



Appalachian
Regional
Commission

INSPIRE Award Summaries by State

November 2021

KENTUCKY (5 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.

NEW YORK (1 award)

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.

NORTH CAROLINA (1 award)

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.

OHIO (2 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.

PENNSYLVANIA (4 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.

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 (1 award)

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.

WEST VIRGINIA (2 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.