



Appalachian  
Regional  
Commission

# POWER Award Summaries by State

## October 2024

**Note:** Hurricane Helene has impacted multiple Appalachian communities and grantees, including some POWER award recipients. ARC will continue working with affected state and grantee partners to address their needs as they recover and rebuild.

### ALABAMA (1 award)

**Project Title:** *Training-to-Career Pipelines for Transitioning Service Members & Dislocated Veterans in Coal-Impacted Alabama*

**Grantee:** NextOp, Inc.

**Award Amount:** \$454,609

**Announcement Date:** October 2024

**Project Summary:** ARC grant of \$454,609 to NextOp, Inc. in Houston, Texas, for the *Training-to-Career Pipelines for Transitioning Service Members & Dislocated Veterans in Coal-Impacted Alabama* project. This project will provide outreach, recruitment, and wraparound support services, career assessment, training, job placement, and programming to help combat economic barriers experienced by the military/veteran (MIL/VET) population. It will also help meet the talent needs of local and regional employers across 15 counties and provide them with support services for integrating the MIL/VET population into civilian roles. Through partnerships with various employers, such as Aerojet Rocketdyne, AI Signal Research, Huntsville Hospital, Integration Innovation, Mazda, and others, NextOp will connect candidates with training programs, leverage local community colleges and vocational schools, and provide them with wraparound support and job placement services. As a result of this project, nine businesses will be improved through a new dedicated workforce pipeline; 15 communities will be improved through improved career pathways for veterans in the field of aerospace/defense, automotive manufacturing, cybersecurity, and healthcare; and 300 MIL/VET workers/trainees will be improved through placement in high-quality employment opportunities with regional employers.

## KENTUCKY (10 awards)

**Project Title:** *Appalachian Center for Preventive Medicine (ACPM)*

**Grantee:** University of Pikeville

**Award Amount:** \$2,000,000

**Announcement Date:** October 2024

**Project Summary:** ARC grant of \$2,000,000 to the University of Pikeville in Pikeville, Kentucky, for the *Appalachian Center for Preventive Medicine (ACPM)* project. This project will serve as a platform for clinical education and guidance, providing essential experiences to ensure the success of undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral students as they progress through health, medicine, and wellness programs. Through interdisciplinary rotations at the ACPM, students will learn to improve the health outcomes of the region with preventative care. As a result of this project, 400 students will be improved through preventative healthcare education; four organizations will be improved through the ability to conduct preventative research; 15,000 patients will be improved through increased access to preventative healthcare; and 18 jobs will be created for local medical professionals.

**Project Title:** *Career Pathfinder Network*

**Grantee:** Eastern Kentucky Concentrated Employment Program, Inc. (EKCEP)

**Award Amount:** \$2,000,000

**Announcement Date:** October 2024

**Project Summary:** ARC grant of \$2,000,000 to Eastern Kentucky Concentrated Employment Program, Inc. (EKCEP), in Hazard, Kentucky, for the *Career Pathfinder Network* project. The project will place dedicated career counselors in five school districts within EKCEP's 23-county service area, where they will provide personalized career advising services and help connect students to career and employment opportunities, including work experience, internships, and pre-apprenticeship activities. By providing career exploration through work-based learning opportunities, Eastern Kentucky's young adults will have a better chance at finding viable career paths in the area. EKCEP anticipates 400 students will be served over the course of two years of this project.

**Project Title:** *Southeastern Kentucky Workforce Reintegration Program (WRP)*

**Grantee:** Volunteers of America Mid-States

**Award Amount:** \$2,000,000

**Announcement Date:** October 2024

**Project Summary:** ARC grant of \$2,000,000 to the Volunteers of America Mid-States in Louisville, Kentucky, for the *Southeastern Kentucky Workforce Reintegration Program (WRP)*. This project will provide skills and job training for in-demand industries, career planning, job and apprenticeship placement, and wraparound support services for unemployed or underemployed individuals in 15 counties. WRP will also provide access to a variety of specialized training programs including transportation, healthcare, technology, trades, and other industries based on the client's interests and hiring needs identified by local employers. As a result of the

project, it is anticipated that 500 workers/trainees and 150 businesses will be improved, while four jobs will be retained and three created.

**Project Title:** *Nicholas County JEDA Business Park Waterline*

**Grantee:** Nicholas County, Kentucky

**Award Amount:** \$1,907,500

**Announcement Date:** October 2024

**Project Summary:** ARC grant of \$1,907,500 to Nicholas County in Carlisle, Kentucky, for the *Nicholas County JEDA Business Park Waterline* project. This project will install 7,500 linear feet of 12-inch waterline from the Nicholas-Bourbon County line to a new 100-acre business park in Millersburg, Kentucky. The new business park with rail and water service will aim to help attract a prospective biofuels company to the site and create new opportunities for local residents. This project will build 7,500 linear feet of 12-inch waterline serving 100 acres over the 12-month performance period.

**Project Title:** *Pathways to Power: Lineman and CDL Training Program in Southeast Kentucky*

**Grantee:** Southeast Kentucky Community and Technical College

**Award Amount:** \$1,633,164

**Announcement Date:** October 2024

**Project Summary:** ARC grant of \$1,633,164 to Southeast Kentucky Community and Technical College in Cumberland, Kentucky, for the *Pathways to Power: Lineman and CDL Training Program in Southeast Kentucky* project. The project will establish two new training programs to help students develop skills and certifications for sustainable careers across four counties in Southeast Kentucky: a commercial driver's license (CDL) program to train the next generation of professional truck drivers; and a lineman program to prepare individuals to install, operate, maintain, and repair electric power lines and cables. The programs, which are expected to serve 372 students, will also help strengthen transportation networks and support reliable electricity in Southeast Kentucky.

**Project Title:** *Strengthening the Education-to-Career Pipeline for Eastern Kentucky Youth*

**Grantee:** Foundation of Appalachian Kentucky

**Award Amount:** \$1,499,740

**Announcement Date:** October 2024

**Project Summary:** ARC grant of \$1,499,740 to Foundation of Appalachian Kentucky in Hazard, Kentucky, for the *Strengthening the Education-to-Career Pipeline for Eastern Kentucky Youth* project. The project will identify localized career pathways for gainful careers, including healthcare, technology/cybersecurity, and entrepreneurship, and connect students to them with comprehensive and coordinated work-based learning programs and career training curriculum. Impacting 11 counties, the project will provide opportunities for youth to engage in their futures and communities through professional development. Foundation for Appalachian Kentucky anticipates 450 workers/trainees and 75 businesses will be served by this project.

**Project Title:** *Fueling Innovation, Revitalization, and Entrepreneurship (FIRE) Program*

**Grantee:** Big Sandy Area Development District

**Award Amount:** \$400,000

**Announcement Date:** October 2024

**Project Summary:** ARC grant of \$400,000 to Big Sandy Area Development District in Prestonsburg, Kentucky, for the *Fueling Innovation, Revitalization, and Entrepreneurship (FIRE) Program*. This project aims to strengthen and fill gaps in the entrepreneurial ecosystem in Floyd, Johnson, Magoffin, Martin, and Pike counties with hands-on mentorship, technical assistance, and other services for current and aspiring entrepreneurs and small business owners. The project will serve five communities and 200 businesses, improving five communities and 150 businesses during the three-year grant period.

**Project Title:** *Community Assessment Tool for a Just Transition in Eastern Kentucky*

**Grantee:** PLACE Initiative

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

**Announcement Date:** October 2024

**Project Summary:** ARC grant of \$50,000 to PLACE Initiative in Portland, Oregon, for the *Community Assessment Tool for a Just Transition in Eastern Kentucky* project. The grantee will test and refine a Community Assessment Tool, which aims to help four counties in Eastern Kentucky transition away from a coal-powered economy to a more sustainable, diverse economy. The project will produce the report over the course of one year, and four counties in Eastern Kentucky will be served and improved.

**Project Title:** *Connections to Care—Assessing Long-Term Care Broadband Infrastructure in Eastern Kentucky's Coal Counties*

**Grantee:** LeadingAge Kentucky

**Award Amount:** \$49,500

**Announcement Date:** October 2024

**Project Summary:** ARC grant of \$49,500 to LeadingAge Kentucky in Louisville, Kentucky, for the *Connections to Care—Assessing Long-Term Care Broadband Infrastructure in Eastern Kentucky's Coal Counties* project. This project will conduct a needs assessment and create a feasibility report on the need for adequate broadband infrastructure in long-term care (LTC) facilities in nine counties in Eastern Kentucky. The grantee expects to learn more about the broadband challenges facing both for-profit and non-profit LTC facilities and create solutions to improve broadband access among LTC facilities. This project will collect data over 12 months and prepare one feasibility report on expanding broadband infrastructure in Appalachian Kentucky's LTC facilities.

**Project Title:** *Career Readiness/Internship Program Expansion*

**Grantee:** Saint Vincent's Mission, Inc. (SVM)

**Award Amount:** \$40,000

**Announcement Date:** October 2024

**Project Summary:** ARC grant of \$40,000 to Saint Vincent's Mission, Inc. (SVM) in David, Kentucky, for the *Career Readiness/Internship Program Expansion* project.

The project will enable the grantee to conduct an evaluation and prepare an evidence-based strategic plan to expand and improve the existing Career Readiness/Internship program, which provides on-the-job training and workforce support services to unemployed and underemployed adults, college students, and disadvantaged high school students in economically distressed Floyd, Johnson, Knott, Magoffin, and Pike counties. This planning grant will allow SVM to hire a workforce navigator to evaluate the program and develop a needs analysis survey to identify more effective pathways for employing disadvantaged persons. The project will also strengthen the partnership with regional industry leaders to better understand local business and workforce needs. It is anticipated that by the end of the one-year grant period, one strategic plan will be developed that will inform a future implementation project to expand the Career Readiness/Internship program.

## MISSISSIPPI (1 award)

**Project Title:** *Health Sciences Expansion—Scooba Campus*

**Grantee:** East Mississippi Community College

**Award Amount:** \$877,202

**Announcement Date:** October 2024

**Project Summary:** ARC grant of \$877,202 to East Mississippi Community College (EMCC) in Scooba, Mississippi, for the *Health Sciences Expansion—Scooba Campus* project. The multi-year plan includes construction of a new career technical facility, modernizing existing the health science facility, and expanding program offerings. EMCC will build on its well-established health sciences programs with the addition of a new associate nursing degree program, equipment, and two nursing faculty members, helping to expand the local pipeline for nursing opportunities and provide a nursing program option more easily accessible for students in Lowndes and Kemper counties. It is anticipated that 150 students will be served as a result of this project.

## NEW YORK (3 awards)

**Project Title:** *Ripley Interstate Shovel-Ready Site (RISRS)*

**Grantee:** Chautauqua County Industrial Development Agency

**Award Amount:** \$1,999,999

**Announcement Date:** October 2024

**Project Summary:** ARC grant of \$1,999,999 to the Chautauqua County Industrial Development Agency (CCIDA) in Jamestown, New York, for the *Ripley Interstate Shovel-Ready Site (RISRS)*. This project will address local infrastructure needs with a new access road to 147 acres in Ripley, which will be transformed into a shovel-ready site for water, sewer, gas and communications utilities. The project will support construction of 3,075 linear feet (LF) of access road, including a new left-turn lane that leads into the access road. 3,090 LF of 12-inch water main, 3,025 LF of 12-inch gravity sanitary sewer, 3,115 LF of natural gas main, and 3,040 LF of telephone and

communication lines will be built along the access road and throughout the site. When complete, the utilities site expects to draw \$60 million in private investment and create 320 jobs.

**Project Title:** *"Jobs That Pay"—Building a Highly Skilled Workforce to Support the Heavy Equipment and Trucking Industries*

**Grantee:** The Research Foundation for the State University of New York, Alfred

**Award Amount:** \$1,998,370

**Announcement Date:** October 2024

**Project Summary:** ARC grant of \$1,998,370 to The Research Foundation for the State University of New York, Alfred, in Alfred, New York, for the *"Jobs That Pay"—Building a Highly Skilled Workforce to Support the Heavy Equipment and Trucking Industries* project. This program will create a pipeline of qualified workers in the heavy equipment industry in Allegany, Cattaraugus, and Chautauqua counties by raising awareness of heavy equipment jobs among middle and high school students and experienced workers; expanding capacity for hands-on learning; and expanding enrollment in micro-credentialing programs for workers. Over the course of three years, it is anticipated that 100 students will graduate with an Associate of Occupational Studies degree in heavy equipment operation or trucking and diesel; 2250 middle and high school students will learn about careers in heavy equipment operation or trucking and diesel; and 276 workers will earn a micro-credential in heavy equipment operation or trucking and diesel.

**Project Title:** *Electric Technology Training Center Planning Study in Delaware County*

**Grantee:** Delaware County Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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

**Announcement Date:** October 2024

**Project Summary:** ARC grant of \$50,000 to Delaware County Electric Cooperative, Inc. in Delhi, New York, for the *Electric Technology Training Center Planning Study in Delaware County* project. This project will develop a plan for a new electric technology training center for displaced workers, addressing the local need for a skilled new workforce in the electric technology industry. The project will produce a plan for the training center over the course of one year.

## **NORTH CAROLINA (2 awards)**

**Project Title:** *EBCI Tannery Planning*

**Grantee:** Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI)

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

**Announcement Date:** October 2024

**Project Summary:** ARC grant of \$50,000 to the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI) in Cherokee, North Carolina, for the *EBCI Tannery Planning* project. The project includes conducting a feasibility study for a tribal tannery operation. The study will include an environmental analysis of the impact of a tannery facility, an

economic analysis of the meat processing byproduct market, a needs analysis for entrepreneurs and skilled employees producing tanned goods, and a cultural report on the use of tanned materials in Cherokee history as a means of cultural preservation and regional tourism development. The project will produce a plan to help EBCI leverage a unique opportunity to restore a source of local materials for a long-standing, environmentally sustainable, business-focused cultural practice.

**Project Title:** *Supply Chain Study to Attract Advanced Manufacturing*

**Grantee:** Mayland Community College

**Award Amount:** \$35,000

**Announcement Date:** October 2024

**Project Summary:** ARC grant of \$35,000 to Mayland Community College in Spruce Pine, North Carolina, for the *Supply Chain Study to Attract Advanced Manufacturing* project. The project includes a study that will identify ways to grow the supply chain and support the extraction of high-purity quartz in Spruce Pine, which is the only known source of high-purity quartz in the world. High-purity quartz is used in a variety of products including semi-conductor chips, solar panels, fiber optic wiring, and nearly all technology requiring a computer chip. The study will identify key industries that can successfully relocate to Western North Carolina and will assess local workforce capacity and needs to support those industries in 17 counties. The project will produce an economic development strategic action plan centered on growing the high-purity quartz supply chain over the course of the 12-month performance period.

## OHIO (8 awards)

**Project Title:** *Jefferson County Broadband Connectivity*

**Grantee:** Jefferson County Board of Commissioners

**Award Amount:** \$2,500,000

**Announcement Date:** October 2024

**Project Summary:** ARC grant of \$2,500,000 to Jefferson County Board of Commissioners in Steubenville, Ohio, for the *Jefferson County Broadband Connectivity* project. This project aims to improve broadband speeds in the townships of Springfield, Ross, Knox, Island Creek, Salem, and Wayne in Jefferson County by establishing public-private partnerships with internet service providers (ISPs) who can provide broadband as a service (BaaS) to project investment areas that do not meet Federal Communications Commission (FCC) benchmarks for broadband internet download and upload speeds. Through these partnerships, these areas will be served with 100/100Mbps symmetrical upload and download speeds. This project will serve approximately 34 businesses, 769 households, and six communities and will improve approximately 26 businesses and 575 households across six communities over the course of the seven-year performance period.

**Project Title:** *Shawnee State University Advanced Manufacturing Center: An Investment in Our Future*

**Grantee:** Shawnee State University

**Award Amount:** \$1,999,092

**Announcement Date:** October 2024

**Project Summary:** ARC grant of \$1,999,092 to Shawnee State University in Scioto, Ohio, for the *Shawnee State University Advanced Manufacturing Center: An Investment in Our Future* project. The project aims to strengthen the advanced manufacturing workforce in 10 counties in Southern Ohio and Northeast Kentucky with the renovation of a training center housed at Shawnee State University. It will also fund costs related to Manufacturing on the Move, a K-12 career exploration program designed with local employers to ensure alignment with industry demands so that participants can develop the skills required for employment. This project will serve 3,400 students, improve 3,350 students, serve 12 businesses, improve eight businesses, and renovate 8,700 square feet over the span of three years.

**Project Title:** *Rising Tides Initiative*

**Grantee:** Youngstown Business Incubator (YBI)

**Award Amount:** \$1,795,000

**Announcement Date:** October 2024

**Project Summary:** ARC award of \$1,795,000 to the Youngstown Business Incubator (YBI) in Youngstown, Ohio, for the *Rising Tides Initiative*. This project will help position incumbent manufacturers located in Ashtabula, Belmont, Columbiana, Jefferson, Mahoning, Monroe, and Trumbull counties for entry into the microchip, advanced energy, defense, and aerospace industries. Rising Tides will provide existing manufacturers with comprehensive technology education, impactful pilot/demonstration programs, federal research support and other targeted initiatives to enhance manufacturer competitiveness. Rising Tides will also support emerging companies currently incubating in two regional technology incubators: Youngstown Business Incubator, focused on business software and advanced manufacturing technologies, and BRITE Innovation Center, supporting electric vehicle mobility, battery storage, and grid infrastructure. This project is expected to improve 90 businesses and 180 workers/trainees, create two new businesses and 20 new jobs, and leverage \$9,050,000 in private investment.

**Project Title:** *Appalachian Educator EmPOWERment Consortium*

**Grantee:** Ohio Valley Educational Service Center

**Award Amount:** \$1,750,000

**Announcement Date:** October 2024

**Project Summary:** ARC grant of \$1,750,000 to Ohio Valley Educational Service Center in Cambridge, Ohio, for the *Appalachian Educator EmPOWERment Consortium* project. The project will address the teacher shortage facing Southeastern Ohio with the development of an innovative model of teacher education, providing an affordable and accessible pathway to licensure for aspiring teachers. The project will first provide the "right 30" College Credit Plus (CCP) credits in teaching to high school students and facilitate their apprenticeship within member school districts in



12 counties. The high school students will then enroll in community college as an affordable bridge to a four-year institution, where they will complete their bachelor's degree in education and two-year paid apprenticeships in member school districts. The project expects to train and retain 27 qualified educators, who will go on to teach 675 students in Appalachian Ohio.

**Project Title:** *Building a Skilled Workforce Partnership to Accelerate Methane Reduction in Ohio*

**Grantee:** Ohio Natural Energy Institute

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

**Announcement Date:** October 2024

**Project Summary:** ARC grant of \$50,000 to Ohio Natural Energy Institute in Pataskala, Ohio, for the *Building a Skilled Workforce Partnership to Accelerate Methane Reduction in Ohio* project. The project will develop a comprehensive training curriculum and strategic implementation plan to address a critical gap in the management of over 19,000 known orphan wells in all 32 Appalachian Ohio counties. The Ohio Natural Energy Institute aims to develop a workforce for orphan well-plugging and methane reduction by training former coal workers and other community members for work in environmental remediation. The initiative aims to alleviate the environmental degradation left by abandoned coal operations, turning potential hazards into opportunities for economic development through environmental restoration. The project will develop an industry-aligned orphan well-plugging curriculum and a strategic plan for transitioning the project into the implementation phase.

**Project Title:** *Appalachia Forge: Catalyzing Manufacturing Excellence in SE Ohio and WV*

**Grantee:** Collins Career Technical Center

**Award Amount:** \$46,900

**Announcement Date:** October 2024

**Project Summary:** ARC grant of \$46,900 to Collins Career Technical Center in Chesapeake, Ohio, for the *Appalachia Forge: Catalyzing Manufacturing Excellence in SE Ohio and WV* project. This project will create a strategic plan to develop the K-12 workforce pipeline to meet growing needs in advanced manufacturing and technology industries in seven counties in Southeast Ohio and West Virginia. Collins Career Center is planning to bolster their manufacturing center with upgraded equipment, larger capacity, and educational programs in areas such as mechatronics, robotic welding, and electrical and technology controls. The strategic plan will provide a clear roadmap for implementing an advanced manufacturing and technology program that maximizes impact on students' readiness and industry support.

**Project Title:** *Connecting Black Heritage, From Enslavement to Settlement in Southern Ohio*

**Grantee:** Tablertown People of Color Museum

**Award Amount:** \$40,427

**Announcement Date:** October 2024

**Project Summary:** ARC grant of \$40,427 to the Tablertown People of Color Museum in Stewart, Ohio, for the *Connecting Black Heritage, From Enslavement to Settlement in Southern Ohio* project. The project will develop a plan for a Heritage Trail that connects significant Underground Railroad and Black heritage sites across six Southeastern Ohio counties, with the goal of registering the sites with the National Park Service's "Network to Freedom" marker program. The plan also includes development of a virtual tour, displays and exhibits, and digital and print materials that can be used for teaching, training, and hosting events. The project expects to produce one plan, providing a roadmap for implementation that will connect tourists to places, artifacts, and activities in southeast Ohio that authentically represent the story of the Underground Railroad and related Black heritage.

**Project Title:** *Adena Works: Empowering Tomorrow's Makers*

**Grantee:** Adena Local School District

**Award Amount:** \$40,000

**Announcement Date:** October 2024

**Project Summary:** ARC grant of \$40,000 to Adena Local School District in Frankfort, Ohio, for the *Adena Works: Empowering Tomorrow's Makers* project. The project aims to create a transformative coalition of stakeholders, manufacturers, and other community entities that will identify the STEM workforce development and training needs of at-risk populations, including underserved, unemployed, substance-use-disorder-impacted, veterans, non-traditional, youth, and homeless populations. As a result of this project, Adena and their partners will develop three plans: a needs assessment to identify local skill gaps, business needs, and workforce and training needs; a sustainability plan to identify strategies for cost efficiencies, leveraging resources, and training demands for a skilled labor workforce; and a strategic plan that will inform a future implementation plan, as well as the development of a manufacturing lab to provide STEM education for these at-risk populations.

## **PENNSYLVANIA (20 awards)**

**Project Title:** *ClearWater Community Conservation Center Ecotourism, Agritourism, and Agribusiness Hub*

**Grantee:** ClearWater Conservancy

**Award Amount:** \$2,000,000

**Announcement Date:** October 2024

**Project Summary:** ARC grant of \$2,000,000 to the ClearWater Conservancy in State College, Pennsylvania, for the *ClearWater Community Conservation Center Ecotourism, Agritourism, and Agribusiness Hub* project. The project includes

construction of a new, 9,350-square-foot community center in Centre County, which will serve as a community space and hub for visitor information and local conservation efforts. The center will include a visitor information kiosk, training opportunities for businesses in agritourism and conservation best practices, guided tours for visitors to local natural assets, mine land reclamation and acid mine drainage remediation efforts, and development of local trails through the Conservancy's Rothrock Trail Alliance. The project expects to create five new jobs and draw thousands of new visitors to the Center by 2029.

**Project Title:** *Ironworks Square: Smart Redevelopment in Coal-Impacted Regions*

**Grantee:** Enterprise Development Center of Erie County, Inc.

**Award Amount:** \$2,000,000

**Announcement Date:** October 2024

**Project Summary:** ARC grant of \$2,000,000 to the Enterprise Development Center of Erie County, Inc. in Erie, Pennsylvania, for the *Ironworks Square: Smart Redevelopment in Coal-Impacted Regions* project. This project will redevelop a 60,000-square-foot warehouse, vacated by a steel manufacturer in 2001, into mixed-use and light industrial office space. This development will serve as a catalyst for growth by attracting new businesses, creating new jobs, and helping cultivate a resilient economic base. The grantee expects the new site to serve five businesses, create three businesses, improve five businesses, and create 40 jobs over the span of three years.

**Project Title:** *Pennsylvania Career Pathways to Advanced Manufacturing: "Forging Your Future"*

**Grantee:** Catalyst Connection

**Award Amount:** \$2,000,000

**Announcement Date:** October 2024

**Project Summary:** ARC grant of \$2,000,000 to Catalyst Connection in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, for the *Pennsylvania Career Pathways to Advanced Manufacturing: "Forging Your Future"* project. This three-step project will build a pipeline of qualified workers for advanced manufacturing opportunities in 12 counties through: 1) a new "Explore the New Manufacturing" pre-internship program for students from low-income or coal-impacted areas; 2) a new "Making Your Future" internship program, in which students will participate in full-time, paid, on-the-job training for registered apprenticeships; and 3) a new "Manufacturing Learning Labs," where participants will receive hands-on training at a state-of-the-art manufacturing training facility. It is anticipated that 60 businesses and 400 workers will be improved by this project over the course of three years.

**Project Title:** *Revitalizing Community Jobs—Building, Training and Supporting the Frontline Workforce for Nursing Homes in Pennsylvania*

**Grantee:** Jewish Healthcare Foundation

**Award Amount:** \$1,990,867

**Announcement Date:** October 2024

**Project Summary:** ARC grant of \$1,990,867 to the Jewish Healthcare Foundation (JHF) in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, for the *Revitalizing Community Jobs—Building, Training and Supporting the Frontline Workforce for Nursing Homes in*

*Pennsylvania* project. The project will support a community-based training program seeking to expand the workforce for nursing homes and long-term care facilities in eleven coal-impacted counties of Appalachian Pennsylvania. The grantee will collaborate with regional industry partners, including health and long-term care providers, unions, workforce boards, and training providers, to improve the recruitment, training, and credentialing process for the nursing home workforce. A qualified pipeline of a nursing and long-term care workforce will support job retention and career advancement opportunities for existing workers, improve access to long-term care services, and ensure skilled nursing facilities continue to provide essential healthcare for older adults. It is anticipated that by the end of the three-year grant period, 13 for-profit nursing home businesses and six non-profit nursing home organizations will be improved with highly skilled certified nursing assistants (CNAs) and better recruitment and staff retention outcomes, and 478 workers/trainees will be improved with enhanced skills training and workforce support services for the nursing home and long-term care sector.

**Project Title:** *Startup Alleghenies Ecosystem Capital and Technical Assistance Expansion*

**Grantee:** JARI Growth Fund, Inc.

**Award Amount:** \$1,879,253

**Announcement Date:** October 2024

**Project Summary:** ARC grants of \$1,879,253 to JARI Growth Fund, Inc. in Johnstown, Pennsylvania, for the *Startup Alleghenies Ecosystem Capital and Technical Assistance Expansion* project. The project seeks to enhance entrepreneurship, with a focus on the outdoor recreation sector, in Bedford, Blair, Cambria, Fulton, Huntingdon, Indiana, and Somerset counties. JARI will achieve this by implementing an outdoor recreation pop-up pilot program, aiming to raise awareness of entrepreneurial opportunities in the region's outdoor recreation sector and spotlight the wealth of outdoor recreation assets in the region. The grantee will also expand support for entrepreneurs, including delivering customized technical assistance and new capital investments. The project will improve 230 businesses with increased sales, employment, capital, and new skill sets; create 400 jobs as a result of businesses receiving technical assistance, training, or financing; create 35 new businesses as a result of the technical assistance, training, or financing; and leverage \$3,000,000 in private investment from financial and economic development partners over the three-year grant period.

**Project Title:** *Susquehanna River Walk Extension Trail Construction Project*

**Grantee:** Lycoming County

**Award Amount:** \$1,867,395

**Announcement Date:** October 2024

**Project Summary:** ARC grant of \$1,867,395 to Lycoming County in Williamsport, Pennsylvania, for the *Susquehanna River Walk Extension Trail Construction Project*. This project will build 2.5 new miles of asphalt trail that connects the Susquehanna River State Park to the remainder of the Susquehanna River Walk, closing a priority gap in Pennsylvania's trail network. The trail extension will allow the park and walk to welcome more visitors and support larger regional tourism efforts, including the

completion of the Triple Divide Trail System (TDTS) and the multi-state effort to complete the Genesee-Susquehanna Greenway. This project will attract 24,500 new visitors and build 13,200 linear feet of a new 10-foot-wide asphalt trail over the course of the four-year performance period.

**Project Title:** *The University of Scranton: Technology-Driven Transformation in Workforce Development and Innovation*

**Grantee:** University of Scranton

**Award Amount:** \$1,321,980

**Announcement Date:** October 2024

**Project Summary:** ARC grant of \$1,321,980 to the University of Scranton in Scranton, Pennsylvania, for *The University of Scranton: Technology-Driven Transformation in Workforce Development and Innovation* project. The project will establish a new Small Business Development Center at the University of Scranton, which will serve as an "innovation hub" and collaborative space for all academic departments and programs, students, and local small businesses in Lackawanna, Luzerne, Pike, Susquehanna, Wayne, and Wyoming counties. The Center will include a "Small Business Ready" training program, providing students with training on business planning, management fundamentals, cybersecurity basics, marketing and social media strategies, accounting, and finance principles. It will also include an internship initiative to help prepare college students for internships or jobs with small businesses. It is anticipated that 159 students, 10 businesses, and 137 participants will be improved as a result of the project.

**Project Title:** *Corry City Center Activation and Trail Link*

**Grantee:** Corry Community Development Corp.

**Award Amount:** \$887,000

**Announcement Date:** October 2024

**Project Summary:** ARC grant of \$887,000 to the Corry Community Development Corp. in Corry, Pennsylvania, for the *Corry City Center Activation and Trail Link* project. The project will redevelop a former rail freight building and ticket office into a welcome center, exhibit space, bike rental concession, and entry point for several trails within the Erie to Pittsburgh Trail system. The project includes reuse and expansion of a 2,592-square-foot former railroad freight building in Erie County into a 4,000 square-foot destination restaurant; reuse of a former 1,680 square-foot railroad ticket office as a welcome center/exhibit space/bike rental/concession; construction of 585 linear-feet of new trail to close a gap in the trail; and new trail head amenities, including restrooms and water stations.

**Project Title:** *Building an Innovative Nursing Workforce Model: Bridging the Gap from Student to Expert*

**Grantee:** Westmoreland Hospital

**Award Amount:** \$769,193

**Announcement Date:** October 2024

**Project Summary:** ARC grant of \$769,193 to Westmoreland Hospital in Greensburg, Pennsylvania, for the *Building an Innovative Nursing Workforce Model: Bridging the Gap from Student to Expert* project. The project will support the expansion of the Nurse Extern Program (NEP) and Nurse Residency Program (NRP), helping prepare

nurses for success in the high-demand nursing field with supplemental classroom instruction, hands-on clinical training, and educational, networking, and professional development opportunities. Westmoreland Hospital will partner with area colleges and vocational and technical schools in Armstrong, Butler, Clarion, Forest, Jefferson, Lawrence, Venango, and Westmoreland counties to recruit nursing students for the Nurse Extern Program, where they will receive 12 months of clinical training and supplemental classroom instruction that will prepare them for the Nurse Licensure Exam. The project will also provide newly graduated nurses, nurses with less than one year of experience, and nurses re-entering an acute hospital environment, with employment and professional development opportunities through the Nurse Residency Program. It is anticipated that by the end of the three-year grant period, 435 nursing students will be improved with enhanced education and clinical training experience for an RN degree, and five local participating hospital organizations will be improved with a pool of highly skilled nurses ready to meet workforce demands.

**Project Title:** *Growth of Community Health Workers in Cambria/Somerset Counties, Pennsylvania*

**Grantee:** Center for Population Health (CPH)

**Award Amount:** \$751,057

**Announcement Date:** October 2024

**Project Summary:** ARC grant of \$751,057 to the Center for Population Health (CPH) in Johnstown, Pennsylvania, for the *Growth of Community Health Workers in Cambria/Somerset Counties, Pennsylvania* project. This project will strengthen recruitment, training, deployment, support, and retention of Community Health Workers (CHWs) in Cambria and Somerset counties, utilizing the nationally recognized Pathways Community HUB (PCH) model to enhance community-based care coordination and address health-related social needs. As a result of this project, 20 jobs will be created, 18 jobs retained, five organizations improved, 1,750 patients improved, 20 workers/trainees improved, and two communities improved through the expansion of the CHW workforce.

**Project Title:** *Maturing Appalachia's Robotics Workforce*

**Grantee:** Pittsburgh Robotics Network

**Award Amount:** \$750,000

**Announcement Date:** October 2024

**Project Summary:** ARC grant of \$750,000 to Pittsburgh Robotics Network in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, for the *Maturing Appalachia's Robotics Workforce* project. This project will provide Allegheny County and the nine surrounding counties with critical workforce improvements that will ensure growth in the local robotics industry. By investing in the robotics industry, this project will provide greater prosperity and job options for the local population. It is anticipated that 100 businesses, 120 workers, and 100 students will be served by this project over three years.

**Project Title:** *Equipment and Technology for a Nursing Education and Lab Facility at Saint Vincent College*

**Grantee:** Saint Vincent College (SVC)

**Award Amount:** \$662,672

**Announcement Date:** October 2024

**Project Summary:** ARC grant of \$662,672 to Saint Vincent College (SVC) in Latrobe, Pennsylvania, for the *Equipment and Technology for a Nursing Education and Lab Facility at Saint Vincent College* project. The project will fund the purchase of medical equipment, supplies, and technology for nursing skill and patient simulation laboratories and classrooms, enabling the College to advance nursing education and prepare a qualified healthcare workforce with a new Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree program and a new Direct Entry Master of Science in Nursing (DE-MSN) degree program. The project will also enhance the College's recruitment and retention of students in nursing majors, particularly those from underprivileged and underrepresented populations across the eight-county project service area. It is anticipated that by the end of the three-year grant period, 22 nursing students and 45 annually thereafter will graduate with a BSN or MSN degree that will enable them to remain in the region and have successful careers in the high-demand nursing field; 10 non-profit hospitals and healthcare organizations will be improved with highly skilled nursing professionals; eight communities will be improved with more qualified nurses in practice in the region to provide high quality care to residents; and two new education programs for BSN and MSN students will be implemented.

**Project Title:** *Bedford County Business Park II—Site Preparation*

**Grantee:** Bedford County Development Association

**Award Amount:** \$498,840

**Announcement Date:** October 2024

**Project Summary:** ARC grant of \$498,840 to the Bedford County Development Association for the *Bedford County Business Park II—Site Preparation* project. The project involves the development of a 2.79-acre plot within Bedford County Business Park II to be ready for future construction of a 27,000-square-foot multi-tenant building. This site preparation is Phase 1 of a multi-step project and will include mobilization, excavation, removal of unsuitable soil, erosion and sedimentation control measures, seeding and mulching, storm water management, and construction of a gravel access drive. It is expected that one 2.79-acre parcel will be prepared for future construction of a new building at the business park.

**Project Title:** *NWPAMade—Galvanizing and Empowering the Region's Creative Economy*

**Grantee:** Indiana University of Pennsylvania Research Institute (IUP RI)

**Award Amount:** \$452,326

**Announcement Date:** October 2024

**Project Summary:** ARC grant of \$452,326 to the Indiana University of Pennsylvania Research Institute (IUP RI) in Indiana, Pennsylvania, for the *NWPAMade—Galvanizing and Empowering the Region's Creative Economy* project. This project will train and empower maker entrepreneurs in Erie and Crawford counties, providing business education, networking opportunities, and advanced strategic support. Key partners include PennWest Edinboro's Center for Branding and

Strategic Communication, which will provide an array of communication, marketing, and branding services to maker entrepreneurs; Bridgeway Capital, which will provide support with recruitment, impact tracking, and consulting services; and the Edinboro Beehive, which will lead a regional branding initiative for NWPAMade to promote the region as uniquely suited to support this sector of entrepreneurs. The project will improve five communities, 32 businesses, three participants, and 15 students; will create 10 jobs and retain 20 jobs; and create three new businesses over three years following utilization of NWPAMade support.

**Project Title:** *Broadcast Arts Initiative*

**Grantee:** Screen Arts Institute

**Award Amount:** \$400,000

**Announcement Date:** October 2024

**Project Summary:** ARC grant of \$400,000 to Screen Arts Institute in Shamokin, Pennsylvania, for the *Broadcast Arts Initiative* project. The project will fund a new training facility and incubator for visual, broadcast, and media arts, which will educate and train marginalized individuals to succeed in a media arts career or start their own media arts business. The Broadcast Arts Initiative program will be implemented through a partnership with a core group of community educators in Northumberland County, and a community liaison will identify marginalized, creative individuals for enrollment in animation, illustration, graphic design, and art entrepreneurship courses taught by working artists. It is anticipated that 60 students will be served as a result of this project.

**Project Title:** *Bedford County Technical Center: Expanding Opportunity in Coal-Impacted Appalachia*

**Grantee:** Bedford County Technical Center

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

**Announcement Date:** October 2024

**Project Summary:** ARC grant of \$50,000 to the Bedford County Technical Center in Everett, Pennsylvania, for the *Bedford County Technical Center: Expanding Opportunity in Coal-Impacted Appalachia* project. This project will fund the pre-construction activities required to expand the Bedford County Technical Center (BCTC), a workforce training facility. The proposed expansion includes creating additional lab and classroom space for eight new program areas and transforming the BCTC campus into a central hub for essential skills training, employment assistance and preparation, and educational opportunities for individuals affected by coal-related job losses. This project underwent a robust planning process to ensure that the workforce training facility expansion will include programming required to align the workforce with regional employer needs. This project will create one plan over the span of one year.

**Project Title:** *Greene County Barriers to Workforce Study*

**Grantee:** Greene County Commissioners

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

**Announcement Date:** October 2024



**Project Summary:** ARC grant of \$50,000 to Greene County Commissioners in Waynesburg, Pennsylvania, for the *Greene County Barriers to Workforce Study*. The project will allow Greene County to develop a comprehensive economic development strategy focused on the attraction of new business and development of new and existing workforce. Through a partnership with Franklin Township, Greene County Planning Commission, and Greene County Industrial Development Authority (IDA), the grantee will hire a consultant to advance the Greene County Barriers to Workforce Study, resulting in a comprehensive analysis of the workforce barriers across all 26 municipalities in the county. The project will produce a comprehensive report, which will include an economic development strategy.

**Project Title:** *Planning for Vehicle Maintenance Technology Jobs of the Future*

**Grantee:** O.S. Johnson Technical Institute /dba/ Johnson College

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

**Announcement Date:** October 2024

**Project Summary:** ARC grant of \$50,000 to O.S. Johnson Technical Institute /dba/ Johnson College in Scranton, Pennsylvania for the *Planning for Vehicle Maintenance Technology Jobs of the Future* project. This project will prepare a feasibility and site location study and architectural plans to support the development of a consolidated vehicle maintenance program facility and a strong, highly skilled vehicle maintenance workforce in Northeastern Pennsylvania. Johnson College plans to consolidate the facilities of its three vehicle maintenance programs of Automotive, Heavy Equipment, and Diesel Truck Technology into one new training laboratory providing shared space and high-tech training equipment on modern vehicle, electric vehicle, and alternative fuel technologies. The vehicle maintenance technology laboratory will educate and train students pursuing associate degrees in one of the three programs, as well as to upskill displaced workers or current employees for new opportunities. The project outputs include a feasibility and site location study to help to determine the best campus location for the new training laboratory; and architectural plans to draft the design and estimates for the laboratory.

**Project Title:** *Transitional Employment for Justice-Impacted Pittsburgh Residents*

**Grantee:** The Center for Employment Opportunities (CEO)

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

**Announcement Date:** October 2024

**Project Summary:** ARC grant of \$50,000 to The Center for Employment Opportunities (CEO) in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, for the *Transitional Employment for Justice-Impacted Pittsburgh Residents* project. The project will enable the grantee to develop a plan to expand its Transitional Work Crew program, which provides job-readiness and soft skills training and employment opportunities to justice-involved individuals recently released from incarceration in Allegheny County. The Transitional Work Crew program has already provided essential services to the local community, including manufacturing support to a steel foundry and public beautification and landscaping services. Expansion of the program will allow

the grantee and their community partners to help more justice-impacted individuals successfully enter or re-enter the labor force through workforce readiness training; transitional employment with daily pay; job coaching; job development services leading to permanent job placement; advanced training, apprenticeships, and credentialing; and a year of employment retention support. It is anticipated that by the end of the one-year grant period, one strategic plan will be developed to expand the Transitional Work Crew program.

**Project Title:** *Two-Generational Literacy to Strengthen the Workforce Pipeline*

**Grantee:** University of Pittsburgh Office of Child Development

**Award Amount:** \$49,751

**Announcement Date:** October 2024

**Project Summary:** ARC grant of \$49,751 to the University of Pittsburgh Office of Child Development in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, for the *Two-Generational Literacy to Strengthen the Workforce Pipeline* project. The project includes an assessment of workforce training needs in Fayette County and a report that aims to establish new sustainable pathways to professional development and employment in literacy learning. The report will help the grantee determine how to establish credentialed literacy training and raise local awareness of the need for more pathways to literacy learning opportunities. As a result of the proposed project, it is anticipated that one report will be completed by September 2025.

## TENNESSEE (4 awards)

**Project Title:** *Pigeon Forge Raw Water Transmission Line Improvement Project*

**Grantee:** City of Pigeon Forge, Tennessee

**Award Amount:** \$2,000,000

**Announcement Date:** October 2024

**Project Summary:** ARC grant of \$2,000,000 to the City of Pigeon Forge in Tennessee for the *Pigeon Forge Raw Water Transmission Line Improvement Project*. The project will construct 8,000 linear feet of water transmission line, part of upgrades to the raw water intake system at Douglas Lake, and a 13-mile overall raw water transmission main line to the water treatment plant. As tourism becomes an increasingly important part of Sevier County's economy, the project will ensure that the city and county, which rely on raw water from nearby Douglas Lake, have the water intake and transmission line capacity to reliably serve residents, businesses, and visitors for years to come. This project will construct 8,000 linear feet of water transmission line, part of an overall \$58.5 million dollar investment, and a 13-mile water transmission main line to the water treatment plant.

**Project Title:** *Anderson County EMS Training Center*

**Grantee:** Anderson County, Tennessee

**Award Amount:** \$1,021,256

**Announcement Date:** October 2024

**Project Summary:** ARC grants of \$1,021,256 to Anderson County, Tennessee, for the *Anderson County EMS Training Center* project. This project includes the

construction of a 5,690-square-foot training facility to serve as a hub for emergency medical services (EMS) workforce development. Additionally, Anderson County will hire two trainers to prepare students and workers for opportunities as certified emergency healthcare responders. The project is anticipated to train up to 135 participants in three years.

**Project Title:** *Rural Small Business Development*

**Grantee:** CO.LAB

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

**Announcement Date:** October 2024

**Project Summary:** ARC grant of \$50,000 to CO.LAB in Chattanooga, Tennessee, for the *Rural Small Business Development* project. This project will develop a strategic plan to build the entrepreneurial ecosystem and foster entrepreneurial activities in Marion, Sequatchie, Bledsoe, Rhea, Hamilton, Bradley, McMinn, Meigs, and Polk counties in Southeast Tennessee. The plan will address community-specific barriers to entrepreneurial success based on listening sessions, stakeholder surveys, and interviews with local entrepreneurs and small business owners. The plan will also identify partners able to provide complimentary resources upon implementation, including technical support, co-working and incubation space, and access to capital. A strategic implementation that identifies new partners and their roles, lays out a timeline, and sets ecosystem goals into 2026 and beyond will be developed.

**Project Title:** *Planning for a Diverse Outdoor Recreation Economy: Small Business Incubation and Trail System Design*

**Grantee:** Woodland Community Land Trust

**Award Amount:** \$48,000

**Announcement Date:** October 2024

**Project Summary:** ARC grant of \$48,000 to Woodland Community Land Trust (WCLT) in Clairfield, Tennessee, for the *Planning for a Diverse Outdoor Recreation Economy: Small Business Incubation and Trail System Design* project. The project will develop a comprehensive trail connectivity plan and lay the groundwork for a business incubator for outdoor recreation, arts, and culture. In partnership with the Recreation Economy for Rural Communities (RERC) steering committee partners in Campbell and Claiborne counties, the project will produce one plan that will help move the region's community engagement work forward, test the feasibility of the action plan, and prepare the grantee to implement the incubator and trail connectivity improvements.

## **VIRGINIA (2 awards)**

**Project Title:** *Central Appalachia Broadband Transport Infrastructure Improvements Project*

**Grantee:** LENOWISCO Planning District Commission

**Award Amount:** \$1,319,443

**Announcement Date:** October 2024

**Project Summary:** ARC grant of \$1,319,443 to LENOWISCO Planning District Commission in Duffield, Virginia, for the *Central Appalachia Broadband Transport Infrastructure Improvements Project*. This project will create a carrier-grade broadband transport network with connectivity internet network access points across four counties in Southwest Virginia and Northwest Tennessee. The project will help re-purpose a local economy from one of energy and mineral extraction to an information-age economy. Currently, there are no regional transport networks in Central Appalachia that are as robust as the proposed network. Through a partnership with Scott County Telephone Cooperative (SCTC), four dedicated fibers are being provided as the in-kind match through a 10-year indefeasible right to use, valued at \$3,256,921. This will provide a 226.2-mile route of fiber that will upgrade speeds to 800Gbps through nine communities in Southwest Virginia and Northeast Tennessee. As a result of this project, three business are anticipated to be served, 40 permanent technology jobs created, and two new data centers developed.

**Project Title:** *Southwest Virginia Creative Economy Assessment and Development*

**Grantee:** Friends of Southwest Virginia

**Award Amount:** \$750,000

**Announcement Date:** October 2024

**Project Summary:** ARC grant of \$750,000 to Friends of Southwest Virginia in Abingdon, Virginia, for the *Southwest Virginia Creative Economy Assessment and Development* project. This project will evaluate the economic impacts of over a decade of Friends of Southwest Virginia projects, including the Crooked Road, the Appalachian Spring Outdoor Recreation Initiative, and 'Round the Mountain Artisan Network. Upon completion, the project team will create a public-facing creative economy dashboard and a strategic roadmap to guide investments in Southwest Virginia's creative economy for the next decade. This project will serve 57 communities, improve 25 communities, serve 214 participants, improve 113 participants, lead to 35,000 new visitors to the area, create 45 new jobs, retain 9,800 jobs, and create one plan over the span of 20 months.

## **WEST VIRGINIA (14 awards)**

**Project Title:** *Helping Individuals Retain Employment Dignity (HIRED) Program*

**Grantee:** West Virginia Health Right, Inc.

**Award Amount:** \$2,000,000

**Announcement Date:** October 2024

**Project Summary:** ARC grant of \$2,000,000 to West Virginia Health Right, Inc. (WVHR), in Charleston, West Virginia, for the *Helping Individuals Retain Employment Dignity (HIRED)* project, which seeks to keep workers in 34 counties healthy, productive, and in the workforce. This project aims to expand WVHR's collaborative partnership network by increasing awareness and access to the clinic and wraparound services to more West Virginians who have been negatively impacted by the downturn of the coal industry. By providing comprehensive health care services, including access to dental care, behavioral/mental health care, vision

care, health education classes, and pharmaceutical assistance, WVHR will support individuals who are uninsured/under-insured and enable them to obtain or retain gainful employment. The project adds key workforce development partners, WV Jobs & Hope, Human Resources Development Foundation, and Workforce Board of Kanawha County, as well as strengthens WVHR outreach to vulnerable populations by partnering with Charleston Area Medical Center, WVU Thomas Hospital Systems, Marshall University Department of Dentistry and Oral Surgery, and Lotus Recovery Center of Comfort. The project is anticipated to serve 3,600 patients and impact 2,520 patients.

**Project Title:** *Building Connections to Grow Capacity: Breaking Down Regional Barriers in the STEM Workforce Pipeline*

**Grantee:** Fairmont State University

**Award Amount:** \$1,990,600

**Announcement Date:** October 2024

**Project Summary:** ARC grant of \$1,990,600 to Fairmont State University in Fairmont, West Virginia, for the *Building Connections to Grow Capacity: Breaking Down Regional Barriers in the STEM Workforce Pipeline* project. This project will create a regional career services and workforce development collaborative in north central West Virginia to improve the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) workforce pipeline. Impacting nine counties, this project will build an industry-education network and facilitate multiple projects that will increase job awareness and preparedness among students and jobseekers. This project seeks to strengthen the STEM pipeline at multiple levels, including from middle school to high school, to college, to adults transitioning back into the workplace or changing careers, and to employers. Through partnership with WVDA, WV Alliance, High Rocks, AST, SeeMore Impact Labs, Region VI WDB, Upshur County ED, Glenville State University and MTN Craft, Fairmont State University anticipates 700 students and 300 workers/trainees will be served over the course of the two-year project.

**Project Title:** *Childcare West Virginia: Building the Business That Supports Business*

**Grantee:** West Virginia Department of Economic Development (WVDED)

**Award Amount:** \$1,982,460

**Announcement Date:** October 2024

**Project Summary:** ARC grant of \$1,982,460 to the West Virginia Department of Economic Development (WVDED) in Charleston, West Virginia, for the *Childcare West Virginia: Building the Business That Supports Business* project. In partnership with the WV Workforce Resiliency Office and private childcare development firm Wonderschool, WVDED will launch two new programs that will increase accessible and affordable childcare supply, empower childcare providers to attract and retain childcare workers, and improve career pathways for childcare workers in eight West Virginian counties. Over the course of the two-year grant period, this project will improve 50 existing childcare businesses, impact 500 workers/trainees, create 40 new childcare businesses, and improve eight communities with increased childcare supply to support workers.



**Project Title:** *The Mon Forest Towns Partnership: Collaboratively Growing a Regional Outdoor Recreation Economy Through 12 Gateway Towns*

**Grantee:** Woodland Community Lenders

**Award Amount:** \$1,897,137

**Announcement Date:** October 2024

**Project Summary:** ARC grant of \$1,897,137 to Woodland Community Lenders in Elkins, West Virginia, for *The Mon Forest Towns Partnership: Collaboratively Growing a Regional Outdoor Recreation Economy Through 12 Gateway Towns* project. This project aims to achieve long-term economic success for the 12 gateway towns in eight counties surrounding the Monongahela National Forest by advancing the local outdoor economy through technical assistance in the key areas of connectivity, communication, capital, and capacity. The Mon Forest Towns Partnership—which includes all 12 towns as well as partners such as West Virginia University, the U.S. Forest Service, and the Department of Agriculture—collectively identifies needs and leverages resources so the whole region can be positioned as thriving trail towns with new jobs and stronger businesses. By offering technical assistance in trail planning, communications and marketing, loan capital, small business development and capacity building, the project is anticipated to train 380 participants, create 15 businesses, increase revenue by about \$2.5 million, and create a recreation project plan for each of the 12 towns over three years.

**Project Title:** *Wheeling Gateway Center Cultural and Civic Creation*

**Grantee:** Wheeling Convention & Visitors Bureau (CVB)

**Award Amount:** \$1,839,750

**Announcement Date:** October 2024

**Project Summary:** ARC grant of \$1,839,750 to the Wheeling Convention & Visitors Bureau (CVB) in Wheeling, West Virginia, for the *Wheeling Gateway Center Cultural and Civic Creation* project. This project will prepare and implement a visitor experience and engagement master plan for a newly built visitors center, complementing the city's broader tourism and downtown redevelopment strategies. Impacting Ohio County, the cultural center will serve as a connection between the area's outdoor recreation activities and Wheeling's downtown revitalization. This portion of the project will develop an interpretive and visitor experience master plan and tourism outreach campaign alongside community stakeholders and partners like the Wheeling National Heritage Corporation and the WV Department of Tourism. The project also includes the production and installation of interpretative materials, including signage, displays, kiosks, educational materials and immersive technology. The project is anticipated to create five new businesses, improve 50 downtown businesses, and bring a predicted \$4.7 million in increased revenues.

**Project Title:** *Wheeling Ironworkers: Building a Strong Workforce in the Tri-State Region*

**Grantee:** International Association of Bridge Structure and Ornamental Ironworkers Local 549

**Award Amount:** \$1,750,000

**Announcement Date:** October 2024

**Project Summary:** ARC grant of \$1,750,000 to the International Association of Bridge Structure and Ornamental Ironworkers Local 549 in Wheeling, West Virginia, for the *Wheeling Ironworkers: Building a Strong Workforce in the Tri-State Region* project. This project will fund a 7,840-square-foot expansion of the applicant's apprenticeship training facility. Demand for skilled ironworkers is at an all-time high; this grant will allow the program to train an additional 30 ironworking students annually. Upon completion, this project will provide more opportunities for upward mobility to workers in the heart of Appalachia. This project is anticipated to serve 77 businesses and 530 trainees over the span of two years.

**Project Title:** *Expanding Markets Initiative*

**Grantee:** Advantage Valley Inc.

**Award Amount:** \$1,650,800

**Announcement Date:** October 2024

**Project Summary:** ARC grant of \$1,650,800 to Advantage Valley Inc. in Charleston, West Virginia, to expand upon its *Expanding Markets Initiative*. Funded through an award from the United States Economic Development Administration (EDA) in 2021, the initiative aims to create a more resilient and diversified regional economy by increasing the market potential and growth of the existing manufacturing and business services sectors. With its EDA and academic partners, Advantage Valley will implement a robust business assistance program to help manufacturers and their suppliers address retention and expansion needs, expand their sales footprint, access financing resources, connect to workforce development and training programs, and seek support of other business assistance and certification programs across nine counties. The initiative will improve 155 businesses, create 70 new supply chain connections, certify 30 new woman and minority businesses, create 200 new jobs, retain 150 jobs, and leverage \$250,000.00 of private investment.

**Project Title:** *Food System Revitalization: Strengthening Capacity of Agriculture-Based Nonprofits for Workforce Development*

**Grantee:** Coalfield Development Corporation

**Award Amount:** \$1,385,205

**Announcement Date:** October 2024

**Project Summary:** ARC grant of \$1,385,205 to Coalfield Development Corporation in Huntington, West Virginia, for the *Food System Revitalization: Strengthening Capacity of Agriculture-Based Nonprofits for Workforce Development* project. Impacting 12 counties, this project will establish a food system workforce development program based on three areas of need: training/readiness and employability, transportation services, and housing for individuals in recovery. Partnering with High Rocks Educational Corporation, Project Healthy Kids, Stepping



Stones Inc., Unlimited Future, Inc., Pollen8, and EDGE, Coalfield Development will have trainees complete paid on-the-job training, professional development, required sector certifications, and competency certificates through an existing partner program, *Refresh Appalachia*. *Refresh Appalachia* is Coalfield Development's sustainable agriculture program that offers on-the-job education in regenerative and environmentally-sound food production methods, aggregation, distribution, and logistics. This project is anticipated to create 43 jobs and retain 15 jobs, and improve 15 communities, 41 organizations, 42 businesses, 163 workers, and 189 training participants.

**Project Title:** *RuralThrive: Empowering Socio-Economically Disadvantaged Businesses*

**Grantee:** Partner Community Capital, Inc. (PCAP)

**Award Amount:** \$1,260,000

**Announcement Date:** October 2024

**Project Summary:** ARC grant of \$1,260,000 to Partner Community Capital, Inc. (PCAP) in Charles Town, West Virginia, for the *RuralThrive: Empowering Socio-Economically Disadvantaged Businesses* project. This project is a business development initiative expanding on PCAP's successful WV Women's Business Center (WBC). Impacting all 55 West Virginia counties, the project provides women and minority-owned small businesses in West Virginia with a wide range of business development services to ensure the success and longevity of the most at-risk owners in the most at-risk counties in central Appalachia. The project is anticipated to improve 170 businesses (as measured by jobs retained, new jobs created, increased profitability, new loans/grants/investments secured, and three-year business survival rates).

**Project Title:** *West Virginia Community-Driven Outdoor Recreation Economy Initiative (WV CORE)*

**Grantee:** West Virginia University Research Corporation

**Award Amount:** \$1,232,256

**Announcement Date:** October 2024

**Project Summary:** ARC grant of \$1,232,256 to the West Virginia University (WVU) Research Corporation in Morgantown, West Virginia, for the *West Virginia Community-Driven Outdoor Recreation Economy Initiative (WV CORE)*. Partnering with Benedum Foundation, West Virginia Division of Natural Resources, The Nature Conservancy, Mon Forest Towns, West Virginia Non-Profit Association, Access Fund, West Virginia Land Trust, and U.S. Department of Agriculture–Monongahela National Forest, WVU Research Corporation will work to expand West Virginia's outdoor economy through supporting and increasing capacity of local outdoor businesses, communities, and current and emerging non-profit organizations. The WV CORE initiative focuses on building the support structure to accelerate outdoor business and growth across the state, developing and increasing the capacity of local outdoor recreation non-profits, investing in outdoor recreation tourism product development and sustainability, and bringing together West Virginia's outdoor economic ecosystem to develop a shared vision. This initiative aims to jumpstart the WV

outdoor economy, addressing identified gaps and leveraging outdoor assets for economic and social prosperity for the state. This three-year project is anticipated to serve 87 communities, 195 businesses, 3,025 participants, 169 organizations, and 395 workers/trainees. In addition, 44 plans/reports will be developed and 122 programs implemented.

**Project Title:** *The Creative Network: WV's Arts Entrepreneur Ecosystem*

**Grantee:** Tamarack Foundation, Inc.

**Award Amount:** \$1,105,041

**Announcement Date:** October 2024

**Project Summary:** ARC grant of \$1,105,041 to the Tamarack Foundation, Inc. (TFA) in Charleston, West Virginia, for *The Creative Network: WV's Arts Entrepreneur Ecosystem* project. This project aims to build critical support infrastructure to address gaps in access to services, resources, capital, markets, and consumers for arts to foster entrepreneurial activities in all 55 counties of the state. Partnering with WD Strategies, WV Hive Network, Minerva Financial Arts, Make Do Creative, DEI Community Development, Hersick & Webster, 84 Agency Creative Communications and Design Firm, WV Municipal League, WV Creative Network Advisory Committee, WV Entrepreneurial Ecosystem, and WV Development Hub, TFA will develop and implement the Creative Network platform. This website will provide artists with robust resources for arts entrepreneurship and business coaching to aid them with reaching regional, national, and global markets. Over the three-year grant period, this project is anticipated to result in 55 businesses receiving business coaching, resources, and the opportunity to list as a vendor on the Creative Network online marketplace. Additionally, 5,000 artists, business owners, and art entrepreneurs will learn about the Creative Network resources and three impact reports will be developed.

**Project Title:** *Cyber-Resilience Resource Center (CRRC)*

**Grantee:** West Virginia University Research Corporation

**Award Amount:** \$1,050,000

**Announcement Date:** October 2024

**Project Summary:** ARC grant of \$1,050,000 to West Virginia University Research Corporation in Morgantown, West Virginia, for the *Cyber-Resilience Resource Center (CRRC)* project. Impacting all 55 counties in West Virginia, the project will support cybersecurity accessibility, implementation, and education through establishing a statewide hub for direct cybersecurity resources and support for businesses in West Virginia. The hub will be designed for small and medium-sized businesses, start-ups, and businesses located in distressed economic areas. The CRRC will also educate the future workforce of cybersecurity professionals by connecting students with businesses to gain valuable experience helping them improve their cybersecurity strength. The experiential opportunities offered through the CRRC will equip students with a competitive skill set when they fully enter the workforce. The project is expected to impact 204 students, 41 businesses, and 850 participants, and implement 28 cybersecurity programs.

**Project Title:** *Architectural/Engineering Design Services for Cottrill's Opera House*

**Grantee:** Alpine Heritage Preservation, Inc.

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

**Announcement Date:** October 2024

**Project Summary:** ARC grant of \$50,000 to Alpine Heritage Preservation, Inc. in Thomas, West Virginia, for the *Architectural/Engineering Design Services for Cottrill's Opera House* project. This project will complete the design development and construction documents for the full restoration of the historic opera house, thus adding a performing arts component to Thomas's downtown revitalization. Once implemented, this project will allow Thomas to attract tourists year-round through various live performances, workshops, classes, camps, movies and more. This project will result in design development and the creation of construction documents in preparation for the eventual interior renovations.

**Project Title:** *Northern Panhandle Clean Energy Futures Workforce Needs Assessment*

**Grantee:** City of New Martinsville, WV

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

**Announcement Date:** October 2024

**Project Summary:** ARC grant of \$50,000 to the City of New Martinsville for the *Northern Panhandle Clean Energy Futures Workforce Needs Assessment* project. The purpose of this project is to conduct a comprehensive market assessment to determine current needs, feasibility, and demand for an energy job training facility that will serve Wetzel, Ohio, and Marshall counties in West Virginia, as well as Monroe County in Ohio. This project will capitalize on the emerging energy industry in West Virginia's northern panhandle and prepare the region's workforce for new opportunities. This project is expected to create over 20,000 jobs in West Virginia, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Kentucky, with the majority of those in West Virginia. This project will result in a comprehensive market assessment of current needs, feasibility, and demand for a New Energy Workforce Training Center.