program is expected to create 45 new businesses and 75 new jobs, as well as serve 450 businesses, improving 270 of them.

Project Title: *Applied Data-Driven Methods (ADDM) Certificate at University of Pittsburgh School of Computing & Information*

Grantee: University of Pittsburgh

Award Amount: \$490,487

Announcement Date: March 2022

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$490,487 to the University of Pittsburgh in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, for the *Applied Data-Driven Methods (ADDM) Certificate Program at the University's School of Computing & Information (SCI)*. The project will provide tuition scholarships and related student support programs to low income, qualified students from the coal-impacted communities of Fayette and Westmoreland counties to obtain the University's new ADDM graduate certificate. Key employer partners—including the National Energy Technology Laboratory, Argo AI, Federated Hermes, PPG Industries, Naval Nuclear Laboratory, and SAP—will contribute to students' professional development by providing internships, mentoring activities, and resumé reviews. It is estimated that tuition scholarships of \$8,000 each will be awarded to three annual cohorts of 18 students, with a 90% retention rate expected for each cohort. The project is expected to place 45 students into the regional STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) workforce across 15 businesses.

VIRGINIA (1 award)

2022 Awards

Project Title: *The Appalachian Veterinary Expansion Project*

Grantee: Lincoln Memorial University - College of Veterinary Medicine (LMU-CVM)

Award Amount: \$1,000,000

Announcement Date: March 2022

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$1,000,000 to Lincoln Memorial University – College of Veterinary Medicine (LMU-CVM) in Harrogate, Tennessee, for the *Appalachian Veterinary Expansion Project*. The project will equip a new Veterinary Education and Technology (VET) building under construction in Ewing, Virginia, located in economically distressed and coal-impacted Lee County. The new DeBusk Veterinary Teaching Center (DVTC) will expand the instructional space for LMU in order to educate and train more students in the growing field

of veterinary medicine and will serve as a state-of-the art facility to engage regional stakeholders, including cutting-edge clinical skills facilities and multi-program lecture space. The project will increase the number of students and LMU employees in the region and attract new sources of investment for the Cumberland Gap region, benefitting the local economies of Lee County, Virginia, and the surrounding Appalachian counties of Bell, Kentucky, and Claiborne, Tennessee. Over a four-year period, an estimated 500 students who receive instruction and clinical training with the new equipment and technology will graduate with degrees in veterinary medicine. LMU-CVM secured a Virginia Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission Grant Award in the amount of \$2 million to be used for the construction of the new VET facility.

WEST VIRGINIA (3 awards)

2022 Awards

Project Title: *High-technology Advanced Manufacturing Initiative (HAMI)*

Grantee: West Virginia Regional Technology Park Corporation

Award Amount: \$886,762

Announcement Date: March 2022

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$886,762 to the West Virginia Regional Technology Park Corporation in South Charleston, West Virginia, for the *High-technology Advanced Manufacturing Initiative (HAMI)*. In partnership with the Robert C. Byrd Institute (RCBI) of Marshall University, the project will provide hands-on training in the form of customized on-the-job training for incumbent workers; fast-track, short-term customizable training and traditional academic courses (1- and 2-year program options) for under and unemployed individuals; and single topic course offerings for incumbent, underemployed, and unemployed individuals. Training will guide participants to manufacturing career opportunities and includes industry-recognized credentials, formal skill set certificates, a one-year Certificate of Applied Science degree, and an Associate of Applied Science degree. The project will serve six counties in central West Virginia that have been adversely affected by the loss of jobs in coal mining or coal-supply chain industries. The project will work closely with local economic development organizations, such as the Charleston Area Alliance and local manufacturing industry partners. Over the first two years, the project team expects to serve 33 students and 195 workers, as well as improve 15 local businesses.

Project Title: *Creating Regional Outdoor Recreation Economy*

Grantee: Kanawha County Commission

Award Amount: \$675,210

Announcement Date: March 2022

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$675,210 to the Kanawha County Commission in Charleston, West Virginia, for the *Creating Regional Outdoor Recreation Economy* project. Following an outdoor-recreation-based economic development strategy for the Upper Kanawha Valley (Kanawha and Fayette counties) that was completed in January 2021, the project will focus on the development of the hiking and water trails, trailheads, camping locations and other lodging, and welcome centers, which link the anchor attractions and communities together. This is coupled with the delivery of business support services to expand and create new businesses in coal-impacted communities that support an outdoor recreation economy. With the support of the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation, the project is expected to create 60 jobs, serve 11 communities, and produce 10 specialized development plans.

Project Title: *Generation WV's High POWER Impact Project*

Grantee: Generation WV

Award Amount: \$523,253

Announcement Date: March 2022

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$523,253 to Generation West Virginia (GWV) in Charleston, West Virginia, for the *Generation WV High POWER Impact Project*. The project will expand and enhance GWV's successful Impact Fellowship to help employers recruit and retain next generation leaders and rebuild coal-impacted economies across West Virginia. This fills the gap in programming for early-career leadership programs in the state by providing "matchmaking" services to quality employers and jobseekers via the new GWV Career Connector as well as professional development programming with the Impact Fellowship. The project aims to retain young talent in West Virginia. Over the three-year grant period, the project anticipates serving 90 early-career workers in the fellowship program, improving 60 local businesses, and leveraging approximately \$7,800,000 in private investment from host employers. Generation WV will be supported by multiple partners, including the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation, the West Virginia Development Office, and the Just Transition Fund.



POWER 2021 Award Summaries

Throughout 2021, the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) has invested \$52 million specifically to diversify the economy in the Region's coal-impacted communities through the [POWER \(Partnerships for Opportunity and Workforce and Economic Revitalizations\) Initiative](#). These 62 investments are projected to create or retain more than 9,648 jobs, leverage an additional \$519.5 million into the Region, and prepare thousands of workers and students for jobs in technology, manufacturing, entrepreneurship, agriculture, and other sectors creating a strong economic future for Appalachia.

ALABAMA (1 award)

2021 Awards

Project Title: *Prepping the Talent Pipeline for Economic Growth and Diversification*

Grantee: Wallace State Community College—Hanceville (WSCC)

Award Amount: \$23,191

Announcement Date: September 2021

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$23,191 to Wallace State Community College—Hanceville (WSCC) in Hanceville, Alabama, for the *Prepping the Talent Pipeline for Economic Growth and Diversification* project. Covering a 15-county region in north-central Alabama, WSCC will partner with the National Coalition of Advanced Technology Centers (NCATC) to assess the state of automotive manufacturing in Appalachian Alabama. The resulting strategic plan will inform WSCC's educational and capital plan to meet the evolving employment needs of the industry, as demand for autonomous and electric vehicle manufacturing increases. It is also expected to guide the program development of WSCC's automotive manufacturing-related programs for the next 10 years.

KENTUCKY (11 awards)

2021 Awards

Project Title: *Harlan County Connected*

Grantee: Harlan County Fiscal Court

Award Amount: \$1,937,475

Announcement Date: September 2021

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$1,937,475 to Harlan County Fiscal Court in Harlan, Kentucky, for the *Harlan County Connected* project. The project will design and build 40 miles of fiber network to offer gigabit broadband to the most underserved parts of the county. Since 2012, this county has experienced an 84% decrease in mine employment, but leadership is confident in the ability of this broadband project to help it compete in the modern global economy. This last-mile fiber network is expected to leverage the ARC-funded

Kentucky Wired middle-mile fiber network to provide broadband to 282 businesses and 7,380 households.

Project Title: *Kentucky Highlands Empowerment Zone/Promise Zone Operations*

Grantee: Kentucky Highlands Investment Corporation

Award Amount: \$1,500,000

Announcement Date: September 2021

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$1,500,000 to Kentucky Highlands Investment Corporation in London, Kentucky, for the *Kentucky Highlands Empowerment Zone/Promise Zone Operations* project. Kentucky Highlands and its partners will serve 11 economically distressed counties in Eastern Kentucky with access to capital, business technical assistance, remote work solutions, and career pathway incentives. The project will establish a new revolving loan fund that includes technical assistance for business and social enterprise borrowers. It will implement three new Teleworks USA (a prior POWER grant) remote work training workshops and job fairs, as well as develop a career ladder incentive program to encourage employees and social enterprise employers to participate in continuing education to accelerate career-path advancement. The project provides clear career pathways in healthcare and remote work opportunities for at-home caregivers or persons without personal transportation. Additional capital for the revolving loan fund is being provided by Woodforest Bank. The project is expected to lead to the creation of 400 jobs.

Project Title: *Economic Recovery and Resilience in Eastern Kentucky*

Grantee: Mountain Association for Community Economic Development

Award Amount: \$1,500,000

Announcement Date: September 2021

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$1,500,000 to Mountain Association for Community Economic Development in Berea, Kentucky, for the *Economic Recovery and Resilience in Eastern Kentucky* Initiative. The project will leverage market opportunities, expand technical assistance, and finance business start-ups, growth, and innovation. The grantee will direct these strategies toward small businesses, entrepreneurs, local governments, and community anchor institutions critical to building diverse and resilient local economies in the 54 ARC counties of Eastern Kentucky. Partners on this project include Foundation for Appalachian Kentucky, Shaping Our Appalachian Region (SOAR), Brushy Fork Leadership Institute, What's Next, East Kentucky!?, Invest 606, and the Kentucky Office of Energy Policy. The project is expected to improve 620 businesses, serve 1,240 businesses, and create 53 new businesses. Additionally, this project will create 180 new jobs and retain 134 jobs.

Project Title: *Reliance Works (Second Chance Employment Expansion to Eastern KY)*

Grantee: Isaiah House, Inc.

Award Amount: \$1,221,825

Announcement Date: September 2021

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$1,221,825 to Isaiah House Treatment Center (IH) in Willisburg, Kentucky, for the *Reliance Works (Second Chance Employment Expansion to Eastern KY)* Initiative. The project will expand its second-chance employment program "Reliance Works" to six economically distressed counties in Appalachian Kentucky (Estill, Jackson, Lee, Lincoln, Powell, and Wolfe). The Reliance Works Employment and Recovery Project is a multi-pronged approach to positively impacting the lives of families and working-age adults. The project will create jobs and increase labor participation rates by establishing new business ventures using the proven workforce model for second-chance employment that IH has successfully implemented in other areas of Kentucky since 2015. Additionally, the project will provide participants with recovery supports, including transitional housing, peer support, transportation, telehealth counseling, and accountability through drug testing. Through a partnership with Eastern Kentucky Concentrated

Employment Program (EKCEP), Shaping Our Appalachian Region (SOAR), Estill Development Alliance, Bluegrass Workforce Investment Board (BGWIB), Operation UNITE, Lincoln County Chamber of Commerce, and Pine Ridge Regional Industrial Authority, the project is expected to create 50 to 60 jobs and provide on-the-job training for 70 to 80 people in recovery from substance use disorder who have limited work experience, criminal backgrounds, or poor work histories.

Project Title: *East Kentucky AWS Training and Testing Center*

Grantee: Big Sandy Community and Technical College/KCTCS

Award Amount: \$1,161,684

Announcement Date: September 2021

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$1,161,684 to Big Sandy Community and Technical College/KCTCS in Prestonsburg, Kentucky, for the *East Kentucky AWS Training and Testing Center*. This project will increase capacity to provide welding/fabrication training that will codify a pipeline of entry-level and highly skilled welders to support welding and related industries in Floyd, Johnson, Magoffin, Martin, and Pike counties. Activities will include renovation to an existing welding technology laboratory space on the Mayo Campus in Paintsville, KY. Renovation/retrofit activities will enable the site to add 18–22 welding training stations, welding stands, and curtains to support welding instruction delivery aligned to the American Welding Society's curriculum and professional certifications. Partners will include Eastern Kentucky Concentrated Employment Program (EKCEP) and Shaping Our Appalachian Region (SOAR). The project is expected to train 70 new welders, improve skills of 30 dislocated or incumbent workers, and improve 10 businesses with qualified workers.

Project Title: *Appalachia Access to Capital Initiative*

Grantee: Community Ventures Corporation

Award Amount: \$630,000

Announcement Date: September 2021

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$630,000 to Community Ventures Corporation in Lexington, Kentucky, for the *Appalachia Access to Capital Initiative*. By providing technical assistance and training, the project will help non- and for-profit businesses in small, rural, coal-impacted communities attract new levels of investment and spur economic growth. The initiative spans 60 counties in eastern Kentucky and West Virginia. Community Ventures' efforts will focus on providing one-on-one guidance to organizations applying for New Markets Tax Credit and USDA Community Facilities financing. Activities will include creation of networking opportunities, pitch deck preparation, and implementation of community benefits agreements tailored to the specific needs of each community and organization. Partners ~~Fahe~~, Appalachian Community Capital, and the Mountain Association will provide additional training on access to capital and financing best practices. The project is expected to serve 27 businesses, create over 200 jobs, and leverage \$15 million in private investment over three years.

Project Title: *Pikeville Medical Center's Medical Training Facility and Career Development Center*

Grantee: Pikeville Medical Center, Inc.

Award Amount: \$508,076

Announcement Date: September 2021

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$508,076 to Pikeville Medical Center, Inc. (PMC) in Pikeville, Kentucky, for the *Pikeville Medical Center's Medical Training Facility and Career Development Center*. The project will help equip a medical training facility and career center to serve existing staff, healthcare students, and community members in seven economically distressed counties. Facility participants will receive collaborative learning opportunities and career guidance while strengthening the area's healthcare workforce and addressing a

shortage of rural clinical healthcare providers. The project will take advantage of a prior POWER grant for PMC's Children's Hospital. PMC will partner with Shaping Our Appalachian Region (SOAR), Eastern Kentucky Concentrated Employment Program (EKCEP), Big Sandy Community and Technical College, UK Healthcare, and local school systems to implement effective programs based on local need and connect community members of all ages to opportunities. The project is expected to create 15 new jobs at the facility, improve the skills of 1,712 workers/trainees, and serve 11,351 patients in its first year.

Project Title: *Last-Mile Broadband: A Collaborative Approach*

Grantee: Shaping Our Appalachian Region, Inc. (SOAR)

Award Amount: \$50,000

Announcement Date: September 2021

Project Summary: An ARC grant of \$50,000 to Shaping Our Appalachian Region, Inc. (SOAR) in Pikeville, Kentucky, for the *Last-Mile Broadband: A Collaborative Approach* project. The project will serve a 14-county area in eastern Kentucky and build the capacity of Appalachian Kentucky's Rural Energy Cooperative Corporations (RECCs) to utilize their current infrastructure to bring high-speed internet to the region's unserved and underserved communities. SOAR will partner with two members of the East Kentucky Power Cooperative: Cumberland Valley Electric and Jackson Energy Cooperative. The project's efforts will complement increased funding from the state of Kentucky dedicated to broadband deployment and last-mile projects.

Project Title: *Pikeville/Breaks Tourism Partnership*

Grantee: City of Pikeville

Award Amount: \$50,000

Announcement Date: September 2021

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$50,000 to the City of Pikeville, in Pikeville, Kentucky, for the *Pikeville/Breaks Tourism Partnership*. In partnership with the Breaks Interstate Park (Buchanan County, VA), Pikeville will conduct a feasibility study for tourism in the region. The study will determine if developing health and wellness/eco/adventure/cultural tourism opportunities and related businesses is feasible. The ultimate goal of the project is to position the Breaks to become a national attraction with the city of Pikeville supporting the influx of tourism with lodging, restaurants, retail, and tourism-related businesses. The resulting study will include a report on the project area's physical assets, an economic and tourism market study, and a tourism branding strategy.

Project Title: *Robertson County Broadband Feasibility Study*

Grantee: Robertson County Fiscal Court

Award Amount: \$50,000

Announcement Date: September 2021

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$50,000 to Robertson County Fiscal Court in Mt. Olivet, Kentucky, for the *Robertson County Broadband Feasibility Study*. In partnership with the Buffalo Trace Area Development District; the county's health, education, and public safety agencies; and the City of Mt. Olivet, the Robertson County Fiscal Court will conduct a broadband feasibility study. It will identify county-wide gaps in broadband service, assess the area's broadband needs to facilitate future economic development, determine the technologies best suited for filling in coverage gaps, and offer deployment strategies that meet the county's broadband needs. The county will use this study/plan to implement the appropriate broadband infrastructure in phased construction to spur economic development; and the plan will encompass, as well as build upon, the KY Wired initiative and the county's "last mile" efforts.

Project Title: *Technical Evaluation of Novel Value-Added Biomass Products*

Grantee: Martin County Economic Development Authority

Award Amount: \$48,030

Announcement Date: September 2021

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$48,030 to Martin County Economic Development Authority in Inez, Kentucky, for the *Technical Evaluation of Novel Value-Added Biomass Products* project. The project will evaluate the economic opportunity of converting biomass waste materials from conservation practices into value-added wood-based products. The study will characterize the biomass waste streams produced in Martin and Pike counties in Kentucky and Mingo County in West Virginia. Characterization includes identifying the type, size, volume, and water content of the biomass. The study will then evaluate market characteristics for select biomass products, including mulch, biochar, bundled firewood, and structural timber. Further, the study will evaluate market size, growth opportunities, competitors, regulations, and distribution and marketing requirements. Lastly, local versus central production approaches will be evaluated for equipment requirements, capital costs, and associated labor and cost requirements.

MARYLAND (1 award)

2021 Awards

Project Title: *Advanced Technology Center Development—Phase II*

Grantee: Frostburg State University

Award Amount: \$1,480,979

Announcement Date: September 2021

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$1,480,979 to the Frostburg State University in Frostburg, Maryland, for *Advanced Technology Center Development—Phase II*. This project will implement Phase II of the Western Maryland Advanced Technology Center (ATC) Development Project at Frostburg State University (FSU) Innovation Park. With a partnership between FSU and the private and public sectors, the facility will create new job opportunities and promote economic development by supporting the growth of industries that are important to the future of the region's economy, including information technology, renewable and resilient energy, green construction materials manufacturing, environmental hazard removal, and biotech laboratory testing and analysis. The facility, located in an Opportunity Zone, will benefit residents of Allegany, Garrett, and Washington counties by training and educating the workforce in new technologies. This project is expected to create 18 new businesses and 125 jobs, retain 230 jobs, assist 40 existing businesses with access to highly skilled workers, and leverage \$2.5 million in private infrastructure investment.

obtain employment.

NEW YORK (3 awards)

2021 Awards

Project Title: *Broome County Innovation District Fiber Enhancement and Smart Cities Plan*

Grantee: Broome County

Award Amount: \$50,000

Announcement Date: September 2021

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$50,000 to Broome County in Binghamton, New York, for the *Broome County Innovation District Fiber Enhancement and Smart Cities Plan* to conduct a broadband feasibility study and develop a Smart Cities plan focused on the “innovation districts” of the downtown areas of Binghamton, Johnson City, and Endicott. The planning project will include an assessment of opportunities for expansion of the open-access fiber network within and adjacent to these areas and opportunities to integrate Smart Cities technologies into community services. Led by the Broome County Department of Planning and Economic Development as well as municipal stakeholders from the Town of Union, villages of Endicott and Johnson City, and the City of Binghamton, the project will have input and matching funds provided by Broome County Industrial Development Agency, a nonprofit economic development organization, and will receive feedback on asset availability and expansion feasibility from Southern Tier Network, a regional nonprofit open-access telecommunications company.

Project Title: *Town of Dryden Southern Tier Network Expansion*

Grantee: Town of Dryden

Award Amount: \$624,614

Announcement Date: December 2021

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$624,614 to the town of Dryden, New York for the *Town of Dryden Southern Tier Network Expansion* project. The project will connect the Southern Tier Network (STN) at Cornell University to the Dryden Municipal Building and SUNY Tompkins Cortland Community College (TC3). The installation of 13.5 miles of fiber optic cabling will provide direct access to STN resources including regional educational, public safety and broadband networks. This project will improve connectivity to 7 communities in the counties of Cortland and Thompson. Upon completion of the project, Dryden and TC3 will have a completely functional, commissioned network connecting to STN's 600+ miles dark fiber network with access to 50 public school buildings, 4 vocational school campuses, 28 public libraries and multiple state and private universities including Cornell University and Binghamton University. Outcomes are expected to include 13.5 miles of fiber and serve up to 382 businesses and 6,309 households.

Project Title: *Regional Rural Wireless Solution*

Grantee: Town of Caton

Award Amount: \$470,000

Announcement Date: December 2021

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$470,000 to the town of Caton, New York for the *Regional Rural Wireless Solution* project. The project will expand broadband availability in the communities of Caton and Lindley in Steuben County by creating four new wireless broadband telecommunications towers. The project will utilize two existing towers and construct an additional two towers to maximize service area and speeds. Upon completion of the buildout, project partner Southern Tier Network, a nonprofit, will own and maintain the equipment. An RFP will be issued to internet service providers for the buildout of the wireless network. The project will expand service to two communities, serve up to 263 households, and 26 businesses.

NORTH CAROLINA (5 awards)

2021 Awards

Project Title: *Unlocking New Energy Investments for Job Creation and Business Growth*

Grantee: Appalachian Voices

Award Amount: \$1,500,000

Announcement Date: September 2021

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$1,500,000 to Appalachian Voices in Boone, North Carolina, for the *Unlocking New Energy Investments for Job Creation and Business Growth* project. Appalachian Voices and its partners will bolster the solar industry in a region heavily impacted by the decline in the coal economy by creating and implementing the Appalachian Solar Finance Fund (the Fund). The Fund will provide financing and technical assistance to launch 64 solar installations at commercial and institutional sites, strengthening the emerging solar industry and boosting solar energy capacity. The project will serve coal-impacted communities in Kentucky, North Carolina, Ohio, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia. The Fund is an outgrowth of a previous POWER planning grant. Additional funding for the project is provided by the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation, the Appalachian Investment Ecosystem Initiative, Invest Appalachia, New Resource Solutions, and the Natural Capital Investment Fund. The project is expected to create 282 jobs while producing \$5.4 million in energy savings and attracting \$7.9 million in private investment.

Project Title: *WNC Center of Excellence in Precision Manufacturing: Preparing Mountain Area Workers with Skills and Qualifications for Living Wage Employment*

Grantee: Asheville–Buncombe Technical Community College

Award Amount: \$1,500,000

Announcement Date: September 2021

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$1,500,000 to Asheville–Buncombe Technical Community College in Asheville, North Carolina, for the *WNC Center of Excellence in Precision Manufacturing: Preparing Mountain Area Workers with Skills and Qualifications for Living Wage Employment* project. The project will equip a state-of-the-art training facility to deliver comprehensive training programs in precision manufacturing to unemployed and under-employed residents in Appalachian Western North Carolina. The program will also offer wrap-around services to workers, including those impacted by the coronavirus pandemic and opioid crises. The North Carolina Community College System is providing \$1,835,000 in matching funds for the project. The project is expected to provide training for 800 jobs that will be immediately available to the local facility of a global defense contractor in the aviation and aerospace sector.

Project Title: *Accelerating Outdoors: Outdoor Recreation Powering Economic Growth and Recovery*

Grantee: Mountain Bizworks

Award Amount: \$1,350,000

Announcement Date: September 2021

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$1,350,000 to Mountain BizWorks in Asheville, North Carolina, for the *Accelerating Outdoors: Outdoor Recreation Powering Economic Growth and Recovery* project. Building on the existing outdoor recreation industry cluster, which was bolstered by a prior POWER grant, the project intends to make Western North Carolina the leading outdoor economy in the eastern United States. The project features an integrated program that offers capital access and technical assistance for local businesses; trains workers to meet the employment needs of the industry; strengthens the regional outdoor recreation brand, enhancing market access for the cluster; and builds the capacity of communities to develop, attract, and support outdoor recreation businesses. The area targeted by the project has been adversely affected by the closure of coal-fired power plants and job losses in the coal supply chain. Financial support for the project is being provided by Dogwood Health Trust, Western Carolina University, Appalachian State University, Outdoor Gear Builders of WNC, and Mountain BizWorks. The project is expected to create 25 businesses, yield 180 new jobs, and leverage \$8.1 million in private investment.

Project Title: *WNC Early Childhood Educator Workforce Project*

Grantee: Land of Sky Regional Council

Award Amount: \$801,923

Announcement Date: September 2021

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$801,923 to Land of Sky Regional Council in Asheville, North Carolina, for the *WNC Early Childhood Educator Workforce Project*. The project will reduce the severe shortage of childcare teachers in 11 targeted counties in Southwestern North Carolina through training, coaching, education, and placement of new persons in the field. The project includes communities affected by coal-related supply chain industries. Building the childcare industry will reinvigorate the economy of these communities by creating more jobs in childcare to support working families and thereby attracting investment. The current inadequacy in childcare spaces is a challenge to the economic recovery of the western North Carolina region. With the additional teachers will come additional childcare spaces to support working families. The partners on this project include the Southwestern Commission, Southwestern Child Development Commission, Buncombe Partnership for Children, NCWorks, and Children and Family Resource Center. The project will build the capacity to provide quality care for young children and provide the resources needed for early childhood development, for parents to return to work, and for communities to seek economic investment. Over the course of two years, this project is expected to create 160 jobs.

Project Title: *Transitioning and Upscaling Creative Sector Business in WNC*

Grantee: Land of Sky Regional Council

Award Amount: \$50,000

Announcement Date: September 2021

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$50,000 to Land of Sky Regional Council, in Asheville, North Carolina, for the *Transitioning and Upscaling Creative Sector Business in WNC* project. In partnership with Western Arts Agencies of North Carolina, Southwestern Commission, High Country Council of Governments, and other local development organizations, the project will develop a regional "Scaling Creative Sector Business Plan." This initiative aims to unlock the potential of the arts economy in a 13-county area in Western North Carolina by increasing the average wage for creative entrepreneurs, reducing unemployment, and further establishing the region's reputation as a creative entrepreneurial hub. This project will create a strategic plan that increases coordination between economic development specialists and arts sector organizations; develop best practices to transform microentrepreneurs into employers; and identify the steps necessary to implement and scale the project.

OHIO (10 awards)

2021 Awards

Project Title: Noble County Grid Modernization and Make Ready for Broadband Deployment

Grantee: Washington Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Award Amount: \$1,500,000

Announcement Date: September 2021

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$1,500,000 to Washington Electric Cooperative, Inc. in Marietta, Ohio, for the *Noble County Grid Modernization and Make-Ready for Broadband Deployment* project. The project will upgrade 215 miles of main-line electrical routes to increase grid resiliency and enable Internet Service Providers to cost effectively deploy fiber broadband along these routes. Approximately 90 percent of the project will occur in southern Noble County, one of the most unserved areas in the state for broadband

availability. The affected electrical distribution routes will also extend into adjacent areas of Morgan, Monroe, and Washington counties, reaching additional unserved or underserved areas. The upgraded routes will reach 1,392 of the cooperative's customers, including 208 businesses. An earlier POWER grant funded the broadband feasibility study upon which the current grant is based.

Project Title: *Gateway Communities and Sustainable Recreation: An Asset-Based Approach to Building Resilient Communities and Transitioning Appalachian Economies*

Grantee: Outdoor Recreation Council of Appalachia

Award Amount: \$1,493,716

Announcement Date: September 2021

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$1,493,716 to Outdoor Recreation Council of Appalachia (ORCA) in Athens, Ohio, for *Gateway Communities and Sustainable Recreation: An Asset-Based Approach to Building Resilient Communities and Transitioning Appalachian Economies*. The project will help diversify the region's coal-based economy and strengthen economic opportunities for low-income communities, aspiring entrepreneurs, and established small businesses by concentrating investments in natural and cultural assets. Focusing on seven counties (Athens, Hocking, Meigs, Morgan, Perry, Vinton, and Washington), the partners on this project include Wayne National Forest, Buckeye Trail Association, Hocking Athens, Perry Community Action, Rural Action, Appalachian Center for Economic Networks, Ohio's Hill Country Heritage Area (Ohio's Winding Road), Athens County Economic Development Council, Athens County Convention and Visitors Bureau, and others. The project is expected to leverage \$8.5 million in private and public investment in trail and gateway community infrastructure; engage over 20 elected officials in seven counties to endorse a shared vision of development for the outdoor recreation sector; and support the retention of 89 current jobs, the start-up of 24 new businesses, and the creation of 36 new jobs with entrepreneurship training and technical assistance.

Project Title: *Ohio River Valley Workforce Development Initiative*

Grantee: Switzerland of Ohio Local School District

Award Amount: \$1,314,880

Announcement Date: September 2021

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$1,314,880 to the Switzerland of Ohio Local School District in Woodsfield, Ohio, for the *Ohio River Valley Workforce Development Initiative*. This project is a collaboration between education and career service providers and local industry to serve unemployed, underemployed, and displaced workers and veterans transitioning to new job skills in 11 distressed or at-risk counties covering Southeastern Ohio and West Virginia Opportunity Zones. The Initiative will enhance in-person and remote education and workforce training programs centered at the Swiss Hills Career Center in Monroe County, Ohio, enabling workers to obtain the skills and industry credentials necessary to access jobs in regional industry growth sectors, including healthcare, advanced manufacturing, and the transportation/automotive sectors. The program will also serve high school students with classroom and online workforce training and internship opportunities, creating a youth workforce talent pipeline to benefit local businesses. The project is expected to create 10 new businesses and 600 new jobs; retain 200 jobs; provide technical assistance to 15 existing businesses; and provide training to 100 adult workers/trainees and 225 high school students.

Project Title: *Fresh Start Workforce Development Program*

Grantee: Urban Mission Ministries, Inc.

Award Amount: \$980,374

Announcement Date: September 2021

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$980,374 to Urban Mission Ministries, Inc., in Steubenville, Ohio, for the *Fresh Start Workforce Development Program*. The project will expand Urban

Mission Ministries' workforce development program, Fresh Start, for individuals in recovery, targeting six counties in Ohio and two counties in West Virginia. Central to the project will be the renovation of a former grocery store. Renovations will include the creation of two classrooms, industrial-sized training kitchen, on-site restaurant, small grocery co-op, and space for business incubation. Upon completion of the renovations, all programming will operate at the location, providing a more user-friendly location for participants. Fresh Start will use a three-tier approach that includes life skills and empowerment classes, educational opportunities, and on-site vocational training programs. Partners include Eastern Gateway Community College, West Virginia Northern Community College, Parkhurst Dining, and Walmart Distribution Center. The project is expected to renovate a 28,500-square-foot former grocery store, create 3 businesses and 10 jobs, retain 23 jobs, and assist 20 businesses and 350 trainees.

Project Title: *Belmont College Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) Training*

Grantee: Belmont College

Award Amount: \$445,158

Announcement Date: September 2021

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$445,158 to Belmont College in St. Clairsville, Ohio, for the *Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) Training* program. The project will expand Belmont College's HVAC Training program in order to meet the needs for local HVAC technicians. Belmont College will partner with Belmont County Drug Court and Youth Services Systems, Inc., in Wheeling, WV, to train participants and at-risk high school students. Additionally, 20 students in the Mental Health Studies Program at Belmont College will receive real-world experience by providing work support for drug court participants on a weekly basis. This program will also allow Belmont College to offer traditional HVAC offerings by having equipment and trained instructors to provide additional classes in air quality and building management. The expansion of this HVAC program is expected to train 50 students annually.

Project Title: *Green Acres: A Regional Workforce Education/Training Ecosystem*

Grantee: Noble Local School District

Award Amount: \$404,856

Announcement Date: September 2021

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$404,856 to Noble Local School District in Sarahsville, Ohio, for *Green Acres: A Regional Workforce Education/Training Ecosystem*. The project will include the purchase of specialized equipment and resources for on-site and in-demand education/training programming. This phase of a multi-phase project will provide vital funding for essential agribusiness training-related equipment and upskilling programming that targets six counties (Belmont, Guernsey, Monroe, Morgan, Muskingum, and Noble) to create a regional ecosystem to support agribusiness. Without efforts to retain existing workers or attract younger emerging talent into the pipeline, many jobs in Ohio agribusiness could go unfilled. This project will create an ecosystem in which K-12 students are accessing and receiving robust and industry-driven hands-on education/training, while creating in-demand workforce re-entry training and upskilling for existing adult workforce participants. The leveraged partnership with Zane State College, Ohio State University, and local/regional employers will provide a comprehensive approach to fill these jobs. This project is expected to serve 1,800 students and 150 adult participants.

Project Title: *Adapting to Change: Powering Up Tomorrow's Workforce*

Grantee: University of Cincinnati

Award Amount: \$50,000

Announcement Date: September 2021

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$50,000 to University of Cincinnati Clermont College, in partnership with Adams, Brown, and Clermont counties in Batavia, Ohio, for the *Adapting to Change: Powering Up Tomorrow's Workforce* project. The project team will gather information, evaluate the findings, and develop plans for a future regional training and employment proposal in the high-demand field of supply chain and logistics. The project will identify and explore regional data and work towards engaging regional stakeholders in conversations and planning activities throughout the 12-month project period. These activities include community conversations, employer surveys, local and regional data, labor demand analysis, local and regional business development plan exploration, and educational program needs analysis for program development. UC Clermont College will consider certifications, industry credentials, career ladders, scaffolding programs, and entrepreneurial support that will build on the commercial driver's license training and online supply chain associate degree, which their regional education partners currently offer.

Project Title: *Morgan County Broadband Technical Assistance*

Grantee: Morgan County Commissioners

Award Amount: \$50,000

Announcement Date: September 2021

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$50,000 to Morgan County in McConnelsville, Ohio, for *Broadband Technical Assistance*. Led by the Morgan County Commissioners in partnership with local and regional public agencies and private businesses, project funds will go toward broadband asset mapping in rural Morgan County in southeastern Ohio to identify unserved and underserved areas. The final comprehensive report will also include an analysis of broadband demand in the county, recommendations for potential broadband projects, and strategies for converting broadband demand into economic growth.

Project Title: *Reimagining Struthers*

Grantee: The City of Struthers, Ohio

Award Amount: \$50,000

Announcement Date: September 2021

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$50,000 to the City of Struthers, Ohio, for *Reimagining Struthers* to create a regional strategic plan for green industrial manufacturing in Trumbull, Mahoning, and Columbiana counties in Eastern Ohio (EOH); Hancock County in Northern West Virginia (NWV); and Beaver, Lawrence, and Mercer counties in Western Pennsylvania (WPA). The strategic plan will guide the development of CASTLO Community Improvement Corporation Industrial Park, next to downtown Struthers, as a green industrial manufacturing hub for research and development (R&D). Additionally, the plan will assess the feasibility of reviving dormant industrial infrastructure to support a regional green manufacturing ecosystem that will increase jobs, business, and product development in the EOH-NWV-WPA region.

Project Title: *Voltage Valley Entrepreneurial Ecosystem—Regionalization Study*

Grantee: Eastgate Regional Council of Governments

Award Amount: \$50,000

Announcement Date: September 2021

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$50,000 to Eastgate Regional Council of Governments in Youngstown, Ohio, for the *Voltage Valley Entrepreneurial Ecosystem—Regionalization Study*. With increased investments in the Mahoning Valley of Ohio in the electric vehicle (EV) sector, this grant will support an assessment of the existing utilities in the project region (with a focus on water, wastewater, and electric power), as well as a regional implementation strategy that will identify best practices for utility regionalization. The development of a regional utilities management system will streamline development and permitting across

the various jurisdictions of eastern Ohio, increasing the potential of large-scale job creation at development sites.

PENNSYLVANIA (9 awards)

2021 Awards

Project Title: *Greene County Broadband Implementation Initiative*

Grantee: Greene County Board of Commissioners

Award Amount: \$2,500,000

Announcement Date: September 2021

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$2,500,000 to the *Greene County Board of Commissioners* in Waynesburg, Pennsylvania, for the *Greene County Broadband Implementation Initiative*.

The project will leverage a public-private partnership with Windstream to deploy 105 miles of fiber network to 108 businesses and 767 households. This project was based on a 2019 POWER-funded broadband feasibility study, which recommended that the county publish an RFP and competitively select an internet service provider as its partner in closing the digital divide.

Project Title: *Igniting Innovation in the PA Wilds Region*

Grantee: Ben Franklin Technology Center of Central and Northern PA, Inc.

Award Amount: \$1,500,000

Announcement Date: September 2021

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$1,500,000 to Ben Franklin Technology Center in State College, Pennsylvania, for the *Igniting Innovation in the PA Wilds Region* project. The project will support and enhance opportunities for the technology-based entrepreneurs and manufacturers in the Pennsylvania Wilds Region. In partnership with the PA Technical Assistance Program, PA Wilds Center for Entrepreneurship, and the small business development centers of Clarion University, Gannon University, and Penn State University, a foundation will be built for a sustainable rural innovation economy for the 13 counties in this coal-impacted area. The PA Wilds Center for Entrepreneurship has developed a growing entrepreneurial ecosystem in many sectors, creating a competitive region among existing manufacturers. Programs will be delivered to attract remote workers to the area. Project activities will include entrepreneurial competitions, assessments of existing manufacturers, microfinancing for new product development, and planning for high-return placemaking investments. This is a first-of-its-kind collaboration in Appalachian Pennsylvania that can serve as a model for kindling rural innovation economies across the region. The project is expected to serve 50 businesses, 13 communities, and 135 participants; create 15 businesses and 30 jobs; and leverage \$500,000 in private investment.

Project Title: *Institute for Health and Cyber Knowledge (IHACK)*

Grantee: Gannon University

Award Amount: \$1,499,895

Announcement Date: September 2021

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$1,499,895 to Gannon University in Erie, Pennsylvania, for the *Institute for Health and Cyber Knowledge (IHACK)* project. Gannon University will create Hatchery 4.0 within the Institute of Health and Cyber Knowledge (IHACK), which will provide hands-on experience for students to work directly with businesses to help solve real-world problems. The University will develop a pipeline of workers to fill high-paying, high-demand 21st century jobs and assist existing traditional manufacturers to pivot their operations to be smart factories in response to Industry 4.0, a phase of manufacturing and supply chain

management that focuses on interconnectivity, automation, machine learning, and real-time data exchange. Project activities will include creation of a STEM pathway for middle and high school students and the establishment of three centers of expertise for manufacturers, and will provide nationally recognized college degree programs in high-demand engineering and cyber fields. Engaged in the project are multiple partners providing private funds and support for this project, which will impact eight counties in Pennsylvania. This project is expected to retain 146 jobs, assist 115 businesses, provide training to 169 workers and trainees, and serve 339 students.

Project Title: *Clarion County Connected*

Grantee: Clarion County, Pennsylvania

Award Amount: \$1,096,125

Announcement Date: September 2021

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$1,096,125 to Clarion County, Pennsylvania, for the *Clarion County Connected* project. The project will design, build, and launch fixed wireless broadband service to 85 businesses and 1620 households. Grantee will competitively select an internet service provider partner to manage customer support and ongoing network maintenance. The scope of the project includes the construction of four new towers and the use of five existing county 911 towers to deploy a total of nine wireless broadband sites.

Project Title: *Connecting the Alleghenies Through Core Broadband Infrastructure*

Grantee: Bedford County, Pennsylvania

Award Amount: \$745,588

Announcement Date: September 2021

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$745,588 to Bedford County, Pennsylvania, for the *Connecting the Alleghenies Through Core Broadband Infrastructure* project. The project will design and build four towers in Bedford County that will allow a contracted internet service provider to offer fixed wireless broadband service to Bedford and Fulton counties in Pennsylvania and Allegany County in Maryland. This multi-state network is expected to provide broadband speeds of up to 100 Mbps download and 50 Mbps upload to five businesses and 350 households that are currently underserved.

Project Title: *Workforce Ready through Recovery and Career Services*

Grantee: Outreach Center for Community Resources

Award Amount: \$705,477

Announcement Date: September, 2021

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$705,477 to Outreach Center for Community Resources in Scranton, Pennsylvania, for the *Workforce Ready through Recovery and Career Services* project. The project is a community partnership among nonprofit agencies, educational institutions, local businesses, SUD recovery providers and government agencies to develop a ready workforce and expand the SUD recovery ecosystem in Northeastern Pennsylvania (Lackawanna, Luzerne, Monroe, Pike, Susquehanna, Wayne, and Wyoming counties). A variety of education, workforce, and life skills trainings and wraparound services will be provided for the unemployed, underemployed, justice-involved individuals, and individuals in recovery seeking reentry into the workforce. In addition to workforce and life skills training, services will include recovery support, financial literacy, GED classes, job placement and individualized case management. Project partners will include local businesses to address gaps in the labor force and establish an employment pipeline for workers with high-demand skills, and behavioral health providers for recovery services that will support participants' efforts to successfully reenter the workforce and achieve long-term recovery. The project is expected to serve 180 patients, train 1,200 workers/trainees, assist 150 businesses, and create 800 jobs.

Project Title: *Carbon County Rural Broadband Coverage & Feasibility Study*

Grantee: Carbon County Commissioners

Award Amount: \$50,000

Announcement Date: September 2021

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$50,000 to Carbon County Commissioners in Jim Thorpe, Pennsylvania, in partnership with Ben Franklin Technology Partners and the Northeastern Pennsylvania Alliance (NEPA), for the *Carbon County Rural Broadband Coverage & Feasibility Study*. The study will identify county-wide gaps in broadband service, determine the best technologies and approaches to filling these gaps, develop broadband deployment strategies to address coverage gaps, and provide cost estimates for deployment strategies.

Project Title: *NE PA Trail Connectivity Assessment*

Grantee: Pennsylvania Environmental Council

Award Amount: \$50,000

Announcement Date: September 2021

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$50,000 to the Pennsylvania Environmental Council (PEC) in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, for the *NE PA Trail Connectivity Assessment*, a feasibility assessment of the uncompleted section of the Northeast PA Trails Forum's long-distance trails. The project is defined by eight counties, and the focus of the planning work will be to determine the needs of the sections of the trail corridor where there has not been organizational capacity to undertake a detailed study. Work will include initial assessment of right-of-way acquisitions, community outreach to determine visitor readiness, identification of potential funding mechanisms, and segment prioritization. The study's goals are to collate the information needed to advance the individual projects of the NEPA Trails Forum and map out a path for trail connectivity, thereby creating trail distances that invite visitors to spend multiple days exploring the region and demonstrating the value of a cohesive trail identity.

Project Title: *Regional Integrated Manufacturing Ecosystem*

Grantee: IN-2-Market, Inc.

Award Amount: \$50,000

Announcement Date: September 2021

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$50,000 to IN-2-Market, Inc. (In-2-M) in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, for the *Regional Integrated Manufacturing Ecosystem* project. The work will leverage the Manufacturing Extension Partnerships in Ohio, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia to plan, create, and test an approach for an innovative manufacturing ecosystem. The project will result in a report for regional manufacturing development as an economic development strategy to re-shore supply chains and build manufacturing jobs close to coal-impacted communities. The grant will also support the recruitment of committed partners and completion of focused experimental pilots to prepare for full implementation.

TENNESSEE (1 award)

2021 Awards

Project Title: *ReFrame Construction Workforce Development Cohort*

Grantee: ReFrame Foundation

Award Amount: \$32,673

Announcement Date: September 2021

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$32,673 to ReFrame Foundation in Jonesborough, Tennessee, for the *ReFrame Construction Workforce Development Cohort* project. ReFrame will conduct feasibility studies and help organizations develop project plans and implementation proposals to promote safe, healthy, and affordable homes that support the work of home repair and rehabilitation partners across Appalachia. In addition, the project will promote economic development and job creation in Tennessee and North Carolina by exploring current and future adult workforce readiness in residential construction. The project will also enable up to 10 nonprofits to participate in the *ReFrame Construction Workforce Development Cohort* and increase their capacity to lead and launch workforce programs in residential home construction. This project is expected to conduct five feasibility studies, serve 10 community partnerships, and improve three community partnerships through training and development of workforce programs.

VIRGINIA (5 awards)

2021 Awards

Project Title: *Central Appalachian CDC: Bringing Community Development Investment to Coal-Impacted Communities*

Grantee: Appalachian Community Capital

Award Amount: \$1,500,000

Announcement Date: September 2021

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$1,500,000 to Appalachian Community Capital in Christiansburg, Virginia, for *Central Appalachian CDC: Bringing Community Development Investment to Coal-Impacted Communities*. Appalachian Community Capital and its partners will create quality community development and entrepreneurial opportunities by preparing communities and businesses to access new sources of capital. Serving five Central Appalachian states (North Carolina, Ohio, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia), the project will provide 40 coal-impacted communities with technical assistance to structure development financial transactions, guidance in creating prospectuses and pitch decks targeting investors, and outreach and deal placement to pre-vetted investors. This assistance will include a high-level investor convening in Appalachia. The result will be a portfolio of investments that provide investors both sufficient financial returns and robust social returns. Financial support for the project is being provided by the CDFI Fund at the U.S. Department of the Treasury, the Dogwood Health Trust, Goldman Sachs, and OhioSE Economic Development. The project is expected to create 15 businesses and 3,000 jobs while leveraging \$400 million in private investment.

Project Title: *Buchanan/Tazewell Wireless Communication Job Growth Corridor*

Grantee: Virginia Coalfield Coalition

Award Amount: \$1,000,000

Announcement Date: September 2021

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$1,000,000 to the Virginia Coalfield Coalition in Lebanon, Virginia, for the *Buchanan/Tazewell Wireless Communication Job Growth Corridor*. This project will build six new fiber-lit cell towers along a 20-mile stretch of U.S. Route 460. This highway is currently 95% unserved with cell service, making it difficult for local companies to bring clients into their offices or send field technicians out to work sites. A public-private partnership with a national wireless service provider allows the grantee to ensure that the coverage provided by the new cell towers will fill in current service gaps. The project is

expected to serve 25 existing businesses and facilitate business retention and recruitment at industrial parks in the region.

Project Title: *Project Trace*

Grantee: LENOWISCO Planning District Commission

Award Amount: \$49,875

Announcement Date: September 2021

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$49,875 to LENOWISCO Planning District in Duffield, Virginia, in partnership with Invest SWVA, for *Project Trace* to determine the feasibility of adapting or creating an ag-tech tool to track and report food miles of specialty grains grown in Southwest Virginia, specifically in Lee, Scott, and Wise counties. If feasible, the project team will provide additional information regarding the steps necessary to implement the adaptation or development of such a tool. This tool will help to present the value-add of Southwest Virginian grains to the industry, increase grain market opportunities for Southwest Virginian farmers, and drive additional revenue. It is anticipated that one report will be produced as a result of this project.

Project Title: *Building an Outdoor Recreation Economy in Southwest Virginia*

Grantee: County of Russell, Virginia

Award Amount: \$1,500,000

Announcement Date: December 2021

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$1,500,000 to County of Russell County, Virginia for the *Building an Outdoor Recreation Economy in Southwest Virginia* project. Through this project, Russell County and their partners will construct a visitor center near St. Paul, Virginia, which will serve the seven coalfield counties of Southwest Virginia. Named for the nearby confluence of the Clinch, Powell, and Big Sandy watersheds, the Three Rivers Destination Center will be a multipurpose facility designed to propel Southwest Virginia's tourism and outdoor recreation economy. The center will serve as the headquarters for Heart of Appalachia Tourism Authority, a visitor center for regional amenities, and an ecology discovery center for the Clinch River State Park.

Project Title: *Appalachian Hardwood Training Initiative (AHTI)*

Grantee: Dabney S. Lancaster Community College

Award Amount: \$1,466,029

Announcement Date: December 2021

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$1,466,029 to Dabney S. Lancaster Community College in Clifton Forge, Virginia, for the *Appalachian Hardwood Training Initiative (AHTI)* program. The AHTI will develop educational and training opportunities for those employed in the industry's regional sawmills and wood manufacturing facilities as well as for unemployed and underemployed individuals in Appalachia. This project is expected to recruit, serve, and train up to 950 individuals in Virginia, West Virginia, and Kentucky over three years.

WEST VIRGINIA (15 awards)

2021 Awards

Project Title: *Pocahontas County Quiet Zone Fiber Deployment*

Grantee: Pocahontas County Commission

Award Amount: \$2,500,000

Announcement Date: September 2021

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$2,500,000 to the Pocahontas County Commission in Marlinton, West Virginia, for the 2021 *Pocahontas County Quiet Zone Fiber Deployment* project. The project will construct an aerial fiber network to provide broadband to businesses and households in Pocahontas County, the majority of whom reside in the federally mandated National Radio Quiet Zone within a 10-mile radius of the Green Bank Observatory. Pocahontas County must use fiber for this project rather than less expensive solutions like fixed wireless because the Federal Communications Commission prohibits the use of any electrical equipment that could cause radio interference in the Zone. The broadband provided by this project will help expand telemedicine services, establish opportunities for remote work, and support business development in the region. The proposed network is expected to reach approximately 24 businesses and 1,011 homes and has a projected completion date of December 2023.

Project Title: *Woodlands Route 33 Middle/Last Mile Fiber Deployment Project*

Grantee: Woodlands Development Group

Award Amount: \$2,500,000

Announcement Date: September 2021

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$2,500,000 to the Woodlands Development Group in Elkins, West Virginia, for the *Woodlands Route 33 Middle/Last Mile Fiber Deployment* project. Partnering with Generation WV and the leadership teams of Randolph and Tucker counties, this project will deploy 58 miles of fiber network to 65 businesses and 480 households. This project will receive additional funding from other federal sources and will help support a variety of economic initiatives in the region, including the Virgin Hyperloop Certification Center and the Mon Forest Towns tourism initiative.

Project Title: *The Market Fail; Power Skills and the Social Enterprise Mindset: The WV Jobs Network*

Grantee: High Rocks Education Corporation

Award Amount: \$1,499,924

Announcement Date: September 2021

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$1,499,924 to High Rocks Education Corporation in Hillsboro, West Virginia, for *The Market Fail; Power Skills and the Social Enterprise Mindset: The WV Jobs Network*. The project will create the West Virginia Jobs Network to create pathways for employers and job seekers to fill existing jobs with support to align the right candidates to the right opportunities. Primary focus will be on southern West Virginia's 54 counties and includes employers and students across much of the state. Activities will offer training and support services, create an accredited power skill certification, and pioneer a social enterprise mindset training curriculum. The network will be led by five anchor organizations that are experts in workforce, young talent, AmeriCorps, and STEM pipelines. Partners include Coalfield Development, Generation WV, First2 Network, and Bristol Connect. The project is expected to include 200 AmeriCorps members completing service in West Virginia, 78 participants in workforce development programs, and 30 first-generation and underrepresented STEM college students.

Project Title: *Appalachia FORWARD (Freight Opportunities Reducing Waste and Revitalizing Development)*

Grantee: Coalfield Development Corporation

Award Amount: \$1,464,309

Announcement Date: September 2021

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$1,464,309 to Coalfield Development Corporation in Wayne, West Virginia, for the *Appalachia FORWARD (Freight Opportunities Reducing Waste and Revitalizing Development)* project. Focusing on the tri-state area of West Virginia, Ohio, and Kentucky, Appalachia FORWARD will expand the commercial base in recycling, reuse,

and bio-based manufacturing. Appalachia FORWARD will provide technical assistance for entrepreneurs and social enterprises in the transportation and reuse sectors; train and hire people in the sustainable deconstruction and reuse upcycling of materials from abandoned, dilapidated buildings; and conduct research, innovation, and testing of upcycling, repair, and bio-based manufacturing business models. Key partners include Rural Action, the Athens-Hocking Recycling Center, Marshall University's Appalachian Transportation Institute, West Virginia community and technical colleges, Pure Cycle (a private business using a patented recycling process to transform plastic waste feedstock), and Goodwill Industries of KYOWVA. In addition to contributions from project partners, additional funding is provided by the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation, Bloomberg Philanthropies, Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors, and the Sugar Bush Foundation. The project is expected to create 50 new jobs and six new businesses and improve skills for 300 workers.

Project Title: *Downtown Appalachia: Revitalizing Recreational Economies (DARRE)*

Grantee: West Virginia Community Development Hub

Award Amount: \$1,270,482

Announcement Date: September 2021

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$1,270,482 to the West Virginia Community Development Hub in Charleston, West Virginia, for the *Downtown Appalachia: Revitalizing Recreational Economies (DARRE)* project. Focusing on recreational economic development surrounding the Monongahela National Forest, DARRE will help eight small towns revitalize main street properties, link building owners with commercial tenants, and help communities develop the economic, social, and financial capital required to become thriving tourist destinations. The financing partner in the project, Natural Capital Investment Fund in Charles Town, West Virginia, will make equity investments in high-impact projects with an identified need for more significant predevelopment investments. The project will tap the community revitalization experience of the West Virginia Brownfields Assistance Center and the professional insights of the West Virginia University School of Design and Community Development. Major financial support of the project comes from the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation, Generation West Virginia, the Mary Reynolds Babcock Foundation, and the One Foundation. The project is expected to serve 106 businesses and create nine new businesses and 38 jobs.

Project Title: *Cybersecurity and Safety Workforce Development Initiative*

Grantee: Glenville State College

Award Amount: \$1,123,656

Announcement Date: September 2021

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$1,123,656 to Glenville State College in Glenville, West Virginia, for the *Cybersecurity and Safety Workforce Development Initiative*. This new workforce development program will annually provide training and professional certification opportunities to over 500 unemployed, underemployed, or displaced workers in a 14-county region in North Central West Virginia that suffers from economic distress and the impact of the decline in the coal economy. The training will focus on high-demand fields of cybersecurity, homeland security, policing, corrections, and similar security professions. Recent reports indicate that there are currently more than 1,000 open cybersecurity jobs in West Virginia, and the number is growing rapidly. This project will enable Glenville State, the only four-year college in West Virginia located in an economically distressed county, to build a competitive workforce, increase labor participation rates, and diversify the local economy by supporting the employment needs of a growing industry. The Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation is providing additional support.

Project Title: *Launching the Mountaineer Trail Network*

Grantee: Friends of the Cheat

Award Amount: \$1,089,360

Announcement Date: September 2021

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$1,089,360 to the Friends of the Cheat in Kingwood, West Virginia, for the *Launching the Mountaineer Trail Network*. The project builds on a previous POWER planning grant that provided initial development of the Mountaineer Trail Network Recreation Authority (MRTNA). Activities will include the launching of the Mountaineer Trail Network; finalizing the development of MRTNA to manage the network over 15 West Virginia counties; conducting outreach to and supporting trails in the region to become part of the formal network; providing tourism-oriented business mentoring; establishing the Network's joint branding and marketing platforms; and launching the network for public use. Engaged in the project are multiple partners, including Hatfield-McCoy Regional Recreation Authority, Downstream Strategies, and WVU Outdoor Economic Development Collaborative. Major financial support for the project is being provided by the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation, Just Transition Fund, U.S. Office of Surface Mining Reclamation, and Enforcement and Downstream Strategies. The project is expected to improve 15 communities and create 70 businesses and 1,237 jobs.

Project Title: *WV Center for Nurse Entrepreneurship*

Grantee: Future of Nursing West Virginia

Award Amount: \$630,000

Announcement Date: September 2021

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$630,000 to Future of Nursing West Virginia in Charleston, West Virginia, for the *WV Center for Nurse Entrepreneurship* project. This project will create a physical space to foster entrepreneurial activities and increase economic opportunities for nurses, especially advanced practice nurses, who are qualified to provide direct health care services, including prescriptions and telehealth. The center will help expand the pilot project training curriculum, provide regional training for nurses looking to be successful entrepreneurs, and expand the online WV Nurses in Business Directory. Staff will train, coach, mentor, and provide financial resources to 100 nurse participants who are expected to open 40 businesses over three years. Project partners include the West Virginia Small Business Development Center and the West Virginia Chamber of Commerce. The U.S. Economic Development Administration and the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation are providing additional funding.

Project Title: *Health Care Workforce Gap Analysis Project*

Grantee: The Center for Rural Health Development

Award Amount: \$50,000

Announcement Date: September 2021

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$50,000 to the Center for Rural Health Development in Hurricane, West Virginia, for the *Health Care Workforce Gap Analysis Project*, which will focus on the collective system for recruitment and retention of the state's healthcare workforce. This project will build on prior work from the West Virginia Office of Rural Health and other stakeholder research to perform a gap analysis that includes a number of activities: planning, stakeholder engagement and input, data review and analysis, and development of project deliverables. These activities will lead to an internal report for various stakeholders across West Virginia detailing gaps in the state's healthcare workforce; it will eventually lead to an "at-a-glance" document for marketing, fund-development, education, and outreach.

Project Title: *Trail Town Plan for the Elk River Rail Trail System*

Grantee: Braxton County Development Authority

Award Amount: \$50,000

Announcement Date: September 2021

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$50,000 to the Braxton County Development Authority in Sutton, West Virginia, for the *Trail Town Plan for the Elk River Rail Trail System* project. In partnership with the Elk River Trail Foundation, Inc. (ERTF), the Braxton County Development Authority will inventory tourism infrastructure and identify community assets along the 50-plus-mile Elk River Trail system in Braxton and Clay counties. In addition to identifying potential tourism infrastructure improvements, project activities will include the development of strategies to support business development in the area and the creation of an overall plan with both community- and regional-level goals and objectives.

Project Title: *Equity in Entrepreneurship: Strategic Planning for Youth Entrepreneurship*

Grantee: West Virginia University

Award Amount: \$49,974

Announcement Date: September 2021

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$49,974 to West Virginia University in Morgantown, West Virginia, for the *Equity in Entrepreneurship: Strategic Planning for Youth Entrepreneurship* project. Headed by the West Virginia University Extension Service in partnership with West Virginia University Chambers College of Business and Economics and the West Virginia Public Education Collaborative, the project will conduct strategic planning for the expansion of youth entrepreneurship education, specifically focusing on rural and low-income youth in West Virginia. The project's goal is to build the capacity of current and next-generation leaders and organizations to innovate, collaborate, and advance community and economic development. The project is expected to produce one plan/report, which will include mapping of available resources, identification of gaps in service, discussion of barriers to participation and strategies for increasing access, and identification of opportunities for increased collaboration.

Project Title: *RenewAll Cultural Wealth Hub: An Investment in Heritage Tourism and Entrepreneurship*

Grantee: RenewAll, Inc.

Award Amount: \$47,500

Announcement Date: September 2021

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$47,500 to RenewAll in Huntington, West Virginia, for the *RenewAll Cultural Wealth Hub: An Investment in Heritage Tourism and Entrepreneurship* project. The project will transform RenewAll's two-building complex into a flex-space "Cultural Wealth Hub" that will house a vendor space for creative entrepreneurs, a makerspace for cultural goods, a heritage museum and educational center, an indoor/outdoor performing arts and cultural events venue, an entrepreneurial training space, and the office for the RenewAll Main Street organization. RenewAll will develop a model for incubating and supporting more heritage tourism, arts, and cultural entrepreneurship in the Old Central City area. The project is expected to produce five plans/reports, serve 19 businesses, and improve six businesses.

Project Title: *Lewis County Greenways: A Feasibility Study*

Grantee: Lewis County Commission

Award Amount: \$40,680

Announcement Date: September 2021

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$40,680 to the Lewis County Commission in Weston, West Virginia, for *Lewis County Greenways: A Feasibility Study*. The study will investigate a greenway spanning Braxton, Harrison, and Lewis counties that would provide a people-oriented, non-motorized green pathway that connects historic sites, recreational assets, and business districts along a line of the three counties. The final study will engage local stakeholders and provide recommendations for trail alignment, implementation strategy,

budgeting, operations and maintenance, and construction phasing, as well as considerations for the placement of a future community recreation center.

Project Title: *State Use—Job Placement of Disability Community Expansion*

Grantee: West Virginia Association of Rehabilitation Facilities (WVARF)

Award Amount: \$40,312

Announcement Date: September 2021

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$40,312 to the West Virginia Association of Rehabilitation Facilities (WVARF) in Charleston, West Virginia, for *State Use—Job Placement of Disability Community Expansion* project. The project will conduct a statewide needs assessment and detailed economic impact study of the State Use Program, identifying state agency needs in order to expand community rehabilitation programs (CRPs) that provide workforce development, employment opportunities, and entrepreneurial support to citizens with disabilities and individuals in recovery from substance use disorder (SUD). With this planning grant, WVARF and its project partners will assist the 27 established CRPs across West Virginia, the SUD recovery community, and corporate partners in crafting the appropriate vocational training to develop a workforce that meets identified state agency needs.

Project Title: *Wayne County Phase 1 Broadband Fiber Project*

Grantee: Wayne County Commissioners

Award Amount: \$1,551,200

Announcement Date: December 2021

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$1,551,200 to Wayne County, West Virginia for the *Wayne County Phase 1 Broadband Fiber project*. Through this project, Wayne County will deploy 16.8 miles of middle-mile fiber stretching from Mountwest Community College to Wayne County's 911 center. The project will establish last-mile fiber-to-the-premises service in four underserved communities in northern Wayne County: Beech Fork, Marina, Lavalette and Ardel. This project is expected to serve up to 191 businesses, 4 communities and 796 households.

POWER Special Regional Projects (1 Award)

2021 Awards

Project Title: *Appalachian Investors Alliance: Capital Access and Impact*

Grantee: Appalachian Investors Alliance (AIA)

Award Amount: \$1,496,719

Announcement Date: September 2021

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$1,496,719 to the Appalachian Investors Alliance (AIA) in Knoxville, Tennessee, for the *Appalachian Investors Alliance: Capital Access and Impact* project. The project will create new access to capital by creating and supporting angel and micro-venture funds in small and growing Appalachian businesses across nine Appalachian states and 90 Appalachian counties. The project will organize more capital into angel and micro-venture funds, offer technical service support to improve effectiveness of investments, and provide targeted, investor-focused entrepreneurial education and development through instruction and mentoring. This project is expected to serve 100 businesses, 40 communities, and 300 participants; create 6 new businesses and 250 jobs; retain 548 jobs; and leverage \$52.3 million in private investment over three years.



POWER Project Summaries by State

Awarded October 2020

In October 2020, ARC invested \$43.3 million into Appalachia's coal-impacted communities via the POWER Initiative. These 51 projects will create/retain over 3,300 jobs, attract over \$110 million in leveraged private investment and be matched by \$81.5 million in additional public and private funds across the Region.

Alabama (1)

Project Title: *Rapid Training Center Expansion*

Grantee: Bevill State Community College

Award Amount: \$1,500,000

Announcement Date: October, 2020

ARC grant of \$1,500,000 to Bevill State Community College in Jasper, AL, for the *Rapid Training Center Expansion* project. The project will provide a range of expanded and accelerated workforce training programs that provide industry-recognized credentials for high-quality, in-demand jobs. It will renovate and expand an existing facility on the college's Hamilton campus. The project will also expand the college's training program offerings there to create a Rapid Training Center. The Center will be able to respond quickly to the changing workforce needs of local businesses. The project will also specifically support the expansion of welding and HVAC (heating, ventilation, and air conditioning) programs, for which there is considerable demand for trained workers in the area. The new Center will build a competitive workforce with employees who have skill sets that can also be used in advanced manufacturing and other in-demand jobs. The college will prepare and upskill 135 students and 40 workers/trainees for careers in HVAC and welding technology.

Kentucky (6)

Project Title: *Transitional Housing Facility*

Grantee: Mountain Comprehensive Health Corporation (MCHC)

Award Amount: \$1,500,000

Announcement Date: October, 2020

ARC grant of \$1,500,000 to Mountain Comprehensive Health Corporation (MCHC) in Whitesburg, KY for the *Transitional Housing Facility* project. The project includes the creation of 22 units of transitional housing for men who are in recovery from substance use disorders. Letcher County and its neighboring communities have been hard hit by both the

downturn in the coal economy and the substance use crisis. It is often impossible for people who have completed treatment to find safe, sober housing or the services that would help them return to the community. The project will renovate a former high school to create efficiency apartments. MCHC staff will work with community partners to coordinate healthcare, education, and other social supports for residents of the new facility. Residents will also receive job-skills training through collaboration with local program partners, including Southeast Kentucky Community and Technical College and the Eastern Kentucky Concentrated Employment Program, Inc. (EKCEP). The facility can serve 44 residents each year; approximately 28 are expected to reach at least two key milestones such as maintaining sobriety, finding a job, or furthering education. Seven jobs will be created for new staff members.

Project Title: *Dataseam K-12 IT Apprenticeship Expansion*

Grantee: Mountain Kentucky Dataseam Initiative, Inc.

Award Amount: \$1,500,000

Announcement Date: October, 2020

ARC grant of \$1,500,000 to Kentucky Dataseam Initiative, Inc., in Louisville, KY for the *Dataseam K-12 IT Apprenticeship Expansion* project. Dataseam will work with school districts in 20 Eastern Kentucky counties to deliver an information technology (IT) student apprenticeship program that includes paid IT jobs for students, hands-on coursework, on-the-job training, and vital technology infrastructure to communities for K-12 education. Dataseam will also help Morehead State University and the University of Louisville identify and recruit students into STEM education programs and STEM careers. Each student apprentice will earn two industry-standard IT certifications as part of earning a U.S. Department of Labor Information Technology Support Specialist Certificate. The program will operate under the supervision of the Kentucky Education and Workforce Cabinet. At least 60 student apprentices will continue their education and/or obtain employment and all 25 participating teachers/staff and 29 school districts will benefit.

Project Title: *Foothills Independent Transitional Living Center (FIT)*

Grantee: Foothills Academy, Inc.

Award Amount: \$1,500,000

Announcement Date: October, 2020

ARC grant of \$1,500,000 to Foothills Academy, Inc., in Albany, KY for the *Foothills Independent Transitional Living Center (FIT)*. The project will construct a Center to deliver transitional housing, training, case management, drug abuse prevention, and reemployment services to youth who age out of the child welfare system and have limited support networks to enter or reenter the workforce. The Center will be located adjacent to Somerset Community and Technical College with access to vocational and professional training, career counseling, and student supports. The FIT Living Center residents will be 16 young men and women, ages 18 to 21. Licensed therapists and case managers will provide key services. Partners include Somerset Community College, the Kentucky Cabinet for Families and Children, The Job Shop, and Lake Cumberland Area Development District. The project will give at-risk young adults the opportunity for upward mobility, building skills to further their education, maintain employment, and learn to live on their own with a healthy lifestyle and positive behaviors.

Project Title: *Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU)*

Grantee: *Saint Joseph London Foundation, Inc*

Award Amount: \$990,510

Announcement Date: October, 2020

ARC grant of \$990,510 to the Saint Joseph London Foundation, Inc., in London, KY to create a *Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU)* at Saint Joseph London Hospital. The new facility will have the capacity to serve 100 newborn babies each year and will enable the creation of 19 full-time jobs. London and surrounding areas of Kentucky have seen troubling increases in the number of babies born with neonatal abstinence syndrome (NAS), reflecting the prevalence of drug use among mothers and the lack of effective substance abuse prevention and treatment services. Few facilities offer NICU capabilities for NAS babies or others born with severe needs, and the nearest Level II NICU services are in Lexington or Pikeville. By establishing a neonatal intensive care unit, Saint Joseph Hospital will offer local specialized care for babies, improving treatment while reducing burdens on parents and families. The project will renovate a major area of the existing hospital and acquire equipment and supplies needed to establish a six-bed NICU.

Project Title: *Gateway Regional Workforce Development Plan*

Grantee: Gateway Area Development District

Award Amount: \$50,000

Announcement Date: October, 2020

ARC grant of \$50,000 to Gateway Area Development District in Morehead, KY for the *Gateway Regional Workforce Development Plan*. This technical assistance project will create a plan that identifies the area's primary economic sectors and potential emerging sectors that can provide sustainable economic growth and development. The plan will be used as a guide by key partners and community stakeholders to implement training and transition programs that will fill skillset gaps, aid the workforce in transitioning to other existing and emerging economic sectors, and expand the local workforce in a nine-county area.

Project Title: *Tiny House Manufacturing*

Grantee: Eastern Kentucky (EKY) Heritage Foundation, Inc

Award Amount: \$6,320

Announcement Date: October, 2020

ARC grant of \$6,320 to the Eastern Kentucky (EKY) Heritage Foundation, Inc., in Whitesburg, KY for the *Tiny House Manufacturing* project. The Foundation will conduct a feasibility study to determine the viability of providing vocational training to persons in addiction recovery care and hiring them to build tiny houses. A strategic plan will be based on the findings in the feasibility study. The study will be conducted in collaboration with HOMES, Inc., Fahe, and Addiction Recovery. By using the construction and distribution of tiny houses to support the drug and substance abuse post-treatment to employment continuum, tiny house manufacturing could serve as a model for second chance employment in the Region.

Maryland (1)

Project Title: *Feasibility Study for the Industrial Hemp Processing Industry*

Grantee: Western Maryland Resource Conservation & Development Council

Award Amount: \$50,000

Announcement Date: October, 2020

ARC grant of \$50,000 to the Western Maryland Resource Conservation & Development Council in Hagerstown, MD for a *Feasibility Study for the Industrial Hemp Processing Industry*. The project will conduct a feasibility study to determine the steps, conditions, and resources necessary to establish an industrial hemp processing facility that serves six counties in Maryland, West Virginia, and Pennsylvania. Industrial hemp shows promise for improving farm income, sustainability, community tax bases, and soil health in an area that has a strong agricultural history. As a result of the study, 100 businesses will be served and 10 businesses improved.

New York (2)

Project Title: *Allegany County-Wide Broadband*

Grantee: Southern Tier West Regional Planning and Development Board

Award Amount: \$426,304

Announcement Date: October, 2020

ARC grant of \$426,304 to the Southern Tier West Regional Planning and Development Board in Salamanca, NY for the *Allegany County-Wide Broadband* project. The project will install fixed wireless broadband equipment at 12 telecom sites in the county, offering 50 Mbps internet speeds to 2,879 households, 170 businesses, and 39 communities. Due to Allegany County's low population density and rugged terrain, the high cost to deploy traditional fiber broadband infrastructure has served as a barrier to expanding high-speed internet service in the area. As a result, households and businesses must rely on satellite internet, whose service is encumbered by low latency, unreliability, and data caps. The project will bring reliable high-speed wireless internet service to unserved and underserved areas of the county, enabling businesses to expand their supply chain and customer base and residents to take advantage of telemedicine and online learning opportunities.

Project Title: *Cayuga Data Juice–Broadband Connectivity*

Grantee: Tompkins County Area Development

Award Amount: \$404,170

Announcement Date: October, 2020

ARC grant of \$404,170 to Tompkins County Area Development in Ithaca, NY for the *Cayuga Data Juice–Broadband Connectivity Project*. This project will install a 17-mile fiber broadband trunk from Ithaca to the recently retired Cayuga coal plant in Lansing, NY. In partnership with Binghamton University and Beowulf Energy, this middle-mile broadband expansion will provide gigabit service to the proposed \$100 million Cayuga Data Center, a high-capacity data center with a strong focus on artificial intelligence and machine learning. The fiber will allow the data center to connect to the Southern Tier Network (STN), which has received

support through a previous POWER grant. The project will improve 2,134 businesses and serve 16,234 households within a two-mile radius of the proposed line. Matching funds are provided by Heorot Power Management and the grantee.

North Carolina (4)

Project Title: *French Broad EMC Fiber Deployment*

Grantee: French Broad Electric Membership Corporation (FBEMC)

Award Amount: \$1,939,814

Announcement Date: October, 2020

ARC grant of \$1,939,814 to the French Broad Electric Membership Corporation (FBEMC) in Marshall, North Carolina, for the *French Broad EMC Fiber Deployment* project. The project will deploy 120 miles of broadband fiber, which will serve 1,300 households, 44 businesses, and two communities in Unicoi County, Tennessee, and Madison County, North Carolina. The project will deploy high-speed fiber broadband to areas in and around Rocky Fork State Park (a major asset in the region) that currently lack access to broadband internet. FBEMC will use existing right-of-way to expand the infrastructure. The expansion of broadband in the area will create opportunities for economic development, telemedicine, and higher education attainment. Both counties were adversely affected when a decline in coal traffic led to the closure of a rail yard in Erwin, TN.

Project Title: *Creating a Textile and Furniture Circular*

Grantee: The Industrial Commons

Award Amount: \$977,850

Announcement Date: October, 2020

ARC grant of \$977,850 to The Industrial Commons in Morganton, NC for the *Creating a Textile and Furniture Circular Economy* project. The project will create a textile and furniture circular economy, marked by recycling, that supports small- to mid-size manufacturers in diversifying and expanding into new sustainable markets. The Industrial Commons, an interconnected web of employers, networks, and cooperatives, will expand operations of a waste aggregation site, initiate production of and demand for recycled yarn, create two new companies, and deliver innovative training programs. These training programs will include a focus on key business sectors such as business finance and entrepreneurship, and will offer skills training to those overcoming substance abuse issues. In addition to the creation of two new enterprises, the program will create 30 new jobs and improve five businesses and 360 participants. The project will result in \$1.175 million of leveraged private investment and will serve businesses in western North Carolina and upstate South Carolina. The project is the outgrowth of a feasibility study funded under a prior POWER grant.

Project Title: *Healthy and Connected Workforce Initiative*

Grantee: North Carolina Department of Information Technology (DIT)

Award Amount: \$633,940

Announcement Date: October, 2020

ARC grant of \$633,940 to the North Carolina Department of Information Technology (DIT) in Raleigh, NC for the *Healthy and Connected Workforce Initiative*. The project will enable DIT's Broadband Infrastructure Office and Office of Rural Health to develop a comprehensive program that will increase access to healthcare for vulnerable populations and disadvantaged groups while simultaneously increasing the economic viability and digital skills for residents seeking to re-enter the workforce and for those currently employed. Increasing access to quality healthcare through telehealth, broadband adoption, and increased digital literacy will both improve the health of residents and enhance their ability to actively participate in the local workforce. The project responds to findings in a year-long feasibility study completed by the project's partners with support from a previous POWER award. The project will improve 124 organizations, 235 patients, 135 households, and 180 participants throughout the grant's life cycle.

Project Title: *Collective Impact Strategies for Expanding Beginning Farmer Support and Training Strategic Plan*

Grantee: Organic Growers School, Inc

Award Amount: \$34,487

Announcement Date: October, 2020

ARC grant of \$34,487 to Organic Growers School, Inc., in Asheville, NC for the *Collective Impact Strategies for Expanding Beginning Farmer Support and Training Strategic Plan*. This project will support the creation of a plan to deploy entrepreneurship education programs and support systems for beginning farmers across Appalachia. The project represents a partnership between eight organizations across Appalachian Virginia, North Carolina, and Georgia. The strategic plan will identify potential partners, assets, and resources, and will provide a funding strategy to implement the strategic plan. The deployment of a multi-state coalition will create a strong network of beginning farmers and support organizations across the Appalachian agricultural and entrepreneurial ecosystem.

Ohio (7)

Project Title: *Social Enterprise Ecosystem Impact (SEE Impact)*

Grantee: Foundation for Appalachian Ohio

Award Amount: \$1,498,637

Announcement Date: October, 2020

ARC grant of \$1,498,637 to the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio in Nelsonville, OH for *Social Enterprise Ecosystem Impact (SEE Impact)*. Through technical assistance, outreach, and the formation of an investment fund, SEE Impact will grow the capital resources available to fund social enterprises in Appalachian Ohio and West Virginia. Social enterprises are an underserved entrepreneurial sector that comprises a significant portion of the Appalachian economy. This project will create additional capital opportunities for social enterprises and

improve social impact investor recruitment. Using the Social Return on Investment (SROI) methodology, which was developed and refined by Ohio University under prior POWER grants, SEE Impact will provide angel and venture capital investors quantitative measures of social impact in financial terms, facilitating “triple bottom line” investment opportunities in Appalachian social enterprises. The new investment fund will be capitalized at \$1 million. As a result of this project, 120 businesses, 45 communities, and 80 participants will be served; 60 businesses, 45 communities and 20 participants will be improved; 25 businesses and 55 jobs will be created; and \$17 million of total private investment will be leveraged. Ohio University will be a key partner in the project.

Project Title: *Youngstown SMART² Network*

Grantee: Eastgate Council of Governments

Award Amount: \$1,450,000

Announcement Date: October, 2020

ARC grant of \$1,450,000 to the Eastgate Council of Governments in Youngstown, OH for the *Youngstown SMART² Network*. The project will install over 10 miles of fiber conduit in downtown Youngstown as the first step toward establishing a broadband network that can support businesses, healthcare, education, and residents working and learning remotely. The SMART Network is a collection of infrastructure improvements designed to revitalize the Youngstown central business district. It will help reverse decades of outward migration and disinvestment by providing the basic infrastructure needed to support and attract business. The project will capitalize on over \$50 million in recent public and private investments. Matching funds are being provided through a BUILD grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation, a surface transportation block grant, Youngstown State University, Mercy Health, and other public and private partners. The conduit is projected to serve 212 business locations and create 119 new jobs.

Project Title: *Vinton & Meigs County Rural Broadband Initiative*

Grantee: Vinton County Commissioners

Award Amount: \$1,180,000

Announcement Date: October, 2020

ARC grant of \$1,180,000 to the Vinton County Commissioners in McArthur, OH for the *Vinton & Meigs County Rural Broadband Initiative*. The project will place three communication towers in rural Vinton and Meigs counties. The towers will be used to provide wireless broadband service to unserved areas in the counties. Using a 70 percent penetration rate, it is estimated that 28 businesses and 280 households will have access to 25/3 broadband service. COVID-19 has demonstrated the need for employees working from home to be able to access their work environment remotely. Students likewise need to be able to access virtual learning opportunities. In the more remote areas of Vinton and Meigs Counties targeted by this project, this access is currently not available. The project is an outgrowth of an earlier technical assistance POWER grant that demonstrated the feasibility of the project.

Project Title: Appalachian Growth Capital (AGC)

Grantee: CDFI for Appalachian Ohio

Award Amount: \$1,000,000

Announcement Date: October, 2020

ARC grant of \$1,000,000 to Appalachian Growth Capital (AGC) in Nelsonville, OH for the *CDFI for Appalachian Ohio* project. The project will enable AGC, a community development financial institution (CDFI), to expand access to capital for small businesses in Appalachian Ohio through technical assistance to potential business borrowers and by increasing the capital available in AGC's loan fund. AGC will assist businesses in improving their business plans, becoming bankable, finding other sources of funding, and solving critical issues facing them. It will leverage \$750,000 of grant funds to attract \$2.25 million in private investment in AGC's loan fund. The project will strengthen entrepreneurship in Southeast Ohio, helping diversify an economy that has been heavily dependent on coal. The project will serve 300 businesses, improve 150 businesses, create 180 jobs, retain 360 jobs, leverage \$29,250,000 in total private investment in the region (including borrower commitments), and create 15 new businesses. The project builds on a previous POWER grant that helped create AGC.

Project Title: Appalachian Center for Economic Networks (ACENet)

Grantee: *Building the Wood Bridge: A Forest, to Product, to Market Value Chain.*

Award Amount: \$514,827

Announcement Date: October, 2020

ARC grant of \$514,827 to the Appalachian Center for Economic Networks (ACENet) in Athens, OH for *Building the Wood Bridge: A Forest, to Product, to Market Value Chain*. Taking advantage of the economic opportunities in Southeast Ohio offered by value-added, hardwood manufactured products, the project will accelerate small business startup and development in this sector by way of three broad activities. It will provide training and technical assistance to land owners, hardwood sector startups, established hardwood entrepreneurs, and students enrolled in accredited hardwood sector programs. It will encourage the formation of new partnerships for value chain coordination in the forest and hardwood products sectors. It will foster expanded investment in the infrastructure and equipment for the ACENet Nelsonville Business Center and Hocking College Maker Network to scale production and diversify product lines. Key partners include Rural Action, Hocking College, and the Central Appalachian Network. The project is expected to help create 25 new jobs, create 15 new businesses, and leverage \$500,000 in new private investment. The project builds upon an earlier POWER investment targeted to Ohio's hardwood forest products sector.

Project Title: Noble County Commissioners

Grantee: *Noble County Broadband Technical Assistance*

Award Amount: \$50,000

Announcement Date: October, 2020

ARC grant of \$50,000 to the Noble County Commissioners in Caldwell, OH for the *Noble County Broadband Technical Assistance* project. The project will determine the feasibility of broadband expansion available to Noble County. According to the 2020 Connected Nation Ohio broadband study, Noble County is the least connected in Appalachian Ohio, with only 58 percent of residents able to access broadband services of 25/3 Mbps. A blueprint for

expanding broadband access will help community leaders and stakeholders to acquire additional funding and will determine strategies to provide more equitable internet access and connectivity.

Project Title: *Energy Storage Road Map for Appalachian Ohio, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia*

Grantee: Tech Belt Energy Innovation Center

Award Amount: \$49,950

Announcement Date: October, 2020

ARC grant of \$49,950 to the Tech Belt Energy Innovation Center in Warren, OH for the *Energy Storage Road Map for Appalachian Ohio, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia* project. Identifying energy storage assets in Ohio, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia, the project's study will be an analysis and framework for leveraging the burgeoning energy storage cluster in the tri-state area with an emphasis on coal-impacted areas. The study will outline key assets in energy storage for grid generation, transportation, and consumer electronics. It will provide the groundwork needed to create entrepreneurial and business development strategies within the energy storage cluster. The study is specific to strengthening the supply chain for energy-tech, an industrial cluster, which enables the region to compete in the global economy.

Pennsylvania (13)

Project Title: *4-County Central Pennsylvania Rural Broadband Deployment Implementation project*

Grantee: Union County

Award Amount: \$2,500,000

Announcement Date: October, 2020

ARC grant of \$2,500,000 to Union County in Lewisburg, PA for the *4-County Central Pennsylvania Rural Broadband Deployment Implementation project*. The project will bring high-speed broadband service to four locations in four underserved counties in Pennsylvania. One site will be served in each of the following counties: Clinton, Lycoming, Union, and Northumberland. It is expected that 20 businesses and 270 households will initially be served by the new infrastructure. An earlier broadband feasibility study, funded by a POWER grant, identified appropriate areas where broadband deployment could address access issues that have negatively affected business competitiveness. Matching funds are being provided by the Susquehanna Economic Development Association Council of Governments (SEDA-COG) Revolving Loan Fund and partnering internet service providers.

Project Title: Wayne County

Grantee: *Wayne County Recovery-to-Work Facility*

Award Amount: \$1,500,000

Announcement Date: October, 2020

ARC grant of \$1,500,000 to Wayne County in Honesdale, PA for the *Wayne County Recovery-to-Work Facility*, a multi-faceted effort that will improve the integration of services for people

with substance use disorders or other mental health conditions. Once completed, this cluster of services is expected to serve 1,720 patients each year; 64 jobs will be created for new employees. The project will construct a cluster of buildings adjacent to SCI Waymart, which will house drug and alcohol detox and rehabilitation services, behavioral health services, sober living recovery housing, and administrative space. Services will be provided by licensed agencies under contract with the county. Clients will also have access to skills training and job placement programs that are tailored for people in recovery, with active engagement from local employers and entrepreneurs. This development of a local recovery ecosystem is expected to improve outcomes for patients and the community. Wayne County will provide matching funds for the project.

Project Title: Crawford County

Grantee: *Erie to Pittsburgh Trail-PAWilds Loop Trail Construction*

Award Amount: \$1,500,000

Announcement Date: October, 2020

ARC grant of \$1,500,000 to Crawford County in Meadville, PA for the *Erie to Pittsburgh Trail-PAWilds Loop Trail Construction* project—*Phase I*. The project will construct 18.2 miles of key trail segments in the Erie to Pittsburgh Trail and the PA Wilds Loop trail network. It will attract more than 50,000 day and overnight visitors to the region annually, generating \$1.4 million in direct visitor spending and support the creation of 15 new jobs. The Erie to Pittsburgh Trail (EPT) is a planned 270-mile network of trails that will connect the Erie waterfront to Point State Park in Pittsburgh. The Pennsylvania Wilds Loop is a 220-mile network of trails spanning the Pennsylvania Wilds region. A study to prioritize the uncompleted sections of each trail system was released in 2019. The project will complete segments with maximum economic impact to the communities through which they pass. Long-distance trails built along former railroad corridors can bring stable economic benefits to communities that previously relied on a diminishing extractive economy. State sources will provide \$1,753,000 and local sources will provide \$130,050.

Project Title: Pennsylvania State University

Grantee: *Enhancing the Tri-State Entrepreneurial Ecosystem Through the Innovation Beehive Network.*

Award Amount: \$1,499,225

Announcement Date: October, 2020

ARC grant of \$1,499,225 to Pennsylvania State University in University Park, PA for *Enhancing the Tri-State Entrepreneurial Ecosystem Through the Innovation Beehive Network*. The Innovation Beehive Network—a partnership between Penn State's Behrend campus in Erie, Edinboro University, Gannon University, and Mercyhurst University—will leverage the institutional strengths of its members to provide no-cost services to businesses and entrepreneurs using faculty, students, and research capabilities to enhance economic growth across Pennsylvania, Ohio, and the southern tier of New York. The Beehive seeks to create a vibrant entrepreneurial innovation ecosystem, increasing new start-up and scale-up businesses and improving economic outcomes by providing access to university resources. The project will expand the Beehive's service area, spur new successful businesses, protect and secure current ones, and lower the barriers to success for entrepreneurs and intrapreneurs. As a result of this project, 90 businesses, 18 communities, 100 participants, and 100 students will be served; 70 businesses, 15 communities, 90 participants, and 90 students

will be improved; 15 businesses and 20 jobs will be created; and \$500,000 in private investment will be leveraged.

Project Title: *Startup Alleghenies Ecosystem*

Grantee: JARI Growth Fund, Inc.

Award Amount: \$1,281,900

Announcement Date: October, 2020

ARC grant of \$1,281,900 to JARI Growth Fund, Inc., in Johnstown, PA for the *Startup Alleghenies Ecosystem* project. Through a combination of technical assistance to small businesses and leveraged investment capital, the project will strengthen a vibrant entrepreneurial ecosystem in the Southern Alleghenies region of Pennsylvania. The project will create the Startup Alleghenies Microloan Fund, a flexible, gap financing resource for entrepreneurial enterprises. It will provide other key aspects of an entrepreneurial ecosystem by offering business technical assistance through business coaches and providing access to entrepreneurial spaces such as “makerspaces,” co-working spaces, and commercial kitchen incubators. Other components include networking and highlighting the robust set of business support services across the region. The project will provide \$1 million in capital for the Microloan Fund, attracting \$3 million in private capital. The project will serve 540 businesses, improve 170 businesses, create 300 jobs, and create 25 new businesses. The project builds on the work of the Southern Alleghenies Planning & Development Commission in developing and launching Start-Up Alleghenies, which has been supported by two previous POWER grants.

Project Title: *Reboot Workforce Program: Recovery at Work in Central Pennsylvania*

Grantee: Central Pennsylvania Workforce Development Corporation

Award Amount: \$1,018,500

Announcement Date: October, 2020

ARC grant of \$1,018,500 to the Central Pennsylvania Workforce Development Corporation (CPWDC) in Lewisburg, PA for the *Reboot Workforce Program: Recovery at Work in Central Pennsylvania*. The CPWDC, in partnership with Geisinger Health and Susquehanna Economic Development Association Council of Governments (SEDA-COG), will build a recovery ecosystem and a ready workforce by increasing labor participation rates of individuals who have opted out of the workforce because of their addiction to opioids. CPWDC will also provide solutions to address the opioid crisis in Central Pennsylvania by expanding access to treatment services using telemedicine, providing workforce preparation and training services to individuals in recovery, and connecting individuals with businesses that are “recovery friendly.” SEDA-COG and the PA CareerLink Business Service Teams will identify employers that are already recovery-friendly and assist other businesses to become recovery-friendly to increase their pool of workforce talent. The project will improve 250 patients, 30 businesses, and 120 worker/trainees, as well as create three new telemedicine sites for persons in recovery.

Project Title: *Building a Peer Support Workforce in Pennsylvania*

Grantee: Pennsylvania Peer Support Coalition

Award Amount: \$1,000,000

Announcement Date: October, 2020

ARC grant of \$1,000,000 to the Pennsylvania Peer Support Coalition in Lancaster, PA for the *Building a Peer Support Workforce in Pennsylvania* project. The Pennsylvania Peer Support Coalition will train and develop a sustainable, ready workforce of new Certified Peer Specialists and create regional Recovery Ecosystem Coalitions to support them in serving individuals in recovery from substance abuse. Additional existing Certified Peer Specialists will participate in the newly created Coalitions to add value to the current workforce of specialists across Appalachian Pennsylvania. The project will assist in linking the new Certified Peer Specialists to potential employers in their area. At least 200 new Certified Peer Specialists will obtain employment and 500 specialists currently working in the field will enhance their positions. An estimated 40 businesses will be improved through new hires and 10 Recovery Ecosystem Coalitions will be created. Partners include the Pennsylvania Mental Health Consumers Association, the Copeland Center for Wellness and Recovery, the Pennsylvania Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services Mental Health Planning Council, and Clarion University.

Project Title: *REAL Jobs in Energy & Manufacturing*

Grantee: Catalyst Connection

Award Amount: \$994,883

Announcement Date: October, 2020

ARC grant of \$994,883 to Catalyst Connection in Pittsburgh, PA, for the *REAL Jobs in Energy & Manufacturing* project. The project is expected to help create 272 new jobs and leverage \$5 million in new private investment. A previous POWER grantee, Catalyst Connection serves as the Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) Center for southwestern Pennsylvania. Focusing on the energy and manufacturing sectors, Catalyst Connection will undertake and coordinate new workforce development activities across a 12-county region with established partner networks. Components of the program are organized into four parts: 1) recruitment and provision of pre-employment training; 2) placement of manufacturing workers with engaged and supported employers; 3) training incumbent workers through on-the-job and apprenticeship programs; and 4) provision of real-time data on employment demand and project analysis. Matching funds are provided by several public and private sector entities, including Chevron Corporation, the Richard King Mellon Foundation, the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development, and the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation.

Project Title: *Road to Recovery and Reemployment*

Grantee: Allegheny Health Network

Award Amount: \$946,000

Announcement Date: October, 2020

ARC grant of \$946,000 to Allegheny Health Network in Pittsburgh, PA for the *Road to Recovery and Reemployment* project. Allegheny Health Network has partnered with the Pennsylvania Orthopedic Society, Rothman Institute Foundation for Opioid Research and Education, and pain prescribers across Appalachian Pennsylvania to implement a series of

opioid-based continuing medical education (CME) events. These events include opioid-focused symposia for scientists, providers, and guest lecturers; educational events for students in orthopedic residency; and webinars for health providers, students, residents, extenders, and staff. The project will focus particularly on those counties with the highest rates of opioid overdose (Fayette, Westmoreland, and Armstrong). The project is expected to serve 40 rural practices, improve treatment for 320 patients, and improve 120 medical providers. Additional funding for the project is being provided by the Pennsylvania Orthopedic Society.

Project Title: *Recovery to Reemployment (Remote Monitoring)*

Grantee: Fayette County

Award Amount: \$917,368

Announcement Date: October, 2020

ARC grant of \$917,368 to Fayette County in Uniontown, PA for the *Recovery to Reemployment (Remote Monitoring)* project. Fayette County will create a robust telemedicine program to address substance use disorder, COVID-19, and chronic conditions facing communities in four coal-impacted counties in Southwest Pennsylvania (Cambria, Fayette, Greene, and Washington). The program will increase access and treatment of substance use disorders using a chronic care management approach combined with remote patient monitoring, where the patient is monitored 24 hours a day via the Virtual Care Center. The goal, by connecting patients to treatment services, is a reduction in fatal overdose deaths, and the return of patients to a lifestyle of work and family support, while remaining compliant with the drug-court treatment programs. The program leverages improved patient outcomes by increasing medication adherence and improving access to treatment centers, while resulting in savings to the county justice and recovery systems. It will improve five organizations, 200 patients, and 320 workers/trainees, as well as create five new telecom sites and five jobs.

Project Title: *Critical Infrastructure Workforce Academy (CIWA) Phase I*

Grantee: Armstrong County

Award Amount: \$750,000

Announcement Date: October, 2020

ARC grant of \$750,000 to Armstrong County in Kittanning, PA for the *Critical Infrastructure Workforce Academy (CIWA) Phase I* project. The project will construct a facility to house “critical infrastructure” training programs. The CIWA is a regional training program conceived through a strategic planning effort after participation in the National Association of Counties (NACO) Innovation Challenge for Coal-Reliant Communities and a subsequent feasibility study funded through a prior POWER grant. The CIWA facility will utilize virtual/augmented reality technology alongside traditional classroom instruction to train high school, technical school, and community college graduates. The proposed facility in Northpointe will enable the overarching CIWA project to expand the expected number of classes and programs. Ultimately, this project will serve 1,300 trainees and 60 new classes. The facility will be part of a 20-acre Critical Infrastructure Workforce Academy simulation city project.

Project Title: *Pennsylvania LDDAP Statewide Broadband Initiative*

Grantee: North Central Pennsylvania Regional Planning and Development Commission

Award Amount: \$600,000

Announcement Date: October, 2020

ARC grant of \$600,000 to the North Central Pennsylvania Regional Planning and Development Commission in Ridgway, PA for the *Pennsylvania LDDAP Statewide Broadband Initiative*. The project, in partnership with Pennsylvania's other six local development districts (LDDs) in the Appalachian Region, will help communities assess strategies and associated costs for deploying broadband in unserved areas. It will also facilitate broadband deployment activities, including the installation of fixed wireless broadband equipment and the partnership with existing internet providers to expand broadband service into target areas. The project will serve 425 businesses, 1,700 households, and 13 communities. Additional funding is being provided by the U.S. Economic Development Administration and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Project Title: *Penn Highlands Healthcare Behavioral Health Hospital*

Grantee: City of DuBois

Award Amount: \$500,000

Announcement Date: October, 2020

ARC grant of \$500,000 to the City of DuBois in DuBois, PA for the *Penn Highlands Healthcare Behavioral Health Hospital* project. The project will construct a stand-alone behavioral health hospital as part of the eight-building construction/renovation project started by Penn Highlands Healthcare. This project will serve patients suffering from drug and alcohol addiction and behavioral health issues, and/or use medication-assisted treatment (MAT). The facility will include the addition of a psychiatric urgent care center and acute psychiatric care for children and adolescents, along with an extended sub-acute unit for at-risk children and adolescents. The project will help expand the adult inpatient unit by 14 beds. The new behavioral health facility is expected to serve 3,200 patients a year and create 163 jobs. Additional funding for the project is provided by Pennsylvania's Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program.

Tennessee (2)

Project Title: *Northern Unicoi County Broadband*

Grantee: Erwin Utilities

Award Amount: \$400,333

Announcement Date: October, 2020

ARC grant of \$400,333 to Erwin Utilities in Erwin, TN for the *Northern Unicoi County Broadband project*. This broadband expansion project will provide gigabit service to Unicoi County residents and businesses that are not currently served by a broadband or cable provider. Over 17 miles of fiber will be placed on Erwin Utilities' existing power poles. Broadband expansion will enable the northern area of Unicoi County to offset the county's topographical and geographical hurdles to economic development, resulting in the creation of new businesses, increased access to teleworking opportunities, and greater opportunities

for remote learning. After the fiber installation, this project will serve eight businesses and 95 residents in the short term, with growth expected in the next three years. Unicoi County has been adversely affected by the closure of a major rail yard as a result of the decline in coal shipments.

Project Title: *Northeast Tennessee Regional Outdoor Development Strategic Plan*

Grantee: Northeast Tennessee Regional Foundation for Economic Development, Innovation, and Outdoor Recreation (NETRF)

Award Amount: \$44,450

Announcement Date: October, 2020

ARC grant of \$44,450 to Northeast Tennessee Regional Foundation for Economic Development, Innovation, and Outdoor Recreation (NETRF) in Johnson City, TN for the *Northeast Tennessee Regional Outdoor Development Strategic Plan*. The strategic plan will support Phase II of NETRF's regional Outdoor Master Plan. NETRF will gather data on local asset utilization from tourism and outdoor recreation and will recommend best practices for outdoor branding. The Outdoor Master Plan will ultimately encourage environmental stewardship of public land and prioritize investment in the natural assets in the Northeast Tennessee region.

Virginia (6)

Project Title: *Site Improvements at Commonwealth Crossing Business Centre (CCBC)*

Grantee: Henry County

Award Amount: \$1,500,000

Announcement Date: October, 2020

ARC grant of \$1,500,000 to Henry County in Collinsville, VA for the *Site Improvements at Commonwealth Crossing Business Centre (CCBC)* project. This project will complete a steel natural gas pipeline from the Patriot Line to the Commonwealth Crossing Business Centre (CCBC) and associated facilities. Lack of a direct natural gas line has been cited as a significant recruitment and job-creation weakness for the CCBC. The CCBC is a key component of the county's transition from a mineral-extraction-based economy to a manufacturing economy that seeks to incorporate aviation, automotive, food processing, and advanced film production as sectors in a more diversified local economy. By installing a pipeline that can deliver a maximum natural gas volume of four million standard cubic feet per hour, this infrastructure improvement will expand the area's opportunities for large, transformational projects. The project will serve a facility that has already created over 200 jobs and will enable more companies to move jobs into CBCC and the surrounding area. Key partners include the Harvest Foundation and Southwest Virginia Gas Company.

Project Title: *Pathways to a Strong and Healthy Region*

Grantee: New River/Mount Rogers Workforce Development Area Consortium Board

Award Amount: \$1,494,000

Announcement Date: October, 2020

ARC grant of \$1,494,000 to the New River/Mount Rogers Workforce Development Area Consortium Board in Radford, VA for the *Pathways to a Strong and Healthy Region* project. This project will create a recovery-ready region by collectively tackling the full range of the substance abuse disorder (SUD) problem. Project partners will address the lack of coordination between the economic and workforce development sectors and the healthcare and human service sectors in addressing SUD as an economic development issue. This coordination will help the region create continuity among support services, sustain long-term recovery for individuals, and scale efforts for greater impact on the individual/family, business/industry, and the region. The result will be a strong regional recovery ecosystem. The project will serve 350 workers in recovery and 30 workers in the healthcare/human services sector as well as 150 businesses. Additional support is being provided by the grantee, Eagles Nest Regeneration, and Ballad Health.

Project Title: *Southwest Virginia Medication-Assisted Treatment Services*

Grantee: St. Mary's Health Wagon (The Health Wagon)

Award Amount: \$793,500

Announcement Date: October, 2020

\$793,500 grant to St. Mary's Health Wagon (The Health Wagon), in Wise, VA for the *Southwest Virginia Medication-Assisted Treatment Services* project. The project will establish a substance use treatment program that complements the region's existing services. Southwest Virginia has been hit hard by the downturn in the coal economy and the concurrent epidemic of substance use disorder. Community organizations have been leaders in identifying and implementing services that prevent and treat substance use issues, and they seek to offer an alternative to existing medication-assisted treatment services. The proposed service will be based at the Appalachian Center for Healthcare Excellence, a family practice clinic in Coeburn, VA. The Southwest Virginia Medication-Assisted Treatment Services Project is expected to create four jobs and serve 75 patients in its first year of operation. In the future, the program will have the capacity to serve approximately 150 patients each year.

Project Title: *Tri-State Broadband Infrastructure Feasibility Study*

Grantee: LENOWISCO Planning District Commission

Award Amount: \$50,000

Announcement Date: October, 2020

ARC grant of \$50,000 to LENOWISCO Planning District Commission in Duffield, VA, for the *Tri-State Broadband Infrastructure Feasibility Study*. The project will create a plan to establish a fiber-optic network in a 13-county region of Kentucky, Tennessee, and Virginia. The LENOWISCO Planning District Commission (which comprises the Virginia counties of Lee, Wise, and Scott and the City of Norton) will convene stakeholders and determine the region's critical Network Access Points to connect households and businesses to other nearby regional networks. Currently, only 64 percent of households in this service area have

access to high-speed internet. After establishing a fiber-optic network, the multi-county region will be marketed for data center development.

Project Title: *Virginia Rural Leaders Institute (VRLI)*

Grantee: Center for Rural Virginia

Award Amount: \$39,755

Announcement Date: October, 2020

ARC grant of \$39,755 to the Center for Rural Virginia in Richmond, VA for the *Virginia Rural Leaders Institute (VRLI)*. The project will fill a gap in civic leadership development for rural communities in Virginia. VRLI will deliver a robust curriculum involving leadership, community, and economic development competencies to community leaders throughout Southwestern Virginia. Community leaders will be convened over a series of four sessions throughout the region. The first VRLI will graduate 30 leaders and create a state-wide rural network to strengthen rural development at the local level.

Project Title: *New River Water Trail Expansion Strategic Plan*

Grantee: New River Valley Regional Commission

Award Amount: \$32,940

Announcement Date: October, 2020

ARC grant of \$32,940 to New River Valley Regional Commission in Fairlawn, VA for the *New River Water Trail Expansion Strategic Plan*. The project will develop a plan to cultivate natural assets around the New River to increase talent attraction, tourism, and job growth. The strategic plan will formulate a strategy to improve river accessibility and trail signage, provide a market analysis of user groups and potential partners, and create a marketing strategy for the water trail. The strategic plan will develop an expansion model that can be applied throughout Virginia and its surrounding Appalachian states.

West Virginia (7)

Project Title: *Thundercloud Gigabit City Deployment*

Grantee: Thundercloud, Inc

Award Amount: \$2,353,788

Announcement Date: October, 2020

ARC grant of \$2,353,788 to Thundercloud, Inc., in Huntington, WV for the *Thundercloud Gigabit City Deployment project*. The project will support approximately 25 miles of fiber construction to create a fiber loop that will connect Barboursville to downtown Huntington and deploy a robust last-mile underground fiber ring linking businesses and anchor institutions to gigabit speed infrastructure. Once fully operational, it is estimated 500 businesses will utilize the fiber ring. It will be part of a larger planned broadband network in the nine-county Advantage Valley region. The loop will also connect to the Thundercloud Data Center, which is planned for a federally designated Opportunity Zone and is benefitting from a prior POWER grant to Opportunity Appalachia. The center will provide state-of-the-art, secure, dual-redundant, high-capacity data storage and cloud computing capacity for the greater Huntington region. Large anchor institutions are likely candidates to use the data

center services. The center would also connect to the established state-of-the-art data center in South Charleston. Thundercloud will boost telehealth and telelearning progress, drive new economic development, serve downtown and technology park businesses seeking better broadband access, and upgrade four key Huntington municipal and public safety facilities.

Project Title: *Creating Communities of Healings by Cultivating Businesses to Address the Opioid Crisis*

Grantee: Region 4 Planning and Development Council

Award Amount: \$1,499,894

Announcement Date: October, 2020

ARC grant of \$1,499,894 to the Region 4 Planning and Development Council in Summersville, WV for *Creating Communities of Healings by Cultivating Businesses to Address the Opioid Crisis*. The Region 4 Planning and Development Council—in partnership with Seed Sower, Inc., Fruits of Labor, Wright Venture Services, the WV Hive, and Workforce WV Region 1—will create a program that strengthens the recovery-to-work ecosystem in southern West Virginia through the growth of social entrepreneurship in the food sector. This work will encourage businesses to meet the needs of communities coping with the opioid crisis by creating a “social impact hub” that offers cohort-based training for food-based businesses and entrepreneurs seeking to invest in the social mission of recovery. The cultivation of businesses and entrepreneurs to address the opioid crisis in Appalachia is a key component in improving the response to substance use disorder. The project takes advantage of entrepreneurship resources supported by a prior POWER grant to the WV Hive. As a result of the project, 75 businesses, 30 workers/trainees, and 150 participants will be served; 30 businesses, 20 workers/trainees, and 100 participants will be improved; nine jobs will be created; and \$500,000 in private investment will be leveraged.

Project Title: *Tri-State Aviation Maintenance Technician Start-Up*

Grantee: Region II Development Council

Award Amount: \$1,360,852

Announcement Date: October, 2020

ARC grant of \$1,360,852 to the Region II Development Council in Huntington, WV for the *Tri-State Aviation Maintenance Technician Start-Up*. The project will fill the growing need for aviation maintenance technicians to support the burgeoning aerospace industry in West Virginia, Ohio, and Kentucky, helping diversify the regional economy. Marshall University will offer a new Aviation Maintenance Technician (AMT) Program that will prepare individuals for aviation maintenance careers. Students will earn an Applied Associate of Science degree to be jointly awarded by Marshall University and Mountwest Community and Technical College. This dual degree option will be the first of its kind in Appalachia. Within three years of the project's completion, at least 105 students and 43 workers/trainees will have obtained new jobs or enhanced their current employment or still be enrolled in the program. And at least 95 businesses will have been improved by hiring these students and workers/trainees. Other major funding is being provided by the U.S. Economic Development Administration.

Project Title: *Strengthening Substance Abuse Recovery Ecosystems to Provide a Healthy and Ready Workforce*

Grantee: Southern Highlands Community Mental Health Center (SHCMHC)

Award Amount: \$480,000

Announcement Date: October, 2020

ARC grant of \$480,000 to Southern Highlands Community Mental Health Center (SHCMHC) in Princeton, West Virginia, for the *Strengthening Substance Abuse Recovery Ecosystems to Provide a Healthy and Ready Workforce* project. This project will implement a peer navigator/recovery coach (PN/RC) model that provides outreach and linkage to integrated care for substance use disorder (SUD), mental health, and drug-use-related chronic infections. SHCMHC, which serves McDowell, Wyoming, and Mercer counties, will employ PN/RCs to reach persons with SUD through existing programs that respond to overdoses, provide syringe services, and via self-referral. This model will build a strong local recovery ecosystem by linking existing medical treatment with job training and assistance for entering the workforce. Through the project, 150 individuals with SUD will complete treatment, and 60 former individuals with substance use disorder will be gainfully employed.

Project Title: *Creating a Sustainable Volunteer Trail Maintenance Program: A Key Requirement for Achieving Economic Development through Recreational Tourism*

Grantee: Appalachian Forest Heritage Area, Inc

Award Amount: \$50,000

Announcement Date: October, 2020

ARC grant of \$50,000 to Appalachian Forest Heritage Area, Inc., in Elkins, WV for *Creating a Sustainable Volunteer Trail Maintenance Program: A Key Requirement for Achieving Economic Development through Recreational Tourism*. The project will develop a business plan for a volunteer trail maintenance center and program. Elements of the business plan will include community leadership initiatives, local partnerships, relationships with businesses that benefit from recreational tourism, growing a funding base, delivering trail maintenance training, a volunteer management system, and a communications/marketing plan for the program and center. These elements will provide tourist trail maintenance at low cost while connecting each community to its surrounding natural assets, thereby strengthening the area's recreation-based businesses. Matching funds are provided by the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation.

Project Title: *Wheeling Heritage Gateway Initiative*

Grantee: Wheeling National Heritage Area Corporation (WNHAC)

Award Amount: \$50,000

Announcement Date: October, 2020

ARC grant of \$50,000 to Wheeling National Heritage Area Corporation (WNHAC) in Wheeling, WV, for the *Wheeling Heritage Gateway Initiative*. The project will conduct a feasibility study, including the creation of an economic and technical feasibility strategy, to transform four key sites along Wheeling's Main Street into a unified "heritage gateway" for the downtown core. The centerpiece of the heritage gateway will be a new Wheeling Heritage Center that includes a multiuse visitors center, heritage museum, and events venue. The "heritage gateway" will reinvigorate the downtown, support regional job creation, and attract new visitors and businesses.

Project Title: *Aero-Ready in Southern WV*

Grantee: New River Gorge Regional Development Authority

Award Amount: \$50,000

Announcement Date: October, 2020

ARC grant of \$50,000 to the New River Gorge Regional Development Authority in Beckley, WV, for *Aero-Ready in Southern WV*. This project will craft a strategic plan, including cost analysis, to create and implement a workforce training and education curriculum to support the aerospace industry in southern West Virginia. It will identify gaps in the existing aerospace programming currently serving West Virginia, work with the Federal Aviation Administration, and present an implementation plan for a workforce training and degree curriculum between New River Community and Technical College and WVU Tech.

Special Regional Projects (2)

Project Title: *ARC/National Institutes of Health Interagency Agreement: Year 4*

Grantee: National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) at the National Institutes of Health (NIH)

Award Amount: \$750,000

Announcement Date: October, 2020

ARC grant of \$750,000 to the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) for continued collaborative research with other federal partners, including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), on effective interventions for opioid use disorders and related disease in rural Appalachian coal communities. This is the fourth year of support for this initiative. New funding will allow the University of Kentucky to continue implementing clinical programs focused on formerly incarcerated people who use drugs. The ultimate result of this collective research will be the establishment of evidence-based practices that effectively address Appalachia's recovery ecosystem.

Project Title: *Creating a Regional Network of Collegiate Recovery Programs Feasibility Study*

Grantee: Appalachian College Association

Award Amount: \$40,713

Announcement Date: October, 2020

ARC grant of \$40,713 to the Appalachian College Association in Bristol, TN, for the *Creating a Regional Network of Collegiate Recovery Programs Feasibility Study*. The study will create a plan to implement Collegiate Recovery Programs (CRP) on five college campuses in Appalachia: Bethany College and University of Charleston in West Virginia; Union College and University of Pikeville in Kentucky; and Lincoln Memorial University in Tennessee. Planning work will engage a network of teams from each college to develop an implementation model for integrating recovery, degree attainment, and job placement programs into a cohesive CRP for individuals with substance use disorders. The proposed CRPs will enhance the recovery ecosystem in five Appalachian communities, increasing the likelihood that individuals in recovery will graduate from college and enhance their labor force participation.



APPALACHIAN REGIONAL COMMISSION

POWER AWARDS, OCTOBER 2019

A complete list of all ARC POWER awards is available at www.arc.gov/power

ALABAMA

\$774,912 ARC grant to Tombigbee Electric Cooperative Inc. (TEC) in Hamilton, AL for the *Northwest Alabama Revitalization* project. This project will implement a fiber optic network providing broadband service to areas of Fayette, Franklin, Lamar, Marion, and Winston Counties. More than 925 unserved businesses will have the opportunity to obtain high-speed broadband service, while 30,495 households will potentially benefit from fiber-to-the-premise access. The project capitalizes on an overall expected investment of \$60 million from private and public sources and will enable service expansion to 116,000 residents through 2,000 miles of newly constructed fiber over the next three years.

KENTUCKY

\$1,500,000 ARC grant to the Foundation for Appalachian Kentucky in Hazard, KY for the *Revitalize, Redevelop, and Reinvest (R3) Initiative*. The Foundation for Appalachian Kentucky will partner with the Community Economic Development Initiative of Kentucky (CEDIK) at the University of Kentucky to create an Appalachian Impact Fund. The Fund, along with ancillary technical assistance services, will support downtown revitalization and strengthen the entrepreneurial ecosystem across ten counties in Southeastern Kentucky. The Fund will assist downtown real estate development projects through a mixture of grants, low-interest loans, and long-term equity investments, while a large-scale technical assistance program (modeled on the work of CEDIK under a previous POWER grant) will help communities with strategic project investment planning. The project will improve 10 communities, serve 200 businesses, create 60 jobs, and leverage \$7.6 million in private investment. Additional funding is provided by the James Graham Brown Foundation, the Marguerite Casey Foundation, and a major private donor.

\$1,500,000 ARC grant to the Mountain Comprehensive Care Center (MCCC) in Prestonsburg, KY for the *Big Sandy Healthy Workforce* project. This funding will support renovating Osbourne Elementary School in Floyd County, KY to construct a substance abuse treatment center that will serve five economically distressed counties (Floyd, Johnson, Magoffin, Martin, and Pike). The project will create short-term, long-term, and outpatient substance abuse treatment opportunities, as well as wrap-around support services that emphasize workforce training, education, skills development, and post-treatment job placement. Workforce Specialists will collaborate with the Eastern Kentucky Advanced Manufacturing Institute (a prior POWER grantee) and the Kentucky Works Program to ensure that participants have access to the resources and opportunities associated with successful job placement. The creation of MCCC's new facility is expected to create 27 new jobs while serving 200 patients per year.

\$1,500,000 ARC grant to KCEOC Community Action Partnership, Inc. in Gray, KY for the *Workforce Training Center* project. The project will construct a Work Ready Training Center (WRTC) and offer trade, certificate, and post-secondary education provided by Southeast Kentucky Community and Technical College. Fast-track programs will allow local and distance students to receive training in the fields of healthcare, technology, advanced manufacturing, and transportation/logistics. A partnership between KCEOC and the Eastern Kentucky Concentrated Employment Program will enable the WRTC to begin attaining goals and outcomes within the first three months after completion of construction. The new WRTC is expected to create 10 jobs in faculty and staff, while improving 500 workers and serving 1,400 students. Additional funding for the project comes from the U.S. Economic Development Administration and the Commonwealth of Kentucky's Education and Workforce Development Cabinet.

\$1,500,000 ARC grant to the Pikeville Medical Center (PMC) in Pikeville, KY for the *Pikeville Medical Center's Children's Hospital*. Pikeville Medical Center will construct and equip a new facility to provide health care for over 100,000 children in 23 counties in Kentucky, Virginia, and West Virginia. The project will create 50 permanent jobs, while retaining over 100 other pediatric medical and non-medical staff. PMC will work with the University of Pikeville and Big Sandy Community and Technical College to strengthen the regional healthcare workforce. The new facility will bolster the health care industry cluster, diversify an economy that has been heavily dependent on coal, and strengthen the regional workforce. The children's hospital will treat children from birth to age 18, including infants born with drug dependencies. Additional funding for the PMC Children's Hospital comes from the federal Abandoned Mine Lands pilot program.

\$1,150,000 ARC grant to Eastern Kentucky PRIDE in Somerset, KY for the *Restoring Pride in Kentucky's Appalachia-Phase II* project. Eastern Kentucky PRIDE will implement a robust tourism marketing and branding campaign to establish 41 counties in southern and eastern Kentucky as a tourism destination. The destination branding initiative will leverage the region's natural assets and strong cultural heritage to promote new or enhanced traveler experiences in order to increase tourism spending and create tourism as an economic driver for the region, whose economy has been adversely affected by the decline in the coal industry. The campaign will include a new tourism website; print, billboard, television, and online advertising; tourism guides and brochures; and branded merchandise. The marketing efforts are expected to attract 2,000 new day visitors and 200 overnight visitors per year and create 30 tourism-related jobs. The project implements a regional tourism strategic plan that was developed through an earlier POWER grant.

\$50,000 ARC grant to the Whitley County Fiscal Court in Williamsburg, KY for the *Patriot Drug Treatment and Rehabilitative Center* feasibility study. The study will determine the viability of a drug treatment and rehabilitative center with a workforce training component located near Williamsburg, KY. The study will analyze the assets and resources that already exist in the area and will recommend the best practices for implementing this type of facility to meet the community's needs. The proposed Center will be located on property owned by the University of the Cumberlands. It will offer detox,

inpatient residential treatment, and outpatient services, and will promote re-entry into the workforce through close relationships with workforce development organizations. The county will use the study as a roadmap to develop the appropriate programs/services to combat the opioid epidemic, while assisting in increasing labor force participation rates to spur economic growth.

NEW YORK

\$395,000 ARC grant to Southern Tier West Regional Planning and Development Board (STW) in Salamanca, NY for the *Southwest NY Wireless Broadband* project. The project will purchase and install fixed wireless broadband equipment and backhaul fiber. This new equipment will enable delivery of effective capacity and cost competitive Wi-Fi broadband service in underserved and unserved areas of eight rural communities in three New York counties (Allegany, Cattaraugus, and Chautauqua). The counties have been adversely affected by the closure of coal-fired power plants and the decline in freight rail volume due to reduced coal traffic. STW is collaborating with two internet providers to close the high-speed coverage gap, improving access to telehealth, business resources, and economic opportunity. The installation of new antennas on eight existing cell towers and the construction of a new tower will provide high-speed, low latency coverage to over 1,100 locations. This includes 206 small businesses, 121 agricultural locations, and 10 tourism destinations.

NORTH CAROLINA

\$1,932,500 ARC grant to French Broad Electric Membership Corporation (FBEMC) in Marshall, NC for the *Broadband Deployment to Rocky Fork State Park and Surrounding Area* project. This project will address provide broadband access to unserved and underserved sections of Madison County, NC and Unicoi County, TN. Both counties were adversely affected when a decline in coal traffic led to the closure of a rail yard in Erwin, TN. A local survey in 2016 determined that approximately 30 percent of Madison county residents reported limited or no broadband service. FBEMC predicts that Unicoi county exhibits a similar gap in broadband coverage. By designing and installing over 50 miles of critical fiber infrastructure to these areas, increased access will enable greater opportunities for telecommuting lifestyles, business creation, and educational services. FBEMC will use existing right-of-way to expand the infrastructure. The deployed fiber will serve Rocky Fork State Park (a major asset in the region), an estimated 20 businesses, and approximately 1,100 homes (thereby assisting students and strengthening home-based businesses).

\$1,500,000 ARC grant to Triangle Residential Options for Substance Abusers, Inc. (TROSA) for the *TROSA's Expansion to Forsyth County, NC* project. TROSA will establish a substance use recovery program in Forsyth County to serve Appalachian residents. The Forsyth County area has seen supply-chain manufacturing job losses as a result of the decline in the coal industry. Using a "Recovery to Work" model, the program will emphasize job and life skills training for participants with substance use disorder, developing a ready workforce. TROSA's existing program, which is outside the Appalachian Region, is nearing its daily capacity, and the new campus will focus on providing the treatment and recovery services to individuals within Appalachia. The Appalachian campus will have a daily capacity

of 200 residents. The program will open several social enterprises, which will provide hands-on job skills training for residents while generating revenue to keep services cost-free. The new campus is expected to create 18 new staff positions. After completing the program, 100 percent of graduates will leave with full-time employment, and at least 90 percent of graduates from the two-year program are expected to remain sober and employed for at least one year.

\$50,000 ARC grant to Mayland Community College in Spruce Pine, NC for *Creation of the Pinebridge Development Strategic Plan*. The College expects to invest over \$22 million to repurpose the unused Pinebridge Coliseum in Mitchell County into an education, business, and community development support center that can facilitate economic development in the region. The strategic plan will draw on existing data and will examine best practices of similar projects at other colleges and in other communities. The plan will create action steps for adapting and scaling those proven successes to the Pinebridge project.

\$50,000 ARC grant to the Isothermal Planning and Development Commission in Rutherfordton, NC for the *WNC Works: Recovery to Careers* program. The project will assist the six western North Carolina Local Development Districts (LDD) in coordinating existing regional organizations and programs that promote “Recovery to Work” strategies for individuals recovering from substance abuse. The project will compile a database of existing recovery-to-work programs, survey best practices across all 29 western North Carolina counties, and start a regional recovery-to-work working group made up of representatives from each LDD. The goal is to boost utilization of existing programs, increase the number of individuals returning to work, and help meet employer workforce needs in high-demand occupations and sectors.

OHIO

\$2,500,000 ARC grant to the Buckeye Rural Electric Cooperative in Gallipolis, OH for the *Southeast Ohio Broadband Backbone* project. This grant will fund the installation of 168 miles of fiber to create a broadband network reaching unserved and underserved areas in six counties in Southeast Ohio that have been adversely affected by the decline in the coal economy (Athens, Gallia, Jackson, Lawrence, Meigs, and Vinton). The fiber installation will optimize a \$19.8 million distribution system construction project. Buckeye Rural Electric Cooperative will partner with two internet service providers to economically deliver high-speed internet to rural homes, businesses, farms, ranches, and community facilities such as first responders, health care sites, and schools that are currently underserved. The Buckeye Rural Electric Cooperative is matching ARC funds with \$1,100,000 in private investment. The fiber backbone will serve 1,988 households and 70 businesses.

\$1,496,585 ARC grant to Shawnee State University (SSU) in Portsmouth, OH for the *LIGHTS Inclusive (LIGHTS-INC)* project. The project will build on the success of a previous POWER award, Leveraging Innovation Gateways and Hubs Toward Sustainability (LIGHTS), expanding its geographic footprint and broadening its entrepreneurial training program by incorporating substance abuse recovery

support. SSU will extend the LIGHTS Regional Innovation Network by partnering with innovative, existing recovery networks in 26 counties across West Virginia, Kentucky, and Ohio. LIGHTS-INC will combine proven methods of helping those suffering from addiction with entrepreneurial expertise and makerspaces in its Innovation Gateways. The initiative is expected to create 133 jobs and 49 new businesses; leverage over \$1.6 million in private investment; and improve economic opportunities in 38 communities. Partners include Hocking College, Ohio University, the Washington County (OH) Career Center, and the Robert C. Byrd Institute for Advanced Manufacturing at Marshall University.

\$1,235,727 ARC grant to Rural Action Inc. in The Plains, OH for the *Asset-based Entrepreneurship: Trails, Towns, and Tourism in the Appalachian Ohio Economy* project. The project will help diversify and restructure the regional economy by investing in an emergent tourism sector that celebrates Appalachian Ohio's natural, cultural, and entrepreneurial assets. The project's targeted geography is between the northern Hocking Hills and the city of Athens, extending into parts of five counties. The project consists of two major components: 1) construction of 31 miles of the Bailey's Trail in the Wayne National Forest and 2) an integrated package of activities to take economic advantage of the trail, such as collaborative marketing, entrepreneurial training and support, trail town place-making, and workforce development. When complete, the 88-mile mountain bike trail system will attract 181,000 visitors annually, resulting in \$20 million of increased spending. The project will lead to the creation of 25 new tourism-related business and the expansion of 50 existing business, the creation or retention of 190 jobs, and \$5.7 million in leveraged investment. Additional funding is provided by the National Forest Foundation, a Community Development Block Grant from the State of Ohio, and the Sugar Bush Foundation.

\$836,332 ARC grant to Eastern Gateway Community College in Steubenville, OH for the *Tri-State Gateway to Growth Training Center*. The project will establish a training center to serve a 12-county region in Ohio, West Virginia, and Pennsylvania. The new training center will educate a competitive workforce for this region in advanced manufacturing (including welding, machining, electronics, pneumatics, hydraulics, and industrial maintenance), logistics, and energy industries. The area served by the new center has experienced declines in coal mining employment as well as the closure of a coal-fired power plant. Over the three-year grant period at least 650 workers/trainees and 120 students will obtain new positions or enhance their current ones, and six businesses will be improved by the training model.

\$618,150 ARC grant to Washington State Community College in Marietta, OH for the *Robotics & Manufacturing Technology Education Collaborative (RAMTEC)*. The project will expand RAMTEC—a training and workforce development program designed to educate workers in advanced manufacturing, automation, and robotics, as well as CNC machining, welding, and industrial maintenance—to the southern portion of Appalachian Ohio, the only region in the state currently not benefiting from it. This proven instructional model includes industry-led educational programming designed to deliver in-demand credentialed training. The training from this program will bolster a workforce that has been adversely affected by the decline in the coal industry. The project will serve 5 counties in Ohio and West Virginia (Monroe, Morgan, Noble, and Washington in Ohio and Wood in West Virginia). At least 70

workers/trainees, including approximately 20 dislocated and 50 incumbent workers, and 630 students will participate in training activities, and at least six businesses will be improved.

\$27,500 ARC grant to the Trumbull County Planning Commission in Warren, OH for the *Trumbull County Broadband Feasibility Study*. The study will create the road map for the implementation of a fiber network throughout Trumbull County. It will perform a market analysis of adoption rates, competition, and pricing; conduct a needs assessment for area businesses, schools, hospitals, and other anchor institutions; review current trends in telecommunications technologies; and develop a framework for a structure to govern the fiber network as a publicly owned and operated utility.

\$24,500 ARC grant to Washington Electric Cooperative, Inc. (WECI) in Marietta, OH for a *Broadband Feasibility Study*. The study will assist WECI with decisions on whether to pursue deployment of broadband services within its member service territory of Athens, Guernsey, Monroe, Morgan, Noble, and Washington Counties. Major tasks include conducting an initial competitive analysis of market conditions, developing capital expenditure cost estimates, preparing a high-level financial business plan, and conducting a market study to determine the potential “take rate” of broadband services. Through this study, WECI will be able to determine the gaps that exist in the local broadband infrastructure and how to bridge those gaps.

PENNSYLVANIA

\$2,500,000 ARC grant to Tioga County in Wellsboro, PA for the *Northern Pennsylvania Broadband Connectivity Project*. Tioga County, in conjunction with Tri-County Rural Electric Cooperative, will construct over 175 miles of fiber in three counties (Tioga, Potter, and Lycoming) to bring access to reliable high-speed broadband to 60 businesses and 581 households in one the most underserved areas of rural Pennsylvania. From 2007-2017 Tri-County Electric Cooperative’s service area saw a 66 percent decrease in the number of active coal mines, with a drop of 42 percent in mine employment. The new fiber network will help bolster economic development, assist educational institutions, provide telemedicine opportunities for area hospitals, assist healthcare workers in addressing the opioid crisis, and help prevent youth out-migration. Tri-County Rural Electric Cooperative is providing \$3,242,125 for the project.

\$1,500,000 ARC grant to the Venango County Economic Development Authority in Franklin PA for the *Business Innovation Center and Fiber Optic Expansion* project. This grant will fund the development of a new Business Innovation Center, including a co-working and maker space, in Oil City, PA and will expand a fiber optic network throughout the business district served by the Center. The Innovation Center will foster an entrepreneurial ecosystem, serving as a catalyst for economic diversification in the region through innovation and business creation. By eliminating the fiber network “dead end,” the project will enable businesses in this section of the city to compete in a technology-driven economy. Within three years of completion, the Innovation Center will launch the development of 20 new businesses, and at least 29 businesses will connect to the new fiber network. The project is projected to leverage

\$1,200,000 in private investment as entrepreneurs create 12 new businesses using these new community assets.

\$1,223,551 ARC grant to Bridgeway Capital in Pittsburgh, PA for the *Western Pennsylvania Entrepreneur Diversification Fund*. Through a combination of technical assistance to entrepreneurs and the capitalization of a revolving loan fund, Bridgeway Capital, a Community Development Financial Institution, will promote entrepreneurial activity across its 15-county service area of western Pennsylvania, a region whose economy has been adversely affected by the decline in the coal industry. Activities will include business development workshops, one-on-one counseling, support for a regional business incubator, and small grants to entrepreneurs for training and licensure. The project is expected to lead to the creation of 65 new businesses and 200 new jobs, while leveraging \$5,625,000 in private investment. Additional funding is being provided by Penn State University, the Fay-Penn Economic Development Council, and the Connellsville Redevelopment Authority. Private capital for the revolving loan fund is being provided by TriState Capital Bank.

\$725,850 ARC grant to Clearfield County in Clearfield, PA for the North Central *PA Launchbox and Innovation Collaborative*. The project will equip the Collaborative's business incubator to offer three sets of services: a makerspace with sophisticated equipment; research and development services to help manufacturers solve problems; and a training center that offers opportunities in powdered metals, automation, and additive manufacturing. The Collaborative seeks to strengthen the entrepreneurial ecosystem, providing wraparound services that increase access to capital, up-skill local talent to secure advanced manufacturing jobs, and provide technical assistance and specialized manufacturing support services for businesses. The project rests on a broad network of partners, including Penn State Dubois, the Clarion Small Business Development Center, Ben Franklin Technology Partners, and North Central Regional Planning & Development Commission. It will benefit seven counties in North Central Pennsylvania and lead to the improvement of 45 businesses and 60 workers/trainees.

\$500,000 ARC grant to the City of Erie, PA for the *Erie, Pennsylvania Broadband Deployment* program. Grant funds will expand the Erie Innovation District's Secure Smart City pilot initiative by providing free public Wi-Fi access to Erie's eight federally designated Opportunity Zones. This project is part of a larger effort by the city to recruit, retain, and expand business investments and jobs in the Opportunity Zones. Erie has experienced significant job losses in manufacturing as a result of reductions in the coal industry supply chain. The project will leverage the expertise of a private sector digital technology solutions provider for smart cities. The initiative will provide outdoor Wi-Fi access; urban security solutions, including license plate recognition and traffic monitoring; analytics that can be tracked on a visualization dashboard; and the ability to remotely control street lights. An additional investment of \$900,000 from other sources will enable other Smart City components to become operational within the Opportunity Zones. Erie hopes to become an entirely Smart City by 2028.

\$50,000 ARC grant to the Greene County Board of Commissioners in Waynesburg, PA for the *Rural Broadband Coverage and Feasibility Study*. This study will identify county-wide gaps in broadband access and will determine the best technology to fill these gaps (such as fiber, white space, cable, and DSL). When Greene County, which has experienced significant mining job losses, updated its comprehensive plan in 2018, the top-ranked issue identified was a need to expand broadband access. The feasibility study will review the county's broadband assets, conduct a field survey of existing broadband access, determine customer demand, identify the best technology options for service gaps, and develop an implementation matrix.

\$50,000 ARC grant to the Southern Alleghenies Planning & Development Commission in Altoona, PA for a *South-Central Pennsylvania Broadband Infrastructure Assessment*. This feasibility study will identify ways of increasing broadband and cellular services to residents and businesses in an eight-county region of South Central Pennsylvania. These eight counties have experienced economic downturn as a result of the decline of mining and manufacturing industries, and expanded broadband access could create new economic opportunities for the region. The study will identify the broadband assets already in place, assess community broadband requirements, identify the best technology to meet the needs, and provide cost estimates for different deployment strategies.

\$50,000 ARC grant to tecBRIDGE, LLC in Scranton, PA for the *Enhancing Northeastern Pennsylvania's Entrepreneurial Ecosystem - Incubator Optimization* project. This project will assess the business incubation climate and assets in five counties in northeastern Pennsylvania (Lackawanna, Luzerne, Monroe, Schuylkill, and Wayne) and identify proven programs that can be replicated in communities to strengthen the regional entrepreneurial ecosystem and support the successful start-up and expansion of small businesses. The project capitalizes on a broad network of partners, including the NEPA Alliance, Ben Franklin Technology Partners, East Stroudsburg University, the Scranton Chamber of Commerce, and the Wayne Economic Development Corporation.

\$20,000 ARC grant to Fay-Penn Economic Development Council (Fay-Penn) in Lamont Furnace, PA for the *Fayette County Multi-Tenant Spec Building Feasibility Study*. The study will determine the feasibility of constructing multi-tenant speculative ("spec") shell buildings at various locations throughout Fayette County to accommodate and attract new business development. Fay-Penn has received an increasing number of inquiries from companies seeking industrial/commercial space availability. In many cases, especially for larger building size needs, the county does not have readily available, suitable space. The feasibility study will determine priority locations for development, building requirements for those companies, economic impacts of spec buildings, and marketing approaches for new development.

TENNESSEE

\$1,566,927 ARC grant to Northeast State Community College in Blountville, TN for the *Advancing Aviation Technology* project. Through a partnership with the Tri-Cities Airport, the project seeks to build a reliable workforce pipeline of trained and certified aviation maintenance professionals in support of regional economic development priorities. It will expand the community college's Aviation Technology program, relocate the program to a new hangar at the Tri-Cities Airport, and secure FAA Airframe and Powerplant program certification. This includes constructing a new aircraft hangar in the adjacent airport, acquiring instructional equipment, improving program outreach, revising curriculum, and creating jobs by hiring faculty. Over three years, the project will serve eight businesses, while training 72 community college students. The project is also a prerequisite for the success of the Tri-Cities Airport Aerospace Park, which will create up to 2,000 jobs in the aviation maintenance and manufacturing sector. Additional funding for the project is being provided by the Tri-Cities Airport Authority.

\$1,546,400 ARC grant to the East Tennessee Development District (ETDD) in Alcoa, TN for the *Workforce Development and Re-employment Opportunities* project. This project will expand and enhance skills training opportunities in the high-demand fields of allied health, welding, industrial maintenance, construction, diesel repair, and truck driving in East Tennessee and Southern Kentucky. ETDD will partner with Somerset Community College in Kentucky, Tennessee College of Applied Technology-Oneida/Huntsville, and Tennessee College of Applied Technology-Jacksboro. Counselors will work with drug court administrators, jail and prison administrators, and American Job Centers to enroll individuals that normally would not participate in the labor market. The project will develop and promote paid work-based learning opportunities by establishing co-ops, internships, and apprenticeships. Twelve new training programs will be implemented by the three participating colleges, and 465 workers/trainees will obtain a job in their field of study. Additional funding is provided by the Tennessee Higher Education Commission, the York Institute, and USDA Rural Business-Cooperative Services.

\$727,815 ARC grant to East Tennessee State University in Johnson City, TN for the *Create Appalachia Arts & Technology Economic Development Initiative*. East Tennessee State University (ETSU), in partnership with the Johnson City Development Authority and Create Appalachia, will establish a micro-enterprise incubator and professional development center to support the launch and continued success of artists and makers working with digital technologies. To attract and retain younger workers needed for robust economic development, ETSU plans to incubate not only individual businesses but also a thriving digital arts industry. This project will leverage the talent of ETSU and the Tennessee Visual Content Modernization Act to encourage the growth of new businesses. ETSU will provide 1570 students, 200 workers/trainees, 35 businesses, and 38 organizations a state-of-the-art instruction facility that can accommodate continuing education in arts technology, entrepreneurship training, business training, and software certification.

\$862,017 ARC grant to Holston Electric Cooperative in Rogersville, TN for the *Holston Electric Cooperative Rural Broadband* project. The project will install 25.9 miles of fiber optic cable on Holston

Electric's existing power poles to provide up to 1 Gbps service to areas not covered by a broadband or cable provider in the Goshen Valley in Hawkins County, TN. A number of employers in the region use the work-at-home model for portions of their workforce. Holston Electric Cooperative projects that several households in this service area are a part of this model, and greater broadband access will give this community access to online education, training, and/or retraining to expand this job market. The new fiber network will make broadband service available to 133 businesses and 600 households and create 20 new jobs over three years. In addition to farms and businesses, the expanded coverage will serve multiple churches, a school, and a fire department.

\$342,646 ARC grant to Erwin Utilities in Erwin, TN for the *Northern Unicoi County Broadband* project. The project will enable Erwin Utilities to install 16.8 miles of fiber optic cable on existing power poles and provide high-speed broadband to businesses and residential subscribers in areas of northern Unicoi County that are not covered by a broadband or cable provider. With an increasing number of businesses utilizing telework employment, expanded infrastructure will allow more residents to pursue remote work from home. Within three years, the project is expected to expand broadband access for 14 businesses and 488 residents. Erwin Utilities also projects that the expansion will increase the number of businesses in the service area, resulting in three new businesses and 15 additional jobs. The project builds on an existing fiber network, a portion of which was supported by a previous POWER grant.

\$50,000 ARC grant to Rockwood Electric Utility (REU) in Rockwood, TN for the *REU Smart Grid Technology Plan*. As part of REU's goal of building a technology backbone that can support broadband service in parts of Roane, Morgan, and Cumberland Counties, the Smart Grid project consists of two components: a technology analysis and a transition plan. The technology analysis will study characteristics of three different network transport solutions and their suitability for a design to enhance the REU Smart Grid. The transition plan will be a roadmap to improve the Smart Grid and offer broadband connectivity to qualified rural areas that are not currently served, while also creating four to six local technical jobs in the long term.

VIRGINIA

\$1,500,000 ARC grant to the Southwest Virginia Workforce Development Board in Lebanon, VA for the *Recovery Opportunities and Pathways to Employment Success (ROPES)* project. The ROPES program will create a recovery-to-employment ecosystem that combines substance abuse disorder recovery and treatment with workforce development and re-employment opportunities. The program will provide upskilling and work-based learning opportunities while at the same time developing a menu of recovery services focused on the post-treatment to employment continuum. The project will make the workforce of Southwest Virginia healthier and more competitive as the region strives to overcome the opioid crisis and revitalize an economy that has been heavily dependent on coal. Guided by the Workforce Board's Business Services Team, the program will work with employers to foster understanding and support for recovery-safe work environments. ROPES will serve and improve 25 businesses, 90 workers/trainees will obtain new employment, and four new jobs for case managers and certified peer recovery specialists will be created.

\$1,000,000 ARC grant to BARC Electric Cooperative in Millboro, VA for the *BARC Rural Economic Development via Broadband* project. The project will deploy a gigabit last-mile fiber-to-the-premise (FTTP) network to businesses and residents of the Town of Goshen, Virginia, a remote area in Rockbridge County. The area is not currently served by a broadband provider. The reduction in coal rail shipping has caused economic deterioration in the Goshen area. Improved broadband access is crucial for increased economic development, the creation of an entrepreneurial ecosystem, improved educational opportunities, and reduced workforce migration. The eight-mile fiber network will make FTTP available for 301 households and 8 businesses. The network will also further BARC Electric's smart grid strategy by connecting its Network Operations Center to its entire Smart Grid.

\$588,072 ARC grant to Southwest Virginia Community College (SWCC) in Cedar Bluff, VA for the *SWCC Automotive Service Excellence Center*. The project will create a credit-based, fast-track curriculum to prepare students for entry-level automobile technician positions. Students will receive certification from the National Institute for Automotive Service Education (ASE). Rapid changes within the automotive, heavy-duty truck, and diesel engine fields have created a strong demand for workers with training and certification in the latest technologies, but no specialized training opportunities currently exist within an hour's drive of SWCC. These businesses offer employment opportunities in an area that has been heavily dependent on the coal industry. As a result of the grant, at least 59 students will obtain jobs or will still be enrolled in the program at the end of the three-year project period, 25 workers/trainees will have enhanced positions, and five businesses will be improved.

\$50,000 ARC grant to LENOWISCO Planning District Commission in Duffield, VA for the *Technology Innovation Ecosystem for Rural Water Systems* project. This pilot project will identify innovative and emerging technologies that can be scaled to monitor and evaluate small, rural public water systems for potential leaks. It will include a strategic analysis of existing leak detection technologies in both real and simulated testing environments. It can provide an immediate cost savings to the Wise County Public Service Authority, reducing water loss costs that are typically absorbed by the customer base. Partners include the Wise County Public Service Authority, University of Virginia's College at Wise, and the MIT Lincoln Lab.

\$49,940 ARC grant to Appalachian Voices in Boone, NC for the *Taking a Proven Energy Model to Scale* project. The project will provide technical assistance to grow the emerging solar energy cluster in Central Appalachia, helping diversify the regional economy. It will support a commercial-scale solar group purchase program in Southwest Virginia that helps building owners who want to use solar energy navigate the often complex process of a commercial-scale solar installation and pool demand to reduce costs. The project will examine options for expanding the group purchase approach to other states, conduct a multi-state market analysis of solar opportunities, and prepare an assessment of the solar project finance ecosystem.

WEST VIRGINIA

\$1,499,993 ARC grant to Sprouting Farms Corporation in Talcott, WV for the *Growing Capacity: Integrating Agri-Development Centers in Central Appalachia* project. Sprouting Farms, in collaboration with nine key partners, will build upon existing food system work in Central Appalachia by creating a network of Agri-Development Centers in West Virginia and Southwest Virginia. These Centers will support the scaling of agricultural production to meet the needs of additional wholesale markets as well as build a workforce development network that creates a pipeline of skilled, reliable workers. Project activities will support the expansion of a wholesale production incubator program for beginning farmers; the integration of existing post-production and culinary workforce training programs for youth and adults who are unemployed, in recovery, or previously incarcerated; and the development of replicable food enterprise and workforce development programs for partners across Central Appalachia. Sprouting Farms projects that this project will serve 152 business, create 125 new jobs, and leverage \$1.4 million in private investment across 16 counties in central Appalachia. Other federal funding is being provided by the USDA Local Food Promotion Program, a Rural Business Development grant, and the Abandoned Mine Lands pilot program. Additional support for the work in West Virginia is being provided by the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation.

\$1,055,001 ARC grant to Advantage Valley in Charleston, WV and the Wyoming County Economic Development Authority in Pineville, WV for *Fostering Advantages for Startups and Entrepreneurial Resurgence (FASTER) in West Virginia*. This program is designed to encourage economic diversification, business growth, and job creation within a seven-county region of West Virginia. FASTER will partner with local economic development authorities, educational institutions, and business incubators to foster startups and business expansion. The project consists of two components: technical assistance to entrepreneurs and businesses through Advantage Valley and its contractors (a \$930,001 grant to Advantage Valley); and recapitalizing a revolving loan fund operated by the Wyoming County Economic Development Authority (a grant of \$150,000). The loan fund will be limited to businesses referred by Advantage Valley. Together they will provide entrepreneurial training, business coaching, certifications, and a capital lending fund. FASTER anticipates the creation of at least 50 new businesses, 60 credentialed entrepreneurs, and 150 new jobs, while leveraging \$4.5 million in private investment. Additional funding is being provided by the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation, Bridge Valley Community and Technical College, and Unlimited Future, Inc.

\$837,970 ARC grant to the WV High Technology Consortium Foundation (WVHTC) in Fairmont, WV for the *3 Steps to Start Up* project. The project will connect, accelerate, and launch new businesses in a 42-county, coal-impacted region of West Virginia by establishing a three-step portal of entry for early-stage startups in the state's growing entrepreneurial ecosystem. WVHTC is partnering with WV TechConnect, INNOVA Commercialization Group, and WV Jobs Investment Trust (WVJIT) to build and spread the entrepreneurial pipeline. The "3 Steps" of the project consist of building awareness and education to develop a pipeline of entrepreneurs; providing access to a network of mentors and professional services for early stage businesses; and making available \$1.2 million in investment capital from WVJIT for entrepreneurs seeking to launch or expand businesses. The project is expected to serve

85 businesses with entrepreneurial support services and create 124 new jobs and 15 new businesses. Additional funding is being provided by the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation.

\$717,166 ARC grant to the EdVenture Group Inc. in Morgantown, WV for the *Simulated Workplace Entrepreneurship Education Pathway (SWEET)* program. SWEET seeks to build entrepreneurial mindsets and support business venture development within West Virginia's Career and Technical Education (CTE) students. It capitalizes on the state's innovative Simulated Workplace initiative, which transforms CTE environments into industry-recognized, functioning workplaces in which students drive their own learning. By providing students with in-depth entrepreneurial training in a simulated workplace environment, SWEET will equip students with the skills needed to find success within their own communities in six economically distressed counties (Calhoun, Fayette, Gilmer, Lincoln, Mingo, and Wyoming). Key partners include the West Virginia Department of Education, Marshall University, Intuit Education, and Standwatch Academy. The project will expose 1000 students and 75 instructors to entrepreneurship education through project-based learning, and 50 business plans will be developed.

\$650,000 ARC grant to the West Virginia Regional Technology Park Corp. in South Charleston, WV for the *Broadband Infrastructure to Augment Education and Industry Cluster Development at the West Virginia Regional Technology Park* project. The project will construct a fiber ring around 12 buildings in the West Virginia Regional Technology Park. Currently only half of the buildings at the park have broadband access. The project will equip all of the park's buildings for broadband service speeds up to 100 Gbps and will complete a redundant fiber ring. It will add a 288 fiber-count ring around the park and 24 fiber-count drops into each building. This will cover diverse access from selected buildings to the park's network and from the park's network to the provider's broadband network, providing support for all voice, data networking, and internet access services. This expanded broadband access is expected to serve 30 businesses. It will facilitate an expansion by an existing company in the park, adding 150 new jobs.

\$622,280 ARC grant to Appalachian Headwaters in Lewisburg, WV for the *Appalachian Beekeeping Collective Diversification and Expansion* project. Appalachian Headwaters will build on a previous POWER grant by expanding its economic diversification and entrepreneur training program focused on the apiculture (honey and bee products) industry to 17 counties in southern West Virginia and five counties in Appalachian Virginia. The project will provide employment opportunities, training, and business support services to take advantage of significant market opportunities in beekeeping and honey production. The project will serve over 1,000 new and existing beekeeping entrepreneurs, and is expected to create an estimated 150 jobs, retain 145 existing jobs, and create 65 new businesses. It will leverage \$635,580 in private investment, and non-export sales revenues are expected to increase by \$1.4 million after three years. The project will establish a new processing and training hub in southwestern Virginia and develop a training and marketing program for new bee products and services.

\$50,000 ARC grant to Friends of the Cheat, Inc. in Kingwood, WV for the development of the *Mountaineer Trail Network: Preston County Pilot Trail Plan*. This project will produce the first comprehensive trail plan within the newly formed Mountaineer Trail Network, a 10-county bike trail system in north-central West Virginia. Centered on Preston County, the trail plan will map all existing trail resources, highlight existing connection gaps, and identify trail routes that would link existing amenities to other key trails and recreation hubs. The project will also conduct a market assessment and a workforce development assessment, linking the trail to broader economic development efforts. As the first trail plan within the Mountaineer Trail Network, the plan will serve as a model to be replicated in the network's other nine counties. Additional funding is coming from the federal Abandoned Mine Lands pilot program.

\$50,000 ARC grant to the Wayne County Economic Development Authority in Wayne, WV for the *Bio Based Manufacturing* strategic plan. The strategic plan will assess new market and employment opportunities in bio-based manufacturing, and will lead to business formation and job creation in recycling, trucking, logistics, and manufacturing across parts of Ohio, West Virginia, and Kentucky. The project will develop market-ready business plans around bio-manufacturing opportunities in local markets, including upcycling of landfill-destined materials and developing the logistical networks for connecting those opportunities. It will provide the blueprint for further collaboration with Coalfield Development Corporation to create new jobs, rescue and repurpose thousands of tons of materials from landfills, and promote sustainable investment in local economies and infrastructures. Additional funding comes from the West Virginia Specialty Crop program and the Cliff Bar Foundation.

SPECIAL REGIONAL PROJECTS

\$1,431,549 ARC grant to The Consortium for Entrepreneurship Education in Charleston, WV for the *Fostering Self ESTEAM in Appalachia's Emerging Workforce* project. ESTEAM will infuse entrepreneurship into the region's STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) initiatives to graduate a workforce of entrepreneurially-minded students poised to recognize and create solutions to gaps within their local economy. The project is a collaborative effort between EntreEd, the EdVenture Group, the National Association for Community College Entrepreneurship, the National Center for Resource Development, and local community college and education agency partners. The project will offer professional development programming for educators, award an official "America's Entrepreneurial Schools" designation for participating schools, and provide mini-grants for schools that pursue ESTEAM integration. Targeting middle and high school students across seven Appalachian states, the two-year program will deliver high-quality teacher training and support STEAM-focused entrepreneurship projects to reach 51 Appalachian counties and a potential 75 rural school districts. The project will expand best practices from EntreEd's previously awarded POWER grant. Additional funding is being provided by the Greater Kanawha Valley Foundation.

\$1,423,497 ARC grant to the Southwestern Pennsylvania Coalition (SPC) in Pittsburgh, PA for the *Shale POWER* project. The project will develop regional centers for technical assistance to manufacturers in Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Ohio that are seeking to expand into the shale energy sector. The

technical assistance and business support will target small and medium enterprises and will include mini-grants, one-to-one counseling, and training. Shale POWER will engage directly with these entities to connect them to the shale-manufacturing sectors, develop business strategies for expanding in these sectors, and support workforce and job development to meet the burgeoning demand in shale-related markets. The project is expected to create 400 new jobs, retain 600 existing jobs, and create 50 new businesses. It builds on an earlier POWER grant that assessed the demand for business technical assistance in this sector and informed the shape and scale of the current project. Anchors institutions for the project are Carnegie Mellon University, West Virginia University, and Belmont College.

\$1,039,500 ARC grant to Appalachian Community Capital (ACC) in Christiansburg, VA for the *Opportunity Appalachia* project. ACC has partnered with five organizations, including the Appalachian Partnership for Economic Growth in Ohio, the University of Virginia's College at Wise, and the West Virginia Community Development Hub, to develop a program that attracts investment funding to federally designated Opportunity Zones located in Central Appalachia. Opportunity Appalachia will cultivate investment deals that both benefit investors and provide robust social returns for communities found with the zones. It will provide technical assistance to develop and structure investable transactions, create investment prospectuses and pitch decks, and lead outreach to potential investors. The project will develop transactions to create a portfolio of Opportunity Zone investments in Central Appalachia. This initiative is expected to bring an estimated \$7.5 million of new private investment to Opportunity Zones in Central Appalachian coal communities, investing in 15 businesses and creating 720 jobs, 70 of which are projected to be for persons in recovery from substance abuse. Additional funding is being provided by the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation.

\$750,000 ARC grant to the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) at the National Institutes of Health for continued collaborative research with other federal partners, including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, on effective interventions for opioid use disorders and related diseases in rural Appalachian coal communities. This is the third year of support for this initiative. Prior work has included research on clinical practices for addressing overdose, HIV, and hepatitis interventions. The new funding will allow the University of Kentucky and West Virginia University (the Appalachian institutions in the NIDA project) to begin implementing clinical programs focused on the substance abuse recovery ecosystem.

\$49,974 ARC grant to Partners in Health Network, Inc. in Charleston, WV for the *Enhancing the Economic Impact of Rural Hospitals and Health Centers* project. The project will prepare a feasibility study for expanding the Appalachian Pulmonary Health Project to additional critical access rural hospital and healthcare facilities in 12 medically underserved counties in Kentucky, West Virginia, and North Carolina that have been adversely affected by the downturn in the coal economy. The study will help members of the Partners in Health Network plan for this large-scale implementation to achieve economic development and recovery by maintaining necessary health services, preserving and expanding the rural health infrastructure, and contributing to a ready and healthy workforce.

RESEARCH

\$500,000 to the Regional Research Institute at West Virginia University in Morgantown, WV for an assessment of the evolving impact of the downturn in the coal economy in Appalachia. This research builds on research reports released by the Regional Research Institute in 2018 exploring the coal industry ecosystem in Appalachia. The new research will provide quarterly updates to Appalachian-based coal employment and production data and forecasts, shift-share analysis of Appalachian counties, and updates to data on power plant retirements and repowerings to reflect recent changes in the industry. It will also provide identification and analysis of existing industrial clusters and causal impacts of coal employment on local education funding, as well as a scan of state treatment and recovery responses to substance abuse epidemic and an examination of entrepreneurship ecosystem conditions for coal-impacted communities.

\$199,665 to Chamberlin/Dunn, LLC of Indianapolis, IN, for a contract to monitor and evaluate the POWER Initiative. Chamberlin/Dunn will continue their work in assessing previous POWER grants. The new scope of work will include two components: an evaluation of three high-priority topics (substance abuse recovery ecosystem projects, Central Appalachia POWER projects, and multi-state/multi-site projects) and an evaluation of POWER projects funded in FY2018-2019, along with an assessment of technical assistance grants from prior years that have not been covered in earlier reviews. Chamberlin/Dunn will work with ARC and its partners to determine the extent to which POWER grantees are progressing toward their stated performance goals. Deliverables include monthly reports that provide a snapshot of grantee performance. The reports will highlight success stories, flag potential challenges, and recommend technical assistance and training needs to ensure grantee success.