Appalachian Regional Initiative for Stronger Economies (ARISE)

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

This request for proposals (RFP) for project grants provides an overview of ARISE as well as the specific requirements needed to complete a grant application.

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<th>RFP release date</th>
<th>August 23, 2022</th>
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<td>Application period opens</td>
<td>August 23, 2022</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pre-application workshop</td>
<td>Sept. 12, 2022. Details will be at <a href="http://www.arc.gov/ARISE">www.arc.gov/ARISE</a>.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Concept paper due</td>
<td>Up to 4-page concept paper must be submitted prior to applying for an ARISE grant</td>
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<td>Grant proposal due</td>
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More information about the ARISE Initiative, available technical assistance opportunities, and further guidance on submission is available at www.arc.gov/ARISE. Questions can be emailed to ARISE@arc.gov.

Appalachian Regional Commission Overview

The Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC or the Commission) is a regional economic development agency that represents a partnership of federal, state, and local government. Established by an act of Congress in 1965 through the Appalachian Regional Development Act (ARDA) 40 U.S. Code § 14101-14704, ARC is composed of the governors of the 13 Appalachian states and a federal co-chair, who is appointed by the president of the United States. Local participation is also provided through multi-county local development districts (LDDs). ARC serves a 206,000-square-mile region of 26 million people that includes all of West Virginia and parts of 12 other states: Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, Mississippi, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia.

ARC Strategic Investment Goals

As described in ARC's strategic plan, Appalachia Envisioned: A New Era of Opportunity, the Commission has identified five investment goals to advance its vision and mission and to guide its work through fiscal year (FY) 2026. These goals reflect consensus among local, state, and federal partners on the most critical investment opportunities in the Appalachian Region (the Region). While the investment goals are distinct, they are also interdependent, with progress on one goal often requiring investment in another. All ARISE Initiative applications must address one or more of these goals:
1. **Building Appalachian Businesses**: Strengthen and diversify the Region's economy through inclusive economic development strategies and investments in entrepreneurship and business development.

2. **Building Appalachia's Workforce Ecosystem**: Expand and strengthen community systems (education, healthcare, housing, childcare, and others) that help Appalachians obtain a job, stay on the job, and advance along a financially sustaining career pathway.

3. **Building Appalachia's Infrastructure**: Ensure that the residents and businesses of Appalachia have access to reliable, affordable, resilient, and energy-efficient utilities and infrastructure in order to successfully live and work in the Region.

4. **Building Regional Culture and Tourism**: Strengthen Appalachia's community and economic development potential by preserving and investing in the Region's local cultural heritage and natural assets.

5. **Building Community Leaders and Capacity**: Invest in the capacity of local leaders, organizations, and communities to address local challenges by providing technical assistance and support to access resources, engage partners, identify strategies and tactics, and conduct effective planning and project execution.
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Background on the Appalachian Regional Initiative for Stronger Economies (ARISE)

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) of 2021 (also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law or BIL) provided the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC or the Commission) with $200 million per year for five years, in addition to regular annually appropriated funds. On January 3, 2022, the Commission approved Resolution 786, allocating fiscal year (FY) 2022 appropriations under BIL for Appalachian Regional Development Act Programs. Resolution 786 reserved $80 million for a new program designed to support larger initiatives that can have a transformational impact on Appalachian communities by funding multistate proposals.

To support development of the new regional multistate initiative, ARC contracted with the American Institutes for Research (AIR) to gather input from key leaders and collaborators on the design and implementation of the new initiative. AIR conducted interviews with each ARC state and local economic development experts to obtain their perspectives on key elements to include in the initiative, areas for technical assistance, community development opportunities, and challenges in the Appalachian Region (the Region).

This program takes advantage of the significant increase in Commission funding and is issued as a challenge to provoke creative, large-scale, regional approaches to economic development in the Region. With the additional funding provided by BIL, ARC can provide support to business and industry sector clusters that both strengthens regional economies and supports the development of new opportunities for growth across multiple states.

This RFP makes available at least $10 million in FY 2022 funding for planning grants and up to $63.5 million in FY 2022 funding for implementation grants. In addition to this $73.5 million ($10 million planning and $63.5 million implementation) in grant resources that the RFP makes available, ARC is providing up to $6.5 million in assistance to ARC states to facilitate ARISE implementation. While these grants may be spread over multiple years, ARC has made no decision on additional funding in FY 2023 or subsequent fiscal years.

Purpose of ARISE

ARISE rests on the observation that significant economic opportunities often reach across state lines and that achieving the maximum economic impact from these can demand a multistate approach. Industry clusters may exist in adjacent states, or they may reach broadly across states that are not contiguous. For example, according to analysis of the American Community Survey (2015-2019 ARC Chartbook), a higher percentage of the Region’s workers commute to a workplace that’s outside of their state of residence: 4.5%, compared to 3.7% for the U.S. as a whole. ARISE recognizes that helping Appalachia achieve socioeconomic parity with the nation as a whole requires strategies that can yield truly regional impacts. A multistate approach can enable ARC states acting collectively to realize economic advantages that are greater than the states acting individually. Through carefully crafted
planning grants and transformational implementation grants, ARISE will foster creative collaboration across state lines to produce a more robust and sustainable regional economy. Other purposes of the grant are to create economic mobility; address historic inequities for marginalized, underserved, and underrepresented communities; and produce high-quality employment for workers who reside in the Region, enabling them to remain and thrive in these communities.

Key Elements in Application

ARISE resources are to have a transformational impact on the Appalachian Region, and grant proposals must meet the following criteria:

- **Multistate Focus**—Projects must have multistate partnerships with at least one partner from each state within the project area. The partnerships can have configurations of geography or programming. A geography-based configuration would be a regional partnership focusing on cultivation and acceleration of an industry, service, or infrastructure across contiguous states. A program-based configuration would be a program model that is expanded and scaled across multiple states but which does not require a shared border.

- **Targeted to Advancing Multistate Economies**—Applicants must have assessed their assets and opportunities and have formulated a plan that significantly advances the economies of multiple states. Although not exclusive, ARISE aims to lay critical groundwork to support local communities’ efforts to create good-paying jobs with the free and fair choice to join a union; and grow economic opportunities, including for local workers, ultimately helping the Region achieve socioeconomic parity with the rest of the country.

- **Assessment and Planning**—Each project receiving implementation funding should have a well-articulated analysis of how and why this project will transform the states included in the project. As such, ARC encourages the partners to apply for a planning grant before an implementation grant is awarded in order to yield a compelling implementation proposal. Planning grants are not a prerequisite to applying for an implementation grant if the proposed project already has a plan completed.

- **Demonstrable Collaboration Among All Partners**—Each multistate partnership must be demonstrable and equitable, with shared input, goals, accountability, and benefits for each partner. To facilitate an equitable partnership, all partners must execute a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) before beginning an implementation grant. The MOUs shall identify the roles of each partner, funding allocations, communication expectations, and agreed-upon outcomes of a project.

- **Leverage Regional Resources**—Projects should demonstrate multistate commitment to the proposed project by leveraging ARC resources with monetary and non-monetary investments from strategic partners, including private and philanthropic organizations and government entities, such as Appalachian Communities that are part of the Rural Partners Network led by the United States Department of Agriculture.
• **Outcome Driven**—Projects should define specific output and outcome measures for each partner, demonstrate how the project is designed to achieve those outcomes, and commit to capturing and sharing those measures over the life of the investment.

**Program Description/Investment Priorities**

- ARISE presents an opportunity to support a transformational economic development opportunity for Appalachian communities—potentially a once-in-a-generation opportunity. The program encourages collaboration across ARC’s 13 states, so the aggregate economic impact of collective efforts is greater than isolated activity in any individual state.
- Project types must advance one or more of the five strategic investment priorities of ARC’s strategic plan. ARC’s ARISE program hopes to foster a creative environment where large transformational projects can be realized.
- Successful applicants will further propose strategies to achieve economic opportunity and address historical inequities affecting marginalized individuals and communities.

**Concept Paper**

As part of the pre-application, a concept paper of up to four pages in length is required for both implementation applications and planning grant applications. Applicants are required to submit a concept paper to ARISE@arc.gov. Include contact information and describe the scope of the following in a precise manner:

- The proposed funding opportunity requested (Planning Grant or Implementation Grant)
- The proposed project
- Partners
- Geographic scope
- Funding request amount

Once receipt of the Concept Paper is confirmed, it will be forwarded to the ARC state program managers of each state impacted by the proposal for notification of the applicant’s intent to apply. Applicants will receive an invitation and instructions to submit a full application upon review and completion of the concept paper screening process.

**Single Multistate Application**

There shall be one (1) multistate concept paper for each proposal, one (1) multistate planning grant application (if requesting) for each proposal, and one (1) multistate implementation project application (if requesting) for each proposal. In the case of an implementation grant, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is required. It is understood that a particular implementation project may involve more than one grant award. The applicant must consult with ARC staff during the pre-application stage and the proposed structure for the allocation of the grant funds.
Grant Types

Planning Grants

**Funding Availability for Planning Grants:** At least $10,000,000/Year 1
**Maximum Planning Grant Award Size:** $500,000

Planning grants that provide time, resources, and support for partnership building, are essential to these projects and should bridge to implementation grants. Planning grants can help communities put together the partnerships and vision to drive strong applications. ARC encourages the partners to apply for a planning grant before an implementation grant is considered in order to yield a compelling implementation proposal. The maximum ARISE multistate program planning grant will be $500,000. At the end of the planning grant, before applying for an implementation grant, ARC will require a formal plan to be submitted. The formal plan must outline the roles of each partner, funding allocations, communication expectations, agreed-upon overall outcomes, timelines, and budgets.

The planning grant will allow flexibility for funding to include a “neutral facilitator,” if requested, who is not a competitor with the other partners and does not have a stake in the project, other than the success of the project itself. A neutral facilitator is typically an entity that is trusted by all partners, or, at a minimum, is mutually agreed upon by all partners. This organization or person can be a bridge between each of the other partners and helps to provide stability and accountability for all partners. In addition to helping with issues such as competition, this neutral party can also help address some of the capacity issues. A neutral facilitator is not required.

Participants are encouraged to have their planning proposals reviewed by their states’ program managers early in the process for feedback and possible modification prior to submitting the formal application.

Implementation Grants

**Funding Availability for Implementation Grants:** Up to $63,500,000/Year 1
**Maximum Implementation Grant Award Size:** $10 Million (ARC reserves the right to award grants in larger amounts on a case-by-case basis and when substantially compelling circumstance are present)

The size of implementation grants is not rigidly set. A multistate project could be either one grantee coordinating activities in multiple states or a combination of grantees in multiple states executing a common multistate work plan and scope of work that covers all of the participating states.
The implementation grant will allow flexibility for funding to include a “neutral facilitator,” if requested, who is not a competitor with the other partners and does not have a stake in the project, other than the success of the project itself. A neutral facilitator is typically an entity that is trusted by all partners, or, at a minimum, is mutually agreed upon by all partners. This organization or person can be a bridge between each of the other partners and helps to provide stability and accountability for all partners. In addition to helping with issues such as competition, this neutral party can also help address some of the capacity issues. A neutral facilitator is not required.

**Eligibility**

Eligible applicants for ARC’s ARISE planning grant and implementation grant program are the following:

**Eligible Organizations**

- Local development districts (LDDs);
- Indian Tribes or a consortium of Indian Tribes;
- States, counties, cities, or other political subdivision of a state, including a special purpose unit of a state or local government engaged in economic or infrastructure development activities, or a consortium of political subdivisions;
- Institutions of higher education or a consortium of institutions of higher education;
- Public or private nonprofit organizations or associations.

**Eligible Geography**

Projects must serve and benefit, at a minimum, two (2) states within a portion of the Appalachian Region as defined by the Appalachian Regional Development Act (ARDA) of 1965, as amended. The Appalachian Region includes certain counties in Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, Mississippi, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and all of West Virginia. If projects extend beyond the Appalachian Region as defined by the ARDA of 1965, only that portion that is within the Region is eligible for ARC funding. A map of the Appalachian Region is available online at [https://www.arc.gov/appalachian-counties-served-by-arc/](https://www.arc.gov/appalachian-counties-served-by-arc/).

**Eligible Number of Partners**

There must be at least two (2) eligible organizations collaborating across more than one Appalachian Region state.
Criteria for and Guidance on Planning Grants

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<td>A</td>
<td>Executive Summary</td>
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<td>Statement of Need or Opportunity</td>
<td>15 points</td>
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<td>Application Documents</td>
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Executive Summary

Use the Executive Summary template, which has the following components:

- Project title
- Project applicant partners
- Counties and states served
- Purpose (One sentence)
- Funding sources—regional resources leveraged
- Project description (one to two paragraphs)
- Who, what, when, where, why

Statement of Need or Opportunity (up to 15 points)

- Describe the need or opportunity this project seeks to address and identify the states involved in the multistate proposal.

Project Description (up to 15 points)

- Clearly describe how the proposed project significantly advances the regional economy.
- Describe the proposed scope of work and intended results.
- Identify the proposed geographic areas of focus.
- Explain how the proposed scope of work and the project’s goals align with one or more of the ARC Strategic Investment Goals and State Priorities.
- Explain how the proposed scope of work will address priority areas of (1) advancing equity by engaging underserved communities and planning for equitable access to the benefits and opportunities made available by the proposed project and/or (2) contributing to addressing the climate crisis through resilient and energy efficient project design.

Project Team—Evidence of Collaboration Among All Partners (up to 20 points)

- Identify project partners in the proposed project and project design. Partners may include, but are not limited to, community-based groups, organized labor, not-for-
profit institutions of higher education, economic development organizations, for-profit entities, local, regional, and state quasi-governmental entities, or Indian Tribes.

• Identify each partner’s role, responsibilities, contribution, and benefits in the proposed project and project design.
• Identify the location of each partner within each state of the proposed service area.

Project Outputs and Outcomes (up to 20 points)

• Demonstrate how pursuing the outlined scope of work will help facilitate the formulation of a plan for a potential implementation project. Include a discussion of how the resulting plan will articulate quantifiable, measurable outcomes to guide an implementation project, and where and how the potential funding could be found beyond the ARC ARISE Initiative.
• Include a description of how project collaborators envision the proposed project transforming and furthering the long-term community and economic development of the project region. In particular, describe how the proposed planning efforts will include the input of communities that have historically been excluded from the planning processes for public investments, such as underserved communities.

Match and Budget Evaluation-Leverage Regional Resources (up to 10 points)

• Identify regional resources to be leveraged as match and the status of that match (confirmed, pending, etc.). Applicants should demonstrate community and regional commitment to the proposed project by combining ARC resources with a diverse array of match types (cash, in-kind, loans, etc.) and sources (public, private and philanthropic, etc.). Submit budget and budget narratives. Details about matching or cost sharing requirements for ARC grants is available at https://www.arc.gov/match-requirements-for-arc-grants/.

Feasibility (up to 20 points)

• Demonstrate the ability for the project team to undertake/accomplish the proposed scope of work including, but not limited to, the project teams’ qualifications (upload résumés, sample request for qualifications, etc.) and experience managing federal awards.

Application Documents

Complete the appropriate SF-424 Form.
Criteria for and Guidance on Implementation Grants

Scoring table with parameters and possible point value:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
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**Executive Summary**

Use the Executive Summary template, which has the following components:

- Project title
- Project applicant partners
- Counties and states served
- Purpose (One sentence)
- Funding sources—regional resources leveraged
- Project description (One to two paragraphs)
  - Who, what, when where, why

**Statement of Need or Opportunity (up to 10 points)**

- Describe the need or opportunity this project seeks to address and identify the states involved in the multistate proposal. The description should include, to the extent possible, references to government, academic, or expert publications discussing the need or opportunity; or a concise description of the assumption that supports the proposed solution to the need or the area of opportunity.

**Project Description (up to 15 points)**

- Clearly describe how the proposed project significantly advances the regional economy.
- Describe the proposed scope of work and intended results.
- Identify the proposed project area, highlighting geographic areas of focus.
- Explain how the proposed scope of work and the project’s goals align with one or more of the ARC Strategic Investment Goals and States Priorities.
- Explain how the proposed scope of work will address priority areas of (1) advancing equity by engaging underserved communities and designing plans for future implementation projects so that underserved communities enjoy equitable access to the benefits and opportunities of those projects and/or (2) addressing the climate crisis through resilient and energy efficient project design.
• Describe the readiness of the project team to begin work once a grant is awarded. Highlight whether significant hiring is required and what additional expertise is needed for implementation of the proposed scope of work.

• Provide a full timeline of the project’s activities and milestones; include a listing of project activity, date to be completed, and key deliverables.

Project Team—Evidence of Collaboration Among All Partners (up to 20 points)

• Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is required as proof of partnership collaboration.

• MOU shall identify project partners in the proposed project and each partners’ role, responsibilities, contribution, and benefits in the proposed project.

• Identify location of each partner within each state of the proposed service area.

Project Outputs and Outcomes (up to 30 points)

• Identify the proposed project outputs and outcomes that are aligned with the scope of work; reviewers will assess whether they appear relevant, realistic, and achievable. Reviewers will also gauge the potential return on investment based on the correlation between the amount of funding requested, the overall scope of work, and the stated outputs and outcomes. Please review ARC’s Performance Measurement document.

• Methodology: Explain the methodology and reasoning used to determine the estimated outputs and outcomes, and split into short, medium, and long-term results. Include data collection, tracking, and verification of what role each partner will play in the reporting. Include a description of how project collaborators envision the proposed project transforming and furthering the long-term community and economic development of the project region.

Match and Budget Evaluation—Leverage Regional Resources (up to 10 points)

• Identify regional resources to be leveraged as match and the status of that match (confirmed, pending, etc.). Resources listed as match should be confirmed or accessible within 60 days of the contract date. Applicants should demonstrate community and regional commitment to the proposed project by combining ARC resources with a diverse array of match types (cash, in-kind, loans, etc.) and sources (public, private and philanthropic, etc.). Additionally, if real property is being utilized as match, please attach a MAI (Member, Appraisal Institute) appraisal of the property’s value. Details about matching or cost-sharing requirements for ARC grants are available at https://www.arc.gov/match-requirements-for-arc-grants/.

• Submit complete and detailed budget and budget narratives. All items included in the budget and budget narrative must align with each other. All items included in the budget and budget narrative including personnel, fringe benefits, travel, equipment, supplies, construction, other and indirect charges must align with the project as described. All items in the budget narrative are detailed and reflected in the budget. Complete the appropriate federal Standard Forms (SF-424), 424 A,424 B.
Feasibility (up to 10 points)

- Demonstrate the ability for the project team to undertake/accomplish the proposed scope of work including, but not limited to, the project teams’ qualifications (upload résumés, sample request for qualifications, etc.) and experience managing federal awards.

Sustainability (up to 5 points)

- Describe the plan for the project’s sustainability after the grant funding expires and the project is completed. Include a plan and timeline of efforts to secure other sources of support for future operations. Sustainability in this context means the ability for this project to continue after ARC funding comes to an end.

Application Documents

- SF-424—Application for Federal Assistance
- MOU—Memorandum of Understanding
- Supporting Documents—Such documents that the applicant deems adequate to submit with its grant application so that ARC can satisfactorily assess the merits of the application. ARC may request additional documentation during the review process when, in its sole discretion, it is necessary to adequately evaluate the grant application. Applicants must identify and mark all confidential/proprietary documents they deem appropriate to submit with their grant application.

Review Process

A. General. ARC will be accepting applications on a rolling basis. However, the review of complete applications will be prioritized on a quarterly basis as funds remain available. Funding available for this cycle is $10 million for planning grants and $63.5 million for implementation grants. As such, planning and implementation grant application reviews will be prioritized based on the following submittal schedule:

- First round of applications submittal deadline: November 30, 2022
- Second round of applications submittal deadline: February 28, 2023
- Third round of applications submittal deadline: May 31, 2023
- Fourth round of applications submittal deadline: August 31, 2023

Grant applications that are incomplete or insufficient by the dates set forth above may be considered in the following round, subject to the availability of funds. In between rounds, applications may be modified or revised for consideration.

B. State Program Manager Outreach. Before submitting a concept paper or application, every applicant is required to contact the state program managers of the states impacted by the project proposal. The state officials will ensure that the proposals are aligned with their state Appalachian economic development plans and strategy statements. If this action is not completed, then the application will not be moved forward in the review process. A list of all
C. Concept Paper Review. Staff from the Office of the Federal Co-Chair and ARC staff will screen the submitted concept paper for sufficiency of the following elements:

1. Contact information of the applicant.
2. Adequate identification of the key partners and their expected role in the multistate project. (Nothing in this section will preclude an applicant from adding partners or amending the list of key partners as the program or project evolves.)
3. Description of the geographic scope of the initiative.
4. Adequate description of the project scope.
5. The amount requested and a brief explanation about how the funds are expected to be used.

This screening process will be carried out in collaboration with the ARC member state program managers. Applicants that satisfactorily meet the requirements of the concept paper, and subject to the availability of funds, will be invited to proceed with a complete grant application.

D. Grant Application Review.

• General. Upon receipt of a written notice from ARC to proceed with the grant application, the applicant will submit the grant application.

• Pre-application. ARC’s Office of the Federal Co-Chair staff and Commission staff will negotiate budget costs, provide guidance on acceptable objectives, and work plans, so that applicants complete their grant proposal. In the interest of clarity, grant proposals under this program are the sole responsibility of the applicant. ARC’s guidance during the pre-application process shall not be construed as guarantee of a grant application approval nor a direct or implied endorsement of the applicant’s project or program and its application.


ARC’s Office of the Federal Co-Chair staff, Commission staff, and state program managers will jointly review the complete grant application based on the criteria set out in this document.

A successful grant application will have been recommended by the ARC Executive Director and approved by the applicable ARC member state alternate and the Federal Co-Chair.

ARISE grant awards will be notified to the primary point of contact on record for the given applicant. A grant agreement with the terms and conditions for the grant or grants shall be duly executed by the parties involved.
**Full Application**

Applications are limited to 20 pages of narrative responses and 100 pages of file attachments. Only applications that meet the following criteria will be scored:

- Applicants must meet eligibility requirements.
- Applications must meet the ARC cost-share matching requirement for the proposed service area.
- Applicant has contacted ARC state program manager(s). **NOTE: ARC’s communication with the state program manager does not satisfy the requirement that applicants must contact state program managers.**
- Applicants will receive an invitation and instructions to submit a full application upon review and completion of the concept paper screening process.
- Further guidance on submission can be found at [www.arc.gov/ARISE](http://www.arc.gov/ARISE).
- Applications will be considered fully submitted when the Authorized Representative digitally certifies and signs the Signature and Submission page.

**Unique Entity Identifier and System for Award Management (SAM)**

As required by the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 and 2 CFR §200, Appendix I, applicants are required to meet the following criteria:

- Be registered in the System for Award Management (SAM) before submitting their application ([www.sam.gov](http://www.sam.gov));
- Provide a valid Unique Entity ID (UEI) in their application; and
- Continue to maintain an active SAM registration with current information at all times during which they have an active federal award or an application or plan under consideration by a federal awarding agency.

**Funding Restrictions**

ARISE FY 2022 grant awards funded in part or in whole with ARC program funds are subject to the same program funding restrictions of other ARC grants. Additional program information is available at [http://www.arc.gov/ARISE](http://www.arc.gov/ARISE).

ARISE funding may not be used to support or oppose union organizing.

**Indirect Costs**

Applicants are encouraged to consider the indirect costs in their budget formulation. Indirect costs are those costs incurred for a common or joint purpose benefitting more than one cost objective, and not readily assignable to the cost objectives specifically benefitted, without effort disproportionate to the results achieved.
Entities with a Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (NICRA) must provide an explanation of how the indirect costs are calculated in the grant application. Organizations that do not have a current negotiated indirect cost rate as provided in the Uniform Guidance, 2 CFR §200, may elect to charge a de minimis rate of 10% based on the modified total direct cost. Applicants are encouraged to get familiarized with the Cost Principles set forth in 2 CFR §200, Subpart E, available at https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-2/subtitle-A/chapter-II/part-200/subpart-E?toc=1

Award Administration

General

Administration of ARC awards is subject to the same regulations, restrictions, and requirements as other federal awards. These include but are not limited to “Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards” at 2 CFR §200, as currently updated; Freedom of Information Act (FOIA); past performance and non-compliance; restrictions on making awards to corporations convicted of felony criminal violations and unpaid federal tax liabilities; environmental and historic preservation; and national policy requirements, including but not limited to those protecting free speech, religious liberty, public welfare, the environment, and prohibiting discrimination, e.g., Equal Employment Opportunity and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Funds made available under ARISE are subject to the domestic content procurement (Buy America) preference requirements set forth in the Build America, Buy America Act. This Buy America preference will apply to the infrastructure portion of all grants involving infrastructure regardless of whether the primary purpose of the award is an infrastructure project. The Buy America preference means that, for infrastructure projects, (1) all of the iron and steel in the project is produced in the United States; (2) the manufactured products used in the project are produced in the United States; and (3) the construction materials used in the project are produced in the United States. Details about this domestic content procurement preference are available at http://www.arc.gov/BuyAmericaGuidelines. Also, ARC grants are subject to the Davis-Bacon Act.

ARC reserves the right to change the reporting time periods and, depending on the nature of the project, may request additional relevant data. In addition, ARC requires grantees to cooperate with post-award evaluations, which require maintaining records for at least three years after project closeout. All ARC awards are subject to audit. If your organization has been subject to a federal audit within the past five years, please note within your application the recommendations made and your subsequent responses to those recommendations.

Non-Construction

General management and administration requirements for non-construction projects are contained in the ARC Grant Administration Manual for Non-Construction Grant Agreements.
**Construction**

All ARC construction projects, including projects that include both construction and non-construction components, must be administered by a registered federal agency or state basic agency. While a Basic Agency Agreement is not required at the time of application submission, applicants must indicate which agency they intend to work with and provide the status of those discussions in their application materials.

Additionally, ARC must have an agreement in place with the basic agency before the project can be approved. Utilizing an agency that does not yet have an agreement with ARC can result in substantial delays. A list of agencies with agreements in place with ARC can be found here: [https://www.arc.gov/basic-agency-partners/](https://www.arc.gov/basic-agency-partners/).

**ARC Contact Information**

Prior to submission of the application, every applicant is required to contact the state program managers of the states impacted by the project proposal. The state officials will ensure that the proposals are in alignment with their state Appalachian economic development priorities. State program managers also serve as a resource regarding any questions that applicants have about the ARISE Initiative in general or about the use of agency funds to support projects in their communities and regions. Applicants with additional questions may submit them to ARISE@arc.gov.

**General Legal Disclosures**

ARISE FY 2022 Initiative awards will be made only to the extent that funds are available. Publication of this RFP does not obligate ARC to award any specific grant or cooperative agreement or to obligate all or any part of available funds. Applicants intending to contract with a specific individual, consulting group, or organization with ARC funding must have and use a competitive procurement policy that conforms to procurement standards at 2 CFR §200.317–327.

This RFP does not commit ARC to make any specific award. Notwithstanding any other provisions of the RFP, ARC reserves the right to award grants, cooperative agreements, or contracts to communities or regions that best meet the requirements of the RFP. ARC solely reserves the right to accept or reject any or all responses received as a result of this request; to negotiate with all qualified sources; or to cancel in part or in its entirety this RFP if it is in the interests of ARC to do so.

Please note that ARC will not reimburse any costs associated with the preparation of a response to this RFP. Consultants and consultant teams that are legally barred from receiving federal contracts or contract payments will not be considered for work with communities or regions under this RFP.