



INSPIRE Award Summaries by State

As of November 2021

The Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) has invested more than \$14.9 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 47 projects in all 13 Appalachian states that support the post-treatment-to-employment continuum.

ALABAMA (2 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 (1 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 (7 awards)

Project Title: *Horizon Services Employment Program*

Grantee: Kentucky Rural Health Information Technology Network Inc. d/b/a Horizon Health

Award Amount: \$500,000

Announcement Date: November 2021

Project Summary: ARC grant to the Kentucky Rural Health Information Technology Network Inc. d/b/a Horizon Health, located in Corbin, Kentucky, for the [Horizon Services Employment Program](#). The project will partner with local employers, employment services organizations, GED education centers, and area health providers to establish and implement a comprehensive employment services program to support individuals impacted by substance use disorder (SUD) with workforce entry or re-entry in Bell, Clay, Knox, Laurel, and Whitley counties. By developing "Learning Centers" within their existing campus locations, in addition to utilizing their own career readiness certificate, the program will leverage a multitude of SUD and recovery-to-work activities. It will also capitalize on existing referral patterns within their community to ensure client health, success in the program, workforce advancement, and improvement in sustainable partnerships throughout the area. Over the next three years, the project is expected to improve 75 businesses (those that receive referrals and hire qualified individuals in recovery), support 75 workers/trainees (those receiving employment supports), create 10 jobs, improve 75 participants (through education and individual recovery-to-work plans), and educate 50 students (those who enroll in their onsite learning lab).

Project Title: *Southeast Kentucky Partnership in Restoration*

Grantee: KCEOC Community Action Partnership, Inc.

Award Amount: \$500,000

Announcement Date: November 2021

Project Summary: ARC grant to KCEOC Community Action Partnership, Inc., in Gray, Kentucky, for the [Southeast Kentucky Partnership in Restoration](#) project. The project will provide work readiness and vocational training, job placement and career services, work-based learning opportunities, and wraparound supports for 60 participants of the Appalachian Restoration Project's residential and recovery program to foster the

participants' recovery and ability to successfully enter the workforce. The project will serve Knox County, which is designated as an ARC distressed county and has an unemployment rate of 4.9%. The project will also partner with Southeast Kentucky Community and Technical College (SKCTC) to provide vocational and career training in order to prepare participants with secure, sustainable, and well-paying jobs in fields vital to local and regional economic growth. Participants will be trained to succeed in key industries such as construction, cyber security, early childhood development, entrepreneurship, and business administration. KCEOC will also work with 40 local businesses to offer work-placed learning and employment opportunities for participants. This project is expected to train 60 participants over two years.

Project Title: *Re-establishing and Boosting Unemployed Inmates Leverage and Development (REBUILD)*

Grantee: Pike County Health Department

Award Amount: \$485,676

Announcement Date: November 2021

Project Summary: ARC grant to Pike County Health Department in Pike County, Kentucky, for the *Re-establishing and Boosting Unemployed Inmates Leverage and Development (REBUILD)* project. This project, through partnerships with the Pike County Detention Center and the Westcare Kentucky Men's Jail Recovery program, will provide a multitude of education, life skills, and employment supports to men prior to release from the criminal justice system. The program will also provide transitional housing (as needed), woodworking and carpentry workshops, and access to intensive life skills courses aimed at improving individuals' substance use disorder (SUD) recovery needs and access to employment supports (e.g., resume writing). Pike County will also partner with employment leaders in the community, such as Commonwealth Building & Construction Co., Inc., to provide hands-on employment training and connections to employment services after re-entry. Over the next three years, the project is expected to improve 45 students through educational, life skills, and employment supports, serve 15 businesses through collaborative partnerships, and implement three programs (e.g., life skills, public health, education).

Project Title: *Build a Better Shadow Program*

Grantee: Good Environment, LLC

Award Amount: \$48,000

Announcement Date: November 2021

Project Summary: ARC grant to Good Environment, LLC, in Campton, Kentucky, for the *Build a Better Shadow Program* project. The 13-month project will enable the grantee to design a program plan and curriculum for the Build a Better Shadow Program, a proposed relapse prevention job training and placement program that will serve individuals in recovery. The planning phase of the project will involve establishing partnerships with substance use disorder (SUD) recovery organizations, including Special People Advocating Recovery Kentucky (SPARK) and Appalachian Wellness, as well as local businesses in the tourism and outdoor recreation industries. The program aims to match employer needs with the training and employment goals of workers in recovery, who will be provided with basic and soft-skills training and job shadowing experiences during the implementation phase of the project. When established, the Build a Better Shadow Program is expected to provide recovering individuals in Wolfe County with the training and employment supports they need to successfully re-enter the workforce and sustain long-term recovery.

Project Title: *INSPIRE in the Blue Grass*

Grantee: Blue Grass Community Action Partnership

Award Amount: \$27,300

Announcement Date: November 2021

Project Summary: ARC grant to the Blue Grass Community Action Partnership in Frankfort, Kentucky, for the *INSPIRE in the Blue Grass* project. The project will enable the grantee to conduct a community needs assessment over an 18-month period in Lincoln and Garrard counties that will involve forming task teams to analyze the current recovery ecosystem and develop a strategy to address barriers to workforce entry and re-entry for individuals in recovery from substance use disorder (SUD). Task teams will collaborate with community partners and regional employers to identify gaps in job training, job placement, and the wraparound services needed to facilitate long-term success for persons in recovery, and to build community capacity in the two-county service area, which has been hard hit by the opioid epidemic and decline of coal industry and related sector jobs. The community needs assessment is expected to guide the implementation of a recovery ecosystem for Lincoln and Garrard counties that will assist individuals in recovery from SUD successfully re-enter the workforce.

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 (1 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 (1 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 (3 awards)

Project Title: *Rural Recovery Development Opportunities and Career Services (RR-DOCS)*

Grantee: Friends of Recovery of Delaware and Otsego Counties, Inc. (FOR-DO)

Award Amount: \$500,000

Announcement Date: November 2021

Project Summary: ARC grant to Friends of Recovery of Delaware and Otsego Counties, Inc., in Oneonta, New York, for the [Rural Recovery Development Opportunities and Career Services](#) project. The project will target individuals engaged in recovery in Delaware, Otsego, and Chenango counties who are unemployed and underemployed, as well as recovery-friendly employers who seek to hire people in recovery. The project will leverage partnerships with community-based organizations such as CDO Workforce Centers to

provide individuals impacted by substance use disorder (SUD) with job placement services. The project will also enlist the support of Chenango Health Network's community navigators to provide case management services throughout the client's recovery, job training, job search, and subsequent employment process. Businesses who employ these clients will receive assistance and education from the LEAF Council on Alcoholism and Addictions and local Workforce Investment Boards to sustain client placement. The project is expected to provide 108 workers in recovery with wraparound support services to better prepare them for successful entry into the workforce; train 20 local businesses to become recovery-friendly workplaces; and provide training for 30 certified peer recovery assistants.

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 (4 awards)

Project Title: *Vital Links Center*

Grantee: Piedmont Triad Regional Council

Award Amount: \$50,000

Announcement Date: November 2021

Project Summary: ARC grant to the Piedmont Triad Regional Council in Kernersville, North Carolina, for the [Vital Links Center](#) project. The project will facilitate a planning process to help extend the reach of existing substance use intervention services to include a

comprehensive assessment of supports and resources to enable individuals to successfully re-enter the workforce in Surry County. This project will also identify shortfalls in the present workforce infrastructure by assisting employers with a plan to create a recovery-friendly work environment. It will also lay the foundation for programs to help county residents in treatment for substance use disorder (SUD) enter or re-enter the workforce. The project is expected to benefit 180 county businesses and improve 18 businesses.

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 (6 awards)

Project Title: *Integrating Recovery Supports at Appalachian Innovation Gateways*

Grantee: Ohio University

Award Amount: \$500,000

Announcement Date: November 2021

Project Summary: ARC grant to Ohio University in Athens and Perry counties, Ohio, for the [Integrating Recovery Supports at Appalachian Innovation Gateways](#) project. This project will expand entrepreneurial and other vocational opportunities for individuals in recovery from substance use disorder (SUD) by pairing makerspace training with additional supports, including peers, community health workers, art therapy, and a Recovery Community Organization. Through extensive partnerships with makerspaces, recovery centers, and employers, Ohio University will use businesses in the community as incubation centers to recruit participants while also bolstering makerspace utilization to promote a series of pathways by which individuals with SUD can obtain meaningful employment. Over 2.5 years, this project is expected to improve 40 businesses through education, hiring individuals in SUD recovery, and sharing recovery resources; and to help 85 individuals through activities that promote access to workforce services and skill-building activities.

Project Title: *Career Continuum of Hope*

Grantee: Jefferson County Prevention and Recovery Board (JCPRB)

Award Amount: \$203,000

Announcement Date: November 2021

Project Summary: ARC grant to the Jefferson County Prevention and Recovery Board (JCPRB) in Steubenville, Ohio, for the [Career Continuum of Hope](#) project. The project will enable the grantee to hire a peer workforce developer to recruit and train individuals in recovery from substance use disorder (SUD) for high-demand entry-level jobs such as truck drivers, machinery operators, retail workers, restaurant workers, and peer recovery support workers. The project will also benefit regional employers that are currently experiencing labor shortages with a larger pool of clean, sober, and work-ready individuals. The project is expected to help fill gaps in the local recovery ecosystem by supporting an estimated 750 workers/trainees in recovery during the two-year grant period with workforce training, employment placement assistance, and wraparound support services. Of the 750 workers/trainees, 32 will obtain full-time jobs as certified peer recovery support workers and 20 will obtain full-time jobs in other job sectors.

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 (7 awards)

Project Title: *POWER Programs Growth and Recovery*

Grantee: Pennsylvania Organization for Women in Early Recovery (POWER)

Award Amount: \$500,000

Announcement Date: November 2021

Project Summary: ARC grant to the Pennsylvania Organization for Women in Early Recovery (POWER) in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, for the [POWER Programs Growth and Recovery](#) project. The project will expand a recovery ecosystem for individuals in recovery from substance use disorders (SUD) in the 14-county service area of Appalachian Pennsylvania, with a focus on enhancing and expanding support for job training and employment through the creation and expansion of community partnerships and linkages between workforce development organizations, local businesses, and organizations that provide post-SUD treatment wraparound services. Through collaboration with workforce development organizations and training partners, such as PA Women Work, the Trade Institute of Pittsburgh, the Mon Valley Institute, and the Squirrel Hill Health Center, the project will provide the following: employment counseling; job skills assessment; soft- and hard-skills training; resume development; assistance with job searches and job matching; financial literacy education and coaching; clinical care; and ancillary and specialty support services for approximately 50 individuals in early recovery. The project will also provide greater access to SUD treatment and family support services for an estimated 235 patients, 60 of whom will have improved health and quality of life outcomes with SUD treatment and family therapy.

Project Title: *PROSPER—From Recovery to Career*

Grantee: Workforce Solutions for North Central Pennsylvania

Award Amount: \$500,000

Announcement Date: November 2021

Project Summary: ARC grant to Workforce Solutions for North Central Pennsylvania in Kersey, Pennsylvania, for the [PROSPER—From Recovery to Career](#) project. The project will train staff to work with job seekers in recovery and employers in the counties of Cameron, Clearfield, Elk, Jefferson, McKean, and Potter. Key partners include Alcohol and Drug Abuse Services, Inc., Next Gen Industry and Education Partnerships, and North Central Regional Planning and Development Commission. The project is expected to train 120 certified recovery specialists, provide 70 job seekers in recovery from substance use disorder (SUD) with customized career planning supports to help secure employment, and train 70 employer partners to better understand and support the SUD-impacted workforce.

Project Title: *R2W (Recovery to Work) Laurel Highlands*

Grantee: Faces and Voices of Recovery (FAVOR) Western Pennsylvania

Award Amount: \$500,000

Announcement Date: November 2021

Project Summary: ARC grant to Faces and Voices of Recovery (FAVOR) Western Pennsylvania in Bolivar, Pennsylvania, for the [R2W \(Recovery to Work\) Laurel Highlands](#) project. The project will create a new 501(c)(3) Recovery Community Organization

(RCO) to serve as a hub for individuals in need of recovery services, employment, and workforce resources across the eight counties of the Laurel Highlands region of Appalachian Pennsylvania. Through strategic partnerships with existing workforce development initiatives and training programs, such as the Southern Alleghenies Workforce Development Board (SAWDB), Westmoreland Community Action Recovery Employment Program (RED), Pennsylvania Peer Support Coalition (PaPSC), Allegheny Health Network (AHN), and others, this project will fill existing gaps in the recovery ecosystem and address the shortage of health professionals in the region. During the three-year grant period, the project will train an estimated 170 individuals to be certified recovery specialists, certified peer specialists, and/or community health workers; support 136 individuals who complete workforce training in obtaining new jobs or improving existing employment; and benefit approximately 250 local businesses through direct engagement with RCOs.

Project Title: *Pathways to Education and Employment in Recovery (PEER) Program*

Grantee: Crawford County Drug and Alcohol Executive Committee, Inc. (CCAEC)

Award Amount: \$48,604

Announcement Date: November 2021

Project Summary: ARC grant to Crawford County Drug and Alcohol Executive Committee, Inc. (CCAEC) for the [Pathways to Education and Employment in Recovery \(PEER\) Program](#) project. The project will develop a consortium, consisting of drug & alcohol case managers, workforce development professionals, employers, and training providers, to leverage knowledge, skills, and assets to identify seamless access to substance use disorder (SUD) services that result in permanent employment opportunities for individuals in recovery who live in Crawford, Mercer, and Venango counties. The project will identify barriers to employment experienced by individuals in recovery, challenges faced by employers seeking a qualified workforce, and the availability of local training programs to prepare individuals for high-demand occupations in the region. As a result of this project, the consortium aims to create an implementation and sustainability plan to identify the future staffing and funding needs required to support SUD program operations and community needs in each of the three counties by the end of December 2022.

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.

SOUTH CAROLINA (1 award)

Project Title: *Building a Recovery Ecosystem in Oconee County, South Carolina*

Grantee: Prisma Health—Upstate

Award Amount: \$500,000

Announcement Date: November 2021

Project Summary: ARC grant to Prisma Health—Upstate in Oconee County, South Carolina, for the [Building a Recovery Ecosystem in Oconee County, South Carolina](#) project. This project will support people seeking or participating in long-term substance use disorder (SUD) recovery by leveraging existing and new partnerships to implement a workforce-focused ecosystem of recovery by employing peers to support linkages to care, recovery opportunities, and workforce and employment needs. Key partnerships with SC Vocational Rehabilitation, Anderson Oconee Behavioral Health, FAVOR Greenville's Oconee County division, and Oconee County Opioid Response Taskforce will provide the necessary linkages to care for individuals in recovery seeking employment. Over the course of three years, the project is expected to improve 25 businesses through increased knowledge of SUD and its

impact on the workforce, and improve 150 workers/trainees through education and employment training supports.

TENNESSEE (4 awards)

Project Title: *Veterans Substance Abuse Support Alliance of Northeast Tennessee (VetSASA)*

Grantee: East Tennessee State University

Award Amount: \$33,030

Announcement Date: November 2021

Project Summary: ARC grant to East Tennessee State University (ETSU) in Johnson City, Tennessee, for the [Veterans Substance Abuse Support Alliance of Northeast Tennessee \(VetSASA\)](#) project. The project will facilitate several working groups to examine the impacts and available resources for veterans with substance use disorder (SUD) to help connect them to wraparound supports and employment. The project's targeted region, which includes Carter, Greene, Hancock, Hawkins, Johnson, Sullivan, Unicoi, and Washington counties, is home to approximately 41,000 veterans and faces numerous challenges, including a 9.3% unemployment rate. Researchers, clinicians, and staff from ETSU's Quillen School of Medicine will spearhead the project while leveraging partnerships with local employers, health departments, drug prevention coalitions, the Veterans Administration, and the Opioid Response Network. Business partners from healthcare, manufacturing, mining/quarrying, and transportation industries will have the opportunity to engage in working groups where they will inform the planning process and share context related to workforce development gaps and needs. The project is expected to improve 45 area businesses through the acquisition of knowledge and skills related to assisting SUD-impacted employees.

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 (3 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 (7 awards)

Project Title: *Supporting Regional Recovery Ecosystems across Southern West Virginia*

Grantee: Seed Sower, Inc.

Award Amount: \$498,024

Announcement Date: November 2021

Project Summary: ARC grant to Seed Sower, Inc., in Meadow Bridge, West Virginia, for the [Supporting Regional Recovery Ecosystems across Southern West Virginia](#) project. This project will help adult women maintain sobriety through the provision of safe transitional housing and teaching skills necessary to reenter the workforce. Through a partnership with Seneca Health Systems, participants in Seneca's service area will access substance abuse and mental health treatment. Participants will also receive transportation assistance and soft-skills training through Seed Sower's network of relationships and local community organizations. An additional partnership through Fruits of Labor will offer culinary and agricultural training to participants through its American Culinary Federation-certified Quality Program, which includes intermediate and advanced culinary certification opportunities. Over the course of two years, this project is expected to improve 70 participants, 21 workers/trainees, 2 communities, and 3 businesses, and to create 4 jobs.

Project Title: *Recovery to Work WV: Greenbrier County*

Grantee: West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine

Award Amount: \$49,963

Announcement Date: November 2021

Project Summary: ARC grant to the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine in Lewisburg, West Virginia, for the [Recovery to Work WV: Greenbrier County](#) project. This project will identify workforce participation barriers for individuals in recovery from substance

use disorder (SUD) and develop a comprehensive plan to help support them across the continuum of career planning, workforce training, and sustained employment. Project staff and coalition members will examine the needs of businesses and industry sectors to determine available jobs and high-demand industry sectors, and use focus groups and interviews with individuals in SUD recovery to determine the best way to prepare them for employment. Over the course of one year, the project is expected to create 3 plans/reports, including a road map for creating a successful, sustainable recovery-to-work program.

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.