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## ARC POWER 2016 Technical Assistance Grants

### Application: Frequently Asked Questions

*This FAQ will be updated as new questions are received.*

#### **General Information**

##### **What is the POWER Initiative?**

The Partnerships for Opportunity and Workforce and Economic Revitalization (POWER) Initiative is an integrated, multi-agency effort to invest federal economic and workforce development resources in communities and regions negatively impacted by changes in the coal economy. The coal economy includes coal-mining, coal-powered plants, and the entire related supply chain of coal-reliant industries. On March 17, 2016, the Obama Administration announced the availability of \$65.8 million through the POWER Initiative to develop new strategies for economic growth and worker advancement in communities that have historically relied on the coal economy. The funds are available for project implementation and for technical support.

##### **How much funding is available for technical assistance through ARC's FFO?**

ARC's POWER 2016 Federal Funding Opportunity (FFO) provides \$1.2 million in technical assistance for eligible communities and regions.

##### **Who is eligible for ARC's POWER Initiative technical assistance funding?**

Eligible applicants and organizations representing groups of eligible applicants in coal-impacted communities in the [Appalachian Region](#) may apply for ARC POWER Initiative 2016 technical assistance funding. To be eligible for funding, applicants must demonstrate with data how their local or regional economy has been adversely affected by the decline in the coal sector.

Eligible applicants include:

- Local development districts;
- Indian tribes or consortiums of Indian tribes;
- States, counties, cities, and other political subdivisions of a state—including special-purpose units of a state or local government engaged in economic or infrastructure development activities—and consortiums of political subdivisions;
- Institutions of higher education or consortiums of institutions of higher education; and
- Public or private non-profit organizations and associations.

##### **How do communities and regions demonstrate that they have been impacted by the coal economy?**

Applicants should use data to demonstrate the coal-industry impacts on their local or regional economy. The data can include information on job losses due to coal mine closings or lay-offs,

job losses due to power-plant closures, and job losses in coal supply-chain industries, such as transportation, logistics, and manufacturing. ARC data and research on recent coal impacts is available at <http://www.arc.gov/POWER>.

### **What can ARC's POWER Initiative technical assistance funding be used for?**

ARC's technical assistance funding can be used for a broad spectrum of economic development planning, assessment, and capacity-building activities in the Appalachian Region. The funding is designed to help applicants identify potential economic development projects and prepare applications for POWER Initiative implementation grants.

### **Are there examples of ARC POWER Initiative technical assistance projects?**

Although this is not an exclusive list of potential POWER activities that can be funded by the ARC, some examples of technical assistance projects include:

- Building a coalition of local political, civic, business, religious, and other community leaders and groups;
- Assembling, interpreting, and analyzing economic and other relevant data;
- Evaluating current economic development and workforce development assets, needs, and goals;
- Conducting strategic planning (both new strategic plans and updates to existing plans) focusing on specific projects or business sectors;
- Expanding entrepreneurship development and leadership training;
- Developing a community or regional economic development strategy to achieve those goals, including both short- and long-term outcomes;
- Conducting feasibility studies prior to implementing a particular strategy; and
- Developing and/or writing an application for a POWER Initiative implementation grant.

## **Application Process**

### **When can I apply for ARC's POWER Initiative technical assistance funding?**

ARC is currently accepting applications for POWER Initiative technical assistance. You may submit an application through the [POWER portal](#) or apply by mail.

### **What is the deadline for submitting an ARC POWER Initiative technical assistance grant?**

There is no deadline for submitting an application for an ARC POWER technical assistance grant. ARC will review applications on a rolling basis as demand warrants, as ARC capacity allows, and as long as the \$1.2 million in funding remains available.

### **When will POWER technical assistance grants be awarded?**

ARC anticipates making the first round of POWER Initiative technical assistance grant awards in early summer 2016. ARC plans to conduct two to four technical assistance application review cycles during fiscal year 2016 (which ends on September 30, 2016).

### **Can I be reimbursed for application costs?**

No, ARC and EDA cannot reimburse applicants for POWER Initiative grant application costs.

## **Other Questions**

### **Should I apply for a POWER Initiative technical assistance grant or a POWER Initiative implementation grant?**

Interested communities should first determine whether they are currently prepared for a POWER implementation grant or whether they need technical assistance funding to help them plan and propose an implementation project. The ARC POWER 2016 technical assistance grant application process and the ARC POWER 2016 implementation grant application process are separate and independent.

### **Do I need matching support for my proposed technical assistance project?**

Yes. All ARC POWER 2016 Initiative grant projects require matching support, either cash or in-kind. Matching support may be provided through other federal agencies, state and local governments, non-profit foundations, or the private-sector. Information on [ARC FY 2016 grant match rates](#) is available on the [ARC Web site](#).