

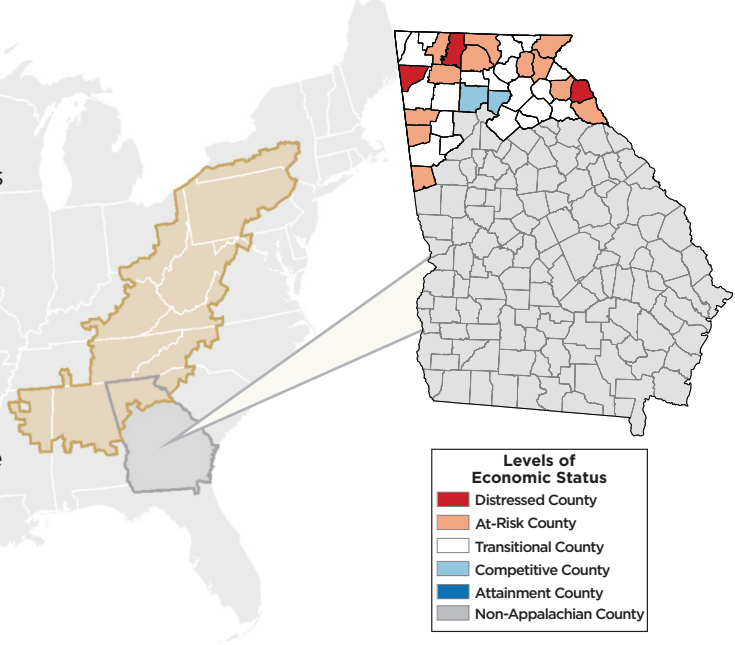


INVESTMENTS IN GEORGIA October 2015–January 2017

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 the **Georgia Department of Community Affairs**, ARC has supported **28 projects** in Georgia totaling **\$4.8 million**. These investments have been matched by more than **\$8.2 million** and will attract an additional **\$134.5 million** in leveraged private investments in Georgia. They will also create or retain over **1,900 jobs**, train and educate **150 students and workers**, and benefit the **3 million residents** in **Georgia’s 37 Appalachian counties**.

County Economic Status in Appalachian Georgia, FY 2016



INVESTMENT PRIORITIES IN GEORGIA

The Georgia Department of Community Affairs has prioritized these three ARC investment goals:



READY WORKFORCE

ARC has invested over **\$1.5 million** to increase the education, knowledge, skills, and health of Georgia’s Appalachian residents to work and succeed.



CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

ARC has invested over **\$1.9 million** in Georgia’s critical infrastructure development, including broadband, transportation, and water/wastewater systems.



LEADERSHIP & COMMUNITY CAPACITY

ARC has invested over **\$1.0 million** to build the capacity and skills of Appalachia’s current and next-generation leaders and organizations in Georgia to advance community and economic development



ADDITIONAL PRIORITIES

ARC has invested an additional **\$350,000** to strengthen the economy and leverage cultural and natural assets in Appalachian Georgia.

IMPACT ON DISTRESSED COUNTIES

In Appalachian Georgia, **three counties** were considered economically distressed in fiscal year 2016.

18 projects totaling **71%** of ARC investment dollars will have a direct impact on these counties.

INVESTMENTS IN ACTION

Northwest Georgia is known as the **“Carpet Capital of the World,”** as 85 percent of American carpet is manufactured in those 15 counties. During the recession, traditional carpet manufacturing took a hit as the housing sector fell. To help rebuild the regional economy and create jobs, the region developed the **Floor360 Consortium**, which is training new workers, forming strong partnerships, and developing sustainable technologies to help the region’s floor covering industry reach new heights as it diversifies its products for new markets beyond residential construction.