



# INSPIRE Award Summaries by State

## September 2022

### GEORGIA (1 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 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.

### KENTUCKY (6 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 Millard 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.

## MARYLAND (1 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.

## MISSISSIPPI (2 awards)

**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.

## **NEW YORK (1 award)**

**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.

## **NORTH CAROLINA (4 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.

## OHIO (3 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.

## **PENNSYLVANIA (3 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.

## TENNESSEE (2 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.

## **VIRGINIA (1 award)**

**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.

## **WEST VIRGINIA (9 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.