



Appalachian  
Regional  
Commission

## INSPIRE Award Summaries by State As of September 2022

Since April 2021, the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) has invested \$28.1 million in 84 projects that address Appalachia's substance use disorder crisis in 289 counties 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](#).

### 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 (2 award)

**Project Title:** *Recovery to Work Ecosystem*

**Grantee:** Highland Rivers Behavioral Health

**Award Amount:** \$494,060

**Announcement Date:** September 2022

**Project Summary:** ARC grant of \$494,060 to Highland Rivers Behavioral Health, located in Dalton, Georgia, for the *Recovery to Work Ecosystem* project. Through this project, Highland Rivers Behavioral Health will build the recovery ecosystem in in Haralson, Murray, Polk, and Whitfield counties by developing a diverse cross-section of recovery-focused partnerships, expanding community resources, and implementing workforce training and wraparound support services for individuals in recovery from substance use disorder. To help improve community capacity and create a healthier and more productive workforce, this implementation project will establish a peer mentoring network to address the needs of individuals in recovery; expand industry-specific workforce trainings and recovery support services such as housing and transportation; and facilitate employer education. The grantee will also develop a training institute to address the educational needs of both employees in recovery and employers interested in hiring individuals in recovery. In addition, the grantee will conduct outreach and education through an awareness campaign targeted towards local employers and the community at-large. The goal of the campaign is to further understanding of the impact of substance abuse and build support for, and promote engagement with, a comprehensive recovery ecosystem. Over the next three years, the project is expected to improve 200 workers/trainees in recovery with workforce training and support services that will enable them to obtain new employment or improve existing employment, and 12 businesses with training that will enhance understanding of mental health and addictive disease disorders and the value of creating a new workforce.

**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 (14 awards)**

**Project Title:** *Expanding Successful Recovery Workforce Development Ecosystems to Create Lasting Pathways to Employment*

**Grantee:** Federation of Appalachian Housing Enterprises, Inc. (FAHE)

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

**Announcement Date:** September 2022

**Project Summary:** ARC grant of \$500,000 to the Federation of Appalachian Housing Enterprises, Inc. (Fahe), in Berea, Kentucky, for the *Expanding Successful Recovery Workforce Development Ecosystems to Create Lasting Pathways to Employment* in the Kentucky counties of Breathitt, Floyd, Harlan, Knott, Leslie, Letcher, Perry, and Pike. Expanding on prior ARC grants, Fahe will create a second tier of its Second Chance employment program by engaging additional area employers, as well as improve vocational and workforce training opportunities for individuals in substance use disorder (SUD) recovery. Fahe will do this by engaging new employers from diverse sectors to address stigma and other barriers to employment for individuals with SUD; documenting best practices for onboarding new partners; and delivering supportive services (e.g., transportation, financial literacy, etc.) to successfully reintegrate individuals with SUD back into their community.

**Project Title:** *Music Heals: From Recovery to Workforce*

**Grantee:** The Appalachian Artisan Center of Kentucky, Inc.

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

**Announcement Date:** September 2022

**Project Summary:** ARC grant of \$500,000 to the Appalachian Artisan Center of Kentucky, in Hindman, Kentucky, for the *Music Heals: From Recovery to Workforce* project. The project will support the Troublesome Creek Stringed Instrument Company (TCSIC), a non-profit business entity of the Appalachian Artisan Center of Kentucky, to develop a recovery ecosystem to support individuals in recovery and displaced miners successfully enter or reenter the workforce in Eastern Kentucky. The project will expand existing recovery programs through the Music Heals program to broaden the geographical area served, increase the scope of services of the program to include a women's SUD recovery program, and strengthen and enlarge the Appalachian School of Luthiery to train apprentice luthiers for employment with the TCSIC. The project will also provide currently employed and apprentice TCSIC luthiers more intensive training on computer numerical control equipment, behavioral health services and counseling, peer mentoring, transitional housing, onsite meals, and a fund for workforce reentry necessities.

**Project Title:** *Discovering Destiny—Training Interwoven with Recovery*

**Grantee:** The Millard College

**Award Amount:** \$497,618

**Announcement Date:** September 2022

**Project Summary:** ARC grant of \$497,618 to the Millard College, in Louisa, Kentucky, for the *Discovering Destiny—Training Interwoven with Recovery* project in eastern Kentucky. In partnership with Addiction Recovery Care and Eastern Kentucky Concentrated Employment Program, the Mildred College will establish a community working group to provide training and workforce experience for individuals undergoing a recovery treatment program. After individuals have completed a 2–3-month substance use disorder recovery program with Addiction Recovery Care, interested individuals may choose to continue the recovery program and apply to the Millard College for employment services. Employment services include two phases: job-readiness training to assist individuals with interviewing, resume writing, professionalism, ethics, and stress and money management; and occupational training through classes and unpaid internships. Participants will be able to choose from the following five programs: addiction recovery studies, carpentry, general studies, peer support, and welding. The project is expected to serve 100 workers and 10 businesses and improve 80 workers and eight (8) businesses.

**Project Title:** *Succeed, Thrive, and Recover (STAR) Program*

**Grantee:** The Center for Rural Development

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

**Announcement Date:** September 2022

**Project Summary:** ARC grant of \$300,000 to the Center for Rural Development, in Somerset, Kentucky, for the *Succeed, Thrive, and Recover (STAR) Program* project to benefit businesses and individuals in recovery throughout Appalachian Kentucky. This project will establish a new workforce development program to provide individuals in recovery from substance use disorder with job and vocational skills training and connect them to recovery wraparound support services so they can successfully enter or reenter the workforce and maintain long-term recovery. In partnership with the Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS) and local employers, the Center for Rural Development will offer training in the following subjects to persons in recovery: basic computer skills, essential soft skills, and specialized workforce training and short-term certification programs in targeted high-demand industries with immediate job openings—including electrical, plumbing, carpentry, industrial maintenance, commercial truck driving, hospitality and food service, and medical billing and coding. The project is expected to serve 494 workers and 40 businesses and improve 400 workers and 40 businesses.

**Project Title:** *Project Point*

**Grantee:** Raven Cares, Inc.

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

**Announcement Date:** September 2022

**Project Summary:** An ARC grant of \$500,000 to Raven Cares, Inc. for the *Project Point* project in Morehead, Kentucky. In partnership with the Kentucky Career Center, Raven Cares, and Maysville Community and Technical College, this project will provide educational and employment opportunities for individuals in substance use disorder (SUD) recovery in Rowan County, Kentucky. The project will also provide financial assistance to individuals seeking treatment and in SUD recovery with stable housing and healthcare. Project participants will undergo ethics soft-skills training

offered by Kentucky Career Center. After completion, participants will transition to the Maysville Community and Technical College, where they will be supported with career path decisions or will be referred to the Adult Learning Center to obtain a GED. Alternatively, if the participant is prepared to go directly into the workforce, Raven Cares and the Kentucky Career Center will assist the participant in reentry in the workforce. This project is expected to serve 48 workers and 15 businesses and improve 48 workers and 10 businesses.

**Project Title:** *Project Renew: Revitalization and Recovery Through Civil Legal Aid*

**Grantee:** AppalReD Legal Aid

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

**Announcement Date:** September 2022

**Project Summary:** An ARC grant of \$500,000 to AppalReD Legal Aid, located in Prestonsburg, Kentucky, for the *Project Renew: Revitalization and Recovery Through Civil Legal Aid* project in Eastern Kentucky. A critical barrier in the substance use disorder (SUD) recovery-to-employment continuum is the lack of legal services to address issues such as expungement of criminal records, evictions, and other barriers to employment that occur for this population. AppalReD Legal Aid will provide legal assistance to individuals who have completed SUD treatment and are seeking to integrate into the post-treatment-employment continuum. The project will serve 20 Kentucky ARC counties with educational presentations at jails and recovery centers as outreach to potential participants, legal assistance, legal expungement clinics, and referrals to employers and educational centers. This project is expected to serve 1,000 workers and improve 600 workers.

**Project Title:** *Backroads of Appalachia Live/Work Recovery Housing*

**Grantee:** Backroads of Appalachia, Inc.

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

**Announcement Date:** April 2022

**Project Summary:** ARC grant of \$500,000 to Backroads of Appalachia, Inc. in Lynch, Kentucky, for the *Backroads of Appalachia Live/Work Recovery Housing* project. The project will provide funds to purchase and renovate a house in the City of Lynch in economically distressed and coal-impacted Harlan County that will be repurposed to a recovery home with workforce training and support services for women in recovery from substance use disorder (SUD). In collaboration with community partners, including the Fletcher Group, Eastern Kentucky Concentrated Employment Program (EKCEP), Cumberland Hope Addiction Treatment Center, and other non-traditional partners that work to expand the network of wraparound services to people in recovery, the home will provide safe and affordable housing for up to 12 women and one peer house manager living onsite to aid in the development and long-term success of women in recovery. The recovery home, located in downtown Lynch and within walking distance to the town's busy Welcome Center and a number of popular tourist attractions and employment opportunities, will also provide residents with job training and entrepreneurship support in tourism and related industries, with a special focus on assisting women in recovery start their own small businesses and achieve self-sufficiency. The project will address the problem of the lack of safe and affordable housing and transportation options available to women in recovery; provide women in recovery with criminal records

who have difficulty finding employment with job training and job placement assistance; and support the success and growth of existing small local businesses that are open to providing employment opportunities to people in recovery. By the end of the three-year grant period, the project is expected to benefit eight (8) women in recovery with job training and entrepreneurship support, and eight (8) local businesses that will expand their operations.

**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 (2 award)

**Project Title:** *Brooke's House Community Engagement Coordinator*

**Grantee:** Brooke's House, LLC

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

**Announcement Date:** September 2022

**Project Summary:** ARC grant of \$30,000 to Brooke's House, LLC, located in Hagerstown, Maryland, for the *Brooke's House Community Engagement Coordinator* project in Washington County, Maryland. In partnership with Hagerstown Community College, DM Bowman, Inc., Western Maryland Consortium, and the Community Free Clinic, this project will use ARC funds to hire a Community Engagement Coordinator for the Brooke's House truck-driving training program to support women receiving services at Brooke's House with the opportunity to obtain their Class A commercial driver's license (CDL). In addition to earning this licensure, participants will learn customer service skills, teamwork, leadership and management skills, business skills, and time management. Project partners will also provide women in SUD recovery with wraparound services such as employment supports, medical and social care, and soft-skills development. Anticipated outcomes of this project include 12 workers/trainees improved through the provision of wraparound services, and 5 organizations improved through employment and training partnerships with local organizations.

**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 (3 award)

**Project Title:** *Transforming the Golden Triangle (GTR): House, Recover, Train, Employ*

**Grantee:** Dream Center Golden Triangle

**Award Amount:** \$483,486

**Announcement Date:** September 2022

**Project Summary:** ARC grant of \$483,486 to Dream Center Golden Triangle (DCGTR), located in West Point, Mississippi, for the *Transforming GTR: House, Recover, Train, Employ* project. This project will expand existing workforce training and recovery support services for adult males aged 18-plus who are enrolled in DCGTR's 12-month residential recovery program in Clay, Lowndes, and Oktibbeha counties in Mississippi. Expansion of services for men in recovery—including soft-skills training and upskilling; industry-specific job training and certification programs; job placement assistance; and wraparound services such as transportation and housing assistance, case management, and community immersion activities—will prepare them to successfully enter or reenter the workforce and maintain long-term recovery. The project will promote a stronger and more cohesive local recovery ecosystem and will lead to a healthier and more productive workforce, business growth, and increased economic investment in the region. The project is expected to serve and improve 36 workers, 100 participants, and 20 businesses.

**Project Title:** *Northeast Mississippi United: Recovery-to-Work Ecosystem*

**Grantee:** United Way of Northeast Mississippi

**Award Amount:** \$49,998

**Announcement Date:** September 2022

**Project Summary:** ARC grant of \$49,998 to United Way of Northeast Mississippi, located in Tupelo, Mississippi, for the *Northeast Mississippi United: Recovery-to-Work Ecosystem* project in the Mississippi counties of Chickasaw, Itawamba, Lee, Monroe, Pontotoc, Prentiss, Tishomingo, and Union. This project will develop a comprehensive study in Northeast Mississippi to help inform and build a substance use disorder (SUD) recovery-to-work ecosystem. Activities involve conducting research and developing a strategy to connect individuals who have completed SUD treatment with employers and career education programs. Once finalized, the report will produce recommendations for implementation for a recovery-to-work pathway that the University of Mississippi and the state of Mississippi can use for other projects.

**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 (4 awards)**

**Project Title:** *The Occupational Peer Empowerment Network (OPEN) Recovery to Work*

**Grantee:** Mental Health Association in Chautauqua County

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

**Announcement Date:** September 2022

**Project Summary:** ARC grant of \$500,000 to the Mental Health Association in Chautauqua County for the *Occupational Peer Empowerment Network (OPEN) Recovery to Work* project in Jamestown, New York. In partnership with St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Chautauqua Substance Abuse Response Partnership, Chautauqua County Sheriff's Department, and numerous others, this project will provide recovery supports, pre-employment development, vocational training, and partnerships with local employers to assist the community in recovering from the tolls of addiction and provide an opportunity for this population to succeed in the workforce. In building off a previous ARC INSPIRE planning grant, the project will utilize current partnerships and a consortium to provide wraparound social and employment supports and expand on the momentum they currently have in their OPEN program to support more individuals. This project is expected to serve 675 workers and 53 businesses and improve 540 workers and 53 businesses.

**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 (8 awards)**

**Project Title:** *Post-SUD Treatment Job Training & Recovery Living Center*

**Grantee:** Asheville Buncombe Community Christian Ministry

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

**Announcement Date:** September 2022

**Project Summary:** ARC grant of \$500,000 to Asheville Buncombe Community Christian Ministry, located in Asheville, North Carolina, for the *Post-SUD Treatment Job Training & Recovery Living Center* project in Western North Carolina. This project will build on the existing successful recovery ecosystem across Appalachian North Carolina counties for veterans as well as increase staffing capacity to serve additional recovery populations in Western North Carolina with workforce training and job placement. Project partners include VAYA Health, HCA Mission Health, Asheville Buncombe Technical Community College, Wilkes Recovery Revolution, and additional community partners in the recovery ecosystem for their service area. They will provide support services for homeless men and those struggling in the workplace with substance use disorder (SUD) through life skills and workforce development training and job placement through their employer networks. The project is expected to serve 110 workers/trainees and 25 businesses.

**Project Title:** *Watauga Healthy Workforce & Recovery Ecosystem*

**Grantee:** The Mediation and Restorative Justice Center

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

**Announcement Date:** September 2022

**Project Summary:** ARC grant of \$300,000 to the Mediation and Restorative Justice Center (MRJC), located in Boone, North Carolina, for the *Watauga Healthy Workforce & Recovery Ecosystem* project in Watauga County, North Carolina. This project builds on a previous planning project from MRJC that developed a community action plan for Watauga County to tackle affordable housing needs and employment supports for individuals in recovery from substance use disorder (SUD). MRJC seeks funding for personnel to build capacity to implement a recovery-friendly workplace initiative in Watauga County, continue recovery-to-work efforts with regional and local partners, engage with the effort to establish supportive and transitional housing in the High Country, and facilitate the implementation of the Watauga Community Justice Coalition's action plan. Key Partners for this project include Wilkes Recovery Revolution, Boone Area Chamber of Commerce, AppHealth Care, and High-Country Reentry Collaborative. The project is expected to serve 15 businesses, 75 workers/trainees, and 60 participants.

**Project Name:** *F.R.E.E. (Foothills Recovery and Employment Ecosystem)*

**Grantee:** Sunrise Community for Recovery and Wellness

**Announcement Date:** September 2022

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

**Project Summary:** ARC grant of \$50,000 to Sunrise Community for Recovery and Wellness, located in Asheville, North Carolina, for the *F.R.E.E. (Foothills Recovery and Employment Ecosystem)* Project in North Carolina. This planning project will support an assessment of recovery needs in the counties of Rutherford, Polk, McDowell, and Cleveland. By working closely with the Foothills Regional Council, Foothills Workforce Development Board, United Way of Rutherford County, Oxford House, and upwards of 20 other local stakeholders, Sunrise Community for Recovery and Wellness will conduct four planning activities: (1) development of a planning advisory group to guide all activities; (2) analysis of needs, available resources, and gaps to support recovery and economic participation; (3) correlation of needs and current resources to determine the level of services required; and (4) development of county

partnerships to support a future implementation project. The project will tackle actionable and replicable strategies to overcome persistent and common barriers facing the workforce and business community (e.g., challenges in business operation start-up due to employees not passing drug tests, closed plants due to declining productivity, and theft attributed to unaddressed substance misuse).

**Project Name:** *Recovery Friendly Employer Certification Program*

**Grantee:** Forsyth County Department of Public Health

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

**Announcement Date:** September 2022

**Project Summary:** ARC grant of \$50,000 to Forsyth County Department of Public Health, located in Winston Salem, North Carolina, for the *Recovery Friendly Employer Certification Program* in Forsyth County, North Carolina. This project aims to create a recovery-friendly workplace (RFW) certification program that addresses workplace culture and stigma, policies, and training and education to improve workforce and economic development for Forsyth County, North Carolina. The project will fund the development of a plan/report to help the community develop universal buy-in and an understanding of effective objectives and methods to create a RFW environment and designation. In addition, funds will be used to pay for a consultant to support the RFW assessment and community needs, in addition to payments for advisory council members, all of whom will design a digital coursework series for companies to better inform human resource leadership and business owners with best practices to support the recovery community and an RFW designation in Forsyth County.

**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 (10 awards)

**Project Title:** *Partners for Success: Supporting Growth from Recovery to Careers*

**Grantee:** Lawrence Economic Development Corporation

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

**Announcement Date:** September 2022

**Project Summary:** ARC grant of \$500,000 to the Lawrence Economic Development Corporation, in South Point, Ohio, for the *Partners for Success: Supporting Growth from Recovery to Careers* project. Lawrence Economic Development Corporation (LEDC) will support and expand its tri-state community's recovery ecosystem by connecting individuals experiencing substance use disorder (SUD) with treatment, comprehensive skills training, hands-on work experience, employment, comprehensive supportive services (restorative dental care, childcare, etc.), career-building, and industry-recognized credentials in high-demand trade professions in Ohio, Kentucky, and West Virginia. LEDC will partner with the Ironton-Lawrence Community Action Organization, a local nonprofit whose recovery-to-work program provides step-by-step, comprehensive assistance for people transitioning from early SUD recovery to permanent employment opportunities. LEDC will support the success of participants by collaborating to provide paid work experience and fund other vital supportive services. LEDC will also engage employers to make available additional industry-recognized credentialed training to enhance employees' work skills, in addition to businesses counseling on the marketability of eligible participants. The project is expected to serve 40 workers, 10 students, 20 participants, and 10 businesses, and improve 28 workers, eight (8) students, and seven (7) businesses.

**Project Title:** *Recovery, Wellness, and Employment Program (WREP)*

**Grantee:** Highland County Community Action Organization, Inc. (HCCAO)

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

**Announcement Date:** September 2022

**Project Summary:** ARC grant of \$500,000 to the Highland County Community Action Organization, Inc (HCCAO) in Hillsboro, Ohio, for the *Recovery, Wellness, and Employment Program (WREP)*. This project will expand HCCAO's current wellness and recovery program by adding an employment and education component to better serve Highland County residents who are struggling with substance use disorder (SUD). WREP programming staff will assist participants in maintaining their recovery, providing referral services as needed, and ensuring a pathway to sustainable, long-term employment. In addition, WREP will collaborate with in-patient treatment facilities located in Highland County to facilitate participants' reintegration into the community and employment readiness. The project will serve five (5) employers, provide services to 30 workers/trainees during the 3-year project, and provide 28 of these workers/trainees with training and/or certification to increase their skills and employability.



**Project Title:** *Guernsey County Recovery to Workforce Development Project*

**Grantee:** The Guernsey County Community Development Corporation

**Award Amount:** \$325,645

**Announcement Date:** September 2022

**Project Summary:** ARC grant of \$325,645 to the Guernsey County Community Development Corporation, located in Cambridge, Ohio, for the *Guernsey County Recovery to Workforce Development Project*. This two-year project will offer paid employment and initial training for 16 Guernsey County youth (ages 15–24) and adults (ages 24-plus) who have been displaced or unemployed because of substance use disorder. Participants will engage in public works projects, such as building and maintaining walking trails and parks, rehabbing homes to provide affordable housing for area residents, and clearing illegal dumpsites. Through this process, participants will learn valuable trade skills through hands-on experience in the fields of carpentry and small engine and vehicle repair. Participants will have access to certifications and trainings in CPR, OSHA-10, drug-free safety training, GED classes, occupational skills development, and leadership development opportunities. Key partners include Guernsey County Drug Court and Adult Probation, Guernsey Health Choices, Cedar Ridge Behavior Health Services, South East Area Transit, Guernsey County Department of Jobs and Family Services, We Staff Better, Telling Industries, and Stiers Excavating.

**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:** *Recovery Network Implementation Program*

**Grantee:** Kno-Ho-Co- Ashland Community Action Commission (KHCA)

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

**Announcement Date:** November 2021

**Project Summary:** ARC grant of \$500,000 to Kno-Ho-Co- Ashland Community Action Commission (KHCA) in Coshocton, Ohio for the *Recovery Network Implementation Program*. The Recovery Network Implementation Program creates a comprehensive recovery model that brings together multiple partners with the

goal of providing area residents suffering from substance use disorder (SUD) and homelessness with the tools and resources to progress in their recovery and ultimately obtain employment. KHCA staff, including peer counselors and a job placement counselor, will augment KHCA's existing housing program to include a job training component so that SUD-impacted participants can achieve meaningful, paid work-experience at KHCA facilitates. Participants will have the opportunity to learn critical workplace readiness skills, while building confidence and self-sufficiency during their KHCA job placement, which will help them transition to more permanent employment within the community. Allwell Behavior Health Services and Coshocton Behavioral Health Choices will provide substance and mental health services to participants and Coshocton County Department of Job and Family Services will provide cash assistance/stipends, child care and protective services to participants. The project is expected to benefit 126 participants through the employment training program, hire 75% (94) into employment within the larger community upon program completion, and benefit a cohort of 36 businesses during the project period.

**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 (10 awards)**

**Project Title:** *Hope and Coffee, an Anti-Stigma Recovery-to-Work Employment Skills Coffee Shop*

**Grantee:** Tamaqua Area Community Partnership (DBA Hope and Coffee)

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

**Announcement Date:** September 2022

**Project Summary:** ARC grant of \$270,000 to Tamaqua Area Community Partnership, located in Tamaqua, Pennsylvania, (DBA Hope and Coffee) for the *Hope and Coffee, an Anti-Stigma Recovery-to-Work Employment Skills Coffee Shop* project. This project will allow Tamaqua Area Community Partnership to expand operating hours and provide recovery meeting space through its Hope and Coffee initiative. The project will also add mobile coffee service to community farmers' markets, festivals, and special events to further combat the stigma of substance use disorder. Program participants will receive on-the-job training, work-readiness skills, and transition assistance to permanent employment. Project partners include St. Luke's University Health Network, which will provide community health, trauma-informed care, and stigma education and trainings; Lehigh Carbon Community College, which will provide accessible job training and soft-skills training to participants; and the PA CareerLink REAL Re-Entry Program, which will assist with job placement, coaching, and supportive services. The two-year project will serve 10 workers, who will be trained to work at Hope and Coffee and will be connected to wraparound supports such as career workshops, uniforms and clothing, and workplace readiness skills.

**Project Title:** *Trade Institute of Pittsburgh—Pilot Carpentry Training Program*

**Grantee Name:** Trade Institute of Pittsburgh

**Award Amount:** \$315,133

**Announcement Date:** September 2022

**Project Summary:** ARC grant of \$315,133 to the Trade Institute of Pittsburgh for the *Trade Institute of Pittsburgh—Pilot Carpentry Training Program*. This project will train individuals in recovery from substance use disorder (SUD) in carpentry skills

and place them in jobs where they can use their skills. All participants receive extensive case management, drug and alcohol classes, one-on-one trauma-informed counseling, and weekly math and financial literacy classes. The Trade Institute's case manager will assess each participant and help them to address their needs and barriers to success (e.g., inadequate housing, food insecurity, or a lack of work-appropriate clothing and tools). Case managers will also collaborate with local community entities to create clear paths towards addressing the barriers of transportation, stable housing, and childcare. Project partners that will provide SUD recovery support include Adagio Healthy, Gateway Rehab, and Light of Life Mission. The project is expected to serve 182 workers/trainees in the program to support 120 businesses in the service area.

**Project Title:** *Southwestern Pennsylvania Partners in Recovery*

**Grantee:** Carlow University

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

**Announcement Date:** September 2022

**Project Summary:** ARC grant of \$50,000 to Carlow University, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, for the *Southwestern Pennsylvania Partners in Recovery* project. Carlow University will examine the current recovery to workforce ecosystem in Westmoreland and Fayette counties for its strengths and gaps, needs in formal and peer support systems, as well as barriers to workforce entry and re-entry. A thorough examination of the recovery to workforce ecosystem will allow for the creation of projects that will build more meaningful and productive opportunities for those in recovery and reduce stigma associated with substance use disorders. The project will result in a report of the findings and an implementation project proposal to strengthen the existing recovery to workforce ecosystem in Westmoreland and Fayette counties.

**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 (7 awards)

**Project Title:** *Recovering the Road to Prosperity: A Pathway to Work*

**Grantee:** Southeast Tennessee Development District

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

**Announcement Date:** September 2022

**Project Summary:** ARC grant of \$500,000 to the Southeast Tennessee Development District (SETD), located in Chattanooga, Tennessee, for the *Recovering the Road to Prosperity: A Pathway to Work* project. This project will develop a centralized technology network of regional resources in the recovery ecosystem, including treatment, housing, education and training, support services, transportation, childcare, and employment opportunities in the Tennessee counties of Bledsoe, Bradley, Grundy, Hamilton, Marion, McMinn, Meigs, Polk, Rhea, and Sequatchie.. SETD will hire a full-time INSPIRE Recovery Specialist, who will develop the data resource for the region, and two Recovery Success Coaches to help employers and recovering citizens navigate these resources for successful reentry to work. Supportive partners include the Southeast Tennessee Local Workforce Development Board and members of the Cohort Learning Academy, which represents law enforcement, treatment facilities, the TN Department of Health, the TN Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse, industry partners, training providers, and substance abuse coalitions. The project is expected to serve and improve 50 workers, who will have better access to training, wraparound services, and placement in employment. In addition, the Recovery Success Coaches will serve and improve 10 businesses by providing necessary training, tools, and resources.

**Project Title:** *Bridging the G.A.P. (Growing Achievable Pathways) to Employment*

**Grantee:** A.C.T.I.O.N. Coalition

**Award Amount:** \$466,840

**Announcement Date:** September 2022

**Project Summary:** ARC grant of \$466,840 to the A.C.T.I.O.N. Coalition, located in Mountain City, Tennessee, for the *Bridging the G.A.P (Growing Achievable Pathways) to Employment* project. This project will expand the recovery ecosystem in the economically at-risk counties of Johnson and Carter in Tennessee by integrating new workforce development and retention strategies. The project includes three core components that respond to needs identified through a previous community-wide assessment and planning process. The first is a workforce readiness component that focuses on pre-release job-skills training and access to post-release high school equivalency and technical education programming. This component aims to build job skills and work readiness among high-risk individuals with a history of SUD who have experienced prolonged periods of unemployment and/or are entering or reentering the workforce following treatment, incarceration, or system involvement. The second component is case management and direct services that expand and improve coordination of the recovery ecosystem by linking clients with recovery services and supports that remove barriers to workforce participation, facilitate workforce transitions, and support job retention. The third component is an employer-based strategy that focuses on outreach, education, and engagement of the business community to promote concepts of a recovery-friendly

workplace. This will provide employers with custom coaching and training opportunities and will link employers with regional resources to increase participation in the First Tennessee Development District's Caring Workplaces certification program.

**Project Title:** *Upper Cumberland Recovery To Work*

**Grantee:** Upper Cumberland Development District

**Award Amount:** \$287,687

**Announcement Date:** March 2021

**Project Summary:** ARC grant of \$287,687 to Upper Cumberland Development District in Cookeville, Tennessee for the *Upper Cumberland Recovery To Work* (UCRTW). The Upper Cumberland region has experienced alarming rates of substance use disorder (SUD), and many counties lack substance use treatment and services for people in recovery are generally concentrated in the largest county, making it difficult for the most rural residents of the region to gain access to available recovery resources. Considering this, the project will expand a regional substance use referral system into a full-fledged recovery ecosystem serving 14 counties, by expanding caseworker services to include wrap around supports such as legal aid, referrals to treatment programs, training and employment supports. The project will also pilot activities to support entrepreneurship for people in recovery, wherein selected clients will receive training and mentorship including business plan development, marketing, and accounting services. Through partnerships with the Upper Cumberland Human Resource Agency, Small Business Development Center, BizFoundry, and Franklin Spaces LLC, as well as many others, the project aims to provide SUD recovery and workforce training services to at least 30 workers/trainees and improve at least 15 businesses through engagement and education.

**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 (4 awards)**

**Project Title:** *The Power House: A Consolidation of Community Services for Success*

**Grantee:** YWCA of Northeast Tennessee and Southwest Virginia

**Award Amount:** \$35,750

**Announcement Date:** September 2022

**Project Summary:** ARC grant of \$35,750 to YWCA of Northeast Tennessee and Southwest Virginia, located in Bristol, Virginia, for *The Power House: A Consolidation of Community Services for Success*. This project will investigate local and regional substance use disorder (SUD) recovery support programming through a SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats) analysis, as well as identify unmet needs through gap analysis, focus groups, and recovery surveys of individuals, organizations, and business employers in Virginia's Washington and Smyth counties. ARC funds will be used to hire a consultant to conduct the research, aggregate the information, and provide analysis and reports along with suggested recommendations on how to improve the SUD recovery ecosystem in the aforementioned areas. Resulting suggestions and strategies will focus on meeting family, community, and employer needs for workforce development and skills training, business and entrepreneurship, child/youth/women's programs, and health/wellness, all under the lens of SUD recovery support.

**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 (16 awards)**

**Project Title:** *Meadow River Valley Community Resource Center (MRVCRC)*

**Grantee Name:** God's Way Home, Inc.

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

**Announcement Date:** September 2022

**Project Summary:** ARC grant of \$500,000 to God's Way Home, Inc., located in Rainelle, West Virginia, for the *Meadow River Valley Community Resource Center (MRVCRC)*. Using strategies developed from a previous INSPIRE planning grant, this

project will use the Pathways Community HUB model - an evidence-based model that identifies individual risk factors-to address the workforce ecosystem in the counties of Greenbrier, Fayette, Nicholas, and Summers in West Virginia. God's Way Home, Inc. (GWH) is the main applicant in coordination with WVU Research Corp/Extension and MRVCRC. The MRVCRC Program will develop or expand the recovery ecosystem by delivering wraparound programming that coordinates services and addresses complex healthcare needs for enrolled project participants. Services will include education, healthcare, mental health services, housing, transportation, childcare options, food and more to help Appalachians obtain a job, stay on the job, and advance along a financially sustaining career pathway. GWH estimates 15 businesses, 20 workers/trainees, 40 students, and 50 participants will be served by the project.

**Project Title:** *Recovering & Ready to Work in West Virginia*

**Grantee:** Mountain Health Network

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

**Announcement Date:** September 2022

**Project Summary:** ARC grant of \$500,000 to Mountain Health Network (MHN), located in Huntington, West Virginia, for *Recovering & Ready to Work in West Virginia*. The project will use ARC funds to strengthen the delivery of coordinated wraparound social supports, workforce training, work entry and reentry, and entrepreneurship services to unemployed and underemployed adults in recovery from substance use disorder (SUD). In close collaboration with community partners and local businesses, MHN will pilot improvements to the recovery-to-work ecosystem in the West Virginia counties of Cabell, Lincoln, Putnam, and Wayne. MHN will work directly with Marshall University's Creating Opportunities for Recovery Employment (CORE) program to coordinate project activities and serve as the entry point for participant assessments and referrals to network partners. MHN will also conduct needs assessment activities with local businesses, train employers in recovery workplace best practices, and recruit them—and other potential partners—into the program network. Together, these activities will create a stronger, more comprehensive, and better coordinated recovery ecosystem and workplace "corps," able to welcome and support people in recovery for sustained employment. At the end of the 3-year grant period, an estimated 125 workers/trainees in recovery will be improved with training and successful job placements; 100 participants will be improved with support services; 15 businesses will be improved through the program partnership; and 12 new microbusinesses will be created by program participants.

**Project Title:** *Worthwhile Opportunities for Reentry Knowledge & Support (WORKS)*

**Grantee:** Aspire Service Center, Inc.

**Award Amount:** \$495,678

**Announcement Date:** September 2022

**Project Summary:** ARC grant of \$495,678 to Aspire Services Center, Inc., located in Morgantown, West Virginia, for *Worthwhile Opportunities for Reentry Knowledge & Support (WORKS)*. In partnership with Barnes Health and PSCIMED, Inc., WORKS will utilize nearly 8,000 square feet in remodeled space at a former Ramada Inn Hotel to offer an employee training program with skillset development, job placement, and

wraparound treatment services for veterans and other individuals overcoming substance use disorder (SUD) in the West Virginia counties of Monongalia, Marion, Preston, and Taylor. WORKS will utilize the existing commercial kitchen, lounge space, and computer lab areas to train participants and to locate employment for program graduates in sectors including agriculture and product manufacturing and development. Qualifying trainees will be referred to Aspire by partners at Workforce WV, Region VI Workforce Development Office, WV DOE Jobs and Hope, the DOV Affairs, and Aspire's Recovery Community Organization and Peer Recovery Residence programs. The project will support additional staff for the WORKS team to ensure trainees have the guidance they need pre- and post-employment. It is anticipated that WORKS will serve 235 workers/trainees.

**Project Title:** *Recovery Integrated Supportive Employment (RISE) Program*

**Grantee Name:** Semper Liberi Incorporated

**Award Amount:** \$484,044

**Announcement Date:** September 2022

**Project Summary:** ARC grant of \$484,044 to Semper Liberi, located in Martinsburg, West Virginia, for the *Recovery Integrated Supportive Employment (RISE) Program*. RISE will work toward a successful recovery ecosystem serving the West Virginia counties of Berkeley, Grant, Hampshire, Hardy, Jefferson, Mineral, Morgan, and Pendleton. RISE builds on an array of comprehensive services offered through Semper Liberi's existing partnerships with organizations and employers supporting individuals in recovery. The funding will support building materials, additional staff/personnel, and operational needs of Semper Liberi. The development and staffing of an on-site training complex will expand the coordination and cooperation that Semper Liberi has with its educational and training partners: Blue Ridge Community College, James Rumsey Technical Institute, WV Adult Ed, and other public and private partners in the Eastern Panhandle. It is anticipated that 175 workers/trainees will be served as a result of this project.

**Project Title:** *Community Health and Mobilization Prevention Services (CHAMPS)*

**Grantee:** Community Education Group

**Award Amount:** \$478,560

**Announcement Date:** September 2022

**Project Summary:** ARC grant of \$478,560 to Community Education Group (CEG), located in Lost City, West Virginia, for *Community Health and Mobilization Prevention Services (CHAMPS)*. This project will address economic transition, substance use disorder (SUD), and healthcare worker shortages in the West Virginia counties of Nicholas, Roane, Clay, and Wirt by providing community health worker (CHW) training and education to individuals in recovery. CHW participants will be trained in health education, public health promotion, and intrapersonal health-centric dialogues. Local employers of CHWs will be engaged, assessed for their needs, and provided tailored training to become recovery-friendly workplaces. CEG will also conduct a wider needs assessment by training both individuals in recovery and potential employers. CHAMPS will expand opportunities for historically marginalized populations in economically disadvantaged areas, forging an alignment between workforce and economic development. The project is expected

to improve 40 workers and 40 businesses and develop one report to help inform the SUD recovery ecosystem.

**Project Title:** *Recycled, Repurposed, Recovery in Appalachia*

**Grantee:** Rural Appalachian Improvement League, Inc.

**Award Amount:** \$470,640

**Announcement Date:** September 2022

**Project Summary:** ARC grant of \$470,640 to the Rural Appalachian Improvement League, Inc. (RAIL), in Mullens, West Virginia, for *Recycled, Repurposed, Recovery in Appalachia*. The project will employ a multi-prong approach to help individuals impacted by both substance use disorder (SUD) and economic distress in Wyoming County, West Virginia. Operating out of Mullens Opportunity Center (MOC), which is close to numerous sober living facilities, RAIL will offer recovery treatment and support and job training and education through Workforce West Virginia and Catholic Charities West Virginia; mental health support from local counselors; recovery mentorship through the Community Connection Network; and transportation support for all services. Additionally, RAIL will launch community development projects, including an initiative to create greenhouses and jewelry from recycled materials, and a tourism project for dinner theater events. Both will provide another opportunity to build community and support for those in recovery while creating new economic opportunities. RAIL estimates 16 workers/trainees will receive job placements; 60 students will enroll in trainings and workshops and obtain certificates of completion and/or GEDs; and over 80 individuals will participate in the recycling program and community theater group.

**Project Title:** *Cultivating Recovery Employment and Training Education (CREATE)*

**Grantee:** Randolph County Housing Authority

**Award Amount:** \$446,980

**Announcement Date:** September 2022

**Project Summary:** ARC grant of \$446,980 to the Randolph County Housing Authority (RCHA), located in Elkins, West Virginia, for *Cultivating Recovery Employment and Training Education (CREATE)*. This project builds on a previous INSPIRE planning grant to launch a comprehensive substance use disorder (SUD) recovery and workforce training program for recovering youth, unemployed or underemployed adults in recovery, and local businesses in the West Virginia counties of Barbour, Webster, Randolph, and Upshur. CREATE will connect participants with treatment and support workforce reentry by providing employment coaching for high-growth industries such as wood product manufacturing and millwork, retail, hospitality, and tourism. Additionally, CREATE will provide soft-skills training, financial coaching, wraparound services including housing and transportation assistance, and a transitional sober living house for up to six program participants for up to six months. The grantee will partner with workforce agencies, local chambers of commerce, WV Prevention Solutions, and others to engage local employers to hire workers in recovery and update their policies and procedures to reduce barriers and reflect a supportive working environment. At the end of the 18-month grant period, 15 local businesses will engage with the CREATE program and will be improved by hiring workers in recovery or by changing work policies and procedures to engage with workers in



recovery; 38 workers/trainees in recovery will be improved with training and support services and will obtain employment within 45 days of completing training; and 75 adults and youth in recovery will be improved with SUD treatment and recovery services (50 will seek treatment because of contact with Peer Recovery Support Specialists; 10 residents of transitional housing will move into their own homes; and 15 youth will continue with clinical services and maintain recovery). Two (2) new jobs will be created for Peer Recovery Support Specialists.

**Project Title:** *Mentoring Program and Social Enterprise to Empower and Employ WV Transitioning Foster Youth*

**Grantee:** Libera, Inc.

**Award Amount:** \$349,983

**Announcement Date:** September 2022

**Project Summary:** ARC grant of \$349,983 to Libera, Inc., located in Morgantown, West Virginia, for their *Mentoring Program and Social Enterprise to Empower and Employ WV Transitioning Foster Youth*. This project will provide a holistic network of support resources, job training and professional development programs, and employment opportunities to transition-aged foster youth (ages 15–24) across West Virginia. Libera, Inc. will work with multiple partners related to three focus areas: personal mentorship, job training and professional development, and social enterprise. The West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources & Bureau of Social Services and West Virginia Schools of Transition & Diversion will recruit youth and make referrals to the program. Ascension Recovery Services and WV Sober Living will connect youth to substance abuse recovery specialists. WV Women Work, Jobs & Hope, WorkForce WV, and WV Junior College will provide access to apprenticeship programs, labor unions, job training programs, educational assistance, and associate degree programs. Libera Inc.'s mentorship program will provide youth with stable, wraparound support as they navigate the transition into the workforce and adulthood. It is anticipated that 10 foster youth will be served and improved by participating in Libera Inc.'s social enterprise and 100 participants will be served and improved by participating in the project's mentorship, job training, and SUD recovery/prevention efforts.

**Project Title:** *Next Step Village*

**Grantee:** New Vision Renewable Energy

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

**Announcement Date:** September 2022

**Project Summary:** ARC grant of \$50,000 to New Vision Renewable Energy, located in Philippi, West Virginia, for *Next Step Village*. This project will convene state-based and national subject matter experts to understand and develop a strategy for providing services needed by foster children aging out of the foster care system. Through expertise, research, and analysis, the group will evaluate best practices and emerging approaches to ensure program sustainability and will develop a report that offers a path forward for implementation of the Next Step Village in Barbour County, West Virginia. Once implemented, the project will provide children aging out of the foster care system with support and services—including housing and on-the-job training—that promote a thoughtful and appropriate integration into adult life.

**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.

## **REGIONAL (1 award)**

**Project Title:** *Building a Recovery-to-Work Ecosystem*

**Grantee:** Development District Association of Appalachia

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

**Announcement Date:** April 2021

**Project Summary:** ARC grant to Development District Association of Appalachia for the *Building a Recovery-to-Work Ecosystem*. As substance use and addiction have significant impacts across political boundaries, local development districts, for whom DDAA is positioned to work with in this project, are poised to support and promote the economic activity required in building out the INSPIRE recovery to work model. In doing so, this project aims to expand efforts and partnership with ARC by helping

to document the development of a Recovery-to-Work ecosystem in communities throughout the region. In doing so, DDAA will identify challenges, ecosystem partners, support engagement and build momentum toward successful examples, while also supporting the region in identifying resources required to build a sustainable ecosystem. The project plans to serve 12 regions across Appalachia, 20 counties, 12 organizations, and while also facilitating the development of 8 action plans.