



POWER Award Summaries by State

October 2022

ALABAMA (1 award)

Project Title: *Supporting Electric Vehicle Manufacturing and Maintenance in North Alabama*

Grantee: Wallace State Community College–Hanceville

Award Amount: \$1,169,958

Announcement Date: October 2022

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$1,169,958 to Wallace State Community College–Hanceville in Hanceville, Alabama, for the *Supporting Electric Vehicle Manufacturing and Maintenance in North Alabama* project. Wallace State Community College–Hanceville (WSCC) will partner with the American Trucking Association, Freightliner, Kenworth, and Mercedes-Benz to bring their Mechatronics, Automotive Services, and Diesel Technician programs into alignment with electric vehicle (EV) needs. These needs include technicians ready for smart manufacturing and the servicing of electric vehicles and electric heavy-duty trucks. Based on a previous POWER-funded study of automotive manufacturing in North central Alabama, WSCC will update its Mechatronics Program and create new EV programs in its Automotive Services and Diesel Technician programs to include the specific knowledge, skills, and abilities needed by the industry. Students and workers/trainees will receive on-the-job training, complete the appropriate National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) and electric truck certifications, and create a talent pipeline for high-wage EV careers. WSCC will serve 230 students by the third year of programming, preparing workers for new employment opportunities in an area that has experienced the loss of jobs in the coal sector.

GEORGIA (1 award)

Project Title: *Enterprise Corner*

Grantee: Rome-Floyd County Development Authority

Award Amount: \$50,000

Announcement Date: October 2022

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$50,000 to the Rome-Floyd County Community Development Authority (RFCCDA) in Rome, Georgia, for the *Enterprise Corner* project. RFCCDA has purchased a 200-acre site for the Enterprise Corner Industrial Park. This project will provide a design for water and sewer lines, both of which are needed to attract large-scale manufacturing businesses.

KENTUCKY (11 awards)

Project Title: *Rowdy Trailhead and Campground Project*

Grantee: Perry County Fiscal Court

Award Amount: \$1,500,000

Announcement Date: October 2022

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$1,500,000 to the Perry County Fiscal Court (PCFC) in Hazard, Kentucky, for the *Rowdy Trailhead and Campground Project*. Located off Highway 476 in the Rowdy community of Perry County, the project will support outdoor recreation and tourism by constructing 30 RV campground sites with full hookups for water, sewer, electric, and cable television, as well as communal facilities (bath house, laundry, and ATV wash bay) and on-site infrastructure (sewage treatment, dumping station, waterlines, and security). The campground will serve as the trailhead for Perry County's ATV trails, which connect to a 75-mile loop passing through Breathitt, Knott, Floyd, and Magoffin counties. In addition to county fiscal courts within the ATV trail network, PCFC will also partner with USDA Rural Development and the Kentucky Mountain Regional Recreational Authority. The project will create 38 jobs within its first 15 months and lead to an estimated 24,960 overnight stays in the first year. Additional funding is provided by the Abandoned Mine Land Economic Revitalization Program and the Foundation for Appalachian Kentucky.

Project Title: *TEK Center Skilled Trades Training*

Grantee: TEK Center, Inc.

Award Amount: \$1,500,000

Announcement Date: October 2022

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$1,500,000 to TEK Center, Inc. in Inez, Kentucky, for the *TEK Center Skilled Trades Training* project. The project will develop a Skilled Trades Training Center to support low-income individuals, individuals in addiction recovery programs, and dislocated workers such as former coal miners, all of whom are greatly impacted by the decline in coal production and the substance use disorder crisis. To encourage participation from these groups, this training center will offer short-term, industry-driven training programs of one year or less that streamline these individuals into well-paying, high demand jobs. Project partners include the East Kentucky Concentrated Employment Program, Martin County Economic Development Agency, Foundation for Appalachian Kentucky, Shaping Our Appalachian Region (SOAR), Johnson County Schools, and Floyd County Board of Education. The project will serve six businesses, 125 high school students, and 395 workers/trainees.

Project Title: *UPIKE Ag-Tech Innovation Center of Excellence*

Grantee: University of Pikeville, Inc.

Award Amount: \$1,500,000

Announcement Date: October 2022

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$1,500,000 to the University of Pikeville in Pikeville, Kentucky, for the *UPIKE Ag-Tech Innovation Center of Excellence* project. Located off U.S. Highway 23 in the Kentucky Enterprise Industrial Park, the project will develop an agricultural research facility in partnership with the City of Pikeville and

will serve seven counties in Eastern Kentucky. The facility will aid the region's growing sustainable agricultural sector via research activity conducted on behalf of private industry partners, space for ag-tech workforce programming and development, and entrepreneurial supports. The Center will focus on seed development, environmental conservation practices, and controlled-environment farming. Over the next three years, the project will help create 250 jobs and three new businesses. An additional \$4.4 million in funding is provided by the U.S. Economic Development Administration.

Project Title: *Growing Eastern KY's Controlled Environment Production Ecosystem*

Grantee: Kentucky Horticulture Council

Award Amount: \$1,458,212

Announcement Date: October 2022

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$1,458,212 to Kentucky Horticulture Council in Lexington, Kentucky, for the *Growing Eastern KY's Controlled Environment Production Ecosystem* project. The Kentucky Horticulture Council will partner with the University of Kentucky, Community Farm Alliance, and Kentucky Center for Agriculture & Rural Development to help prospective and established producers establish and grow controlled environment agriculture (CEA) operations that enable year-round growing. This project will not only advance entrepreneurial support for new and existing Kentucky farmers but also develop a competitive, career-ready workforce to support the expansion of CEA jobs in communities with unemployed and underemployed residents. The project will serve 484 businesses and 137 workers/trainees, improve 247 businesses and 110 workers/trainees, create 12 businesses, generate \$185,000 in non-export revenue, and leverage \$185,000 in additional private investment.

Project Title: *Agricultural Apple Sorting & Packing Facility*

Grantee: Big Sandy Area Development District

Award Amount: \$1,200,000

Announcement Date: October 2022

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$1,200,000 to Big Sandy Area Development District in Prestonsburg, Kentucky, for the *Agricultural Apple Sorting & Packing Facility* project. The project will conduct sitework at the East Kentucky Business Park to prepare for a new building addition that will serve as a regional apple sorting and packing hub across nine counties in Eastern Kentucky and Southern West Virginia, as well as provide business technical assistance to engaged entrepreneurs. This facility will enable Appalachian farmers to access domestic and international markets by supporting a vertically integrated chain from the orchard to the end-user. With upwards of a thousand acres of former mine lands in the region being converted to apple orchards, this ARC POWER grant will support the development of a new industry cluster. The project's activities will be supported by partnerships with the University of Kentucky, Shaping Our Appalachian Region (SOAR), Operation UNITE, and Morehead State University. The project is expected to be completed within 10 months and will serve 300 businesses, support the creation of 260 jobs, and leverage up to \$30 million in additional private investment.

Project Title: *Preparing the Future of American Agriculture: AgTech Apprenticeship*

Grantee: Kentucky Community & Technical College System

Award Amount: \$1,137,500

Announcement Date: October 2022

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$1,137,500 to Kentucky Community & Technical College System in Versailles, Kentucky for the *Preparing the Future of American Agriculture: AgTech Apprenticeship* project. The project will implement a hands-on training program for entry level workers and build a workforce pipeline for high-yield, year-round controlled environment agriculture, or agricultural technology (agtech), in Appalachia. Agtech's fast-paced, technology-enhanced, crop-producing environment requires a specific educational foundation, precise skills, and real-time decision making. Through partnerships with AppHarvest, Edgewater Recovery, Kentucky FFA Association, Elliott County, Addiction Recovery Care, Rowan County Drug Court, Rowan County Agriculture Advisory Board, East Kentucky Concentrated Employment Program, Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Sciences (MANRRS), and University of Kentucky, this project will place recruitment emphasis on workers recovering from substance use disorder and traditionally underrepresented workers in the agtech industry. The program will improve 350 workers/trainees through wage increases and career progression, improve one large-scale business through increased revenue from worker productivity and reduced product waste.

Project Title: *Appalachia Access to Capital—Phase II—Capital and Technical Assistance*

Grantee: Community Ventures Corporation

Award Amount: \$1,500,000

Announcement Date: October 2022

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$1,500,000 to the Community Ventures Corporation (CV) in Lexington, Kentucky, for the *Appalachia Access to Capital—Phase II—Capital and Technical Assistance* project. The project will capitalize a revolving loan fund (RLF) to increase New Markets Tax Credit (NMTC) investments in Kentucky, Tennessee, and West Virginia. Central Appalachia's coalfields do not lack NMTC-worthy projects; however, many communities do not understand how the program works, how to structure financing, and how to present to investors. CV will align and leverage complementary sources of capital for catalytic, large-scale projects that deliver new jobs or provide critical community infrastructure such as healthcare, education, and social services. The ARC funding will support second-phase technical assistance to Appalachian businesses and New Market Tax Credits allocatees seeking investments. Partners include Appalachian Community Capital, Fahe, Fairmont Community Redevelopment, the Mountain Association, Kentucky African American Chamber of Commerce (NOIR), and the Middletown Valley Bank. The project will improve 15 businesses and 10 communities, create 150 jobs and 15 businesses, and leverage \$10.5 million in additional private investment over six years. This project builds on Community Ventures Corporation's 2021 ARC POWER grant for the *Appalachia Access to Capital Initiative*.

Project Title: *The EKY Community Accelerator Project*

Grantee: Mountain Association

Award Amount: \$50,000

Announcement Date: October 2022

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$50,000 to the Mountain Association in Berea, Kentucky, for *the EKY Community Accelerator Project*. Communities often face concentrated decision-making with little input from residents. The Eastern Kentucky Community Accelerator will help communities organize, build strong local networks to develop solutions, and seize opportunities that create jobs and economic resiliency. The Mountain Association will act as the accelerator's fiscal sponsor, and What's Next EKY?! (WNEKY)—a robust network of community groups and regional partners—will serve as the leading organization. Additional partners include Grayson Gallery (Carter County), Letcher County Culture Hub, Jackson County Tourism, Brushy Fork Leadership Institute, and Vision Granted. Their roles include leading the "Learning Partner Community," being coaches, and coordinating the community accelerator. During the one-year grant, the region will have a tested model of how best to help communities move toward resilient economies. The project will serve three communities and produce a regional report outlining a new toolkit.

Project Title: *Eastern Kentucky Equine Community Center Planning*

Grantee: Kentucky Equine Education Project (KEEP) Foundation

Award Amount: \$50,000

Announcement Date: October 2022

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$50,000 to the KEEP Foundation in Lexington, Kentucky, for the *Eastern Kentucky Equine Community Center Planning* project. The project will assess the feasibility of, and provide a business plan for, the potential Eastern Kentucky Equine Center. The center would offer space for businesses related to the equine industry and outdoor recreation, as well as sector-specific workforce training to meet businesses' employment needs. Workforce training would focus on formerly incarcerated populations and individuals in recovery, and help develop a job and business pipeline for equine and mental health sectors. Furthermore, the center will help Southeast Kentucky leverage the state's strong equine industry and wild horse population as economic assets. The project will result in a feasibility study and business plan over the course of one year.

Project Title: *Southeast Kentucky Regional Experience Package Planning Project*

Grantee: Foundation for Appalachian Kentucky

Award Amount: \$48,422

Announcement Date: October 2022

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$48,422 to Foundation for Appalachian Kentucky (FAKY) in Hazard, Kentucky, for the *Southeast Kentucky Regional Experience Package Planning Project*. The project, fiscally sponsored by FAKY and led by Leslie County Betterment (LCB), will coordinate tourism initiatives in Southeast Kentucky to build and market regional experience packages. These packages will align and market similar and complementary initiatives so visitors may enjoy the wealth of experiences that Southeast Kentucky offers. The project's final output will be a pitch to investors and funders that demonstrates the need for and potential impact of

clustering products and developing regional experience packages. The project will serve five counties over the course of a year.

Project Title: *Southeast Kentucky Regional Trails Planning Project*

Grantee: Foundation for Appalachian Kentucky

Award Amount: \$46,838

Announcement Date: October 2022

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$46,838 to Foundation for Appalachian Kentucky in Hazard, Kentucky, for the *Southeast Kentucky Regional Trails Planning Project*. The project will create a comprehensive outdoor adventure development, marketing, and maintenance plan for Southeast Kentucky that capitalizes on the potential community economic and health impacts of outdoor recreation. The plan will include an assessment of existing outdoor recreation assets, infrastructure, and initiatives; a detailed vision of the future of the region, informed by community stakeholder input; and project-specific, modular, multi-phased workplans to guide progress toward that vision. The project will serve eight counties over the course of a year.

MARYLAND (1 award)

Project Title: *Broadband Customer Connect Program*

Grantee: Board of County Commissioners of Garrett County, Maryland

Award Amount: \$435,000

Announcement Date: October 2022

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$435,000 to the Board of County Commissioners of Garrett County, Maryland, for the *Broadband Customer Connect Program*. The project will install or support the installation of 7,500 feet of broadband conduit, enabling the deployment of fiber broadband services to 300 homes. Expanded service will benefit rural residents who have struggled to pay the thousands of dollars required to extend broadband services down long driveways to their homes. The grantee will work with all qualifying internet service providers to identify the homes in need and ensure that the appropriate cost reduction approach is applied to connect the unconnected.

OHIO (9 awards)

Project Title: *Connecting Underserved Carroll County, Ohio*

Grantee: Carroll County, Ohio

Award Amount: \$1,999,000

Announcement Date: October 2022

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$1,999,000 to Carroll County, Ohio, for the *Connecting Underserved Carroll County, Ohio* project. The project will build 86 miles of fiber optic network infrastructure to connect 11 communities to reliable and affordable broadband services. Through a partnership with Charter Communications, this project fills the funding and broadband deployment gaps in Carroll County's broadband landscape and ensures every home or business in the county has a funded commitment for broadband deployment. Furthermore, increased connectivity will help facilitate economic growth and diversification

necessary to overcome the downturn of the coal industry. The project will serve 384 homes and 53 businesses.

Project Title: *Appalachian RESILIENCY (Restoring our Environment, Supporting and Investing Long-term In EcoNomes and Careers for Youth)*

Grantee: Rural Action, Inc.

Award Amount: \$1,500,000

Announcement Date: October 2022

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$1,500,000 to Rural Action, Inc., in The Plains, Ohio, for the *Appalachian RESILIENCY (Restoring our Environment, Supporting and Investing Long-term In EcoNomes and Careers for Youth)* project. Appalachian RESILIENCY builds on the region's natural resources to address workforce development, green infrastructure, and the processing, aggregation, and distribution of agroforestry products in Ohio, Virginia, and West Virginia. The project will expand Rural Action's AmeriCorps program; offer paid high school internships with local businesses and non-profits in at least 10 counties; and provide training opportunities in ecological restoration, waste management (reduction, recycling, and upcycling), and clean energy. It will also create a new native planting stock and tree nursery and develop an agroforestry hub, including the placement of herb processing equipment at multiple locations across Appalachian Ohio. Appalachian RESILIENCY will partner with Appalachian Sustainable Development, Coalfield Development, and United Plant Savers. The project will serve 100 businesses in 20 communities and will create 20 jobs.

Project Title: *rePOWERing Main Streets: Fostering Entrepreneurship Across Appalachia*

Grantee: Economic and Community Development Institute, Inc.

Award Amount: \$1,500,000

Announcement Date: October 2022

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$1,500,000 to the Economic and Community Development Institute, Inc. (ECDI) in Columbus, Ohio, for the *rePOWERing Main Streets: Fostering Entrepreneurship Across Appalachia* project. ECDI and its eight partners will spark entrepreneurship across seven coal-impacted counties in Ohio and West Virginia through coaching and training, pitch competitions, and other resources. Additionally, they will implement county-specific programs and events to address the unique needs of local entrepreneurs and build capacity for local partners. As small businesses access education and resources to sustainably scale operations, they will be referred to ECDI and other local capital sources to continue growing, creating more jobs, and generating revenue in the region. This project will serve 350 businesses and 300 participants, improve 150 businesses and 153 participants, and create 75 jobs and 60 businesses. Additional funding is provided by the Small Business Administration and the U.S. Treasury Department's Community Development Financial Institutions Fund.

Project Title: *REACH: Rural Employment Advocating for Community Health*

Grantee: Access Tusc: Bridges to Wellness Pathways Community Hub

Award Amount: \$1,381,028

Announcement Date: October 2022

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$1,381,028 to Access Tusc: Bridges to Wellness Pathways Community HUB in Dover, Ohio, for the *Rural Employment Advocating for Community Health (REACH)* project. This project will implement a Level 1 Certified Pathways Community HUB—a nationally recognized approach to addressing social determinants of health—to improve overall population health in eight communities. The project will hire and/or retain credentialed professionals by aligning their care coordination agencies (CCA); connect CCAs to higher education partners for the execution of community health worker certification/training; develop partnerships with health information exchanges and/or electronic health records to bring in new networks for referrals, collaboration, and data reporting; and contract with partner agencies to ensure compliance and standardization of programs, Medicaid billing and reimbursement, and community support strategies. The project will serve 84 businesses and 74 workers/trainees, with 45 of those workers/trainees being newly credentialed health workers.

Project Title: *YSU Broadband and 5G Readiness Training Program*

Grantee: Youngstown State University

Award Amount: \$1,154,880

Announcement Date: October 2022

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$1,154,880 to Youngstown State University (YSU) in Youngstown, Ohio, for the *YSU Broadband and 5G Readiness Training Program*. The project will train 165 students with the skills and knowledge needed to enter the broadband industry sector in Appalachian Ohio. This project provides the students with access to a no-cost, industry-certified training program while also providing the broadband industry with the trained workforce it will need to carry out the projected \$500 million investment in broadband infrastructure over the coming years. This training program will take place at three different education centers across a six-county region over the course of three years. Key partners include Eastern Gateway Community College, and the Ashtabula County Technical & Career Center.

Project Title: *Expanding the Nursing Workforce in Appalachia*

Grantee: Washington State Community College

Award Amount: \$803,698

Announcement Date: October 2022

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$803,698 to Washington State Community College in Marietta, Ohio, for the *Expanding the Nursing Workforce in Appalachia* project. Washington State Community College (WSCC) will increase the number of registered nurses and address regional healthcare shortages by launching a second Associate Degree of Nursing program and a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree program. Project partners—Memorial Health System and WVU Medicine Camden Clark Medical Center—will provide nursing clinical/apprenticeship opportunities and commit to hiring successful graduates. Southeastern Ohio Port Authority, Marietta Chamber of Commerce, and Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services will provide economic development strategies, business support, and other supportive and workforce development services. The Washington County Career Center will create nursing pathways and promote the nursing programs. Over three years, the

project will serve 234 students from six communities located in economically distressed, at-risk, and transitional counties.

Project Title: *FlyOhio: Planning for Advanced Air Mobility in Ohio's Appalachian Region*

Grantee: Ohio University

Award Amount: \$50,000

Announcement Date: October 2022

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$50,000 to Ohio University in Athens, Ohio, for the *FlyOhio: Planning for Advanced Air Mobility in Ohio's Appalachian Region* project. This project will engage community stakeholders, conduct research and analysis, and prepare a report to document an Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) strategy for Ohio's 32 Appalachian counties. Ohio University will partner with FlyOhio and JobsOhio to explore AAM opportunities for the region's business, transportation, and logistical needs. In addition, Ohio University will partner with four Local Development Districts to identify locally focused AAM applications. The 12-month project will lead to a report documenting an AAM economic development strategy, including the development of local case studies, to foster economic diversity and create new entrepreneurial activities related to AAM. Ohio University is providing an additional \$50,000 in funding.

Project Title: *Thornton Ohio Institute of Technology*

Grantee: Appalachian Ohio Manufacturers' Coalition (AOMC)

Award Amount: \$50,000

Announcement Date: October 2022

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$50,000 to Appalachia Ohio Manufacturers Coalition (AOMC) in Marietta, Ohio for the *Thornton Ohio Institute of Technology* project. The project will create a strategic plan to inform a comprehensive career pathway toward manufacturing and machine-based jobs for Southeast Ohio, Kanawha and Wood counties in West Virginia, and Allegheny County in Pennsylvania. The plan will identify wraparound services needed by, and training opportunities for, skilled workers affected by job losses related to plant and mine closures. The Thornton Ohio Institute of Technology will work in partnership with Ohio University, Hocking College, Tristate Energy and Advanced Manufacturing Consortium (TEAM Consortium), and Watertown Enterprises. In addition, other partners will join AOMC in this one-year project.

Project Title: *Trumbull County Broadband Preliminary Engineering Study*

Grantee: Western Reserve Port Authority

Award Amount: \$49,970

Announcement Date: October 2022

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$49,970 to Western Reserve Port Authority in Youngstown, Ohio, for the *Trumbull County Broadband Preliminary Engineering Study*. The project will conduct a broadband engineering study for a proposed fiber optic loop designed to provide high-speed broadband service to four underserved communities in Trumbull County, Ohio. The study will examine alternative broadband deployment routes, including an analysis of existing providers. The study

will also identify partnerships to deploy broadband services in the coal-impacted region and recommend innovative funding opportunities to leverage public-private investment for the project's implementation. The one-year project will serve four communities.

PENNSYLVANIA (9 Awards)

Project Title: *Health Sciences Workforce Development Center*

Grantee: Fayette County

Award Amount: \$1,500,000

Announcement Date: October 2022

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$1,500,000 to Fayette County, Pennsylvania, for the *Health Sciences Workforce Development Center* project. This project will construct a 6,000-square-foot training center on the campus of Fayette County Career & Technical Institute (Fayette CTI), allowing Fayette CTI to enhance its Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) program and meet the growing healthcare workforce needs in Western Pennsylvania and Northern West Virginia. West Virginia University Medicine will provide curriculum recommendations to Fayette CTI and plans to interview upwards of 50 program graduates for jobs approximately one year after construction and programming begins. Over the course of eighteen months, following the completion of the new facility, the project will serve 170 students with 136 anticipated to graduate.

Project Title: *Erie to Pittsburgh Trails/PA Wilds Loop Construction—Phase II*

Grantee: Venango County, Pennsylvania

Award Amount: \$1,385,920

Announcement Date: October 2022

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$1,385,920 to Venango County, Pennsylvania, for Phase II construction of the *Erie to Pittsburgh Trail/PA Wilds Loop Trail*, closing gaps in connectivity along both trails. Both trails are part of the Industrial Heartland Trails Coalition, an initiative to connect the area's population centers via destination trails that will attract users locally and nationally. This project contributes to that larger effort by building on a strategy developed by Crawford County, Pennsylvania, using a 2019 POWER planning grant. This project will complete three miles of critical multi-use recreational trail development, rehabilitate a key bridge, and provide road crossing safety improvements. After two years, 15,840 linear feet of new trail will be built, attracting an expected 6,300 new day visitors and 2,100 new overnight visitors.

Project Title: *Tri-State Net Zero Manufacturing Initiative*

Grantee: Southwestern Pennsylvania Corporation

Award Amount: \$1,375,961

Announcement Date: October 2022

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$1,375,961 to the Southwestern Pennsylvania Corporation (SPC) in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, for the *Tri-State Net Zero Manufacturing Initiative* project. To help address both the global climate crisis and the region's economic reliance on coal, the project will help small and medium manufacturers participate in the growing supply chain for net-zero energy and decarbonization sectors. In partnership with Manufacturing Extension Partnership

(MEP) centers at Catalyst Connection, West Virginia University, and Ohio MAGNET, the project will engage and connect manufacturers with strategies and opportunities; incentivize the deployment of net zero supply chain and clean factory strategies by providing "Net Zero Manufacturing Mini-Grants"; and identify pathways to scale up net zero manufacturing, among other activities. The project will serve 47 counties across three states, produce two plans/reports, implement three programs, serve 300 businesses, create 120 jobs and 25 new businesses, and leverage \$360,000 in additional private investment.

Project Title: *Aviation Workforce Training Center*

Grantee: Saint Francis University

Award Amount: \$1,000,000

Announcement Date: October 2022

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$1,000,000 to Saint Francis University in Loretto, Pennsylvania, for the *Aviation Workforce Training Center* project. Through collaboration with industry partners—including the Johnstown-Cambria County Airport Authority, Cambria County, Nulton Aviation Services, and Sky West Airlines—to ensure compliance with FAA regulations and intersection with industry needs, the project will establish an Aviation Maintenance Technician (AMT) school at the John Murtha Johnstown-Cambria County Airport. The school will provide the coal-impacted workforce with aviation maintenance training and certifications, helping individuals create pathways into secure, well-paying, family-sustaining jobs in the growing aviation industry and related sectors. While focused on AMT, training will also synergize with more general trades needed by a variety of occupations, thus also helping dislocated workers from coal-related industries re-enter the workforce using skill sets transferable outside the aviation sector. By the end of the three-year grant period, 60 workers/trainees are expected to enroll in the training program, and five will graduate with certifications that will enable them to obtain employment in the aviation sector or similar field.

Project Title: *Child Care Works for the Southern Alleghenies*

Grantee: The Learning Lamp

Award Amount: \$756,690

Announcement Date: October 2022

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$756,690 to the Learning Lamp in Johnstown, Pennsylvania, for the *Child Care Works for the Southern Alleghenies* project. The project will increase child care supply and put more people back to work in a rural, coal-impacted region of west central Pennsylvania where there is not enough quality and affordable child care to meet local workforce demands. In addition to increasing child care supply, the project will bolster the early learning workforce through educational opportunities and encourage individuals to build their own home-based child care businesses. The project's four-pronged approach includes recruiting early childhood workers and directing them into education and career pathways through pre-apprenticeships and apprenticeships to increase skills and wages; piloting the micro-center child care model as a solution for the child care shortage in rural communities; launching a Staffed Family Child Care Network

campaign to increase the number of home-based child care providers in the region; and completing a child care expansion and quality improvement project currently underway in heavily coal-impacted Somerset County. By the end of the 3-year grant period, the project is expected to create 20 new family-based child care businesses; improve 18 existing child care businesses; improve wages and job prospects for an estimated 48 workers/trainees; and create career pathways for 230 high school students. An additional 468 working parents will have access to expanded child care options that will enable them to remain in or enter the workforce.

Project Title: *Realizing Automated and Advanced Manufacturing Processes (RAAMP)*

Grantee: The Pennsylvania State University

Award Amount: \$750,087

Announcement Date: October 2022

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$750,087 to the Pennsylvania State University in University Park, Pennsylvania, for the *Realizing Automated and Advanced Manufacturing Processes (RAAMP)* project. The project will facilitate short-form workshops emphasizing specific software/hardware workflows and key concepts of advanced manufacturing, which will be led by in-house staff and guest instructors invited from various sectors of industry. It will also purchase next-level equipment and support manufacturing innovation and workforce development through free access and training on leading-edge tools, equipment, and technologies. Through partnerships with the Ben Franklin Technology Partners and regional business owners, these combined efforts will help regional manufacturers modernize their production capabilities and address the shortage of skilled labor by training and upskilling an existing workforce disenfranchised by the eroding coal economy and empower Appalachians to obtain high-paying, tech-centric jobs. These efforts will improve 60 businesses, 180 workers/trainees, and 45 students through workshop training; create 10 jobs; and retain 30 jobs through modernization of business processes and professional development over the course of the 3-year grant period.

Project Title: *Bedford County Site Feasibility Study*

Grantee: Bedford County Development Association (BCDA)

Award Amount: \$50,000

Announcement Date: October 2022

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$50,000 to Bedford County, Pennsylvania, for the *Bedford County Site Feasibility Study*. The study will evaluate three sites in Bedford County to determine the best location for a new business park. The goal of the business park will be to cultivate an environment where new and existing manufacturers create well-paying jobs through increased private investment and capitalization on the resurgence of manufacturing.

Project Title: *Erie County Broadband Expansion Feasibility Study*

Grantee: Erie Area Council of Governments

Award Amount: \$50,000

Announcement Date: October 2022

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$50,000 to Erie Area Council of Governments in Erie, Pennsylvania, for the *Erie County Broadband Expansion Feasibility Study*. The project will analyze existing broadband infrastructure and coverage gaps and recommend implementation strategies for expanding and improving local internet access throughout Erie County. The applicant will contract with an expert consultant to perform the study and with the Erie County Department of Planning and Community Development to provide economic impact data and GIS services. The project will serve 16 communities over the course of a year.

Project Title: *Partnerships to Advance Learning in STEM (PALS) Strategic Expansion Plan*

Grantee: ASSET Inc.

Award Amount: \$48,661

Announcement Date: October 2022

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$48,661 to ASSET Inc. in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, for the *Partnerships to Advance Learning in STEM (PALS) Strategic Expansion Plan* project. This project will help four regional teams develop action plans to implement the PALS tutoring program, which engages pre-service educators to provide no-cost virtual tutoring to underserved K-8 learners in their communities. PALS tutoring addresses these challenges by focusing on learning acceleration to help K-8 students. In addition, PALS tutoring supports pre-service educators in building relationships, creating effective remote learning opportunities, and connecting their tutoring experiences to future classroom teaching. Project partners include Carlow University, University of Pittsburgh Johnstown, and the Pittsburgh Project. The one-year planning grant will result in action plans for PALS implementation for the regional teams located in Allegheny, Cambria, Greene, Indiana, and Lawrence counties. Long-term impacts include improving students' development of 21st century skills, increased academic achievement, and increased STEM skills.

TENNESSEE (1 award)

Project Title: *Appalachian Producers Cooperative: A Farmer-Owned Meat Processor for Appalachian Tennessee*

Grantee: Appalachian Resource Conservation & Development Council

Award Amount: \$991,546

Announcement Date: October 2022

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$991,546 to Appalachian Resource Conservation & Development Council in Johnson City, Tennessee, for the *Appalachian Producers Cooperative: A Farmer-Owned Meat Processor for Appalachian Tennessee* project. Through a partnership with the Appalachian Abattoir, Appalachian Sustainable Development, and the Cattlemen's Association of Washington County, the project will support the Appalachian Producers Cooperative (APC), the first farmer-owned cooperative established in Tennessee in over 50 years. The purpose of the cooperative is to address the critical community need of meat processing capacity to serve local farmers in East Tennessee and Southwest Virginia. By reinvesting in local food system infrastructure, there is potential to create an economy that generates livable incomes for thousands of Appalachian families. The project is expected to serve 200 businesses and 18 workers/trainees; develop a workforce

development program geared towards providing butchering (and related) skills; improve 50 businesses and 14 workers/trainees; create one business and 21 jobs; and leverage \$5M in private investment. Additional financial support is being provided by Washington County, Tennessee, through funds from the American Rescue Plan Act.

VIRGINIA (4 awards)

Project Title: *Food Sector Workforce Expansion in Central Appalachia*

Grantee: Appalachian Sustainable Development

Award Amount: \$1,500,000

Announcement Date: October 2022

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$1,500,000 to Appalachian Sustainable Development in Duffield, Virginia, for the *Food Sector Workforce Expansion in Central Appalachia* project. Appalachian Sustainable Development in partnership with ACEnet, Coalfield Development, Sprouting Farms, Rural Action, and the Appalachian Resource Conservation & Development Council will build on previous ARC and USDA investments to address new opportunities and challenges facing agricultural producers and food processors as they scale operations to reach wholesale markets. The project will implement three objectives to create an integrated workforce approach: 1) expand and replicate ASD, ACEnet, Sprouting Farms, and Coalfield Development workforce models to address employment gaps within the food sector; 2) coordinate demand channels from schools and food banks to increase the viability of distribution logistics to retailers in remote areas; and 3) connect emergent food hubs in Wheeling, Welch, Morgantown, and Charleston, West Virginia to workforce development models and hub management practices to foster wider regional food distribution. This project seeks to create a transformative workforce ecosystem, overlaid on a strong food sector value chain, to create economic and social benefits in rural communities in Southwest Virginia, Northeast Tennessee, West Virginia, and Southeast Ohio. This project is expected to serve 125 businesses; improve 88 businesses; create 40 businesses, 53 jobs and one plan; serve 310 workers/trainees; improve 35 workers/trainees; and leverage \$965,000 of private investment.

Project Title: *New River Water Trail Expansion Project*

Grantee: New River Valley Regional Commission

Award Amount: \$1,500,000

Announcement Date: October 2022

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$1,500,000 to the New River Valley Regional Commission in Fairlawn, Virginia, for the *New River Water Trail Expansion Project*. The project will construct or improve four public launches along the New River Water Trail, the regional anchor for outdoor recreation comprising a 37-mile-stretch of river access points. The project also includes a corresponding expansion of the New River Trail website, which guides residents and visitors to plan trips that connect the water trail to existing activities and businesses, including outfitters, dining, lodging, and camping services. In partnership with Pulaski County, City of Radford, Montgomery County, Giles County, the National Park Service, and the Friends of the New River, the project will mobilize a substantial volunteer effort to host regular New River Watershed Roundtable meetings; develop a signage plan,

website, and marketing and outreach materials; and conduct ongoing river stewardship efforts that will maintain the river access points into the future. This project will serve the 15 communities along the New River that maintain boat launches and offer important visibility and connection between the New River Water Trail and the recreation and tourism businesses that support it by attracting 1,500 new visitors each year.

Project Title: *Dick & Willie Passage Trail 6A Completion*

Grantee: Henry County, Virginia

Award Amount: \$665,000

Announcement Date: October 2022

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$665,000 to Henry County in Henry County, Virginia, for Phase 6A of the *Dick & Willie Passage (D&W) Trail Completion* project. The project will complete the last mile of an existing 2.96-mile gap in the D&W Trail, Virginia's longest public trail, connecting neighborhoods to opportunities for shopping, dining, entertainment, the Smith River Sports Complex, and the new Riverview Park. The project also includes improvements to the "Bike Barn," a low-cost bike loan program that allows tourists and visitors to affordably bike the entire length of the D&W Trail. The expansion of the D&W Trail has been a longstanding regional goal for outdoor recreation; it complements efforts in Patrick County to extend the D&W Trail north and wider efforts to connect with the Beaches-to-Bluegrass Virginia State Trail. Through a partnership with the City of Martinsville, the Martinsville-Henry County Family YMCA, and the Virginia Tourism Corporation (VTC), Henry County will complete the gap in the trail, maintain the trail and Bike Barn, and continue to promote the Dick & Willie Passage as an asset in Virginia's regional trail system.

Project Title: *Expansion of Dental Services for Central Appalachia*

Grantee: The Health Wagon

Award Amount: \$500,000

Announcement Date: October 2022

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$500,000 to St. Mary's Health Wagon in Clintwood, Virginia, for the *Expansion of Dental Services for Central Appalachia* project. This project, covering the counties of Buchanan, Dickenson, Lee, Russell, Scott, and Wise, will facilitate education and training of new dental professionals, as well as provide comprehensive oral health care services for individuals referred from the Health Wagon's mobile services and stationary clinics. Because the area is significantly impacted by job losses in coal mining, coal power plant operations, and coal-related supply chain industries, the project plans to support individuals impacted by the loss of coal jobs and lack of dental insurance and others who have dental health issues that prevent them from interviews and subsequent hiring. Workforce training will also provide clinical opportunities for students by providing them with the experience of working in rural communities. Students will also have the option to remove dental school debt through the Bureau of Health Professions Loan Repayment Program to establish or work in dental health professional shortage areas. Through partnerships with LENOWISCO Planning District, Virginia Dental Association Foundation, and Virginia Department of Health, this project will improve two organizations, create four jobs (a dentist, dental hygienist, dental assistant, and a

dental case manager), improve 2,000 patients through the provision of oral health services, and improve six trainees through clinical workforce training over the course of one year.

WEST VIRGINIA (15 awards)

Project Title: *Summers County Broadband Expansion Project*

Grantee: Summers County Commission

Award Amount: \$2,400,000

Announcement Date: October 2022

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$2,400,000 to the Summers County Commission in Hinton, West Virginia, for the *Summers County Broadband Expansion Project*. The project will build 28 miles of fiber optic network infrastructure to connect 489 homes and 179 businesses to reliable and affordable broadband services, enabling the economic growth and diversification necessary to overcome the downturn of the coal industry. This project directly impacts the currently unserved businesses and homes in the project footprint. The grantee will competitively select an internet service provider partner to maintain and operate the network and ensure that those connected have access to this enabling set of services.

Project Title: *Rock Creek Development Park Broadband Project*

Grantee: Boone County Community & Economic Development Corporation

Award Amount: \$1,692,507

Announcement Date: October 2022

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$1,692,507 to the Boone County Community & Economic Development Corporation in Madison, West Virginia, for the *Rock Creek Development Park Broadband Project*. The project will build 8.2 miles of fiber optic infrastructure and one wireless tower, which will facilitate the deployment of the wireless broadband services necessary to attract investment. The grantee will competitively select an internet service provider partner to deploy, maintain, and operate the network and ensure that wireless services are available throughout the project footprint. The project will act as a catalyst for the redevelopment of a larger former surface coal mine with businesses that rely on fixed and mobile broadband, including a planned 3,000-acre solar field and other diversified industries.

Project Title: *Creating WV's Largest Maple Syrup, Mushroom, Field, and Floriculture Production Systems*

Grantee: Region 4 Planning & Development Council

Award Amount: \$1,500,000

Announcement Date: October 2022

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$1,500,000 to the Region 4 Planning & Development Council in Summersville, West Virginia, for the *Creating WV's Largest Maple Syrup, Mushroom, Field, and Floriculture Production Systems* project. The Region 4 Planning and Development Council, serving as fiscal sponsor, will work with Fruits of Labor, Seed Sower, God's Way Home, Workforce WV Region 1 Jobs, and Hope WV to create opioid recovery-to-work training opportunities in agriculture. The project will launch a host of agricultural production systems, including floriculture, high tunnel, tap maple syrup, greenhouse, field, commercial mushrooms, and

honey. Goods produced will be sold to retail and wholesale markets. Fruits of Labor will also develop nine programs to provide training to participants (businesses, non-profits, entrepreneurs) across the state on how to start, expand, and/or scale existing operations in maple syrup, mushrooms, and/or floriculture. Unemployment rates in the area have been driven by the loss of coal and timber jobs. Creating the opportunity to enter the agricultural job market via floral design, groundskeeping, and value-added maple syrup and mushroom products offers a pathway for those in recovery to transition into productive members of society. This project is expected to serve 10 organizations, 10 businesses, 15 workers/trainees, 20 participants, and 10 students; improve eight organizations, eight businesses, 15 workers/trainees, 16 participants, and eight students; repurpose 200 acres of land for agricultural production; create 10 jobs; implement nine programs; generate \$250,000 in non-export revenues; and leverage \$150,000 in private investment.

Project Title: *Wheeling Food Ventures: Small Farm and Food Business Acceleration in the Ohio Valley*

Grantee: Grow Ohio Valley, Inc.

Award Amount: \$1,500,000

Announcement Date: October 2022

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$1,500,000 to Grow Ohio Valley, Inc. (GOV) in Wheeling, West Virginia, for the *Wheeling Food Hub Operations Project*. The project will provide business development support services to the small farm and food business sector in the upper Ohio Valley in furtherance of the POWER priority of “fostering entrepreneurial activities.” The overarching mission of Grow Ohio Valley (GOV) is to strengthen and expand revenues for farmers and food entrepreneurs selling fresh and value-added products. To do this, GOV works at every level of its local food system, from farms to markets. The Wheeling Food Hub Operations Project will involve Grow Ohio Valley leveraging its renovated warehouse property to provide local food entrepreneurs with the tools, guidance, and business development support services to scale up their production of packaged shelf-stable products to be distributed in larger markets. The project is expected to serve 35 businesses, improve 17 businesses, create five new businesses and nine jobs, and leverage \$525,000 in private investment.

Project Title: *Turning Coal to Gold: Boosting the Outdoor Economy through the Snowshoe Highlands Ride Center*

Grantee: Region 4 Planning & Development Council

Award Amount: \$1,500,000

Announcement Date: October 2022

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$1,500,000 to the Region 4 Planning & Development Council in Summersville, West Virginia, for the *Turning Coal to Gold: Boosting the Outdoor Economy through the Snowshoe Highlands Ride Center* project. The project will construct 27 miles of singletrack trail optimized for mountain biking and other ride center improvements to boost the area's tourism industry, which will help offset the decline in coal-related employment and revenues. Through a partnership with the U.S. Forest Service, Snowshoe Mountain Resort, Pocahontas County Convention and Visitor's Bureau, Poca Trails, and the Mon Forest Towns Partnership, this project will help the ride center attain a gold-

level certification and become one of the top seven mountain bike destinations in the world. Additional funding is provided by the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation.

Project Title: *West Virginia Grant Resource Centers*

Grantee: Marshall University Research Corporation

Award Amount: \$1,500,000

Announcement Date: October 2022

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$1,500,000 to the Marshall University Research Corporation in Huntington, West Virginia, for the *West Virginia Grant Resource Centers* project. The project will help communities and others identify appropriate funding sources, write grants, and develop competitive and thorough grant applications. The Centers are forecast to be housed at both Marshall University and its partner, West Virginia University. The centers will serve the entire state, with a particular focus on the most distressed communities and counties. The centers will support communities through direct assistance, workshops, data production for applications, relationship building with funders, and grant writing certification. The partnership between the two universities will leverage their assets related to grant applications for the benefit of the most distressed parts of the state in a time of unprecedented availability of federal grant monies. Over the course of three years, the project will improve 50 communities and 156 participants and create 15 jobs.

Project Title: *Seeing West Virginia's Future Through a Different Lens*

Grantee: Mountain State Educational Services Cooperative

Award Amount: \$1,499,998

Announcement Date: October 2022

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$1,499,998 to the Mountain State Educational Services Cooperative in Parkersburg, West Virginia, for the *Seeing West Virginia's Future Through a Different Lens* project. This project is a new, innovative, and holistic workforce development program to develop and revitalize the workforce in West Virginia's Mid-Ohio Valley region by infusing virtual reality (VR) career exploration and job training simulations in targeted industries with the expertise of existing wraparound service providers. This initiative is designed to provide multi-generational service beginning with eighth-grade youth and will expand to encompass unemployed, underemployed, or non-participating adults in need of inspiration, direction, and job training across nine coal-impacted and economically distressed, at-risk, and transitional counties. Together, the project partners will aim to increase the region's labor force participation rate, currently only 50.87%, and develop a qualified workforce pipeline to bolster economic development efforts and decrease the number of citizens living in poverty in the region. By the end of the 3-year grant period, the project is expected to benefit 2,850 adult workers/trainees and 2,970 students with career exploration simulations and virtual reality job skills training that will help identify talents and career interests and raise awareness of opportunities in in-demand occupation and enable them to earn a professional credential or certification.

Project Title: *Data Cabling & Fiber Optic Installation Training Program*

Grantee: ConneC Train Corp

Award Amount: \$1,370,039

Announcement Date: October 2022

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$1,370,039 to ConneC Train Corp in Charleston, West Virginia, for the *Data Cabling & Fiber Optic Installation Training Program* project. This project will support ConneC Train Corp's (CTC) efforts to establish the first entry-level fiber optic and data cabling training program in West Virginia. The Data Cabling and Fiber Optic Installation Training program will provide a viable career pathway for residents of Cabell, Wayne, and surrounding counties who have lost employment due to reductions in the region's coal and mining industries, as well as COVID-19. In addition to coal-impacted job losses, West Virginia's telecommunication industry is facing severe workforce shortages and experiencing a dire need for local, skilled technicians to successfully carry out the massive broadband infrastructure projects planned in the state. Key partners include Unlimited Future Inc, which will provide classroom space and promotion of the program; Partnership of African American Churches, which will refer graduates from the Infinite Pathways Recovery Program and provide free transportation to the training site at Unlimited Future; and Coalfield Development Corporation, which will provide tuition stipends and on-the-job training wages for trainees. The 1.5-year project aims to enroll 80 workers/trainees and anticipates a 90% pass rate for the Electrician Technician Association exam, which will be administered at the end of the program and will qualify graduates for entry-level positions in broadband installation, maintenance, and repair.

Project Title: *Career Opportunities for Appalachian Legacy (C.O.A.L.)*

Grantee: Marshall University Research Corporation

Award Amount: \$1,118,814

Announcement Date: October 2022

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$1,118,814 to the Marshall University Research Corporation in Huntington, West Virginia, for the *Career Opportunities for Appalachian Legacy (C.O.A.L.)* project. This project is an innovative multigenerational approach to workforce and economic development established in response to West Virginia's economic challenges as a state severely impacted by the decline of the coal and manufacturing industries. This project will establish a regional, strategic, and transformational process that will build a competitive workforce; foster entrepreneurial activities; and invest in community leaders through a variety of activities and programs focused on workforce readiness and job placement for individuals and direct engagement with local businesses to match workers with employment opportunities. It will also support entrepreneurship and social enterprise with partnerships that provide an apprenticeship model to prepare individuals for the workforce through on-the-job training while earning a competitive wage. In developing and supporting business cultivation, the project will establish partnerships across the 15-county service area; facilitate business education and training in partnership with the West Virginia Chamber of Commerce; facilitate 12 virtual entrepreneurship and social enterprise forums; sponsor mentorship for businesses and individuals for the development of enterprise; and support local and regional business development incubators. By the

end of the 3-year grant period, the project is expected to improve 400 workers/trainees, 160 families, and 80 local businesses.

Project Title: *BEDA Food Truck Incubator Project*

Grantee: Bluefield Economic Development Authority

Award Amount: \$400,000

Announcement Date: October 2022

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$400,000 for the Bluefield WV Economic Development Authority (BEDA) in Bluefield, West Virginia, for *BEDA Food Truck Incubator Project*. The Bluefield WV Economic Development Authority has joined forces with the City of Bluefield, the WV Small Business Development Center, Lemon Grass Kitchen, Sprouting Farms, Fruits of Labor, and others to address the need for new and diverse industries in 10 counties in Regions I and IV of Southern West Virginia. BEDA seeks to enhance business development opportunities for the target communities by offering a Food Truck Incubator Program. This program will provide aspiring food truck entrepreneurs support, advisors, business planning, and online and in-person entrepreneurial training. Once coursework is complete, entrepreneurs will have access to a food truck for 10 events or 60 days to hone their skills and operations. The project is expected to serve 36 businesses and 36 participants; improve 26 businesses and 26 participants; and create 36 businesses and 72 jobs.

Project Title: *EAST Trail Master Plan*

Grantee: City of Elkins, West Virginia

Award Amount: \$50,000

Announcement Date: October 2022

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$50,000 to the City of Elkins in Elkins, West Virginia, for the *EAST Trail Master Plan* project. The project will develop a plan and blueprint for bike-optimized trails on five properties throughout Randolph County. It will also survey up to 10 miles of trail and conduct preliminary site planning for a community bike skills area to build the region's outdoor tourism economy. The master plan will help the collaborative known as Elkins Area Shared Trails (EAST) to create a network of multi-purpose trails to capitalize on the strong cycling and outdoor recreation culture of the nearby Mon National Forest. The project will also serve as a pilot project and shared learning opportunity for the 11 other communities that are part of the Mon Forest Towns Partnership, many of whom are seeking to replicate similar trail planning processes in other parts of the forest. The City of Elkins, in partnership with the West Virginia University Brad & Alys Smith Outdoor Economic Development Collaborative, Davis & Elkins College, Davis Health System, and others, will create a master trail plan for the Randolph County area and complete an outreach tour of the Mon Forest Partnership communities. The partnership plans to share its experience with the wider community by August 2023.

Project Title: *Fahe West Virginia Workforce Alliance*

Grantee: Fahe, Inc.

Award Amount: \$50,000

Announcement Date: October 2022

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$50,000 to the Federation of Appalachian Housing Enterprises, Inc. (Fahe) in Berea, Kentucky, for *Fahe West Virginia Workforce*

Alliance planning project. The project will convene stakeholders, collect data, and build on Fahe’s current membership community to develop its plan for building “the Alliance” and inform its goals for serving as a connector for skilled workers, employers, and communities. This project will work to fill knowledge gaps in job placement and workforce opportunities so that stakeholders in West Virginia can form a more supported pathway to employment, leading to a future implementation project. Partners include Almost Heaven Habitat for Humanity, Coalfield Development Corp., Homeownership Center, Southern Appalachian Labor School, and many others.

Project Title: *Workforce Development Roadmap: Re-Training for Electric Utility and Other Energy Sector Jobs, Pre-Apprenticeship to Job Placement*

Grantee: West Virginia University Research Corporation

Award Amount: \$50,000

Announcement Date: October 2022

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$50,000 to WVU Research Corporation in Morgantown, West Virginia, for the *Workforce Development Roadmap: Re-Training for Electric Utility and Other Energy Sector Jobs* project. This planning project will aim to examine and address future workforce needs from pre-apprenticeship to job placement in the electric utility and other energy sectors in West Virginia. Leveraging partnerships with West Virginia University, the Center for Adult Experiential Learning (CAEL), Innosys, Pierpont Community and Technical College, Workforce WV, West Virginia Community and Technical College System, WV Economic Development, and the United Mine Workers of America Career Centers Inc., the project will create an “Energy Transition Jobs Road Map” over the course of the year-long planning project.

Project Title: *Workforce & Education Development for Applied Behavior Analysis*

Grantee: Augusta Levy Learning Center (ALLC)

Award Amount: \$50,000

Announcement Date: October 2022

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$50,000 to Augusta Levy Learning Center (ALLC) in Wheeling, West Virginia, for the *Workforce and Education Development for Applied Behavior Analysis (WE Develop ABA)* project. The project will enable a collaborative—including nonprofit, higher education, and state level partners led by ALLC and the Mountaineer Autism Project (MAP)—to conduct an analysis of gaps in access to quality Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) services for adolescents diagnosed with autism in West Virginia. Due to a shortage of providers, fewer than four percent of children diagnosed with autism are receiving evidence-based services in West Virginia. The project will develop a comprehensive statewide strategic plan to grow a workforce with training in ABA services. Appropriate training includes high-school diplomas, vocational accreditation, and/or master’s degrees. The plan will include additional support for developing an ABA-trained workforce in high-need areas in West Virginia. The strategic plan will be developed over the course of a year-long grant period and submitted by ALLC at the conclusion of the planning project.

Project Title: *West Virginia Historic Preservation Training Center*

Grantee: Arthurdale Heritage, Inc.

Award Amount: \$35,580

Announcement Date: October 2022

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$35,580 to Arthurdale Heritage, Inc., in Arthurdale, West Virginia, for the *West Virginia Historic Preservation Training Center* project.

The project includes the hiring of a consultant to conduct a comprehensive survey of historic preservation training opportunities in the West Virginia region and develop an operating plan for the proposed training center. Investing in historic preservation trades and workforce development will directly benefit West Virginia's cultural and historic resources, which require specialized care. Preserving historic resources improves quality of life and reinvigorates community spirit, making way for additional progress. Project partner Preservation Alliance of West Virginia will collect research and materials on trade schools and historic preservation programs. The project will culminate in a final report that will outline key information necessary to create the West Virginia Historic Preservation Training Center.