



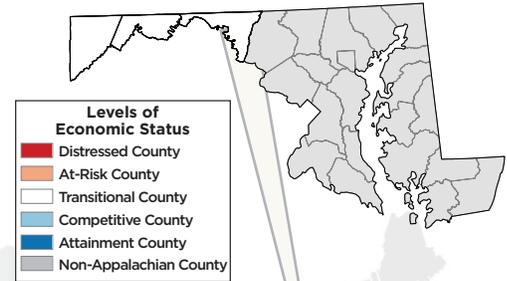
INVESTMENTS IN MARYLAND

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 **Maryland Department of Planning**, ARC has supported **20 projects** in Maryland totaling nearly **\$2.6 million**. These investments have been matched by **\$9.9 million** and will attract an additional **\$10.4 million** in leveraged private investments in Maryland. They will also create or retain **175 jobs**, train and educate more than **1,600 students and workers**, and benefit the **252,000 residents** in **Maryland’s 3 Appalachian counties**.

County Economic Status in Appalachian Maryland, FY 2016



INVESTMENT PRIORITIES IN MARYLAND

The Maryland Department of Planning has prioritized these three ARC investment goals:



READY WORKFORCE

ARC has invested almost **\$700,000** to increase the education, knowledge, skills, and health of Maryland’s Appalachian residents to work and succeed.



CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

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



LEADERSHIP & COMMUNITY CAPACITY

ARC has invested almost **\$400,000** to build the capacity and skills of Appalachia’s current and next-generation leaders and organizations in Maryland to advance community and economic development



ADDITIONAL PRIORITIES

ARC has invested an additional **\$125,000** to strengthen the economy and to leverage cultural and natural heritage in Maryland.

INVESTMENTS IN ACTION

Through an investment from ARC, the **Allegany County Board of Commissioners** strengthened the area’s broadband network and improved services to the area’s residents, businesses, and emergency services. The effort **brought broadband service into every school in Allegany County** and the expanded service allowed West Side Elementary in Cumberland, Maryland, with the approval of the Allegany Board of Education, to use the internet connection for an innovative project. The Beam+ Smart Presence Robot, affectionately known as Wall-E, was developed by the Public Sector Partnership Company and Suitable Technologies. When a student at West Side Elementary was unable to attend school in-person, Wall-E was brought into the classroom so the student could participate virtually in the lessons with the help of the robot.