



## INSPIRE Award Summaries by State

### As of April 2021

The Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) has invested more than \$9.4 million specifically to address the substance abuse crisis by creating or expanding a recovery ecosystem that will lead to workforce entry or reentry in the Region through the [INvestments Supporting Partnerships in Recovery Ecosystems \(INSPIRE\) Initiative](#). These investments include 30 projects in 12 Appalachian states that support the post-treatment-to-employment continuum.

### ALABAMA (two awards)

**Project Title:** *Recovery Ecosystem for Substance Use Prevention and Treatment Through Community Reintegration and Employment Support for Alabamians (RESTORE Alabama)*

**Grantee:** The University of Alabama

**Award Amount:** \$355,858

**Announcement Date:** March 2021

**Project Summary:** ARC grant of \$355,858 to the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, for the *Recovery Ecosystem for Substance Use Prevention and Treatment Through Community Reintegration and Employment Support for Alabamians (RESTORE Alabama)*. In partnership with the Will Bright Foundation and other established partners, the University of Alabama will expand and enhance the ongoing recovery and training program of the Foundation. The Will Bright Foundation offers a range of recovery and employment services and operates Restoration Springs, a transitional center in Fayette, Alabama. The project will offer comprehensive integrated services, including employment, education, housing, transportation, and psychosocial support services, to 45 individuals in recovery from substance abuse issues in Fayette County and its immediate surrounding areas. At least 36 workers/trainees will obtain employment and at least 4 businesses will hire program participants.

**Project Title:** *Recovery Ecosystems Support Planning Grant*

**Grantee:** East Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission

**Award Amount:** \$16,000

**Announcement Date:** March 2021

**Project Summary:** ARC grant of \$16,000 to the East Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission in Anniston, Alabama, for the *Recovery Ecosystems Support Planning* project. The project will evaluate the current recovery-to-work ecosystem across a 10-county area of Alabama and will focus on strengthening the recovery ecosystem of Calhoun County. It will assess the adequacy and affordability of transportation, social services, health, and other key services to help individuals in recovery enter or re-enter the workforce and maintain recovery. It will also establish partnerships to address gaps in the availability of service providers and recovery programs.

## GEORGIA (one award)

**Project Title:** *Northwest Georgia Recovery Ecosystem*

**Grantee:** Highland Rivers Health

**Award Amount:** \$49,936

**Announcement Date:** March 2021

**Project Summary:** ARC grant of \$49,936 to Highland Rivers Health in Dalton, Georgia, to develop the *Northwest Georgia Recovery Ecosystem* project. The project will bring together a diverse cross-section of partners to improve the recovery infrastructure of 12 Appalachian Georgia counties in supporting a healthier workforce. Planning activities will include establishing a network of regional recovery associations; implementing a series of community and workforce needs assessment strategies; developing a marketing and awareness campaign; creating employer education and workforce training; and beginning a peer mentor network. The project will produce a system that promotes a cooperative expansion of services for individuals with substance-use disorder while also catering to the needs of local businesses.

## KENTUCKY (two awards)

**Project Title:** *Bridges to Work*

**Grantee:** Kentucky River Community Care, Inc.

**Award Amount:** \$500,000

**Announcement Date:** March 2021

**Project Summary:** ARC grant of \$500,000 to Kentucky River Community Care, Inc., in Hazard, Kentucky, for the *Bridges to Work* project. *Bridges to Work*, a 36-month pilot community partnership, will establish an ecosystem of care that blends therapeutic counseling, workforce development guidance, training, work-based learning, and post-treatment recovery support services in two economically distressed counties in eastern Kentucky (Knott and Perry). It will create a unified pathway to employment success for reentering or court-involved males ages 18–34. The project will help redesign a system of care that has previously prioritized treatment as a stand-alone intervention. It will incorporate job skills and employment to create a holistic program that creates a welcoming environment for people in recovery returning to the workforce. The project will build on Kentucky River Community Care's experience operating the Hickory Hill Recovery Center, a 100-bed peer recovery center that is part of the Recovery Kentucky addiction treatment program, and its partnership with Kentucky's Department of Corrections. The project will improve 80 trainees in recovery and 17 businesses.

**Project Title:** *INSPIRE Clay County*

**Grantee:** City of Manchester, Kentucky

**Award Amount:** \$50,000

**Announcement Date:** March 2021

**Project Summary:** ARC grant of \$50,000 to the City of Manchester, Kentucky, for the *INSPIRE Clay County* project. The project will conduct a community needs assessment that will result in a strategic plan to enhance Clay County's recovery ecosystem and improve workforce support for individuals in long-term recovery from a substance abuse disorder. The resulting strategic plan will identify assets and gaps in behavioral health services, job training and retention support resources, and other resources within Clay County. It will outline community-level strategies, partners, and funding sources to implement a plan for a recovery ecosystem that will improve community addiction recovery support services, strengthen local businesses, and promote a healthy and ready workforce.

## MARYLAND (one award)

**Project Title:** *Recovery to Work in Rural Maryland*

**Grantee:** University of Maryland

**Award Amount:** \$47,329

**Announcement Date:** March 2021

**Project Summary:** ARC grant of \$47,329 to the University of Maryland Center for Substance Abuse Research (CESAR) in College Park, Maryland, for the *Recovery to Work in Rural Maryland* project. The project will convene a Recovery Continuum Workgroup to develop a strategic plan for a recovery-to-work program that will address specific gaps in professional development training to support individuals in recovery and the employers who hire them. Focus groups of community participants will assess the needs of local businesses; examine employment readiness planning for people in post-treatment; consider the employment continuum during COVID and beyond; suggest targeted social media campaigns; and review virtual recovery-focused support services. The project will build upon the Maryland Rural Opioid Technical Assistance (ROTA) project (funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration), fostering cooperation between local officials and practitioners to expand the availability of recovery services and employment support in Allegany and Garrett counties.

## MISSISSIPPI (one award)

**Project Title:** *INSPIRE HOPE Alliance of Mississippi*

**Grantee:** Mississippi Prison Industries Corporation

**Award Amount:** \$50,000

**Announcement Date:** March 2021

**Project Summary:** ARC grant of \$50,000 to the Mississippi Prison Industries Corporation in Jackson, Mississippi, for the *INSPIRE HOPE Alliance of Mississippi* project. Through a 12-month planning process the project will produce a community-based plan of action for recovery and reentry for previously incarcerated individuals with substance abuse disorder. The plan will identify gaps in job training, job placement, and other support activities, as well as gaps in those services; it will develop a list of regional/community workforce organizations, training providers, and providers of wraparound services; and examine how the proposed elements meet the needs of businesses and target populations. The project will explore evidence-based best practices that could be implemented in the 24 Mississippi Appalachian counties and create or expand a regional or community-based substance abuse recovery ecosystem for reentry citizens.

## NEW YORK (two awards)

**Project Title:** *Collaborative Recovery Empowerment of the Southern Tier (CREST)*

**Grantee:** Southern Tier East Regional Planning and Development Board

**Award Amount:** \$479,237

**Announcement Date:** March 2021

**Project Summary:** ARC grant of \$479,237 to Southern Tier East Regional Planning and Development Board in Binghamton, New York, for *Collaborative Recovery Empowerment of the Southern Tier (CREST)*. The project will improve services for people in recovery and for employers who want to include people in recovery as part of a high-quality workforce. CREST is expected to serve 25 businesses and 75 people in recovery and will create a new training program for peer support workers in the region. Partners include local chambers of

commerce, workforce investment boards, community colleges, family and children's counseling services, and a local alcohol and drug council. CREST will create new systems to allow workforce boards to engage substance abuse disorder treatment providers for wraparound services. Additional funding is being provided by the U.S. Economic Development Administration.

**Project Title:** *Occupational Peer Empowerment Network (OPEN)*

**Grantee:** Mental Health Association

**Award Amount:** \$50,000

**Announcement Date:** March 2021

**Project Summary:** ARC grant of \$50,000 to the Mental Health Association in Chautauqua County in Jamestown, New York, for the *Occupational Peer Empowerment Network (OPEN)*. The project will develop a plan for a recovery ecosystem in Chautauqua County focused on supporting people in recovery as they enter or return to the workforce. A planning team will investigate resources and identify ways to link employers and workforce training agencies with organizations that provide treatment, recovery, and wraparound services. Work will examine a timeline for implementation, estimates of required resources, and potential economic impacts. Local stakeholders and partners will assess barriers and opportunities for a full-fledged recovery ecosystem, engaging business leaders and workforce training providers. The resulting plan will guide partners in the future build-out of integrated services, leading to more successful recovery for patients and economic stability for individuals and communities.

## **NORTH CAROLINA (three awards)**

**Project Title:** *WNC Recovery to Career: A Collective Impact Ecosystem*

**Grantee:** Land of Sky Regional Council

**Award Amount:** \$474,805

**Announcement Date:** March 2021

**Project Summary:** ARC grant of \$474,805 to Land of Sky Regional Council in Asheville, North Carolina, for the *WNC Recovery to Career: A Collective Impact Ecosystem* project. In collaboration with the Southwestern Commission in Sylva, North Carolina, the project will strengthen the recovery ecosystem across 11 Western North Carolina counties by (1) responding to participant and business needs; (2) leveraging the success of providers, agencies, and business organizations to develop pathways to employment for participants; (3) creating partnerships to help individuals navigate recovery while gaining training and/or employment; and (4) scaling up the program model to other areas across Appalachia. These activities, which will emphasize resource sharing and collaboration, will ensure that program participants affected by a substance use disorder have access to behavioral/mental health providers, wraparound services, employability skills offerings, and training to secure and retain employment. Through the project, 72 workers/trainees who are affected by a substance use disorder will retain employment for at least 12 months, ultimately reducing turnover rates across 30 businesses in Appalachian North Carolina.

**Project Title:** *Wilkes Fresh Start*

**Grantee:** Wilkes Recovery Revolution, Inc.

**Award Amount:** \$267,318

**Announcement Date:** March 2021

**Project Summary:** ARC grant of \$267,318 to Wilkes Recovery Revolution, Inc. (WRR) in North Wilkesboro, North Carolina, for the *Wilkes Fresh Start* project. The project will offer a therapeutic work program for individuals in Wilkes County seeking recovery and employment. WRR, an accredited community recovery program, will use its existing Wilkes

Fresh Mobile Market to employ people in recovery to grow, procure, and sell market-fresh produce. WRR will complement the mobile market work with recovery wraparound services, such as peer support specialists and transitional housing. Wilkes Fresh Start will enjoy support from the Healthy Wilkes Action Team, which piloted this successful approach through Healthy People, Healthy Carolinas, a Duke Endowment Initiative. The project will use farmland adjacent to existing recovery housing (operated through WRR) to grow produce. This project is projected to improve 35 participants, train 30 students, and create six jobs.

**Project Title:** *Watauga County Workforce Reentry Plan*

**Grantee:** Mediation & Restorative Justice Center, Inc.

**Award Amount:** \$30,000

**Announcement Date:** March 2021

**Project Summary:** ARC grant of \$30,000 to Mediation & Restorative Justice Center, Inc., (MRJC), in Boone, North Carolina, for the *Watauga County Workforce Reentry Plan*. In a partnership with law enforcement, public health officials, and the business community, MRJC will develop a framework for a successful recovery ecosystem and a detailed plan for workforce reentry for individuals affected by a substance use disorder, including individuals who have had an encounter with the justice system. The program will enhance the current recovery ecosystem by assessing existing service providers; identifying gaps in the recovery ecosystem; examining successful recovery-to-work models from comparison communities; highlighting barriers to employment; examining partnership opportunities with the business community and with the judicial and corrections systems; and recommending pathways for the start-up of education and workforce initiatives to assist employers in meeting their workforce and business needs.

## OHIO (four awards)

**Project Title:** *Recovery Ecosystem Expansion (REE) Initiative*

**Grantee:** Ironton-Lawrence County Area Community Action Organization, Inc.

**Award Amount:** \$500,000

**Announcement Date:** March 2021

**Project Summary:** ARC grant of \$500,000 to the Ironton-Lawrence County Area Community Action Organization (ILCAO) in Ironton, Ohio, for the *Recovery Ecosystem Expansion (REE) Initiative*. The project will strengthen ILCAO's recovery ecosystem by implementing an Intensive Outpatient Program (IOP) that will be incorporated into the agency's recovery-to-work program. These intensive recovery support services will aid recovery-to-work participants in maintaining recovery progress and work placement success. In addition to providing a greater level of behavioral health and recovery support to recovery-to-work participants, the expanded outpatient services will offer new employment opportunities for individuals in recovery. These include peer support specialists, case managers, and administrative support. The project will implement IOP services and train recovering participants while also securing placement partnerships with new recovery-friendly employers. The project will improve eight businesses, 70 workers/trainees, and eight students throughout the life of the grant. Local sources are contributing more than \$1.3 million to the project.

**Project Title:** *Treatment Recovery and Workforce Support Program*

**Grantee:** Flying HIGH, Inc.

**Award Amount:** \$500,000

**Announcement Date:** March 2021

**Project Summary:** ARC grant of \$500,000 to Flying High, Inc., in Youngstown, Ohio, for the *Treatment Recovery and Workforce Support Program*. Flying HIGH will expand its

treatment, recovery, and workforce support programs and services for residents of Ashtabula, Columbiana, Mahoning, and Trumbull counties in Ohio and Lawrence County in Pennsylvania. The project will offer integrated behavioral health services, job placement and training services, recovery support activities, and housing for individuals affected by a substance abuse disorder. Participants will be matched with a training provider in order to obtain employment in one of the following in-demand industry sectors: advanced manufacturing, healthcare, and information technology. To successfully engage the business community, Flying HIGH will work through its Mahoning Valley Partnership for Employment Consortium, which is comprised of 40 employers, to place participants in jobs. The project will provide expanded services to 120 workers/trainee, eight incumbent workers, and more than 40 businesses.

**Project Title:** *Southern Ohio Employer Resource Network*

**Grantee:** Ohio Valley Regional Development Commission (OVRDC)

**Award Amount:** \$500,000

**Announcement Date:** March 2021

**Project Summary:** ARC grant of \$500,000 to the Ohio Valley Regional Development Commission (OVRDC) in Waverly, Ohio, for the *Southern Ohio Employer Resource Network*. Through a partnership with the Ross and Jackson-Vinton Community Action Commissions, the Southern Ohio Employer Resource Network will facilitate collaboration among employers and social service providers to support successful employment for individuals affected by substance use disorder in Ross, Jackson, and Vinton counties. Success Coaches will work at participating employer locations to connect employees to resources and address barriers by facilitating access to treatment, peer support, mental and physical healthcare services, transportation, housing, childcare, financial management, job readiness skills, education, and workforce training. The Network builds on a proven employer-based model that reduces employee absenteeism and increases employee retention. Through the project, 1000 workers/trainees will be improved and six businesses will receive support services to retain and develop their workforce.

**Project Title:** *Recovery Through Employment in Ohio's Appalachian Industrial Belt*

**Grantee:** Coleman Professional Services

**Award Amount:** \$45,309

**Announcement Date:** March 2021

**Project Summary:** ARC grant of \$45,309 to Coleman Professional Services (CPS), in Kent, Ohio, for the *Recovery Through Employment in Ohio's Appalachian Industrial Belt* project. A nonprofit behavioral health and recovery provider serving over 30,000 adults and youth across Ohio, CPS will identify and engage stakeholders in developing the recovery ecosystem for the workforce in six counties of Appalachian Ohio (Monroe, Jefferson, Trumbull, Harrison, Belmont, and Mahoning). These counties have been impacted by high rates of substance use disorder exacerbated by the economic and social impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. CPS will work with a cross-section of community partners to conduct a community needs assessment, culminating in a plan to fund and implement a system of employer and workforce services and establish work as a tool of recovery.

## PENNSYLVANIA (three awards)

**Project Title:** *Southwest Pennsylvania Regional Recovery Ecosystem*

**Grantee:** Washington-Greene County Job Training Agency, Inc.

**Award Amount:** \$500,000

**Announcement Date:** March 2021

**Project Summary:** ARC grant of \$500,000 to the Washington-Greene County Job Training Agency, Inc., in Washington, Pennsylvania, for the *Southwest Pennsylvania Regional Recovery Ecosystem*. The ecosystem collaborative will engage a mix of adult job seekers and workers in recovery from substance use disorder for at least 18 months, the minimum amount of time an individual must be in recovery to train as a Certified Recovery Specialist. Job seekers will be recruited from partner organizations within the region's recovery ecosystem, including behavioral health programs, drug court and diversion programs, halfway and three-quarter houses, and American Job Centers. While the primary training program for the target population will be the Certified Recovery Specialist, partners will also work to connect qualified individuals interested in other fields with training and pre-apprenticeship programs in high-demand occupations. The project will serve 125 workers/trainees, and 15 businesses will be improved by employing new strategies to be more recovery-friendly workplaces. Additional funding is being provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Labor & Industry.

**Project Title:** *Inspiring Effective Workforce Participation in Northwest Pennsylvania*

**Grantee:** Hamot Health Foundation

**Award Amount:** \$500,000

**Announcement Date:** March 2021

**Project Summary:** ARC grant of \$500,000 to Hamot Health Foundation in Erie, Pennsylvania, for the *Inspiring Effective Workforce Participation in Northwest Pennsylvania* project. The project will coordinate prevention, treatment, and workforce training services for people in recovery in Northwest Pennsylvania, creating a local recovery ecosystem. Integrating an array of services will lead to improved health outcomes, stable employment, and community improvement. A group of service providers offering treatment and wraparound services, called the #RecoveryIsBeautifulNWPA Consortium, will expand their activities to include additional workforce training providers, offering the opportunity for clients to receive certificates in high-demand employment fields. The project is expected to facilitate job placements for 180 people, while an additional 108 program participants and 40 businesses will benefit. Additional financial support includes funding from the Erie Center for Arts and Technology and the United Way of Erie County. Other key partners include UPMC Western Behavioral Health at Safe Harbor.

**Project Title:** *PROGRESS: Providing Recovery Opportunities for Growth, Education and Sustainable Success*

**Grantee:** Wright Center Medical Group

**Award Amount:** \$270,000

**Announcement Date:** March 2021

**Project Summary:** ARC grant of \$270,000 to the Wright Center Medical Group in Scranton, Pennsylvania, for *PROGRESS: Providing Recovery Opportunities for Growth, Education and Sustainable Success*. The project will focus on community members who are committed to their recovery and who have demonstrated a desire to give back to the region. The project will identify organizations with linkages to employers, social services, treatment and recovery facilities, criminal justice systems, and job training programs. Project staff will connect participants to peer support systems and health and behavioral health networks that support substance use disorder recovery. Through PROGRESS, at least 40 workers/trainees

will obtain new employment or enhance their current positions and 50 businesses will be improved via employee education and/or by hiring a Certified Recovery Specialist or Community Health Worker for their workforce. The project will also highlight best practices for incorporating social services into healthcare and into the business community of Northeastern Pennsylvania.

## TENNESSEE (three awards)

**Project Title:** *Claiborne County Women's Jail to Work Program*

**Grantee:** Claiborne County Government

**Award Amount:** \$500,000

**Announcement Date:** March 2021

**Project Summary:** ARC grant of \$500,000 to Claiborne County in Tazewell, Tennessee, for the *Claiborne County Women's Jail to Work Program*. The program will help individuals recover from substance use disorders, get the support services and work support training they need to maintain recovery, and successfully enter or re-enter the workforce. The innovative program moves women from jail to recovery to sustainable employment. It supports the post-treatment-to-employment continuum by investing in the community mental health center (McNabb Center) that employs substance abuse recovery professionals. The program provides a temporary residence while women receive three primary services: intensive outpatient treatment for substance use disorder, job preparation skills, and employment placement. The community partners further support this initiative by providing primary medical care and transportation assistance. Over the course of the project, 45 women will go from a jail setting to a residential setting, receive intensive substance use disorder treatment, receive life and employment skills training, be placed into employment, and maintain employment and sobriety.

**Project Title:** *Matched for Success*

**Grantee:** Ridgeview Psychiatric Hospital and Center, Inc.

**Award Amount:** \$489,110

**Announcement Date:** March 2021

**Project Summary:** ARC grant of \$489,110 to Ridgeview Behavioral Health Services in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, for *Matched for Success*. *Matched for Success* will strengthen the local recovery ecosystem in Scott and Campbell counties by introducing the Dartmouth evidence-based Individualized Placement & Support (IPS) employment model; partnering with community and technical colleges; collaborating with the Tennessee Department of Children's Services for youth exiting custody; engaging with recovery courts and recovery housing; and providing necessary linkages to substance use disorder outpatient treatment. The program will have two county-specific Employment/Education Specialists and one part-time Peer Recovery Specialist. The project is expected to improve 15 businesses, 64 worker/trainees, and 15 students throughout the life of the grant.

**Project Title:** *Bridging the GAP (Growing Achievable Pathways) to Employment*

**Grantee:** Alliance of Citizens Together Improving Our Neighborhoods (A.C.T.I.O.N) Coalition

**Award Amount:** \$50,000

**Announcement Date:** March 2021

**Project Summary:** ARC grant of \$50,000 to the Alliance of Citizens Together Improving Our Neighborhoods (A.C.T.I.O.N) Coalition in Mountain City, Tennessee, for *Bridging the GAP (Growing Achievable Pathways) to Employment*. The project will assess both the needs of individuals within the treatment/recovery community and the needs of employers and business partners. It will create new and expanded partnerships to advance the goal of greater workforce participation. In addition, it will develop short-term and long-term plans



focusing on job training and work readiness, expanded availability and coordination of community-based recovery services, and supplemental supports for employers to effectively integrate individuals in treatment and recovery back into the local workforce. The project will yield a plan for creating a well-rounded recovery ecosystem in Johnson County.

## **VIRGINIA (three awards)**

**Project Title:** *Community Recovery Program (CRP) Expansion in Henry and Patrick Counties and City of Martinsville*

**Grantee:** Piedmont Regional Community Services Board (PRCSB)

**Award Amount:** \$498,961

**Announcement Date:** March 2021

**Project Summary:** ARC grant of \$498,961 to the Piedmont Regional Community Services Board (PRCSB) in Martinsville, Virginia, for the *Community Recovery Program (CRP) Expansion in Henry and Patrick Counties and City of Martinsville* project. The project will increase the number of recovering individuals in the city of Martinsville and Henry County and will expand the CRP to serve individuals in Patrick County. The primary focus will be transitioning the vocational training program from an in-house service to a community-focused service where CRP will offer the service to community agencies and faith-based organizations. This collaboration provides another opportunity for CRP participants to secure work experience and build skills. It can also provide resources for the program to sustain an increase in staff. The project will strengthen the recovery ecosystem by increasing the number of Peer Specialists and sponsoring training and credentials for a Peer Specialist Trainer so that future prospects can be prepared to serve the community from within the community. The project is expected to improve 10 businesses, 130 worker/trainees, and 200 students.

**Project Title:** *Amelioration Phase II*

**Grantee:** LENOWISCO Planning District Commission

**Award Amount:** \$371,000

**Announcement Date:** March 2021

**Project Summary:** ARC grant of \$371,000 to LENOWISCO Planning District Commission in Duffield, Virginia, for the *Amelioration Phase II* project. The project will develop a substance abuse disorder recovery ecosystem, removing barriers that tend to derail the recovery process. Project activities will coordinate or provide a wide range of services, including counseling, healthcare, legal services, housing, skills training, and employment. Training will be provided in carpentry, masonry, and plumbing to prepare participants for job opportunities. Career coaches at Mountain Empire Community College will assist students with wraparound services needed for the students to be successful long-term. These include positive behavior support and referrals to physical and mental health services, housing, childcare, and transportation. The project will serve 60 workers/trainees who are in recovery from substance use.

**Project Title:** *Project Recovery*

**Grantee:** Western Virginia Workforce Development Board

**Award Amount:** \$300,000

**Announcement Date:** March 2021

**Project Summary:** ARC grant of \$300,000 to the Western Virginia Workforce Development Board (WVWDB) in Roanoke, Virginia, for *Project Recovery*. The project will develop and enhance the recovery ecosystem for individuals affected by substance abuse in Alleghany and Craig counties and the City of Covington. By bringing together partners in the Alleghany Highlands, it will create an ecosystem that fosters one-on-one support with recovery, support

services, training, and employment. Project Recovery will provide participants with one-on-one counseling and support, comprehensive assessments to determine needs, training and skill development, and employment placement. The project will also provide education and awareness to the business community on hiring individuals who have experienced substance abuse and how to provide the support needed for new and existing employees who may be faced with these challenges. The project is expected to improve 38 businesses and 60 participants throughout the grant period.

## **WEST VIRGINIA (five awards)**

**Project Title:** *Building the Mid-Ohio Valley Recovery-to-Work Ecosystem Through Expanded Services and Support*

**Grantee:** Mid-Ohio Valley Regional Council

**Award Amount:** \$500,000

**Announcement Date:** March 2021

**Project Summary:** ARC grant of \$500,000 to the Mid-Ohio Valley Regional Council in Parkersburg, West Virginia, for the *Building the Mid-Ohio Valley Recovery-to-Work Ecosystem Through Expanded Services and Support* project. Organizations across the Mid-Ohio Valley of West Virginia and Ohio have come together to align program activities and provide an easily accessible roadmap for high-risk individuals to seek and retain employment. The program targets individuals who are making progress in their treatment plan or recovery and are nearing the point of workforce entry or reentry. The project will assist participants by expanding existing community linkage services, such as peer recovery supports, and making sure that those linkages extend across state borders. The project will expand successful recovery-focused job training programs and provide education and incentives through employer outreach programs. Four workers/trainees will become Peer Recovery Supporters and 100 others will obtain employment during the project period. Additionally, 170 participants will benefit from legal and counselling services, and 26 businesses and 20 organizations will be improved.

**Project Title:** *An Interagency Movement of Homeless Individuals in Recovery to Employment (AimHire)*

**Grantee:** Greater Wheeling Coalition for the Homeless, Inc.

**Award Amount:** \$500,000

**Announcement Date:** March 2021

**Project Summary:** ARC grant of \$500,000 to the Greater Wheeling Coalition for the Homeless, Inc., in Wheeling, West Virginia, for *An Interagency Movement of Homeless Individuals in Recovery to Employment (AimHire)*. Incorporating housing into a recovery ecosystem, along with other job training, soft-skills development, and wraparound services, AimHire will improve services for people who are living with substance use disorders and are experiencing homelessness in Wheeling and West Virginia's Northern Panhandle. It will remove barriers to workforce entry or reentry for people in recovery. Partners include Workforce WV, Northwood Health Systems, Sheet Metal Workers Local 33, and The Ziegendelfer Company. The project is expected to serve 60 clients and place 60 participants in a job by 2023. Additional funding for the project is being provided by the Veterans Health Administration and the West Virginia Bureau of Behavioral Health.

**Project Title:** *West Virginia Inspiring Hope*

**Grantee:** West Virginia University Research Corporation

**Award Amount:** \$499,176

**Announcement Date:** March 2021

**Project Summary:** ARC grant of \$499,176 to West Virginia University Research Corporation in Morgantown, West Virginia, for the *West Virginia Inspiring Hope* project. West Virginia University's Institute for Community and Rural Health will enhance and expand its existing recovery-to-work ecosystem to address gaps for individuals affected by a substance abuse disorder across a seven-county service area (Clay, Fayette, Greenbrier, Nicholas, Pocahontas, Summers, and Webster). Key elements of that ecosystem will include training, job placement, recovery treatment, housing, and transportation. *West Virginia Inspiring Hope* will capitalize on an extensive network of local and state partners, including Fruits of Labor, a nationally certified culinary and agricultural training center for individuals in recovery; God's Way Home, a provider of recovery coaching and support; and Seneca Health Services, a mental health organization that provides medication-assisted services, individual and group counseling, peer recovery support, case management, and 24/7 crisis services. The project will provide recovery and workforce development services to 42 workers/trainees affected by a substance use disorder to prepare them for the workforce.

**Project Title:** *ReIntegr8—Social Enterprise Expansion*

**Grantee:** Pollen8

**Award Amount:** \$494,652

**Announcement Date:** March 2021

**Project Summary:** ARC grant of \$494,652 to Pollen8 in South Charleston, West Virginia, for the *ReIntegr8—Social Enterprise Expansion* project. Pollen8, a provider of prevention, treatment, and reintegration programs for women and children, will provide ReIntegr8, a recovery-to-work continuum-of-care program for West Virginia women overcoming a substance abuse disorder. In partnership with Thomas Health Systems, the South Charleston Chamber of Commerce, Charleston Kanawha Housing, Cabin Creek Health, and Bez Psychiatric, ReIntegr8 will include intensive in-patient and outpatient treatment, job skill development, safe housing, and employment placement. Pollen8 has developed a holistic program that targets the underlying causes of substance use disorder, enhances resiliency by providing participants with the coping strategies necessary to remain drug-free, equips businesses with the tools necessary to support those overcoming substance use challenges, and up-skills participants to secure full-time employment. As a result of the project, 128 workers/trainees and 24 businesses will be improved, three businesses will be created, and five jobs will be created.

**Project Title:** *Heart of WV Recovery Ecosystem*

**Grantee:** Randolph County Housing Authority

**Award Amount:** \$25,000

**Announcement Date:** March 2021

**Project Summary:** ARC grant of \$25,000 to the Randolph County Housing Authority in Elkins, West Virginia, for the *Heart of WV Recovery Ecosystem*. Working with the Randolph County Workforce Development Collaborative, which focuses on the needs of employers and businesses, the Randolph County Housing Authority will analyze the current recovery ecosystem and develop a strategy to address barriers to workforce entry and reentry for individuals recovering from substance use disorder. The plan that will flow from this analysis will include commitments from employers who are ready to hire individuals in recovery or who are transitioning out of the justice system, along with commitments from service providers to participate in coordinated service delivery. The project will serve Barbour, Randolph, and Upshur counties.