

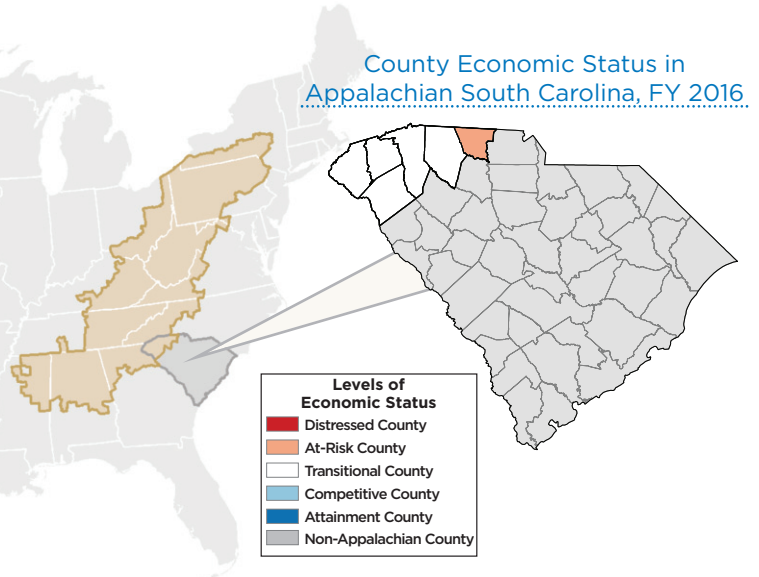


INVESTMENTS IN SOUTH CAROLINA

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 **South Carolina Department of Commerce**, ARC has supported **18 projects** in South Carolina totaling **\$3.4 million**. These investments have been matched by nearly **\$6.1 million** in South Carolina. They will also create or retain **180 jobs**, train and educate nearly **1,100 students and workers**, and benefit the nearly **1.2 million residents** of **South Carolina’s six Appalachian counties**.



INVESTMENT PRIORITIES IN SOUTH CAROLINA

The South Carolina Department of Commerce has prioritized these three ARC investment goals:



READY WORKFORCE

ARC has invested nearly **\$900,000** to increase the education, knowledge, skills, and health of South Carolina’s Appalachian residents to work and succeed.



CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

ARC has invested nearly **\$1.0 million** in South Carolina’s critical infrastructure development, including broadband, transportation, and water/wastewater systems.



NATURAL AND CULTURAL ASSETS

ARC has invested nearly **\$1.2 million** to leverage the economic potential of Appalachia’s natural and cultural heritage in South Carolina.



ADDITIONAL PRIORITIES

ARC has invested an additional **\$400,000** to cultivate leadership and community capacity in Appalachian South Carolina.

INVESTMENTS IN ACTION

ARC was an early investor in the **automotive manufacturing industry**, with the Appalachian governors voting to allocate funding across multiple states to assist South Carolina in providing the necessary infrastructure to attract BMW to the Region. Twenty years later, in 2012, automotive cluster analysis found that BMW alone was responsible for **creating 7,000 jobs**. With the company’s growth, an extensive supplier network has developed in the state, creating additional jobs. In recent years the automotive sector in southern Appalachia has grown to include major assembly plants for Mercedes, Toyota, and Honda. All of those have benefitted from ARC investments, primarily for basic infrastructure. In both FY 2015 and FY 2016, Congress appropriated special funding for ARC to facilitate job creation associated with the vibrant automobile-parts sector, particularly by supporting workforce training programs sponsored by community colleges.