



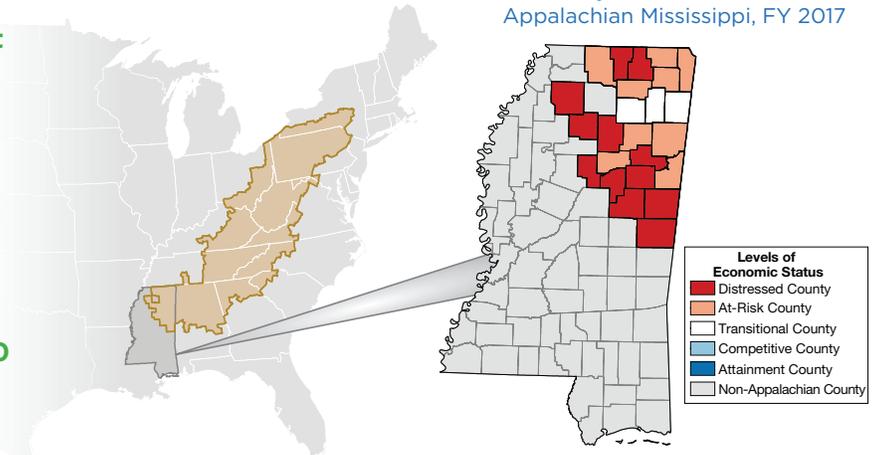
INVESTMENTS IN MISSISSIPPI

October 1, 2016–September 30, 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 **Mississippi Development Authority**, ARC supported **46 projects** in Mississippi totaling over **\$6.1 million** in fiscal year 2017. These investments have been matched by more than **\$7.5 million** and will attract an additional nearly **\$102.0 million** in leveraged private investments in Mississippi. They will also create or retain over **1,000 jobs**, train and educate nearly **850 students and workers**, and benefit the nearly **629,000 residents** in Mississippi’s **24 Appalachian counties**.

County Economic Status in Appalachian Mississippi, FY 2017



INVESTMENT PRIORITIES IN MISSISSIPPI

Mississippi Development Authority (MDA) has prioritized these investment goals:



ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES

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



READY WORKFORCE

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



CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

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



ADDITIONAL PRIORITIES

ARC invested an additional **\$555,000** to cultivate leadership and community capacity in Appalachian Mississippi.

IMPACT ON DISTRESSED COUNTIES

In Appalachian Mississippi, **12 counties** were considered economically distressed in fiscal year 2017, with pockets of distress in other areas. **38 projects** totaling **72%** of ARC investment dollars will have a direct impact on these distressed counties and areas.

INVESTMENTS IN ACTION

ARC, in partnership with the Mississippi Department of Education, is **investing \$300,000** to acquire the necessary tools and equipment to train a future workforce in advanced manufacturing, automotive, robotics, and construction technology programs. Through the program, around **500 Appalachian Mississippi high school students per year** will be prepared for **further education** and positions with local employers. In addition to technical skills, these career and technical education (CTE) programs have academic components related to the necessary “soft-skill” aspects of an industry including global awareness; financial, economic, and business literacy; civic literacy; information and communication skills; thinking and problem-solving skills; and interpersonal and self-directional skills.