



Appalachian
Regional
Commission

INSPIRE Award Summaries by State

September 2023

The [Investments Supporting Partnerships In Recovery Ecosystems \(INSPIRE\) Initiative](#) addresses the [substance use disorder \(SUD\) crisis](#) across Appalachia by creating or expanding a recovery ecosystem that will lead to workforce entry or re-entry.

In September 2023, ARC announced nearly \$14 million for 43 projects across 11 Appalachian states.

ALABAMA (1 award)

Project Title: *Recovery-to-Work: Expanding Recovery and Employment Services to Appalachia*

Grantee: The Lovelady Center

Award Amount: \$500,000

Announcement Date: September 2023

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$500,000 to The Lovelady Center (TLC), located in Birmingham, Alabama, for the *Recovery-to-Work: Expanding Recovery and Employment Services to Appalachia* project. TLC will use funding to expand its current services of counseling and mental health support, adult education, and wraparound services to women across Appalachian Alabama's 37 counties. TLC will address workforce participation challenges through three core program elements: counseling and mental health support, conducted by three full-time licensed professional counselors, to assist in participants' recovery from past trauma and SUD adult education, specifically GED certification and job training for medical-focused fields, including certified nursing assistant and medical transcription training; and a myriad of wraparound services, including but not limited to parenting, financial literacy, and life skills classes, as well as soft skill development. The project is expected to serve 875 workers/trainees and improve 675 of those workers/trainees.

KENTUCKY (5 awards)

Project Title: *Come Alive: Nurturing Recovery Through Training and Employment*

Grantee: Thrive Community Coalition

Award Amount: \$500,000

Announcement Date: September 2023

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$500,000 to the Thrive Community Coalition in Inez, Kentucky, for the *Come Alive: Nurturing Recovery Through Training and Employment* project. Through an existing partnership with the Martin County court system prosecutor's office, individuals near the conclusion of their residential treatment program or at enrollment of their intensive outpatient program will be referred to the Come Alive program for peer

mentoring, assessment, and job training. In addition, an employer liaison will develop employer partnerships with local businesses and increase awareness of the benefits to second-chance employment. Together, these efforts will improve both second-chance job opportunities and work environments in an economically distressed county. The project is expected to serve and improve 140 workers and 20 businesses.

Project Title: *The Essential Skill HUB*

Grantee: Southeast Kentucky Community and Technical College

Award Amount: \$499,150

Announcement Date: September 2023

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$499,150 to Southeast Kentucky Community and Technical College (Southeast) in Cumberland, Kentucky, for the creation of *The Essential Skill HUB* project. Southeast's Skill HUB will expand training and wraparound supports offered in their current recovery ecosystem to youth ages 15–24 in Eastern Kentucky. The HUB will also focus on adults, displaced workers, underemployed workers, post-recovery entrants and their families, and support for grandparents as primary caregivers. HUB participants will attain digital literacy skills and certifications to improve Bell, Harlan, Knox, and Letcher counties' workforce talent pipeline, workforce participation rates, reentry on ramps into the workforce for SUD clients, and digital equity within their service region. Southeast expects to improve 12 businesses and 50 workers and trainees.

Project Title: *Recovery Reintegration Program—Lincoln, Pulaski, Rockcastle*

Grantee: Volunteers of America Mid-States, Inc.

Award Amount: \$465,208

Announcement Date: September 2023

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$465,208 to Volunteers of America Mid-States, Inc., in Louisville, Kentucky, for the *Recovery Reintegration Program—Lincoln, Pulaski, Rockcastle* project. The Recovery Reintegration Program will provide career planning, job placements into in-demand positions with recovery-friendly employers, and career advancement assistance to underemployed individuals seeking higher-paying jobs. Job training programs will focus on healthcare, trades (electrical lineman, welding, plumbing, etc.), transportation (commercial driving license), technology, peer support certifications, and other positions to be identified based on the individual's skills and interests, and availability at local educational providers. Through partnerships with Goodwill Industries of Kentucky, Daniel Boone Community Action Agency, and Kentucky Chamber Foundation, the project will improve 60 participants through employment attainment; improve 65 businesses through increased SUD knowledge and/or by the hiring of individuals in recovery; and improve three communities through increased workforce knowledge, skills, and abilities of residents in recovery.

Project Title: *Bettering Outcomes for Second-Chance Employment: Creating Future Success for Employers and Employees*

Grantee: Morehead State University

Award Amount: \$50,000

Announcement Date: September 2023

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$50,000 to Morehead State University (MSU) in Morehead, Kentucky, for the *Bettering Outcomes for Second-Chance Employment: Creating Future*

Success for Employers and Employees project. In partnership with the Northeast Kentucky Area Health Education Center, Gateway Area Development District, and the Morehead-Rowan County Chamber of Commerce, MSU will conduct a research study and assessment of the training, employment support, and future hiring needs of businesses in five economically distressed and at-risk counties. The study will also collect data from second-chance populations, including individuals in recovery from SUD formerly incarcerated individuals, and individuals experiencing long-term involuntary unemployment. Once complete, the study findings will be used to begin the development of an online digital resource repository. The findings will also be used in future applications for funding to launch programs for identified training needs, further develop the resource library from the literature review and repository and conduct any employer/employee training programs needed to serve the five-county service area and, potentially, other distressed counties.

Project Title: *Elemental Recovery Program*

Grantee: Love Must Win, Inc.

Award Amount: \$50,000

Announcement Date: September 2023

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$50,000 to Love Must Win, in Newport, Kentucky, for the *Elemental Recovery Program* project. In partnership with Eastern Kentucky Recovery, New Vista, Kentucky River Foothills, the Kentucky Community & Technical College System, Eastern Kentucky University, Berea College, Kentucky Rural Health Association, and others, Love Must Win, Inc. will conduct a needs-based community assessment survey of the local recovery ecosystem to identify existing service gaps and develop an implementation plan for the Elemental Recovery Program. This innovative, peer-centered program will enhance the current recovery ecosystem in 14 (mostly distressed and at-risk) counties in Appalachian Kentucky through an on-site, one-year integrated recovery and workforce development experience at Snug Hollow Farm in Estill County.

MISSISSIPPI (2 awards)

Project Title: *ARC INSPIRE HOPE Mississippi*

Grantee: MagCor Industries

Award Amount: \$500,000

Announcement Date: September 2023

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$500,000 to MagCor Industries, in Jackson, Mississippi, for the *ARC INSPIRE HOPE (Helping ex-Offenders Prepare for Employment) Mississippi* project. In partnership with the Mississippi Department of Corrections and a diverse group representing public, private, and nonprofit sectors, MagCor Industries will work to build an effective and coordinated recovery ecosystem in all 24 counties of Appalachian Mississippi that will help soon-to-be released offenders and formerly incarcerated individuals in recovery from substance use disorder (SUD) overcome employment barriers and advance along a career pathway. Individuals will receive employment support and wraparound services to help sustain recovery and increase chances for gainful, post-release employment in local industries such as manufacturing, construction, trucking, and logistics. The project will enable all partners to better facilitate cross-agency collaboration and service coordination, and support employers in hiring, retaining, and encouraging opportunities for individuals reentering the workforce. The project is expected to serve 300 workers/trainees, 200 businesses; and improve 150 workers/trainees and 100 businesses.

Project Title: *Support Continuum of Safety, Security, and Stability for Women*

Grantee: Friend of God Ministries

Award Amount: \$489,319

Date: September 2023

Project summary: ARC grant of \$489,319 to Friend of God Ministries (FoG) in Amory, Mississippi, for the *Support Continuum of Safety, Security, and Stability for Women* project. FoG will use funds to provide women with better career pathways, higher salaries, and benefits; help to purchase an additional 15-person van for transporting women to required workforce training; provide supplement transitional housing for women re-entering the workforce; and increase FoG's aftercare program to include additional wraparound services for women in recovery and their children. The project will build upon FoG's existing partnerships with the Monroe County Sheriff Department and the Mississippi Department of Corrections and provide these expanded offerings to all 19 counties in their service area. The project is expected to serve 12 workers/trainees, 12 businesses and retain 12 jobs.

NEW YORK (1 award)

Project Title: *Ready for Work*

Grantee: Broome-Tioga Workforce NY

Award Amount: \$498,838

Date: September 2023

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$498,838 to Broome-Tioga Workforce NY in Johnson City, New York, for the *Ready for Work* project. Ready for Work will be a pilot partnership with Broome County's legal system to assist individuals recovering from SUD in overcoming justice-related barriers to education, training, and gainful employment. Participants will receive a barrier assessment to determine wraparound and support service needs, soft skill training, and an individualized action plan. Participants will then access industry-specific trainings and support services (such as career counseling, bonding, case management, etc.), be connected to job interviews, and receive post-hire support to ensure their recovery and employment needs are being met. By working in partnership with the City of Binghamton Drug Court, Addiction Center of Broome County, SUNY Binghamton University, and Southern Tier 8 Regional Board, among others, 30 workers/trainees will be improved through the attainment of suitable and sustainable employment, and 12 businesses improved via care coordination across an employee's recovery journey.

NORTH CAROLINA (6 awards)

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

Grantee: Asheville Buncombe Community Christian Ministry

Award Amount: \$500,000

Announcement Date: September 2023

Summary: ARC grant of \$500,000 to Asheville Buncombe Community Christian Ministry (ABCCM) in Asheville, North Carolina, for *The Recovery Living Center Post-SUD Treatment and Job Training Ministry* project. ABCCM will implement a resident-centered case management approach for a recovery-to-work program supporting men ages 18–60. Case managers will offer peer support to help participants maintain sobriety and establish

individual employment plans that include work-readiness training, continuing education with professional licensure or certification, job search and placement support, and career development coaching. ABCCM maintains partnerships with local community colleges, mental health and SUD outpatient treatment programs, and has relationships with over 120 local and regional employers. This extensive network will help the program improve an expected 112 workers/trainees and 40 businesses.

Project Title: *Vital Links Recovery Oriented System of Care (VL-ROSC) Program*

Grantee: Piedmont Triad Regional Council (PTRC)

Award Amount: \$497,940

Announcement Date: September 2023

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$497,940 to the Piedmont Triad Regional Council (PTRC), in Kernersville, North Carolina, for the *Vital Links Recovery Oriented System of Care Program*. In partnership with the Surry County Office of Substance Abuse Recovery and New Hope New Beginnings, PTRC aims to expand the local recovery ecosystem by supporting recovery friendly housing, improving workforce development pipelines, providing SUD recovery-focused job training programs, and other activities designed to coordinate and link recovery services and employment training. This initiative, developed with an ARC INSPIRE planning grant awarded in 2022, will result in the development of three new, in-demand programs and is expected to serve 72 workers/trainees, 30 businesses, and 456 community participants.

Project Title: *Foothills Recovery and Employment Ecosystem (FREE)*

Grantee: Sunrise Community for Recovery and Wellness

Award Amount: \$419,809

Announcement Date: September 2023

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$419,809 to Sunrise Community for Recovery and Wellness in Asheville, North Carolina, for the *Foothills Recovery and Employment Ecosystem (FREE)* project. FREE will coordinate training and education for those with SUD by increasing service coordination across counties and communities through a centralized hub; offer virtual learning to increase access to direct service resources; and identify and meet wraparound service needs (housing support or placement, food assistance, referral to legal services, etc.) for program participants to ensure individuals in recovery are job-ready and employers have the tools they need to be recovery friendly. Building on their ARC INSPIRE planning grant awarded in 2022, FREE will partner with several community champions, such as the Foothills Workforce Development Board, NC Department of Health and Human Services, NC Department of Commerce, and Oxford House to improve 60 participants, 30 businesses, and 12 communities.

Project Title: *WNC Recovery Friendly Workplaces and Wellbeing Initiative*

Grantee: Western Carolina Industries Educational Foundation (WCI-EF)

Award Amount: \$296,595

Announcement Date: September 2023

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$296,595 to the Western Carolina Industries Educational Foundation in Asheville, North Carolina, for the *WNC Recovery Friendly Workplaces and Wellbeing Initiative*. In partnership with local development districts, including Land of Sky Regional Council, and Wilkes Recovery Revolution, sober living communities, and other

wraparound service providers, WCI-EF will work to build the SUD recovery ecosystem in 27 western North Carolina counties by facilitating the development of Recovery Friendly Workplaces (RFW), identifying and supporting individuals in recovery for gainful employment, and coordinating the connection between employers and work-ready job candidates. The project is expected to serve 150 program participants and 60 local businesses and improve 112 program participants and 20 businesses.

Project Title: *Planning to Heal Appalachia's Workforce*

Grantee: Smoky Mountain Harm Reduction

Award Amount: \$50,000

Announcement Date: September 2023

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$50,000 to Smoky Mountain Harm Reduction in Franklin, North Carolina, for the *Planning to Heal Appalachia's Workforce* project. In collaboration with multiple stakeholders such as Southwestern Community College, Blue Ridge Community Health Services, Western Carolina University, Eleanor Health Foundation, Wilkes Recovery Revolution, the North Carolina Office of Rural Health, and Recovery Advocacy Project, along with individuals with lived recovery experience, Smoky Mountain Harm Reduction will conduct listening sessions, a workforce gap analysis, and a SWOT analysis to identify available recovery supports, assess current and future workforce demands, and expand workforce opportunities for people in recovery. The resulting analyses will be used to develop a strategic plan for a workforce-to-recovery ecosystem in Macon County.

Project Title: *Building Resilience*

Grantee: Eleanor Health Foundation

Award Amount: \$49,951

Announcement Date: September 2023

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$49,951 to Eleanor Health Foundation (EHF) in Asheville, North Carolina, for the *Building Resilience* project. The EHF will develop a three-year strategic plan to expand Western North Carolina's recovery-friendly workplace ecosystem with a specific focus on the manual labor, manufacturing, and restaurant industries. EHF will facilitate a series of planning meetings and conduct outreach to the relevant industries through one-to-one and small group meetings on topics such as job training/re-training, overdose prevention, and social determinants of health. The results of these activities, as well as collaborations with partners such as Sunrise Community for Recovery and Wellness, Vaya Health, Buncombe County Health and Human Services, Love and Respect for Recovery and Wellness, and the SHARE Project, will allow EHF to develop a multi-faceted plan addressing aspects of public awareness, training and employment, and partnership strategies needed to fully implement the ecosystem.

OHIO (6 awards)

Project Title: *Building the Recovery-to-Work Ecosystem in Ohio's NE Appalachia*

Grantee: Coleman Professional Services

Award Amount: \$500,000

Announcement Date: September 2023

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$500,000 to Coleman Professional Services in Kent, Ohio, for the *Building the Recovery-to-Work Ecosystem in Ohio's NE Appalachia* project. This project

aims to strengthen employment pathways and long-term recovery from SUD in six counties by providing individualized job placement services to workers, support to employers, and a collaborative referral system for providers and other partners. The project will partner with three regional Mental Health and Recovery Boards to refer eligible clients to the program, with workforce training provided by Flying High, Belmont Technical College, Eastern Gateway Community College, and Youngstown State University. The project expects 200 workers will receive employment services and wraparound supports. Additionally, 100 businesses will be offered services, including access to recovery-friendly workplace training and job placement and retention services.

Project Title: *Confronting the Behavioral Health Workforce Crisis in the Southern Ohio and Northern Kentucky Region*

Grantee: Shawnee State University

Award Amount: \$499,102

Announcement Date: September 2023

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$499,102 to Shawnee State University (SSU) in Portsmouth, Ohio, for the *Confronting the Behavioral Health Workforce Crisis in the Southern Ohio and Northern Kentucky Region* project. In partnership with Hope Source, Shawnee Family Health Center, King's Daughters Medical Center, Southern Ohio Medical Center, and Valley View Health Center Community Action Organization of Scioto County, SSU will implement a program to close gaps in regional recovery-to-work services across southern Ohio and Appalachian Kentucky's northern counties. SSU will develop a pipeline of trained behavioral and mental health professionals, including social workers and licensed counselors, to address the shortage of workers to help individuals recovering from SUD enter or reenter the workforce. SSU expects the project will improve five organizations, 50 students, 35 workers/trainees, and 330 patients.

Project Title: *Project REACH*

Grantee: Future Plans, Inc.

Award Amount: \$496,128

Announcement Date: September 2023

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$496,128 to Future Plans, Inc., in New Boston, Ohio, for *Project REACH*. Future Plans will employ three new specialized career mentors and a special populations liaison to provide case management services, career assessments, coaching, wellness check-ins, and counseling support to individuals recovering from SUD. Participants will take online, comprehensive assessments, followed by coaching sessions to explore in-demand jobs and training programs that match their interests, abilities, and work values. Coaching sessions will also be customized to meet individual needs for overcoming employment barriers, such as transportation and housing assistance or physical/mental health services. The project will target adults eighteen years of age and older who are currently in probation/recovery programs through the county court systems in Jackson, Pike, and Scioto counties. Project REACH is expected to serve 530 workers/trainees and 20 businesses.

Project Title: *Expanding Pathways to Recovery through Entrepreneurship and Specialized Support (EXPRESS)*

Grantee: Rural Action, Inc.

Award Amount: \$462,661

Announcement Date: September 2023

Summary: ARC grant of \$462,661 will go to Rural Action, Inc., in The Plains, Ohio, for the Expanding Pathways to Recovery through Entrepreneurship and Specialized Support (EXPRESS) project. EXPRESS will expand on the successes of Southeast Ohio Hope Center's pilot Recovery Community Organization and create the first recovery community organization in Meigs County. The model is designed to create and solidify linkages between post-treatment wraparound services, assisting individuals with maintaining recovery as they access employment supports through EXPRESS, including recovery-focused employment training, and improve 20 organizations by helping them employ program participants.

Project Title: *East Central Ohio Recovery to Work Project*

Grantee: Tuscarawas County Economic Development Corporation

Award Amount: \$50,000

Announcement Date: September 2023

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$50,000 to Tuscarawas County Economic Development Corporation in Dover, Ohio, for the *East Central Ohio Recovery to Work Project*. The project will develop a strategic plan outlining the creation of a recovery-to-work ecosystem designed to help low-income individuals recovering from SUD in Tuscarawas, Carroll, and Harrison counties to gain employment. The plan will use community surveys and other data collection methods to identify the resources, systems, and partnerships necessary to support the recovery population as they work toward obtaining a job, staying on the job, and advancing along a financially sustainable career path.

Project Title: *Rivertown Center*

Grantee: Valley Recovery Partners

Award Amount: \$50,000

Announcement Date: September 2023

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$50,000 to Valley Recovery Partners (VRP) in Austintown, Ohio, for the *Rivertown Center* project. VRP will develop a plan to connect recovery-to-work partners with individuals in recovery and create renderings to redevelop a former motor lodge into a SUD recovery center named "Rivertown Center." VRP will partner with Kent State University and New Castle School of Trades, Columbiana County Mental Health and Recovery Services Board, Eastern Ohio Correction Center, and the City of East Liverpool to develop the plan, which will be used in future funding applications to construct a center that will serve Columbiana, Carroll, Harrison, Jefferson, and Mahoning counties.

PENNSYLVANIA (2 awards)

Project Title: *The Southwest PA Regional Recovery Ecosystem*

Grantee: Partner4Work

Award Amount: \$500,000

Announcement Date: September 2023

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$500,000 to Partner4Work in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, for *The Southwest PA Regional Recovery Ecosystem* project. The project will engage with partner organizations to address the impacts of SUD by providing a comprehensive array of support services, job training, and business education to improve the lives of individuals in

recovery and their families across nine counties in Southwest Pennsylvania. Partner4Work will engage participants for at least three months in training, job placement, and retention activities, and then ensure participants remain connected to necessary behavioral, health, social, and financial supports. The project will also work directly with businesses throughout the region to address and improve recovery practices and to certify businesses as Recovery Friendly Workplaces. To coordinate services across this spectrum, Partner4Work will develop and lead an advisory committee for their service region. The project expects to serve and improve 120 workers through enrollment and completion of job training and placement, and 20 businesses through engagement in the Recovery Friendly Workplace program.

Project Title: *Westmoreland County Recovery Ecosystem Planning Grant*

Grantee: Westmoreland Community Action

Award Amount: \$48,928

Announcement Date: September 2023 Project

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$48,928 to Westmoreland Community Action (WCA) in Greensburg, Pennsylvania, for the *Westmoreland County Recovery Ecosystem Planning Grant*. WCA will develop a feasibility study and implementation plan for expanding the current recovery-to-work ecosystem in Westmoreland County to include an agriculture-focused recovery village. To conduct a well-informed study and develop a solid action plan, WCA will assemble a steering committee of experts, workforce development organizations, employers, agencies, and experienced community servants. Together, project partners will assess possible expansion locations and identify and access resources most needed by individuals in long-term recovery within their communities.

SOUTH CAROLINA (1 award)

Project Title: *Developing a Recovery-Supportive Employment in the Appalachian Region of South Carolina (DREAMS)*

Grantee: South Carolina Office of Rural Health

Award Amount: \$498,994

Announcement Date: September 2023

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$498,994 to the South Carolina Office of Rural Health (SCORH) in Lexington, South Carolina for *Developing a Recovery-Supportive Employment in the Appalachian Region of South Carolina (DREAMS)*. SCORH will serve as a connector for rural communities by linking individuals recovering from SUD) to job resources and employers; developing a stigma reduction curriculum and implementation guide; and engaging employers to better support SUD recovery in their workplaces. SCORH will utilize existing workforce development infrastructure in the state, including state-supported local Vocational Rehabilitation in Cherokee County and SC Works centers. SCORH will also partner with Apprenticeship Carolina to link individuals in recovery to registered apprenticeships that provide wages, training/certification, and career pathways for in-demand jobs in manufacturing and other trades. With this investment, the project will improve 120 participants, 275 workers/trainees, and 72 businesses.

TENNESSEE (4 awards)

Project Title: *FreshStart*

Grantee: RockHouse Ministries & Programs

Award Amount: \$500,000

Announcement Date: September 2023

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$500,000 to RockHouse Ministries & Programs in Spring City, Tennessee, for the *FreshStart* project. FreshStart helps individuals recovering from SUD homelessness, and incarceration return to society by providing recovery and support services, educational attainment, workforce training, and employment across 12 counties in Southeast Tennessee. The program will provide quality employees for local businesses, reduce the strain of overcrowding in the justice system, reduce the rate of recidivism among offenders, and increase overall quality of life for communities. FreshStart is currently operating at maximum capacity and will use funds to better meet the needs of participants and employers. The program expects to serve and improve 202 workers.

Project Title: *REAL Opportunities*

Grantee: Angelic Ministries

Award Amount: \$500,000

Announcement Date: September 2023

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$500,000 to Angelic Ministries in Knoxville, Tennessee, for the *REAL Opportunities* project. Angelic Ministries has constructed a facility in Knox County, Tennessee, providing supportive services, workforce skills training, and stable housing for those in SUD) recovery while also serving as a residential life/job training facility. The *REAL Opportunities* project, conducted in partnership with Align9, Hand Up for Women, and Family Scholar House, will address gaps in the community to provide more individualized wraparound services and workforce re-entry support for single parents. This project is expected to serve 150 participants and 30 businesses.

Project Title: *Building an SUD-Recovery Entrepreneurship Ecosystem*

Grantee: FoundersForge

Award Amount: \$46,377

Announcement Date: September 2023

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$46,377 to FoundersForge in Johnson City, Tennessee, for the *Building an SUD-Recovery Entrepreneurship Ecosystem* project. FoundersForge will partner with Recovery Soldiers Ministries, Overmountain Recovery, ETSU Addiction Recovery Center, ETSU College of Public Health, ETSU Entrepreneurship, ETSU College of Business and Technology (STRIVE), Sync Space/Launch TN, the Langston Center, and Acorn House to design a comprehensive plan for the Substance Use Disorder Recovery Ecosystem (SURE), a program offering entrepreneurship and small-business ownership assistance to individuals who successfully complete SUD treatment. The plan will include identification of the structure, suitability, and modification of already existing SUD-recovery programs and facilities where treatment will be offered; the composition of entrepreneurship and small business ownership; individual county analysis of population declines and economic distress over the past decade; and market research into similar business opportunities that may already exist.

Project Title: *Care2Rides*

Grantee: First Tennessee Development District

Award Amount: \$44,800

Announcement Date: September 2023

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$44,800 to First Tennessee Development District in Johnson City, Tennessee, for the *Care2Ride* project. First Tennessee Development District will create a planning team in partnership with Tennessee Center for Advanced Technology, ETSU Addiction Science Center, Uplift Appalachia, Champion Chevrolet, Area on Aging and Disability, and Recovery Resources. This team will conduct a needs assessment to determine how lack of transportation negatively affects workers undergoing recovery. The assessment will identify gaps and the types of transportation models needed to improve an individual's opportunities to enter or re-enter the workforce. The resulting assessment report will inform a transportation model plan that can address transportation challenges in the recovery to work ecosystem. that will help develop a network of employment support to help individuals enter and remain in the workforce.

VIRGINIA (2 awards)

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

Grantee: YWCA Northeast Tennessee and Southwest Virginia

Award Amount: \$500,000

Announcement Date: September 2023

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$500,000 to YWCA Northeast Tennessee and Southwest Virginia in Glade Spring, Virginia, for *The Power House: A Consolidation of Community Services for Success* project. YWCA Northeast Tennessee and Southwest Virginia will facilitate or provide access to family resiliency and recovery-to-work supports, including workshops and classes for mental and physical health and wellness; soft business/workforce/workplace skills and entrepreneurship; personal finance, housing, and career/education coaching; teen and adult parenting; child and youth enrichment; nutrition and cooking; and other lifestyle and educational programs that encourage individuals and families to enhance their skills and develop healthy behaviors for successful futures. Additionally, the Power House and partners will engage with, train, and promote local second-chance employers and provide forums for regional employers to learn more about hiring and supporting people in recovery. This project will serve 140 workers/trainees and 30 businesses.

Project Title: *Amelioration Expansion (AM-EX) Project*

Grantee: Mountain Empire Community College Foundation

Award Amount: \$439,669

Announcement Date: September 2023

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$439,669 to Mountain Empire Community College (MECC) in Big Stone Gap, Virginia, for the *Amelioration Expansion (AM-EX) Project*. MECC will use funds to grow the size, scope, and geographic footprint of their existing 2-phase Amelioration Project. AM-EX trainees in Dickenson, Lee, and Wise counties will receive hands-on training along with referrals and access to legal aid services, financial education, life skills training, Moral Reconation Therapy (MRT), OSHA certification, counseling services, social services, and employment assistance. AM-EX will continue partnering with LENOWISCO Planning District Commission, the Town of Appalachia, Southwest Virginia Legal Aid Society, Frontier Health and the 30th Judicial Adult Drug Court, and expand with the assistance from Dickenson County Public Schools, Lee County Schools, Lee County Career & Technical Center, Regional Adult Education, WIOA, the Department of Social Services, and additional partners. This project will serve 120 students and 40 workers/trainees.

WEST VIRGINIA (12 awards)

Project Title: *Connecting the DOTS: Developing Opportunities for Transportation Ecosystems*

Grantee: West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine

Award Amount: \$500,000

Announcement Date: September 2023

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$500,000 to West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine (WVSOM) in Lewisburg, West Virginia, for the *Connecting the DOTS: Developing Opportunities for Transportation Ecosystems* project. This project will address three crucial barriers in Greenbrier County's recovery ecosystem, including access to reliable transportation, available childcare and supportive mentoring, and targeted trainings that involve local employers and workers in recovery. WVSOM will partner with Mountain Transit Authority to develop, implement, and coordinate a transportation service and expanded bus routes for people in recovery to travel for workforce-related needs. They will also partner with Meadow River Valley Early Childhood Learning Center to implement a Workforce Mentoring Program for families in recovery, through which subject matter experts will work with local businesses to develop and offer targeted workforce training for hiring and supporting individuals in recovery. WVSOM expects to serve 40 workers and five businesses.

Project Title: *Expanding Pathways for Recovery and Socioeconomic Mobility*

Grantee: Seed Sower Inc.

Award Amount: \$500,000

Announcement Date: September 2023

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$500,000 to Seed Sower Inc. in Meadow Bridge, West Virginia, for the *Expanding Pathways for Recovery and Socioeconomic Mobility* project. Seed Sower, in partnership with Fruits of Labor, will leverage existing recovery ecosystem partners and resources to better engage and connect adults in active addiction and/or in recovery from substance use disorder (SUD). The project will provide assertive linkages between workers in recovery and needed services and programs through activities including pop-up community events, peer-coaching, transportation, vocational training, and residential services. The project is expected to serve 60 workers, 100 participants, and 10 communities.

Project Title: *Project WELLNESS*

Grantee: Morgan County Partnership Inc.

Award Amount: \$500,000

Announcement Date: September 2023 Project

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$500,000 to Morgan County Partnership Inc. in Berkley Springs, West Virginia, for *Project WELLNESS*. The project will serve at-risk youth ages 15–24 in Morgan County, West Virginia, and Washington County, Maryland, who have experienced issues related to SUD and are aging out of Career Technology Center school-based services. The project will connect students with scholarships and grants that can be applied to community and technical college programs. Additionally, Project WELLNESS will serve adults in SUD recovery, or seeking access to recovery, who are underemployed or unemployed. In partnership with Jobs and Hope WV and Blue Ridge Community and Technical College, Project WELLNESS expects to serve 125 workers/trainees and 10 businesses that provide training and technical assistance to program participants.

Project Title: *Pathways to Success: Breaking Down Workforce Barriers (P2S) Program*

Grantee: Monongalia County General Hospital dba Mon Health Medical Center

Award Amount: \$493,000

Announcement Date: September 2023

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$493,000 to Mon Health Medical Center (MHMC) in Morgantown, West Virginia, for the *Pathways to Success: Breaking Down Workforce Barriers (P2S) Program*. MHMC will partner with organizations across West Virginia and Pennsylvania, including Christian Help, Libera Inc., West Virginia Jobs in Hope, and Pantry Plus More, to offer a six-month program providing education and training, reliable transportation, healthcare benefits, daily meals, mentorship, monthly workshops, and career/educational growth for at least 100 workers in recovery in the healthcare industry. Additionally, five businesses will be served and improved by having access to a pipeline of entry-level healthcare workers.

Project Title: *Next Gen Employment and Eco System Development Project of West Virginia*

Grantee: New Vision Renewable Energy

Award Amount: \$487,500

Announcement Date: September 2023

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$487,500 to New Vision Renewable Energy (NVRE) in Philippi, West Virginia, for the *Next Gen Employment and Eco System Development Project of West Virginia*. The project will focus on young adult males recovering from SUD and aging out of the foster care system in some of West Virginia's most distressed counties. Building on an ARC INSPIRE planning grant awarded in 2022, NVRE will use a collaborative team-based model to provide hands-on vocational training in the construction and woodworking industries as well as employment, transportation, housing, and social and mental health supports for this at-risk population. Through partnerships with Barbour County Development Authority, Marshall University, Mullens and Mullens Law Firm, the Human Resources Development Foundation, Coalfield Development, and many others, NVRE expects to improve 18 workers/trainees and 15 businesses that hire program participants.

Project Title: *Recovering Together: A Community Outreach and Employment Project to Combat Substance Abuse in Appalachia*

Grantee: West Virginia Drug Intervention Institute

Award Amount: \$478,000

Announcement Date: September 2023

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$478,000 to the West Virginia Drug Intervention Institute (WVDII), in Charleston, West Virginia, for the *Recovering Together: A Community Outreach and Employment Project to Combat Substance Abuse in Appalachia*. In partnership with the Police Assisted Addiction and Recovery Initiative (PAARI), ONEbox LLC, and HarborPath, WVDII will establish a new community outreach and employment program to combat the economic effects of SUD and build a stronger recovery ecosystem across 15 high-risk counties in West Virginia and Kentucky. The program will provide employment opportunities for up to 10 individuals in recovery and/or the justice system; working with local police departments and the PAARI Recovery Corps to educate community members about the use of the overdose reversal drug naloxone, overdose prevention, and SUD treatment and recovery resources. Through training, education, certifications, and wraparound support services, the project will help to increase the number of addiction professionals in areas of

high need; support local businesses and industry by increasing the number of trained and job-ready individuals; and increase law enforcement's knowledge of non-arrest pathways to treatment and recovery to build a healthier and more productive workforce in Appalachia. The project is expected to serve 10 workers/trainees, 400 businesses, and 300 participants, including law enforcement and public safety employees.

Project Title: *Camden Family Health Recovery Pipeline Project*

Grantee: Camden-on-Gauley Medical Center, Inc.

Award Amount: \$50,000

Announcement Date: September 2023

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$50,000 to Camden-on-Gauley Medical Center, Inc. (Camden Family Health) in Camden-on-Gauley, West Virginia, for the *Camden Family Health Recovery Pipeline Project*. This planning project will bring together five partners in Nicholas County, West Virginia, to develop a strategic plan for implementing a recovery-to-work ecosystem. Camden Family Health will partner with Seneca Health Services and SOZO Recovery House to identify a system to connect patients receiving medication-assisted treatment and/or recovering from SUD to career guidance, skills training, and employment opportunities provided by Workforce West Virginia and the Family Learning Center.

Project Title: *Fayette and Raleigh Counties Pathways to Housing PSH Project*

Grantee: Housed Up Inc.

Award Amount: \$50,000

Announcement Date: September 2023

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$50,000 to Housed Up Inc. in Fayetteville, West Virginia, for the *Fayette and Raleigh Counties Pathways to Housing PSH Project*. Housed Up Inc. will acquire property and prepare for the launch of permanent housing and support services for individuals in recovery and those transitioning from homelessness. The project will produce a total of five reports and plans, including a feasibility study, a policies and procedures manual, conceptual designs, a probable construction cost statement, and a master plan. The plan will inform the implementation of Housed Up's future program, which will not only house clients, but also partner with other community organizations to provide job skills training and employment assistance.

Project Title: *PAAC Recovery Expansion*

Grantee: The Partnership of African American Churches (PAAC)

Award Amount: \$50,000

Announcement Date: September 2023 Project

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$50,000 to The Partnership of African American Churches (PAAC) in Charleston, West Virginia, for the *PAAC Recovery Expansion* project. PAAC will develop a comprehensive project plan to formalize a partnership between the Kanawha County American Jobs Center, Connectivity Training Center, Modivcare, and Workforce Development Board of Kanawha County to better coordinate resources for members of underserved communities in recovery. PAAC's plan will outline steps to establish partnerships, coordinate resources, and develop systems for a program that connects SUD and medication-assisted treatment patients in recovery with employment and skills training, educational resources, and transportation to allow them opportunities to provide for themselves and their families.

Project Title: *West Side Grown—Bridging a Gap in the Workforce Ecosystem*

Grantee: Keep Your Faith Corporation

Award Amount: \$50,000

Announcement Date: September 2023

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$50,000 to Keep Your Faith Corporation (KYFC) in Charleston, West Virginia, for the *West Side Grown—Bridging a Gap in the Workforce Ecosystem* project. KYFC will conduct a year-long feasibility study to identify and bridge gaps for underserved and marginalized recovery populations across West Virginia. Kanawha County, where KYFC operates, is the state's largest county with 183,279 residents. Demographics for the West Side of Charleston are unique, as 20% of the community is 65 and older, 17.2% of the population lives in poverty, and 11% of the population is African American (compared to the state's 3.7%). The resulting research and study will help KYFC identify the best ways to implement a more culturally responsive model for successful recovery-to-work in this area.

Project Title: *Elevating Voices for Empowered Communities*

Grantee: The EdVenture Group, Inc.

Award Amount: \$48,733

Announcement Date: September 2023

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$48,733 to The EdVenture Group, Inc., in Morgantown, West Virginia, for the *Elevating Voices for Empowered Communities* project. The EdVenture Group will conduct a needs assessment and implementation plan for recovery program development in Braxton, Calhoun, Clay, and Gilmer counties. The EdVenture Group, along with partners in each of the four identified counties, will first conduct a needs assessment across multiple levels of the recovery ecosystem. Needs sensing surveys will target individuals in recovery, families of those in recovery, employers, and community members. The EdVenture Group will then take steps to identify specific geographic regions lacking in recovery services, or "recovery deserts." Finally, collected data will be synthesized to inform project partners and best practices for program development and implementation.

Project Title: *Hampshire County INSPIRE Planning Project*

Grantee: Hampshire County Pathways

Award Amount: \$37,871

Announcement Date: September 2023

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$37,871 to Hampshire County Pathways (HCP) in Romney, West Virginia, for the *Hampshire County INSPIRE Planning Project*. HCP will expand efforts started by the WV Bureau of Behavioral Health Creating Recovery Employment Grant by exploring partnerships with the WV Jobs and Hope program and a statewide collaboration of agencies to provide West Virginians in recovery with career training and opportunities for meaningful employment. HCP will develop an implementation plan for launching two social enterprise endeavors, and research a focus industry for a third enterprise, in order to provide unique employment opportunities to individuals with SUD. Funding will be used for startup costs for the first two enterprises, a construction/landscaping company and a coffee roastery; these two industries were selected based on prior backgrounds and feedback from participants.

