

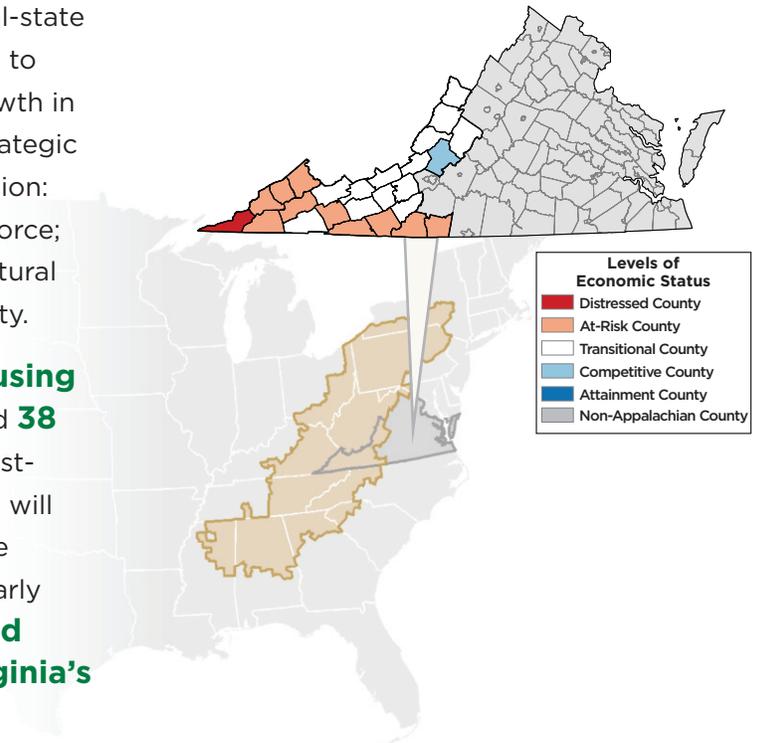


INVESTMENTS IN VIRGINIA October 2015–January 2017

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 **Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development**, ARC has supported **38 projects** in Virginia totaling **\$17.0 million**. These investments have been matched by nearly **\$16.3 million** and will attract an additional **\$22.0 million** in leveraged private investments in Virginia. They will also create or retain nearly **1,350 jobs**, train and educate over **800 students and workers**, and benefit the **765,000 residents** in **Virginia’s 25 Appalachian counties**.

County Economic Status in Appalachian Virginia, FY 2016



INVESTMENT PRIORITIES IN VIRGINIA

The Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development has prioritized these three ARC investment goals:



ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES

ARC has invested over **\$3.8 million** in entrepreneurial and business strategies to strengthen the economy in Appalachian Virginia.



READY WORKFORCE

ARC has invested nearly **\$6.8 million** to increase the education, knowledge, skills, and health of Virginia’s Appalachian residents to work and succeed.



NATURAL AND CULTURAL ASSETS

ARC has invested nearly **\$4.9 million** to leverage the economic potential of Appalachia’s natural and cultural heritage in Virginia.



ADDITIONAL PRIORITIES

ARC has invested an additional **\$1.6 million** to develop critical infrastructure and cultivate leadership and community capacity in Appalachian Virginia.

IMPACT ON DISTRESSED COUNTIES

In Appalachian Virginia, **one county** is considered economically distressed. **15 projects** totaling over **78%** of ARC investment dollars will have a direct impact on these counties.

INVESTMENTS IN ACTION

Friends of Southwest Virginia in Abingdon, Virginia, received an ARC POWER grant for the **Building Appalachian Spring: Growing the Economy of Southwest Virginia** project. This comprehensive project will significantly enhance the outdoor recreation industry as an economic driver in a four-county region in southwestern Virginia. ARC funds are being used to develop four access points to the New River that strategically link the river to nearby communities’ hospitality and tourism services; **construct a 4,000 square foot Gateway Center** to the High Knob Recreation Area – providing visitors with more centralized access to numerous nearby recreation assets; **build an Appalachian Trail Center** in downtown Damascus; and **create a 30-mile, multi-use trail** connecting Breaks Interstate Park directly to downtown Haysi’s business district. The project will increase travel expenditures in project locations by \$30 million over the next five years, create **60 new businesses and 200 new jobs**.