



Appalachian Regional Commission  
**POWER Award Summaries by State**  
January 2017

Since 2015, the Appalachian Regional Commission has invested nearly \$73 million specifically to diversify the economy in the Region's coal-impacted communities through the [POWER \(Partnerships for Opportunity and Workforce and Economic Revitalization\) Initiative](#). These investments will create or retain more than 6,500 jobs, leverage an additional \$132 million into the Region and prepare thousands more workers and students for jobs in technology, manufacturing, entrepreneurship, agriculture, and other sectors creating a strong economic future for Appalachia.

### Alabama

**\$1,920,000** ARC grant to Beville State Community College in Jasper, AL, for the *Beville State Community College POWER 2016 Initiative*. The project will create a new Rapid Training Center at Beville State's Jasper campus that will serve as a regional workforce training and job placement hub in northwest Alabama—an area that has been adversely affected by the recent retirement of coal-fired power generation facilities and the closure of multiple coal mines. The Rapid Training Center will offer accelerated workforce training programs that provide industry-recognized credentials in six growing regional industries: welding, commercial trucking, rigging, hydraulics/pneumatics, healthcare, and print reading. Through a partnership with the Alabama Department of Labor, individuals directly impacted by the decline in coal production will be offered up to \$1,000 in scholarships and stipends to move them through the Center's retraining programming in the most efficient manner possible. In addition, Beville State is partnering with the AARP to tailor a portion of the retraining and placement support for individuals who are 50+ years old. The project will train 4,000 trainees over the life of the award, and will improve 40 existing businesses in the region.

**\$1,500,810** ARC grant to West Alabama Works (WAW) - Region 3 Workforce Development Council in Tuscaloosa, AL, for the *WAW 2020 Initiative*. The project will deliver job training services to fill critical regional workforce needs in the rapidly growing automotive and advanced manufacturing industries in western Alabama—an area that has been adversely affected by the changing economics of the regional coal economy. WAW has partnered with Mercedes Benz to develop a specific recruitment and training plan for positions in mechatronics and industrial maintenance at their facilities in the area. In addition, the project will create a "pop-up" Community Resource Center in Brookwood, AL, to serve as a hub for community engagement; renovate the Brookwood Technical High School and Training Center to offer credentialing services to students at four regional high schools for employment in hospitality and culinary arts, healthcare, and advanced manufacturing; and, through a partnership with Energy Alabama and the Alabama Automotive Manufacturer's Association, develop business-specific plans that will speed the adoption of sustainable energy in Alabama's automotive industry. The project will train 1,000 dislocated workers and credential 500 students over the life of the award.

**\$997,150** ARC grant to the Shoals Entrepreneurial Center in Florence, AL, for the *Shoals Shift* project. The funds will be used to offer a wide range of entrepreneurial programming, including improved access to capital and credit and development of strategies to increase the profitability of the region's start-ups and existing businesses through more efficient use of broadband technologies. The programming includes training and activities for community members and student entrepreneurs from middle schools

all the way to the university level. Activities will take place in a nine-county region covering parts of northwest Alabama, northeast Mississippi, and south central Tennessee. The project is expected to help create or retain 110 jobs, start 20 new businesses, and leverage \$10,000,000 in private investment.

**\$77,680** ARC grant to the Alabama Center for Sustainable Energy (ALCSE) d/b/a Energy Alabama in Madison, AL, for technical assistance for a study of strategies to develop an advanced energy economy, with an emphasis on coal-impacted communities. It will identify the advanced energy industry of the coal-impacted areas, the available jobs within that industry, the resources of community colleges to support workforce training, and the career centers that can facilitate placement in the advanced energy industry of unemployed workers. The project will also support stakeholder engagement to explore and harness additional careers in sectors such as aerospace, advanced manufacturing, entrepreneurship, healthcare and information technology. Local sources will provide an additional \$79,857 to fund the project.

**\$60,202** ARC grant to the Southern Research Institute in Birmingham, AL, for the development of a strategic plan focusing on entrepreneurship in coal-impacted counties in the Appalachian part of Alabama. Innovation and increasing business startup activity will be the primary focus.

## **Kentucky**

**\$7,474,100 total** (a \$4,974,100 EDA grant and a \$2,500,000 ARC grant) to the University of Pikeville in Pikeville, KY, for the *Kentucky College of Optometry (KYCO)* project. POWER funds will be used to purchase equipment, instructional supplies, and other materials to help launch a new College of Optometry. The college will both grow the healthcare workforce and improve access to vision care in Central Appalachia. KYCO will be only the second optometry college in the Appalachian Region, and will primarily serve Eastern Kentucky, Southern West Virginia, and Southwestern Virginia. Within the first three years of the award, KYCO will graduate 60 optometrists, provide care to 12,000 patients, and bring \$26,000,000 in direct economic impact to the regional economy.

**\$3,500,000** ARC grant to Big Sandy Community and Technical College in Prestonsburg, KY, for the *Eastern Kentucky Coal County Transformation* project. The ARC award will enable three eastern-Kentucky education institutions—Big Sandy, Hazard Community and Technical College, and Southeast Kentucky Community and Technical College—to launch a comprehensive, employer-driven workforce development program focused on building the digital economy and strengthening digital innovation and entrepreneurship across a 16-county region in eastern Kentucky. The consortium—in partnership with Shaping Our Appalachian Region (SOAR) and the Eastern Kentucky Concentrated Employment Program (EKCEP)—will establish educational programs that develop workforce skills in emerging regional career clusters such as cybersecurity, medical coding, and advanced manufacturing. The program will specifically engage dislocated workers from the coal industry through targeted advertisements, and will provide adult basic education as needed to ensure that these individuals can participate in the training courses. In addition, to support the development of a technology-driven economy beyond classroom training, the program will identify and promote a number of digital innovation hubs, providing facilities and resources to encourage entrepreneurial activities. Success coaches will be available to instill critical 21<sup>st</sup> century skills and provide support to nascent technology workers, and a regional committee will be established to monitor industry trends and best practices. The project will serve 300 trainees and improve the operations of 30 existing businesses in the first two years of the award, and will lay the groundwork for the development of a vibrant and lasting digital economy in eastern Kentucky.

**\$2,750,000** ARC grant to the Eastern Kentucky Concentrated Employment Program (EKCEP) in Hazard, KY, for the *TechHire Eastern Kentucky (TEKY) Initiative: Developing a Technology-Driven Workforce* project. The project will serve young adults aged 17-29 who are out of school, and older adults who are unemployed, laid-off, or underemployed by offering several avenues to industry-led accelerated technology training, paid work-based internships, and employment opportunities in IT careers. This comprehensive workforce development initiative will train 200 new workers, create 160 jobs, and serve to bolster existing and emerging sectors that rely on a skilled information technology workforce in 23 Eastern Kentucky counties. The initiative will provide the trained workers necessary for a private technology company to expand its operations into Eastern Kentucky.

**\$2,022,133** ARC grant to the Mountain Association for Community Economic Development (MACED) in Berea, KY, for the *Economic Transition for Eastern Kentucky (ETEK) Initiative*. The ARC award will expand fast-track retraining and entrepreneurial technical assistance services targeted to dislocated coal workers; establish an intern program aimed at placing former coal workers in the energy efficiency sector; and increase access to capital through a \$1,000,000 venture capital loan fund. The project will create 200 new jobs and 100 new enterprises, serve 500 existing businesses, and bring \$12,000,000 in leveraged financing to a 54-county region in Eastern Kentucky.

**\$1,800,000** ARC grant to the Appalachian Wildlife Foundation Inc. in Corbin, KY, for the *Appalachian Wildlife Center Infrastructure* project. ARC funds will be used to install water infrastructure at the future site of the Appalachian Wildlife Center, a conservation education and research facility. The Wildlife Center facility—located on 19 miles of reclaimed mine land—will feature the largest elk restoration and viewing effort in the United States. The facility will be modeled on the successful Elk Country Visitor Center in Benzetette, Pennsylvania. The project will position a 10-county region in the tri-state area of southeastern Kentucky, northeastern Tennessee, and southwestern Virginia as a national tourist attraction, and will create 86 new jobs.

**\$1,500,000** ARC grant to Hazard Community and Technical College (HCTC) in Hazard, KY, for the *Intergenerational Training Center*. ARC funds will be used to construct a 14,700 square foot facility at HCTC's Lees College Campus in Jackson, KY that will deliver job training and credentialing courses focused around four emerging regional career clusters: information technology, telemedicine and health sciences, mechatronics, and eco-tourism/small business development. The project will leverage the capacity of the Eastern Kentucky Concentrated Employment Inc. (EKCEP) and the Kentucky Career Center to promote and market the program to out-of-school youth and displaced and underemployed workers impacted by the decline in the coal industry. The project will serve a seven-county area in southeastern Kentucky, and will train 295 dislocated workers and credential 228 students over the life of the award.

**\$1,464,251** ARC grant to the University of Kentucky Research Foundation in Lexington, KY, for the *Downtown Revitalization in the Promise Zone* project. This project—partnering with the Community and Economic Development Initiative of Kentucky, the Foundation for Appalachian Kentucky, the Kentucky Promise Zone, Shaping Our Appalachian Region (SOAR), and the Kentucky Mainstreet Program—will help revitalize the downtowns of 8 distressed towns in the Southeastern Kentucky Promise Zone. The project will provide each community with tailored economic studies that identify economic opportunities, support strategic planning sessions to capitalize on those opportunities, provide financial support for key steps to implement those strategies, and build local leadership and business capacity. The project will create 24 new downtown businesses, 72 new jobs, and leverage \$800,000 in private investment.

**\$1,290,000** ARC grant to Maysville Community and Technical College (MCTC) in Maysville, KY, for the *KY-WV Regional Drone Technology Workforce Project*. MCTC will partner with Southern West Virginia Community and Technical College to deliver comprehensive training courses in small-air drone operation to a seven-county area in southern West Virginia and a 13-county area in northeastern Kentucky. Specific training activities will enable graduates to operate drones and drone sensors to provide in-demand commercial services -- such as the close-up inspection of fixed structures like power lines, utility poles, and cell phone towers. The project will serve 100 trainees over the two-year life of the award, will leverage \$14,000,000 in private investment, and will, in conjunction with a previous ARC POWER award, further strengthen the emerging drone industry cluster in the West Virginia-Kentucky-Virginia tri-state area.

**\$1,250,000** ARC grant to the Kentucky Highlands Investment Corporation in London, KY, for the *Kentucky Highlands Employment and Financial Training Program*. The ARC award will capitalize a loan fund to enable Kentucky Highlands to invest in local entrepreneurs at both the start-up and expansion stages of companies located across 21 southeastern Kentucky counties. In addition, ARC's award will engage the Appalachian Community Federal Credit Union (ACFCU) to expand their portfolio of financial literacy services to the project's service territory. Specifically, ACFCU programs will increase financial knowledge, security, and wellness through the provision of credit builder loans, debt consolidation loans, payday alternative loans, affordable non-prime auto loans, and 80/20 mortgage loans. The project will create or retain 200 jobs and leverage \$2,250,000 in private investment.

**\$1,000,000** ARC grant to the Federation of Appalachian Housing Enterprises, Inc., (FAHE) in Berea, KY, for the *Appalachian HEAT Squad* project. ARC's investment will be utilized to improve the energy efficiency of low-income homes in coal-impacted communities across a nine-county region in eastern Kentucky—while also creating entrepreneurial and skills-based training opportunities in the area. The project will partner with Hazard Community and Technical College and the Mountain Association for Community Economic Development (MACED) to deliver the entrepreneurial education and construction training component, and with two other training organizations to increase the skill-base for private housing contractors operating in the region. The project will create or retain 119 jobs, increase the quality, affordability, and performance of over 270 homes, and leverage \$525,000 in private investment.

**\$1,000,000** ARC grant to the Federation of Appalachian Housing Enterprises (FAHE) in Berea, KY, for the *UPLIFT Appalachia Recovery* project. The ARC award will be used to finance three community recovery facilities that will support residents' recovery from addiction, provide needed health services, and create job opportunities in coal-impacted communities. These facilities will primarily serve three eastern Kentucky counties—each of which is located within the federally designated USDA Strike Force Zone. Specifically, the award will facilitate the development of a housing facility in Louisa, KY, that works with patients for 2-3 years and focuses on transitioning them from the center's care directly into an internship or job; assist in the creation of a 100-bed facility in Somerset, KY, that employs a peer-based care model in which patients in different stages of recovery work together to get and remain sober; and enable an existing facility in Jackson, KY to expand their services to an additional 990 people, to build a dental clinic, and to partner with the University of Pikeville for optometry care. The award will serve 5,060 patients, create or retain 63 jobs, and will leverage investment from USDA's Uplift America program and private investors.

**\$500,000** ARC grant to the City of Whitesburg, KY, for the Whitesburg Daniel Boone Hotel Stabilization project. ARC funds will be utilized to make immediate and urgent repairs to stabilize the historic, brick Daniel Boone Hotel—which represents the city's rise after the arrival of railroads and the opening of the

region's coalfields. The hotel is a central component of Whitesburg's economic development future and revitalization plans. After the structure is stabilized and renovated, it will be a regional destination and economic driver. The project will create 23 jobs, leverage \$2,000,000 in private investment, and will attract 9,900 additional visitors annually to the area.

**\$75,000** ARC grant to the Kentucky Center for Agriculture and Rural Development in Elizabethtown, KY, for *Local Food Supply Chain Development in Eastern Kentucky* project. EDA is also awarding \$468,635 to this project. Entrepreneurs using the Jackson County Regional Food Center in Tyner, KY, will receive technical assistance in areas such as business planning and marketing to help them reach targeted markets for their products.

**\$75,000** ARC grant to Saving Our Appalachian Region (SOAR) in Pikeville, KY, for *Unleashing the Power of the I-Way!* EDA is awarding \$1,000,000 and ETA is awarding \$2,000,000 to the Commonwealth of Kentucky as part of this project. The Kentucky Institute for Economic Development will offer annual training in professional development and economic development best practices to professionals recruited by the Eastern Kentucky Concentrated Employment Program (EKCEP) and other partners.

**\$75,000** ARC grant to Appalshop, Inc., in Whitesburg, KY, for *Mines to Minds: Southeast Kentucky High-Tech Workforce Training*. EDA is also awarding \$200,000 to this project. ARC funds will be used to purchase digital multi-media supplies and equipment and to fund the creation of a technology and digital workforce development training curriculum in collaboration with area educators and regional employers.

## **Maryland**

**\$48,000** ARC grant to Tri-County Council for Western Maryland, Inc. in Frostburg, MD, for technical assistance to develop an economic development plan for the I-68 region in Maryland and West Virginia. The *I-68 Regional Economic Partnership* project will include the development of a regional asset map, regional labor shed analysis, a target industry list, as well as county and regional lists of recommendations. The data and maps developed through the project will serve as resources for companies looking to build, hire, or expand in the region. Workforce training and job creation are two anticipated outcomes of the project. Local sources will match the \$48,000 in project funding provided by ARC.

## **Ohio**

**\$2,000,000** ARC grant to Ohio University in Athens, OH, for the *Leveraging Innovation Gateways and Hubs Toward Sustainability (LIGHTS)* project. The ARC award will strengthen Southern Ohio's entrepreneurial ecosystem by leveraging the capacity of four strategically located "Innovation Hubs"—which provide facilities, equipment and design/engineering expertise to entrepreneurs—and five regional "Gateway Centers" that link local entrepreneurs to a broad array of support services throughout the ecosystem. The project will build on the successful TechGROWTH Ohio model, create 360 new jobs, 50 new small businesses, and bring \$5,000,000 in leveraged private investment to the area.

**\$1,422,965** ARC grant to Hocking College in Nelsonville, OH, for the *Appalachia RISES (Revitalizing an Industry-ready Skilling Ecosystem for Sustainability)* Initiative. The project will leverage the expertise of regional education, business, and government entities to deliver comprehensive workforce training

services in employment fields that meet current and anticipated industry needs in North Central Appalachia—including advanced energy, automotive technology, petroleum technology, welding, and commercial driver's license (CDL). The project will train 306 workers over the life of the award, and primarily serve a 17-county region covering southeastern Ohio and central West Virginia.

**\$119,460** ARC grant to Rural Action in The Plains, OH, to develop a strategic plan and feasibility study for the Appalachian Ohio Solar Supply-Chain Initiative. This regional planning effort will focus on building a stakeholder partnership that will develop a regional solar manufacturing supply-chain in response to a major utility's plan to deploy new solar resources in Ohio.

**\$68,700** ARC grant to Rural Action, Inc., in The Plains, OH, for *Emerging Social Enterprise Development*. SBA is also awarding up to \$2.5 million to the Appalachian Partnership for Economic Growth as part of this project. The project will expand social enterprise development in sustainable forestry and other emerging sectors by providing technical assistance and support to non-profits and private enterprises in idea generation, market assessment, and business modeling.

**\$22,758** ARC grant to Youngstown State University in Youngstown, OH, to analyze and develop a project plan for the Advanced Manufacturing Innovation and Commercialization Center. The project is expected to serve 14 counties in Ohio, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia.

## **Pennsylvania**

**\$1,213,868** ARC grant to the Southern Alleghenies Planning and Development Commission (SAPDC) in Altoona, PA, for the *Southern Alleghenies Entrepreneurial Ecosystem* project. The project will strengthen the entrepreneurial ecosystem of a three-county region in southwestern Pennsylvania through the provision of a wide array of diverse, wrap-around business support services, facilitated via business coaches and mentors. In addition, the award will renovate several existing entrepreneurial spaces in the region where much of the programmatic activity will take place. The project will create 125 new jobs and 25 new businesses, and will leverage \$3,750,000 in private investment.

**\$1,200,000** ARC grant to the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) Career Centers Inc. in Prosperity, PA, for the *New Start Retraining Initiative for Displaced Coal Industry Workers* project. The ARC award will deliver workforce training and job placement services to unemployed coal mine workers in eight southwest Pennsylvania counties and two southern West Virginia counties. UMWA will partner with the Pittsburgh Institute of Aeronautics, the Allegany College of Maryland, and Pennsylvania Highlands Community College to design and implement training programs in strategic regional career sectors including commercial trucking, cybersecurity, and advanced manufacturing. Training will be complemented by job placement and other wraparound support to ensure that each trainee has maximum potential for securing employment. The project will serve 400 trainees over the life of the award.

**\$948,673** ARC grant to Somerset County, PA, for the *Somerset County Fiber Extension Project*. ARC funds will be used to install 22 miles of fiber optic cable on existing pole lines that will allow a variety of business, residential, medical, and educational customers in Somerset County access to broadband services. The area does not currently have cable broadband available and DSL service is not offered ubiquitously. The project will serve 1,094 businesses and 3,962 households, and will act as an economic and tourism driver in the county.

**\$662,567** ARC grant to the Southwestern Pennsylvania Corporation in Pittsburgh, PA, for the *Southwest Pennsylvania Economic Gardening Initiative*. ARC funds will diversify the business operations of supply chain industries in a 10-county region in southwestern Pennsylvania. Working with Catalyst Connection (the regional Manufacturing Extension Partnership), the project will focus on small manufacturing establishments (SMEs) in the coal supply chain by providing mini-grants to targeted firms that enable the most impactful business development strategies to move forward quickly and efficiently—with a specific emphasis on increasing access to advanced manufacturing technologies. In addition, the project will target freight and logistics firms operating along the waterways of southwest Pennsylvania to increase their competitiveness by identifying and prioritizing new markets and opportunities. The project will create or retain 330 jobs, serve 55 supply chain businesses, and leverage \$25,000,000 in private funds.

**\$653,400** ARC grant to the Washington Greene County Job Training Agency Inc. in Washington, PA, for the *Transitioning from Black to Blue: Training Former Coal Workers for Natural Gas Utility and Pipeline Careers in Appalachia* project. The ARC award will provide a targeted retraining program for displaced coal workers that enables them to pursue local employment in the natural gas utility and pipeline industry. The training courses will be offered at three regional education institutions—Butler County Community College, Westmoreland County Community College, and Washington State Community College. The curriculum includes input from the Gas Technology Institute to ensure that participants' knowledge and skill development is industry-standard and best positions them to find stable employment in an expedited manner. The project will primarily serve a 23-county area in southeast Ohio and southwest Pennsylvania, and will serve 100 trainees.

**\$500,000** ARC grant to Pennsylvania Wilds Center for Entrepreneurship, Inc., in Russell, PA, for the *Nature Tourism Cluster Development in the PA Wilds* project. The ARC award will be used to create a coordinated regional cluster development system to capitalize on Pennsylvania's numerous nature-tourism assets that spread across 2,000,000 acres in 12 counties. This strategy will drive attendance to these natural attractions, and will be leveraged by \$500,000 in match investments to develop a network of small businesses to support the increased demand for products and services in the area.

**\$500,000** ARC grant to Innovation Works, Inc., in Pittsburgh, PA, for the *Revitalization of Southwestern Pennsylvania Coal-Impacted Communities through Innovation and Entrepreneurship* project. ARC funds will be used to implement five different but complimentary programs designed to deliver a variety of benefits to entrepreneurs and small businesses in a nine-county region in southwestern Pennsylvania—including the provision of human resource services to early-stage, high-growth companies, and training services for existing small businesses. Programs will target entrepreneurs who were formerly employed in the coal industry, coal-fired power plants, and suppliers to those industries. The project will create 65 new jobs and 7 new businesses, leverage \$1,100,000 in additional investment, and retain 30 existing jobs.

**\$471,843** ARC grant to the SEDA-Council of Governments in Lewisburg, PA, for the *Central PA Asset Based Economy—Adaptive Reuse of Coal-Impacted Land and Outdoor Recreation as an Economic Engine* project. ARC funds will be used to position reclaimed mine land in five central Pennsylvania counties as a regional outdoor tourism destination. Specifically, the project will construct an EMS/cell tower to provide 911 and cellular communications and broadband services to the Anthracite Outdoor Adventure Area (AOAA); design and construct 15 miles of new multi-use trails; develop and construct in-facility campground infrastructure; provide support for a coordinated marketing campaign focused on the region's tourism options; and provide entrepreneurial assistance activities to build-out the service

industry around the increased tourism activity in the area. The project will drive 12,000 new visitors annually to the area, generate over \$18,000,000 in non-export revenue, and create 26 jobs.

**\$100,000** ARC grant to the Northwest PA Regional Planning and Development Commission in Oil City, PA, for technical assistance to develop a feasibility study for broadband access in the Northwest Pennsylvania region. The *Northwest PA Broadband Assessment* project will include capacity building among regional partners, identify gaps in high-speed internet infrastructure, and recommend solutions to improve internet connectivity among residents and local business. State sources will provide an additional \$86,047 to support the project.

**\$50,000** ARC grant to the Armstrong County Industrial Development Council in Freeport, PA, to develop an Economic Development strategy for the county. The *Armstrong County 2017 POWER Technical Assistance* project will, in cooperation with local partners, build a road map for shaping the delivery system of economic development services and programs in Armstrong County. The plan will look at new and existing services, programs and initiatives. Local sources will provide an additional \$60,820 for the project.

**\$14,214** ARC grant to the United Mine Workers Association Career Centers, Inc. in Prosperity, PA, to provide grant writing assistance to raise funds for the development of a training program at their Greene County, PA, training facility. The program will emphasize high demand occupations such as commercial driver's license, and heavy equipment and diesel mechanics.

## Tennessee

**\$1,501,499** ARC grant to Marion County, TN, for the *Marion County Regional Center for Higher Education Phase II & III* project. ARC funds will be utilized to construct a 30,000-square-foot educational facility that will house new technology and industrial training programs. The project will also conduct outreach to displaced workers from the Widows Creek Power Plant—a coal-fired facility in the area that was recently retired. The project will train 109 people for careers in advanced manufacturing and information technology, and will improve 20 existing businesses in the region.

**\$400,000** ARC grant to Erwin Utilities in Erwin, TN, for the *Temple Hill & Bumpus Cove Broadband* project. ARC funds will be used to install 35 miles of fiber optic cable on existing pole lines—allowing business and residential subscribers in Temple Hill and Bumpus Cove access to broadband services. The area does not currently have cable broadband available, and DSL service is not offered ubiquitously. Tourism expansion is a major economic driver in the area and increased bandwidth will help expand the tourism industry and revenue base. The project will serve 680 households and 30 businesses, and will act as an economic driver in a three county area in northeast Tennessee, which has been adversely affected by the closure of a major rail yard as a result of the decline in coal shipments.

**\$353,086** ARC grant to the Town of Unicoi, TN, for the *Mountain Harvest Kitchen Incubator & Entrepreneurial Training Program*. ARC funds will purchase equipment for a shared-use, commercial kitchen where value-added processing of locally-harvested products will take place. Entrepreneurial training will be offered by partner organizations including AccelNow, the Appalachian Resource Conservation and Development Council, and the University of Tennessee Agricultural Extension for start-ups and established businesses in the agricultural sector. The program will serve a nine-county region in northeast Tennessee and northwest North Carolina, create 30 new businesses and 60 new jobs, serve 91 trainees, and leverage \$1,200,000 in private investment.

## Virginia

**\$3,000,000** ARC grant to Friends of Southwest Virginia in Abingdon, VA, 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 will be 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, and is supported by funding from the Virginia Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission.

**\$2,220,000** ARC grant to the Industrial Development Authority in Wise, VA, for the *Virginia Emerging Drone Industry Cluster Project*. ARC funds will be used to position five counties in southwestern Virginia as a national destination for the development of a drone-operator workforce to support the emerging drone industry in the United States. The award will enable Mountain Empire Community College to offer courses that train students, including former coal industry workers, to operate drones and drone sensors to provide commercial and government services—including geospatial surveys, close-up inspections of fixed structures, and mapping. The award will train 64 new workers, leverage \$15,000,000 in additional investment, and enable a private aerospace company in the region to perform work on a major contract—thereby creating 210 new direct and indirect jobs.

**\$1,500,000** ARC grant to Appalachian Sustainable Development in Abingdon, VA, for the *Central Appalachian Food Enterprise Corridor*. This 5-state, 43-county project will develop a coordinated local foods distribution network throughout Central Appalachia, and will connect established and emerging producers in Ohio, West Virginia, Tennessee, Southwest Virginia, and Eastern Kentucky to wholesale distribution markets. The ARC award will support planning, partner convening, and capacity building, as well as production and processing equipment, supplies, and labor costs, and will be supported by funding from the Just Transition Fund. The strengthened food corridor will act as regional economic driver—creating 120 jobs, retaining 250 jobs, and ultimately creating 95 new businesses.

**\$1,420,219** ARC grant to Southwest Virginia Community College (SWCC) in Cedar Bluff, VA, for the *Southwest Virginia Regional Cybersecurity Initiative*. The initiative brings together three colleges in southwestern Virginia—SWCC, Mountain Empire Community College (MECC), and University of Virginia's College at Wise (UVA-Wise)—and aims to position this seven county southwestern Virginia area as a regional hub for the cybersecurity industry. Specific activities will include creating a certification/credential program aligned with industry needs and National Security Agency guidelines; providing support services to cybersecurity start-up companies that locate to the region; and expanding UVA-Wise's existing bachelor's degree program in cybersecurity through an accelerator space in which cybersecurity companies can co-locate research and development activities. Additional funding for the project is being provided by the Virginia Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission. The project will train 161 new workers, and retain 110 jobs.

**\$1,417,375** ARC grant to Southwest Virginia Community College (SWCC) in Cedar Bluff, VA, for the *Retraining Energy Displaced Individuals (REDI) Center for Dislocated Coal Miners* program. The REDI program will provide fast-track reemployment services directly to displaced coal miners—equipping

them with the necessary skills to get back to work in a high-demand field, earning comparable wages to their previous employment. Through an intensive, accelerated program of coursework, workers can obtain credentialed skills in as little as four months, rather than the more traditional training periods of a year or more. Training will be focused on three sectors with local employment opportunities: advanced manufacturing, construction, and health technology. The program will certify 165 new trainees over the life of the award, and will be supported by funding from the Thompson Charitable Fund and the Virginia Tobacco Commission.

**\$1,307,650** ARC grant to the Southwest Virginia Alliance for Manufacturing, Inc., in Abingdon, VA, for *The Heart of Appalachia Economic Transition Project*. The project will align the grantee—a non-profit industry association of manufacturers from southwest Virginia—local workforce development boards, and the Virginia Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) Center to deliver business technical assistance to coal supply chain manufacturers in an effort to return them to profitability. The project will conduct outreach to prospective companies in the 16-county southwest Virginia service territory, and perform network analysis that will allow for participating companies to retool their manufacturing efforts in the most feasible, cost-effective manner possible. In addition, the project will increase the number of young adults pursuing careers in manufacturing by redefining the image and value of manufacturing among young people, their parents, their educators, and policy makers. The award will create 300 jobs and retain 200 existing jobs, and will positively impact the operations of 58 existing businesses.

**\$950,000** ARC grant to Mountain Empire Community College (MECC) in Big Stone Gap, VA, for the *Power Linemen Career Education* program. MECC will partner with regional power industry employers to develop and implement a training curriculum that equips participants across a four-county area in southwest Virginia for entry-level employment as apprentice utility line workers and positions them for a career as journeyman-level power lineman. The project will also partner with the Flatwoods Job Corps Center's in order to utilize their outdoor instructional facilities. The project will serve 362 trainees over the life of the award.

**\$800,000** ARC grant to Virginia Community Capital in Christiansburg, VA, for the *New Economy Loan Fund* project. The project—which will leverage the capacity of a variety of regional governments, education institutions, and business incubators—will provide needed capital and targeted technical assistance to small business owners in coal-impacted communities across nine counties in southwest Virginia. Specifically, ARC funds will assist in capitalizing a loan fund that will support small business development in the service area, and will enable a full-time technical assistance provider to deliver business assistance directly to entrepreneurs to build the knowledge and skills for continued profitability and sustainability. The project will create or retain 55 jobs, enable 17 businesses to receive loans and 30 businesses to receive technical assistance, and leverage \$4,800,000 in private capital.

**\$99,670** ARC grant to Appalachian Voices in Norton, VA, for the *Southwest Virginia Renewable Energy and Economy* Project. The project will conduct a feasibility study, develop a strategic plan, and provide capacity building assistance to determine the viability of a renewable energy plan for the Southwest Virginia region. The project's activities will include a structured process for engaging local officials and organizations that are interested in renewable energy as part of the region's economic diversification strategy.

**\$75,000** ARC grant to Friends of Southwest Virginia in Abingdon, Virginia, for *RESOURCE-FULL: A Consortium Approach to Workforce and Economic Development in Southwest Virginia*. EDA is also

awarding \$275,000 to this project. The ARC award will be used to brand the southwest Virginia region as an international outdoor recreation destination and will include the development of tools and materials to be used for business and employee recruitment.

**\$61,603** ARC grant to the Virginia Coalfield Coalition, Inc., for technical assistance to conduct a comprehensive assessment of Southwest Virginia's telecommunication needs, which include identifying current levels of service, any gaps in that service, and the affordability of various broadband solutions. The *Virginia Coalfields Telecommunications Planning Grant* will develop a road map to address the specific deficiencies in each community and assess building capacity amongst regional partners. Local sources will provide an additional \$37,757 for the project.

**\$34,750** ARC grant to Grayson Land Care, Inc., in Fries, VA, to develop a feasibility study for the development of an abattoir, or slaughter house, in the I-81 and I-77 corridor, a region that includes parts of Virginia and West Virginia. The *Blue Ridge Plateau Abattoir* project will, in cooperation with local partners, directly support the development and planning tasks needed to launch the facility and implement a workforce training program. The proposed abattoir would strengthen the local food system and help diversify the regional economy.

**\$11,108** ARC grant to Round the Mountain: Southwest Virginia's Artisan Network in Abingdon, VA, to provide grant writing assistance to raise funds for the creation of a regional craft beverage cluster that will strengthen Virginia's agriculture industry and tourism in the region. The project will build off the extensive network cultivated by the Southwest Virginia Cultural Heritage Foundation.

## **West Virginia**

**\$2,500,000** total (a \$1,500,000 ARC grant and a \$1,000,000 EDA grant) to the Bluewell Public Service District in Bluefield, WV, for the *Mercer County Regional Airport Development and Diversification Initiative*. POWER funds will be used to extend public water service along Route 52 and Airport Road to the Mercer County Regional Airport. In addition to providing essential infrastructure to the regional airport, the project will create 38 new jobs, and will capitalize on an existing regional asset by providing funding for a strategic plan that will position the airport and its adjoining 200 acres of flat, developable land as an economic driver for four counties in Southern West Virginia and Southwestern Virginia.

**\$2,196,450** ARC grant to the Consortium for Entrepreneurship Education in Charleston, WV, for the *EntreEd K-14: Every Student, Every Year* project. The EntreEd program enables K–12 teachers to integrate entrepreneurial content and context into delivery of required standards in any subject or grade level. The project will educate the next generation of Appalachia's workforce to create their own businesses to drive the local economy. ARC funds will expand the footprint of the proven EntreEd program into five additional counties in West Virginia, eleven counties in Kentucky, three counties in Ohio, one county in Tennessee, and two counties in Virginia. The program will be supported by expertise from the National Association for Community College Entrepreneurship (NACCE), project management from the EdVenture Group, and funding from the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation. The EntreEd program will serve 15,000 K–12 Appalachian students in 50 individual schools and 7 community colleges over the life of the award.

**\$1,870,000** ARC grant to the Coalfield Development Corporation in Wayne, WV, for the *Appalachian Social Entrepreneurship Investment Strategy*. ARC funds will be used to incubate job-creating social enterprises; scale-up Coalfield Development Corporation's innovate 33-6-3 on-the-job

training/education/life skills workforce development model; and expand Coalfield Development Corporation's service territory to other coal-impacted areas in Southern West Virginia. The award will create 85 new jobs and equip 60 trainees to pursue quality jobs in high-demand industries in the Appalachian Region, and will be supported by funding from the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation.

**\$1,822,500** total (a \$1,200,000 EDA grant and a \$622,500 ARC grant) to the Randolph County Development Authority in Elkins, WV, for the *Hardwood Cluster Manufacturing Expansion Project*. POWER funds will be utilized to expand a major cabinet manufacturer's operation by enabling the doubling of its current production rate due to a new national contract—thereby creating 45 new jobs and adding \$2,500,000 in annual wages to the regional economy. In addition, the award will strengthen the Hardwood Alliance Zone—a nine-county region in Central West Virginia containing a cluster of hardwood businesses.

**\$1,502,938** ARC grant to Marshall University Research Corporation in Huntington, WV, for the *Sprouting Farms* project. The project will facilitate the development of a vibrant agricultural industry in a nine-county area in southern West Virginia by educating new farmers, launching farm businesses, and jump-starting wholesale market channels, all while encouraging business and farm sustainability. ARC funds will be used to implement workforce and farm business accelerator training programs; secure and upgrade the project site and facilities; and provide direct business support and employment to new agricultural businesses and program graduates. The project will create 20 new businesses and 33 new jobs, and leverage \$961,475 in additional investment. Additional funding is being provided by the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation.

**\$1,500,000** ARC grant to the Marshall University Research Corporation in Huntington, WV, for the *Appalachian Hatchery* project. The program, operated through the Robert C. Byrd Institute, will assist specific businesses affected by the decline in coal production return to profitability through the adoption and deployment of emerging advanced manufacturing technologies—primarily 3D printing and additive manufacturing. In addition, the program will provide other business assistance services, including shared equipment options, modern workforce development strategies, and the establishment of better linkages between large and small manufacturers. The program will serve a 20-county region—including 13 Distressed or At-Risk counties—in southern West Virginia, will create or retain 375 jobs, and will leverage \$750,000 in private investment. Additional funding is being provided by the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation.

**\$1,372,275** ARC grant to the Hatfield McCoy Regional Recreation Authority in Man, WV, for the *Southern Coalfields Sustainable Tourism & Entrepreneurship Program*. ARC funds will develop and implement a comprehensive program to expand tourism-related employment and businesses in southern West Virginia, and will foster Hatfield McCoy Trail expansion in Kentucky and Virginia. In addition, the award provides for the deployment of a coordinated marketing effort, which will increase the region-wide economic impact of the Trails by \$13,000,000 per year. The project will create 225 jobs and 50 new businesses along the Trails, and will be supported by funding from the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation.

**\$1,325,655** ARC grant to the Marshall University Research Corporation in Huntington, WV, for the *Sustainable Employment for Community Health Workers in Coal-Impacted Counties* project. The ARC award will create permanent jobs for at least 26 Community Health Workers (CHWs)—who will provide healthcare coordination services directly to high-risk patients in coal-impacted communities across 10

counties in southeastern Ohio, eastern Kentucky, and central West Virginia. CHWs will be a critical component of the local care team, supervised by a Registered Nurse and Nurse Practitioner or other clinician. Their inclusion in the regional healthcare workforce will streamline the provision of healthcare services; increase health outcomes for patients suffering from diabetes, congestive heart failure, and COPD—diseases that are disproportionately common in Appalachia; and ultimately drive down the overall cost of healthcare in the service territory. In addition to the 26 permanent jobs created, the project will serve 625 patients and leverage \$780,000 over the life of the award. Additional funding is being provided by the Sisters Health Foundation and the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation.

**\$1,250,000** ARC grant to the Natural Capital Investment Fund, Inc. in Shepherdstown, WV, for the *Growing Triple Bottom Line Small Businesses in Coal Impacted Communities in Central Appalachia* project. These funds will be used to expand coal-impacted communities' access to capital in Southern West Virginia by capitalizing a \$4,000,000 tourism-related revolving loan fund and developing a West Virginia New Markets Tax Credit Fund. The project will create 200 new jobs and 20 new businesses, bring \$5,000,000 of leveraged private investment into the region, and will be supported by funding from the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation.

**\$1,073,304** ARC grant to the West Virginia Regional Technology Park Corporation in South Charleston, WV, for the *Green Mining Model Business Program*. The project brings 17 public and private partners together to operate a system of linked activities designed to use reclaimed soils on inactive surface mining land to grow value-added crops; extract high-value products from these crops and market/sell them; and leverage land reclamation, crop cultivation, and chemical extraction and processing activities to provide displaced coal and energy industry workers across 13 West Virginia counties with training, employment, and entrepreneurial opportunities. The project will focus primarily on training these displaced workers to farm and cultivate lavender—during a demonstration of the project, it was discovered that cultivation of 2.5 acres of lavender supported the direct and indirect employment of 25 individuals. The WV National Guard and coal company partners will donate free or reduced-cost land and land preparation assistance to the project, and the West Virginia Regional Technology Park will provide access to its multi-million dollar chemical manufacturing facilities. The project will create 250 direct and indirect jobs, leverage \$459,987 private investment, and create six new businesses. Additional funding for will be provided by the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation.

**\$967,500** ARC grant to the New River Gorge Regional Development Authority in Beckley, WV, for the *New River Gorge Region – Developing an Entrepreneurial Economy* project. ARC funds will be used to establish a technical assistance support program—which will assist start-up businesses with hands-on technical aspects of their operations—and to hire social enterprise and region-wide business coaches. The project will yield 15 new businesses, improve 294 existing businesses, and create 225 new small-business jobs.

**\$856,050** ARC grant to the West Virginia Healthy Kids and Family Coalition (HKFC) in Charleston, WV, for the *Growing Social Enterprise and Healthy Communities* project. HKFC will expand the successful Try This WV economic and community development program to 15 local communities in the service territory—which will enable them to phase-in second stage development activities designed to improve community vitality and health. Simultaneously, Strong Mountain Communities, a southern West Virginia economic development organization, will build a pre-market social enterprise development program and create an Investors' Circle; combined, these two activities will deliver technical assistance directly to social entrepreneurs, and will raise capital to invest in the creation and expansion of local social enterprises. The project will serve 23 counties in southern West Virginia, create 100 jobs, leverage

\$1,200,000 in private and community financing, and will provide for 200 entrepreneurs and community leaders to receive in-depth technical assistance.

**\$400,000** ARC grant to the West Virginia University Research Corporation in Morgantown, WV, for the *Manufacturing Value Stream for Shale* project. The project will transition companies and suppliers affected by the downturn in the coal economy toward the emerging shale-manufacturing sector by providing direct economic diversification and investment assistance. The applicant—partnering with the Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) Centers in West Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Ohio—will identify specific companies in the tri-state service area with shale-manufacturing assets and opportunities; assess participating companies' prospective entry points into the shale-manufacturing value stream; and deliver direct guidance to SMEs on value chain opportunities. The award will create 400 new jobs and 12 new businesses. Additional funding is being provided the by Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation.

**\$362,989** ARC grant to the Center for Rural Health Development, Inc., in Hurricane, WV, for the *WV Rural Health Infrastructure Loan Fund* project. ARC funds will assist in capitalizing a revolving loan fund designed to strengthen the health care industry in a 25-county region in central West Virginia. In addition, the award will provide technical and business development assistance to existing health care providers with business-related needs. The project will create or retain 65 jobs, yield \$1,000,000 of financing for health care businesses, and provide 216 organizations with technical assistance.

**\$300,000** ARC grant to Woodlands Community Lenders (WCL) in Elkins, WV, for the *Financing Entrepreneurship in Randolph, Barbour, and Tucker Counties* project. The ARC award will expand WCL's proven, comprehensive set of services to the tri-county area of Randolph, Barbour, and Tucker Counties in northeast West Virginia. Specifically, the project will deliver program participants services focused around small business development, real estate and downtown redevelopment, innovative financing of entrepreneurs, and finance packaging. WCL will work closely with local small business development center business coaches, and with Main Street/OnTRAC staff to provide technical assistance to borrowers. The project will create 100 jobs and 25 businesses, and will leverage \$1,100,000 in additional private investment.

**\$200,000** ARC grant to the West Virginia Development Office for the *Hobet Strategic Plan*. West Virginia will receive technical assistance to develop a detailed economic assessment and strategic plan for the best use of the Hobet Surface Mine Site in Boone and Lincoln Counties, previously the largest surface mining operation in the state.

**\$150,000** ARC grant to Reconnecting McDowell, Inc., in Charleston, WV, to develop an economic development and diversification strategy for the City of Welch and McDowell County centered on the Renaissance Village Apartments, a housing project that will develop rental housing in downtown Welch for teachers and young professionals employed in the area. Renaissance Village will serve as an anchor for redevelopment efforts in the downtown area and provide affordable housing. The planning project will assist with an entrepreneurship and small business initiative, along with financial and operations modeling for Renaissance Village.

**\$140,000** ARC grant to the West Virginia Connecting Communities Inc. in Charleston, WV, in partnership with the New River Gorge Trail Association for the development of an economic feasibility study for a regionally-connected bike trail system in Fayette and Nicholas Counties. The focus of the study will be

the viability of linking over 500 miles of bike trails and the impact to small communities throughout the region.

**\$123,488** ARC grant to the Region 4 Planning and Development Council in Summersville, WV, to develop a strategic plan for the Upper Kanawha Valley. In partnership with the Center for Rural Entrepreneurship, the plan will include prioritizing economic strategies, building regional collaboration across counties, and assisting communities to create greater economic diversification that fosters sustainability.

**\$105,000** ARC grant to Williamson Health and Wellness Center in Williamson, WV, to provide grant writing assistance, and develop a feasibility study, a strategic plan, and preliminary architectural design work for a vacant building in Williamson's downtown, a former "pill mill." If deemed viable, the building will be rebuilt as a one-stop facility that would provide workforce training, opioid addiction and substance abuse treatment services to assist individuals in recovery to become employment ready. The service area will include counties in both Kentucky and West Virginia.

**\$93,495** ARC grant to the West Virginia Community Development Hub in Fairmont, WV, which, in partnership with the International Economic Development Council, will provide technical assistance to five coal-impacted counties (Boone, Greenbrier, Lincoln, McDowell, and Wyoming) through economic development mentoring for local community teams. As a result of this investment, community teams will develop local economic diversification strategies.

**\$90,000** ARC grant to Randolph County Development Authority in Elkins, WV, to develop a strategic plan focused on the promotion and expansion of the hardwood industry cluster. In partnership with the Hardwood Alliance Zone, the strategic plan will assist in strengthening the economy of the nine-county region. The project will build on the recent EDA and ARC POWER grants that are enabling a local wood products manufacturer to expand its operations.

**\$75,000** to the Williamson Health and Wellness Center in Williamson, WV, for the *Health Innovation and Food Hub*. EDA is also awarding \$600,000 to the Coalfield Development Corporation as part of this project. The ARC award will support consulting fees and startup equipment necessary to launch the Health Innovation and Food Hub, which will play a key role in facilitating regional collaborative networks, providing technical assistance and training opportunities, facilitating access to capital, and linking the local food systems infrastructure to supply markets.

**\$60,000** ARC grant to Webster County Economic Development Authority in Webster Springs, WV, to conduct a feasibility study for the development of a multi-county All-Terrain Vehicle trail system in five counties. This grant will assist in developing a major tourism asset for the region and create opportunities for local small businesses. The project will work in partnership with the Hatfield McCoy Trail Authority.

**\$36,700** ARC grant to Unlimited Future, Inc. in Huntington, WV, for capacity building and development of a feasibility study for expansion of local food systems. The *Beefing Up the Local Food Economy* project will support the planning process for a value-added meat processing facility in a local, vacant plant. The project will also look at workforce training programs serving the meat business and at expanding market opportunities for producers across the region, which includes Kentucky, Ohio, and West Virginia. Local sources will contribute an additional \$20,000 to the project.

**\$10,000** ARC grant to The EdVenture Group in Morgantown, WV, for the Creating Opportunities, Diversifying Economy for displaced coal miners (CODE) project to develop a sustainable plan for economic diversification. The project being developed is expected to serve 12 counties in West Virginia.

### **POWER Special Regional Project Summaries**

**\$1,747,806** ARC grant to the Center for Rural Entrepreneurship in Chapel Hill, NC, for the *Building Entrepreneurial Communities: The Foundation of an Economic Transition for Appalachia* project. The project will build and strengthen the entrepreneurial ecosystem in an 18-county region covering southeastern Ohio, southern West Virginia, and southeastern Kentucky. Project activities include establishing a support system that can identify and develop new entrepreneurs; assisting new and expanding businesses with skill development; and connecting entrepreneurs with existing capacity-building resources in the region. The project will create 72 new businesses and 250 new jobs.

**\$750,000** to continue a collaborative effort with the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and other federal partners to research opioid abuse and related problems of HIV and Hepatitis C (HCV) in Appalachia's coal communities.

**\$499,480** ARC grant to RAIN Source Capital, Inc., for the *Appalachia Angel Investor Network* project. ARC funds will enable the awardee to work with existing and new angel investment funds to enhance the capability of coal-impacted communities across 9 Appalachian states to make investments in start-up, early stage, and growth companies. Specifically, the project will create at least four new angel funds in target communities, and will provide tools, training, and support services to existing angel funds and networks already operating in Appalachia. The project will result in the creation of 20 new businesses and 100 new jobs, and will leverage \$4,000,000 in private investment from 100 investors.

**\$497,000** ARC grant to the Region 1 – Planning and Development Council in Princeton, WV, for the *Coalfields Cluster Mapping Initiative* research project. ARC funds will be used to map the extent of the coal industry supply chain across the tri-state region of Kentucky, Virginia, and West Virginia. The resulting detailed information on the supply chain will complement ongoing work undertaken by other ARC-funded projects, examining the extent of the decline in the coal economy and providing business technical assistance to aid the impacted supply chain firms in their return to growth and profitability.

**\$400,000** for a partnership with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to expand the Cool & Connected Initiative to help 10 Appalachian coal-impacted communities use broadband service to revitalize small-town main streets and promote economic development. Participating communities will receive technical assistance for strategic planning, as well as initial implementation support for the first steps of their plans. The communities are located in Alabama, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia.

**\$352,000** to provide training, technical support, and expanded market opportunities to Appalachian-based coal supply chain companies through partnerships developed at MineExpo 2016, the world's largest and most comprehensive exposition dedicated to mining equipment, products, and services. This trade show is part of the 2016 U.S. Commercial Service International Buyer Program schedule, which connects U.S. exhibitors with foreign buyer delegations at the show. ARC funds will be used to ensure the participation of companies from Appalachia and enable them to get international trade support tailored to the specific needs of the individual companies. Southern Alleghenies Planning and Development Commission in Altoona, Pennsylvania, is coordinating the ARC assistance.

**\$349,999** ARC grant to West Virginia University Research Corporation in Morgantown, WV, for the *Economic Analysis of Coal Industry Ecosystem in Appalachia* project. This study will examine the full ecosystem of the coal industry in Appalachia through in-depth quantitative analysis. Specifically, this research will identify, quantify, and map data on all relevant coal industry activity throughout the Appalachian Region. The three tasks of this research project are to: 1) identify all components of the coal ecosystem and estimate the supply chain impacts in Appalachia; 2) examine the implications of the coal industry downturn on freight rail, barge, and truck transportation in Appalachia; and 3) develop a typology of regional economies that surround the coal-fired plants in the Region using both econometric and input-output techniques.

**\$149,998** ARC grant to Downstream Strategies in Morgantown, WV, for the *Strengthening Economic Resilience in Appalachian Communities* project. This research will explore and document strategies and policies local leaders can use to enhance the future economic prospects of coal-impacted communities throughout the Appalachian Region. There are four key components to this research project: 1) develop a comprehensive, quantitative framework to explore economic resilience; 2) identify a series of best-practice strategies for strengthening local economic resilience; 3) conduct up to 10 in-depth case studies; and 4) produce a concise guidebook that interprets and integrates findings of the research, written specifically for local economic development practitioners.

**\$100,000** ARC grant to Jobs for the Future (JFF) in Boston, MA, for the *Career Online High School: A Leapfrog Strategy for Appalachian Communities* project. JFF will partner with Cengage Learning to eliminate high school completion barriers for individuals in Appalachian states and help them progress along learning and career paths. Key to the project's success will be the integration of a cutting edge high school diploma completion model with educational and career pathway strategies and supports to ensure long term workforce and economic opportunity for students. Through a competitive process, JFF will work with coal-impacted communities from Kentucky, Tennessee, and West Virginia to help students complete high school and secure in-demand jobs. The project will train 40 students and expose 1,000 participants to the high school completion program.

**\$60,000** for a partnership with the National Association of Counties Research Foundation to provide additional technical assistance to 11 teams from Appalachian coal communities that participated in the EDA-funded Innovation Challenge for Coal-Reliant Communities Program. This support includes grant writing, feasibility studies, strategic plan development or updates and capacity building to facilitate strategic and sustainable investments. Community teams are located in Kentucky, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia.