



POWER Project Summaries by State

Awarded October 2020

In October 2020, ARC invested \$43.3 million into Appalachia's coal-impacted communities via the POWER Initiative. These 51 projects will create/retain over 3,300 jobs, attract over \$110 million in leveraged private investment and be matched by \$81.5 million in additional public and private funds across the Region.

Alabama (1)

Project Title: *Rapid Training Center Expansion*

Grantee: Bevill State Community College

Award Amount: \$1,500,000

Announcement Date: October, 2020

ARC grant of \$1,500,000 to Bevill State Community College in Jasper, AL, for the *Rapid Training Center Expansion* project. The project will provide a range of expanded and accelerated workforce training programs that provide industry-recognized credentials for high-quality, in-demand jobs. It will renovate and expand an existing facility on the college's Hamilton campus. The project will also expand the college's training program offerings there to create a Rapid Training Center. The Center will be able to respond quickly to the changing workforce needs of local businesses. The project will also specifically support the expansion of welding and HVAC (heating, ventilation, and air conditioning) programs, for which there is considerable demand for trained workers in the area. The new Center will build a competitive workforce with employees who have skill sets that can also be used in advanced manufacturing and other in-demand jobs. The college will prepare and upskill 135 students and 40 workers/trainees for careers in HVAC and welding technology.

Kentucky (6)

Project Title: *Transitional Housing Facility*

Grantee: Mountain Comprehensive Health Corporation (MCHC)

Award Amount: \$1,500,000

Announcement Date: October, 2020

ARC grant of \$1,500,000 to Mountain Comprehensive Health Corporation (MCHC) in Whitesburg, KY for the *Transitional Housing Facility* project. The project includes the creation of 22 units of transitional housing for men who are in recovery from substance use disorders. Letcher County and its neighboring communities have been hard hit by both the

downturn in the coal economy and the substance use crisis. It is often impossible for people who have completed treatment to find safe, sober housing or the services that would help them return to the community. The project will renovate a former high school to create efficiency apartments. MCHC staff will work with community partners to coordinate healthcare, education, and other social supports for residents of the new facility. Residents will also receive job-skills training through collaboration with local program partners, including Southeast Kentucky Community and Technical College and the Eastern Kentucky Concentrated Employment Program, Inc. (EKCEP). The facility can serve 44 residents each year; approximately 28 are expected to reach at least two key milestones such as maintaining sobriety, finding a job, or furthering education. Seven jobs will be created for new staff members.

Project Title: *Dataseam K-12 IT Apprenticeship Expansion*

Grantee: Mountain Kentucky Dataseam Initiative, Inc.

Award Amount: \$1,500,000

Announcement Date: October, 2020

ARC grant of \$1,500,000 to Kentucky Dataseam Initiative, Inc., in Louisville, KY for the *Dataseam K-12 IT Apprenticeship Expansion* project. Dataseam will work with school districts in 20 Eastern Kentucky counties to deliver an information technology (IT) student apprenticeship program that includes paid IT jobs for students, hands-on coursework, on-the-job training, and vital technology infrastructure to communities for K-12 education. Dataseam will also help Morehead State University and the University of Louisville identify and recruit students into STEM education programs and STEM careers. Each student apprentice will earn two industry-standard IT certifications as part of earning a U.S. Department of Labor Information Technology Support Specialist Certificate. The program will operate under the supervision of the Kentucky Education and Workforce Cabinet. At least 60 student apprentices will continue their education and/or obtain employment and all 25 participating teachers/staff and 29 school districts will benefit.

Project Title: *Foothills Independent Transitional Living Center (FIT)*

Grantee: Foothills Academy, Inc.

Award Amount: \$1,500,000

Announcement Date: October, 2020

ARC grant of \$1,500,000 to Foothills Academy, Inc., in Albany, KY for the *Foothills Independent Transitional Living Center (FIT)*. The project will construct a Center to deliver transitional housing, training, case management, drug abuse prevention, and reemployment services to youth who age out of the child welfare system and have limited support networks to enter or reenter the workforce. The Center will be located adjacent to Somerset Community and Technical College with access to vocational and professional training, career counseling, and student supports. The FIT Living Center residents will be 16 young men and women, ages 18 to 21. Licensed therapists and case managers will provide key services. Partners include Somerset Community College, the Kentucky Cabinet for Families and Children, The Job Shop, and Lake Cumberland Area Development District. The project will give at-risk young adults the opportunity for upward mobility, building skills to further their education, maintain employment, and learn to live on their own with a healthy lifestyle and positive behaviors.

Project Title: *Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU)*

Grantee: Saint Joseph London Foundation, Inc.

Award Amount: \$990,510

Announcement Date: October, 2020

ARC grant of \$990,510 to the Saint Joseph London Foundation, Inc., in London, KY to create a *Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU)* at Saint Joseph London Hospital. The new facility will have the capacity to serve 100 newborn babies each year and will enable the creation of 19 full-time jobs. London and surrounding areas of Kentucky have seen troubling increases in the number of babies born with neonatal abstinence syndrome (NAS), reflecting the prevalence of drug use among mothers and the lack of effective substance abuse prevention and treatment services. Few facilities offer NICU capabilities for NAS babies or others born with severe needs, and the nearest Level II NICU services are in Lexington or Pikeville. By establishing a neonatal intensive care unit, Saint Joseph Hospital will offer local specialized care for babies, improving treatment while reducing burdens on parents and families. The project will renovate a major area of the existing hospital and acquire equipment and supplies needed to establish a six-bed NICU.

Project Title: *Gateway Regional Workforce Development Plan*

Grantee: Gateway Area Development District

Award Amount: \$50,000

Announcement Date: October, 2020

ARC grant of \$50,000 to Gateway Area Development District in Morehead, KY for the *Gateway Regional Workforce Development Plan*. This technical assistance project will create a plan that identifies the area's primary economic sectors and potential emerging sectors that can provide sustainable economic growth and development. The plan will be used as a guide by key partners and community stakeholders to implement training and transition programs that will fill skillset gaps, aid the workforce in transitioning to other existing and emerging economic sectors, and expand the local workforce in a nine-county area.

Project Title: *Tiny House Manufacturing*

Grantee: Eastern Kentucky (EKY) Heritage Foundation, Inc.

Award Amount: \$6,320

Announcement Date: October, 2020

ARC grant of \$6,320 to the Eastern Kentucky (EKY) Heritage Foundation, Inc., in Whitesburg, KY for the *Tiny House Manufacturing* project. The Foundation will conduct a feasibility study to determine the viability of providing vocational training to persons in addiction recovery care and hiring them to build tiny houses. A strategic plan will be based on the findings in the feasibility study. The study will be conducted in collaboration with HOMES, Inc., Fahe, and Addiction Recovery. By using the construction and distribution of tiny houses to support the drug and substance abuse post-treatment to employment continuum, tiny house manufacturing could serve as a model for second chance employment in the Region.

Maryland (1)

Project Title: *Feasibility Study for the Industrial Hemp Processing Industry*

Grantee: Western Maryland Resource Conservation & Development Council

Award Amount: \$50,000

Announcement Date: October, 2020

ARC grant of \$50,000 to the Western Maryland Resource Conservation & Development Council in Hagerstown, MD for a *Feasibility Study for the Industrial Hemp Processing Industry*. The project will conduct a feasibility study to determine the steps, conditions, and resources necessary to establish an industrial hemp processing facility that serves six counties in Maryland, West Virginia, and Pennsylvania. Industrial hemp shows promise for improving farm income, sustainability, community tax bases, and soil health in an area that has a strong agricultural history. As a result of the study, 100 businesses will be served and 10 businesses improved.

New York (2)

Project Title: *Allegany County-Wide Broadband*

Grantee: Southern Tier West Regional Planning and Development Board

Award Amount: \$426,304

Announcement Date: October, 2020

ARC grant of \$426,304 to the Southern Tier West Regional Planning and Development Board in Salamanca, NY for the *Allegany County-Wide Broadband* project. The project will install fixed wireless broadband equipment at 12 telecom sites in the county, offering 50 Mbps internet speeds to 2,879 households, 170 businesses, and 39 communities. Due to Allegany County's low population density and rugged terrain, the high cost to deploy traditional fiber broadband infrastructure has served as a barrier to expanding high-speed internet service in the area. As a result, households and businesses must rely on satellite internet, whose service is encumbered by low latency, unreliability, and data caps. The project will bring reliable high-speed wireless internet service to unserved and underserved areas of the county, enabling businesses to expand their supply chain and customer base and residents to take advantage of telemedicine and online learning opportunities.

Project Title: *Cayuga Data Juice–Broadband Connectivity*

Grantee: Tompkins County Area Development

Award Amount: \$404,170

Announcement Date: October, 2020

ARC grant of \$404,170 to Tompkins County Area Development in Ithaca, NY for the *Cayuga Data Juice–Broadband Connectivity Project*. This project will install a 17-mile fiber broadband trunk from Ithaca to the recently retired Cayuga coal plant in Lansing, NY. In partnership with Binghamton University and Beowulf Energy, this middle-mile broadband expansion will provide gigabit service to the proposed \$100 million Cayuga Data Center, a high-capacity data center with a strong focus on artificial intelligence and machine learning. The fiber will allow the data center to connect to the Southern Tier Network (STN), which has received

support through a previous POWER grant. The project will improve 2,134 businesses and serve 16,234 households within a two-mile radius of the proposed line. Matching funds are provided by Heorot Power Management and the grantee.

North Carolina (4)

Project Title: *French Broad EMC Fiber Deployment*

Grantee: French Broad Electric Membership Corporation (FBEMC)

Award Amount: \$1,939,814

Announcement Date: October, 2020

ARC grant of \$1,939,814 to the French Broad Electric Membership Corporation (FBEMC) in Marshall, North Carolina, for the *French Broad EMC Fiber Deployment* project. The project will deploy 120 miles of broadband fiber, which will serve 1,300 households, 44 businesses, and two communities in Unicoi County, Tennessee, and Madison County, North Carolina. The project will deploy high-speed fiber broadband to areas in and around Rocky Fork State Park (a major asset in the region) that currently lack access to broadband internet. FBEMC will use existing right-of-way to expand the infrastructure. The expansion of broadband in the area will create opportunities for economic development, telemedicine, and higher education attainment. Both counties were adversely affected when a decline in coal traffic led to the closure of a rail yard in Erwin, TN.

Project Title: *Creating a Textile and Furniture Circular*

Grantee: The Industrial Commons

Award Amount: \$977,850

Announcement Date: October, 2020

ARC grant of \$977,850 to The Industrial Commons in Morganton, NC for the *Creating a Textile and Furniture Circular Economy* project. The project will create a textile and furniture circular economy, marked by recycling, that supports small- to mid-size manufacturers in diversifying and expanding into new sustainable markets. The Industrial Commons, an interconnected web of employers, networks, and cooperatives, will expand operations of a waste aggregation site, initiate production of and demand for recycled yarn, create two new companies, and deliver innovative training programs. These training programs will include a focus on key business sectors such as business finance and entrepreneurship, and will offer skills training to those overcoming substance abuse issues. In addition to the creation of two new enterprises, the program will create 30 new jobs and improve five businesses and 360 participants. The project will result in \$1.175 million of leveraged private investment and will serve businesses in western North Carolina and upstate South Carolina. The project is the outgrowth of a feasibility study funded under a prior POWER grant.

Project Title: *Healthy and Connected Workforce Initiative*

Grantee: North Carolina Department of Information Technology (DIT)

Award Amount: \$633,940

Announcement Date: October, 2020

ARC grant of \$633,940 to the North Carolina Department of Information Technology (DIT) in Raleigh, NC for the *Healthy and Connected Workforce Initiative*. The project will enable DIT's Broadband Infrastructure Office and Office of Rural Health to develop a comprehensive program that will increase access to healthcare for vulnerable populations and disadvantaged groups while simultaneously increasing the economic viability and digital skills for residents seeking to re-enter the workforce and for those currently employed. Increasing access to quality healthcare through telehealth, broadband adoption, and increased digital literacy will both improve the health of residents and enhance their ability to actively participate in the local workforce. The project responds to findings in a year-long feasibility study completed by the project's partners with support from a previous POWER award. The project will improve 124 organizations, 235 patients, 135 households, and 180 participants throughout the grant's life cycle.

Project Title: *Collective Impact Strategies for Expanding Beginning Farmer Support and Training Strategic Plan*

Grantee: Organic Growers School, Inc.

Award Amount: \$34,487

Announcement Date: October, 2020

ARC grant of \$34,487 to Organic Growers School, Inc., in Asheville, NC for the *Collective Impact Strategies for Expanding Beginning Farmer Support and Training Strategic Plan*. This project will support the creation of a plan to deploy entrepreneurship education programs and support systems for beginning farmers across Appalachia. The project represents a partnership between eight organizations across Appalachian Virginia, North Carolina, and Georgia. The strategic plan will identify potential partners, assets, and resources, and will provide a funding strategy to implement the strategic plan. The deployment of a multi-state coalition will create a strong network of beginning farmers and support organizations across the Appalachian agricultural and entrepreneurial ecosystem.

Ohio (7)

Project Title: *Social Enterprise Ecosystem Impact (SEE Impact)*

Grantee: Foundation for Appalachian Ohio

Award Amount: \$1,498,637

Announcement Date: October, 2020

ARC grant of \$1,498,637 to the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio in Nelsonville, OH for *Social Enterprise Ecosystem Impact (SEE Impact)*. Through technical assistance, outreach, and the formation of an investment fund, SEE Impact will grow the capital resources available to fund social enterprises in Appalachian Ohio and West Virginia. Social enterprises are an underserved entrepreneurial sector that comprises a significant portion of the Appalachian economy. This project will create additional capital opportunities for social enterprises and

improve social impact investor recruitment. Using the Social Return on Investment (SROI) methodology, which was developed and refined by Ohio University under prior POWER grants, SEE Impact will provide angel and venture capital investors quantitative measures of social impact in financial terms, facilitating “triple bottom line” investment opportunities in Appalachian social enterprises. The new investment fund will be capitalized at \$1 million. As a result of this project, 120 businesses, 45 communities, and 80 participants will be served; 60 businesses, 45 communities and 20 participants will be improved; 25 businesses and 55 jobs will be created; and \$17 million of total private investment will be leveraged. Ohio University will be a key partner in the project.

Project Title: *Youngstown SMART² Network*

Grantee: Eastgate Council of Governments

Award Amount: \$1,450,000

Announcement Date: October, 2020

ARC grant of \$1,450,000 to the Eastgate Council of Governments in Youngstown, OH for the *Youngstown SMART² Network*. The project will install over 10 miles of fiber conduit in downtown Youngstown as the first step toward establishing a broadband network that can support businesses, healthcare, education, and residents working and learning remotely. The SMART Network is a collection of infrastructure improvements designed to revitalize the Youngstown central business district. It will help reverse decades of outward migration and disinvestment by providing the basic infrastructure needed to support and attract business. The project will capitalize on over \$50 million in recent public and private investments. Matching funds are being provided through a BUILD grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation, a surface transportation block grant, Youngstown State University, Mercy Health, and other public and private partners. The conduit is projected to serve 212 business locations and create 119 new jobs.

Project Title: *Vinton & Meigs County Rural Broadband Initiative*

Grantee: Vinton County Commissioners

Award Amount: \$1,180,000

Announcement Date: October, 2020

ARC grant of \$1,180,000 to the Vinton County Commissioners in McArthur, OH for the *Vinton & Meigs County Rural Broadband Initiative*. The project will place three communication towers in rural Vinton and Meigs counties. The towers will be used to provide wireless broadband service to unserved areas in the counties. Using a 70 percent penetration rate, it is estimated that 28 businesses and 280 households will have access to 25/3 broadband service. COVID-19 has demonstrated the need for employees working from home to be able to access their work environment remotely. Students likewise need to be able to access virtual learning opportunities. In the more remote areas of Vinton and Meigs Counties targeted by this project, this access is currently not available. The project is an outgrowth of an earlier technical assistance POWER grant that demonstrated the feasibility of the project.

Project Title: *CDFI for Appalachian Ohio*
Grantee: Appalachian Growth Capital (AGC)
Award Amount: \$1,000,000
Announcement Date: October, 2020

ARC grant of \$1,000,000 to Appalachian Growth Capital (AGC) in Nelsonville, OH for the *CDFI for Appalachian Ohio* project. The project will enable AGC, a community development financial institution (CDFI), to expand access to capital for small businesses in Appalachian Ohio through technical assistance to potential business borrowers and by increasing the capital available in AGC's loan fund. AGC will assist businesses in improving their business plans, becoming bankable, finding other sources of funding, and solving critical issues facing them. It will leverage \$750,000 of grant funds to attract \$2.25 million in private investment in AGC's loan fund. The project will strengthen entrepreneurship in Southeast Ohio, helping diversify an economy that has been heavily dependent on coal. The project will serve 300 businesses, improve 150 businesses, create 180 jobs, retain 360 jobs, leverage \$29,250,000 in total private investment in the region (including borrower commitments), and create 15 new businesses. The project builds on a previous POWER grant that helped create AGC.

Project Title: *Building the Wood Bridge: A Forest, to Product, to Market Value Chain*
Grantee: Appalachian Center for Economic Networks (ACENet)
Award Amount: \$514,827
Announcement Date: October, 2020

ARC grant of \$514,827 to the Appalachian Center for Economic Networks (ACENet) in Athens, OH for *Building the Wood Bridge: A Forest, to Product, to Market Value Chain*. Taking advantage of the economic opportunities in Southeast Ohio offered by value-added, hardwood manufactured products, the project will accelerate small business startup and development in this sector by way of three broad activities. It will provide training and technical assistance to land owners, hardwood sector startups, established hardwood entrepreneurs, and students enrolled in accredited hardwood sector programs. It will encourage the formation of new partnerships for value chain coordination in the forest and hardwood products sectors. It will foster expanded investment in the infrastructure and equipment for the ACENet Nelsonville Business Center and Hocking College Maker Network to scale production and diversify product lines. Key partners include Rural Action, Hocking College, and the Central Appalachian Network. The project is expected to help create 25 new jobs, create 15 new businesses, and leverage \$500,000 in new private investment. The project builds upon an earlier POWER investment targeted to Ohio's hardwood forest products sector.

Project Title: *Noble County Broadband Technical Assistance*
Grantee: Noble County Commissioners
Award Amount: \$50,000
Announcement Date: October, 2020

ARC grant of \$50,000 to the Noble County Commissioners in Caldwell, OH for the *Noble County Broadband Technical Assistance* project. The project will determine the feasibility of broadband expansion available to Noble County. According to the 2020 Connected Nation Ohio broadband study, Noble County is the least connected in Appalachian Ohio, with only 58 percent of residents able to access broadband services of 25/3 Mbps. A blueprint for

expanding broadband access will help community leaders and stakeholders to acquire additional funding and will determine strategies to provide more equitable internet access and connectivity.

Project Title: *Energy Storage Road Map for Appalachian Ohio, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia*

Grantee: Tech Belt Energy Innovation Center

Award Amount: \$49,950

Announcement Date: October, 2020

ARC grant of \$49,950 to the Tech Belt Energy Innovation Center in Warren, OH for the *Energy Storage Road Map for Appalachian Ohio, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia* project. Identifying energy storage assets in Ohio, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia, the project's study will be an analysis and framework for leveraging the burgeoning energy storage cluster in the tri-state area with an emphasis on coal-impacted areas. The study will outline key assets in energy storage for grid generation, transportation, and consumer electronics. It will provide the groundwork needed to create entrepreneurial and business development strategies within the energy storage cluster. The study is specific to strengthening the supply chain for energy-tech, an industrial cluster, which enables the region to compete in the global economy.

Pennsylvania (13)

Project Title: *4-County Central Pennsylvania Rural Broadband Deployment Implementation project*

Grantee: Union County

Award Amount: \$2,500,000

Announcement Date: October, 2020

ARC grant of \$2,500,000 to Union County in Lewisburg, PA for the *4-County Central Pennsylvania Rural Broadband Deployment Implementation project*. The project will bring high-speed broadband service to four locations in four underserved counties in Pennsylvania. One site will be served in each of the following counties: Clinton, Lycoming, Union, and Northumberland. It is expected that 20 businesses and 270 households will initially be served by the new infrastructure. An earlier broadband feasibility study, funded by a POWER grant, identified appropriate areas where broadband deployment could address access issues that have negatively affected business competitiveness. Matching funds are being provided by the Susquehanna Economic Development Association Council of Governments (SEDA-COG) Revolving Loan Fund and partnering internet service providers.

Project Title: *Wayne County Recovery-to-Work Facility*

Grantee: Wayne County

Award Amount: \$1,500,000

Announcement Date: October, 2020

ARC grant of \$1,500,000 to Wayne County in Honesdale, PA for the *Wayne County Recovery-to-Work Facility*, a multi-faceted effort that will improve the integration of services for people

with substance use disorders or other mental health conditions. Once completed, this cluster of services is expected to serve 1,720 patients each year; 64 jobs will be created for new employees. The project will construct a cluster of buildings adjacent to SCI Waymart, which will house drug and alcohol detox and rehabilitation services, behavioral health services, sober living recovery housing, and administrative space. Services will be provided by licensed agencies under contract with the county. Clients will also have access to skills training and job placement programs that are tailored for people in recovery, with active engagement from local employers and entrepreneurs. This development of a local recovery ecosystem is expected to improve outcomes for patients and the community. Wayne County will provide matching funds for the project.

Project Title: *Erie to Pittsburgh Trail–PA Wilds Loop Trail Construction*

Grantee: Crawford County

Award Amount: \$1,500,000

Announcement Date: October, 2020

ARC grant of \$1,500,000 to Crawford County in Meadville, PA for the *Erie to Pittsburgh Trail–PA Wilds Loop Trail Construction* project—*Phase I*. The project will construct 18.2 miles of key trail segments in the Erie to Pittsburgh Trail and the PA Wilds Loop trail network. It will attract more than 50,000 day and overnight visitors to the region annually, generating \$1.4 million in direct visitor spending and support the creation of 15 new jobs. The Erie to Pittsburgh Trail (EPT) is a planned 270-mile network of trails that will connect the Erie waterfront to Point State Park in Pittsburgh. The Pennsylvania Wilds Loop is a 220-mile network of trails spanning the Pennsylvania Wilds region. A study to prioritize the uncompleted sections of each trail system was released in 2019. The project will complete segments with maximum economic impact to the communities through which they pass. Long-distance trails built along former railroad corridors can bring stable economic benefits to communities that previously relied on a diminishing extractive economy. State sources will provide \$1,753,000 and local sources will provide \$130,050.

Project Title: *Enhancing the Tri-State Entrepreneurial Ecosystem Through the Innovation Beehive Network*

Grantee: Pennsylvania State University

Award Amount: \$1,499,225

Announcement Date: October, 2020

ARC grant of \$1,499,225 to Pennsylvania State University in University Park, PA for *Enhancing the Tri-State Entrepreneurial Ecosystem Through the Innovation Beehive Network*. The Innovation Beehive Network—a partnership between Penn State's Behrend campus in Erie, Edinboro University, Gannon University, and Mercyhurst University—will leverage the institutional strengths of its members to provide no-cost services to businesses and entrepreneurs using faculty, students, and research capabilities to enhance economic growth across Pennsylvania, Ohio, and the southern tier of New York. The Beehive seeks to create a vibrant entrepreneurial innovation ecosystem, increasing new start-up and scale-up businesses and improving economic outcomes by providing access to university resources. The project will expand the Beehive's service area, spur new successful businesses, protect and secure current ones, and lower the barriers to success for entrepreneurs and intrapreneurs. As a result of this project, 90 businesses, 18 communities, 100 participants, and 100 students will be served; 70 businesses, 15 communities, 90 participants, and 90 students

will be improved; 15 businesses and 20 jobs will be created; and \$500,000 in private investment will be leveraged.

Project Title: *Startup Alleghenies Ecosystem*

Grantee: JARI Growth Fund, Inc.

Award Amount: \$1,281,900

Announcement Date: October, 2020

ARC grant of \$1,281,900 to JARI Growth Fund, Inc., in Johnstown, PA for the *Startup Alleghenies Ecosystem* project. Through a combination of technical assistance to small businesses and leveraged investment capital, the project will strengthen a vibrant entrepreneurial ecosystem in the Southern Alleghenies region of Pennsylvania. The project will create the Startup Alleghenies Microloan Fund, a flexible, gap financing resource for entrepreneurial enterprises. It will provide other key aspects of an entrepreneurial ecosystem by offering business technical assistance through business coaches and providing access to entrepreneurial spaces such as “makerspaces,” co-working spaces, and commercial kitchen incubators. Other components include networking and highlighting the robust set of business support services across the region. The project will provide \$1 million in capital for the Microloan Fund, attracting \$3 million in private capital. The project will serve 540 businesses, improve 170 businesses, create 300 jobs, and create 25 new businesses. The project builds on the work of the Southern Alleghenies Planning & Development Commission in developing and launching Start-Up Alleghenies, which has been supported by two previous POWER grants.

Project Title: *Reboot Workforce Program: Recovery at Work in Central Pennsylvania*

Grantee: Central Pennsylvania Workforce Development Corporation

Award Amount: \$1,018,500

Announcement Date: October, 2020

ARC grant of \$1,018,500 to the Central Pennsylvania Workforce Development Corporation (CPWDC) in Lewisburg, PA for the *Reboot Workforce Program: Recovery at Work in Central Pennsylvania*. The CPWDC, in partnership with Geisinger Health and Susquehanna Economic Development Association Council of Governments (SEDA-COG), will build a recovery ecosystem and a ready workforce by increasing labor participation rates of individuals who have opted out of the workforce because of their addiction to opioids. CPWDC will also provide solutions to address the opioid crisis in Central Pennsylvania by expanding access to treatment services using telemedicine, providing workforce preparation and training services to individuals in recovery, and connecting individuals with businesses that are “recovery friendly.” SEDA-COG and the PA CareerLink Business Service Teams will identify employers that are already recovery-friendly and assist other businesses to become recovery-friendly to increase their pool of workforce talent. The project will improve 250 patients, 30 businesses, and 120 worker/trainees, as well as create three new telemedicine sites for persons in recovery.

Project Title: *Building a Peer Support Workforce in Pennsylvania*

Grantee: Pennsylvania Peer Support Coalition

Award Amount: \$1,000,000

Announcement Date: October, 2020

ARC grant of \$1,000,000 to the Pennsylvania Peer Support Coalition in Lancaster, PA for the *Building a Peer Support Workforce in Pennsylvania* project. The Pennsylvania Peer Support Coalition will train and develop a sustainable, ready workforce of new Certified Peer Specialists and create regional Recovery Ecosystem Coalitions to support them in serving individuals in recovery from substance abuse. Additional existing Certified Peer Specialists will participate in the newly created Coalitions to add value to the current workforce of specialists across Appalachian Pennsylvania. The project will assist in linking the new Certified Peer Specialists to potential employers in their area. At least 200 new Certified Peer Specialists will obtain employment and 500 specialists currently working in the field will enhance their positions. An estimated 40 businesses will be improved through new hires and 10 Recovery Ecosystem Coalitions will be created. Partners include the Pennsylvania Mental Health Consumers Association, the Copeland Center for Wellness and Recovery, the Pennsylvania Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services Mental Health Planning Council, and Clarion University.

Project Title: *REAL Jobs in Energy & Manufacturing*

Grantee: Catalyst Connection

Award Amount: \$994,883

Announcement Date: October, 2020

ARC grant of \$994,883 to Catalyst Connection in Pittsburgh, PA, for the *REAL Jobs in Energy & Manufacturing* project. The project is expected to help create 272 new jobs and leverage \$5 million in new private investment. A previous POWER grantee, Catalyst Connection serves as the Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) Center for southwestern Pennsylvania. Focusing on the energy and manufacturing sectors, Catalyst Connection will undertake and coordinate new workforce development activities across a 12-county region with established partner networks. Components of the program are organized into four parts: 1) recruitment and provision of pre-employment training; 2) placement of manufacturing workers with engaged and supported employers; 3) training incumbent workers through on-the-job and apprenticeship programs; and 4) provision of real-time data on employment demand and project analysis. Matching funds are provided by several public and private sector entities, including Chevron Corporation, the Richard King Mellon Foundation, the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development, and the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation.

Project Title: *Road to Recovery and Reemployment*

Grantee: Allegheny Health Network

Award Amount: \$946,000

Announcement Date: October, 2020

ARC grant of \$946,000 to Allegheny Health Network in Pittsburgh, PA for the *Road to Recovery and Reemployment* project. Allegheny Health Network has partnered with the Pennsylvania Orthopedic Society, Rothman Institute Foundation for Opioid Research and Education, and pain prescribers across Appalachian Pennsylvania to implement a series of

opioid-based continuing medical education (CME) events. These events include opioid-focused symposia for scientists, providers, and guest lecturers; educational events for students in orthopedic residency; and webinars for health providers, students, residents, extenders, and staff. The project will focus particularly on those counties with the highest rates of opioid overdose (Fayette, Westmoreland, and Armstrong). The project is expected to serve 40 rural practices, improve treatment for 320 patients, and improve 120 medical providers. Additional funding for the project is being provided by the Pennsylvania Orthopedic Society.

Project Title: *Recovery to Reemployment (Remote Monitoring)*

Grantee: Fayette County

Award Amount: \$917,368

Announcement Date: October, 2020

ARC grant of \$917,368 to Fayette County in Uniontown, PA for the *Recovery to Reemployment (Remote Monitoring)* project. Fayette County will create a robust telemedicine program to address substance use disorder, COVID-19, and chronic conditions facing communities in four coal-impacted counties in Southwest Pennsylvania (Cambria, Fayette, Greene, and Washington). The program will increase access and treatment of substance use disorders using a chronic care management approach combined with remote patient monitoring, where the patient is monitored 24 hours a day via the Virtual Care Center. The goal, by connecting patients to treatment services, is a reduction in fatal overdose deaths, and the return of patients to a lifestyle of work and family support, while remaining compliant with the drug-court treatment programs. The program leverages improved patient outcomes by increasing medication adherence and improving access to treatment centers, while resulting in savings to the county justice and recovery systems. It will improve five organizations, 200 patients, and 320 workers/trainees, as well as create five new telecom sites and five jobs.

Project Title: *Critical Infrastructure Workforce Academy (CIWA) Phase I*

Grantee: Armstrong County

Award Amount: \$750,000

Announcement Date: October, 2020

ARC grant of \$750,000 to Armstrong County in Kittanning, PA for the *Critical Infrastructure Workforce Academy (CIWA) Phase I* project. The project will construct a facility to house “critical infrastructure” training programs. The CIWA is a regional training program conceived through a strategic planning effort after participation in the National Association of Counties (NACO) Innovation Challenge for Coal-Reliant Communities and a subsequent feasibility study funded through a prior POWER grant. The CIWA facility will utilize virtual/augmented reality technology alongside traditional classroom instruction to train high school, technical school, and community college graduates. The proposed facility in Northpointe will enable the overarching CIWA project to expand the expected number of classes and programs. Ultimately, this project will serve 1,300 trainees and 60 new classes. The facility will be part of a 20-acre Critical Infrastructure Workforce Academy simulation city project.

Project Title: *Pennsylvania LDDAP Statewide Broadband Initiative*

Grantee: North Central Pennsylvania Regional Planning and Development Commission

Award Amount: \$600,000

Announcement Date: October, 2020

ARC grant of \$600,000 to the North Central Pennsylvania Regional Planning and Development Commission in Ridgway, PA for the *Pennsylvania LDDAP Statewide Broadband Initiative*. The project, in partnership with Pennsylvania's other six local development districts (LDDs) in the Appalachian Region, will help communities assess strategies and associated costs for deploying broadband in unserved areas. It will also facilitate broadband deployment activities, including the installation of fixed wireless broadband equipment and the partnership with existing internet providers to expand broadband service into target areas. The project will serve 425 businesses, 1,700 households, and 13 communities. Additional funding is being provided by the U.S. Economic Development Administration and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Project Title: *Penn Highlands Healthcare Behavioral Health Hospital*

Grantee: City of DuBois

Award Amount: \$500,000

Announcement Date: October, 2020

ARC grant of \$500,000 to the City of DuBois in DuBois, PA for the *Penn Highlands Healthcare Behavioral Health Hospital* project. The project will construct a stand-alone behavioral health hospital as part of the eight-building construction/renovation project started by Penn Highlands Healthcare. This project will serve patients suffering from drug and alcohol addiction and behavioral health issues, and/or use medication-assisted treatment (MAT). The facility will include the addition of a psychiatric urgent care center and acute psychiatric care for children and adolescents, along with an extended sub-acute unit for at-risk children and adolescents. The project will help expand the adult inpatient unit by 14 beds. The new behavioral health facility is expected to serve 3,200 patients a year and create 163 jobs. Additional funding for the project is provided by Pennsylvania's Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program.

Tennessee (2)

Project Title: *Northern Unicoi County Broadband*

Grantee: Erwin Utilities

Award Amount: \$400,333

Announcement Date: October, 2020

ARC grant of \$400,333 to Erwin Utilities in Erwin, TN for the *Northern Unicoi County Broadband project*. This broadband expansion project will provide gigabit service to Unicoi County residents and businesses that are not currently served by a broadband or cable provider. Over 17 miles of fiber will be placed on Erwin Utilities' existing power poles. Broadband expansion will enable the northern area of Unicoi County to offset the county's topographical and geographical hurdles to economic development, resulting in the creation of new businesses, increased access to teleworking opportunities, and greater opportunities

for remote learning. After the fiber installation, this project will serve eight businesses and 95 residents in the short term, with growth expected in the next three years. Unicoi County has been adversely affected by the closure of a major rail yard as a result of the decline in coal shipments.

Project Title: *Northeast Tennessee Regional Outdoor Development Strategic Plan*

Grantee: Northeast Tennessee Regional Foundation for Economic Development, Innovation, and Outdoor Recreation (NETRF)

Award Amount: \$44,450

Announcement Date: October, 2020

ARC grant of \$44,450 to Northeast Tennessee Regional Foundation for Economic Development, Innovation, and Outdoor Recreation (NETRF) in Johnson City, TN for the *Northeast Tennessee Regional Outdoor Development Strategic Plan*. The strategic plan will support Phase II of NETRF's regional Outdoor Master Plan. NETRF will gather data on local asset utilization from tourism and outdoor recreation and will recommend best practices for outdoor branding. The Outdoor Master Plan will ultimately encourage environmental stewardship of public land and prioritize investment in the natural assets in the Northeast Tennessee region.

Virginia (6)

Project Title: *Site Improvements at Commonwealth Crossing Business Centre (CCBC)*

Grantee: Henry County

Award Amount: \$1,500,000

Announcement Date: October, 2020

ARC grant of \$1,500,000 to Henry County in Collinsville, VA for the *Site Improvements at Commonwealth Crossing Business Centre (CCBC)* project. This project will complete a steel natural gas pipeline from the Patriot Line to the Commonwealth Crossing Business Centre (CCBC) and associated facilities. Lack of a direct natural gas line has been cited as a significant recruitment and job-creation weakness for the CCBC. The CCBC is a key component of the county's transition from a mineral-extraction-based economy to a manufacturing economy that seeks to incorporate aviation, automotive, food processing, and advanced film production as sectors in a more diversified local economy. By installing a pipeline that can deliver a maximum natural gas volume of four million standard cubic feet per hour, this infrastructure improvement will expand the area's opportunities for large, transformational projects. The project will serve a facility that has already created over 200 jobs and will enable more companies to move jobs into CBCC and the surrounding area. Key partners include the Harvest Foundation and Southwest Virginia Gas Company.

Project Title: *Pathways to a Strong and Healthy Region*

Grantee: New River/Mount Rogers Workforce Development Area Consortium Board

Award Amount: \$1,494,000

Announcement Date: October, 2020

ARC grant of \$1,494,000 to the New River/Mount Rogers Workforce Development Area Consortium Board in Radford, VA for the *Pathways to a Strong and Healthy Region project*. This project will create a recovery-ready region by collectively tackling the full range of the substance abuse disorder (SUD) problem. Project partners will address the lack of coordination between the economic and workforce development sectors and the healthcare and human service sectors in addressing SUD as an economic development issue. This coordination will help the region create continuity among support services, sustain long-term recovery for individuals, and scale efforts for greater impact on the individual/family, business/industry, and the region. The result will be a strong regional recovery ecosystem. The project will serve 350 workers in recovery and 30 workers in the healthcare/human services sector as well as 150 businesses. Additional support is being provided by the grantee, Eagles Nest Regeneration, and Ballad Health.

Project Title: *Southwest Virginia Medication-Assisted Treatment Services*

Grantee: St. Mary's Health Wagon (The Health Wagon)

Award Amount: \$793,500

Announcement Date: October, 2020

\$793,500 grant to St. Mary's Health Wagon (The Health Wagon), in Wise, VA for the *Southwest Virginia Medication-Assisted Treatment Services project*. The project will establish a substance use treatment program that complements the region's existing services. Southwest Virginia has been hit hard by the downturn in the coal economy and the concurrent epidemic of substance use disorder. Community organizations have been leaders in identifying and implementing services that prevent and treat substance use issues, and they seek to offer an alternative to existing medication-assisted treatment services. The proposed service will be based at the Appalachian Center for Healthcare Excellence, a family practice clinic in Coeburn, VA. The Southwest Virginia Medication-Assisted Treatment Services Project is expected to create four jobs and serve 75 patients in its first year of operation. In the future, the program will have the capacity to serve approximately 150 patients each year.

Project Title: *Tri-State Broadband Infrastructure Feasibility Study*

Grantee: LENOWISCO Planning District Commission

Award Amount: \$50,000

Announcement Date: October, 2020

ARC grant of \$50,000 to LENOWISCO Planning District Commission in Duffield, VA, for the *Tri-State Broadband Infrastructure Feasibility Study*. The project will create a plan to establish a fiber-optic network in a 13-county region of Kentucky, Tennessee, and Virginia. The LENOWISCO Planning District Commission (which comprises the Virginia counties of Lee, Wise, and Scott and the City of Norton) will convene stakeholders and determine the region's critical Network Access Points to connect households and businesses to other nearby regional networks. Currently, only 64 percent of households in this service area have

access to high-speed internet. After establishing a fiber-optic network, the multi-county region will be marketed for data center development.

Project Title: *Virginia Rural Leaders Institute (VRLI)*

Grantee: Center for Rural Virginia

Award Amount: \$39,755

Announcement Date: October, 2020

ARC grant of \$39,755 to the Center for Rural Virginia in Richmond, VA for the *Virginia Rural Leaders Institute (VRLI)*. The project will fill a gap in civic leadership development for rural communities in Virginia. VRLI will deliver a robust curriculum involving leadership, community, and economic development competencies to community leaders throughout Southwestern Virginia. Community leaders will be convened over a series of four sessions throughout the region. The first VRLI will graduate 30 leaders and create a state-wide rural network to strengthen rural development at the local level.

Project Title: *New River Water Trail Expansion Strategic Plan*

Grantee: New River Valley Regional Commission

Award Amount: \$32,940

Announcement Date: October, 2020

ARC grant of \$32,940 to New River Valley Regional Commission in Fairlawn, VA for the *New River Water Trail Expansion Strategic Plan*. The project will develop a plan to cultivate natural assets around the New River to increase talent attraction, tourism, and job growth. The strategic plan will formulate a strategy to improve river accessibility and trail signage, provide a market analysis of user groups and potential partners, and create a marketing strategy for the water trail. The strategic plan will develop an expansion model that can be applied throughout Virginia and its surrounding Appalachian states.

West Virginia (7)

Project Title: *Thundercloud Gigabit City Deployment*

Grantee: Thundercloud, Inc.

Award Amount: \$2,353,788

Announcement Date: October, 2020

ARC grant of \$2,353,788 to Thundercloud, Inc., in Huntington, WV for the *Thundercloud Gigabit City Deployment project*. The project will support approximately 25 miles of fiber construction to create a fiber loop that will connect Barboursville to downtown Huntington and deploy a robust last-mile underground fiber ring linking businesses and anchor institutions to gigabit speed infrastructure. Once fully operational, it is estimated 500 businesses will utilize the fiber ring. It will be part of a larger planned broadband network in the nine-county Advantage Valley region. The loop will also connect to the Thundercloud Data Center, which is planned for a federally designated Opportunity Zone and is benefitting from a prior POWER grant to Opportunity Appalachia. The center will provide state-of-the-art, secure, dual-redundant, high-capacity data storage and cloud computing capacity for the greater Huntington region. Large anchor institutions are likely candidates to use the data

center services. The center would also connect to the established state-of-the-art data center in South Charleston. Thundercloud will boost telehealth and telelearning progress, drive new economic development, serve downtown and technology park businesses seeking better broadband access, and upgrade four key Huntington municipal and public safety facilities.

Project Title: *Creating Communities of Healings by Cultivating Businesses to Address the Opioid Crisis*

Grantee: Region 4 Planning and Development Council

Award Amount: \$1,499,894

Announcement Date: October, 2020

ARC grant of \$1,499,894 to the Region 4 Planning and Development Council in Summersville, WV for *Creating Communities of Healings by Cultivating Businesses to Address the Opioid Crisis*. The Region 4 Planning and Development Council—in partnership with Seed Sower, Inc., Fruits of Labor, Wright Venture Services, the WV Hive, and Workforce WV Region 1—will create a program that strengthens the recovery-to-work ecosystem in southern West Virginia through the growth of social entrepreneurship in the food sector. This work will encourage businesses to meet the needs of communities coping with the opioid crisis by creating a “social impact hub” that offers cohort-based training for food-based businesses and entrepreneurs seeking to invest in the social mission of recovery. The cultivation of businesses and entrepreneurs to address the opioid crisis in Appalachia is a key component in improving the response to substance use disorder. The project takes advantage of entrepreneurship resources supported by a prior POWER grant to the WV Hive. As a result of the project, 75 businesses, 30 workers/trainees, and 150 participants will be served; 30 businesses, 20 workers/trainees, and 100 participants will be improved; nine jobs will be created; and \$500,000 in private investment will be leveraged.

Project Title: *Tri-State Aviation Maintenance Technician Start-Up*

Grantee: Region II Development Council

Award Amount: \$1,360,852

Announcement Date: October, 2020

ARC grant of \$1,360,852 to the Region II Development Council in Huntington, WV for the *Tri-State Aviation Maintenance Technician Start-Up*. The project will fill the growing need for aviation maintenance technicians to support the burgeoning aerospace industry in West Virginia, Ohio, and Kentucky, helping diversify the regional economy. Marshall University will offer a new Aviation Maintenance Technician (AMT) Program that will prepare individuals for aviation maintenance careers. Students will earn an Applied Associate of Science degree to be jointly awarded by Marshall University and Mountwest Community and Technical College. This dual degree option will be the first of its kind in Appalachia. Within three years of the project's completion, at least 105 students and 43 workers/trainees will have obtained new jobs or enhanced their current employment or still be enrolled in the program. And at least 95 businesses will have been improved by hiring these students and workers/trainees. Other major funding is being provided by the U.S. Economic Development Administration.

Project Title: *Strengthening Substance Abuse Recovery Ecosystems to Provide a Healthy and Ready Workforce*

Grantee: Southern Highlands Community Mental Health Center (SHCMHC)

Award Amount: \$480,000

Announcement Date: October, 2020

ARC grant of \$480,000 to Southern Highlands Community Mental Health Center (SHCMHC) in Princeton, West Virginia, for the *Strengthening Substance Abuse Recovery Ecosystems to Provide a Healthy and Ready Workforce* project. This project will implement a peer navigator/recovery coach (PN/RC) model that provides outreach and linkage to integrated care for substance use disorder (SUD), mental health, and drug-use-related chronic infections. SHCMHC, which serves McDowell, Wyoming, and Mercer counties, will employ PN/RCs to reach persons with SUD through existing programs that respond to overdoses, provide syringe services, and via self-referral. This model will build a strong local recovery ecosystem by linking existing medical treatment with job training and assistance for entering the workforce. Through the project, 150 individuals with SUD will complete treatment, and 60 former individuals with substance use disorder will be gainfully employed.

Project Title: *Creating a Sustainable Volunteer Trail Maintenance Program: A Key Requirement for Achieving Economic Development through Recreational Tourism*

Grantee: Appalachian Forest Heritage Area, Inc.

Award Amount: \$50,000

Announcement Date: October, 2020

ARC grant of \$50,000 to Appalachian Forest Heritage Area, Inc., in Elkins, WV for *Creating a Sustainable Volunteer Trail Maintenance Program: A Key Requirement for Achieving Economic Development through Recreational Tourism*. The project will develop a business plan for a volunteer trail maintenance center and program. Elements of the business plan will include community leadership initiatives, local partnerships, relationships with businesses that benefit from recreational tourism, growing a funding base, delivering trail maintenance training, a volunteer management system, and a communications/marketing plan for the program and center. These elements will provide tourist trail maintenance at low cost while connecting each community to its surrounding natural assets, thereby strengthening the area's recreation-based businesses. Matching funds are provided by the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation.

Project Title: *Wheeling Heritage Gateway Initiative*

Grantee: Wheeling National Heritage Area Corporation (WNHAC)

Award Amount: \$50,000

Announcement Date: October, 2020

ARC grant of \$50,000 to Wheeling National Heritage Area Corporation (WNHAC) in Wheeling, WV, for the *Wheeling Heritage Gateway Initiative*. The project will conduct a feasibility study, including the creation of an economic and technical feasibility strategy, to transform four key sites along Wheeling's Main Street into a unified "heritage gateway" for the downtown core. The centerpiece of the heritage gateway will be a new Wheeling Heritage Center that includes a multiuse visitors center, heritage museum, and events venue. The "heritage gateway" will reinvigorate the downtown, support regional job creation, and attract new visitors and businesses.

Project Title: *Aero-Ready in Southern WV*

Grantee: New River Gorge Regional Development Authority

Award Amount: \$50,000

Announcement Date: October, 2020

ARC grant of \$50,000 to the New River Gorge Regional Development Authority in Beckley, WV, for *Aero-Ready in Southern WV*. This project will craft a strategic plan, including cost analysis, to create and implement a workforce training and education curriculum to support the aerospace industry in southern West Virginia. It will identify gaps in the existing aerospace programming currently serving West Virginia, work with the Federal Aviation Administration, and present an implementation plan for a workforce training and degree curriculum between New River Community and Technical College and WVU Tech.

Special Regional Projects (2)

Project Title: *ARC/National Institutes of Health Interagency Agreement: Year 4*

Grantee: National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) at the National Institutes of Health (NIH)

Award Amount: \$750,000

Announcement Date: October, 2020

ARC grant of \$750,000 to the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) for continued collaborative research with other federal partners, including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), on effective interventions for opioid use disorders and related disease in rural Appalachian coal communities. This is the fourth year of support for this initiative. New funding will allow the University of Kentucky to continue implementing clinical programs focused on formerly incarcerated people who use drugs. The ultimate result of this collective research will be the establishment of evidence-based practices that effectively address Appalachia's recovery ecosystem.

Project Title: *Creating a Regional Network of Collegiate Recovery Programs Feasibility Study*

Grantee: Appalachian College Association

Award Amount: \$40,713

Announcement Date: October, 2020

ARC grant of \$40,713 to the Appalachian College Association in Bristol, TN, for the *Creating a Regional Network of Collegiate Recovery Programs Feasibility Study*. The study will create a plan to implement Collegiate Recovery Programs (CRP) on five college campuses in Appalachia: Bethany College and University of Charleston in West Virginia; Union College and University of Pikeville in Kentucky; and Lincoln Memorial University in Tennessee. Planning work will engage a network of teams from each college to develop an implementation model for integrating recovery, degree attainment, and job placement programs into a cohesive CRP for individuals with substance use disorders. The proposed CRPs will enhance the recovery ecosystem in five Appalachian communities, increasing the likelihood that individuals in recovery will graduate from college and enhance their labor force participation.