

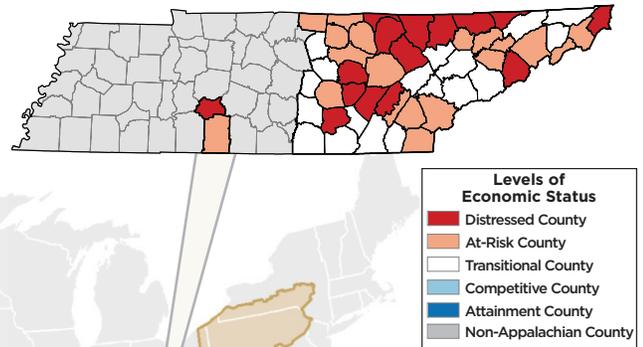


INVESTMENTS IN TENNESSEE October 2015–January 2017

The Appalachian Regional Commission’s (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 **Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development**, ARC has supported **58 projects** in Tennessee totaling nearly **\$14.7 million**. These investments have been matched by more than **\$14.2 million** and will attract an additional **\$10.0 million** in leveraged private investments in Tennessee. They will also create or retain **230 jobs**, train and educate nearly **4,400 students and workers**, and benefit the **2.8 million residents** in **Tennessee’s 52 Appalachian counties**.

County Economic Status in Appalachian Tennessee, FY 2016



INVESTMENT PRIORITIES IN TENNESSEE

The Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development has prioritized these three ARC investment goals:



READY WORKFORCE

ARC has invested nearly **\$3.9 million** to increase the education, knowledge, skills, and health of Tennessee’s Appalachian residents to work and succeed.



CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

ARC has invested over **\$6.0 million** in Tennessee’s critical infrastructure development, including broadband, transportation, and water/wastewater systems.



NATURAL AND CULTURAL ASSETS

ARC has invested nearly **\$2.5 million** to leverage the economic potential of Appalachia’s natural and cultural heritage in Tennessee.



ADDITIONAL PRIORITIES

ARC has invested an additional **\$2.3 million** to strengthen the economy and cultivate leadership and community capacity in Appalachian Tennessee.

IMPACT ON DISTRESSED COUNTIES

In Appalachian Tennessee, **15 counties** were considered economically distressed in fiscal year 2016. **44 projects** totaling more than **87%** of ARC investment dollars will have a direct impact on these counties.

INVESTMENTS IN ACTION

Through TNECD, ARC has been a longstanding investor in **LaunchTN**, a public-private partnership making Tennessee a destination for entrepreneurship, innovation and high-quality jobs. In the past four years, LaunchTN has **helped accelerate 500 companies, created over 1,300 jobs**, and **facilitated over \$1 billion in additional venture investment** in Tennessee. In 2016, ARC continued its support for LaunchTN with a \$750,000 investment in the three LaunchTN regional entrepreneurial centers specifically serving Tennessee’s Appalachian communities. Each center offers intensive programs for Tennessee’s rural entrepreneurs including business-planning training, bootcamps, and mentorship. The centers are projected to **create an additional 40 businesses and serve over 300 entrepreneurial students and nearly 500 businesses** in Appalachian Tennessee.