



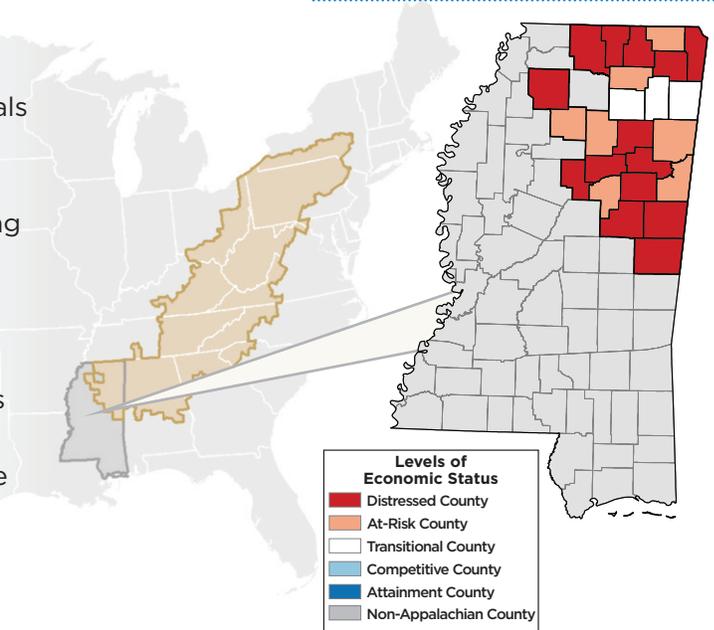
INVESTMENTS IN MISSISSIPPI

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 **Mississippi Development Authority (MDA)**, ARC has supported **60 projects** in Mississippi totaling **\$16.6 million**. These investments have been matched by more than **\$7.2 million** and will attract an additional **\$73.0 million** in leveraged private investments in Mississippi. They will also create or retain over **1,000 jobs**, train and educate more than **4,500 students and workers**, and benefit the nearly **629,000 residents** in **Mississippi's 24 Appalachian counties**.

County Economic Status in Appalachian Mississippi, FY 2016



INVESTMENT PRIORITIES IN MISSISSIPPI

MDA has prioritized these three ARC investment goals:



ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES

ARC has invested over **\$1.2 million** in entrepreneurial and business strategies to strengthen the economy in Appalachian Mississippi.



READY WORKFORCE

ARC has invested over **\$11.2 million** to increase the education, knowledge, skills, and health of Mississippi's Appalachian residents to work and succeed.



CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

ARC has invested over **\$2.8 million** in Mississippi's critical infrastructure development, including broadband, transportation, and water/wastewater systems.



ADDITIONAL PRIORITIES

ARC has invested an additional **\$1.3 million** to leverage cultural and natural assets and cultivate leadership and community capacity in Appalachian Mississippi.

IMPACT ON DISTRESSED COUNTIES

In Appalachian Mississippi, **14 counties** were considered economically distressed in fiscal year 2016. **54 projects** totaling almost **93%** of ARC investment dollars will have a direct impact on these counties.

INVESTMENTS IN ACTION

ARC invested **\$8.9 million** into **East Mississippi Community College**, **Northwest Mississippi Community College**, and **Itawamba Community College** in Mississippi to prepare workers for the region's growing automotive, aerospace, and advanced manufacturing sector. For example, Itawamba Community College will renovate and furnish a 21,200 square foot area at the Belden Center to relocate and expand the programs in order to better meet the skilled workforce needs of advanced manufacturing industry. The project is part of ARC's **Automotive Manufacturing Training Opportunities**, part of the Commission's effort to support workforce training programs in southern and south-central Appalachia.