

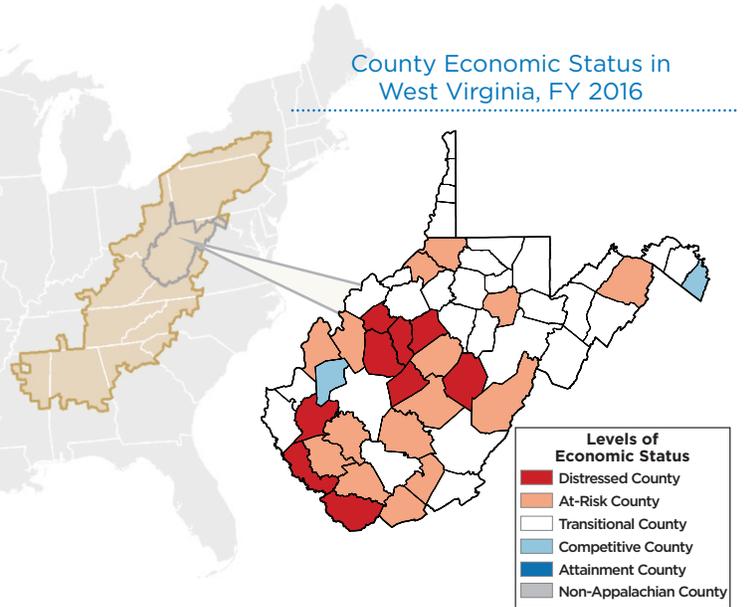


INVESTMENTS IN WEST VIRGINIA

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 **West Virginia Development Office**, ARC has supported **55 projects** in West Virginia totaling nearly **\$24.1 million**. These investments have been matched by nearly **\$24.6 million** and will attract nearly **\$27.9 million** in leveraged private investments in West Virginia. They will also create or retain nearly **2,750 jobs**, train and educate over **16,500 students and workers**, and benefit the **1.8 million residents** in **West Virginia’s 55 counties**.



INVESTMENT PRIORITIES IN WEST VIRGINIA

The West Virginia Development Office has prioritized these three ARC investment goals:



ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES

ARC has invested nearly **\$13.0 million** in entrepreneurial and business strategies to strengthen the economy in Appalachian West Virginia.



READY WORKFORCE

ARC has invested nearly **\$4.0 million** to increase the education, knowledge, skills, and health of West Virginia’s Appalachian residents to work and succeed.



CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

ARC has invested nearly **\$5.7 million** in West Virginia’s critical infrastructure development, including broadband, transportation, and water/wastewater systems.



ADDITIONAL PRIORITIES

ARC has invested nearly **\$1.5 million** to cultivate leadership and community capacity in Appalachian West Virginia.

IMPACT ON DISTRESSED COUNTIES

In Appalachian West Virginia, **9 counties** were considered economically distressed in fiscal year 2016. **38 projects** totaling over **79%** of ARC investment dollars will have a direct impact on these counties.

INVESTMENTS IN ACTION

The **Coalfield Development Corporation (CDC)** was granted **\$1.87 million** through ARC’s POWER Initiative to provide low-income West Virginians a comprehensive **workforce training program in construction, agriculture, solar energy, and other high-demand industries**. Much of the training takes place at Coalfield’s West Edge facility, a formerly abandoned garment factory in Huntington, West Virginia, that has been developed into a comprehensive training center. CDC projects that **over 550 trainees** will receive their professional certificates or associate degrees through its innovative workforce development model. CDC also plans to expand the organization’s service territory to other coal-impacted areas in southern West Virginia.