

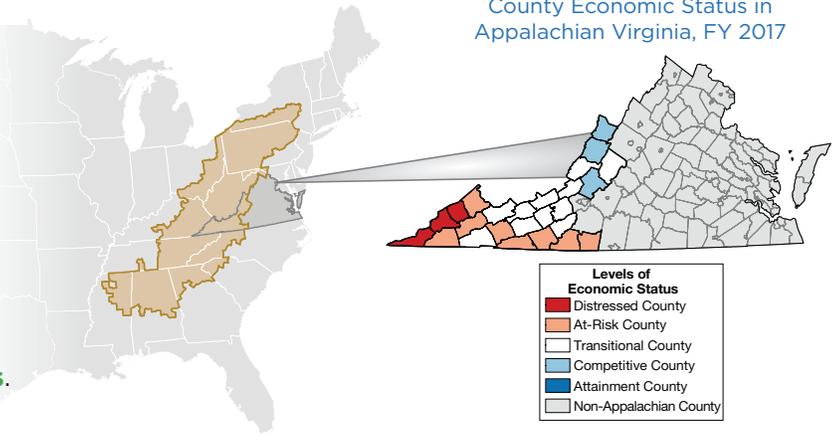


INVESTMENTS IN VIRGINIA

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 **Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development**, ARC supported **42 projects** in Virginia totaling nearly **\$11.2 million** in fiscal year 2017. These investments have been matched by nearly **\$11.1 million** and will attract an additional **\$35.0 million** in leveraged private investments in Virginia. They will also create or retain **915 jobs**, train and educate over **290 students and workers**, and benefit the **765,000 million residents** in **Virginia’s 25 Appalachian counties**.



INVESTMENT PRIORITIES IN VIRGINIA

Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) has prioritized these investment goals:



ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES

ARC invested nearly **\$3.0 million** in entrepreneurial and business strategies to strengthen the economy in Appalachian Virginia.



CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

ARC invested over **\$1.5 million** in Virginia’s critical infrastructure development, including broadband, transportation, and water/wastewater systems.



NATURAL AND CULTURAL ASSETS

ARC invested over **\$4.4 million** to leverage the economic potential of Appalachia’s natural and cultural heritage in Virginia.



ADDITIONAL PRIORITIES

ARC invested over **\$2.2 million** to develop a ready workforce and cultivate leadership and civic capacity in Appalachian Virginia.

IMPACT ON DISTRESSED COUNTIES

In Appalachian Virginia, **three counties** were considered economically distressed in fiscal year 2017, with pockets of distress in other areas. **26 projects** totaling **89%** of ARC investment dollars will have a direct impact on these distressed counties and areas.

INVESTMENTS IN ACTION

An assortment of ARC POWER projects were launched in Appalachia Virginia in fiscal year 2017 to improve economic outcomes in areas that have been impacted by the downturn of the coal industry. One **\$950,000 POWER grant** to **Mountain Empire Community College (MECC)** is being used to deploy a new power lineman training program in Big Stone Gap. **Friends of Southwest Virginia** in Abingdon is using a **\$3 million ARC POWER grant** to enhance the **outdoor recreation industry** as an economic driver in four counties. The **Southwest Virginia Alliance for Manufacturing, Inc.**, a non-profit industry association of manufacturers, was awarded a **\$1.3 million ARC POWER grant** for The Heart of Appalachia Economic Transition Project. The project aligns the grantee, local workforce development boards, and the Virginia Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) to deliver **technical assistance to 58 coal supply chain companies**.