

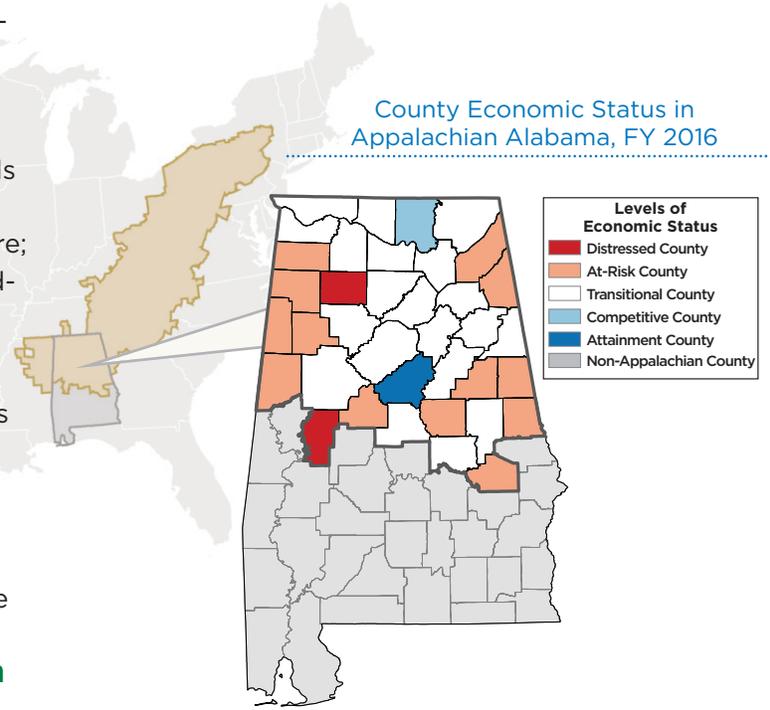


# INVESTMENTS IN ALABAMA

October 2015-January 2017

The Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) is a federal-state partnership. Its mission is to innovate, partner, and invest to build community capacity and strengthen economic growth in 420 counties across the 13 Appalachian states. ARC's strategic plan identifies five investment goals to advance this mission: creating economic opportunity; preparing a ready workforce; building critical infrastructure; leveraging natural and cultural assets; and cultivating leadership and community capacity.

In partnership with **Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA)**, ARC has supported **64 projects** in Alabama totaling **\$11.2 million**. These investments have been matched by **\$24.0 million** and will attract an additional **\$21.6 million** in leveraged private investments in Alabama. They will also create or retain nearly **900 jobs**, train and educate more than **14,000 students and workers**, and benefit the **3 million residents** in **Alabama's 37 Appalachian counties**.



## INVESTMENT PRIORITIES IN ALABAMA

ADECA has prioritized these three ARC investment goals:



### ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES

ARC has invested over **\$1.6 million** in entrepreneurial and business strategies to strengthen the economy in Appalachian Alabama.



### READY WORKFORCE

ARC has invested almost **\$6.6 million** to increase the education, knowledge, skills, and health of Alabama's Appalachian residents to work and succeed.



### CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

ARC has invested over **\$1.4 million** in Alabama's critical infrastructure development, including broadband, transportation, and water/wastewater systems.



### ADDITIONAL PRIORITIES

ARC has invested an additional **\$1.6 million** to leverage cultural and natural assets and cultivate leadership and community capacity in Appalachian Alabama.

## IMPACT ON DISTRESSED COUNTIES

In Appalachian Alabama, **two counties** were considered economically distressed in fiscal year 2016. **37 projects** totaling almost **60%** of ARC investment dollars will have a direct impact on these counties.

## INVESTMENTS IN ACTION

A collaborative effort by **West Alabama Works** with **Community Works Tuscaloosa**, fifteen businesses, Shelton State Community College, and Beville State Community College to offer pre-apprenticeship training to prepare individuals to enter registered apprenticeship programs. The programs offer soft-skills development, basic reading and math skills, and industry-specific classroom training. As part of the project, West Alabama Works brought a mobile training center to community outreach events in small rural churches, grocery store parking lots, and town squares to **enroll over 170 people** in the Hale County Automotive Logistics Partnership. The program includes a rigorous combination of Ready to Work training and adult education to develop a skilled workforce for Alabama's automotive sector. Additional ARC support will help West Alabama Works expand its community outreach and job training programs to **prepare over 1,000 workers and 500 students for jobs in the state's automotive industry**.