THE APPALACHIAN REGION

The Appalachian Region includes all of West Virginia and parts of Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, Mississippi, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia. The Region is home to more than 25 million people and covers 420 counties and almost 205,000 square miles. Forty-two percent of the Region’s population is rural, compared with 20 percent of the national population. The Region extends more than 1,000 miles from southern New York to northeastern Mississippi.

The Appalachian Region’s economy, once highly dependent on mining, forestry, agriculture, chemical industries, and heavy industry, has become more diversified in recent times, and now includes manufacturing and professional service industries. Appalachia has come a long way in the past five decades: its poverty rate, 31 percent in 1960, was 16.3 percent over the 2013-2017 period. The number of high-poverty counties in the Region (those with poverty rates more than 1.5 times the U.S. average) declined from 295 in 1960 to 98 over the 2013-2017 period.

These gains have transformed the Region from one of widespread poverty to one of economic contrasts: some communities have successfully diversified their economies, while others still require basic infrastructure such as roads and water and sewer systems. The contrasts are not surprising considering the Region’s size and diversity.
ARC OVERVIEW

ARC’s mission is to innovate, partner, and invest to build community capacity and strengthen economic growth in Appalachia.

Established by an act of Congress in 1965, the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) is a regional economic development agency that represents a partnership of federal, state, and local government. Local participation is provided through multi-county local development districts.

ARC MEMBERS, PARTNERS, AND STAFF

ARC’s structure was designed to ensure an active federal-state partnership. There are 14 Commission members: the governors of the 13 Appalachian states and a federal co-chair. The federal co-chair is appointed by the president and is subject to Senate confirmation. Each year the 13 governors elect one of their own to serve as states’ co-chair of the Commission.

Each governor appoints an alternate, who oversees the state’s ARC program and serves as the state-level contact for those seeking ARC assistance. The states’ interests at ARC/Washington are handled by the states’ Washington representative, who is hired by the states.

Grassroots participation is provided through local development districts, multi-county agencies with boards made up of elected officials, businesspeople, and other local leaders.

The Commission staff is headed by an executive director. The staff comprises about 50 people, most of whom serve as program and financial analysts and researchers. The staff implements the program and policies determined by the federal-state partners. The Commission’s administrative costs are shared equally by the federal and state governments. The Commission’s office is in Washington, D.C.; there are no field offices.

ARC is funded by an annual Congressional appropriation for administrative and grant making purposes. The FY 2019 appropriation was $165 million. The FY 2020 appropriation request remained constant at $165 million.
In 2013, the Commission's annual appropriation was $65 million; in 2019 the amount was more than twice that at $165 million. Each year ARC provides funding for several hundred investments in the Appalachian Region, in areas such as business development, education and job training, telecommunications, infrastructure, community development, housing, and transportation. These projects create thousands of new jobs; improve local water and sewer systems; increase school readiness; expand access to health care; assist local communities with strategic planning; and provide technical and managerial assistance to emerging businesses.

**APPALACHIAN REGION 13-state profile:**

*Fiscal year 2018 (October 1, 2017 – September 30, 2018)*

In partnership with the states and 73 Local Development Districts, ARC supported **522 projects** in Appalachia totaling **$125.6 million** in fiscal year 2018. These investments have been matched by **$188.7 million** and will attract an additional nearly **$1.5 billion** in leveraged private investments in Appalachia. They will also create or retain more than **26,600 jobs**, train and educate over **34,000 students and workers**, and benefit the more than **25 million residents** in Appalachia’s **420 counties**.

**IMPACT ON DISTRESSED COUNTIES**

In Appalachia, **84 counties** were considered economically distressed in fiscal year 2018. **279 projects** totaling 64% of **ARC investment dollars** will have a direct impact on these counties.
ARC’S GOALS & DEMONSTRATED RESULTS

ARC invests in activities that address the five goals identified in the Commission’s strategic plan:

**Goal 1: Economic Opportunities**
Invest in entrepreneurial and business development strategies that strengthen Appalachia’s economy.

**Results:** ARC has invested nearly $19.8 million in entrepreneurial and business strategies to strengthen the economy in Appalachia.*

**Goal 2: Ready Workforce**
Increase the education, knowledge, skills, and health of residents to work and succeed in Appalachia.

**Results:** ARC has invested nearly $27.2 million to increase the education, knowledge, skills, and health of Appalachian residents to work and succeed.*

**Goal 3: Critical Infrastructure**
Invest in critical infrastructure—especially broadband; transportation, including the Appalachian Development Highway System; and water/wastewater systems.

**Results:** ARC has invested over $59.5 million in Appalachia’s critical infrastructure development, including broadband, transportation, and water/wastewater systems.*

**Goal 4: Natural and Cultural Assets**
Strengthen Appalachia’s community and economic development potential by leveraging the Region’s natural and cultural heritage assets.

**Results:** ARC has invested almost $7.5 million to leverage the economic potential of Appalachia’s natural and cultural heritage.*

**Goal 5: Leadership and Community Capacity**
Build the capacity and skills of current and next-generation leaders and organizations to innovate, collaborate, and advance community and economic development.

**Results:** ARC has invested nearly $11.6 million to build the capacity and skills of Appalachia’s current and next-generation leaders and organizations to advance community and economic development.*

*Results represent fiscal year 2018*
ORGANIZATIONAL OVERVIEW, SKILLS AND EXPERTISE

OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL
Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC)

Mission and Authority:
The Office of Inspector General (OIG) at the Appalachian Regional Commission was established as an independent entity in 1989. The OIG provides independent and objective audits and investigations relating to agency programs and operations, as set forth in the Inspector General Act of 1978 (Public Law 95-452), as amended.

The OIG provides leadership and coordination; recommends policies to prevent and detect fraud and abuse; and promotes economy, efficiency, and effectiveness in agency programs and operations. The inspector general also provides a means for keeping the Commission and Congress fully informed about problems and deficiencies at the Commission.

In support of these responsibilities, the OIG has statutory authority to subpoena or otherwise obtain all records, files, reports, documents, or materials needed to conduct audits, inspections, and investigations. The inspector general is independent and may not be prevented from carrying out any audit, inspection, or investigation, or issuing any report.

Introduction
The Appalachian Regional Commission is an economic development agency consisting of the federal government and 13 states focusing on 420 counties across the Appalachian Region. ARC’s mission is to innovate, partner, and invest to build community capacity and strengthen economic growth in Appalachia to help the Region achieve economic parity with the nation. [www.arc.gov](http://www.arc.gov)

The Inspector General (IG) reports to the full Commission, which is comprised of a federal representative (Federal Co-Chair) and the Governors of the 13 Appalachian states. The budget and staff are determined by the IG per statute and the needs of a $165 M (FY 2019) Federal-State partnership focused on closing the economic gap between Appalachia and the rest of the nation.
MAJOR DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Inspector General (IG) works independently in accomplishing the mission and strategic goals of the Commission, and performs the following duties, but not limited to:

• Lead a diverse professional Inspector General operation by providing policy direction for and conducting, supervising, directing and coordinating performance and financial audits, inspections, evaluations and investigations relating to the Commission programs and operations to determine compliance with Commission and Federal government-wide requirements and efficiency and effectiveness of Commission programs and operations.

• Administer the review and approval of all reports of investigation to ensure that investigative findings are properly reported to the IG and Commission head appropriately.

• Lead and manage OIG staff and monitor contractors responsible for financial, grant and program audits and evaluations.

• Report and recommend policies and actions to the Commission for the purpose of promoting economy and efficiency in the administration of, or preventing and detecting fraud, waste and abuse in its programs and operations.

• Keep the Commission and Congress fully informed concerning any problems and deficiencies in ARC’s programs and operations and the need for corrective actions.

• Serve as the spokesperson on OIG matters including representing OIG in meetings with Commission leadership, members of Congress and their staff, the accountability community, the public and media.

• Review existing and proposed legislations and regulations relating to programs and operations and commenting on the impact of such action on program efficiency, economy and administration.

• Serve as a member of the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency (CIGIE).

• Oversee new and innovative policies, procedures, standards, and guides and conduct studies to enhance the program from both an operational and financial perspective.

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES REQUIRED BY THE POSITION

• Bachelor’s degree, or higher, with emphasis in business administration, public administration, public policy, economics, law, social science, or a related field.

• Demonstrated experience developing and leading a strategic OIG office; progressively responsible experience as an Acting IG, Deputy IG, or Assistant IG conducting auditing, inspections, evaluations, and investigations of government agencies and programs, or the equivalent.

• Demonstrated knowledge of and skill in interpreting and applying the authorities and responsibilities conferred by the IG Act of 1978, as amended.

• Demonstrated experience reporting to Congress, or an equivalent oversight body, concerning fraud, waste, and abuse of financial programs.

• Demonstrated experience leading and managing staff, contractor monitoring, and management activities related to the responsibilities of an Office of Inspector General.

• Demonstrated ability to analyze, plan, organize, direct, adjust the functions and supervise, mentor, motivate, and appraise staff to meet the program requirements objectives within available resources.

• Demonstrated ability to motivate and inspire confidence and cooperation among others; demonstrated ability to develop and lead high performance/high morale team and to effectively foster teamwork and effective collaboration.

• Demonstrated ability to effectively coordinate program efforts with other internal and external organizations, represent the organization to key individuals and groups outside the immediate work unit, as well as serve as spokesperson for the organization to a variety of audiences and purposes.

• Demonstrated ability to manage multiple projects with shifting priorities under tight deadlines.

• Demonstrated ability to systematically organize and catalogue data and information.

• Demonstrated ability to exercise strong judgment and discretion, including a high degree of flexibility, initiative, and capacity for self-management and exceptional attention to detail.
KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES, continued

- Demonstrated written and verbal communication and interpersonal skills to produce quality reports and recommendations and establish independent positive working relationships to gain cooperation and acceptance of OIG reports and recommendations.
- Demonstrated ability to produce written information, which may include technical information that is appropriate for the intended audience, that is timely, accurate, succinct and relevant to recipient’s needs.
- Demonstrated ability to manage OIG operations within budget limitations including planning and directing each facet of the operation.
- Demonstrated knowledge and application of financial, inspections, evaluations and investigative standards, principles, techniques and practices necessary for assessing and analyzing financial management and effectiveness and efficiency of agency operations.
- Demonstrated skill to effectively deal with personnel from all levels of government and private industry.
- Demonstrated experience selecting and monitoring contractors that conduct audits and evaluations of government programs.
- Impeccable integrity and personal ethics.
- Leadership (people and strategy)—ability to manage strategy through successful and timely achievement of goals; guide staff; link mission, vision, values, goals and strategies to outcomes; help others identify goals and use their talents to achieve them; model successful competencies; hold staff accountable to outcomes using positive, developmental and constructive feedback.
- Adaptability—ability to accept and apply changes to work processes, information, team; recovers quickly from setbacks and finds alternative ways to reach goals or targets; navigates change through positive communications and supportive actions.
- Communication—selects appropriate and effective way to communicate to audiences in diverse situations; listens actively and asks questions to understand other perspectives or confirm understanding; awareness of and responsive to verbal and non-verbal communication styles; provides status updates which reduce or eliminate the need for follow up from requester.
- Collaboration—ability to interact and work effectively with others to accomplish goals despite differences, changes, roles or resources; treats others with respect, dignity, and professional courtesy; values the contributions of others through listening, sharing relevant information and considering new ideas; affirmatively shares lessons learned and relevant information.
- Critical Analysis—ability to identify, research, analyze, design, manage and communicate data and outcomes sufficiently to various audiences to accomplish work outcomes; develops, recommends, and/or implements innovative and effective approaches to solve problems.
- Accountability—makes best use of resources to accomplish work priorities; takes responsibility of balancing quality with deadlines; takes appropriate action(s) to fulfill commitments to others; owns, acknowledges and corrects mistakes; immediately communicates updates and changes to others.

Other position information:
- U.S. Citizenship required
- Position requires successful completion and maintenance of background security review
- Ability to travel 25%
APPLICATIONS

Electronic applications should be sent to:

David Smith, dpsmith@hrsinc.com
Please reference the subject line: ARC – Inspector General

APPLICATION DEADLINE:
Close of Business (EST) Friday, November 15th.

The Appalachian Regional Commission Search Team:

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