POWER Award Summaries by State

As of October 2024

The Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) has invested $484.9 million specifically to diversify the economy in the Region's coal-impacted communities through the POWER (Partnerships for Opportunity and Workforce and Economic Revitalizations) Initiative. These 564 investments are projected to create or retain nearly 54,000 jobs, leverage an additional $1.85 billion into the Region, and prepare nearly 170,000 workers and students for jobs in technology, manufacturing, entrepreneurship, agriculture, and other sectors creating a strong economic future for Appalachia.

ALABAMA (15 awards)

2024 Awards

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.

2023 Awards

Project Title: *Economic Development Strategic Planning for Economic Growth & Resiliency*
Grantee: Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham
Award Amount: $50,000
Announcement Date: October 2023
Project Summary: ARC grant of $50,000 to the Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham in Birmingham, Alabama, for the *Economic Development Strategic Planning*

for Economic Growth & Resiliency project. The project will lead to the preparation of a comprehensive Economic Development Strategic Plan with the goal of improving community capacity in multiple rural and under-resourced municipalities in and around Walker County. The plan will enhance multi-jurisdictional collaboration and regional project implementation and will align communities' priorities with federal funding initiatives from recent legislation and existing funding programs. Through partnerships with the Walker County Commission, the Walker Area Community Foundation, and the Walker County Development Authority, the plan will be based on local community engagement and reflect development plans for the Interstate 22 corridor and outdoor recreation industries. This project will result in the development of one Economic Development Strategic Plan over the course of 17 months.

2022 Awards

Project Title: *Supporting Electric Vehicle Manufacturing and Maintenance in North Alabama*
Grantee: Wallace State Community College–Hanceville
Award Amount: $1,169,958
Announcement Date: October 2022
Project Summary: ARC grant of $1,169,958 to Wallace State Community College–Hanceville in Hanceville, Alabama, for the *Supporting Electric Vehicle Manufacturing and Maintenance in North Alabama* project. Wallace State Community College–Hanceville (WSCC) will partner with the American Trucking Association, Freightliner, Kenworth, and Mercedes-Benz to bring their Mechatronics, Automotive Services, and Diesel Technician programs into alignment with electric vehicle (EV) needs. These needs include technicians ready for smart manufacturing and the servicing of electric vehicles and electric heavy-duty trucks. Based on a previous POWER-funded study of automotive manufacturing in North central Alabama, WSCC will update its Mechatronics Program and create new EV programs in its Automotive Services and Diesel Technician programs to include the specific knowledge, skills, and abilities needed by the industry. Students and workers/trainees will receive on-the-job training, complete the appropriate National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) and electric truck certifications, and create a talent pipeline for high-wage EV careers. WSCC will serve 230 students by the third year of programming, preparing workers for new employment opportunities in an area that has experienced the loss of jobs in the coal sector.

2021 Awards

Project Title: *Prepping the Talent Pipeline for Economic Growth and Diversification*
Grantee: Wallace State Community College—Hanceville (WSCC)
Award Amount: $23,191
Announcement Date: September 2021
Project Summary: ARC grant of $23,191 to Wallace State Community College—Hanceville (WSCC) in Hanceville, Alabama, for the *Prepping the Talent Pipeline for Economic Growth and Diversification* project. Covering a 15-county region in north-central Alabama, WSCC will partner with the National Coalition of Advanced Technology Centers (NCATC) to assess the state of automotive manufacturing in Appalachian Alabama. The resulting strategic plan will inform WSCC's educational and capital plan to meet the evolving employment needs of the industry, as demand for autonomous and electric vehicle manufacturing increases. It is also expected to guide the program development of WSCC's automotive manufacturing-related programs for the next 10 years.

2020 Awards

Project Title: *Creating Opportunity for Alabama (COAL) Initiative*
Grantee: Opportunity Alabama, Inc.
Award Amount: $733,150
Announcement Date: February 2020
Project Summary: ARC grant of $733,150 to Opportunity Alabama, Inc. in Birmingham, AL, for the Creating Opportunity for Alabama (COAL) Initiative. The project will create an investment funding and business development ecosystem targeted to the federally designated Opportunity Zones in 36 coal-impacted counties in Alabama. Opportunity Alabama will work with a team of local, state, and national partners in a three-phased approach: 1) building local capacity to effectively prepare for and attract Opportunity Zone investments, focusing particularly on rural communities; 2) creating a pipeline of investment opportunities to attract substantial private investment by facilitating demand studies, environmental assessments, and construction cost estimates; and 3) developing and implementing an impact investment data collection and analysis process that can make it easier for investors to deploy their capital. The project will yield 250 new jobs, create 25 new businesses, and leverage $100 million in private investment. Additional financial support for the project is being provided by Alabama Power and the Alabama Power Foundation.

Project Title: *Rapid Training Center Expansion*
Grantee: Bevill State Community College
Award Amount: $1,500,000
Announcement Date: October 2020
Project Summary: ARC grant of $1,500,000 to Bevill State Community College in Jasper, AL, for the *Rapid Training Center Expansion* project. The project will provide a range of expanded and accelerated workforce training programs that provide industry-recognized credentials for high-quality, in-demand jobs. It will renovate and expand an existing facility on the college's Hamilton campus. The project will also expand the college's training program offerings there to create a Rapid Training Center. The Center will be able to respond quickly to the changing workforce needs of local businesses. The project will also specifically support the expansion of welding and HVAC (heating, ventilation, and air conditioning) programs, for which there is considerable demand for trained workers in the area. The new Center will build a competitive workforce with employees who have skill sets that can also be used in advanced manufacturing and other in-demand jobs. The college will prepare and upskill 135 students and 40 workers/trainees for careers in HVAC and welding technology.

2019 Awards

Project Title: *POWER2 Expand Initiative*
Grantee: West Alabama Works (WAW)
Award Amount: $1,459,335
Announcement Date: February 2019
Project Summary: ARC grant to West Alabama Works (WAW) in Tuscaloosa, AL, for the *POWER2 Expand Initiative*. In partnership with the West Alabama Chamber of Commerce, West Alabama Works (the regional workforce council) will deliver training and reemployment opportunities to residents in 10 coal-impacted counties of Central Alabama (Bibb, Fayette, Hale, Jefferson, Lamar, Marion, Pickens, Shelby, Tuscaloosa, and Walker). In addition to connecting high school students and adults with industry-driven credentials, the project will strategically connect unemployed and underemployed individuals with adult basic education and advanced training opportunities. This will enable them to obtain the necessary credentials to earn a livable wage. The training programs include General Education Development (GED), Test of Adult Basic Education (TABE), high school diploma, as

well as short- and long-term, post-secondary training. The project builds on WAW's strong partnership with local industries. The project will improve 1,615 workers/trainees, connect 1020 individuals with employment, and equip 859 individuals with industry-recognized credentials. Additional support for the project is being provided by the Alabama Department of Commerce and Cengage Learning.

Project Title: *Northwest Alabama Revitalization*
Grantee: Tombigbee Electric Cooperative Inc.
Award Amount: $774,912
Announcement Date: October 2019
Project Summary: ARC grant to Tombigbee Electric Cooperative Inc. (TEC) in Hamilton, AL for the *Northwest Alabama Revitalization* project. This project will implement a fiber optic network providing broadband service to areas of Fayette, Franklin, Lamar, Marion, and Winston Counties. More than 925 unserved businesses will have the opportunity to obtain high-speed broadband service, while 30,495 households will potentially benefit from fiber-to-the-premise access. The project capitalizes on an overall expected investment of $60 million from private and public sources and will enable service expansion to 116,000 residents through 2,000 miles of newly constructed fiber over the next three years.

2018 Awards

Project Title: *Alabama S.T.R.O.N.G. (Skills Training to support Real Opportunities for New job Growth)*
Grantee: Alabama Community College System
Award Amount: $1,750,000
Announcement Date: October 2018
Project Summary: ARC grant to the Alabama Community College System in Montgomery, AL, for the Alabama S.T.R.O.N.G. (Skills Training to support Real Opportunities for New job Growth) project, which will target the coal-impacted communities in ten ARC counties in Alabama. The project seeks to increase awareness about the current and future job opportunities available in the advanced manufacturing sector, a growing part of the regional economy. It will provide students and workers with life skills, remedial education, cutting-edge technical skills, and certificate training to prepare them for either additional postsecondary education or direct placement into high-wage and high-demand careers available in Alabama's advanced manufacturing industry. Overall coordination will be provided through the state community college system, with individual course offerings delivered by Bevill State, Jefferson State, Lawson State, and Shelton State Community Colleges. The project will expose thousands of residents to the benefits of working in advanced manufacturing, and it will serve close to 4,200 participants and their families directly with critical life and technical skills gap training, new job opportunities, and access to vital social and financial services necessary to succeed. At least 2,101 workers/trainees and 976 students will obtain new or enhanced positions, 1,132 jobs will be retained, seven new jobs will be created and six new programs implemented, and all 77 participating businesses will be improved by having access to a more skilled workforce.

2017 Awards

Project Title: *Bevill State Community College POWER 2017 Initiative*
Grantee: Bevill State Community College
Award Amount: $1,920,000
Announcement Date: January 2017
Project Summary: ARC grant to Bevill State Community College in Jasper, AL, for the *Bevill State Community College POWER 2017 Initiative*. The project will create a new Rapid

Training Center at Bevill State's Jasper campus that will serve as a regional workforce training and job placement hub in northwest Alabama—an area that has been adversely affected by the recent retirement of coal-fired power generation facilities and the closure of multiple coal mines. The Rapid Training Center will offer accelerated workforce training programs that provide industry-recognized credentials in six growing regional industries: welding, commercial trucking, rigging, hydraulics/pneumatics, healthcare, and print reading. Through a partnership with the Alabama Department of Labor, individuals directly impacted by the decline in coal production will be offered up to $1,000 in scholarships and stipends to move them through the Center's retraining programming in the most efficient manner possible. In addition, Bevill State is partnering with the AARP to tailor a portion of the retraining and placement support for individuals who are 50+ years old. The project will train 4,000 trainees over the life of the award, and will improve 40 existing businesses in the region.

Project Title: *WAW's 2020 Initiative*
Grantee: West Alabama Works (WAW)
Award Amount: $1,500,810
Announcement Date: January 2017
Project Summary: ARC grant to West Alabama Works (WAW) - Region 3 Workforce Development Council in Tuscaloosa, AL, for the *WAW 2020 Initiative*. The project will deliver job training services to fill critical regional workforce needs in the rapidly growing automotive and advanced manufacturing industries in western Alabama—an area that has been adversely affected by the changing economics of the regional coal economy. WAW has partnered with Mercedes Benz to develop a specific recruitment and training plan for positions in mechatronics and industrial maintenance at their facilities in the area. In addition, the project will create a "pop-up" Community Resource Center in Brookwood, AL, to serve as a hub for community engagement; renovate the Brookwood Technical High School and Training Center to offer credentialing services to students at four regional high schools for employment in hospitality and culinary arts, healthcare, and advanced manufacturing; and, through a partnership with Energy Alabama and the Alabama Automotive Manufacturer's Association, develop business-specific plans that will speed the adoption of sustainable energy in Alabama's automotive industry. The project will train 1,000 dislocated workers and credential 500 students over the life of the award.

Project Title: *Alabama Advanced Energy Economic Impact Report (AAEEIR)*
Grantee: Alabama Center for Sustainable Energy (ALCSE) d/b/a Energy Alabama
Award Amount: $77,680
Announcement Date: January 2017
Project Summary: ARC grant to the Alabama Center for Sustainable Energy (ALCSE) d/b/a Energy Alabama in Madison, AL, for technical assistance for a study of strategies to develop an advanced energy economy, with an emphasis on coal-impacted communities. It will identify the advanced energy industry of the coal-impacted areas, the available jobs within that industry, the resources of community colleges to support workforce training, and the career centers that can facilitate placement in the advanced energy industry of unemployed workers. The project will also support stakeholder engagement to explore and harness additional careers in sectors such as aerospace, advanced manufacturing, entrepreneurship, healthcare and information technology. Local sources will provide an additional $79,857 to fund the project.

Project Title: *The Prosperity Fund - Fostering Entrepreneurial Activity in Coal Impacted Communities in Alabama*
Grantee: Southern Research Institute
Award Amount: $1,200,000
Announcement Date: June 2017
Project Summary: ARC grant to the Southern Research Institute (SRI) in Birmingham, AL, to establish *The Prosperity Fund* to foster entrepreneurial activity in a four-county area in Alabama that has been significantly impacted by the decline in the coal industry. With this ARC investment, The Prosperity Fund will connect entrepreneurs with seasoned private-sector business leaders and key representatives from state economic development agencies to provide the tools necessary to build high-growth companies and create wealth in Walker, Jefferson, Fayette, and Tuscaloosa Counties. SRI will focus on five business sectors that have significant potential in those counties: automotive, agriculture, primary materials, forestry products, and chemicals. The Prosperity Fund team will also provide entrepreneurs in the area with access to resources to raise capital, create and administer customer discovery and marketing programs, and obtain other training and support opportunities. This implementation grant builds on an earlier POWER technical assistance grant to SRI. The project is expected to create 80 jobs and leverage $6.2 million in private investment.

2016 Awards

Project Title: *Shoals Shift*
Grantee: Shoals Entrepreneurial Center
Award Amount: $997,150
Announcement Date: August 2016
Project Summary: ARC grant to the Shoals Entrepreneurial Center in Florence, AL, for the *Shoals Shift* project. The funds will be used to offer a wide range of entrepreneurial programming, including improved access to capital and credit and development of strategies to increase the profitability of the region's start-ups and existing businesses through more efficient use of broadband technologies. The programming includes training and activities for community members and student entrepreneurs from middle schools all the way to the university level. Activities will take place in a nine-county region covering parts of northwest Alabama, northeast Mississippi, and south central Tennessee. The project is expected to help create or retain 110 jobs, start 20 new businesses, and leverage $10,000,000 in private investment.

Project Title: *Fostering Entrepreneurial Activity in Coal Impacted Communities in Alabama*
Grantee: Southern Research Institute
Award Amount: $60,202
Announcement Date: August 2016
Project Summary: ARC grant to the Southern Research Institute in Birmingham, AL, for the development of a strategic plan focusing on entrepreneurship in coal-impacted counties in the Appalachian part of Alabama. Innovation and increasing business startup activity will be the primary focus.

GEORGIA (1 award)

2022 Award

Project Title: *Enterprise Corner*
Grantee: Rome-Floyd County Development Authority
Award Amount: $50,000
Announcement Date: October 2022
Project Summary: ARC grant of $50,000 to the Rome-Floyd County Community Development Authority (RFCCDA) in Rome, Georgia, for the *Enterprise Corner* project. RFCCDA has purchased a 200-acre site for the Enterprise Corner Industrial Park. This project will provide a design for water and sewer lines, both of which are needed to attract large-scale manufacturing businesses.

KENTUCKY (94 awards)

2024 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: Southeast Transportation Center
Grantee: KCEOC Community Action Partnership
Award Amount: $1,500,000
Announcement Date: October 2024
Project Summary: ARC grant of $1.5M to KCEOC Community Action Partnership in Gray, Kentucky, for the Southeast Transportation Center POWER 2024 Initiative. The project will purchase and renovate an existing building and purchase training equipment for use by the Southeast Kentucky Community and Technical College to provide Commercial Driver's License and Diesel Mechanics training. The project will renovate 19,379 square foot building, develop 5 acres of site work, and serve 325 students over the two-year grant period.

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.

2023 Awards

Project Title: *Nursing Education Program Relocation (Pikeville Medical Center Summit Building to BSCTC Pikeville Campus)*
Grantee: Big Sandy Community and Technical College/Kentucky Community & Technical College System
Award Amount: $1,500,000
Announcement Date: October 2023
Project Summary: ARC grant of $1,500,000 to Big Sandy Community and Technical College (BSCTC)/Kentucky Community & Technical College System (KCTCS) in Prestonsburg, Kentucky, for the *Nursing Education Program Relocation* project. The project will renovate 12,317 square feet of the Clayton Little Building to support the relocation of the BSCTC's nursing program from the Summit Building at the Pikeville Medical Center. The project is aimed at addressing the healthcare shortages in rural eastern Kentucky by expanding and shoring up three allied health pathways at BSCTC's Pikeville Campus through the renovation of the Clayton Little Building. Renovations to the facility will provide students with a modern, cutting-edge learning environment, enhancing their education and training. It will also help the BSCTC to attract and retain students and faculty while increasing the college's capacity to meet the growing demand for healthcare professionals in a region plagued by workforce shortages, especially in nursing and paramedics. Within three years (by September 2026), the Allied Health Programs on BSCTC's Pikeville Campus project will have served 650 students: 400 in Nursing Aid training, 150 in the Nursing Program, and 100 in EMT/paramedic training.

Project Title: *Buckhorn to Chavies Water Transmission Line Phase 2*
Grantee: City of Hazard, Kentucky
Award Amount: $1,500,000
Announcement Date: October 2023
Project Summary: ARC grant of $1,500,000 to the City of Hazard, Kentucky, for the *Buckhorn WTP to Chavies Transmission Line Phase 2* project. ARC funds will be used to increase water capacity to the Coal Fields Regional Industrial Park to allow for future economic growth. The project will replace an existing eight-inch PVC waterline with 45,830 liner feet of 12-inch DR11 HDPE transmission waterline. The larger waterline will increase the capacity of water available from the new Buckhorn Water Treatment Plant (WTP) to the Coal Fields Regional

Industrial Park and northern Perry County. This water line is expected to serve three communities, 19 businesses, and 1,198 households, and create 336 jobs within three years.

Project Title: *Underserved People and Places: Community Economic Development for Those Who Need It Most*
Grantee: Mountain Association for Community Economic Development, Inc.
Award Amount: $1,500,000
Announcement Date: October 2023
Project Summary: ARC grant of $1,500,000 to Mountain Association for Community Economic Development, Inc., in Berea, Kentucky, for the *Underserved People and Places: Community Economic Development for Those Who Need It Most* project. The project will create a small business lending program and provide technical assistance to underserved businesses on topics including clean energy, accounting training, and web design. The project will also continue and expand Mountain Association's technical assistance to nonprofits programs and another existing leadership development programs. This project specifically focuses these initiatives on underserved businesses, nonprofits, local governments, and community leaders. In partnership with SOAR, it will provide specialized training related to important issues. The project is expected to improve 220 businesses and create 120 jobs, as well as leverage $3,000,000 in private investment over the course of two years.

Project Title: *University of Pikeville (UPIKE) College of Dental Medicine*
Grantee: University of Pikeville, Inc.
Award Amount: $1,500,000
Announcement Date: October 2023
Project Summary: ARC grant of $1,500,000 to the University of Pikeville, Inc. (UPIKE), in Pikeville, Kentucky, for the *UPIKE College of Dental Medicine* project. The project will enable the grantee to purchase dental equipment and supplies for the new College of Dental Medicine (CDM), scheduled to begin accepting students in fall 2025, specifically for specialty clinics that will serve low-income and special needs patients in 10 economically distressed and medically underserved counties in Appalachian Kentucky. UPIKE is establishing the CDM to address the shortage of dentists in Kentucky and Central Appalachia and to help improve the health status of the region's workforce and its general population by providing oral health care for patients in need of specialized care—including pediatric patients and those recovering from substance use disorder. Within four years of the period of performance, this project is expected to create 57 new jobs in the College of Dental Medicine; in addition, 60 students will graduate annually from the four-year program and begin practicing dentistry throughout Central Appalachia, and 5,400 patients will be improved with greater access to dental care.

Project Title: *Developing a Technology-Focused Entrepreneurial Ecosystem in Eastern Kentucky*
Grantee: Shaping Our Appalachian Region (SOAR)
Award Amount: $1,495,897
Announcement Date: October 2023
Project Summary: ARC grant of $1,495,897 to Shaping Our Appalachian Region (SOAR) in Pikeville, Kentucky, for the *Developing a Technology-Focused Entrepreneurial Ecosystem in Eastern Kentucky* project. This initiative will develop tailored, dedicated, quality support for college and university students with entrepreneurial aspirations. With its partners, SOAR will offer the following activities: a speaker series; early idea pitch competitions; workshops; a three-day event called Startup Sprints; boot camps on customer discovery and lean startup practices; the 606 Accelerator; and funding matchmaking including a series on how to access capital. The project's partners will provide outreach to participants, business space,

and access to resources. Partners include the Appalachian Investors Alliance (AIA), Center on Rural Innovation (CORI), Invest 606, KY Innovation, University of Pikeville, Morehead State University, Union College, Ashland Community & Technical College, Hazard Community & Technical College, and Paintsville Independent School District. The project will create six new businesses and improve 49 non-student participants and 142 students during the three-year grant period.

Project Title: *Strengthening the Education-to-Career Pipeline for Eastern Kentucky Youth*
Grantee: Foundation for Appalachian Kentucky
Award Amount: $50,000
Announcement Date: October 2023
Project Summary: ARC grant of $50,000 to the Foundation for Appalachian Kentucky in Hazard, Kentucky, for the *Strengthening the Education-to-Career Pipeline for Eastern Kentucky Youth* project. ARC funding will support a comprehensive plan to explore a work-based learning program to help prepare the future workforce of Appalachian Kentucky. The research will include localized career pathway potential for high school and college students that lead to high-demand and upwardly mobile careers, including connecting the dots between credentials, certifications, degrees, and eventual employment. Project partners include Rural Up, Shaping Our Appalachian Region (SOAR), Teach for America Appalachia, Red Bird Mission, Cowan Community Group, Inc., Roger Kobel, and the Prichard Committee. The plan will include an assessment of where work-based learning opportunities and career training programs exist in the Kentucky Promise Zone for youth; mapping of existing programs and initiatives; community and stakeholder input; resources and training needed to support the pipeline of employees; and the supervisor training required to mentor work-based, youth-oriented programs (e.g., internships, apprenticeships, and mentorship). The final comprehensive plan will include project management roles, budgets, phases of progress, responsible parties, and an implementation timeline.

Project Title: *US 23 Country Music Highway Museum and Conference Center Expansion*
Grantee: Johnson County Fiscal Court
Award Amount: $50,000
Announcement Date: October 2023
Project Summary: ARC grant of $50,000 to Johnson County Fiscal Court in Paintsville, Kentucky, for the *US 23 Country Music Highway Museum and Conference Center Expansion* project. The project will result in a plan to determine the feasibility, preliminary cost, and design of increasing the size of the US 23 Country Music Highway Museum and Conference Center to attract additional visitors and tourism. Using project funding, Johnson County expects to hire a consultant who will perform a feasibility study providing a site and area evaluation, market and financial analysis, physical planning recommendations, and development cost to expand the museum and the meeting space.

Project Title: *Transformational Flood Recovery Grants Consortium*
Grantee: Kentucky River Area Development District
Award Amount: $50,000
Announcement Date: October 2023
Project Summary: ARC grant of $50,000 to Kentucky River Area Development District in Hazard, Kentucky, for the *Transformational Flood Recovery Grants Consortium* project. This project will result in a plan for a grant consortium focused on flood and COVID-19 recovery. The consortium will gather organizations and agencies to identify and apply for potential funding opportunities in the recovery space. Partners will work with a team of contracted grant writers to design this consortium, using best practices from successful grants consortiums to inform the plan. The target groups for the consortium are underserved

governments and nonprofit organizations that have been impacted by historic flooding and need resources and guidance to access multiple funding opportunities.

Project Title: *Red Bird Strong Job Development and Community Center*
Grantee: Red Bird Mission, Inc.
Award Amount: $50,000
Announcement Date: October 2023
Project Summary: ARC grant of $50,000 to Red Bird Mission, Inc., in Beverly, Kentucky, for the *Red Bird Strong Job Development and Community Center* project. The project will result in a feasibility study for the construction of a community center in Laurel County, which will provide computer/workspaces for telework and work-from-home job opportunities; an entrepreneurship makerspace; job training classrooms; long-distance learning facilities; an Appalachian arts, music, and culture space; and an all-purpose room. Project partners include Clay County Adult Education, Hazard Community and Technical College, Eastern Kentucky Concentrated Employment Program, Eastern Kentucky University, Advent Health, One Harlan County, Kentucky Highlands Investment Corporation, People's Rural Telephone Cooperative, Somerset Community College, and Shaping Our Appalachian Region (SOAR). Project funds will be used to support to the work needed to refine building specs, identify necessary site improvements, and determine potential construction costs.

2022 Awards

Project Title: *Pikeville Medical Industry Cluster*
Grantee: City of Pikeville
Award Amount: $50,000
Announcement Date: December 2022
Project Summary: ARC grant of $50,000 to the City of Pikeville in Kentucky will provide the initial funding to assist in planning, development, and future implementation of the City's establishment of an industry cluster targeting healthcare research, product development and commercialization, as well as business and job creation in Pikeville and Pike County. The funding will support the eventual expansion of this industry cluster throughout Eastern Kentucky. The assumed nonprofit organization's mission will be focused on health care and medical industry cluster development in the areas of translational biomedical research and development, as well as advanced manufacturing opportunities. The organization will be housed temporarily on an interim basis at the University of Pikeville (UPIKE) and will include the Big Sandy Community and Technical College as a partner. The City of Pikeville anticipates 1 new hire, the non-profit formation, $50,000 in annual investments in industry cluster nonprofit organization by its partners, 2 business startups, 25 jobs created, 3-5 new products developed, $10 million in private investments in the industry, and more than 10 years of improved health metrics within the targeted area.

Project Title: *Rowdy Trailhead and Campground Project*
Grantee: Perry County Fiscal Court
Award Amount: $1,500,000
Announcement Date: October 2022
Project Summary: ARC grant of $1,500,000 to the Perry County Fiscal Court (PCFC) in Hazard, Kentucky, for the *Rowdy Trailhead and Campground Project*. Located off Highway 476 in the Rowdy community of Perry County, the project will support outdoor recreation and tourism by constructing 30 RV campground sites with full hookups for water, sewer, electric, and cable television, as well as communal facilities (bath house, laundry, and ATV wash bay) and on-site infrastructure (sewage treatment, dumping station, waterlines, and security). The campground will serve as the trailhead for Perry County's ATV trails, which connect to a 75-mile loop passing through Breathitt, Knott, Floyd, and Magoffin counties. In addition to

county fiscal courts within the ATV trail network, PCFC will also partner with USDA Rural Development and the Kentucky Mountain Regional Recreational Authority. The project will create 38 jobs within its first 15 months and lead to an estimated 24,960 overnight stays in the first year. Additional funding is provided by the Abandoned Mine Land Economic Revitalization Program and the Foundation for Appalachian Kentucky.

Project Title: *TEK Center Skilled Trades Training*
Grantee: TEK Center, Inc.
Award Amount: $1,500,000
Announcement Date: October 2022
Project Summary: ARC grant of $1,500,000 to TEK Center, Inc. in Inez, Kentucky, for the *TEK Center Skilled Trades Training* project. The project will develop a Skilled Trades Training Center to support low-income individuals, individuals in addiction recovery programs, and dislocated workers such as former coal miners, all of whom are greatly impacted by the decline in coal production and the substance use disorder crisis. To encourage participation from these groups, this training center will offer short-term, industry-driven training programs of one year or less that streamline these individuals into well-paying, high demand jobs. Project partners include the East Kentucky Concentrated Employment Program, Martin County Economic Development Agency, Foundation for Appalachian Kentucky, Shaping Our Appalachian Region (SOAR), Johnson County Schools, and Floyd County Board of Education. The project will serve six businesses, 125 high school students, and 395 workers/trainees.

Project Title: *UPIKE Ag-Tech Innovation Center of Excellence*
Grantee: University of Pikeville, Inc.
Award Amount: $1,500,000
Announcement Date: October 2022
Project Summary: ARC grant of $1,500,000 to the University of Pikeville in Pikeville, Kentucky, for the *UPIKE Ag-Tech Innovation Center of Excellence* project. Located off U.S. Highway 23 in the Kentucky Enterprise Industrial Park, the project will develop an agricultural research facility in partnership with the City of Pikeville and will serve seven counties in Eastern Kentucky. The facility will aid the region's growing sustainable agricultural sector via research activity conducted on behalf of private industry partners, space for ag-tech workforce programming and development, and entrepreneurial supports. The Center will focus on seed development, environmental conservation practices, and controlled-environment farming. Over the next three years, the project will help create 250 jobs and three new businesses. An additional $4.4 million in funding is provided by the U.S. Economic Development Administration.

Project Title: *Growing Eastern KY's Controlled Environment Production Ecosystem*
Grantee: Kentucky Horticulture Council
Award Amount: $1,458,212
Announcement Date: October 2022
Project Summary: ARC grant of $1,458,212 to Kentucky Horticulture Council in Lexington, Kentucky, for the *Growing Eastern KY's Controlled Environment Production Ecosystem* project. The Kentucky Horticulture Council will partner with the University of Kentucky, Community Farm Alliance, and Kentucky Center for Agriculture & Rural Development to help prospective and established producers establish and grow controlled environment agriculture (CEA) operations that enable year-round growing. This project will not only advance entrepreneurial support for new and existing Kentucky farmers but also develop a competitive, career-ready workforce to support the expansion of CEA jobs in communities with unemployed and underemployed residents. The project will serve 484 businesses and 137 workers/trainees, improve 247 businesses and 110 workers/trainees, create 12 businesses,

generate $185,000 in non-export revenue, and leverage $185,000 in additional private investment.

Project Title: *Agricultural Apple Sorting & Packing Facility*
Grantee: Big Sandy Area Development District
Award Amount: $1,200,000
Announcement Date: October 2022
Project Summary: ARC grant of $1,200,000 to Big Sandy Area Development District in Prestonsburg, Kentucky, for the *Agricultural Apple Sorting & Packing Facility* project. The project will conduct sitework at the East Kentucky Business Park to prepare for a new building addition that will serve as a regional apple sorting and packing hub across nine counties in Eastern Kentucky and Southern West Virginia, as well as provide business technical assistance to engaged entrepreneurs. This facility will enable Appalachian farmers to access domestic and international markets by supporting a vertically integrated chain from the orchard to the end-user. With upwards of a thousand acres of former mine lands in the region being converted to apple orchards, this ARC POWER grant will support the development of a new industry cluster. The project's activities will be supported by partnerships with the University of Kentucky, Shaping Our Appalachian Region (SOAR), Operation UNITE, and Morehead State University. The project is expected to be completed within 10 months and will serve 300 businesses, support the creation of 260 jobs, and leverage up to $30 million in additional private investment.

Project Title: *Preparing the Future of American Agriculture: AgTech Apprenticeship*
Grantee: Kentucky Community & Technical College System
Award Amount: $1,137,500
Announcement Date: October 2022
Project Summary: ARC grant of $1,137,500 to Kentucky Community & Technical College System in Versailles, Kentucky for the *Preparing the Future of American Agriculture: AgTech Apprenticeship* project. The project will implement a hands-on training program for entry level workers and build a workforce pipeline for high-yield, year-round controlled environment agriculture, or agricultural technology (agtech), in Appalachia. Agtech's fast-paced, technology-enhanced, crop-producing environment requires a specific educational foundation, precise skills, and real-time decision making. Through partnerships with AppHarvest, Edgewater Recovery, Kentucky FFA Association, Elliott County, Addiction Recovery Care, Rowan County Drug Court, Rowan County Agriculture Advisory Board, East Kentucky Concentrated Employment Program, Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Sciences (MANRRS), and University of Kentucky, this project will place recruitment emphasis on workers recovering from substance use disorder and traditionally underrepresented workers in the agtech industry. The program will improve 350 workers/trainees through wage increases and career progression, improve one large-scale business through increased revenue from worker productivity and reduced product waste.

Project Title: *Appalachia Access to Capital–Phase II–Capital and Technical Assistance*
Grantee: Community Ventures Corporation
Award Amount: $1,500,000
Announcement Date: October 2022
Project Summary: ARC grant of $1,500,000 to the Community Ventures Corporation (CV) in Lexington, Kentucky, for the A*ppalachia Access to Capital—Phase II—Capital and Technical Assistance* project. The project will capitalize a revolving loan fund (RLF) to increase New Markets Tax Credit (NMTC) investments in Kentucky, Tennessee, and West Virginia. Central Appalachia's coalfields do not lack NMTC-worthy projects; however, many communities do not understand how the program works, how to structure financing, and how to present to investors. CV will align and leverage complementary sources of capital for catalytic, large-

scale projects that deliver new jobs or provide critical community infrastructure such as healthcare, education, and social services. The ARC funding will support second-phase technical assistance to Appalachian businesses and New Market Tax Credits allocatees seeking investments. Partners include Appalachian Community Capital, Fahe, Fairmont Community Redevelopment, the Mountain Association, Kentucky African American Chamber of Commerce (NOIR), and the Middletown Valley Bank. The project will improve 15 businesses and 10 communities, create 150 jobs and 15 businesses, and leverage $10.5 million in additional private investment over six years. This project builds on Community Ventures Corporation's 2021 ARC POWER grant for the *Appalachia Access to Capital Initiative*.

Project Title: *The EKY Community Accelerator Project*
Grantee: Mountain Association
Award Amount: $50,000
Announcement Date: October 2022
Project Summary: ARC grant of $50,000 to the Mountain Association in Berea, Kentucky, for *the EKY Community Accelerator Project*. Communities often face concentrated decision-making with little input from residents. The Eastern Kentucky Community Accelerator will help communities organize, build strong local networks to develop solutions, and seize opportunities that create jobs and economic resiliency. The Mountain Association will act as the accelerator's fiscal sponsor, and What's Next EKY?! (WNEKY)—a robust network of community groups and regional partners—will serve as the leading organization. Additional partners include Grayson Gallery (Carter County), Letcher County Culture Hub, Jackson County Tourism, Brushy Fork Leadership Institute, and Vision Granted. Their roles include leading the "Learning Partner Community," being coaches, and coordinating the community accelerator. During the one-year grant, the region will have a tested model of how best to help communities move toward resilient economies. The project will serve three communities and produce a regional report outlining a new toolkit.

Project Title: *Eastern Kentucky Equine Community Center Planning*
Grantee: Kentucky Equine Education Project (KEEP) Foundation
Award Amount: $50,000
Announcement Date: October 2022
Project Summary: ARC grant of $50,000 to the KEEP Foundation in Lexington, Kentucky, for the *Eastern Kentucky Equine Community Center Planning* project. The project will assess the feasibility of, and provide a business plan for, the potential Eastern Kentucky Equine Center. The center would offer space for businesses related to the equine industry and outdoor recreation, as well as sector-specific workforce training to meet businesses' employment needs. Workforce training would focus on formerly incarcerated populations and individuals in recovery, and help develop a job and business pipeline for equine and mental health sectors. Furthermore, the center will help Southeast Kentucky leverage the state's strong equine industry and wild horse population as economic assets. The project will result in a feasibility study and business plan over the course of one year.

Project Title: *Southeast Kentucky Regional Experience Package Planning Project*
Grantee: Foundation for Appalachian Kentucky
Award Amount: $48,422
Announcement Date: October 2022
Project Summary: ARC grant of $48,422 to Foundation for Appalachian Kentucky (FAKY) in Hazard, Kentucky, for the *Southeast Kentucky Regional Experience Package Planning Project*. The project, fiscally sponsored by FAKY and led by Leslie County Betterment (LCB), will coordinate tourism initiatives in Southeast Kentucky to build and market regional experience packages. These packages will align and market similar and complementary initiatives so visitors may enjoy the wealth of experiences that Southeast Kentucky offers. The

project's final output will be a pitch to investors and funders that demonstrates the need for and potential impact of clustering products and developing regional experience packages. The project will serve five counties over the course of a year.

Project Title: *Southeast Kentucky Regional Trails Planning Project*
Grantee: Foundation for Appalachian Kentucky
Award Amount: $46,838
Announcement Date: October 2022
Project Summary: ARC grant of $46,838 to Foundation for Appalachian Kentucky in Hazard, Kentucky, for the *Southeast Kentucky Regional Trails Planning Project*. The project will create a comprehensive outdoor adventure development, marketing, and maintenance plan for Southeast Kentucky that capitalizes on the potential community economic and health impacts of outdoor recreation. The plan will include an assessment of existing outdoor recreation assets, infrastructure, and initiatives; a detailed vision of the future of the region, informed by community stakeholder input; and project-specific, modular, multi-phased workplans to guide progress toward that vision. The project will serve eight counties over the course of a year.

Project Title: *Addition of Long-Term Acute Care Hospitals in Eastern Kentucky*
Grantee: ARH Advanced Care, Inc.
Award Amount: $1,500,000
Announcement Date: March 2022
Project Summary: ARC grant of $1,500,000 to ARH Advanced Care, Inc. in Hazard, Kentucky, for the *Addition of Long-Term Acute Care Hospitals in Eastern Kentucky* project. This project will furnish equipment for two long-term acute care hospitals (LTACHs). One hospital will be located inside the Hazard Appalachian Regional Healthcare (ARH) Regional Medical Center in Perry County and the other inside the Tug Valley ARH Regional Medical Center in Pike County—areas that have been adversely affected by significant reductions in coal production. The two new LTACHs will provide long-term acute care in 13 Eastern Kentucky counties for patients with serious medical conditions who require care on an ongoing basis but do not require intensive care or extensive diagnostic procedures performed in a hospital. Project activities are expected to create 156 jobs and serve 330 patients in the first year.

Project Title: *Success Initiative at Work Ready Training Center*
Grantee: Southeast Kentucky Community and Technical College
Award Amount: $1,500,000
Announcement Date: March 2022
Project Summary: ARC grant of $1,500,000 to Southeast Kentucky Community and Technical College (SKCTC) in Cumberland, Kentucky, for the Success Initiative at Work Ready Training Center (WRTC). Across the Kentucky-Tennessee-Virginia tristate area, the WRTC will offer academic training focused on the growing industry sectors of healthcare, advanced manufacturing, technology, and transportation and logistics for local residents, distance learners, high school students, local substance abuse recovery residents, and incarcerated individuals, creating both recovery and educational opportunities. Partnerships with Eastern Kentucky Concentrated Employment Program, Inc. (EKCEP) and KCEOC Community Action Partnership, Inc. will create links between local and regional businesses to provide trainings that meet business needs, and lead trainees directly to employment, thereby spurring economic growth and diversity in this coal-impacted region. Programming will be based at SKCTC's new campus in Knox County. Over the course of three years, the WRTC expects to serve 1,397 students, with 630 receiving a credential or diploma. SKCTC estimates 50 businesses will demonstrate improvement by the end of the project by having access to the talent pool of 625 workers who are expected to participate in training provided by the WRTC.

Project Title: *The Kentucky Wildlands Regional Tourism Initiative*
Grantee: Eastern Kentucky PRIDE, Inc.
Award Amount: $1,200,000
Announcement Date: March 2022
Project Summary: ARC grant of $1,200,000 to Eastern Kentucky PRIDE, Inc. (PRIDE) in Somerset, Kentucky, for the *Kentucky Wildlands Regional Tourism Initiative*. The project will expand a regional outdoor recreation tourism branding initiative for 41 counties in eastern and southern Kentucky. The key components of the project include a robust regionalized tourism marketing plan, including online, print, billboard, and social media marketing; a hospitality workforce training program; and the expansion of the Kentucky Wildlands tourism website. Over the two-year project period, with the assistance of the Kentucky Tourism, Arts, and Heritage Council and local businesses, PRIDE expects to serve 118 communities, help retain 15,000 jobs, creating 100 of them, as well as increase local revenues by at least $7.5 million. This project will help Eastern Kentucky PRIDE, Inc. become the tourism clearinghouse for the region, serving as a technical assistance resource to help coal-impacted communities across Eastern Kentucky capitalize on their natural and cultural assets.

Project Title: *BRIGHT Kentucky: Nurturing & Sustaining BRIGHT Entrepreneurs*
Grantee: Leadership Kentucky Foundation, Inc.
Award Amount: $500,000
Announcement Date: March 2022
Project Summary: ARC grant of $500,000 to Leadership Kentucky in Frankfort, Kentucky, for the *BRIGHT Kentucky: Nurturing & Sustaining BRIGHT Entrepreneurs* project. This project will expand the BRIGHT Kentucky program, which builds the capacity and skills of next-generation leaders in Eastern Kentucky, enabling them to innovate, collaborate, and advance community and economic development. Through five monthly three-day sessions that take participants to numerous communities across the 54 Appalachian Kentucky coal-impacted counties, participants will gain leadership skills and build their professional network as they connect with one another and with local leaders of successful businesses, non-profit organizations, and government agencies. Leveraging $350,000 in private investment, the project will also facilitate networking with program alumni and form a sustainability fund to ensure the long-term sustainability of the BRIGHT program. Leadership Kentucky will partner with Shaping Our Appalachian Region (SOAR) on programming for program participants. Over three years, the project expects to serve 150 participants, create 20 new businesses, create 24 new jobs, serve 48 communities, and 48 businesses.

2021 Awards

Project Title: *Harlan County Connected*
Grantee: Harlan County Fiscal Court
Award Amount: $1,937,475
Announcement Date: September 2021
Project Summary: ARC grant of $1,937,475 to Harlan County Fiscal Court in Harlan, Kentucky, for the *Harlan County Connected* project. The project will design and build 40 miles of fiber network to offer gigabit broadband to the most underserved parts of the county. Since 2012, this county has experienced an 84% decrease in mine employment, but leadership is confident in the ability of this broadband project to help it compete in the modern global economy. This last-mile fiber network is expected to leverage the ARC-funded Kentucky Wired middle-mile fiber network to provide broadband to 282 businesses and 7,380 households.

Project Title: *Kentucky Highlands Empowerment Zone/Promise Zone Operations*
Grantee: Kentucky Highlands Investment Corporation
Award Amount: $1,500,000
Announcement Date: September 2021
Project Summary: ARC grant of $1,500,000 to Kentucky Highlands Investment Corporation in London, Kentucky, for the *Kentucky Highlands Empowerment Zone/Promise Zone Operations* project. Kentucky Highlands and its partners will serve 11 economically distressed counties in Eastern Kentucky with access to capital, business technical assistance, remote work solutions, and career pathway incentives. The project will establish a new revolving loan fund that includes technical assistance for business and social enterprise borrowers. It will implement three new Teleworks USA (a prior POWER grant) remote work training workshops and job fairs, as well as develop a career ladder incentive program to encourage employees and social enterprise employers to participate in continuing education to accelerate career-path advancement. The project provides clear career pathways in healthcare and remote work opportunities for at-home caregivers or persons without personal transportation. Additional capital for the revolving loan fund is being provided by Woodforest Bank. The project is expected to lead to the creation of 400 jobs.

Project Title: *Economic Recovery and Resilience in Eastern Kentucky*
Grantee: Mountain Association for Community Economic Development
Award Amount: $1,500,000
Announcement Date: September 2021
Project Summary: ARC grant of $1,500,000 to Mountain Association for Community Economic Development in Berea, Kentucky, for the *Economic Recovery and Resilience in Eastern Kentucky* Initiative. The project will leverage market opportunities, expand technical assistance, and finance business start-ups, growth, and innovation. The grantee will direct these strategies toward small businesses, entrepreneurs, local governments, and community anchor institutions critical to building diverse and resilient local economies in the 54 ARC counties of Eastern Kentucky. Partners on this project include Foundation for Appalachian Kentucky, Shaping Our Appalachian Region (SOAR), Brushy Fork Leadership Institute, What's Next, East Kentucky!?, Invest 606, and the Kentucky Office of Energy Policy. The project is expected to improve 620 businesses, serve 1,240 businesses, and create 53 new businesses. Additionally, this project will create 180 new jobs and retain 134 jobs.

Project Title: *Reliance Works (Second Chance Employment Expansion to Eastern KY)*
Grantee: Isaiah House, Inc.
Award Amount: $1,221,825
Announcement Date: September 2021
Project Summary: ARC grant of $1,221,825 to Isaiah House Treatment Center (IH) in Willisburg, Kentucky, for the *Reliance Works (Second Chance Employment Expansion to Eastern KY)* Initiative. The project will expand its second-chance employment program "Reliance Works" to six economically distressed counties in Appalachian Kentucky (Estill, Jackson, Lee, Lincoln, Powell, and Wolfe). The Reliance Works Employment and Recovery Project is a multi-pronged approach to positively impacting the lives of families and working-age adults. The project will create jobs and increase labor participation rates by establishing new business ventures using the proven workforce model for second-chance employment that IH has successfully implemented in other areas of Kentucky since 2015. Additionally, the project will provide participants with recovery supports, including transitional housing, peer support, transportation, telehealth counseling, and accountability through drug testing. Through a partnership with Eastern Kentucky Concentrated Employment Program (EKCEP), Shaping Our Appalachian Region (SOAR), Estill Development Alliance, Bluegrass Workforce Investment Board (BGWIB), Operation UNITE, Lincoln County Chamber of Commerce, and Pine Ridge Regional Industrial Authority, the

project is expected to create 50 to 60 jobs and provide on-the-job training for 70 to 80 people in recovery from substance use disorder who have limited work experience, criminal backgrounds, or poor work histories.

Project Title: *East Kentucky AWS Training and Testing Center*
Grantee: Big Sandy Community and Technical College/KCTCS
Award Amount: $1,161,684
Announcement Date: September 2021
Project Summary: ARC grant of $1,161,684 to Big Sandy Community and Technical College/KCTCS in Prestonsburg, Kentucky, for the *East Kentucky AWS Training and Testing Center*. This project will increase capacity to provide welding/fabrication training that will codify a pipeline of entry-level and highly skilled welders to support welding and related industries in Floyd, Johnson, Magoffin, Martin, and Pike counties. Activities will include renovation to an existing welding technology laboratory space on the Mayo Campus in Paintsville, KY. Renovation/retrofit activities will enable the site to add 18–22 welding training stations, welding stands, and curtains to support welding instruction delivery aligned to the American Welding Society's curriculum and professional certifications. Partners will include Eastern Kentucky Concentrated Employment Program (EKCEP) and Shaping Our Appalachian Region (SOAR). The project is expected to train 70 new welders, improve skills of 30 dislocated or incumbent workers, and improve 10 businesses with qualified workers.

Project Title: *Appalachia Access to Capital Initiative*
Grantee: Community Ventures Corporation
Award Amount: $630,000
Announcement Date: September 2021
Project Summary: ARC grant of $630,000 to Community Ventures Corporation in Lexington, Kentucky, for the *Appalachia Access to Capital Initiative*. By providing technical assistance and training, the project will help non- and for-profit businesses in small, rural, coal-impacted communities attract new levels of investment and spur economic growth. The initiative spans 60 counties in eastern Kentucky and West Virginia. Community Ventures' efforts will focus on providing one-on-one guidance to organizations applying for New Markets Tax Credit and USDA Community Facilities financing. Activities will include creation of networking opportunities, pitch deck preparation, and implementation of community benefits agreements tailored to the specific needs of each community and organization. Partners Fahe, Appalachian Community Capital, and the Mountain Association will provide additional training on access to capital and financing best practices. The project is expected to serve 27 businesses, create over 200 jobs, and leverage $15 million in private investment over three years.

Project Title: *Pikeville Medical Center's Medical Training Facility and Career Development Center*
Grantee: Pikeville Medical Center, Inc.
Award Amount: $508,076
Announcement Date: September 2021
Project Summary: ARC grant of $508,076 to Pikeville Medical Center, Inc. (PMC) in Pikeville, Kentucky, for the *Pikeville Medical Center's Medical Training Facility and Career Development Center*. The project will help equip a medical training facility and career center to serve existing staff, healthcare students, and community members in seven economically distressed counties. Facility participants will receive collaborative learning opportunities and career guidance while strengthening the area's healthcare workforce and addressing a shortage of rural clinical healthcare providers. The project will take advantage of a prior POWER grant for PMC's Children's Hospital. PMC will partner with Shaping Our Appalachian Region (SOAR), Eastern Kentucky Concentrated Employment Program (EKCEP), Big Sandy

Community and Technical College, UK Healthcare, and local school systems to implement effective programs based on local need and connect community members of all ages to opportunities. The project is expected to create 15 new jobs at the facility, improve the skills of 1,712 workers/trainees, and serve 11,351 patients in its first year.

Project Title: *Last-Mile Broadband: A Collaborative Approach*
Grantee: Shaping Our Appalachian Region, Inc. (SOAR)
Award Amount: $50,000
Announcement Date: September 2021
Project Summary: An ARC grant of $50,000 to Shaping Our Appalachian Region, Inc. (SOAR) in Pikeville, Kentucky, for the *Last-Mile Broadband: A Collaborative Approach* project. The project will serve a 14-county area in eastern Kentucky and build the capacity of Appalachian Kentucky's Rural Energy Cooperative Corporations (RECCs) to utilize their current infrastructure to bring high-speed internet to the region's unserved and underserved communities. SOAR will partner with two members of the East Kentucky Power Cooperative: Cumberland Valley Electric and Jackson Energy Cooperative. The project's efforts will complement increased funding from the state of Kentucky dedicated to broadband deployment and last-mile projects.

Project Title: *Pikeville/Breaks Tourism Partnership*
Grantee: City of Pikeville
Award Amount: $50,000
Announcement Date: September 2021
Project Summary: ARC grant of $50,000 to the City of Pikeville, in Pikeville, Kentucky, for the *Pikeville/Breaks Tourism Partnership*. In partnership with the Breaks Interstate Park (Buchanan County, VA), Pikeville will conduct a feasibility study for tourism in the region. The study will determine if developing health and wellness/eco/adventure/cultural tourism opportunities and related businesses is feasible. The ultimate goal of the project is to position the Breaks to become a national attraction with the city of Pikeville supporting the influx of tourism with lodging, restaurants, retail, and tourism-related businesses. The resulting study will include a report on the project area's physical assets, an economic and tourism market study, and a tourism branding strategy.

Project Title: *Robertson County Broadband Feasibility Study*
Grantee: Robertson County Fiscal Court
Award Amount: $50,000
Announcement Date: September 2021
Project Summary: ARC grant of $50,000 to Robertson County Fiscal Court in Mt. Olivet, Kentucky, for the *Robertson County Broadband Feasibility Study*. In partnership with the Buffalo Trace Area Development District; the county's health, education, and public safety agencies; and the City of Mt. Olivet, the Robertson County Fiscal Court will conduct a broadband feasibility study. It will identify county-wide gaps in broadband service, assess the area's broadband needs to facilitate future economic development, determine the technologies best suited for filling in coverage gaps, and offer deployment strategies that meet the county's broadband needs. The county will use this study/plan to implement the appropriate broadband infrastructure in phased construction to spur economic development; and the plan will encompass, as well as build upon, the KY Wired initiative and the county's "last mile" efforts.

Project Title: *Technical Evaluation of Novel Value-Added Biomass Products*
Grantee: Martin County Economic Development Authority
Award Amount: $48,030
Announcement Date: September 2021
Project Summary: ARC grant of $48,030 to Martin County Economic Development Authority in Inez, Kentucky, for the *Technical Evaluation of Novel Value-Added Biomass Products* project. The project will evaluate the economic opportunity of converting biomass waste materials from conservation practices into value-added wood-based products. The study will characterize the biomass waste streams produced in Martin and Pike counties in Kentucky and Mingo County in West Virginia. Characterization includes identifying the type, size, volume, and water content of the biomass. The study will then evaluate market characteristics for select biomass products, including mulch, biochar, bundled firewood, and structural timber. Further, the study will evaluate market size, growth opportunities, competitors, regulations, and distribution and marketing requirements. Lastly, local versus central production approaches will be evaluated for equipment requirements, capital costs, and associated labor and cost requirements.

2020 Awards

Project Title: *Transitional Housing Facility*
Grantee: Mountain Comprehensive Health Corporation (MCHC)
Award Amount: $1,500,000
Announcement Date: October 2020
Project Summary: ARC grant of $1,500,000 to Mountain Comprehensive Health Corporation (MCHC) in Whitesburg, KY for the *Transitional Housing Facility* project. The project includes the creation of 22 units of transitional housing for men who are in recovery from substance use disorders. Letcher County and its neighboring communities have been hard hit by both the downturn in the coal economy and the substance use crisis. It is often impossible for people who have completed treatment to find safe, sober housing or the services that would help them return to the community. The project will renovate a former high school to create efficiency apartments. MCHC staff will work with community partners to coordinate healthcare, education, and other social supports for residents of the new facility. Residents will also receive job-skills training through collaboration with local program partners, including Southeast Kentucky Community and Technical College and the Eastern Kentucky Concentrated Employment Program, Inc. (EKCEP). The facility can serve 44 residents each year; approximately 28 are expected to reach at least two key milestones such as maintaining sobriety, finding a job, or furthering education. Seven jobs will be created for new staff members.

Project Title: *Dataseam K–12 IT Apprentice Expansion*
Grantee: Mountain Kentucky Dataseam Initiative, Inc.
Award Amount: $1,500,000
Announcement Date: October 2020
Project Summary: ARC grant of $1,500,000 to Kentucky Dataseam Initiative, Inc., in Louisville, KY for the *Dataseam K–12 IT Apprentice Expansion* project. Dataseam will work with school districts in 20 Eastern Kentucky counties to deliver an information technology (IT) student apprenticeship program that includes paid IT jobs for students, hands-on coursework, on-the-job training, and vital technology infrastructure to communities for K–12 education. Dataseam will also help Morehead State University and the University of Louisville identify and recruit students into STEM education programs and STEM careers. Each student apprentice will earn two industry-standard IT certifications as part of earning a U.S. Department of Labor Information Technology Support Specialist Certificate. The program will operate under the supervision of the Kentucky Education and Workforce Cabinet. At least 60

student apprentices will continue their education and/or obtain employment and all 25 participating teachers/staff and 29 school districts will benefit.

Project Title: *Foothills Independent Transitional Living Center (FIT)*
Grantee: Foothills Academy, Inc.
Award Amount: $1,500,000
Announcement Date: October 2020
Project Summary: ARC grant of $1,500,000 to Foothills Academy, Inc., in Albany, KY for the *Foothills Independent Transitional Living Center (FIT)*. The project will construct a Center to deliver transitional housing, training, case management, drug abuse prevention, and reemployment services to youth who age out of the child welfare system and have limited support networks to enter or reenter the workforce. The Center will be located adjacent to Somerset Community and Technical College with access to vocational and professional training, career counseling, and student supports. The FIT Living Center residents will be 16 young men and women, ages 18 to 21. Licensed therapists and case managers will provide key services. Partners include Somerset Community College, the Kentucky Cabinet for Families and Children, The Job Shop, and Lake Cumberland Area Development District. The project will give at-risk young adults the opportunity for upward mobility, building skills to further their education, maintain employment, and learn to live on their own with a healthy lifestyle and positive behaviors.

Project Title: *Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU)*
Grantee: Saint Joseph London Foundation, Inc.
Award Amount: $990,510
Announcement Date: October 2020
Project Summary: ARC grant of $990,510 to the Saint Joseph London Foundation, Inc., in London, KY to create a *Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU)* at Saint Joseph London Hospital. The new facility will have the capacity to serve 100 newborn babies each year and will enable the creation of 19 full-time jobs. London and surrounding areas of Kentucky have seen troubling increases in the number of babies born with neonatal abstinence syndrome (NAS), reflecting the prevalence of drug use among mothers and the lack of effective substance abuse prevention and treatment services. Few facilities offer NICU capabilities for NAS babies or others born with severe needs, and the nearest Level II NICU services are in Lexington or Pikeville. By establishing a neonatal intensive care unit, Saint Joseph Hospital will offer local specialized care for babies, improving treatment while reducing burdens on parents and families. The project will renovate a major area of the existing hospital and acquire equipment and supplies needed to establish a six-bed NICU.

Project Title: *Gateway Regional Workforce Development Plan*
Grantee: Gateway Area Development District
Award Amount: $50,000
Announcement Date: October 2020
Project Summary: ARC grant of $50,000 to Gateway Area Development District in Morehead, KY for the *Gateway Regional Workforce Development Plan*. This technical assistance project will create a plan that identifies the area's primary economic sectors and potential emerging sectors that can provide sustainable economic growth and development. The plan will be used as a guide by key partners and community stakeholders to implement training and transition programs that will fill skillset gaps, aid the workforce in transitioning to other existing and emerging economic sectors, and expand the local workforce in a nine-county area.

Project Title: *Tiny House Manufacturing*
Grantee: Eastern Kentucky (EKY) Heritage Foundation, Inc.
Award Amount: $6,320
Announcement Date: October 2020
Project Summary: ARC grant of $6,320 to the Eastern Kentucky (EKY) Heritage Foundation, Inc., in Whitesburg, KY for the *Tiny House Manufacturing* project. The Foundation will conduct a feasibility study to determine the viability of providing vocational training to persons in addiction recovery care and hiring them to build tiny houses. A strategic plan will be based on the findings in the feasibility study. The study will be conducted in collaboration with HOMES, Inc., Fahe, and Addiction Recovery. By using the construction and distribution of tiny houses to support the drug and substance abuse post-treatment to employment continuum, tiny house manufacturing could serve as a model for second chance employment in the Region.

2019 Awards

Project Title: *Recovery, Hope, Opportunity and Resiliency (RHOAR)*
Grantee: The Fletcher Group
Award Amount: $1,677,529
Announcement Date: February 2019
Project Summary: ARC grant to The Fletcher Group in Lexington, KY, for the *Recovery, Hope, Opportunity and Resiliency* program (RHOAR), which will address the challenges of unemployment and opioid use in Eastern Kentucky by establishing new addiction recovery programs. The RHOAR initiative will expand economic development through workforce development, social enterprises, and entrepreneurship in collaboration with educational institutions to provide meaningful employment for those recovering from substance use disorders. The Fletcher Group will partner with the Kentucky Community and Technical College System, Fahe (another POWER grantee), Kentucky Housing Corporation, Recovery Kentucky, Operation Unite, and others to identify information and criteria needed to complete the "tool kit" that will be utilized throughout the programs, as well areas to place new facilities. The project will serve 300 individuals in recovery and will leverage $24 million in private capital and up to $4.8 million annually in other funding.

Project Title: *eKAMI Workforce Development Program*
Grantee: East Kentucky Advanced Manufacturing Institute, Inc.
Award Amount: $1,500,000
Announcement Date: February 2019
Project Summary: ARC grant to the East Kentucky Advanced Manufacturing Institute, Inc. in Paintsville, KY, for the *eKAMI Workforce Development Program*. Through eKAMI's basic program dislocated, unemployed, and underemployed adults receive training in the CNC machining industry leading to certifications on Haas equipment. The project will expand the existing eKAMI programming to include support of a nine-month Young Adult Advanced Manufacturing Technology Program for those out of school and new to the workforce and support of the High School Advanced Manufacturing Technology Program, providing a career path for current high school students. The expansion will also include initiation of an Advanced Manufacturing Technology Teacher Training Program for high school career and technical education instructors, initiation of a Correctional Facility Workforce Development Pilot Program, and expansion of eKAMI's signature 16-week Adult Training Program for those unemployed and underemployed who have work experience in other careers.

Project Title: *Kentucky's Appalachia Aviation Maintenance Technician Training Project*
Grantee: Eastern Kentucky University
Award Amount: $1,463,927
Announcement Date: February 2019
Project Summary: ARC grant to Eastern Kentucky University (EKU) in Richmond, KY, for the *Kentucky's Appalachia Aviation Maintenance Technician Training* project. In partnership with two community colleges and regional airports, EKU will create an aviation maintenance technician program at multiple campuses in Eastern Kentucky. Identifying a growing employment sector, the project responds to the need for economic diversification, job creation, and workforce development within Kentucky's Appalachian counties. Each aviation maintenance technician cohort will begin training in classrooms at the Richmond EKU campus and two of Eastern Kentucky University's regional campuses, Hazard Community & Technical College and Big Sandy Community & Technical College. Each is strategically chosen for its proximity to a partnering regional airport. Once trainees fulfill basic coursework requirements inside the traditional classroom setting, the training will move to the regional airports for hands-on work training. The program will yield industry- recognized certification and will serve 86 workers/trainees, all of whom will be certified and employed as aviation maintenance technicians.

Project Title: *Eastern Kentucky Addiction Recovery & Training (eKART)*
Grantee: Eastern Kentucky Concentrated Employment Program (EKCEP), Inc.
Award Amount: $1,461,078
Announcement Date: February 2019
Project Summary: ARC grant to Eastern Kentucky Concentrated Employment Program, Inc. (EKCEP) in Hazard, KY, for the *Eastern Kentucky Addiction Recovery & Training Program* (eKART). EKCEP is partnering with Sullivan University and Addiction Recovery Care to implement the eKART program, which will bridge the gap between addiction recovery and productive participation in the workforce for individuals in recovery. The program will provide valuable career training and supportive services, as well as cultivate second-chance job opportunities. This project will provide regional businesses with information on ways to provide a supportive environment for employees in recovery, increasing the opportunities for work-based training and apprenticeships, while also partnering with treatment providers to identify and recruit recovering individuals appropriate for those opportunities. Sullivan University, which is successfully training individuals in recovery to become Peer Support Specialists, will enable participants to return to the workforce in jobs where they can help other individuals enter and complete recovery. The project will train 65 new peer support specialists and at least 125 individuals in recovery will re-enter the Eastern Kentucky workforce. Sixty-three businesses will be certified as recovery-friendly workplaces. Additional funding is provided by the Kentucky Department of Behavioral, Developmental, and Intellectual Disabilities and Kentucky Opioid Response Effort.

Project Title: *Supplier Education Economic Development (SEED) Program Expansion*
Grantee: Southeast Kentucky Economic Development Corporation (SKED)
Award Amount: $1,301,983
Announcement Date: February 2019
Project Summary: ARC grant to Southeast Kentucky Economic Development Corporation (SKED) in Somerset, KY, to expand the reach and capacity of the *Supplier Education and Economic Development (SEED) Program*. The project's training and support services will improve the competitiveness of manufacturing companies in coal-impacted counties of Eastern Kentucky and will help them acquire the competence needed to win government and private contracts. Key partners in the project are Advantage Kentucky Alliance (AKA), which will provide the training, and the Kentucky Procurement Technical Assistance Center (KY PTAC), which will assist participating companies in developing new business with

Department of Defense prime contractors. The project expects to create 350 jobs and leverage $3 million in private investment.

Project Title: *Second Chance Employment*
Grantee: Fahe
Award Amount: $1,000,000
Announcement Date: February 2019
Project Summary: ARC grant to Fahe Inc. in Berea, KY, for the *Second Chance Employment* project, which will create a stronger second-chance employment market for those in recovery from addiction in Eastern Kentucky. Fahe will work with local employers in 6 coal-impacted counties (Harlan, Jackson, Knox, Rockcastle, Laurel, and Pulaski) to expand successful reemployment models by creating opportunities for business owners to become part of the solution, and by enabling Kentuckians in recovery to craft a better future for themselves, their families, and their communities. The project will create a coach/mentorship program for those interested in becoming Second Chance employers. Fahe will partner with DV8, an innovative business located in Lexington, Kentucky, that is pioneering a reemployment model built on providing second-chance opportunities for individuals in recovery by providing job training and above-average pay. The experienced staff of DV8 Kitchen (a social enterprise restaurant and bakery focused on hiring and training people in recovery) will educate local businesses and organizations on the facts about recovery and offer the chance for these organizations to apply for an intern. Employers will apply to obtain a six-month paid recovery intern, with the understanding that the employee will be hired after satisfactory performance. The labor pool for these internships will be derived from Kentucky addiction treatment centers. As a result of the project, 45 businesses will be improved through their knowledge of recovery-friendly workplaces and 30 workers will be placed as interns.

Project Title: *Troublesome Creek Stringed Instruments Company*
Grantee: Appalachian Artisan Center, Inc
Award Amount: $867,582
Announcement Date: February 2019
Project Summary: ARC grant to the Appalachian Artisan Center, Inc. in Hindman, KY, for the *Troublesome Creek Stringed Instruments Company*. The project will support a startup manufacturing company in making high-end custom artisanal guitars, mandolins, and mountain dulcimers from Appalachian hardwoods. The Appalachian Artisan Center's existing School of Luthiery will serve as the workforce development arm and Eastern Kentucky Concentrated Employment Program (EKCEP) will provide financial assistance for training for supplemental employment costs. The company will use an existing building and woodworking facility at the Kentucky School of Craft, which will be rented to the company at a discounted rate by the Hazard Community and Technical College. This will be Knott County's first manufacturing plant. The project will create additional demand for high quality Appalachian hardwood tonewoods and will support local businesses supplying these woods. The company projects new employment of 18 over the first three years, growing to 37 by year six and ultimately reaching 65 employees.

Project Title: *Hope Building*
Grantee: Housing Development Alliance, Inc.
Award Amount: $833,670
Announcement Date: February 2019
Project Summary: ARC grant to the Housing Development Alliance, Inc. in Hazard, KY, for the *Hope Building* program. Housing Development Alliance (HDA), in partnership with the Perry County Drug Court (PCDC), Hickory Hill Recovery Center (HHRC), Hazard Community and Technical College (HCTC), and Eastern Kentucky Concentrated Employment Program

(EKCEP), will provide people in recovery from addition with training and support services to re-enter the workforce. Through paid, on-the-job training opportunities in the residential construction industry, Hope Building participants will develop a positive work history and gain valuable certifications while earning wages from on-the-job training. Trainees will be supported by EKCEP as they search for permanent job placement and will receive counseling and support services from HHRC or PCDC. Hope Building will benefit the regional economy by creating workforce housing in an area where the demand for new, modest housing exceeds the current housing supply. After homes are constructed and sold by HDA, the proceeds will be reinvested in the program. Over three years approximately 25 participants will receive training, counseling, and related services and build 15 units of workforce housing.

Project Title: *Lewis County Broadband Strategic Plan and Feasibility Study*
Grantee: Lewis County Fiscal Court
Award Amount: $76,000
Announcement Date: February 2019
Project Summary: ARC grant to the Lewis County Fiscal Court in Vanceburg, KY, for the *Lewis County Broadband Strategic Plan and Feasibility Study*. Lewis County, like most of Eastern Kentucky, does not have adequate broadband coverage. The project will conduct a feasibility study and craft a strategic plan to assist the county in creating a phased broadband implementation plan that can be used as a roadmap for action. The study will determine what broadband assets and resources currently exist in the county and determine what broadband bandwidth the community needs to foster economic growth.

Project Title: *The Magic of Carr Creek: A Community Revitalization Project*
Grantee: Carr Creek Alumni Association
Award Amount: $50,000
Announcement Date: February 2019
Project Summary: ARC grant to the Carr Creek Alumni Association in Littcarr, KY, for *The Magic of Carr Creek: A Community Revitalization Project*. Designed to maximize the economic impact of over 690,000 annual visitors to Carr Creek Lake, the project will examine the conversion of a former high school into a multi-use facility. The project will conduct an economic feasibility/market demand study, develop a regional strategic agenda for tourism, and conduct community engagement and partnership development efforts. Project partners include the tourism offices of Letcher, Knott, and Perry counties.

Project Title: *WestCare Kentucky/Judi Patton Center for Families*
Grantee: WestCare Kentucky, Inc.
Award Amount: $1,136,225
Announcement Date: April 2019
Project Summary: ARC grant to WestCare Kentucky, Inc., in Pikeville, KY, for the *Judi Patton Center for Families*. The project will renovate a 24,600-square-foot building into a facility that will provide residential substance abuse treatment for women in tandem with therapeutic treatment for their children. Female patients will live with their children at the site while receiving treatment through professional, licensed, evidence-based, gender-specific programming for women. Onsite therapeutic child care will provide a safe environment for children while their mothers obtain needed recovery services. Some patients will be trained to become peer recovery coaches, thus supporting efforts to help people in recovery return to the job market. When fully operational, the center will serve 300 patients each year. The project will create 25 permanent jobs that are needed to operate the facility. The project complements a 2015 POWER award from the U.S. Economic Development Administration.

Project Title: *Revitalize, Redevelop, and Reinvest (R3) Initiative*
Grantee: Foundation for Appalachian Kentucky
Award Amount: $1,500,000
Announcement Date: October 2019
Project Summary: ARC grant to the Foundation for Appalachian Kentucky in Hazard, KY for the *Revitalize, Redevelop, and Reinvest (R3) Initiative*. The Foundation for Appalachian Kentucky will partner with the Community Economic Development Initiative of Kentucky (CEDIK) at the University of Kentucky to create an Appalachian Impact Fund. The Fund, along with ancillary technical assistance services, will support downtown revitalization and strengthen the entrepreneurial ecosystem across ten counties in Southeastern Kentucky. The Fund will assist downtown real estate development projects through a mixture of grants, low-interest loans, and long-term equity investments, while a large-scale technical assistance program (modeled on the work of CEDIK under a previous POWER grant) will help communities with strategic project investment planning. The project will improve 10 communities, serve 200 businesses, create 60 jobs, and leverage $7.6 million in private investment. Additional funding is provided by the James Graham Brown Foundation, the Marguerite Casey Foundation, and a major private donor.

Project Title: *Big Sandy Healthy Workforce*
Grantee: Mountain Comprehensive Care Center (MCCC)
Award Amount: $1,500,000
Announcement Date: October 2019
Project Summary: ARC grant to the Mountain Comprehensive Care Center (MCCC) in Prestonsburg, KY for the *Big Sandy Healthy Workforce* project. This funding will support renovating Osbourne Elementary School in Floyd County, KY to construct a substance abuse treatment center that will serve five economically distressed counties (Floyd, Johnson, Magoffin, Martin, and Pike). The project will create short-term, long-term, and outpatient substance abuse treatment opportunities, as well as wrap-around support services that emphasize workforce training, education, skills development, and post-treatment job placement. Workforce Specialists will collaborate with the Eastern Kentucky Advanced Manufacturing Institute (a prior POWER grantee) and the Kentucky Works Program to ensure that participants have access to the resources and opportunities associated with successful job placement. The creation of MCCC's new facility is expected to create 27 new jobs while serving 200 patients per year.

Project Title: *Workforce Training Center*
Grantee: KCEOC Community Action Partnership, Inc.
Award Amount: $1,500,000
Announcement Date: October 2019
Project Summary: ARC grant to KCEOC Community Action Partnership, Inc. in Gray, KY for the *Workforce Training Center* project. The project will construct a Work Ready Training Center (WRTC) and offer trade, certificate, and post-secondary education provided by Southeast Kentucky Community and Technical College. Fast-track programs will allow local and distance students to receive training in the fields of healthcare, technology, advanced manufacturing, and transportation/logistics. A partnership between KCEOC and the Eastern Kentucky Concentrated Employment Program will enable the WRTC to begin attaining goals and outcomes within the first three months after completion of construction. The new WRTC is expected to create 10 jobs in faculty and staff, while improving 500 workers and serving 1,400 students. Additional funding for the project comes from the U.S. Economic Development Administration and the Commonwealth of Kentucky's Education and Workforce Development Cabinet.

Project Title: *Pikeville Medical Center's Children's Hospital*
Grantee: Pikeville Medical Center (PMC)
Award Amount: $1,500,000
Announcement Date: October 2019
Project Summary: ARC grant to the Pikeville Medical Center (PMC) in Pikeville, KY for the *Pikeville Medical Center's Children's Hospital*. Pikeville Medical Center will construct and equip a new facility to provide health care for over 100,000 children in 23 counties in Kentucky, Virginia, and West Virginia. The project will create 50 permanent jobs, while retaining over 100 other pediatric medical and non-medical staff. PMC will work with the University of Pikeville and Big Sandy Community and Technical College to strengthen the regional healthcare workforce. The new facility will bolster the health care industry cluster, diversify an economy that has been heavily dependent on coal, and strengthen the regional workforce. The children's hospital will treat children from birth to age 18, including infants born with drug dependencies. Additional funding for the PMC Children's Hospital comes from the federal Abandoned Mine Lands pilot program.

Project Title: *Restoring Pride in Kentucky's Appalachia-Phase II*
Grantee: Eastern Kentucky PRIDE
Award Amount: $1,500,000
Announcement Date: October 2019
Project Summary: ARC grant to Eastern Kentucky PRIDE in Somerset, KY for the *Restoring Pride in Kentucky's Appalachia-Phase II* project. Eastern Kentucky PRIDE will implement a robust tourism marketing and branding campaign to establish 41 counties in southern and eastern Kentucky as a tourism destination. The destination branding initiative will leverage the region's natural assets and strong cultural heritage to promote new or enhanced traveler experiences in order to increase tourism spending and create tourism as an economic driver for the region, whose economy has been adversely affected by the decline in the coal industry. The campaign will include a new tourism website; print, billboard, television, and online advertising; tourism guides and brochures; and branded merchandise. The marketing efforts are expected to attract 2,000 new day visitors and 200 overnight visitors per year and create 30 tourism-related jobs. The project implements a regional tourism strategic plan that was developed through an earlier POWER grant.

Project Title: *Patriot Drug Treatment and Rehabilitative Center*
Grantee: Whitley County Fiscal Court
Award Amount: $50,000
Announcement Date: October 2019
Project Summary: ARC grant to the Whitley County Fiscal Court in Williamsburg, KY for the *Patriot Drug Treatment and Rehabilitative Center* feasibility study. The study will determine the viability of a drug treatment and rehabilitative center with a workforce training component located near Williamsburg, KY. The study will analyze the assets and resources that already exist in the area and will recommend the best practices for implementing this type of facility to meet the community's needs. The proposed Center will be located on property owned by the University of the Cumberlands. It will offer detox, inpatient residential treatment, and outpatient services, and will promote re-entry into the workforce through close relationships with workforce development organizations. The county will use the study as a roadmap to develop the appropriate programs/services to combat the opioid epidemic, while assisting in increasing labor force participation rates to spur economic growth.

2018 Awards

Project Title: *Appalachian Wildlife Center Wastewater Treatment Project*
Grantee: Appalachian Wildlife Foundation, Inc.
Award Amount: $1,305,200
Announcement Date: October 2018
Project Summary: ARC grant to the Appalachian Wildlife Foundation, Inc. in Corbin, KY, to install a wastewater treatment facility for the Appalachian Wildlife Center (the Center). The Center will be a major tourist attraction and a world-class education and research facility focused on wildlife conservation and re-use of reclaimed coal lands of Appalachia. Located on 19 miles of reclaimed mine land, the Center will feature the largest elk restoration and viewing effort in the United States and will boost tourism in a tristate area. When fully operational, the Center expects to host over 835,000 annual paying attendees. The visitor center building will house classrooms, a museum of natural history and wildlife conservation, and a museum of regional history. An artisans' market, display gallery, and work area will highlight regional artists. Following the project's completion, 11 communities will be improved through revenues from tourism and 99 jobs will be created at the facility during the performance period. Additional funding for the Center is being provided through the Abandoned Mine Lands program of the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement of the U.S. Department of the Interior.

Project Title: *Community Oriented Access to Learning (COAL)*
Grantee: The Center for Rural Development
Award Amount: $1,000,000
Announcement Date: October 2018
Project Summary: ARC grant to the Center for Rural Development in Somerset, KY, to support the Center's Community Oriented Access to Learning (COAL) program. This training program will serve 14 counties in southern and eastern Kentucky that have been severely impacted by the downturn of coal production. The program will assist unemployed and under-employed individuals from these communities in obtaining training and education that will support them in finding employment. Additionally, the program will benefit employers within the region by providing a more skilled workforce to meet growing workforce demands. The grant will support training and education in two growing sectors: Allied Health and Information Technology. The COAL program will also offer much-needed soft skills training. The COAL program expects that 50 Allied Health workers/trainees will obtain employment in a field related to their training, 110 Information Technology students will obtain employment and/or move into a higher-level position based on the training they receive through this program, and 26 broadband technology students will obtain employment and/or continue their education.

Project Title: *Welding Technology*
Grantee: Hazard Community and Technical College
Award Amount: $600,000
Announcement Date: October 2018
Project Summary: ARC grant to Hazard Community and Technical College (HCTC) in Hazard, KY, to expand the college's welding technology program. HCTC's welding technology program is operating at capacity and the demand generated by regional employers exceeds the resources available to the college. The grant will fund renovations, equipment, and personnel, serving at least 12 more students per cohort in each short-term training. The training is developed in consultation with area employers. At the end of the grant period, HCTC expects 70 workers/trainees will obtain a job in the field for which they were specifically trained and 60 students will complete the credit-bearing training program. The expansion of the welding program builds on a prior POWER grant to HCTC to expand its course offerings

in four other career clusters. Over three years approximately 25 participants will receive training, counseling, and related services and build 15 units of workforce housing.

Project Title: *Creative Capital Investment Assessment: Southeastern Kentucky*
Grantee: Southeast Kentucky Community & Technical College
Award Amount: $80,000
Announcement Date: October 2018
Project Summary: ARC grant to Southeast Kentucky Community and Technical College in Cumberland, KY, for an assessment of investment opportunities in five Southeastern Kentucky counties (Bell, Harlan, Knott, Letcher, Perry), focusing on identifying redevelopment projects that also include potential entrepreneurship components. The assessment will include an executive summary that presents an overview of creative place-making in the five-county region, an economic and financial snapshot for each county, and investment case studies from within Southeastern Kentucky as well as from outside the region. The findings will yield a set of recommended investments and opportunities. Additionally, a communications strategy will be released to help market these opportunities to local communities, developers, and philanthropies. The assessment will tie in the work of six POWER-funded projects in the area.

2017 Awards

Project Title: *Eastern Kentucky Coal County Transformation*
Grantee: Big Sandy Community and Technical College
Award Amount: $3,500,000
Announcement Date: January 2017
Project Summary: ARC grant to Big Sandy Community and Technical College in Prestonsburg, KY, for the *Eastern Kentucky Coal County Transformation* project. The ARC award will enable three eastern Kentucky education institutions—Big Sandy, Hazard Community and Technical College, and Southeast Kentucky Community and Technical College—to launch a comprehensive, employer-driven workforce development program focused on building the digital economy and strengthening digital innovation and entrepreneurship across a 16- county region in eastern Kentucky. The consortium—in partnership with Shaping Our Appalachian Region (SOAR) and the Eastern Kentucky Concentrated Employment Program (EKCEP)—will establish educational programs that develop workforce skills in emerging regional career clusters such as cybersecurity, medical coding, and advanced manufacturing. The program will specifically engage dislocated workers from the coal industry through targeted advertisements, and will provide adult basic education as needed to ensure that these individuals can participate in the training courses. In addition, to support the development of a technology-driven economy beyond classroom training, the program will identify and promote a number of digital innovation hubs, providing facilities and resources to encourage entrepreneurial activities. Success coaches will be available to instill critical 21st century skills and provide support to nascent technology workers, and a regional committee will be established to monitor industry trends and best practices. The project will serve 300 trainees and improve the operations of 30 existing businesses in the first two years of the award, and will lay the groundwork for the development of a vibrant and lasting digital economy in eastern Kentucky.

Project Title: *Intergenerational Training Center*
Grantee: Hazard Community and Technical College
Award Amount: $1,500,000
Announcement Date: January 2017
Project Summary: ARC grant to Hazard Community and Technical College (HCTC) in Hazard, KY, for the *Intergenerational Training Center*. ARC funds will be used to construct a 14,700

square foot facility at HCTC's Lees College Campus in Jackson, KY that will deliver job training and credentialing courses focused around four emerging regional career clusters: information technology, telemedicine and health sciences, mechatronics, and eco-tourism/small business development. The project will leverage the capacity of the Eastern Kentucky Concentrated Employment Inc. (EKCEP) and the Kentucky Career Center to promote and market the program to out-of-school youth and displaced and underemployed workers impacted by the decline in the coal industry. The project will serve a seven-county area in southeastern Kentucky, and will train 295 dislocated workers and credential 228 students over the life of the award.

Project Title: *KY-WV Regional Drone Technology Workforce Project*
Grantee: Maysville Community and Technical College
Award Amount: $1,290,000
Announcement Date: January 2017
Project Summary: ARC grant to Maysville Community and Technical College (MCTC) in Maysville, KY, for the *KY-WV Regional Drone Technology Workforce Project*. MCTC will partner with Southern West Virginia Community and Technical College to deliver comprehensive training courses in small-air drone operation to a seven-county area in southern West Virginia and a 13-county area in northeastern Kentucky. Specific training activities will enable graduates to operate drones and drone sensors to provide in-demand commercial services -- such as the close-up inspection of fixed structures like power lines, utility poles, and cell phone towers. The project will serve 100 trainees over the two-year life of the award, will leverage $14,000,000 in private investment, and will, in conjunction with a previous ARC POWER award, further strengthen the emerging drone industry cluster in the West Virginia-Kentucky-Virginia tri-state area.

Project Title: *Kentucky Highlands Employment and Financial Training Program*
Grantee: Kentucky Highlands Investment Corporation
Award Amount: $1,250,000
Announcement Date: January 2017
Project Summary: ARC grant to the Kentucky Highlands Investment Corporation in London, KY, for the *Kentucky Highlands Employment and Financial Training Program*. The ARC award will capitalize a loan fund to enable Kentucky Highlands to invest in local entrepreneurs at both the start-up and expansion stages of companies located across 21 southeastern Kentucky counties. In addition, ARC's award will engage the Appalachian Community Federal Credit Union (ACFCU) to expand their portfolio of financial literacy services to the project's service territory. Specifically, ACFCU programs will increase financial knowledge, security, and wellness through the provision of credit builder loans, debt consolidation loans, payday alternative loans, affordable non-prime auto loans, and 80/20 mortgage loans. The project will create or retain 200 jobs and leverage $2,250,000 in private investment.

Project Title: *UPLIFT Appalachia Recovery*
Grantee: Fahe
Award Amount: $1,000,000
Announcement Date: January 2017
Project Summary: ARC grant to the Federation of Appalachian Housing Enterprises (Fahe) in Berea, KY, for the *UPLIFT Appalachia Recovery* project. The ARC award will be used to finance three community recovery facilities that will support residents' recovery from addiction, provide needed health services, and create job opportunities in coal-impacted communities. These facilities will primarily serve three eastern Kentucky counties—each of which is located within the federally designated USDA Strike Force Zone. Specifically, the award will facilitate the development of a housing facility in Louisa, KY, that works with

patients for 2-3 years and focuses on transitioning them from the center's care directly into an internship or job; assist in the creation of a 100-bed facility in Somerset, KY, that employs a peer-based care model in which patients in different stages of recovery work together to get and remain sober; and enable an existing facility in Jackson, KY to expand their services to an additional 990 people, to build a dental clinic, and to partner with the University of Pikeville for optometry care. The award will serve 5,060 patients, create or retain 63 jobs, and will leverage investment from USDA's Uplift America program and private investors.

Project Title: *Whitesburg Daniel Boone Hotel Stabilization*
Grantee: City of Whitesburg, KY
Award Amount: $500,000
Announcement Date: January 2017
Project Summary: ARC grant to the City of Whitesburg, KY, for the Whitesburg Daniel Boone Hotel Stabilization project. ARC funds will be utilized to make immediate and urgent repairs to stabilize the historic, brick Daniel Boone Hotel—which represents the city's rise after the arrival of railroads and the opening of the region's coalfields. The hotel is a central component of Whitesburg's economic development future and revitalization plans. After the structure is stabilized and renovated, it will be a regional destination and economic driver. The project will create 23 jobs, leverage $2,000,000 in private investment, and will attract 9,900 additional visitors annually to the area.

Project Title: *Community Ventures -- Build Appalachia Loan Fund*
Grantee: Community Ventures Corporation
Award Amount: $1,000,000
Announcement Date: June 2017
Project Summary: ARC grant to Community Ventures Corporation in Lexington, KY, for the *Build Appalachia Loan Fund* project. The Build Appalachia Loan Fund will provide affordable capital to educational institutions in Appalachian Kentucky and West Virginia that will own, operate, and manage facilities that are eligible for New Markets Tax Credits (NMTC). The loan fund will provide gap financing for major projects and will attract primary and leveraged financing for the construction or renovation of college facilities. A strategic partner in the Build Appalachia Loan Fund is the Appalachian College Association, a group of 4-year private educational institutions that seek new sources of investment capital. The fund's focus will be in healthcare-related higher education, given that much of the region is medically underserved and there is strong demand for qualified health professionals. Additional financial support for the fund is being provided by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the Mary Reynolds Babcock Foundation, and the Opportunity Finance Network. The Build Appalachia Loan Fund will leverage $50 million in private investment in 5 projects, creating 500 new jobs in healthcare-related activities.

Project Title: *Shaping Our Appalachian Region Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (SOAR STEM) Initiative*
Grantee: Morehead State University
Award Amount: $497,305
Announcement Date: June 2017
Project Summary: ARC grant to Morehead State University in Morehead, KY, for the next phase of *Shaping Our Appalachian Region Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (SOAR STEM)* project. The project's goal is to develop a highly skilled STEM workforce that can foster job growth and business expansion in an area that has experienced major job losses because of the decline in coal. It has four main areas of focus: upskilling teachers so that they receive National Board Certification; training high school teachers across 27 counties of eastern Kentucky to implement curriculum developed by Project Lead The Way, a nationally recognized developer of K–12 STEM education curricula and

professional development; supporting the development of Mentoring Centers—partnerships between industry and local school districts that provide paid internships and mentoring for high school students and connect the future workforce with local employers; and support for maker spaces, entrepreneur hubs, and a Navy Seals coding boot camp that provide hands-on skill training and experience. The program will train over 80 teachers and impact 20,000 students over the first three years of implementation.

Project Title: *Selling to the World Initiative*
Grantee: Southeast Kentucky Community and Technical College
Award Amount: $300,000
Announcement Date: June 2017
Project Summary: ARC grant to Southeast Kentucky Community and Technical College (SEKCTC) in Cumberland, KY, for the *Selling to the World Initiative*. SEKCTC, along with Eastern Kentucky Concentrated Employment Program (EKCEP) and the Discover Downtown Middlesboro Main Street Association, piloted an initiative in 2015 targeting eastern Kentucky artisans and craftspeople whose products are the type and quality that could support internet-based businesses for world-wide marketing and sales. The initiative seeks to boost the region's economy—which has been adversely affected major job losses in the coal industry—by growing local businesses, strengthening the entrepreneurial support system, helping "brand" products from the region, and promoting exports. The two-year launch phase of the initiative was privately funded by the New York Community Trust. The ARC investment will continue this activity, concentrating on artisan businesses from four coal-impacted eastern Kentucky counties, one county from northeast Tennessee, and one county from southwest Virginia. The program for artists and craft makers is expected to help create 30 new jobs and leverage $297,000 in private investment.

Project Title: *Restoring PRIDE in Kentucky's Appalachia*
Grantee: Eastern Kentucky PRIDE, Inc.
Award Amount: $80,000
Announcement Date: June 2017
Project Summary: ARC technical assistance grant for Eastern Kentucky PRIDE, Inc., in Somerset, KY, for the *Restoring PRIDE in Kentucky's Appalachia* project. PRIDE, along with The Foundation for Appalachian Kentucky, Eastern Kentucky University, and Union College, will develop a tourism-based strategic plan for 41 counties in eastern Kentucky, an area impacted by the downturn in the coal industry. By the end of the 12-month technical assistance, the partners will decide upon a branding plan to attract public and private investment for increased economic activity via joint marketing initiatives, new branding, and heritage tourism activities.

Project Title: *Southeast Kentucky Revitalization Project*
Grantee: Southeast Kentucky Community & Technical College
Award Amount: $596,250
Announcement Date: September 2017
Project Summary: ARC grant to the Southeast Kentucky Community and Technical College (SKCTC) in Cumberland, KY, for the Southeast Kentucky Revitalization project. SKCTC is working with strategic partners to develop an innovative series of training programs to develop and retrain the workforce and create economic sustainability. The goal of these programs is to prepare individuals for opportunities in emerging sectors and develop social and physical infrastructure better suited to take advantage of these developing economic opportunities. The first phase of the project will involve community engagement and other planning activities that will be used to refine the final training programs in the second phase. Training areas will initially include hospitality and customer service training, design and

digital literacy, and training for next-generation contractors and builders. The project is expected to improve 29 businesses, create or retain 80 jobs, and train 165 people.

2016 Awards

Project Title: *Kentucky College of Optometry: Equipment*
Grantee: University of Pikeville
Award Amount: $7,474,100 total (a $4,974,100 EDA grant and a $2,500,000 ARC grant)
Announcement Date: August 2016
Project Summary: Grant to the University of Pikeville in Pikeville, KY, for the *Kentucky College of Optometry (KYCO)* project. POWER funds will be used to purchase equipment, instructional supplies, and other materials to help launch a new College of Optometry. The college will both grow the healthcare workforce and improve access to vision care in Central Appalachia. KYCO will be only the second optometry college in the Appalachian Region, and will primarily serve Eastern Kentucky, Southern West Virginia, and Southwestern Virginia. Within the first three years of the award, KYCO will graduate 60 optometrists, provide care to 12,000 patients, and bring $26,000,000 in direct economic impact to the regional economy.

Project Title: *TechHire Eastern Kentucky (TEKY) Initiative: Developing a Technology-Driven Workforce to Transform Rural Appalachia*
Grantee: Eastern Kentucky Concentrated Employment Program, Inc
Award Amount: $2,750,000
Announcement Date: August 2016
Project Summary: ARC grant to the Eastern Kentucky Concentrated Employment Program (EKCEP) in Hazard, KY, for the *TechHire Eastern Kentucky (TEKY) Initiative: Developing a Technology-Driven Workforce* project. The project will serve young adults aged 17-29 who are out of school, and older adults who are unemployed, laid-off, or underemployed by offering several avenues to industry-led accelerated technology training, paid work-based internships, and employment opportunities in IT careers. This comprehensive workforce development initiative will train 200 new workers, create 160 jobs, and serve to bolster existing and emerging sectors that rely on a skilled information technology workforce in 23 Eastern Kentucky counties. The initiative will provide the trained workers necessary for a private technology company to expand its operations into Eastern Kentucky.

Project Title: *Economic Transition for Eastern Kentucky (ETEK) Initiative*
Grantee: Mountain Association for Community Economic Development (MACED)
Award Amount: $2,022,133
Announcement Date: August 2016
Project Summary: ARC grant to the Mountain Association for Community Economic Development (MACED) in Berea, KY, for the *Economic Transition for Eastern Kentucky (ETEK) Initiative*. The ARC award will expand fast-track retraining and entrepreneurial technical assistance services targeted to dislocated coal workers; establish an intern program aimed at placing former coal workers in the energy efficiency sector; and increase access to capital through a $1,000,000 venture capital loan fund. The project will create 200 new jobs and 100 new enterprises, serve 500 existing businesses, and bring $12,000,000 in leveraged financing to a 54-county region in Eastern Kentucky.

Project Title: *Downtown Revitalization in the Promise Zone*
Grantee: University of Kentucky Research Foundation
Award Amount: $1,464,251
Announcement Date: August 2016
Project Summary: ARC grant to the University of Kentucky Research Foundation in Lexington, KY, for the *Downtown Revitalization in the Promise Zone* project. This project—

partnering with the Community and Economic Development Initiative of Kentucky, the Foundation for Appalachian Kentucky, the Kentucky Promise Zone, Shaping Our Appalachian Region (SOAR), and the Kentucky Mainstreet Program—will help revitalize the downtowns of 8 distressed towns in the Southeastern Kentucky Promise Zone. The project will provide each community with tailored economic studies that identify economic opportunities, support strategic planning sessions to capitalize on those opportunities, provide financial support for key steps to implement those strategies, and build local leadership and business capacity. The project will create 24 new downtown businesses, 72 new jobs, and leverage $800,000 in private investment.

Project Title: *Appalachian Wildlife Center Infrastructure*
Grantee: Appalachian Wildlife Foundation, Inc.
Award Amount: $1,800,000
Announcement Date: October 2016
Project Summary: ARC grant to the Appalachian Wildlife Foundation Inc. in Corbin, KY, for the *Appalachian Wildlife Center Infrastructure* project. ARC funds will be used to install water infrastructure at the future site of the Appalachian Wildlife Center, a conservation education and research facility. The Wildlife Center facility—located on 19 miles of reclaimed mine land—will feature the largest elk restoration and viewing effort in the United States. The facility will be modeled on the successful Elk Country Visitor Center in Benezette, Pennsylvania. The project will position a 10-county region in the tri-state area of southeastern Kentucky, northeastern Tennessee, and southwestern Virginia as a national tourist attraction, and will create 86 new jobs.

Project Title: *Appalachian HEAT Squad*
Grantee: Fahe
Award Amount: $1,000,000
Announcement Date: October 2016
Project Summary: ARC grant to the Federation of Appalachian Housing Enterprises, Inc., (Fahe) in Berea, KY, for the *Appalachian HEAT Squad* project. ARC's investment will be utilized to improve the energy efficiency of low-income homes in coal-impacted communities across a nine-county region in eastern Kentucky—while also creating entrepreneurial and skills-based training opportunities in the area. The project will partner with Hazard Community and Technical College and the Mountain Association for Community Economic Development (MACED) to deliver the entrepreneurial education and construction training component, and with two other training organizations to increase the skill-base for private housing contractors operating in the region. The project will create or retain 119 jobs, increase the quality, affordability, and performance of over 270 homes, and leverage $525,000 in private investment.

2015 Awards

Project Title: *Local Food Supply Chain Development in Eastern Kentucky*
Grantee: Kentucky Center for Agriculture and Rural Development
Award Amount: $75,000
Announcement Date: October 2015
Project Summary: ARC grant to the Kentucky Center for Agriculture and Rural Development in Elizabethtown, KY, for *Local Food Supply Chain Development in Eastern Kentucky* project. The U.S. Economic Development Administration is also awarding $468,635 to this project. Entrepreneurs using the Jackson County Regional Food Center in Tyner, KY, will receive technical assistance in areas such as business planning and marketing to help them reach targeted markets for their products.

Project Title: *Unleashing the POWER of the I-Way*
Grantee: Shaping Our Appalachian Region, Inc.
Award Amount: $75,000
Announcement Date: October 2015
Project Summary: ARC grant to Saving Our Appalachian Region (SOAR) in Pikeville, KY, for *Unleashing the Power of the I-Way!* The U.S. Economic Development Administration is awarding $1,000,000 and ETA is awarding $2,000,000 to the Commonwealth of Kentucky as part of this project. The Kentucky Institute for Economic Development will offer annual training in professional development and economic development best practices to professionals recruited by the Eastern Kentucky Concentrated Employment Program (EKCEP) and other partners.

Project Title: *Mines to Minds: SE Kentucky High Tech Workforce Training*
Grantee: Appalshop, Inc.
Award Amount: $75,000
Announcement Date: October 2015
Project Summary: ARC grant to Appalshop, Inc., in Whitesburg, KY, for *Mines to Minds: Southeast Kentucky HighTech Workforce Training*. The U.S. Economic Development Administration is also awarding $200,000 to this project. ARC funds will be used to purchase digital multi-media supplies and equipment and to fund the creation of a technology and digital workforce development training curriculum in collaboration with area educators and regional employers.

MARYLAND (4 awards)

2022 Award

Project Title: *Broadband Customer Connect Program*
Grantee: Board of County Commissioners of Garrett County, Maryland
Award Amount: $435,000
Announcement Date: October 2022
Project Summary: ARC grant of $435,000 to the Board of County Commissioners of Garrett County, Maryland, for the *Broadband Customer Connect Program*. The project will install or support the installation of 7,500 feet of broadband conduit, enabling the deployment of fiber broadband services to 300 homes. Expanded service will benefit rural residents who have struggled to pay the thousands of dollars required to extend broadband services down long driveways to their homes. The grantee will work with all qualifying internet service providers to identify the homes in need and ensure that the appropriate cost reduction approach is applied to connect the unconnected.

2021 Awards

Project Title: *Advanced Technology Center Development—Phase ll*
Grantee: Frostburg State University
Award Amount: $1,480,979
Announcement Date: September 2021
Project Summary: ARC grant of $1,480,979 to the Frostburg State University in Frostburg, Maryland, for *Advanced Technology Center Development—Phase ll*. This project will implement Phase ll of the Western Maryland Advanced Technology Center (ATC) Development Project at Frostburg State University (FSU) Innovation Park. With a partnership between FSU and the private and public sectors, the facility will create new job opportunities

and promote economic development by supporting the growth of industries that are important to the future of the region's economy, including information technology, renewable and resilient energy, green construction materials manufacturing, environmental hazard removal, and biotech laboratory testing and analysis. The facility, located in an Opportunity Zone, will benefit residents of Allegany, Garrett, and Washington counties by training and educating the workforce in new technologies. This project is expected to create 18 new businesses and 125 jobs, retain 230 jobs, assist 40 existing businesses with access to highly skilled workers, and leverage $2.5 million in private infrastructure investment.

2020 Awards

Project Title: *Feasibility Study for the Industrial Hemp Processing Industry*
Grantee: Western Maryland Resource Conservation & Development Council
Award Amount: $50,000
Announcement Date: October 2020
Project Summary: ARC grant of $50,000 to the Western Maryland Resource Conservation & Development Council in Hagerstown, MD for a *Feasibility Study for the Industrial Hemp Processing Industry*. The project will conduct a feasibility study to determine the steps, conditions, and resources necessary to establish an industrial hemp processing facility that serves six counties in Maryland, West Virginia, and Pennsylvania. Industrial hemp shows promise for improving farm income, sustainability, community tax bases, and soil health in an area that has a strong agricultural history. As a result of the study, 100 businesses will be served and 10 businesses improved.

2017 Awards

Project Title: *I-68 Regional Economic Partnership*
Grantee: Tri-County Council for Western Maryland
Award Amount: $48,000
Announcement Date: January 2017
Project Summary: ARC grant to Tri-County Council for Western Maryland, Inc. in Frostburg, MD, for technical assistance to develop an economic development plan for the I-68 region in Maryland and West Virginia. The *I-68 Regional Economic Partnership* project will include the development of a regional asset map regional labor shed analysis, a target industry list, as well as county and regional lists of recommendations. The data and maps developed through the project will serve as resources for companies looking to build, hire, or expand in the region. Workforce training and job creation are two anticipated outcomes of the project. Local sources will match the $48,000 in project funding provided by ARC.

MISSISSIPPI (3 awards)

2024 Awards

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.

2022 Awards

Project Title: *Infusing Virtual Reality in the Workforce*
Grantee: Mississippi State University
Award Amount: $1,490,728
Announcement Date: March 2022
Project Summary: ARC grant of $1,490,728 to Mississippi State University in Starkville, Mississippi, in partnership with TRANSFRVR, for the *Infusing Virtual Reality in the Workforce* project. The project will enhance the career and technical education (CTE) infrastructure in the coal-impacted counties of Clay, Kemper, Lowndes, Noxubee, and Oktibbeha by infusing virtual reality (VR) career exploration and job training simulations into the education-to-workforce pipeline. Over the course of the three-year performance period, VR workforce training and/or career exploration will be delivered—in collaboration with East Mississippi Community College—to 10,398 youth in Mississippi's manufacturing, hospitality, healthcare, construction, transportation, and warehouse industries. These VR simulations set students on a pathway to middle-skills jobs that do not require a four-year degree in Mississippi's in-demand and high-growth industries that pay family-sustaining wages. Project award is supported by a cash match from the Mississippi Department of Education and East Mississippi Community College.

2018 Awards

Project Title: *East Mississippi Power Initiative 2018*
Grantee: Golden Triangle Planning and Development District
Award Amount: $730,559
Announcement Date: October 2018
Project Summary: ARC grant to the Golden Triangle Planning and Development District in Starkville, MS, to support a project that will diversify the economy of four coal-impacted Mississippi counties (Choctaw, Kemper, Webster, and Winston) by building a competitive manufacturing workforce. The project's first goal is to implement a middle-skill manufacturing training program based on the *Mississippi Works Smart Start Career Pathway Model* to build up a skilled workforce in the four counties. The second goal is to strengthen existing *Pathway Model* programs in the region, especially work experience opportunities. Developed by the State of Mississippi, the *Pathway Model* consists of intensive career development, necessary skills assessment, and basic skills development with career enrichment activities geared toward in-demand, middle-skilled occupations. Training will be provided by three area community colleges. At least six of the eight participating companies will be improved by hiring students and trainees. It is anticipated that 108 of the students who enter a training program will complete and obtain employment. All 165 incumbent workers will benefit from having higher level skills, and 31 of the unemployed adults will obtain employment.

NEW YORK (13 awards)

2024 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.

2023 Awards

Project Title: *Dunkirk Strategies for Tourism-Based Economic Diversification*
Grantee: City of Dunkirk, New York
Award Amount: $35,000
Announcement Date: October 2023
Project Summary: ARC grant of $35,000 to the City of Dunkirk, New York, for the *Dunkirk Strategies for Tourism-Based Economic Diversification* project. The project will conduct a feasibility and planning study for a future four-season tourism attraction located on a city-owned property along Lake Erie. Chautauqua County has suffered from economic decline and population loss for several decades due to deindustrialization and the recent closing of a coal power plant. This project will aid the city's efforts to diversify the local economy and create a plan for tapping into the region's tourism potential. The project will produce a feasibility and planning study over the course of one year.

2021 Awards

Project Title: *Broome County Innovation District Fiber Enhancement and Smart Cities Plan*
Grantee: Broome County
Award Amount: $50,000
Announcement Date: September 2021
Project Summary: ARC grant of $50,000 to Broome County in Binghamton, New York, for the *Broome County Innovation District Fiber Enhancement and Smart Cities Plan* to conduct a broadband feasibility study and develop a Smart Cities plan focused on the "innovation districts" of the downtown areas of Binghamton, Johnson City, and Endicott. The planning project will include an assessment of opportunities for expansion of the open-access fiber network within and adjacent to these areas and opportunities to integrate Smart Cities technologies into community services. Led by the Broome County Department of Planning and Economic Development as well as municipal stakeholders from the Town of Union, villages of Endicott and Johnson City, and the City of Binghamton, the project will have input and matching funds provided by Broome County Industrial Development Agency, a nonprofit economic development organization, and will receive feedback on asset availability and expansion feasibility from Southern Tier Network, a regional nonprofit open-access telecommunications company.

Project Title: *Town of Dryden Southern Tier Network Expansion*
Grantee: Town of Dryden
Award Amount: $624,614
Announcement Date: December 2021
Project Summary: ARC grant of $624,614 to the town of Dryden, New York for the *Town of Dryden Southern Tier Network Expansion* project. The project will connect the Southern Tier Network (STN) at Cornell University to the Dryden Municipal Building and SUNY Tompkins Cortland Community College (TC3). The installation of 13.5 miles of fiber optic cabling will provide direct access to STN resources including regional educational, public safety and broadband networks. This project will improve connectivity to 7 communities in the counties of Cortland and Thompkins. Upon completion of the project, Dryden and TC3 will have a completely functional, commissioned network connecting to STN's 600+ miles dark fiber network with access to 50 public school buildings, 4 vocational school campuses, 28 public libraries and multiple state and private universities including Cornell University and Binghamton University. Outcomes are expected to include 13.5 miles of fiber and serve up to 382 businesses and 6,309 households.

Project Title: *Regional Rural Wireless Solution*
Grantee: Town of Caton
Award Amount: $470,000
Announcement Date: December 2021
Project Summary: ARC grant of $470,000 to the town of Caton, New York for the *Regional Rural Wireless Solution* project. The project will expand broadband availability in the communities of Caton and Lindley in Steuben County by creating four new wireless broadband telecommunications towers. The project will utilize two existing towers and construct an additional two towers to maximize service area and speeds. Upon completion of the buildout, project partner Southern Tier Network, a nonprofit, will own and maintain the equipment. An RFP will be issued to internet service providers for the buildout of the wireless network. The project will expand service to two communities, serve up to 263 households, and 26 businesses.

2020 Awards

Project Title: *Creating a Diverse, Redundant and Resilient High Capacity Fiber Network*
Grantee: Southern Tier Network
Award Amount: $1,552,554
Announcement Date: February 2020
Project Summary: ARC grant of $1,552,554 to the Southern Tier Network in Corning, NY, for the Creating a Diverse, Redundant and Resilient High Capacity Fiber Network project. The project will enable the Southern Tier Network (STN), a non-profit, open-access fiber network, to expand its existing high-speed fiber-optic ring in the Southern Tier of New York by adding 84 miles of fiber loops, increasing the network's redundancy. This will create a less vulnerable and more resilient broadband asset in five counties of New York's Southern Tier (Chemung, Schuler, Steuben, Tioga, and Thompkins). The expansion and stabilization of the network will ensure that rural businesses have reliable access to broadband services, students will be able to complete Internet-based homework, and telehealth options are available to residents. The project will provide more reliable internet service to 29 businesses employing over 500 people, including a hospital and 8 medical clinics, as well as to 911 emergency response services. The fiber network is used by eight for-profit service providers that lease fiber from STN to provide service to over 50,000 customers. Additional financial support is being provided by the U.S. Economic Development Administration and the State of New York.

Project Title: *Allegany County-Wide Broadband*
Grantee: Southern Tier West Regional Planning and Development Board
Award Amount: $426,304
Announcement Date: October 2020
Project Summary: ARC grant of $426,304 to the Southern Tier West Regional Planning and Development Board in Salamanca, NY for the *Allegany County-Wide Broadband* project. The project will install fixed wireless broadband equipment at 12 telecom sites in the county, offering 50 Mbps internet speeds to 2,879 households, 170 businesses, and 39 communities. Due to Allegany County's low population density and rugged terrain, the high cost to deploy traditional fiber broadband infrastructure has served as a barrier to expanding high-speed internet service in the area. As a result, households and businesses must rely on satellite internet, whose service is encumbered by low latency, unreliability, and data caps. The project will bring reliable high-speed wireless internet service to unserved and underserved areas of the county, enabling businesses to expand their supply chain and customer base and residents to take advantage of telemedicine and online learning opportunities.

Project Title: *Cayuga Data Juice–Broadband Connectivity*
Grantee: Tompkins County Area Development
Award Amount: $404,170
Announcement Date: October 2020
Project Summary: ARC grant of $404,170 to Tompkins County Area Development in Ithaca, NY for the *Cayuga Data Juice–Broadband Connectivity Project*. This project will install a 17-mile fiber broadband trunk from Ithaca to the recently retired Cayuga coal plant in Lansing, NY. In partnership with Binghamton University and Beowulf Energy, this middle-mile broadband expansion will provide gigabit service to the proposed $100 million Cayuga Data Center, a high-capacity data center with a strong focus on artificial intelligence and machine learning. The fiber will allow the data center to connect to the Southern Tier Network (STN), which has received support through a previous POWER grant. The project will improve 2,134 businesses and serve 16,234 households within a two-mile radius of the proposed line. Matching funds are provided by Heorot Power Management and the grantee.

2019 Awards

Project Title: *Dunkirk/Chautauqua County Power Plant Redevelopment Alternatives and Feasibility Analysis*
Grantee: The City of Dunkirk
Award Amount: $60,000
Announcement Date: February 2019
Project Summary: ARC grant to the city of Dunkirk, NY, for the *Dunkirk/Chautauqua County Power Plant Redevelopment Alternatives and Feasibility Analysis* project. The city of Dunkirk will conduct a redevelopment and feasibility analysis for the NRG Power Plant site, the location of a closed coal-fired power plant. The site consists of 75.9 acres of land located at Dunkirk Harbor on the City's Lake Erie waterfront. NRG has announced that the company will abandon the site, resulting in lost jobs and reduced tax revenue. The feasibility analysis will guide the redevelopment of the site into a productive and tax-generating property. The scope of the work includes an assessment of the assets and liabilities of the site, market analysis, reuse strategy alternatives, and recommended actions.

Project Title: *Southwest NY Wireless Broadband*
Grantee: Southern Tier West Regional Planning and Development Board (STW)
Award Amount: $395,000
Announcement Date: October 2019
Project Summary: ARC grant to Southern Tier West Regional Planning and Development Board (STW) in Salamanca, NY for the *Southwest NY Wireless Broadband* project. The project will purchase and install fixed wireless broadband equipment and backhaul fiber. This new equipment will enable delivery of effective capacity and cost competitive Wi-Fi broadband service in underserved and unserved areas of eight rural communities in three New York counties (Allegany, Cattaraugus, and Chautauqua). The counties have been adversely affected by the closure of coal-fired power plants and the decline in freight rail volume due to reduced coal traffic. STW is collaborating with two internet providers to close the high-speed coverage gap, improving access to telehealth, business resources, and economic opportunity. The installation of new antennas on eight existing cell towers and the construction of a new tower will provide high-speed, low latency coverage to over 1,100 locations. This includes 206 small businesses, 121 agricultural locations, and 10 tourism destinations.

2017 Awards

Project Title: *Biorefinery Development and Commercialization Center*
Grantee: The Research Foundation for SUNY on behalf of Alfred State College
Award Amount: $1,500,000
Announcement Date: September 2017
Project Summary: ARC grant to Alfred State College (ASC) in Alfred, NY, for the *Biorefinery Development and Commercialization Center (BDCC)* project. The project will help private and public partners leverage natural resources (wood) to create sustainable businesses using advanced manufacturing processes. It will strengthen a regional economy that has experienced the closure of a coal-fired power plant and job losses in coal supply-chain companies. The BDCC is a prototype facility that will develop and commercialize a process that extracts valuable chemical assets from wood and uses them to manufacture basic commodities and advanced technology materials, energy, and biofuels. The facility will spur additional investment, including business start-ups and full-scale biorefineries. It will be used by ASC, the State University of New York (SUNY), universities from other ARC states, and private-sector bioenergy and biochemical companies. The college and its network will also provide training and technical services to coal-impacted companies as they seek to enter new markets, diversify their manufacturing base, and adapt their workforce. The facility will contribute to the creation of 15 new business and help 125 workers gain skills and retain or gain employment.

NORTH CAROLINA (25 awards)

2024 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.

2023 Awards

Project Title: *EmPOWERing Mountain Food Systems—Partnerships Strengthening Infrastructure and Supply Chains to Increase Farm Income and Resiliency*
Grantee: North Carolina State University
Award Amount: $1,186,409
Announcement Date: October 2023
Project Summary: ARC grant of $1,186,409 to North Carolina State University Raleigh, North Carolina, for *EmPOWERing Mountain Food Systems (EMFS)—Partnerships Strengthening Infrastructure and Supply Chains to Increase Farm Income and Resiliency* project. EmPOWER Mountain Food Systems (EMFS) will develop a comprehensive program for expanding the local food economy in Western North Carolina by focusing on entrepreneurship, business development, job creation, workforce development, and growing community leadership for lasting change. The project will expand the impacts and double the number of counties served, with a targeted focus on food hubs and supply chain development, bringing resources into one of the most rural, resource-limited areas of North Carolina. This project will expand into an additional 14-county "foodshed" region across five Regional Councils of Governments, including the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians. This project will serve 1,165 business, 3,212 participants and 50 students across 13 communities in Appalachian North Carolina.

Project Title: *Upscaling the Creative Manufacturing Sector in WNC*
Grantee: Land of Sky Regional Council of Government
Award Amount: $952,963
Announcement Date: October 2023
Project Summary: ARC grant of $952,963 to Land of Sky Regional Council of Government in Asheville, North Carolina, for the *Upscaling the Creative Manufacturing Sector in WNC* project. The Land of Sky Regional Council (LSRC) will work collaboratively across 26 counties to implement strategies that bring together local leaders to invest in and grow the capacity, strength, and sustainability of the creative manufacturing economy of Western North Carolina. Project partners include the Southwestern Commission, High Country COG, Western Arts Agencies of North Carolina (WNC Arts), AB Tech, Mountain BizWorks, and Center for Craft. This project builds off a previous ARC POWER planning project titled "Creative Manufacturing Sector Development Plan (CMSDP)." By the end of the period of performance, this project is expected to serve 705 businesses, create more than 110 jobs, retain 158 additional jobs and to leverage $4,450,000 of private investment.

2022 Awards

Project Title: *Construction Trades – Program Growth*
Grantee: Western Piedmont Community College
Award Amount: $760,000
Announcement Date: March 2022
Project Summary: ARC grant of $760,000 to Western Piedmont Community College (WPCC) in Morganton, North Carolina, for the *Construction Trades – Program Growth* project. WPCC's project will expand upon existing construction and heavy machinery training to provide electrical, HVAC, and plumbing training programs for underemployed workers who need to

be upskilled, high school students/graduates, and people who have dropped out of the workforce. WPCC will partner with Burke County School System to design a critical training curriculum to align industry needs for a pipeline of trained construction workers. In addition to Burke County School System, key partners include Burke County, Caldwell Community College & Technical Institute, Catawba Valley Community College, and local construction and building companies, who will serve on advisory committees and interview qualified program graduates for employment opportunities. WPCC's expanded construction training program will provide students opportunities to acquire stackable certificates, with each certificate taking from 8–16 weeks to complete. The project serves Alexander, Burke, and Caldwell counties, which have been impacted by recent closures of coal-fired power plants and reduced heavy freight traffic. The project anticipates serving 100 students during the three-year project.

2021 Awards

Project Title: *Unlocking New Energy Investments for Job Creation and Business Growth*
Grantee: Appalachian Voices
Award Amount: $1,500,000
Announcement Date: September 2021
Project Summary: ARC grant of $1,500,000 to Appalachian Voices in Boone, North Carolina, for the *Unlocking New Energy Investments for Job Creation and Business Growth* project. Appalachian Voices and its partners will bolster the solar industry in a region heavily impacted by the decline in the coal economy by creating and implementing the Appalachian Solar Finance Fund (the Fund). The Fund will provide financing and technical assistance to launch 64 solar installations at commercial and institutional sites, strengthening the emerging solar industry and boosting solar energy capacity. The project will serve coal-impacted communities in Kentucky, North Carolina, Ohio, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia. The Fund is an outgrowth of a previous POWER planning grant. Additional funding for the project is provided by the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation, the Appalachian Investment Ecosystem Initiative, Invest Appalachia, New Resource Solutions, and the Natural Capital Investment Fund. The project is expected to create 282 jobs while producing $5.4 million in energy savings and attracting $7.9 million in private investment.

Project Title: *WNC Center of Excellence in Precision Manufacturing: Preparing Mountain Area Workers with Skills and Qualifications for Living Wage Employment*
Grantee: Asheville–Buncombe Technical Community College
Award Amount: $1,500,000
Announcement Date: September 2021
Project Summary: ARC grant of $1,500,000 to Asheville–Buncombe Technical Community College in Asheville, North Carolina, for the *WNC Center of Excellence in Precision Manufacturing: Preparing Mountain Area Workers with Skills and Qualifications for Living Wage Employment* project. The project will equip a state-of-the-art training facility to deliver comprehensive training programs in precision manufacturing to unemployed and under-employed residents in Appalachian Western North Carolina. The program will also offer wrap-around services to workers, including those impacted by the coronavirus pandemic and opioid crises. The North Carolina Community College System is providing $1,835,000 in matching funds for the project. The project is expected to provide training for 800 jobs that will be immediately available to the local facility of a global defense contractor in the aviation and aerospace sector.

Project Title: *Accelerating Outdoors: Outdoor Recreation Powering Economic Growth and Recovery*
Grantee: Mountain Bizworks
Award Amount: $1,350,000
Announcement Date: September 2021
Project Summary: ARC grant of $1,350,000 to Mountain BizWorks in Asheville, North Carolina, for the *Accelerating Outdoors: Outdoor Recreation Powering Economic Growth and Recovery* project. Building on the existing outdoor recreation industry cluster, which was bolstered by a prior POWER grant, the project intends to make Western North Carolina the leading outdoor economy in the eastern United States. The project features an integrated program that offers capital access and technical assistance for local businesses; trains workers to meet the employment needs of the industry; strengthens the regional outdoor recreation brand, enhancing market access for the cluster; and builds the capacity of communities to develop, attract, and support outdoor recreation businesses. The area targeted by the project has been adversely affected by the closure of coal-fired power plants and job losses in the coal supply chain. Financial support for the project is being provided by Dogwood Health Trust, Western Carolina University, Appalachian State University, Outdoor Gear Builders of WNC, and Mountain BizWorks. The project is expected to create 25 businesses, yield 180 new jobs, and leverage $8.1 million in private investment.

Project Title: *WNC Early Childhood Educator Workforce Project*
Grantee: Land of Sky Regional Council
Award Amount: $801,923
Announcement Date: September 2021
Project Summary: ARC grant of $801,923 to Land of Sky Regional Council in Asheville, North Carolina, for the *WNC Early Childhood Educator Workforce Project*. The project will reduce the severe shortage of childcare teachers in 11 targeted counties in Southwestern North Carolina through training, coaching, education, and placement of new persons in the field. The project includes communities affected by coal-related supply chain industries. Building the childcare industry will reinvigorate the economy of these communities by creating more jobs in childcare to support working families and thereby attracting investment. The current inadequacy in childcare spaces is a challenge to the economic recovery of the western North Carolina region. With the additional teachers will come additional childcare spaces to support working families. The partners on this project include the Southwestern Commission, Southwestern Child Development Commission, Buncombe Partnership for Children, NCWorks, and Children and Family Resource Center. The project will build the capacity to provide quality care for young children and provide the resources needed for early childhood development, for parents to return to work, and for communities to seek economic investment. Over the course of two years, this project is expected to create 160 jobs.

Project Title: *Transitioning and Upscaling Creative Sector Business in WNC*
Grantee: Land of Sky Regional Council
Award Amount: $50,000
Announcement Date: September 2021
Project Summary: ARC grant of $50,000 to Land of Sky Regional Council, in Asheville, North Carolina, for the *Transitioning and Upscaling Creative Sector Business in WNC* project. In partnership with Western Arts Agencies of North Carolina, Southwestern Commission, High Country Council of Governments, and other local development organizations, the project will develop a regional "Scaling Creative Sector Business Plan." This initiative aims to unlock the potential of the arts economy in a 13-county area in Western North Carolina by increasing the average wage for creative entrepreneurs, reducing unemployment, and further establishing the region's reputation as a creative entrepreneurial hub. This project will create a strategic

plan that increases coordination between economic development specialists and arts sector organizations; develop best practices to transform microentrepreneurs into employers; and identify the steps necessary to implement and scale the project.

2020 Awards

Project Title: *French Broad EMC Fiber Deployment*
Grantee: French Broad Electric Membership Corporation (FBEMC)
Award Amount: $1,939,814
Announcement Date: October 2020
Project Summary: ARC grant of $1,939,814 to the French Broad Electric Membership Corporation (FBEMC) in Marshall, North Carolina, for the *French Broad EMC Fiber Deployment* project. The project will deploy 120 miles of broadband fiber, which will serve 1,300 households, 44 businesses, and two communities in Unicoi County, Tennessee, and Madison County, North Carolina. The project will deploy high-speed fiber broadband to areas in and around Rocky Fork State Park (a major asset in the region) that currently lack access to broadband internet. FBEMC will use existing right-of-way to expand the infrastructure. The expansion of broadband in the area will create opportunities for economic development, telemedicine, and higher education attainment. Both counties were adversely affected when a decline in coal traffic led to the closure of a rail yard in Erwin, TN.

Project Title: *Creating a Textile and Furniture Circular*
Grantee: The Industrial Commons
Award Amount: $977,850
Announcement Date: October 2020
Project Summary: ARC grant of $977,850 to The Industrial Commons in Morganton, NC for the *Creating a Textile and Furniture Circular Economy* project. The project will create a textile and furniture circular economy, marked by recycling, that supports small- to mid-size manufacturers in diversifying and expanding into new sustainable markets. The Industrial Commons, an interconnected web of employers, networks, and cooperatives, will expand operations of a waste aggregation site, initiate production of and demand for recycled yarn, create two new companies, and deliver innovative training programs. These training programs will include a focus on key business sectors such as business finance and entrepreneurship, and will offer skills training to those overcoming substance abuse issues. In addition to the creation of two new enterprises, the program will create 30 new jobs and improve five businesses and 360 participants. The project will result in $1.175 million of leveraged private investment and will serve businesses in western North Carolina and upstate South Carolina. The project is the outgrowth of a feasibility study funded under a prior POWER grant.

Project Title: *Healthy and Connected Workforce Initiative*
Grantee: North Carolina Department of Information Technology (DIT)
Award Amount: $633,940
Announcement Date: October 2020
Project Summary: ARC grant of $633,940 to the North Carolina Department of Information Technology (DIT) in Raleigh, NC for the *Healthy and Connected Workforce Initiative*. The project will enable DIT's Broadband Infrastructure Office and Office of Rural Health to develop a comprehensive program that will increase access to healthcare for vulnerable populations and disadvantaged groups while simultaneously increasing the economic viability and digital skills for residents seeking to re-enter the workforce and for those currently employed. Increasing access to quality healthcare through telehealth, broadband adoption, and increased digital literacy will both improve the health of residents and enhance their ability to actively participate in the local workforce. The project responds to

findings in a year-long feasibility study completed by the project's partners with support from a previous POWER award. The project will improve 124 organizations, 235 patients, 135 households, and 180 participants throughout the grant's life cycle.

Project Title: *Collective Impact Strategies for Expanding Beginning Farmer Support and Training Strategic Plan*
Grantee: Organic Growers School, Inc.
Award Amount: $34,487
Announcement Date: October 2020
Project Summary: ARC grant of $34,487 to Organic Growers School, Inc., in Asheville, NC for the *Collective Impact Strategies for Expanding Beginning Farmer Support and Training Strategic Plan*. This project will support the creation of a plan to deploy entrepreneurship education programs and support systems for beginning farmers across Appalachia. The project represents a partnership between eight organizations across Appalachian Virginia, North Carolina, and Georgia. The strategic plan will identify potential partners, assets, and resources, and will provide a funding strategy to implement the strategic plan. The deployment of a multi-state coalition will create a strong network of beginning farmers and support organizations across the Appalachian agricultural and entrepreneurial ecosystem.

2019 Awards

Project Title: *Planning for a Textile and Furniture Circular Economy*
Grantee: The Industrial Commons
Award Amount: $98,300
Announcement Date: February 2019
Project Summary: ARC grant to The Industrial Commons in Morganton, NC, for *Capturing Emerging Markets Through the Creation of a Textile and Furniture Circular Economy*, a feasibility study of creating a closed circle economy network in Western North Carolina and upstate South Carolina that aggregates textile and furniture waste and transforms it into new, marketable products that go back into the supply chain. The study will identify and map manufacturers in two regions and conduct 100 waste stream audits to understand the content and volume of their waste. The study will also produce a business plan and proformas that define the financial viability of operating a sorting and aggregation facility (the one component missing to create the loop), and provide an understanding of the job creation and investment impacts that could result from such a model.

Project Title: *Broadband Feasibility Study for Telehealth Deployment in Western North Carolina*
Grantee: North Carolina Department of Information Technology
Award Amount: $98,273
Announcement Date: February 2019
Project Summary: ARC grant to the North Carolina Department of Information Technology in Raleigh, NC, for the *Broadband Feasibility Study for Telehealth Deployment in Western North Carolina* project. The feasibility study will investigate telehealth programs and assess broadband capabilities for 20 counties in Appalachian North Carolina. The study will examine existing telehealth programs to gauge their efficiency and will conduct an analysis of the broadband infrastructure required to effectively support telehealth applications.

Project Title: *EmPOWERing Mountain Food Systems*
Grantee: North Carolina State University
Award Amount: $1,100,000
Announcement Date: April 2019
Project Summary: ARC grant to North Carolina State University in Raleigh, NC, for *EmPOWERing Mountain Food Systems*. Focused in a seven-county "foodshed" region in Western North Carolina, the project will develop a sustainable infrastructure for local and regional food systems, thereby strengthening the regional economy. This comprehensive model will include entrepreneurship and business development, workforce development and apprenticeships, training for growers and food businesses, market development, value-added production, infrastructure, and agritourism promotion. The project features collaboration among multiple Cooperative Extension offices, three community colleges, Southwestern Commission Council of Governments, Blue Ridge Food Ventures, and the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians. It will create 129 new jobs, train over 1700 workers and students, and generate $1.04 million in private investment. Additional financial support is being provided by the Cherokee Preservation Foundation.

Project Title: *Growing Outdoors: Expanding the Outdoor Gear Manufacturing Sector*
Grantee: Mountain BizCapital Inc. dba Mountain BizWorks
Award Amount: $940,000
Announcement Date: April 2019
Project Summary: $940,000 ARC grant to Mountain BizWorks in Asheville, NC, for a collaborative regional approach to expanding Western North Carolina's (WNC) promising outdoor gear manufacturing industry. With a focus on fostering entrepreneurship in this sector, the project will leverage assets within the region's coal-impacted communities to create and grow new businesses. These assets include a skilled workforce, the region's manufacturing heritage, and popular natural and cultural resources. The project will also support timely economic diversification in WNC's communities that have lost jobs and economic activity related to coal industry contractions, including the conversion of coal-fired power generating facilities, the closure of a key coal rail yard, and the loss of mining-related customers for local manufacturers. Strategies for boosting the outdoor gear sector include workforce development, entrepreneurship and access to capital, supply chain optimization, and engagement of local economic development practitioners. To advance the sector, Western Carolina University will develop new degree and certificate programs and the area's community colleges will promote outdoor industry career pathways. Outcomes for this project are expected to include 100 businesses improved, 50 students improved, 45 workers/trainees improved through enhanced skills, $4 million in leveraged private investment, 35 new businesses created, 150 new jobs created, 65 jobs obtained, and $6 million in new revenue by participating firms.

Project Title: *Broadband Deployment to Rocky Fork State Park and Surrounding Area*
Grantee: French Broad Electric Membership Corporation (FBEMC)
Award Amount: $1,932,500
Announcement Date: October 2019
Project Summary: ARC grant to French Broad Electric Membership Corporation (FBEMC) in Marshall, NC for the *Broadband Deployment to Rocky Fork State Park and Surrounding Area* project. This project will address provide broadband access to unserved and underserved sections of Madison County, NC and Unicoi County, TN. Both counties were adversely affected when a decline in coal traffic led to the closure of a rail yard in Erwin, TN. A local survey in 2016 determined that approximately 30 percent of Madison county residents reported limited or no broadband service. FBEMC predicts that Unicoi county exhibits a similar gap in broadband coverage. By designing and installing over 50 miles of critical fiber infrastructure to these areas, increased access will enable greater opportunities for

telecommuting lifestyles, business creation, and educational services. FBEMC will use existing right-of-way to expand the infrastructure. The deployed fiber will serve Rocky Fork State Park (a major asset in the region), an estimated 20 businesses, and approximately 1,100 homes (thereby assisting students and strengthening home-based businesses).

Project Title: *TROSA's Expansion to Forsyth County*
Grantee: Triangle Residential Options for Substance Abusers, Inc. (TROSA)
Award Amount: $1,500,000
Announcement Date: October 2019
Project Summary: ARC grant to Triangle Residential Options for Substance Abusers, Inc. (TROSA) in Durham, NC, for the *TROSA's Expansion to Forsyth County, NC* project. TROSA will establish a substance use recovery program in Forsyth County to serve Appalachian residents. The Forsyth County area has seen supply-chain manufacturing job losses as a result of the decline in the coal industry. Using a "Recovery to Work" model, the program will emphasize job and life skills training for participants with substance use disorder, developing a ready workforce. TROSA's existing program, which is outside the Appalachian Region, is nearing its daily capacity, and the new campus will focus on providing the treatment and recovery services to individuals within Appalachia. The Appalachian campus will have a daily capacity of 200 residents. The program will open several social enterprises, which will provide hands- on job skills training for residents while generating revenue to keep services cost-free. The new campus is expected to create 18 new staff positions. After completing the program, 100 percent of graduates will leave with full-time employment, and at least 90 percent of graduates from the two-year program are expected to remain sober and employed for at least one year.

Project Title: *Creation of the Pinebridge Development Strategic Plan*
Grantee: Mayland Community College
Award Amount: $50,000
Announcement Date: October 2019
Project Summary: ARC grant to Mayland Community College in Spruce Pine, NC for *Creation of the Pinebridge Development Strategic Plan*. The College expects to invest over $22 million to repurpose the unused Pinebridge Coliseum in Mitchell County into an education, business, and community development support center that can facilitate economic development in the region. The strategic plan will draw on existing data and will examine best practices of similar projects at other colleges and in other communities. The plan will create action steps for adapting and scaling those proven successes to the Pinebridge project.

Project Title: *WNC Works: Recovery to Careers*
Grantee: Isothermal Planning and Development Commission
Award Amount: $50,000
Announcement Date: October 2019
Project Summary: ARC grant to the Isothermal Planning and Development Commission in Rutherfordton, NC for the *WNC Works: Recovery to Careers* program. The project will assist the six western North Carolina Local Development Districts (LDD) in coordinating existing regional organizations and programs that promote "Recovery to Work" strategies for individuals recovering from substance abuse. The project will compile a database of existing recovery-to- work programs, survey best practices across all 29 western North Carolina counties, and start a regional recovery-to-work working group made up of representatives from each LDD. The goal is to boost utilization of existing programs, increase the number of individuals returning to work, and help meet employer workforce needs in high-demand occupations and sectors.

2018 Awards

Project Title: *WNC Farmers Market Value-Added Manufacturing & Training Center*
Grantee: Southwestern NC Planning and Economic Development Commission
Award Amount: $1,250,000
Announcement Date: October 2018
Project Summary: ARC grant to the Southwestern NC Planning and Economic Development Commission in Sylva, NC, for physical improvements to the Western North Carolina Farmers Market (WNCFM). This investment will bring the market to appropriate standards and capacity to expand the region's food and agricultural economy. The project will strengthen the economy in an area that has seen job losses associated with the closure of a nearby coal-fired power plant and the conversion of another coal-power generation facility to natural gas. The infrastructure improvements will provide immediate benefits to 64 market-dependent businesses, will attract new clients and consumers to the market, and will provide space to incubate value-added businesses. Construction of a Value-Added Food Business Support Center, managed by Blue Ridge Food Ventures, will expand operations at the WNCFM to include entrepreneurs engaged in production and sale of foods, cosmetics, and natural products in an FDA certified facility. Performance outcomes from this investment are expected to include 64 businesses improved, 36 businesses created, 50 new jobs created, 120 existing jobs retained, 150 students improved, 25 worker trainees improved, and $700,000 in leveraged private investment. Additional funding is being provided by the North Carolina Department of Agriculture.

Project Title: *Redeveloping Coal Impacted Communities within the Appalachian Region: The Role of Community Colleges in Entrepreneurial Training and the Opioid Crisis*
Grantee: Mayland Community College
Award Amount: $100,000
Announcement Date: October 2018
Project Summary: ARC grant to Mayland Community College in Spruce Pine, NC, on behalf of the Community Colleges of Appalachia (CCA) to develop two strategic plans that address both opioid issues and entrepreneurial training in the coal-impacted communities served by the community colleges. The funding will allow two CCA colleges from each of the thirteen ARC states to participate in the plans' formulation. As plans are developed, they will be made available to all community colleges in the Appalachian region, fostering partnerships that address ARC's goals of developing and maintaining a healthy workforce and creating environments that support the growth of entrepreneurial enterprises. This project will help identify sources of funding that will help with the implementation of the plans.

Project Title: *Dream. Career. Academy. Workforce Development Training and Education Hub Plan*
Grantee: Piedmont Triad Regional Council
Award Amount: $99,000
Announcement Date: October 2018
Project Summary: ARC grant to the Piedmont Triad Regional Council in Kernersville, NC, for a strategic plan to address the current and future workforce needs of Forsyth and Surry counties—two counties that are experiencing challenges associated with the decline of the coal supply chain as local manufacturers lose customers in the coal industry. This plan will include a state-of-the-art workforce development and education center called the Dream. Career. Academy. The center's purpose will be to train workers to fit the needs of the local and regional economies and close the growing talent alignment and skills gap.

OHIO (74 awards)

2024 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 C*onnecting 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.

2023 Awards

Project Title: *Connecting Underserved Morgan County, Ohio*
Grantee: Morgan County, Ohio
Award Amount: $2,499,803
Announcement Date: October 2023
Project Summary: ARC grant of $2,499,803 to Morgan County, Ohio, for the *Connecting Underserved Morgan County, Ohio* project. This project will help fund the provision of high-speed broadband service to the Village of Chesterhill and other underserved or unserved areas of the county via a contract-for-services project structure. The preferred vendor will deliver symmetrical broadband speeds of up to 1 gigabyte per second to agricultural and retail businesses and residential units. This deployment will include broadband services to the entrepreneurial Chesterhill Produce Auction, which was identified as a priority investment area within Morgan County's recently completed Technical Assistance for Broadband Investment plan, funded through a previous ARC POWER planning grant. In addition, the project will enable the Morgan County Farm Bureau to deliver eight "broadband and technology" training courses for agricultural businesses over the grant period. Morgan County will also partner with Rural Action to expand local entrepreneurs' access to new markets. The project will provide access to broadband service to 914 unserved or underserved households and 23 unserved or underserved businesses.

Project Title: *Connecting Underserved Ashtabula County, Ohio*
Grantee: Ashtabula County, Ohio
Award Amount: $2,497,161
Announcement Date: October 2023
Project Summary: ARC grant of $2,497,161 to Ashtabula County, Ohio, for the *Connecting Underserved Ashtabula County, Ohio* project. The project will enable Ashtabula County to contract with a preferred vendor to expand broadband access in underserved or unserved areas of the county. The preferred vendor will provide up to 1 gigabyte of symmetrical broadband service with extremely low latency. Ashtabula County businesses and residents who have never had access to this type of service will also need training and access support for the investment to be transformational. Partnerships have been formed with public libraries in the impacted region, the Ashtabula County Farm Bureau, and the Ashtabula County Community Action Agency to implement coordinated outreach and training. The libraries are committed to providing venue space for trainings and meetings. Through this project, broadband service will be made available to 2,986 unserved or underserved households and 90 unserved or underserved businesses located across 14 communities.

Project Title: *Grand Theater Interior Auditorium Restoration*
Grantee: Steubenville Historic Landmarks Foundation
Award Amount: $1,500,000
Announcement Date: October 2023
Project Summary: ARC grant of $1,500,000 to Steubenville Historic Landmarks Foundation in Steubenville, Ohio, for the *Grand Theater Interior Auditorium Restoration* project. The grant will provide funds for the renovation and revival of the historic Grand Theater. In addition to the immediate benefits of downtown revitalization and historic preservation, the Grand Theater's reopening is projected to generate an annual economic impact of over $10.7 million for the greater Steubenville area. The project's completion promises not only a cultural and artistic hub, but also a driving force behind the continued rejuvenation of downtown Steubenville. The project aims to renovate 8,250 square feet of theater space, serve 449 businesses, and attract over 41,000 visitors.

Project Title: *Portsmouth Riverfront Development*
Grantee: City of Portsmouth, Ohio
Award Amount: $1,500,000
Announcement Date: October 2023
Project Summary: ARC grant of $1,500,000 to the City of Portsmouth, Ohio, for the *Portsmouth Riverfront Development* project. The project will replace a 78-year-old cobblestone boat ramp with a new Ohio River public access boat ramp and launch, parking lot, and access road, in the historic riverfront area of downtown Portsmouth, Ohio. This project will bolster regional tourism by highlighting the regional Underground Railroad history for Portsmouth and Scioto County. It will also connect the city to The Ohio River National Freedom Corridor, which promotes the Ohio River Corridor as a world-class tourism experience. Riverfront development will be a catalyst for downtown tourism, drawing recreational boaters to discover the historic Boneyfiddle District shops, eateries, and lodging accommodations and Portsmouth's Underground Railroad history. The project will highlight regional Appalachian points of interest for visitors and will include signage with QR codes for visitor bureaus in six additional Appalachian counties in Kentucky and Ohio. This is the first phase of an expansive riverfront rehabilitation project devoted to honoring and revealing the Underground Railroad history of Portsmouth, Ohio. The City of Portsmouth will partner with the Ohio Valley Regional Development Commission to complete the boat ramp and launch over the course of approximately two and a half years.

Project Title: *GROW Appalachia*
Grantee: Appalachia Ohio Manufacturers' Coalition
Award Amount: $1,396,500
Announcement Date: October 2023
Project Summary: ARC grant of $1,396,500to Appalachian Ohio Manufacturers' Coalition (AOMC) in Vincent, Ohio, for the *GROW Appalachia* project. The project will develop the Manufacturing Support Center (MSC) in Southeastern Ohio, including border counties in West Virginia and Pennsylvania. The goal of this project will be to expand the knowledge from previous programming and planning grants to create a youth-to-adult talent pipeline for the Ohio Valley region to create high-paying jobs with industry credentials. Project partners include Washington County Career Center, the National Museum of Education, Converge, Team Consortium, and programmatic support from previous work with Marshall Advanced Manufacturing Center (formerly known as Robert C. Byrd Institute). The project is anticipated to train 225 workers/trainees and 175 students, support 75 businesses, and create eight new businesses. MSC will also aid the service area in retaining up to 125 jobs and creating up to 125 new jobs with employer partners by the end of the grant period.

Project Title: *Appalachian Ohio CDL Center*
Grantee: Mid-East Career and Technology Centers
Award Amount: $1,333,916
Announcement Date: October 2023
Project Summary: ARC grant of $1,333,916 to the Mid-East Career and Technology Centers (MECTC) in Zanesville, Ohio, for the *Appalachian Ohio CDL Center* project. The project will expand commercial driver license (CDL) training and testing in seven counties across southeastern Ohio. Funding from this project will enable MECTC to work with 13 local school districts to expand CDL classroom training to 12 additional area high schools by providing additional instructors, training materials, skills training, and by covering student physical exams and testing fees. Becoming a regional hub for CDL meets the region's demand for commercial drivers while improving income and employment outcomes for southeastern Ohio's workers. Through partnerships with Ohio Southeast Economic Development, Muskingum County (OH) Commissioners, Ohio Means Jobs, Muskingum County Community Foundations, Zane State College, Ohio Trucking Association, and other educational institutions, MECTC's CDL program will result in 200 students passing the CDL course, benefitting businesses with commercial driver needs over the course of three years.

Project Title: *Tuscarawas County Broadband & Workforce Transformation*
Grantee: Tuscarawas County Economic Development Corporation
Award Amount: $1,079,000
Announcement Date: October 2023
Project Summary: ARC grant of $1,079,000 to Tuscarawas County Economic Development Corporation in Dover, Ohio, for the *Tuscarawas County Broadband & Workforce Transformation* project. The project will provide high-speed broadband to households and businesses across Tuscarawas County by constructing and equipping six fixed wireless telecommunication towers, allowing the Northeast Ohio Appalachian region to compete for 21st century jobs through improved access to high-speed, low-latency broadband service. This project will provide 100 Mbps broadband service to over 10,000 households and 200 businesses in 19 underserved communities, thereby facilitating remote learning, telemedicine, and access to e-commerce and telecommuting in the area.

Project Title: *Youth Leadership Association Cave Lake Center for Community Leadership*
Grantee: Ohio–West Virginia Youth Leadership Association
Award Amount: $49,900
Announcement Date: October 2023
Project Summary: ARC grant of $49,900 to Ohio–West Virginia Youth Leadership Association in Latham, Ohio, for *Youth Leadership Association Cave Lake Center for Community Leadership* project. This project will support the Ohio–West Virginia Youth Leadership Association (YLA) plan for the expansion of facilities in Pike County, Ohio, and enhance and grow its Cave Lake Center for Community Leadership program. The training program helps high school students and young adults develop leadership skills to help their communities reverse the negative impact of coal plant closures and job loss through building an entrepreneurial, cultural, and civic foundation for economic renewal. One strategic plan for the Youth Leadership Association Cave Lake Center for Community Leadership will be created by the end of the grant period.

Project Title: *Muskingum University Appalachian Ohio POWER Career Pathway Collaboration*
Grantee: Muskingum University
Award Amount: $49,848
Announcement Date: October 2023
Project Summary: ARC grant of $49,848 to Muskingum University in New Concord, Ohio, for the *Muskingum University Appalachian Ohio POWER Career Pathway Collaboration* project. Muskingum University, along with eight educational partners in Appalachian Ohio, will work together to create a strategic plan for six comprehensive career pathways: healthcare; engineering; conservation; education/childcare; hospitality/tourism; and computer science and technology to support long-term economic demands and cluster development in tourism, conservation, and advanced manufacturing. Additionally, Muskingum University will conduct a feasibility study to expand the Muskingum University Center for Childhood Development to offer more childcare slots for preschool-aged children and more practicum and clinical offerings for students enrolled in education and childcare-related workforce training programs, thereby increasing the number of childcare professionals as well as the number of quality childcare slots, which are desperately needed by the workforce. This project will result in one strategic plan and one feasibility study within seven months.

Project Title: *Planning for Connecting to the Future: New Lexington & Southeast Ohio Broadband Expansion*
Grantee: New Lexington Schools
Award Amount: $46,000
Announcement Date: October 2023
Project Summary: ARC grant of $46,000 to New Lexington Schools in New Lexington, Ohio, for the *Planning for Connecting to the Future: New Lexington & Southeast Ohio Broadband Expansion* project. Project funding will enable New Lexington Schools to contract with a technical consultant to develop and conduct a broadband analysis and provide tangible recommendations in the form of a broadband plan. New Lexington Schools' project team will use the broadband plan to establish and convene the New Lexington/Perry County Broadband Advisory Panel to utilize the recommendations to meet the broadband demands and needs of New Lexington and Perry County. The broadband plan will consist of fiber-deployment asset mapping of Perry County; a broadband demand analysis; broadband project analysis with recommendations, estimated project costs, and benefits; and digital transformation recommendations. Five communities will be improved through the broadband planning process.

Project Title: *Ohio Folk Centers: A Merging of Culture, Workforce Development, Education, & Health Care*
Grantee: Federal Valley Resource Center, Inc.
Award Amount: $39,825
Announcement Date: October 2023
Project Summary: ARC grant of $39,825 to Federal Valley Resource Center, Inc., in Stewart, Ohio, for the *Ohio Folk Centers: A Merging of Culture, Workforce Development, Education, & Health Care* project. ARC funds will be used to develop a plan for establishing a network of community centers for workforce development, education, health care, and cultural arts programming. The project will create a plan to build and operate three community centers in Meigs, Athens, and Perry counties that would provide essential services to meet the basic needs of residents and offer workforce training, art and music classes, and other educational offerings. The concept is based on the idea that basic needs must be met before people can focus on training or job readiness. They are modeled on traditional Appalachian folk schools or settlement schools, many of which went on to become local or regional cultural arts centers. This project will serve three communities and result in one plan over the course of the grant period.

2022 Awards

Project Title: *Appalachian Underground Railroad Heritage Tourism Initiative*
Grantee: Lawrence Economic Development Corporation (LEDC)
Award Amount: $1,500,000
Announcement Date: December 2022
Project Description: ARC grant of $1,500,000 to Lawrence Economic Development Corporation (LEDC) in South Point, Ohio, for the *Appalachian Underground Railroad Heritage Tourism Initiative*. LEDC will partner with 18 organizations to develop a regional, tri-state Underground Railroad tourism initiative spanning nine counties along the Ohio River: Adams (OH); Boyd (KY); Brown (OH) Cabell (WV); Gallia (OH); Greenup (KY); Lawrence (OH); Scioto (OH); Wayne (WV). Project activities will include hosting hospitality workforce trainings; establishing an online platform for promoting regional tourism; seeking the placement of 27 local heritage sites on the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom of the National Park Service; and collaborating with local tourism bureaus, museums, arts organizations, and other cultural organizations to host a series of tourism-oriented events throughout the region. LEDC expects to create up to 48 jobs, serve 200 businesses, and impact 4,000 participants through trainings, events, and other activities.

Project Title: *Connecting Underserved Carroll County, Ohio*
Grantee: Carroll County, Ohio
Award Amount: $1,999,000
Announcement Date: October 2022
Project Summary: ARC grant of $1,999,000 to Carroll County, Ohio, for the C*onnecting Underserved Carroll County, Ohio* project. The project will build 86 miles of fiber optic network infrastructure to connect 11 communities to reliable and affordable broadband services. Through a partnership with Charter Communications, this project fills the funding and broadband deployment gaps in Carroll County's broadband landscape and ensures every home or business in the county has a funded commitment for broadband deployment. Furthermore, increased connectivity will help facilitate economic growth and diversification necessary to overcome the downturn of the coal industry. The project will serve 384 homes and 53 businesses.

Project Title: *Appalachian RESILIENCY (Restoring our Environment, Supporting and Investing Long-term In EcoNomies and Careers for Youth)*
Grantee: Rural Action, Inc.
Award Amount: $1,500,000
Announcement Date: October 2022
Project Summary: ARC grant of $1,500,000 to Rural Action, Inc., in The Plains, Ohio, for the *Appalachian RESILIENCY (Restoring our Environment, Supporting and Investing Long-term In EcoNomies and Careers for Youth)* project. Appalachian RESILIENCY builds on the region's natural resources to address workforce development, green infrastructure, and the processing, aggregation, and distribution of agroforestry products in Ohio, Virginia, and West Virginia. The project will expand Rural Action's AmeriCorps program; offer paid high school internships with local businesses and non-profits in at least 10 counties; and provide training opportunities in ecological restoration, waste management (reduction, recycling, and upcycling), and clean energy. It will also create a new native planting stock and tree nursery and develop an agroforestry hub, including the placement of herb processing equipment at multiple locations across Appalachian Ohio. Appalachian RESILIENCY will partner with Appalachian Sustainable Development, Coalfield Development, and United Plant Savers. The project will serve 100 businesses in 20 communities and will create 20 jobs.

Project Title: *rePOWERing Main Streets: Fostering Entrepreneurship Across Appalachia*
Grantee: Economic and Community Development Institute, Inc.
Award Amount: $1,500,000
Announcement Date: October 2022
Project Summary: ARC grant of $1,500,000 to the Economic and Community Development Institute, Inc. (ECDI) in Columbus, Ohio, for the *rePOWERing Main Streets: Fostering Entrepreneurship Across Appalachia* project. ECDI and its eight partners will spark entrepreneurship across seven coal-impacted counties in Ohio and West Virginia through coaching and training, pitch competitions, and other resources. Additionally, they will implement county-specific programs and events to address the unique needs of local entrepreneurs and build capacity for local partners. As small businesses access education and resources to sustainably scale operations, they will be referred to ECDI and other local capital sources to continue growing, creating more jobs, and generating revenue in the region. This project will serve 350 businesses and 300 participants, improve 150 businesses and 153 participants, and create 75 jobs and 60 businesses. Additional funding is provided by the Small Business Administration and the U.S. Treasury Department's Community Development Financial Institutions Fund.

Project Title: *REACH: Rural Employment Advocating for Community Health*
Grantee: Access Tusc: Bridges to Wellness Pathways Community Hub
Award Amount: $1,381,028
Announcement Date: October 2022
Project Summary: ARC grant of $1,381,028 to Access Tusc: Bridges to Wellness Pathways Community HUB in Dover, Ohio, for the *Rural Employment Advocating for Community Health (REACH)* project. This project will implement a Level 1 Certified Pathways Community HUB—a nationally recognized approach to addressing social determinants of health—to improve overall population health in eight communities. The project will hire and/or retain credentialed professionals by aligning their care coordination agencies (CCA); connect CCAs to higher education partners for the execution of community health worker certification/training; develop partnerships with health information exchanges and/or electronic health records to bring in new networks for referrals, collaboration, and data reporting; and contract with partner agencies to ensure compliance and standardization of programs, Medicaid billing and reimbursement, and community support strategies. The

project will serve 84 businesses and 74 workers/trainees, with 45 of those workers/trainees being newly credentialed health workers.

Project Title: *YSU Broadband and 5G Readiness Training Program*
Grantee: Youngstown State University
Award Amount: $1,154,880
Announcement Date: October 2022
Project Summary: ARC grant of $1,154,880 to Youngstown State University (YSU) in Youngstown, Ohio, for the *YSU Broadband and 5G Readiness Training Program*. The project will train 165 students with the skills and knowledge needed to enter the broadband industry sector in Appalachian Ohio. This project provides the students with access to a no-cost, industry-certified training program while also providing the broadband industry with the trained workforce it will need to carry out the projected $500 million investment in broadband infrastructure over the coming years. This training program will take place at three different education centers across a six-county region over the course of three years. Key partners include Eastern Gateway Community College, and the Ashtabula County Technical & Career Center.

Project Title: *Expanding the Nursing Workforce in Appalachia*
Grantee: Washington State Community College
Award Amount: $803,698
Announcement Date: October 2022
Project Summary: ARC grant of $803,698 to Washington State Community College in Marietta, Ohio, for the *Expanding the Nursing Workforce in Appalachia* project. Washington State Community College (WSCC) will increase the number of registered nurses and address regional healthcare shortages by launching a second Associate Degree of Nursing program and a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree program. Project partners—Memorial Health System and WVU Medicine Camden Clark Medical Center—will provide nursing clinical/apprenticeship opportunities and commit to hiring successful graduates. Southeastern Ohio Port Authority, Marietta Chamber of Commerce, and Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services will provide economic development strategies, business support, and other supportive and workforce development services. The Washington County Career Center will create nursing pathways and promote the nursing programs. Over three years, the project will serve 234 students from six communities located in economically distressed, at-risk, and transitional counties.

Project Title: *FlyOhio: Planning for Advanced Air Mobility in Ohio's Appalachian Region*
Grantee: Ohio University
Award Amount: $50,000
Announcement Date: October 2022
Project Summary: ARC grant of $50,000 to Ohio University in Athens, Ohio, for the *FlyOhio: Planning for Advanced Air Mobility in Ohio's Appalachian Region* project. This project will engage community stakeholders, conduct research and analysis, and prepare a report to document an Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) strategy for Ohio's 32 Appalachian counties. Ohio University will partner with FlyOhio and JobsOhio to explore AAM opportunities for the region's business, transportation, and logistical needs. In addition, Ohio University will partner with four Local Development Districts to identify locally focused AAM applications. The 12-month project will lead to a report documenting an AAM economic development strategy, including the development of local case studies, to foster economic diversity and create new entrepreneurial activities related to AAM. Ohio University is providing an additional $50,000 in funding.

Project Title: *Thornton Ohio Institute of Technology*
Grantee: Appalachian Ohio Manufacturers' Coalition (AOMC)
Award Amount: $50,000
Announcement Date: October 2022
Project Summary: ARC grant of $50,000 to Appalachia Ohio Manufacturers Coalition (AOMC) in Marietta, Ohio for the *Thornton Ohio Institute of Technology* project. The project will create a strategic plan to inform a comprehensive career pathway toward manufacturing and machine-based jobs for Southeast Ohio, Kanawha and Wood counties in West Virginia, and Allegheny County in Pennsylvania. The plan will identify wraparound services needed by, and training opportunities for, skilled workers affected by job losses related to plant and mine closures. The Thornton Ohio Institute of Technology will work in partnership with Ohio University, Hocking College, Tristate Energy and Advanced Manufacturing Consortium (TEAM Consortium), and Watertown Enterprises. In addition, other partners will join AOMC in this one-year project.

Project Title: *Trumbull County Broadband Preliminary Engineering Study*
Grantee: Western Reserve Port Authority
Award Amount: $49,970
Announcement Date: October 2022
Project Summary: ARC grant of $49,970 to Western Reserve Port Authority in Youngstown, Ohio, for the *Trumbull County Broadband Preliminary Engineering Study*. The project will conduct a broadband engineering study for a proposed fiber optic loop designed to provide high-speed broadband service to four underserved communities in Trumbull County, Ohio. The study will examine alternative broadband deployment routes, including an analysis of existing providers. The study will also identify partnerships to deploy broadband services in the coal-impacted region and recommend innovative funding opportunities to leverage public-private investment for the project's implementation. The one-year project will serve four communities.

Project Title: *Buckeye Hills Career Center Appalachian Impact Initiative Partnership*
Grantee: Gallia Jackson Vinton Joint Vocational School
Award Amount: $1,500,000
Announcement Date: March 2022
Project Summary: ARC grant of $1,500,000 to the Gallia Jackson Vinton Joint Vocational School in Rio Grande, Ohio for the *Buckeye Hills Career Center Appalachian Impact Initiative Partnership*. This project will construct two facilities and purchase equipment related to four workforce development programs. The project will offer to equip workers with necessary skills and certifications to enter regional employment sectors that are experiencing growth. The new opportunities replace jobs lost due to the contracting coal industry, particularly those associated with the closing of three coal-powered plants and the reduced freight train traffic in the area. Over three years, the consortium expects to serve 155 students annually from seven coal-impacted counties in southeastern Ohio, with the expectation that 132 will receive credentials and/or secure employment in their field. The four programs are a Commercial Driver's License (CDL) program, a Broadband Communications (ground and lineman) program, a Heavy Equipment Operators and Engineering program, and a Heavy Diesel Mechanics program. All four programs will be held at the Buckeye Hills Career Center and will use existing classrooms in addition to the two facilities that will be constructed by the project.

Project Title: *Project POWER*
Grantee: Rio Grande Community College
Award Amount: $1,473,578
Announcement Date: March 2022
Project Summary: ARC grant of $1,473,578 to Rio Grande Community College (RGCC) in Rio Grande, Ohio, for *Project POWER*. In partnership with local business and industry, the project will establish a new workforce training center on RGCC's campus, providing educational programming, workforce training, and professional licensure and certification opportunities for existing in-demand jobs to unemployed, underemployed, and displaced adult workers in Athens, Gallia, Jackson, Meigs, and Vinton counties, which have been adversely affected by the loss of jobs in coal mining or coal-supply chain industries. The new Ohio Workforce Training Center will focus on creating new career pathways and preparing workers for successful careers in the medical and manufacturing industries. Over the three-year grant period, the project will renovate and expand an existing facility for the new training center and is expected to improve 337 workers/trainees with workforce training and certification opportunities that will enable them to obtain employment in the regional high-growth medical and manufacturing industries. Twenty local businesses are also expected to be improved with newly trained and certified current and new employees.

Project Title: *Ohio Appalachian Health Outcome Pathways Enterprise (HOPE)*
Grantee: Corporation for Ohio Appalachian Development (COAD)
Award Amount: $1,386,000
Announcement Date: March 2022
Project Summary: ARC grant of $1,386,000 to the Corporation for Ohio Appalachian Development (COAD) in Athens, Ohio, for the *Ohio Appalachian Health Outcome Pathways Enterprise (HOPE)* project. The project will establish a Pathways Community HUB aimed at extending the network of services provided by eight community action agencies that serve individuals and families in 14 coal-impacted counties of Appalachian Ohio with workforce development activities, substance use disorder (SUD) recovery-related supports, and various other social and health programs. The HUB will assist Ohio Appalachian communities in working together to support vulnerable populations and will help with the creation of meaningful workforce development opportunities on a career ladder in community health occupations. Over three years, the project is expected to increase the region's workforce of community health workers by 400 percent.

Project Title: *Lake to River Small Business Success (L2R SBS)*
Grantee: Youngstown Business Incubator (YBI)
Award Amount: $1,350,000
Announcement Date: March 2022
Project Summary: ARC grant of $1,350,000 to Youngstown Business Incubator (YBI) in Youngstown, Ohio, for the *Lake to River Small Business Success (L2R SBS)* project. The project will allow YBI and its partners to expand their work with small to medium enterprises (SMEs) across seven coal-impacted counties in northeastern Ohio, helping them in accessing capital, pursuing procurement opportunities, developing business plans, adopting advanced technologies (in both manufacturing and non-manufacturing settings), and supporting startup formation. The program will provide access to business counseling, grant writing, technology enabling counseling, technical assistance workshops and bootcamps, counseling for advanced manufacturing projects, and supply chain diversity counseling. Notable partners include BRITE Energy Innovators, Valley Economic Development Partners, and two regional local development districts (Eastgate Regional Council of Governments and Ohio Mid-Eastern Governments Association). Over the three-year grant period, it is anticipated that 1444 businesses will be improved, 2515 business served, 240 jobs created, 300 new

business created, and $7.5 million leveraged in private investment. The project builds on YBI's extensive experience in working with additive manufacturing and 3D printing.

Project Title: *Freedom Landing Boat Dock Project*
Grantee: Village of Ripley, Ohio
Award Amount: $865,800
Announcement Date: March 2022
Project Summary: ARC grant of $865,800 to the Village of Ripley, Ohio, for the *Freedom Landing Boat Dock Project*. The project will rebuild a damaged boat launch ramp along the Ohio River and build a two-tier landing which, when completed, will be the only commercial passenger dock in Ohio between Cincinnati and South Point. The Village of Ripley is noted for its role in the Underground Railroad in the Midwest. Within two years, utilizing the area's natural and cultural assets, Freedom Landing will help increase tourism to Adams and Brown counties, and intends to serve approximately 31 businesses and leverage $300,000 in private investment in these coal-impacted counties. Project support is also provided by State of Ohio's Ohio Capital Fund.

2021 Awards

Project Title: Noble County Grid Modernization and Make Ready for Broadband Deployment
Grantee: Washington Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Award Amount: $1,500,000
Announcement Date: September 2021
Project Summary: ARC grant of $1,500,000 to Washington Electric Cooperative, Inc. in Marietta, Ohio, for the *Noble County Grid Modernization and Make-Ready for Broadband Deployment* project. The project will upgrade 215 miles of main-line electrical routes to increase grid resiliency and enable Internet Service Providers to cost effectively deploy fiber broadband along these routes. Approximately 90 percent of the project will occur in southern Noble County, one of the most unserved areas in the state for broadband availability. The affected electrical distribution routes will also extend into adjacent areas of Morgan, Monroe, and Washington counties, reaching additional unserved or underserved areas. The upgraded routes will reach 1,392 of the cooperative's customers, including 208 businesses. An earlier POWER grant funded the broadband feasibility study upon which the current grant is based.

Project Title: *Gateway Communities and Sustainable Recreation: An Asset-Based Approach to Building Resilient Communities and Transitioning Appalachian Economies*
Grantee: Outdoor Recreation Council of Appalachia
Award Amount: $1,493,716
Announcement Date: September 2021
Project Summary: ARC grant of $1,493,716 to Outdoor Recreation Council of Appalachia (ORCA) in Athens, Ohio, for *Gateway Communities and Sustainable Recreation: An Asset-Based Approach to Building Resilient Communities and Transitioning Appalachian Economies*. The project will help diversify the region's coal-based economy and strengthen economic opportunities for low-income communities, aspiring entrepreneurs, and established small businesses by concentrating investments in natural and cultural assets. Focusing on seven counties (Athens, Hocking, Meigs, Morgan, Perry, Vinton, and Washington), the partners on this project include Wayne National Forest, Buckeye Trail Association, Hocking Athens, Perry Community Action, Rural Action, Appalachian Center for Economic Networks, Ohio's Hill Country Heritage Area (Ohio's Winding Road), Athens County Economic Development Council, Athens County Convention and Visitors Bureau, and others. The project is expected to leverage $8.5 million in private and public investment in trail and gateway community infrastructure; engage over 20 elected officials in seven counties to

endorse a shared vision of development for the outdoor recreation sector; and support the retention of 89 current jobs, the start-up of 24 new businesses, and the creation of 36 new jobs with entrepreneurship training and technical assistance.

Project Title: *Ohio River Valley Workforce Development Initiative*
Grantee: Switzerland of Ohio Local School District
Award Amount: $1,314,880
Announcement Date: September 2021
Project Summary: ARC grant of $1,314,880 to the Switzerland of Ohio Local School District in Woodsfield, Ohio, for the *Ohio River Valley Workforce Development Initiative*. This project is a collaboration between education and career service providers and local industry to serve unemployed, underemployed, and displaced workers and veterans transitioning to new job skills in 11 distressed or at-risk counties covering Southeastern Ohio and West Virginia Opportunity Zones. The Initiative will enhance in-person and remote education and workforce training programs centered at the Swiss Hills Career Center in Monroe County, Ohio, enabling workers to obtain the skills and industry credentials necessary to access jobs in regional industry growth sectors, including healthcare, advanced manufacturing, and the transportation/automotive sectors. The program will also serve high school students with classroom and online workforce training and internship opportunities, creating a youth workforce talent pipeline to benefit local businesses. The project is expected to create 10 new businesses and 600 new jobs; retain 200 jobs; provide technical assistance to 15 existing businesses; and provide training to 100 adult workers/trainees and 225 high school students.

Project Title: *Fresh Start Workforce Development Program*
Grantee: Urban Mission Ministries, Inc.
Award Amount: $980,374
Announcement Date: September 2021
Project Summary: ARC grant of $980,374 to Urban Mission Ministries, Inc., in Steubenville, Ohio, for the *Fresh Start Workforce Development Program*. The project will expand Urban Mission Ministries' workforce development program, Fresh Start, for individuals in recovery, targeting six counties in Ohio and two counties in West Virginia. Central to the project will be the renovation of a former grocery store. Renovations will include the creation of two classrooms, industrial-sized training kitchen, on-site restaurant, small grocery co-op, and space for business incubation. Upon completion of the renovations, all programming will operate at the location, providing a more user-friendly location for participants. Fresh Start will use a three-tier approach that includes life skills and empowerment classes, educational opportunities, and on-site vocational training programs. Partners include Eastern Gateway Community College, West Virginia Northern Community College, Parkhurst Dining, and Walmart Distribution Center. The project is expected to renovate a 28,500-square-foot former grocery store, create 3 businesses and 10 jobs, retain 23 jobs, and assist 20 businesses and 350 trainees.

Project Title: *Belmont College Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) Training*
Grantee: Belmont College
Award Amount: $445,158
Announcement Date: September 2021
Project Summary: ARC grant of $445,158 to Belmont College in St. Clairsville, Ohio, for the *Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) Training* program. The project will expand Belmont College's HVAC Training program in order to meet the needs for local HVAC technicians. Belmont College will partner with Belmont County Drug Court and Youth Services Systems, Inc., in Wheeling, WV, to train participants and at-risk high school students. Additionally, 20 students in the Mental Health Studies Program at Belmont College will receive real-world experience by providing work support for drug court participants on a

weekly basis. This program will also allow Belmont College to offer traditional HVAC offerings by having equipment and trained instructors to provide additional classes in air quality and building management. The expansion of this HVAC program is expected to train 50 students annually.

Project Title: *Green Acres: A Regional Workforce Education/Training Ecosystem*
Grantee: Noble Local School District
Award Amount: $404,856
Announcement Date: September 2021
Project Summary: ARC grant of $404,856 to Noble Local School District in Sarahsville, Ohio, for *Green Acres: A Regional Workforce Education/Training Ecosystem*. The project will include the purchase of specialized equipment and resources for on-site and in-demand education/training programming. This phase of a multi-phase project will provide vital funding for essential agribusiness training-related equipment and upskilling programming that targets six counties (Belmont, Guernsey, Monroe, Morgan, Muskingum, and Noble) to create a regional ecosystem to support agribusiness. Without efforts to retain existing workers or attract younger emerging talent into the pipeline, many jobs in Ohio agribusiness could go unfilled. This project will create an ecosystem in which K-12 students are accessing and receiving robust and industry-driven hands-on education/training, while creating in-demand workforce re-entry training and upskilling for existing adult workforce participants. The leveraged partnership with Zane State College, Ohio State University, and local/regional employers will provide a comprehensive approach to fill these jobs. This project is expected to serve 1,800 students and 150 adult participants.

Project Title: *Adapting to Change: Powering Up Tomorrow's Workforce*
Grantee: University of Cincinnati
Award Amount: $50,000
Announcement Date: September 2021
Project Summary: ARC grant of $50,000 to University of Cincinnati Clermont College, in partnership with Adams, Brown, and Clermont counties in Batavia, Ohio, for the *Adapting to Change: Powering Up Tomorrow's Workforce* project. The project team will gather information, evaluate the findings, and develop plans for a future regional training and employment proposal in the high-demand field of supply chain and logistics. The project will identify and explore regional data and work towards engaging regional stakeholders in conversations and planning activities throughout the 12-month project period. These activities include community conversations, employer surveys, local and regional data, labor demand analysis, local and regional business development plan exploration, and educational program needs analysis for program development. UC Clermont College will consider certifications, industry credentials, career ladders, scaffolding programs, and entrepreneurial support that will build on the commercial driver's license training and online supply chain associate degree, which their regional education partners currently offer.

Project Title: *Morgan County Broadband Technical Assistance*
Grantee: Morgan County Commissioners
Award Amount: $50,000
Announcement Date: September 2021
Project Summary: ARC grant of $50,000 to Morgan County in McConnelsville, Ohio, for *Broadband Technical Assistance*. Led by the Morgan County Commissioners in partnership with local and regional public agencies and private businesses, project funds will go toward broadband asset mapping in rural Morgan County in southeastern Ohio to identify unserved and underserved areas. The final comprehensive report will also include an analysis of broadband demand in the county, recommendations

for potential broadband projects, and strategies for converting broadband demand into economic growth.

Project Title: *Reimagining Struthers*
Grantee: The City of Struthers, Ohio
Award Amount: $50,000
Announcement Date: September 2021
Project Summary: ARC grant of $50,000 to the City of Struthers, Ohio, for *Reimagining Struthers* to create a regional strategic plan for green industrial manufacturing in Trumbull, Mahoning, and Columbiana counties in Eastern Ohio (EOH); Hancock County in Northern West Virginia (NWV); and Beaver, Lawrence, and Mercer counties in Western Pennsylvania (WPA). The strategic plan will guide the development of CASTLO Community Improvement Corporation Industrial Park, next to downtown Struthers, as a green industrial manufacturing hub for research and development (R&D). Additionally, the plan will assess the feasibility of reviving dormant industrial infrastructure to support a regional green manufacturing ecosystem that will increase jobs, business, and product development in the EOH-NWV-WPA region.

Project Title: *Voltage Valley Entrepreneurial Ecosystem—Regionalization Study*
Grantee: Eastgate Regional Council of Governments
Award Amount: $50,000
Announcement Date: September 2021
Project Summary: ARC grant of $50,000 to Eastgate Regional Council of Governments in Youngstown, Ohio, for the *Voltage Valley Entrepreneurial Ecosystem—Regionalization Study*. With increased investments in the Mahoning Valley of Ohio in the electric vehicle (EV) sector, this grant will support an assessment of the existing utilities in the project region (with a focus on water, wastewater, and electric power), as well as a regional implementation strategy that will identify best practices for utility regionalization. The development of a regional utilities management system will streamline development and permitting across the various jurisdictions of eastern Ohio, increasing the potential of large-scale job creation at development sites.

2020 Awards

Project Title: *Social Enterprise Ecosystem Impact (SEE Impact)*
Grantee: Foundation for Appalachian Ohio
Award Amount: $1,498,637
Announcement Date: October 2020
Project Summary: ARC grant of $1,498,637 to the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio in Nelsonville, OH for *Social Enterprise Ecosystem Impact (SEE Impact)*. Through technical assistance, outreach, and the formation of an investment fund, SEE Impact will grow the capital resources available to fund social enterprises in Appalachian Ohio and West Virginia. Social enterprises are an underserved entrepreneurial sector that comprises a significant portion of the Appalachian economy. This project will create additional capital opportunities for social enterprises and improve social impact investor recruitment. Using the Social Return on Investment (SROI) methodology, which was developed and refined by Ohio University under prior POWER grants, SEE Impact will provide angel and venture capital investors quantitative measures of social impact in financial terms, facilitating “triple bottom line” investment opportunities in Appalachian social enterprises. The new investment fund will be capitalized at $1 million. As a result of this project, 120 businesses, 45 communities, and 80 participants will be served; 60 businesses, 45 communities and 20 participants will be improved; 25 businesses and 55 jobs will be created; and $17 million of total private investment will be leveraged. Ohio University will be a key partner in the project.

Project Title: *Youngstown SMART^2 Network*
Grantee: Eastgate Council of Governments
Award Amount: $1,450,000
Announcement Date: October 2020
Project Summary: ARC grant of $1,450,000 to the Eastgate Council of Governments in Youngstown, OH for the *Youngstown SMART^2 Network*. The project will install over 10 miles of fiber conduit in downtown Youngstown as the first step toward establishing a broadband network that can support businesses, healthcare, education, and residents working and learning remotely. The SMART Network is a collection of infrastructure improvements designed to revitalize the Youngstown central business district. It will help reverse decades of outward migration and disinvestment by providing the basic infrastructure needed to support and attract business. The project will capitalize on over $50 million in recent public and private investments. Matching funds are being provided through a BUILD grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation, a surface transportation block grant, Youngstown State University, Mercy Health, and other public and private partners. The conduit is projected to serve 212 business locations and create 119 new jobs.

Project Title: *Vinton & Meigs County Rural Broadband Initiative*
Grantee: Vinton County Commissioners
Award Amount: $1,180,000
Announcement Date: October 2020
Project Summary: ARC grant of $1,180,000 to the Vinton County Commissioners in McArthur, OH for the *Vinton & Meigs County Rural Broadband Initiative*. The project will place three communication towers in rural Vinton and Meigs counties. The towers will be used to provide wireless broadband service to unserved areas in the counties. Using a 70 percent penetration rate, it is estimated that 28 businesses and 280 households will have access to 25/3 broadband service. COVID-19 has demonstrated the need for employees working from home to be able to access their work environment remotely. Students likewise need to be able to access virtual learning opportunities. In the more remote areas of Vinton and Meigs Counties targeted by this project, this access is currently not available. The project is an outgrowth of an earlier technical assistance POWER grant that demonstrated the feasibility of the project.

Project Title: *CDFI for Appalachian Ohio*
Grantee: Appalachian Growth Capital (AGC)
Award Amount: $1,000,000
Announcement Date: October 2020
Project Summary: ARC grant of $1,000,000 to Appalachian Growth Capital (AGC) in Nelsonville, OH for the *CDFI for Appalachian Ohio* project. The project will enable AGC, a community development financial institution (CDFI), to expand access to capital for small businesses in Appalachian Ohio through technical assistance to potential business borrowers and by increasing the capital available in AGC's loan fund. AGC will assist businesses in improving their business plans, becoming bankable, finding other sources of funding, and solving critical issues facing them. It will leverage $750,000 of grant funds to attract $2.25 million in private investment in AGC's loan fund. The project will strengthen entrepreneurship in Southeast Ohio, helping diversify an economy that has been heavily dependent on coal. The project will serve 300 businesses, improve 150 businesses, create 180 jobs, retain 360 jobs, leverage $29,250,000 in total private investment in the region (including borrower commitments), and create 15 new businesses. The project builds on a previous POWER grant that helped create AGC.

Project Title: *Building the Wood Bridge: A Forest, to Product, to Market Value Chain*
Grantee: Appalachian Center for Economic Networks (ACENet)
Award Amount: $514,827
Announcement Date: October 2020
Project Summary: ARC grant of $514,827 to the Appalachian Center for Economic Networks (ACENet) in Athens, OH for *Building the Wood Bridge: A Forest, to Product, to Market Value Chain*. Taking advantage of the economic opportunities in Southeast Ohio offered by value-added, hardwood manufactured products, the project will accelerate small business startup and development in this sector by way of three broad activities. It will provide training and technical assistance to land owners, hardwood sector startups, established hardwood entrepreneurs, and students enrolled in accredited hardwood sector programs. It will encourage the formation of new partnerships for value chain coordination in the forest and hardwood products sectors. It will foster expanded investment in the infrastructure and equipment for the ACENet Nelsonville Business Center and Hocking College Maker Network to scale production and diversify product lines. Key partners include Rural Action, Hocking College, and the Central Appalachian Network. The project is expected to help create 25 new jobs, create 15 new businesses, and leverage $500,000 in new private investment. The project builds upon an earlier POWER investment targeted to Ohio's hardwood forest products sector.

Project Title: *Noble County Broadband Technical Assistance*
Grantee: Noble County Commissioners
Award Amount: $50,000
Announcement Date: October 2020
Project Summary: ARC grant of $50,000 to the Noble County Commissioners in Caldwell, OH for the *Noble County Broadband Technical Assistance* project. The project will determine the feasibility of broadband expansion available to Noble County. According to the 2020 Connected Nation Ohio broadband study, Noble County is the least connected in Appalachian Ohio, with only 58 percent of residents able to access broadband services of 25/3 Mbps. A blueprint for expanding broadband access will help community leaders and stakeholders to acquire additional funding and will determine strategies to provide more equitable internet access and connectivity.

Project Title: *Energy Storage Road Map for Appalachian Ohio, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia*
Grantee: Tech Belt Energy Innovation Center
Award Amount: $49,950
Announcement Date: October 2020
Project Summary: ARC grant of $49,950 to the Tech Belt Energy Innovation Center in Warren, OH for the *Energy Storage Road Map for Appalachian Ohio, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia* project. Identifying energy storage assets in Ohio, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia, the project's study will be an analysis and framework for leveraging the burgeoning energy storage cluster in the tri-state area with an emphasis on coal-impacted areas. The study will outline key assets in energy storage for grid generation, transportation, and consumer electronics. It will provide the groundwork needed to create entrepreneurial and business development strategies within the energy storage cluster. The study is specific to strengthening the supply chain for energy-tech, an industrial cluster, which enables the region to compete in the global economy.

2019 Awards

Project Title: *Broadband Infrastructure Improvement - Vinton & Meigs County*
Grantee: Vinton County Commissioners
Award Amount: $49,000
Announcement Date: February 2019
Project Summary: ARC grant to the Vinton County Commissioners in McArthur, OH, for the *Broadband Infrastructure Improvement Project*. The project will produce a broadband feasibility study for Meigs and Vinton counties in Southeast Ohio. Both counties are interested in expanding the broadband footprint in their region and the results of this study will provide information needed for specific plans to build the necessary infrastructure (both fiber and towers) needed for that expansion. The study will concentrate on a complete inventory of existing assets, the development of a partner plan, a model for network design, and an analysis of fiber and tower costs.

Project Title: *Appalachian Recovery Project: An Ohio Opioid Initiative*
Grantee: Ohio University
Award Amount: $1,100,000
Announcement Date: April 2019
Project Summary: ARC grant to Ohio University in Athens, OH, for the *Appalachian Recovery Project: An Ohio Opioid Workforce Initiative*. By establishing and coordinating services in a variety of settings, the project will build a recovery ecosystem for justice-involved women with substance use disorders from five coal-impacted counties (Athens, Hocking, Morgan, Perry, and Vinton), helping them move from treatment to recovery to re-entry into the workforce. Key aspects of this recovery ecosystem include residential treatment for women who are leaving jail or are enrolled in drug court, as well as primary care and addiction treatment services for justice-involved women. Additionally, the project will include community health workers and quick response teams to help navigate available clinical and non-clinical supports and workforce development services, such as training and job placement assistance. The project will capitalize on the repurposing the state's Hocking Correctional Institute as the Appalachian Recovery Campus, which will be a site for the delivery of services. The project will be led by Ohio University's College of Health Sciences and Professions. The project will create 31 jobs, serve 300 patients, and place 27 community health worker trainees in permanent positions. 95 clients will complete workforce or vocational programming during or after their residential treatment.

Project Title: *Excellence Training Center*
Grantee: Youngstown State University
Award Amount: $1,000,000
Announcement Date: April 2019
Project Summary: ARC grant to Youngstown State University (YSU) in Youngstown, OH, for the *Excellence Training Center* project. The grant will allow YSU to renovate a facility to house the Excellence Training Center, an advanced manufacturing education and workforce training facility that will benefit a 14county, three-state region (OH, PA, WV). The center will be developed as a 24/7 access, shared-use facility with a manufacturing training lab and group project and workroom space supporting displaced workers, students, manufacturers, and entrepreneurs. Regional partners for the project include Eastern Gateway Community College, Mahoning Valley Manufacturers Coalition, Youngstown Business Incubator, the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission, and regional workforce development boards. The center will help address regional employment problems caused by the downturn of the coal industry by providing requisite hands-on training for high-demand advanced manufacturing skills, creating a pipeline of knowledgeable and trained workers. It is expected the project will

train 200 workers and create or retain 188 jobs. Funding from the State of Ohio is matching the ARC grant.

Project Title: *Southeast Ohio Broadband Backbone*
Grantee: Buckeye Rural Electric Cooperative
Award Amount: $2,500,000
Announcement Date: October 2019
Project Summary: ARC grant to the Buckeye Rural Electric Cooperative in Gallipolis, OH for the *Southeast Ohio Broadband Backbone* project. This grant will fund the installation of 168 miles of fiber to create a broadband network reaching unserved and underserved areas in six counties in Southeast Ohio that have been adversely affected by the decline in the coal economy (Athens, Gallia, Jackson, Lawrence, Meigs, and Vinton). The fiber installation will optimize a $19.8 million distribution system construction project. Buckeye Rural Electric Cooperative will partner with two internet service providers to economically deliver high-speed internet to rural homes, businesses, farms, ranches, and community facilities such as first responders, health care sites, and schools that are currently underserved. The Buckeye Rural Electric Cooperative is matching ARC funds with $1,100,000 in private investment. The fiber backbone will serve 1,988 households and 70 businesses.

Project Title: *LIGHTS-INC*
Grantee: Shawnee State University (SSU)
Award Amount: $1,496,585
Announcement Date: October 2019
Project Summary: ARC grant to Shawnee State University (SSU) in Portsmouth, OH for the *LIGHTS Inclusive (LIGHTS-INC)* project. The project will build on the success of a previous POWER award, Leveraging Innovation Gateways and Hubs Toward Sustainability (LIGHTS), expanding its geographic footprint and broadening its entrepreneurial training program by incorporating substance abuse recovery support. SSU will extend the LIGHTS Regional Innovation Network by partnering with innovative, existing recovery networks in 26 counties across West Virginia, Kentucky, and Ohio. LIGHTS-INC will combine proven methods of helping those suffering from addiction with entrepreneurial expertise and makerspaces in its Innovation Gateways. The initiative is expected to create 133 jobs and 49 new businesses; leverage over $1.6 million in private investment; and improve economic opportunities in 38 communities. Partners include Hocking College, Ohio University, the Washington County (OH) Career Center, and the Robert C. Byrd Institute for Advanced Manufacturing at Marshall University.

Project Title: *Asset-based Entrepreneurship: Trails, Towns, and Tourism in the Appalachian Ohio Economy*
Grantee: Rural Action Inc.
Award Amount: $1,235,727
Announcement Date: October 2019
Project Summary: ARC grant to Rural Action Inc. in The Plains, OH for the *Asset-based Entrepreneurship: Trails, Towns, and Tourism in the Appalachian Ohio Economy* project. The project will help diversify and restructure the regional economy by investing in an emergent tourism sector that celebrates Appalachian Ohio's natural, cultural, and entrepreneurial assets. The project's targeted geography is between the northern Hocking Hills and the city of Athens, extending into parts of five counties. The project consists of two major components: 1) construction of 31 miles of the Bailey's Trail in the Wayne National Forest and 2) an integrated package of activities to take economic advantage of the trail, such as collaborative marketing, entrepreneurial training and support, trail town place-making, and workforce development. When complete, the 88-mile mountain bike trail system will attract 181,000 visitors annually, resulting in $20 million of increased spending. The project will lead

to the creation of 25 new tourism-related business and the expansion of 50 existing business, the creation or retention of 190 jobs, and $5.7 million in leveraged investment. Additional funding is provided by the National Forest Foundation, a Community Development Block Grant from the State of Ohio, and the Sugar Bush Foundation.

Project Title: *Tri-State Gateway to Growth Training Center*
Grantee: Eastern Gateway Community College
Award Amount: $836,332
Announcement Date: October 2019
Project Summary: ARC grant to Eastern Gateway Community College in Steubenville, OH for the *Tri-State Gateway to Growth Training Center*. The project will establish a training center to serve a 12-county region in Ohio, West Virginia, and Pennsylvania. The new training center will educate a competitive workforce for this region in advanced manufacturing (including welding, machining, electronics, pneumatics, hydraulics, and industrial maintenance), logistics, and energy industries. The area served by the new center has experienced declines in coal mining employment as well as the closure of a coal-fired power plant. Over the three-year grant period at least 650 workers/trainees and 120 students will obtain new positions or enhance their current ones, and six businesses will be improved by the training model.

Project Title: *Robotics & Manufacturing Technology Education Collaborative (RAMTEC)*
Grantee: Washington State Community College
Award Amount: $618,150
Announcement Date: October 2019
Project Summary: ARC grant to Washington State Community College in Marietta, OH for the *Robotics & Manufacturing Technology Education Collaborative (RAMTEC)*. The project will expand RAMTEC—a training and workforce development program designed to educate workers in advanced manufacturing, automation, and robotics, as well as CNC machining, welding, and industrial maintenance—to the southern portion of Appalachian Ohio, the only region in the state currently not benefiting from it. This proven instructional model includes industry-led educational programming designed to deliver in-demand credentialed training. The training from this program will bolster a workforce that has been adversely affected by the decline in the coal industry. The project will serve 5 counties in Ohio and West Virginia (Monroe, Morgan, Noble, and Washington in Ohio and Wood in West Virginia). At least 70 workers/trainees, including approximately 20 dislocated and 50 incumbent workers, and 630 students will participate in training activities, and at least six businesses will be improved.

Project Title: *Trumbull County Broadband Feasibility Study*
Grantee: Trumbull County Planning Commission
Award Amount: $27,500
Announcement Date: October 2019
Project Summary: ARC grant to the Trumbull County Planning Commission in Warren, OH for the *Trumbull County Broadband Feasibility Study*. The study will create the road map for the implementation of a fiber network throughout Trumbull County. It will perform a market analysis of adoption rates, competition, and pricing; conduct a needs assessment for area businesses, schools, hospitals, and other anchor institutions; review current trends in telecommunications technologies; and develop a framework for a structure to govern the fiber network as a publicly owned and operated utility.

Project Title: *Broadband Feasibility Study*
Grantee: Washington Electric Cooperative, Inc. (WECI)
Award Amount: $24,500
Announcement Date: October 2019
Project Summary: ARC grant to Washington Electric Cooperative, Inc. (WECI) in Marietta, OH for a *Broadband Feasibility Study*. The study will assist WECI with decisions on whether to pursue deployment of broadband services within its member service territory of Athens, Guernsey, Monroe, Morgan, Noble, and Washington Counties. Major tasks include conducting an initial competitive analysis of market conditions, developing capital expenditure cost estimates, preparing a high-level financial business plan, and conducting a market study to determine the potential "take rate" of broadband services. Through this study, WECI will be able to determine the gaps that exist in the local broadband infrastructure and how to bridge those gaps.

2018 Awards

Project Title: *Social Enterprise Ecosystem II*
Grantee: Ohio University
Award Amount: $750,000
Announcement Date: October 2018
Project Summary: ARC grant to Ohio University in Athens, OH, for the Social Enterprise Ecosystem (SEE) program to foster social enterprise activities in coal-impacted communities in Ohio and West Virginia. The grant will support a two-year continuation and expansion of the one-year SEE pilot project previously funded by a POWER grant. Social enterprises use for-profit business strategies to achieve specific social benefits. The project focuses on several key areas, including entrepreneurial and business development, creating a ready workforce, building critical infrastructure (such as broadband), leveraging cultural assets to stimulate economic activity, building capacity for social enterprises, and convening and facilitating impact investors' investments in the region. Through the grant, new or strengthened social enterprises will serve at least 32 communities. Key partners for the work include the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio, the Parkersburg (WV) Area Community Foundation, and Rural Action. The project expects to improve the performance of at least 42 social enterprise businesses and help launch 17 new ones. In addition, the SEE team projects that 38 new jobs will be created, and the grant will yield at least $6 million in leveraged private investment.

Project Title: *Building Technical Capacity for Angel Investment in the Tri-State Region of Ohio, Kentucky, and West Virginia*
Grantee: Lawrence County Economic Development Corporation
Award Amount: $538,200
Announcement Date: October 2018
Project Summary: $538,200 ARC grant to the Lawrence County Economic Development Corporation in South Point, OH, to foster the creation of a dynamic angel investment group serving the tri-state region of Ohio, Kentucky, and West Virginia. The project will build the technical capabilities of the Tri-State Angel Investing Group (TSAIG) so that increased amounts of private funds can be raised and invested in potential high-growth companies across 19 counties in Kentucky, Ohio, and West Virginia. The lack of angel capital is an impediment to entrepreneurial growth and job creation in the tri-state region. The expected outcomes for this project include 30 businesses improved, five new businesses created, 40 new jobs, 19 communities improved, and $1 million in private investment that will be leveraged through ten new investors.

Project Title: *U.S. 33 Corridor Broadband Feasibility Project*
Grantee: Buckeye Hills Regional Council
Award Amount: $78,624
Announcement Date: October 2018
Project Summary: ARC grant to Buckeye Hills Regional Council in Marietta, OH, for a feasibility study examining broadband deployment opportunities along Route 33 in Ohio between Groveport and Belpre. Half of Appalachian Ohio's residents and business are without broadband service that meets FCC standards. This study will analyze service gaps, gauge demand in underserved communities, inventory existing assets, and develop strategies for deployment. The ultimate goal is to attract new jobs and investments in areas affected by the loss of coal-related jobs and establish a new "high tech corridor."

2017 Awards

Project Title: *Innovation Gateway Network of Appalachian Ohio*
Grantee: Buckeye Hills Regional Council
Award Amount: $1,200,000
Announcement Date: June 2017
Project Summary: ARC grant to Buckeye Hills Regional Council in Marietta, OH, for the *Innovation Gateway Network of Appalachian Ohio* project. The Gateway Network will provide an innovative program of learning, makerspace activities, and entrepreneurship development in three multi-use facilities, located in Somerset, Nelsonville, and Marietta, Ohio. Each center will be designed to reflect the specific needs of its local community, with access to commercial-grade broadband, a range of immediate job opportunities from employer-paid training to entry-level work, a technology hub, and flexible classroom and small group workspaces. The Innovation Gateway Network programming aims to boost employment and income; strengthen and diversify local economies; and grow, retain, and attract talent to the region through alternative learning and career pathways. In developing its offerings, each of the three sites will rely on the expertise of Ohio University's Innovation Center, a collaborating partner in the project. During the three-year project period, this project will help at least 205 adults obtain jobs, 55 students obtain a high school diploma, and 75 students make progress towards an associate's degree. The project will also help 130 participants earn additional income and/or complete an industry credential.

Project Title: *Coal Business United Resource Network (Coal BURN) Real-Time Insights for Real-Time Actions*
Grantee: Workforce Initiative Association
Award Amount: $41,065
Announcement Date: June 2017
Project Summary: ARC grant to the Workforce Initiative Association in Canton, OH, for the Coal Business United Resource Network (Coal BURN) Real-Time Insights for Real-Time Actions project. The project will implement a formal multi-state planning process to obtain a better understanding of current and future workforce opportunities ("real-time" data) in coal-impacted communities in parts of Ohio, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia. The new multi-county, multi-state consortium will draw on data and actions that currently exist while obtaining information and data on specific skills needed in the workplace, helping the workforce system to more effectively enable dislocated workers to meet the needs of local businesses. The primary goal of the Resource Network in Ohio will be to connect workforce development, economic development, and education in a collaborative, seamless, and customer focused partnership structure to deliver effective and efficient business services. Through the planning process, the model will be expanded into Pennsylvania and West Virginia.

Project Title: *Rail and Port Transportation Strategic Plan*
Grantee: Growth Partnership for Ashtabula
Award Amount: $30,000
Announcement Date: June 2017
Project Summary: ARC grant to Growth Partnership for Ashtabula in Jefferson, OH, to develop a strategic plan for Ashtabula County's rail and port transportation infrastructure. Due to the downturn of the coal economy, service has been cut at the County's ports and along its rail lines. The plan will inventory existing transportation infrastructure assets and review market needs in order to identify opportunities for greater usage of current assets by local businesses.

2016 Awards

Project Title: *Advanced Manufacturing Innovation & Commercialization Center*
Grantee: Youngstown State University
Award Amount: $22,758
Announcement Date: August 2016
Project Summary: ARC grant to Youngstown State University in Youngstown, OH, to analyze and develop a project plan for the Advanced Manufacturing Innovation and Commercialization Center. The project is expected to serve 14 counties in Ohio, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia.

Project Title: *Leveraging Innovation Gateways and Hubs Towards Sustainability*
Grantee: Ohio University
Award Amount: $2,000,000
Announcement Date: October 2016
Project Summary: ARC grant to Ohio University in Athens, OH, for the *Leveraging Innovation Gateways and Hubs Toward Sustainability (LIGHTS)* project. The ARC award will strengthen Southern Ohio's entrepreneurial ecosystem by leveraging the capacity of four strategically located "Innovation Hubs"— which provide facilities, equipment and design/engineering expertise to entrepreneurs—and five regional "Gateway Centers" that link local entrepreneurs to a broad array of support services throughout the ecosystem. The project will build on the successful TechGROWTH Ohio model, create 360 new jobs, 50 new small businesses, and bring $5,000,000 in leveraged private investment to the area.

Project Title: *Appalachia Rises, Appalachia is Revitalizing an Industry-ready Skilling Ecosystem for Sustainability*
Grantee: Hocking College
Award Amount: $1,422,965
Announcement Date: October 2016
Project Summary: ARC grant to Hocking College in Nelsonville, OH, for the *Appalachia RISES (Revitalizing an Industry-ready Skilling Ecosystem for Sustainability)* Initiative. The project will leverage the expertise of regional education, business, and government entities to deliver comprehensive workforce training services in employment fields that meet current and anticipated industry needs in North Central Appalachia—including advanced energy, automotive technology, petroleum technology, welding, and commercial driver's license (CDL). The project will train 306 workers over the life of the award, and primarily serve a 17-county region covering southeastern Ohio and central West Virginia.

Project Title: *Appalachian Ohio -- Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) Formation*
Grantee: Appalachian Partnership for Economic Growth, Inc.
Award Amount: $450,000
Announcement Date: October 2016
Project Summary: ARC grant for Appalachian Partnership for Economic Growth (APEG) in Nelsonville, OH, to establish an *Appalachian Ohio Community Development Financial Institution* (AO CDFI) to provide business loan products that are currently unavailable in southeast Ohio. In crafting and delivering these products, APEG will partner with regional entities like local development districts and private lenders. The Appalachian Ohio CDFI will provide gap financing for capital equipment and facility purchases, as well as longer-term capital financing. The loan products will support business growth that would not otherwise occur, thereby enabling new employment opportunities for dislocated coal economy workers. A number of national and regional banks that serve southeast Ohio have committed funds to support the creation of the CDFI. APEG projects that 54 loans will be originated in the grant period, leading to the creation or retention of 227 jobs and leveraging $2.75 million in private investment.

Project Title: *Social Enterprise Ecosystem: SEE*
Grantee: Ohio University
Award Amount: $300,000
Announcement Date: October 2016
Project Summary: $300,000 ARC grant to Ohio University in Athens, OH, for the *Social Enterprise Ecosystem (SEE Appalachia)* project. Ohio University and its partners will work to strengthen entrepreneurial ecosystems that support the start-up and/or expansion, funding, growth, and sustainability of social enterprises in Ohio and West Virginia. Social enterprises combine the social mission of a nonprofit with the market-driven approach of a business to solve complex social and environmental problems in a financially sustainable and scalable way. SEE Appalachia will assist social enterprises that focus on health and wellness, education, and the environment. The Foundation for Appalachian Ohio and the Parkersburg Area Community Foundation will provide regional outreach and identify potential social enterprise clients, assist in building capacity for social enterprise work, and advise on venture investment decisions. The project is expected to assist at least 12 social enterprises to gain investment sufficient for start-up and launch, create 20 well-paying jobs, and leverage $1.18 million in private investment in the first year.

Project Title: *Appalachian Ohio Solar Supply-Chain Initiative*
Grantee: Rural Action
Award Amount: $119,460
Announcement Date: October 2016
Project Summary: ARC grant to Rural Action in The Plains, OH, to develop a strategic plan and feasibility study for the Appalachian Ohio Solar Supply-Chain Initiative. This regional planning effort will focus on building a stakeholder partnership that will develop a regional solar manufacturing supply-chain in response to a major utility's plan to deploy new solar resources in Ohio.

2015 Awards

Project Title: *Emerging Social Enterprise Development*
Grantee: Rural Action Inc.
Award Amount: $68,700
Announcement Date: October 2015
Project Summary: ARC grant to Rural Action, Inc., in The Plains, OH, for *Emerging Social Enterprise Development*. SBA is also awarding up to $2.5 million to the Appalachian Partnership for Economic Growth as part of this project. The project will expand social enterprise development in sustainable forestry and other emerging sectors by providing technical assistance and support to non-profits and private enterprises in idea generation, market assessment, and business modeling.

PENNSYLVANIA (110 awards)

2024 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: P3R Kids of Steel Program Expansion
Grantee: Pittsburgh Three Rivers Marathon Inc.
Award Amount: $50,000
Announcement Date: October 2024
Project Summary: ARC grant of $50,000 to Pittsburgh Three Rivers Marathon Inc. in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, for the P3R Kids of Steel Program Expansion POWER 2024 Initiative. The Kids of Steel program encourages healthy lifestyles in youth participants by promoting physical activity, encouraging healthy choices, and improving physical health. The project seeks to plan the expansion of the P3R Kids of Steel program into Washington, Greene, and Fayette counties. The project will recruit 16 expansion sites and produce one report during the seven-month grant period.

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.

2023 Awards

Project Title: *Washington County's East Finley Broadband Expansion*
Grantee: Washington County, Pennsylvania
Award Amount: $2,500,000
Announcement Date: October 2023
Project Summary: ARC grant of $2,500,000 to Washington County, Pennsylvania, for *Washington County's East Finley Broadband Expansion* project. This project will enable Washington County to contract with a preferred vendor to expand the provision of high-speed broadband services to 857 unserved locations in East Finley Township. The preferred vendor will design, build, maintain, and own a broadband network to make available a full suite of services, including broadband service, voice, video, and home security. This project is part of phase III of Washington County's county-wide internet access expansion effort. The contract for high-speed internet services will provide economic and educational benefits to 808 unserved or underserved residences and 49 unserved or underserved businesses over the course of the grant period.

Project Title: *Trade Institute of Pittsburgh Social Enterprise*
Grantee: Trade Institute of Pittsburgh
Award Amount: $1,562,218
Announcement Date: October 2023
Project Summary: ARC grant of $1,562,218 to the Trade Institute of Pittsburgh in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, for the *Trade Institute of Pittsburgh Social Enterprise* project. The project will provide additional paid workforce experience for trainees who have completed the masonry program and the Trade Institute but are still experiencing additional barriers to employment. This program will provide wrap-around services to trainees who may need recovery support, housing support, and additional services in the most distressed areas of Allegheny County, Pennsylvania. Through a partnership with Community College of Allegheny County, Concrete Rose, First National Bank, Habitat for Humanity, Harris Masonry, Partners4Work, Pittsburgh Gateways, and Pittsburgh Housing Development Corporation, trainees will be connected to support they need on and off the training site. In addition, businesses will get technical assistance for weatherization and clean energy practices. The project anticipates serving 138 workers/trainees and 10 businesses by the end of the grant period.

Project Title: *Transforming Our Workforce Ecosystem (TOWE)*
Grantee: Keystone Community Education Council
Award Amount: $1,500,000
Announcement Date: October 2023
Project Summary: ARC grant of $1,500,000 to Keystone Community Education Council (KCEC) in Oil City, Pennsylvania, for the *Transforming Our Workforce Ecosystem (TOWE)*

project. Along with regional partners, KCEC will implement the TOWE project in four components that support employer-endorsed manufacturing skills training for in-school youth, new workforce entrants, dislocated workers, and current workers. Components of TOWE include: partnering with local chambers, employer groups, and economic development agencies to identify critical workforce issues, hiring obstacles, training needs, and possible workforce solutions; promoting skilled trades in middle schools by creating a website that connects regional youth programs with middle school guidance counselors; offering college-level evening certificate programs and pre-apprenticeship certification to high school seniors and out-of-school youth; and allow KCEC staff, working with the Pennsylvania Talent Pipeline Project (PTPP) network, Workforce Development Areas (WDAs), and other workforce and economic development partners, to identify employers with unfilled job openings or workforce development needs to develop apprenticeship opportunities to re-skill new hires and up-skill current employees. This project will improve 30 businesses, 258 students, and 69 workers/trainees, and implement 12 programs over the course of three years.

Project Title: *Providing Opportunities in Workforce and Entrepreneurship Through Recovery (Project P.O.W.E.R.)*
Grantee: Pennsylvania Peer Support Coalition
Award Amount: $1,500,000
Announcement Date: October 2023
Project Summary: ARC grant of $1,500,000 to the Pennsylvania Peer Support Coalition (PaPSC) in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, for the *Providing Opportunities in Workforce and Entrepreneurship Through Recovery (Project P.O.W.E.R.)* project. The project will increase the number of peer-based SUD recovery professionals across the 52 coal-impacted counties of Appalachian Pennsylvania to help those in recovery connect to support services and find new career opportunities in growing sectors. The project is a continuation of work accomplished under a prior ARC POWER grant and leverages ongoing work in an INSPIRE Initiative grant to expand and enhance the SUD recovery ecosystem in western Pennsylvania. Project partners include regional Workforce Development Boards, FAVOR Western PA, FAVOR Laurel Highlands, Unity Recovery, RI International, the Copeland Center for Wellness and Recovery, the Pennsylvania Mental Health Consumers Association, and the Wright Center for Community Health. By the end of the three-year grant period, five of the 10 peer-based organizations served with technical assistance and entrepreneurship training will be fully prepared to provide services to the recovery community. It will also create one new peer-based, recovery-led organization, employ 250 workers in recovery, improve 60 peer-based professionals through professional development, and implement four new Recovery Wellness Retreat programs.

Project Title: *Pitt-Johnstown Future Works*
Grantee: Pittsburgh Gateways Corporation
Award Amount: $1,500,000
Announcement Date: October 2023
Project Summary: ARC grant of $1,500,000 to Pittsburgh Gateways Corporation in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, for the *Pitt-Johnstown Future Works* project. This project will renovate and preserve 70,000 square feet on Main Street in Johnstown to establish Pitt-Johnstown Future Works. The anchor tenant of the new facility will be the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown (UPJ) Engineering. The new facility will enhance UPJ's degree programs with new advanced manufacturing courses, labs, and research. Pitt-Johnstown Future Works will also bring together small businesses and entrepreneurs focused on innovative manufacturing. The co-location of education and entrepreneurship at the renovated facility will encourage cross-collaboration to enhance students' educational experiences while simultaneously advancing local manufacturing technology, aiding

regional businesses, and advancing economic growth in Johnstown. The project aims to serve 14 businesses and 90 students.

Project Title: *Partners for Creative Economy*
Grantee: Rivers of Steel Heritage Corporation
Award Amount: $1,463,222
Announcement Date: October 2023
Project Summary: ARC grant of $1,463,222 to Rivers of Steel Heritage Corporation in Homestead, Pennsylvania, for the *Partners for Creative Economy* project. The project will build local leadership, provide career opportunities in historic trades, and invest in the future economic growth and success of the Pittsburgh region's cultural heritage assets. The Rivers of Steel National Heritage Area (ROS) has helped to lead the region's transition from heavy industry to high technology and diversified services, as well as to bolster the new regional economy by promoting arts and heritage tourism. The project presents transformational opportunities to communities in the region through five key strategies: a Creative Leadership Program, Joint Program Partnerships, Collaborative Marketing, Workforce Training, and Mini Grants. This process will bring together artists and designers with community groups, municipal leaders, heritage tourism assets, and others to address a range of community and economic development needs. The project will serve 30 businesses, 14 workers/trainees, 22 communities, and 72 participants.

Project Title: *Venango County Restaurant and Retail Food Accelerator*
Grantee: Venango County Economic Development Authority
Award Amount: $1,457,000
Announcement Date: October 2023
Project Summary: ARC grant of $1,457,000 to the Venango County Economic Development Authority in Oil City, Pennsylvania, for the *Venango County Restaurant and Retail Food Accelerator* project. The project will build on prior POWER investments to complete the renovation of the Oil City National Bank building with a restaurant and retail food accelerator. The food accelerator will re-activate a historic commercial space and lower the barrier to entry for new retail food businesses in Oil City. The project will renovate 15,700 square feet of commercial space, serving 3 businesses, creating 7 new jobs, and leveraging $300,000 in private investment over the course of three years.

Project Title: *Building a Competitive Workforce to Boost Semiconductor Manufacturing in the ARC Region*
Grantee: Tri-County Workforce Investment Board, Inc.
Award Amount: $1,400,000
Announcement Date: October 2023
Project Summary: ARC grant of $1,400,000 to the Tri-County Workforce Investment Board, Inc., in Butler, Pennsylvania, for the *Building a Competitive Workforce to Boost Semiconductor Manufacturing in the ARC Region* project. This project aims to build a competitive workforce in the emerging market of semiconductor manufacturing and address the critical workforce shortage in related industries. Coal-power plant closures have resulted in direct layoffs over the years from regional employers including Hatfield's Ferry Power Station, First Energy Mitchell Power Station, DTE Energy, Erie Coke Corporation, and Cheswick Generating Station. This project addresses the direct impact of coal-related job losses in 15 Western Pennsylvania counties by providing free training required to obtain jobs in the areas of HVAC-R, welding processes/building trades, semiconductor manufacturing, and building information modeling. Central to the project is a partnership with the Steamfitters Local Union 449 JATC, which will offer trainings at its Steamfitters Technology Center in Harmony, Pennsylvania, and utilize ARC funding to equip its orbital welding lab and semiconductor plastic fusion lab. Additionally, an outreach and recruitment campaign will be

deployed to enroll workers in new training opportunities. The 18-month project aims to serve 550 workers/trainees, with 525 expected to secure employment or higher wages, or receive an industry-recognized credential.

Project Title: *Pennsylvania Cybersecurity Center*
Grantee: LindenPointe Development Corporation
Award Amount: $1,150,000
Announcement Date: October 2023
Project Summary: ARC grant of $1,150,000 to LindenPointe Development Corporation in Hermitage, Pennsylvania, for the *Pennsylvania Cybersecurity Center* (PCC) project. The PCC will expand its reach beyond a pilot in Mercer County, Pennsylvania, to seven additional counties in Appalachian Pennsylvania, thereby increasing the supply of local cybersecurity talent. The PCC has developed a curriculum with recognized industry leaders, Cisco and CompTIA, which leads to recognized Security IT Certificates. The PCC supplements this coursework with a Cyber Range, a virtual environment where workers/trainees practice handling specific real-world scenarios as cyber professionals. PCC then recruits workers/trainees from partnering high schools, colleges, and adult workforce agencies including the West Central Job Partnership. After training, the PCC places students into jobs within the cyber and IT industry through their current and future employer partnerships. The project is anticipated to serve 455 workers/trainees through the end of the grant period.

Project Title: *Building Capacity with Infinite Erie*
Grantee: The Redevelopment Authority of the County of Erie
Award Amount: $1,082,000
Announcement Date: October 2023
Project Summary: ARC grant of $1,082,000 to the The Redevelopment Authority of the County of Erie in Erie, Pennsylvania, for the *Building Capacity with Infinite Erie* project. Through partnerships with Infinite Erie, Erie Community Foundation, ECRDA, Erie's Black Wall Street, and the Pennsylvania Technical Assistance Program this project will provide technical assistance, partnership and funding alignment, project development workshops, and organizational coaching for transformational projects identified by Erie's Investment Playbook. The playbook also includes economic development projects for healthy neighborhoods, a reimagined bayfront/tourism, and a 21st-century economy. With ARC's investment, 60 small, Black, and minority business owners will receive customized business assistance from EBWS, and 60 local organizations will receive capacity-building support, including project development, planning, and grant writing.

Project Title: *Expanding Sectoral Partnerships in the Regional Food System Through Culinary and Butchery Training*
Grantee: Community Kitchen Pittsburgh
Award Amount: $697,592
Announcement Date: October 2023
Project Summary: ARC grant of $697,592 to Community Kitchen Pittsburgh (CKP) in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, for the *Expanding Sectoral Partnerships in the Regional Food System Through Culinary and Butchery Training* project. The project will create jobs and provide paid culinary and butchery vocational training in the Greater Pittsburgh area to alleviate the long-lasting intergenerational effects of the collapse of the coal and steel industries in the region. CKP will develop a four-week Culinary Fundamentals program in collaboration with employer partner, The University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC), and develop a Registered Butcher Apprenticeship program in partnership with Unified Fields, a local butcher training company and meat processor. CKP will provide comprehensive case management and supportive services for students that include assistance accessing transportation, childcare, housing, utilities, and other emergency

services as needed. Combined with the partnerships with strong employers, the provided services will allow trainees to obtain a job, stay engaged with their employment, and advance along a financially sustaining career path. Through enrollment of multiple cohorts of workers/trainees in the Culinary Foundations program or Registered Butcher Apprenticeship program, the project will serve 450 workers/trainees by helping them gain experience and attain employment, create 17 jobs, and retain four jobs at Unified Fields and Community Kitchen Pittsburgh by the end of the grant period.

Project Title: *Cultivating the Agri-Culinary Industry in Northwest Pennsylvania*
Grantee: Edinboro Market, Inc.
Award Amount: $663,699
Announcement Date: October 2023
Project Summary: ARC grant of $663,699 to Edinboro Market, Inc., in Edinboro, Pennsylvania, for the *Cultivating the Agri-Culinary Industry in Northwest Pennsylvania* project. The project will help expand Edinboro Market's footprint with the goal of building an "agri-culinary" destination. The project comprises several elements: renovating a new 3,500-square-foot space for the farmers market, enabling 30 additional sellers to participate; building new retail space and a cafe; and expanding educational programming on cooking, nutrition, and farming to serve adults and young people. The project's goal is to develop a roadmap to farming and food careers in northwest Pennsylvania.

Project Title: *Beaver County Business District Initiative*
Grantee: Beaver County Corporation for Economic Development
Award Amount: $611,909
Announcement Date: October 2023
Project Summary: ARC grant of $611,909 to Beaver County Corporation for Economic Development in Beaver, Pennsylvania, for the *Beaver County Business District Initiative* project. The project will launch a mini-grant program to assist small and startup businesses relocating to one of Beaver County's nine downtown business districts. Beaver County has experienced significant job loss and population decline for several decades due to the region's industrial decline and the more recent downturn in the coal economy. The county's downtown business districts have suffered from disinvestment and high vacancy rates as a result. In an effort to diversify its economy and create jobs, the county is pursuing efforts to incentivize downtown investment and provide resources to small businesses and entrepreneurs. This project will complement these efforts by providing financial incentives for small businesses to locate and grow their businesses in Beaver County's downtown districts. The project is expected to serve 90 businesses and create 180 jobs over three years.

Project Title: *Enhancing Nursing and Allied Health Professional Education with a High-Fidelity Simulation Lab*
Grantee: Westminster College
Award Amount: $437,351
Announcement Date: October 2023
Project Summary: ARC grant of $437,351 to Westminster College in New Wilmington, Pennsylvania, for the *Enhancing Nursing and Allied Health Professional Education with a High-Fidelity Simulation Lab* project. This project will provide high-tech training and patient simulation equipment for a new high-fidelity simulation laboratory. The new laboratory will help Westminster College expand its nursing program and address the shortage of nurses and allied health professionals in three medically underserved and coal-impacted counties in Appalachian Pennsylvania. The project will benefit Westminster students earning their Bachelor of Science in nursing credential and community partners who wish to upskill their nursing or allied health workforce, including first responders. Additionally, regional healthcare systems experiencing a labor shortage will have a reliable pipeline of trained

nursing and allied health professionals to meet the growing demand for skilled healthcare talent. By the end of the three-year grant period and each year thereafter, approximately 50 nursing students will earn the R.N. or B.S.N. credential and 25 workers in the allied healthcare field will earn or update their professional certifications and licensures.

Project Title: *Susquehanna Valley Makerspace Collaborative*
Grantee: Susquehanna Valley United Way
Award Amount: $ 401,080
Announcement Date: October 2023
Project Summary: ARC grant of $401,080 to the Susquehanna Valley United Way (SVUW) in city, Pennsylvania, for the *Susquehanna Valley Makerspace Collaborative* project. The project will equip and staff the Susquehanna Valley Makerspace Collaborative to provide training in a wide range of subjects, including culinary and industrial arts, arts and design, music, gaming, and a tech lab in locations across five counties of Pennsylvania: Columbia, Montour, Snyder, Union, and Northumberland. Additionally, funding will support the personnel to deliver mobile makerspace programs contracted by Bloomsburg and Lewisburg Children's Museum and Snyder County 4-H. The SVUW will hire STEM-trained staff at the makerspace locations to provide unique hands-on classes, curriculums, and experiences. Project hubs will be established at several locations, including the Improved Milton Experience; the Lewisburg and Bloomsburg Children's Museum; the Regional Engagement Center; For the Cause Teen Center; the Mt. Carmel, Shamokin, and Warrior Run Area makerspaces; and Bloomsburg Teen Center locations. Additionally, the project will establish mobile sites (with more limited programming) at libraries, YMCAs, community centers, and 4-H programs. The project is anticipated to serve 1,250 students and improve 650 students.

Project Title: *Junior Achievement Comprehensive Analysis of Territories—Western PA & West Virginia*
Grantee: Junior Achievement of Western Pennsylvania, Inc.
Award Amount: $50,000
Announcement Date: October 2023
Project Summary: ARC grant of $50,000 to the Junior Achievement of Western Pennsylvania, Inc., in Bridgeville, Pennsylvania, for the *Junior Achievement Comprehensive Analysis of Territories—Western PA & West Virginia* project. The project will create plans to successfully implement Junior Achievement entrepreneurship, career exploration/readiness, and financial literacy programming in both Pennsylvania and West Virginia. This multi-state evaluation will enable the organization to assess capacity, additional funding needs, and necessary partnerships required to integrate and sustain its student-centric programming. Junior Achievement of Western Pennsylvania (JA of Western PA) will identify the optimal implementation of programming and school/business engagement, and partner with local businesses and educators to create a comprehensive strategy for engaging all 24 West Virginia counties within the service area. The project will support the creation of two strategic plans: one Pennsylvania-based strategy and one West Virginia-based strategy.

Project Title: *Lycoming County Broadband Engineering & Deployment Readiness Plan*
Grantee: Lycoming County, Pennsylvania
Award Amount: $50,000
Announcement Date: October 2023
Project Summary: ARC grant of $50,000 to Lycoming County, Pennsylvania, for the *Lycoming County Broadband Engineering & Deployment Readiness Plan* project. Lycoming County will contract with a qualified consulting vendor to prepare the Lycoming County Broadband Engineering and Deployment Readiness Plan. The plan will verify the service status of previously identified unserved and underserved structures, identify broadband fiber

deployment solutions to fill the gaps, locate areas best-suited for middle-mile and last-mile broadband infrastructure deployment, estimate the cost of required middle-mile and last-mile infrastructure, estimate the timeline for broadband infrastructure build-out, and develop an action and implementation strategy. The plan will encompass the entirety of Lycoming County, including all municipalities and census tracts. The plan will give Lycoming County and its stakeholders a reliable understanding of the distribution of unserved and underserved areas. The mapping exhibits will include the locations of anchor institutions, including major employers, healthcare facilities, libraries, local government buildings, and schools. This will assist Lycoming County in future prioritization of focus areas for fiber deployment. Twenty-two Pennsylvania communities will be improved through engagement in the broadband planning process.

Project Title: *TRPIL Advances Career Options and Opportunities*
Grantee: Transitional Paths to Independent Living (TRPIL)
Award Amount: $50,000
Announcement Date: October 2023
Project Summary: ARC grant of $50,000 to Transitional Paths to Independent Living (TRPIL) in Washington, Pennsylvania, for the *TRPIL Advances Career Options and Opportunities* project. This planning grant will support the planning of a workforce development program which will connect young adults with disabilities in Appalachia—a historically marginalized population twice as likely to be unemployed or underemployed than people without disabilities—to potential careers and life-long earning potential. Project partners include the Pennsylvania Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR), Washington Health System, Waynesburg University, Penn West California, and First Federal Savings & Loan of Green County. Local employer partners in need of workers will benefit through their partnership in an innovative program that will provide a pipeline of new employees eager to work and with the vocational skills necessary to meet industry needs. By the end of the 12-month grant period, the project will create one strategic plan that will inform a future implementation project to establish the TRPIL Advances Career Options and Opportunities program.

Project Title: *Ridgway Riverfront Master Site Plan*
Grantee: Borough of Ridgway, Pennsylvania
Award Amount: $35,000
Announcement Date: October 2023
Project Summary: ARC grant of $35,000 to Borough of Ridgway, Pennsylvania, for the *Ridgway Riverfront Master Site Plan* project. ARC funds will be used to develop a master site plan for a 28-acre parcel of land along the Clarion River that the Borough acquired in 2019. The property is located within walking distance of downtown Ridgway and is currently underutilized. This project will develop a Master Site Plan to capitalize on the area's natural assets while addressing flood mitigation and streambank restoration. The goal is to find the best avenues for development of public recreational spaces and improved public access to the Clarion River for outdoor recreation, including restoration of a campground.

2022 Awards

Project Title: *Health Sciences Workforce Development Center*
Grantee: Fayette County
Award Amount: $1,500,000
Announcement Date: October 2022
Project Summary: ARC grant of $1,500,000 to Fayette County, Pennsylvania, for the *Health Sciences Workforce Development Center* project. This project will construct a 6,000-square-foot training center on the campus of Fayette County Career & Technical Institute (Fayette CTI), allowing Fayette CTI to enhance its Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) program and meet

the growing healthcare workforce needs in Western Pennsylvania and Northern West Virginia. West Virginia University Medicine will provide curriculum recommendations to Fayette CTI and plans to interview upwards of 50 program graduates for jobs approximately one year after construction and programming begins. Over the course of eighteen months, following the completion of the new facility, the project will serve 170 students with 136 anticipated to graduate.

Project Title: *Erie to Pittsburgh Trails/PA Wilds Loop Construction—Phase II*
Grantee: Venango County, Pennsylvania
Award Amount: $1,385,920
Announcement Date: October 2022
Project Summary: ARC grant of $1,385,920 to Venango County, Pennsylvania, for Phase II construction of the *Erie to Pittsburgh Trail/PA Wilds Loop Trail*, closing gaps in connectivity along both trails. Both trails are part of the Industrial Heartland Trails Coalition, an initiative to connect the area's population centers via destination trails that will attract users locally and nationally. This project contributes to that larger effort by building on a strategy developed by Crawford County, Pennsylvania, using a 2019 POWER planning grant. This project will complete three miles of critical multi-use recreational trail development, rehabilitate a key bridge, and provide road crossing safety improvements. After two years, 15,840 linear feet of new trail will be built, attracting an expected 6,300 new day visitors and 2,100 new overnight visitors.

Project Title: *Tri-State Net Zero Manufacturing Initiative*
Grantee: Southwestern Pennsylvania Corporation
Award Amount: $1,375,961
Announcement Date: October 2022
Project Summary: ARC grant of $1,375,961 to the Southwestern Pennsylvania Corporation (SPC) in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, for the *Tri-State Net Zero Manufacturing Initiative* project. To help address both the global climate crisis and the region's economic reliance on coal, the project will help small and medium manufacturers participate in the growing supply chain for net-zero energy and decarbonization sectors. In partnership with Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) centers at Catalyst Connection, West Virginia University, and Ohio MAGNET, the project will engage and connect manufacturers with strategies and opportunities; incentivize the deployment of net zero supply chain and clean factory strategies by providing "Net Zero Manufacturing Mini-Grants"; and identify pathways to scale up net zero manufacturing, among other activities. The project will serve 47 counties across three states, produce two plans/reports, implement three programs, serve 300 businesses, create 120 jobs and 25 new businesses, and leverage $360,000 in additional private investment.

Project Title: *Aviation Workforce Training Center*
Grantee: Saint Francis University
Award Amount: $1,000,000
Announcement Date: October 2022
Project Summary: ARC grant of $1,000,000 to Saint Francis University in Loretto, Pennsylvania, for the *Aviation Workforce Training Center* project. Through collaboration with industry partners—including the Johnstown-Cambria County Airport Authority, Cambria County, Nulton Aviation Services, and Sky West Airlines—to ensure compliance with FAA regulations and intersection with industry needs, the project will establish an Aviation Maintenance Technician (AMT) school at the John Murtha Johnstown–Cambria County Airport. The school will provide the coal-impacted workforce with aviation maintenance training and certifications, helping individuals create pathways into secure, well-paying,

family-sustaining jobs in the growing aviation industry and related sectors. While focused on AMT, training will also synergize with more general trades needed by a variety of occupations, thus also helping dislocated workers from coal-related industries re-enter the workforce using skill sets transferable outside the aviation sector. By the end of the three-year grant period, 60 workers/trainees are expected to enroll in the training program, and five will graduate with certifications that will enable them to obtain employment in the aviation sector or similar field.

Project Title: *Child Care Works for the Southern Alleghenies*
Grantee: The Learning Lamp
Award Amount: $756,690
Announcement Date: October 2022
Project Summary: ARC grant of $756,690 to the Learning Lamp in Johnstown, Pennsylvania, for the *Child Care Works for the Southern Alleghenies* project. The project will increase child care supply and put more people back to work in a rural, coal-impacted region of west central Pennsylvania where there is not enough quality and affordable child care to meet local workforce demands. In addition to increasing child care supply, the project will bolster the early learning workforce through educational opportunities and encourage individuals to build their own home-based child care businesses. The project's four-pronged approach includes recruiting early childhood workers and directing them into education and career pathways through pre-apprenticeships and apprenticeships to increase skills and wages; piloting the micro-center child care model as a solution for the child care shortage in rural communities; launching a Staffed Family Child Care Network campaign to increase the number of home-based child care providers in the region; and completing a child care expansion and quality improvement project currently underway in heavily coal-impacted Somerset County. By the end of the 3-year grant period, the project is expected to create 20 new family-based child care businesses; improve 18 existing child care businesses; improve wages and job prospects for an estimated 48 workers/trainees; and create career pathways for 230 high school students. An additional 468 working parents will have access to expanded child care options that will enable them to remain in or enter the workforce.

Project Title: *Realizing Automated and Advanced Manufacturing Processes (RAAMP)*
Grantee: The Pennsylvania State University
Award Amount: $750,087
Announcement Date: October 2022
Project Summary: ARC grant of $750,087 to the Pennsylvania State University in University Park, Pennsylvania, for the *Realizing Automated and Advanced Manufacturing Processes (RAAMP)* project. The project will facilitate short-form workshops emphasizing specific software/hardware workflows and key concepts of advanced manufacturing, which will be led by in-house staff and guest instructors invited from various sectors of industry. It will also purchase next-level equipment and support manufacturing innovation and workforce development through free access and training on leading-edge tools, equipment, and technologies. Through partnerships with the Ben Franklin Technology Partners and regional business owners, these combined efforts will help regional manufacturers modernize their production capabilities and address the shortage of skilled labor by training and upskilling an existing workforce disenfranchised by the eroding coal economy and empower Appalachians to obtain high-paying, tech-centric jobs. These efforts will improve 60 businesses, 180 workers/trainees, and 45 students through workshop training; create 10 jobs; and retain 30

jobs through modernization of business processes and professional development over the course of the 3-year grant period.

Project Title: *Bedford County Site Feasibility Study*
Grantee: Bedford County Development Association (BCDA)
Award Amount: $50,000
Announcement Date: October 2022
Project Summary: ARC grant of $50,000 to Bedford County, Pennsylvania, for the *Bedford County Site Feasibility Study*. The study will evaluate three sites in Bedford County to determine the best location for a new business park. The goal of the business park will be to cultivate an environment where new and existing manufacturers create well-paying jobs through increased private investment and capitalization on the resurgence of manufacturing.

Project Title: *Erie County Broadband Expansion Feasibility Study*
Grantee: Erie Area Council of Governments
Award Amount: $50,000
Announcement Date: October 2022
Project Summary: ARC grant of $50,000 to Erie Area Council of Governments in Erie, Pennsylvania, for the *Erie County Broadband Expansion Feasibility Study*. The project will analyze existing broadband infrastructure and coverage gaps and recommend implementation strategies for expanding and improving local internet access throughout Erie County. The applicant will contract with an expert consultant to perform the study and with the Erie County Department of Planning and Community Development to provide economic impact data and GIS services. The project will serve 16 communities over the course of a year.

Project Title: *Partnerships to Advance Learning in STEM (PALS) Strategic Expansion Plan*
Grantee: ASSET Inc.
Award Amount: $48,661
Announcement Date: October 2022
Project Summary: ARC grant of $48,661 to ASSET Inc. in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, for the *Partnerships to Advance Learning in STEM (PALS) Strategic Expansion Plan* project. This project will help four regional teams develop action plans to implement the PALS tutoring program, which engages pre-service educators to provide no-cost virtual tutoring to underserved K–8 learners in their communities. PALS tutoring addresses these challenges by focusing on learning acceleration to help K-8 students. In addition, PALS tutoring supports pre-service educators in building relationships, creating effective remote learning opportunities, and connecting their tutoring experiences to future classroom teaching. Project partners include Carlow University, University of Pittsburgh Johnstown, and the Pittsburgh Project. The one-year planning grant will result in action plans for PALS implementation for the regional teams located in Allegheny, Cambria, Greene, Indiana, and Lawrence counties. Long-term impacts include improving students' development of 21st century skills, increased academic achievement, and increased STEM skills.

Project Title: *Restoring Three Buildings on Historic Center for Metal Arts Campus*
Grantee: Center for Metal Arts, Inc. (PA)
Award Amount: $1,500,000
Announcement Date: May 2022
Project Summary: ARC grant of $1,500,000 to Center for Metal Arts, Inc. in Johnstown, Pennsylvania for the *Restoring Three Buildings on Historic Center for Metal Arts Campus* project. The project will renovate three historic buildings on the Center for Metal

Arts campus in Cambria County to accommodate skills and job training, education, and tourism activities. The restoration will allow CMA to open additional metalsmithing and forging operations, metal arts training classrooms and labs, a metals research shop, resident artist shops, an exhibition gallery, and offices. The U.S. Economic Development Administration and the Pennsylvania Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program will provide additional support for the project, which is expected to create 20 jobs, serve 520 workers, and improve 475 of those workers.

Project Title: *Steamfitter's Advanced Employment and Training Program*
Grantee: Tri-County Workforce Investment Board, Inc.
Award Amount: $1,120,000
Announcement Date: March 2022
Project Summary: ARC grant of $1,120,000 to Tri-County Workforce Investment Board, Inc. (TCWIB) in Butler, Pennsylvania, for the *Steamfitter's Advanced Employment and Training Program*. TCWIB will subcontract will Steamfitters Local 449 to implement this project, which will first identify the current and future workforce needs of skilled workers and contractors in 16 coal-impacted counties in Appalachian Pennsylvania by collaborating with multiple contractors and key stakeholders. Next, they will provide customized trainings to meet the diverse workforce needs, while making sure they align with current and expected labor market demands. There will be two types of trainings: advanced skill trainings (specific to the needs identified by contractors) and employability skills trainings (soft skills and customer service). Training sessions will be held at Steamfitters Local 449's Training Center and will be free to the workers/trainees served by this project. Over three years, the program is expected to serve 1,000 workers/trainees and improve the employability of 950 workers/trainees.

Project Title: *Opioid Education for Allied Health Professionals*
Grantee: Somerset County Foundation for Higher Education
Award Amount: $845,043
Announcement Date: March 2022
Project Summary: ARC grant of $845,043 to Somerset County Foundation for Higher Education in Somerset, Pennsylvania, for the *Opioid Education for Allied Health Professionals* project. The project will implement accredited opioid-related continuing medical education (CME) for physician extenders and allied health professionals across 52 coal-impacted counties in Appalachian Pennsylvania, focusing on identifying and intervening in opioid use disorder. Targeted allied health professionals include nurses (RNs), nurse practitioners (NPs), and physicians' assistants (PAs). CME will include, but not be limited to, opioid prescribing guidelines and indications, pain management alternatives to narcotics, identification of potential opioid use and misuse, and intervention strategies. Somerset—along with Rothman Orthopaedic Institute Foundation for Opioid Research and Education, Pennsylvania Orthopedic Society, and Keystone Association Management—plan to partner with colleges and universities to distribute this information to as many healthcare students as possible in the Appalachian Region. Over three years, the project is expected to serve 75 businesses, train 855 workers, and retain 225 jobs by implementing continuing medical education to health professionals in Pennsylvania and across the region.

Project Title: *Tristate Pathways 2.0: Connecting to the Right Skills and to Jobs aka TEAM Pathways 2.0*
Grantee: Westmoreland County Community College
Award Amount: $669,625
Announcement Date: March 2022
Project Summary: ARC grant of $669,625 to Westmoreland County Community College in Youngwood, Pennsylvania, for the *Tristate Pathways 2.0: Connecting to the Right Skills and*

*to Job*s project. The project will accelerate the adoption of flexible, short-term education and training options for in-demand occupations by engaging minority participants and workers who have been impacted by the transitioning coal industry, with a particular focus on energy and advanced manufacturing jobs. In partnership with the Tristate Energy and Advanced Manufacturing (TEAM) Consortium, this grant expands a previous POWER project that linked community colleges and employers in Pennsylvania, Ohio, and West Virginia. The new project will add 18 counties to the service area and include two new community college partners, bringing the total to 45 counties and 10 community colleges across the three states. Over three years, an estimated 3,800 students will be served by the project, as well as K-12 students who will engage in out-of-school activities in partnership with community-based organizations. In addition, the project aims to serve 100 small, medium, and large manufacturing businesses by providing training to 1,500 workers.

Project Title: *Alleghenies Marketplace*
Grantee: Southern Alleghenies Planning & Development Commission
Award Amount: $509,948
Announcement Date: March 2022
Project Summary: ARC grant of $509,948 to the Southern Alleghenies Planning & Development Commission (SAP&DC) in Altoona, Pennsylvania, for *Alleghenies Marketplace*, an online e-commerce marketplace to sell goods developed and/or sold by Startup Alleghenies Entrepreneurs. Serving six coal-impacted counties in West-Central Pennsylvania (Bedford, Blair, Cambria, Fulton, Huntingdon, and Somerset), the program will provide local entrepreneurs with technical assistance that encourages and supports sellers to develop a highly productive online store; the program will also give participants access to a specialized e-commerce platform that eliminates the barriers for early-stage companies to sell to customers. SAP&DC will partner with local economic development organizations that will work one-on-one with the startups and small emerging businesses. Over the two and a half-year grant period, the grantee anticipates that 100 early stage and emerging business will be improved, leading to $1.725 million in new revenue, the creation of 72 new jobs, and the retention of 100 jobs. The project builds on two prior POWER grants that have helped create an entrepreneurial ecosystem (Startup Alleghenies) to transform a regional economy that had been heavily dependent on the coal industry.

Project Title: *Creative Entrepreneur Accelerator Program*
Grantee: Pennsylvania Council on the Arts (PCA)
Award Amount: $500,000
Announcement Date: March 2022
Project Summary: ARC grant of $500,000 to the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts (PCA) in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, for the *Creative Entrepreneur Accelerator Program*. The program, in partnership with Bridgeway Capital, will assist entrepreneurs across coal-impacted counties in Appalachian Pennsylvania who work within creative industries such as marketing, architecture, design, media, visual arts, music, publishing, and craft manufacturing. This initiative will provide creative entrepreneurs access to small business consultation, financial resources, and evaluation services at no cost. In addition, eligible creative entrepreneurs who intend to start or operate a microbusiness will be eligible for a $2,000 grant to support business formation or development upon consultation with and review by a Small Business Development Center or other reputable small business development entities. Over two and a half years, the program is expected to create 45 new businesses and 75 new jobs, as well as serve 450 businesses, improving 270 of them.

Project Title: *Applied Data-Driven Methods (ADDM) Certificate at University of Pittsburgh School of Computing & Information*
Grantee: University of Pittsburgh
Award Amount: $490,487
Announcement Date: March 2022
Project Summary: ARC grant of $490,487 to the University of Pittsburgh in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, for the *Applied Data-Driven Methods (ADDM) Certificate Program at the University's School of Computing & Information* (SCI). The project will provide tuition scholarships and related student support programs to low income, qualified students from the coal-impacted communities of Fayette and Westmoreland counties to obtain the University's new ADDM graduate certificate. Key employer partners—including the National Energy Technology Laboratory, Argo AI, Federated Hermes, PPG Industries, Naval Nuclear Laboratory, and SAP—will contribute to students' professional development by providing internships, mentoring activities, and resumé reviews. It is estimated that tuition scholarships of $8,000 each will be awarded to three annual cohorts of 18 students, with a 90% retention rate expected for each cohort. The project is expected to place 45 students into the regional STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) workforce across 15 businesses.

2021 Awards

Project Title: *Greene County Broadband Implementation Initiative*
Grantee: Greene County Board of Commissioners
Award Amount: $2,500,000
Announcement Date: September 2021
Project Summary: ARC grant of $2,500,000 to the *Greene County Board of Commissioners* in Waynesburg, Pennsylvania, for the *Greene County Broadband Implementation Initiative*. The project will leverage a public-private partnership with Windstream to deploy 105 miles of fiber network to 108 businesses and 767 households. This project was based on a 2019 POWER-funded broadband feasibility study, which recommended that the county publish an RFP and competitively select an internet service provider as its partner in closing the digital divide.

Project Title: *Igniting Innovation in the PA Wilds Region*
Grantee: Ben Franklin Technology Center of Central and Northern PA, Inc.
Award Amount: $1,500,000
Announcement Date: September 2021
Project Summary: ARC grant of $1,500,000 to Ben Franklin Technology Center in State College, Pennsylvania, for the *Igniting Innovation in the PA Wilds Region* project. The project will support and enhance opportunities for the technology-based entrepreneurs and manufacturers in the Pennsylvania Wilds Region. In partnership with the PA Technical Assistance Program, PA Wilds Center for Entrepreneurship, and the small business development centers of Clarion University, Gannon University, and Penn State University, a foundation will be built for a sustainable rural innovation economy for the 13 counties in this coal-impacted area. The PA Wilds Center for Entrepreneurship has developed a growing entrepreneurial ecosystem in many sectors, creating a competitive region among existing manufacturers. Programs will be delivered to attract remote workers to the area. Project activities will include entrepreneurial competitions, assessments of existing manufacturers, microfinancing for new product development, and planning for high-return placemaking investments. This is a first-of-its-kind collaboration in Appalachian Pennsylvania that can serve as a model for kindling rural innovation economies across the region. The project is expected to serve 50 businesses, 13 communities, and 135 participants; create 15 businesses and 30 jobs; and leverage $500,000 in private investment.

Project Title: *Institute for Health and Cyber Knowledge (IHACK)*
Grantee: Gannon University
Award Amount: $1,499,895
Announcement Date: September 2021
Project Summary: ARC grant of $1,499,895 to Gannon University in Erie, Pennsylvania, for the *Institute for Health and Cyber Knowledge (IHACK)* project. Gannon University will create Hatchery 4.0 within the Institute of Health and Cyber Knowledge (IHACK), which will provide hands-on experience for students to work directly with businesses to help solve real-world problems. The University will develop a pipeline of workers to fill high-paying, high-demand 21st century jobs and assist existing traditional manufacturers to pivot their operations to be smart factories in response to Industry 4.0, a phase of manufacturing and supply chain management that focuses on interconnectivity, automation, machine learning, and real-time data exchange. Project activities will include creation of a STEM pathway for middle and high school students and the establishment of three centers of expertise for manufacturers, and will provide nationally recognized college degree programs in high-demand engineering and cyber fields. Engaged in the project are multiple partners providing private funds and support for this project, which will impact eight counties in Pennsylvania. This project is expected to retain 146 jobs, assist 115 businesses, provide training to 169 workers and trainees, and serve 339 students.

Project Title: *Clarion County Connected*
Grantee: Clarion County, Pennsylvania
Award Amount: $1,096,125
Announcement Date: September 2021
Project Summary: ARC grant of $1,096,125 to Clarion County, Pennsylvania, for the *Clarion County Connected* project. The project will design, build, and launch fixed wireless broadband service to 85 businesses and 1620 households. Grantee will competitively select an internet service provider partner to manage customer support and ongoing network maintenance. The scope of the project includes the construction of four new towers and the use of five existing county 911 towers to deploy a total of nine wireless broadband sites.

Project Title: *Connecting the Alleghenies Through Core Broadband Infrastructure*
Grantee: Bedford County, Pennsylvania
Award Amount: $745,588
Announcement Date: September 2021
Project Summary: ARC grant of $745,588 to Bedford County, Pennsylvania, for the *Connecting the Alleghenies Through Core Broadband Infrastructure* project. The project will design and build four towers in Bedford County that will allow a contracted internet service provider to offer fixed wireless broadband service to Bedford and Fulton counties in Pennsylvania and Allegany County in Maryland. This multi-state network is expected to provide broadband speeds of up to 100 Mbps download and 50 Mbps upload to five businesses and 350 households that are currently underserved.

Project Title: Workforce Ready through Recovery and Career Services
Grantee: Outreach Center for Community Resources
Award Amount: $705,477
Announcement Date: September, 2021
Project Summary: ARC grant of $705,477 to Outreach Center for Community Resources in Scranton, Pennsylvania, for the *Workforce Ready through Recovery and Career Services* project. The project is a community partnership among nonprofit agencies, educational institutions, local businesses, SUD recovery providers and government agencies to develop a ready workforce and expand the SUD recovery ecosystem in Northeastern

Pennsylvania (Lackawanna, Luzerne, Monroe, Pike, Susquehanna, Wayne, and Wyoming counties). A variety of education, workforce, and life skills trainings and wraparound services will be provided for the unemployed, underemployed, justice-involved individuals, and individuals in recovery seeking reentry into the workforce. In addition to workforce and life skills training, services will include recovery support, financial literacy, GED classes, job placement and individualized case management. Project partners will include local businesses to address gaps in the labor force and establish an employment pipeline for workers with high-demand skills, and behavioral health providers for recovery services that will support participants' efforts to successfully reenter the workforce and achieve long-term recovery. The project is expected to serve 180 patients, train 1,200 workers/trainees, assist 150 businesses, and create 800 jobs.

Project Title: *Carbon County Rural Broadband Coverage & Feasibility Study*
Grantee: Carbon County Commissioners
Award Amount: $50,000
Announcement Date: September 2021
Project Summary: ARC grant of $50,000 to Carbon County Commissioners in Jim Thorpe, Pennsylvania, in partnership with Ben Franklin Technology Partners and the Northeastern Pennsylvania Alliance (NEPA), for the *Carbon County Rural Broadband Coverage & Feasibility Study*. The study will identify county-wide gaps in broadband service, determine the best technologies and approaches to filling these gaps, develop broadband deployment strategies to address coverage gaps, and provide cost estimates for deployment strategies.

Project Title: *NE PA Trail Connectivity Assessment*
Grantee: Pennsylvania Environmental Council
Award Amount: $50,000
Announcement Date: September 2021
Project Summary: ARC grant of $50,000 to the Pennsylvania Environmental Council (PEC) in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, for the *NE PA Trail Connectivity Assessment,* a feasibility assessment of the uncompleted section of the Northeast PA Trails Forum's long-distance trails. The project is defined by eight counties, and the focus of the planning work will be to determine the needs of the sections of the trail corridor where there has not been organizational capacity to undertake a detailed study. Work will include initial assessment of right-of-way acquisitions, community outreach to determine visitor readiness, identification of potential funding mechanisms, and segment prioritization. The study's goals are to collate the information needed to advance the individual projects of the NEPA Trails Forum and map out a path for trail connectivity, thereby creating trail distances that invite visitors to spend multiple days exploring the region and demonstrating the value of a cohesive trail identity.

Project Title: *Regional Integrated Manufacturing Ecosystem*
Grantee: IN-2-Market, Inc.
Award Amount: $50,000
Announcement Date: September 2021
Project Summary: ARC grant of $50,000 to IN-2-Market, Inc. (In-2-M) in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, for the *Regional Integrated Manufacturing Ecosystem* project. The work will leverage the Manufacturing Extension Partnerships in Ohio, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia to plan, create, and test an approach for an innovative manufacturing ecosystem. The project will result in a report for regional manufacturing development as an economic development strategy to re-shore supply chains and build manufacturing jobs close to coal-impacted communities. The grant will also support the recruitment of

committed partners and completion of focused experimental pilots to prepare for full implementation.

2020 Awards

Project Title: *Twin Lakes Center Expansion*
Grantee: Somerset County Commissioners
Award Amount: $1,000,000
Announcement Date: February 2020
Project Summary: ARC grant of $1,000,000 to Somerset County Commissioners in Somerset, PA, for the Twin Lakes Center Expansion project. The project will expand access to drug and alcohol treatment and rehabilitation services for residents in 16 counties in Southwestern Pennsylvania that have been impacted by the decline in the coal economy. It will facilitate patients' successful re-entry into the workforce through Twin Lakes Center's Recovery to Work program, a collaboration with the local CareerLink and Chamber of Commerce that focuses on getting people in recovery back into the workforce. The project will increase the number of beds available for individuals suffering from substance use disorder and will expand the availability of professional support services through additional counselors, chemical dependency technicians, and nurses. The project will provide an additional 472 patients annually with substance abuse and workforce training services and will create 33 jobs for substance abuse recovery professionals. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program is providing $1 million for expansion of the Center, while the Richard King Mellon Foundation is contributing $500,000.

Project Title: *4-County Central Pennsylvania Rural Broadband Deployment Implementation project*
Grantee: Union County
Award Amount: $2,500,000
Announcement Date: October 2020
Project Summary: ARC grant of $2,500,000 to Union County in Lewisburg, PA for the *4-County Central Pennsylvania Rural Broadband Deployment Implementation project*. The project will bring high-speed broadband service to four locations in four underserved counties in Pennsylvania. One site will be served in each of the following counties: Clinton, Lycoming, Union, and Northumberland. It is expected that 20 businesses and 270 households will initially be served by the new infrastructure. An earlier broadband feasibility study, funded by a POWER grant, identified appropriate areas where broadband deployment could address access issues that have negatively affected business competitiveness. Matching funds are being provided by the Susquehanna Economic Development Association Council of Governments (SEDA-COG) Revolving Loan Fund and partnering internet service providers.

Project Title: *Wayne County Recovery-to-Work Facility*
Grantee: Wayne County
Award Amount: $1,500,000
Announcement Date: October 2020
Project Summary: ARC grant of $1,500,000 to Wayne County in Honesdale, PA for the *Wayne County Recovery-to-Work Facility*, a multi-faceted effort that will improve the integration of services for people with substance use disorders or other mental health conditions. Once completed, this cluster of services is expected to serve 1,720 patients each year; 64 jobs will be created for new employees. The project will construct a cluster of buildings adjacent to SCI Waymart, which will house drug and alcohol detox and rehabilitation services, behavioral health services, sober living recovery housing, and administrative space. Services will be provided by licensed agencies under contract with the county. Clients will also have access to

skills training and job placement programs that are tailored for people in recovery, with active engagement from local employers and entrepreneurs. This development of a local recovery ecosystem is expected to improve outcomes for patients and the community. Wayne County will provide matching funds for the project.

Project Title: *Erie to Pittsburgh Trail–PAWilds Loop Trail Construction*
Grantee: Crawford County
Award Amount: $1,500,000
Announcement Date: October 2020
Project Summary: ARC grant of $1,500,000 to Crawford County in Meadville, PA for the *Erie to Pittsburgh Trail–PAWilds Loop Trail Construction* project—*Phase I*. The project will construct 18.2 miles of key trail segments in the Erie to Pittsburgh Trail and the PA Wilds Loop trail network. It will attract more than 50,000 day and overnight visitors to the region annually, generating $1.4 million in direct visitor spending and support the creation of 15 new jobs. The Erie to Pittsburgh Trail (EPT) is a planned 270-mile network of trails that will connect the Erie waterfront to Point State Park in Pittsburgh. The Pennsylvania Wilds Loop is a 220-mile network of trails spanning the Pennsylvania Wilds region. A study to prioritize the uncompleted sections of each trail system was released in 2019. The project will complete segments with maximum economic impact to the communities through which they pass. Long-distance trails built along former railroad corridors can bring stable economic benefits to communities that previously relied on a diminishing extractive economy. State sources will provide $1,753,000 and local sources will provide $130,050.

Project Title: *Enhancing the Tri-State Entrepreneurial Ecosystem Through the Innovation Beehive Network*
Grantee: Pennsylvania State University
Award Amount: $1,499,225
Announcement Date: October 2020
Project Summary: ARC grant of $1,499,225 to Pennsylvania State University in University Park, PA for *Enhancing the Tri-State Entrepreneurial Ecosystem Through the Innovation Beehive Network*. The Innovation Beehive Network—a partnership between Penn State's Behrend campus in Erie, Edinboro University, Gannon University, and Mercyhurst University—will leverage the institutional strengths of its members to provide no-cost services to businesses and entrepreneurs using faculty, students, and research capabilities to enhance economic growth across Pennsylvania, Ohio, and the southern tier of New York. The Beehive seeks to create a vibrant entrepreneurial innovation ecosystem, increasing new start-up and scale-up businesses and improving economic outcomes by providing access to university resources. The project will expand the Beehive's service area, spur new successful businesses, protect and secure current ones, and lower the barriers to success for entrepreneurs and intrapreneurs. As a result of this project, 90 businesses, 18 communities, 100 participants, and 100 students will be served; 70 businesses, 15 communities, 90 participants, and 90 students will be improved; 15 businesses and 20 jobs will be created; and $500,000 in private investment will be leveraged.

Project Title: *Startup Alleghenies Ecosystem*
Grantee: JARI Growth Fund, Inc.
Award Amount: $1,281,900
Announcement Date: October 2020
Project Summary: ARC grant of $1,281,900 to JARI Growth Fund, Inc., in Johnstown, PA for the *Startup Alleghenies Ecosystem* project. Through a combination of technical assistance to small businesses and leveraged investment capital, the project will strengthen a vibrant entrepreneurial ecosystem in the Southern Alleghenies region of Pennsylvania. The project will create the Startup Alleghenies Microloan Fund, a flexible, gap financing resource for

entrepreneurial enterprises. It will provide other key aspects of an entrepreneurial ecosystem by offering business technical assistance through business coaches and providing access to entrepreneurial spaces such as “makerspaces,” co-working spaces, and commercial kitchen incubators. Other components include networking and highlighting the robust set of business support services across the region. The project will provide $1 million in capital for the Microloan Fund, attracting $3 million in private capital. The project will serve 540 businesses, improve 170 businesses, create 300 jobs, and create 25 new businesses. The project builds on the work of the Southern Alleghenies Planning & Development Commission in developing and launching Start-Up Alleghenies, which has been supported by two previous POWER grants.

Project Title: *Reboot Workforce Program: Recovery at Work in Central Pennsylvania*
Grantee: Central Pennsylvania Workforce Development Corporation
Award Amount: $1,018,500
Announcement Date: October 2020
Project Summary: ARC grant of $1,018,500 to the Central Pennsylvania Workforce Development Corporation (CPWDC) in Lewisburg, PA for the *Reboot Workforce Program: Recovery at Work in Central Pennsylvania*. The CPWDC, in partnership with Geisinger Health and Susquehanna Economic Development Association Council of Governments (SEDA-COG), will build a recovery ecosystem and a ready workforce by increasing labor participation rates of individuals who have opted out of the workforce because of their addiction to opioids. CPWDC will also provide solutions to address the opioid crisis in Central Pennsylvania by expanding access to treatment services using telemedicine, providing workforce preparation and training services to individuals in recovery, and connecting individuals with businesses that are “recovery friendly.” SEDA-COG and the PA CareerLink Business Service Teams will identify employers that are already recovery-friendly and assist other businesses to become recovery-friendly to increase their pool of workforce talent. The project will improve 250 patients, 30 businesses, and 120 worker/trainees, as well as create three new telemedicine sites for persons in recovery.

Project Title: *Building a Peer Support Workforce in Pennsylvania*
Grantee: Pennsylvania Peer Support Coalition
Award Amount: $1,000,000
Announcement Date: October 2020
Project Summary: ARC grant of $1,000,000 to the Pennsylvania Peer Support Coalition in Lancaster, PA for the *Building a Peer Support Workforce in Pennsylvania* project. The Pennsylvania Peer Support Coalition will train and develop a sustainable, ready workforce of new Certified Peer Specialists and create regional Recovery Ecosystem Coalitions to support them in serving individuals in recovery from substance abuse. Additional existing Certified Peer Specialists will participate in the newly created Coalitions to add value to the current workforce of specialists across Appalachian Pennsylvania. The project will assist in linking the new Certified Peer Specialists to potential employers in their area. At least 200 new Certified Peer Specialists will obtain employment and 500 specialists currently working in the field will enhance their positions. An estimated 40 businesses will be improved through new hires and 10 Recovery Ecosystem Coalitions will be created. Partners include the Pennsylvania Mental Health Consumers Association, the Copeland Center for Wellness and Recovery, the Pennsylvania Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services Mental Health Planning Council, and Clarion University.

Project Title: *REAL Jobs in Energy & Manufacturing*
Grantee: Catalyst Connection
Award Amount: $994,883
Announcement Date: October 2020
Project Summary: ARC grant of $994,883 to Catalyst Connection in Pittsburgh, PA, for the *REAL Jobs in Energy & Manufacturing* project. The project is expected to help create 272 new jobs and leverage $5 million in new private investment. A previous POWER grantee, Catalyst Connection serves as the Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) Center for southwestern Pennsylvania. Focusing on the energy and manufacturing sectors, Catalyst Connection will undertake and coordinate new workforce development activities across a 12-county region with established partner networks. Components of the program are organized into four parts: 1) recruitment and provision of pre-employment training; 2) placement of manufacturing workers with engaged and supported employers; 3) training incumbent workers through on-the-job and apprenticeship programs; and 4) provision of real-time data on employment demand and project analysis. Matching funds are provided by several public and private sector entities, including Chevron Corporation, the Richard King Mellon Foundation, the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development, and the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation.

Project Title: *Road to Recovery and Reemployment*
Grantee: Allegheny Health Network
Award Amount: $946,000
Announcement Date: October 2020
Project Summary: ARC grant of $946,000 to Allegheny Health Network in Pittsburgh, PA for the *Road to Recovery and Reemployment* project. Allegheny Health Network has partnered with the Pennsylvania Orthopedic Society, Rothman Institute Foundation for Opioid Research and Education, and pain prescribers across Appalachian Pennsylvania to implement a series of opioid-based continuing medical education (CME) events. These events include opioid-focused symposia for scientists, providers, and guest lecturers; educational events for students in orthopedic residency; and webinars for health providers, students, residents, extenders, and staff. The project will focus particularly on those counties with the highest rates of opioid overdose (Fayette, Westmoreland, and Armstrong). The project is expected to serve 40 rural practices, improve treatment for 320 patients, and improve 120 medical providers. Additional funding for the project is being provided by the Pennsylvania Orthopedic Society.

Project Title: *Recovery to Reemployment (Remote Monitoring)*
Grantee: Fayette County
Award Amount: $917,368
Announcement Date: October 2020
Project Summary: ARC grant of $917,368 to Fayette County in Uniontown, PA for the *Recovery to Reemployment (Remote Monitoring)* project. Fayette County will create a robust telemedicine program to address substance use disorder, COVID-19, and chronic conditions facing communities in four coal-impacted counties in Southwest Pennsylvania (Cambria, Fayette, Greene, and Washington). The program will increase access and treatment of substance use disorders using a chronic care management approach combined with remote patient monitoring, where the patient is monitored 24 hours a day via the Virtual Care Center. The goal, by connecting patients to treatment services, is a reduction in fatal overdose deaths, and the return of patients to a lifestyle of work and family support, while remaining compliant with the drug-court treatment programs. The program leverages improved patient outcomes by increasing medication adherence and improving access to treatment centers, while resulting in savings to the county justice and recovery systems. It

will improve five organizations, 200 patients, and 320 workers/trainees, as well as create five new telecom sites and five jobs.

Project Title: *Critical Infrastructure Workforce Academy (CIWA) Phase I*
Grantee: Armstrong County
Award Amount: $750,000
Announcement Date: October 2020
Project Summary: ARC grant of $750,000 to Armstrong County in Kittanning, PA for the *Critical Infrastructure Workforce Academy (CIWA) Phase I* project. The project will construct a facility to house "critical infrastructure" training programs. The CIWA is a regional training program conceived through a strategic planning effort after participation in the National Association of Counties (NACO) Innovation Challenge for Coal-Reliant Communities and a subsequent feasibility study funded through a prior POWER grant. The CIWA facility will utilize virtual/augmented reality technology alongside traditional classroom instruction to train high school, technical school, and community college graduates. The proposed facility in Northpointe will enable the overarching CIWA project to expand the expected number of classes and programs. Ultimately, this project will serve 1,300 trainees and 60 new classes. The facility will be part of a 20-acre Critical Infrastructure Workforce Academy simulation city project.

Project Title: *Pennsylvania LDDAP Statewide Broadband Initiative*
Grantee: North Central Pennsylvania Regional Planning and Development Commission
Award Amount: $600,000
Announcement Date: October 2020
Project Summary: ARC grant of $600,000 to the North Central Pennsylvania Regional Planning and Development Commission in Ridgway, PA for the *Pennsylvania LDDAP Statewide Broadband Initiative*. The project, in partnership with Pennsylvania's other six local development districts (LDDs) in the Appalachian Region, will help communities assess strategies and associated costs for deploying broadband in unserved areas. It will also facilitate broadband deployment activities, including the installation of fixed wireless broadband equipment and the partnership with existing internet providers to expand broadband service into target areas. The project will serve 425 businesses, 1,700 households, and 13 communities. Additional funding is being provided by the U.S. Economic Development Administration and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Project Title: *Penn Highlands Healthcare Behavioral Health Hospital*
Grantee: City of DuBois
Award Amount: $500,000
Announcement Date: October 2020
Project Summary: ARC grant of $500,000 to the City of DuBois in DuBois, PA for the *Penn Highlands Healthcare Behavioral Health Hospital* project. The project will construct a stand-alone behavioral health hospital as part of the eight-building construction/renovation project started by Penn Highlands Healthcare. This project will serve patients suffering from drug and alcohol addiction and behavioral health issues, and/or use medication-assisted treatment (MAT). The facility will include the addition of a psychiatric urgent care center and acute psychiatric care for children and adolescents, along with an extended sub-acute unit for at-risk children and adolescents. The project will help expand the adult inpatient unit by 14 beds. The new behavioral health facility is expected to serve 3,200 patients a year and create 163 jobs. Additional funding for the project is provided by Pennsylvania's Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program.

2019 Awards

Project Title: *Northwest Pennsylvania Diversifying the Regional Economy*
Grantee: Clarion University of Pennsylvania
Award Amount: $1,100,000
Announcement Date: February 2019
Project Summary: ARC grant to Clarion University in Clarion, PA, for the *Northwest Pennsylvania Diversifying the Regional Economy* project. The project offers training opportunities to reinvigorate the regional economy and prepare for the emerging petrochemical industry by developing highly skilled secondary education pre-apprenticeship programs, offering certification of employer-demanded apprenticeships, creating career-ladder training in targeted industry clusters, identifying customized training needs to upgrade the existing workforce, and implementing entrepreneurial training leading to job growth. By the conclusion of the project, 150 high school students will have obtained employment or enrolled in further education or training, 75 workers/trainees will have enhanced their position or found new employment, and 30 adult participants will have completed entrepreneurship training and started at least four businesses.

Project Title: *NWPA Regional Broadband Deployment Initiative*
Grantee: Youngsville Television Corporation
Award Amount: $1,014,730
Announcement Date: February 2019
Project Summary: ARC grant to Youngsville Television Corporation in Youngsville, PA, for the *Northwest Pennsylvania Regional Broadband Deployment Initiative*. The project will provide broadband services to unserved and under-served areas in the northwest region of Pennsylvania. Using a combination of wired and wireless systems, the project will deploy broadband service to business districts in Crawford and Warren counties, partnering with the municipalities' Volunteer Fire Departments. The Volunteer Fire Departments will serve as anchor institutions, housing the equipment and hardware needed to support the regional wired and wireless broadband deployment. For serving as the anchor institutions, each fire department will be afforded broadband connectivity at no cost for the life of the fiber network. Given the large potential impact broadband access may have on the economic development and revitalization of Northwest Pennsylvania, the project will open the doors to a variety of possibilities for diversifying the regional economy, which has suffered from the decline of the coal industry.

Project Title: *Regional Freight & Mobility Plan for Coal Impacted Communities in North Central PA*
Grantee: North Central Pennsylvania Regional Planning and Development Commission
Award Amount: $60,000
Announcement Date: February 2019
Project Summary: ARC grant to the North Central Pennsylvania Regional Planning and Development Commission in Ridgway, PA, for the development of a Regional Freight and Mobility Strategic Plan for the six-county region of Cameron, Clearfield, Elk, Jefferson, McKean, and Potter counties in North Central Pennsylvania. The coal downturn has greatly impacted North Central Pennsylvania, leading to loss of high paying jobs and a declining tax base, as well as supply chain and infrastructure issues. Developed in partnership with the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration, the plan will help impacted communities better understand the freight challenges they face as a result of the coal decline, inventory existing infrastructure and freight assets across transportation modes, and develop strategies to optimize the freight network in support of industry diversification and economic growth.

Project Title: *Northern Pennsylvania Broadband Connectivity Project*
Grantee: Tioga County
Award Amount: $2,500,000
Announcement Date: October 2019
Project Summary: ARC grant to Tioga County in Wellsboro, PA for the *Northern Pennsylvania Broadband Connectivity Project*. Tioga County, in conjunction with Tri-County Rural Electric Cooperative, will construct over 175 miles of fiber in three counties (Tioga, Potter, and Lycoming) to bring access to reliable high-speed broadband to 60 businesses and 581 households in one the most underserved areas of rural Pennsylvania. From 2007-2017 Tri-County Electric Cooperative's service area saw a 66 percent decrease in the number of active coal mines, with a drop of 42 percent in mine employment. The new fiber network will help bolster economic development, assist educational institutions, provide telemedicine opportunities for area hospitals, assist healthcare workers in addressing the opioid crisis, and help prevent youth out-migration. Tri-County Rural Electric Cooperative is providing $3,242,125 for the project.

Project Title: *Business Innovation Center and Fiber Optic Expansion*
Grantee: Venango County Economic Development Authority
Award Amount: $1,500,000
Announcement Date: October 2019
Project Summary: ARC grant to the Venango County Economic Development Authority in Franklin, PA for the *Business Innovation Center and Fiber Optic Expansion* project. This grant will fund the development of a new Business Innovation Center, including a co-working and maker space, in Oil City, PA and will expand a fiber optic network throughout the business district served by the Center. The Innovation Center will foster an entrepreneurial ecosystem, serving as a catalyst for economic diversification in the region through innovation and business creation. By eliminating the fiber network "dead end," the project will enable businesses in this section of the city to compete in a technology-driven economy. Within three years of completion, the Innovation Center will launch the development of 20 new businesses, and at least 29 businesses will connect to the new fiber network. The project is projected to leverage $1,200,000 in private investment as entrepreneurs create 12 new businesses using these new community assets.

Project Title: *Western Pennsylvania Entrepreneur Diversification Fund*
Grantee: Bridgeway Capital
Award Amount: $1,223,551
Announcement Date: October 2019
Project Summary: ARC grant to Bridgeway Capital in Pittsburgh, PA for the *Western Pennsylvania Entrepreneur Diversification Fund*. Through a combination of technical assistance to entrepreneurs and the capitalization of a revolving loan fund, Bridgeway Capital, a Community Development Financial Institution, will promote entrepreneurial activity across its 15-county service area of western Pennsylvania, a region whose economy has been adversely affected by the decline in the coal industry. Activities will include business development workshops, one-on-one counseling, support for a regional business incubator, and small grants to entrepreneurs for training and licensure. The project is expected to lead to the creation of 65 new businesses and 200 new jobs, while leveraging $5,625,000 in private investment. Additional funding is being provided by Penn State University, the Fay-Penn Economic Development Council, and the Connellsville Redevelopment Authority. Private capital for the revolving loan fund is being provided by TriState Capital Bank.

Project Title: *North Central PA Launchbox and Innovation Collaborative*
Grantee: Clearfield County
Award Amount: $725,850
Announcement Date: October 2019
Project Summary: ARC grant to Clearfield County in Clearfield, PA for the *North Central PA Launchbox and Innovation Collaborative*. The project will equip the Collaborative's business incubator to offer three sets of services: a makerspace with sophisticated equipment; research and development services to help manufacturers solve problems; and a training center that offers opportunities in powdered metals, automation, and additive manufacturing. The Collaborative seeks to strengthen the entrepreneurial ecosystem, providing wraparound services that increase access to capital, up-skill local talent to secure advanced manufacturing jobs, and provide technical assistance and specialized manufacturing support services for businesses. The project rests on a broad network of partners, including Penn State Dubois, the Clarion Small Business Development Center, Ben Franklin Technology Partners, and North Central Regional Planning & Development Commission. It will benefit seven counties in North Central Pennsylvania and lead to the improvement of 45 businesses and 60 workers/trainees.

Project Title: *Pennsylvania Broadband Deployment*
Grantee: City of Erie, PA
Award Amount: $500,000
Announcement Date: October 2019
Project Summary: ARC grant to the City of Erie, PA for the *Erie, Pennsylvania Broadband Deployment* program. Grant funds will expand the Erie Innovation District's Secure Smart City pilot initiative by providing free public Wi-Fi access to Erie's eight federally designated Opportunity Zones. This project is part of a larger effort by the city to recruit, retain, and expand business investments and jobs in the Opportunity Zones. Erie has experienced significant job losses in manufacturing as a result of reductions in the coal industry supply chain. The project will leverage the expertise of a private sector digital technology solutions provider for smart cities. The initiative will provide outdoor Wi-Fi access; urban security solutions, including license plate recognition and traffic monitoring; analytics that can be tracked on a visualization dashboard; and the ability to remotely control street lights. An additional investment of $900,000 from other sources will enable other Smart City components to become operational within the Opportunity Zones. Erie hopes to become an entirely Smart City by 2028.

Project Title: *Rural Broadband Coverage and Feasibility Study*
Grantee: Greene County Board of Commissioners
Award Amount: $50,000
Announcement Date: October 2019
Project Summary: ARC grant to the Greene County Board of Commissioners in Waynesburg, PA for the *Rural Broadband Coverage and Feasibility Study*. This study will identify county-wide gaps in broadband access and will determine the best technology to fill these gaps (such as fiber, white space, cable, and DSL). When Greene County, which has experienced significant mining job losses, updated its comprehensive plan in 2018, the top-ranked issue identified was a need to expand broadband access. The feasibility study will review the county's broadband assets, conduct a field survey of existing broadband access, determine customer demand, identify the best technology options for service gaps, and develop an implementation matrix.

Project Title: *South-Central Pennsylvania Broadband Infrastructure Assessment*
Grantee: Southern Alleghenies Planning & Development Commission
Award Amount: $50,000
Announcement Date: October 2019
Project Summary: ARC grant to the Southern Alleghenies Planning & Development Commission in Altoona, PA for a *South-Central Pennsylvania Broadband Infrastructure Assessment*. This feasibility study will identify ways of increasing broadband and cellular services to residents and businesses in an eight-county region of South Central Pennsylvania. These eight counties have experienced economic downturn as a result of the decline of mining and manufacturing industries, and expanded broadband access could create new economic opportunities for the region. The study will identify the broadband assets already in place, assess community broadband requirements, identify the best technology to meet the needs, and provide cost estimates for different deployment strategies.

Project Title: *Enhancing Northeastern Pennsylvania's Entrepreneurial Ecosystem - Incubator Optimization*
Grantee: tecBRIDGE, LLC
Award Amount: $50,000
Announcement Date: October 2019
Project Summary: ARC grant to tecBRIDGE, LLC in Scranton, PA for the *Enhancing Northeastern Pennsylvania's Entrepreneurial Ecosystem - Incubator Optimization* project. This project will assess the business incubation climate and assets in five counties in northeastern Pennsylvania (Lackawanna, Luzerne, Monroe, Schuylkill, and Wayne) and identify proven programs that can be replicated in communities to strengthen the regional entrepreneurial ecosystem and support the successful start-up and expansion of small businesses. The project capitalizes on a broad network of partners, including the NEPA Alliance, Ben Franklin Technology Partners, East Stroudsburg University, the Scranton Chamber of Commerce, and the Wayne Economic Development Corporation.

Project Title: *Fayette County Multi-Tenant Spec Building Feasibility Study*
Grantee: Fay-Penn Economic Development Council
Award Amount: $20,000
Announcement Date: October 2019
Project Summary: ARC grant to Fay-Penn Economic Development Council (Fay-Penn) in Lamont Furnace, PA for the *Fayette County Multi-Tenant Spec Building Feasibility Study*. The study will determine the feasibility of constructing multi-tenant speculative ("spec") shell buildings at various locations throughout Fayette County to accommodate and attract new business development. Fay-Penn has received an increasing number of inquiries from companies seeking industrial/commercial space availability. In many cases, especially for larger building size needs, the county does not have readily available, suitable space. The feasibility study will determine priority locations for development, building requirements for those companies, economic impacts of spec buildings, and marketing approaches for new development.

2018 Awards

Project Title: *The Alleghenies Entrepreneurial Ecosystem*
Grantee: Southern Alleghenies Planning & Development Commission (SAPDC)
Award Amount: $1,227,447
Announcement Date: October 2018
Project Summary: ARC grant to the Southern Alleghenies Planning & Development Commission in Altoona, PA, to expand the Alleghenies Entrepreneurial Ecosystem ("Startup Alleghenies"). Startup Alleghenies seeks to recognize, encourage, and guide entrepreneurs to

create new businesses or expand existing businesses, ultimately generating new jobs and investments in the Alleghenies Region. The project will identify innovative, entrepreneurial individuals and connect them with coaches/mentors who will link them with resources and training to facilitate their success. Startup Alleghenies first received a POWER grant in 2017, with the work focused on Blair, Cambria, and Somerset Counties. The new grant will help the Alleghenies Entrepreneurial Ecosystem increase the number of new business starts by expanding the geography served to include Bedford, Fulton, and Huntingdon Counties and by enriching the offerings provided through the four existing pillars of the ecosystem including: providing coaching, creating places for entrepreneurs, establishing a network of resources, and producing events, gatherings, and trainings. The expansion is expected to create 30 new businesses, improve 20 existing businesses, leverage $2 million in private investment, and create 150 new jobs. Additional funding for the work of Startup Alleghenies is provided by the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) and the Community Foundation for the Alleghenies.

Project Title: *Western PA Small Business Services for Coal-Impacted Communities*
Grantee: Innovation Works Inc.
Award Amount: $1,035,000
Announcement Date: October 2018
Project Summary: ARC grant to Innovation Works, Inc. in Pittsburgh, PA, for the Western Pennsylvania Small Business Services for Coal-Impacted Communities (SBS) program. The project focuses on the revitalization of western Pennsylvania's coal-impacted communities through innovation and entrepreneurship by providing opportunities for those negatively impacted by contractions in the coal economy, including displaced individuals looking for new jobs or opportunities to start their own businesses, main-street businesses in need of business-support services, and new and existing manufacturing and technology businesses. The SBS is a joint initiative of Innovation Works/Ben Franklin Technology Partners of Southwestern Pennsylvania, Ben Franklin Technology Partners of Central and Northern Pennsylvania, and the University of Pittsburgh's Institute of Entrepreneurial Excellence (IEE). Together, they will provide opportunities through co-working spaces, accelerators, and incubators to service business owners, independent contractors, and entrepreneurs in communities where there are limited resources. Targeting 24 coal-impacted counties in western Pennsylvania, the project is expected to help create 32 new businesses and 156 new jobs, retain 260 existing jobs, and leverage $20 million in private investment.

Project Title: *PA MAKES: Mini-Grants for Small Manufacturers*
Grantee: Catalyst Connection
Award Amount: $670,000
Announcement Date: October 2018
Project Summary: ARC grant to Catalyst Connection in Pittsburgh, PA, for PA MAKES (Pennsylvania Manufacturing Assistance for Keystone Entrepreneurial Success). This initiative will be implemented in over 48 coal-impacted counties across Pennsylvania and use mini grants that will support small and medium manufacturing enterprises (SME's) in an "economic gardening approach" that provides targeted and direct assistance to companies. Catalyst Connection is the region's Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP), providing technical assistance to help businesses increase their competitiveness. PA MAKES' efforts to diversify and grow SMEs will include building SMEs' capacity, improving efficiencies and demand locally, stimulating job creation, and driving economic impact. To help SMEs become more competitive, PA MAKES will help these enterprises make strategic business investments that will foster market and product diversification and growth. Outcomes of the initiative are expected to include 42 businesses improved, 120 new jobs created, 1,200 jobs retained, and $15 million in leveraged private investment.

Project Title: *TEAMing Up to Build Pathways to Jobs*
Grantee: Community College of Beaver County
Award Amount: $587,950
Announcement Date: October 2018
Project Summary: ARC grant to the Community College of Beaver County in Beaver, PA, for the Tristate Energy and Advanced Manufacturing (TEAM) Consortium in order to launch a three-part, regional (Pennsylvania, Ohio, and West Virginia) workforce development initiative. The initiative's goal is to increase enrollment and graduation from education and training programs to provide a supply of skilled workers for energy and advanced manufacturing (E&AM) industries that are critical to the resurgence of the tristate region. The initiative's first step is to align relevant curricula among higher education institutions in the three states to facilitate the creation of seamless pathways to jobs. The second is to provide the necessary online access to information and referrals to programs within E&AM, and the third builds on the success of outreach and engagement practices that raise awareness of, change perceptions about, and increase interest in pursuing occupations in targeted STEM manufacturing sectors. Within three years of completion of this project all 120 participating businesses will be improved by upskilling their current workforce and/or hiring new workers, 600 jobs will be created, 402 students will obtain employment, 752 workers will have higher skills, and eight new programs will be implemented. The grant builds on work funded by the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation and Chevron and takes advantage of an agreement for developing the region's shale resources signed in 2015 (and subsequently renewed) by the Governors of the three participating states.

Project Title: *Erie to Pittsburgh Trail and PA Wilds Loop - Feasibility Study*
Grantee: Pennsylvania Environmental Council
Award Amount: $72,000
Announcement Date: October 2018
Project Summary: ARC grant to the Pennsylvania Environmental Council in Pittsburgh, PA, for a feasibility study assessing the uncompleted sections of the Erie to Pittsburgh Trail and the PA Wilds Loop. These two trails are a part of the Industrial Heartland Trails Coalition, which utilizes existing natural and cultural assets in the region to diversify the local economies. Work will include right-of-way acquisition assessments, community outreach, segment prioritizations, and identifying funding sources that will help cover the costs of completing the final 210 miles in the trail system. The local communities have already seen the benefits of a burgeoning tourism sector from recently completed trail sections. A previous POWER grant is supporting entrepreneurship activities in the Pennsylvania Wilds.

Project Title: *Central PA Rural Broadband Coverage and Feasibility Study*
Grantee: SEDA-Council of Governments
Award Amount: $40,000
Announcement Date: October 2018
Project Summary: ARC grant to SEDA-Council of Governments in Lewisburg, PA, for a feasibility study of broadband access in four central Pennsylvania counties (Clinton, Lycoming, Northumberland, and Union). The study will assess current broadband needs in the four-county region and review existing infrastructure assets, both public and private. With this data, three communities in each county found to likely benefit the most from increased access to broadband will be selected for further implementation projects. The study will also help create a model Request For Proposals (RFP) that can be used for future implementation projects.

2017 Awards

Project Title: *The Alleghenies Entrepreneurial Ecosystem*
Grantee: Southern Alleghenies Planning & Development Commission (SAPDC)
Award Amount: $1,213,868
Announcement Date: January 2017
Project Summary: ARC grant to the Southern Alleghenies Planning and Development Commission (SAPDC) in Altoona, PA, for the *Southern Alleghenies Entrepreneurial Ecosystem* project. The project will strengthen the entrepreneurial ecosystem of a three-county region in southwestern Pennsylvania through the provision of a wide array of diverse, wrap-around business support services, facilitated via business coaches and mentors. In addition, the award will renovate several existing entrepreneurial spaces in the region where much of the programmatic activity will take place. The project will create 125 new jobs and 25 new businesses, and will leverage $3,750,000 in private investment.

Project Title: *New Start Retraining Initiative for Dislocated Coal Industry Workers*
Grantee: UMWA Career Centers Inc.
Award Amount: $1,200,000
Announcement Date: January 2017
Project Summary: ARC grant to the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) Career Centers Inc. in Prosperity, PA, for the *New Start Retraining Initiative for Displaced Coal Industry Workers* project. The ARC award will deliver workforce training and job placement services to unemployed coal mine workers in eight southwest Pennsylvania counties and two southern West Virginia counties. UMWA will partner with the Pittsburgh Institute of Aeronautics, the Allegany College of Maryland, and Pennsylvania Highlands Community College to design and implement training programs in strategic regional career sectors including commercial trucking, cybersecurity, and advanced manufacturing. Training will be complemented by job placement and other wraparound support to ensure that each trainee has maximum potential for securing employment. The project will serve 400 trainees over the life of the award.

Project Title: *Somerset County Fiber Extension Project*
Grantee: Somerset County
Award Amount: $948,673
Announcement Date: January 2017
Project Summary: ARC grant to Somerset County, PA, for the *Somerset County Fiber Extension Project*. ARC funds will be used to install 22 miles of fiber optic cable on existing pole lines that will allow a variety of business, residential, medical, and educational customers in Somerset County access to broadband services. The area does not currently have cable broadband available and DSL service is not offered ubiquitously. The project will serve 1,094 businesses and 3,962 households, and will act as an economic and tourism driver in the county.

Project Title: *Transitioning from Black to Blue: Training Former Coal Workers for Natural Gas Utility and Pipeline Careers in Appalachia*
Grantee: Washington Greene County Job Training Agency, Inc.
Award Amount: $653,400
Announcement Date: January 2017
Project Summary: ARC grant to the Washington Greene County Job Training Agency Inc. in Washington, PA, for the *Transitioning from Black to Blue: Training Former Coal Workers for Natural Gas Utility and Pipeline Careers in Appalachia* project. The ARC award will provide a targeted retraining program for displaced coal workers that enables them to pursue local employment in the natural gas utility and pipeline industry. The training courses will be

offered at three regional education institutions—Butler County Community College, Westmoreland County Community College, and Washington State Community College. The curriculum includes input from the Gas Technology Institute to ensure that participants' knowledge and skill development is industry-standard and best positions them to find stable employment in an expedited manner. The project will primarily serve a 23-county area in southeast Ohio and southwest Pennsylvania, and will serve 100 trainees.

Project Title: *Central PA Asset Based Economy - Adaptive Reuse of Coal-Impacted Land and Outdoor Recreation as an Economic Engine*
Grantee: SEDA—Council of Governments
Award Amount: $471,843
Announcement Date: January 2017
Project Summary: ARC grant to the SEDA-Council of Governments in Lewisburg, PA, for *the Central PA Asset Based Economy—Adaptive Reuse of Coal-Impacted Land and Outdoor Recreation as an Economic Engine* project. ARC funds will be used to position reclaimed mine land in five central Pennsylvania counties as a regional outdoor tourism destination. Specifically, the project will construct an EMS/cell tower to provide 911 and cellular communications and broadband services to the Anthracite Outdoor Adventure Area (AOAA); design and construct 15 miles of new multi-use trails; develop and construct in-facility campground infrastructure; provide support for a coordinated marketing campaign focused on the region's tourism options; and provide entrepreneurial assistance activities to build-out the service industry around the increased tourism activity in the area. The project will drive 12,000 new visitors annually to the area, generate over $18,000,000 in non-export revenue, and create 26 jobs.

Project Title: *Northwest PA Broadband Assessment*
Grantee: Northwest PA Regional Planning and Development Commission
Award Amount: $100,000
Announcement Date: January 2017
Project Summary: ARC grant to the Northwest PA Regional Planning and Development Commission in Oil City, PA, for technical assistance to develop a feasibility study for broadband access in the Northwest Pennsylvania region. The *Northwest PA Broadband Assessment* project will include capacity building among regional partners, identify gaps in high-speed internet infrastructure, and recommend solutions to improve internet connectivity among residents and local business. State sources will provide an additional $86,047 to support the project.

Project Title: *Armstrong County 2017 POWER Technical Assistance*
Grantee: Armstrong County Industrial Development Council
Award Amount: $50,000
Announcement Date: January 2017
Project Summary: ARC grant to the Armstrong County Industrial Development Council in Freeport, PA, to develop an Economic Development strategy for the county. The *Armstrong County 2017 POWER Technical Assistance* project will, in cooperation with local partners, build a road map for shaping the delivery system of economic development services and programs in Armstrong County. The plan will look at new and existing services, programs and initiatives. Local sources will provide an additional $60,820 for the project.

Project Title: *Southwestern PA Development of a Local Food Shed*
Grantee: Fayette County Community Action Agency, Inc.
Award Amount: $1,750,000
Announcement Date: June 2017
Project Summary: ARC grant to Fayette County Community Action Agency, Inc. in Uniontown, PA, for the *Southwestern PA Development of a Local Food Shed* project. The project will develop a robust local food shed that provides new and diverse economic opportunities to communities in 38 counties impacted by the decline of the coal industry across Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Maryland. ARC's investment will support the cultivation of four of southwestern Pennsylvania's existing agricultural industry clusters: sheep, lamb, and goats; poultry; specialty crops; and value-added processing. A diverse group of partners will establish a Regional Agriculture Advisory Council to steer the project's goals and objectives and sustain the local food shed efforts in the long-term. Major project activities will include comprehensive asset mapping to identify new products, technologies, and emerging markets; and diverse training and technical assistance to farmers and food entrepreneurs to assist them with increasing production, business skills, and marketing. Partners include the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture and a regional Community Development Financial Institution. It is anticipated that the project will serve 50 existing businesses, create 10 new businesses and 100 jobs, and leverage $3.5 million in private investment.

Project Title: *ARCODE Initiative – Appalachian Region Code Initiative*
Grantee: Washington Greene County Job Training Agency, Inc.
Award Amount: $1,489,945
Announcement Date: June 2017
Project Summary: ARC grant to Washington Greene County Job Training Agency, Inc., in Washington, PA, for the *Appalachian Region Code (ARCODE) Initiative*. The ARCODE Initiative will teach high-demand skills in software engineering and development to displaced workers from the coal sector in southwest Pennsylvania and West Virginia. It harnesses and combines the software training expertise of Mined Minds, a proven software development training organization, and CentralApp, an international software solutions developer. The two will work together to provide courses and certifications needed to qualify for high-demand technology jobs, enabling participants to work locally for companies that can be located anywhere in the world. Mined Minds will provide a supply of certified tech talent that program partners and others will be able to hire locally or contract for short-term, labor-intensive projects. CentralApp trainees who obtain certifications will have access to CentralApp Talent Exchange and will obtain work from its customer base of thousands of active Salesforce customers, systems integrators, and consultancies. The project will train and place 71 workers in computer tech jobs at seven or more companies.

2016 Awards

Project Title: *Southwest Pennsylvania Economic Gardening Initiative*
Grantee: Southwestern Pennsylvania Corporation
Award Amount: $662,567
Announcement Date: October 2016
Project Summary: ARC grant to the Southwestern Pennsylvania Corporation in Pittsburgh, PA, for the *Southwest Pennsylvania Economic Gardening Initiative*. ARC funds will diversify the business operations of supply chain industries in a 10-county region in southwestern Pennsylvania. Working with Catalyst Connection (the regional Manufacturing Extension Partnership), the project will focus on small manufacturing establishments (SMEs) in the coal supply chain by providing mini-grants to targeted firms that enable the most impactful business development strategies to move forward quickly and efficiently—with a specific

emphasis on increasing access to advanced manufacturing technologies. In addition, the project will target freight and logistics firms operating along the waterways of southwest Pennsylvania to increase their competitiveness by identifying and prioritizing new markets and opportunities. The project will create or retain 330 jobs, serve 55 supply chain businesses, and leverage $25,000,000 in private funds.

Project Title: *Nature Tourism Cluster Development in the PA Wilds*
Grantee: Pennsylvania Wilds Center for Entrepreneurship, Inc.
Award Amount: $500,000
Announcement Date: October 2016
Project Summary: ARC grant to Pennsylvania Wilds Center for Entrepreneurship, Inc., in Russell, PA, for the *Nature Tourism Cluster Development in the PA Wilds* project. The ARC award will be used to create a coordinated regional cluster development system to capitalize on Pennsylvania's numerous nature tourism assets that spread across 2,000,000 acres in 12 counties. This strategy will drive attendance to these natural attractions, and will be leveraged by $500,000 in match investments to develop a network of small businesses to support the increased demand for products and services in the area.

Project Title: *Revitalization of Southwestern Pennsylvania Coal-Impacted Communities through Innovation and Entrepreneurship*
Grantee: Innovation Works Inc.
Award Amount: $500,000
Announcement Date: October 2016
Project Summary: ARC grant to Innovation Works, Inc., in Pittsburgh, PA, for the *Revitalization of Southwestern Pennsylvania Coal-Impacted Communities through Innovation and Entrepreneurship* project. ARC funds will be used to implement five different but complimentary programs designed to deliver a variety of benefits to entrepreneurs and small businesses in a nine-county region in southwestern Pennsylvania— including the provision of human resource services to early-stage, high-growth companies, and training services for existing small businesses. Programs will target entrepreneurs who were formerly employed in the coal industry, coal-fired power plants, and suppliers to those industries. The project will create 65 new jobs and 7 new businesses, leverage $1,100,000 in additional investment, and retain 30 existing jobs.

Project Title: *ARC POWER TA Grant Application Development*
Grantee: United Mine Workers Association Career Centers, Inc.
Award Amount: $14,214
Announcement Date: October 2016
Project Summary: ARC grant to the United Mine Workers Association Career Centers, Inc. in Prosperity, PA, to provide grant writing assistance to raise funds for the development of a training program at their Greene County, PA, training facility. The program will emphasize high demand occupations such as commercial driver's license, and heavy equipment and diesel mechanics.

TENNESSEE (26 awards)

2024 Award

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.

2023 Award

Project Title: *Etowah–North Etowah Industrial Park Sewer System Improvements*
Grantee: City of Etowah, Tennessee
Award Amount: $1,500,000
Announcement Date: October 2023
Project Summary: ARC grant of $1,500,000 to the City of Etowah, Tennessee, for the *Etowah–North Etowah Industrial Park Sewer System Improvements* project. This project will expand and upgrade the wastewater infrastructure that serves the Etowah Industrial Park. The scope of this work is Phase II of a three-phase project to increase capacity in the sewer system, thereby accommodating and encouraging growth in the industrial park. Phase II improvements are necessary to carry wastewater flows from the North Etowah Industrial Park to the treatment plant. The project will add a fourth pump at the city's Main Cane Creek Interceptor (CCI) Pump Station, which serves as the main delivery point to the Wastewater Treatment Plant and will replace an aged and undersized 12-inch transmission line with a new 18-inch force main. Over the course of the grant period, this project will serve five (5) businesses and 57 households, create 120 jobs, and result in 15,000 linear feet of pipe installed with 750,000 gallons of capacity added. It is projected this work will leverage $600 million in private investment.

Project Title: *Spark Innovation Center: Advancing the Clean Energy Economy*
Grantee: Cherokee Farm Development Corporation
Award Amount: $599,999
Announcement Date: October 2023
Project Summary: ARC grant of $599,999 to Cherokee Farm Development Corporation in Knoxville, Tennessee, for the *Spark Innovation Center: Advancing the Clean Energy Economy* project. The project will support, attract, and retain promising technology startup companies by providing access to top-quality lab space, expert mentoring, programming, guidance, prototyping resources, and sources of early-stage capital. The Spark Innovation Center will enable advanced technology entrepreneurs emerging from research to stay and grow in East Tennessee. Project partners include Tennessee Advanced Energy Business Council, the University of Tennessee and the UT Research Foundation, Mid-South I-Corps Hub (UT branch run by the University of Tennessee Office of Research, Innovation, and Economic Development), Oak Ridge National Lab, Launch Tennessee, and the Tennessee Valley Authority. The project will serve 50 businesses; create 148 jobs and retain 142 jobs; leverage $83 million in private investment; and generate $57 million in non-expert revenues during the project period and up to three years after the end of the grant.

Project Title: *Pathways to Success*
Grantee: Bristol's Promise: Youth Networking Alliance
Award Amount: $50,000
Announcement Date: October 2023
Project Summary: ARC grant of $50,000 to Bristol's Promise: Youth Networking Alliance in Bristol, Tennessee, for the *Pathways to Success* project. In partnership with the Appalachian

Promise Alliance, the project will develop a plan for an essential “soft skills” program, considered to be the highest priority skill set to employers and community partners in Eastern Tennessee and Southwest Virginia. The Appalachian Promise Alliance will lead the project management and planning process and will formalize partners across their service area. The project will support future participants in programs focused on executive functioning skills, time management, conflict resolution, teamwork, and other essential skills that can be applied across all employers. The project will produce an essential skills program plan for the service area over the course of one year.

Project Title: *Developing a Farm-Centric Innovation Model & Plan for the Appalachian Regional Cluster*
Grantee: AgLaunch Initiative
Award Amount: $49,890
Announcement Date: October 2023
Project Summary: ARC grant of $49,890 to AgLaunch Initiative in Memphis, Tennessee, for the *Developing a Farm-Centric Innovation Model & Plan for the Appalachian Regional Cluster* project. The grant will enable AgLaunch Initiative to design a scalable expansion of its successful Farm-Centric Innovation Model. The model is aimed at creating a business platform for the exchange of farm-level data and knowledge, involving farmers' acres to incubate a range of new innovations spanning from robotics to market transparency solutions. This model, which has already supported numerous startups and generated substantial funding and job opportunities, strives to enhance farm efficiency, promote sustainable practices, and contribute to the prosperity of farming communities. The project will result in the development of one strategic plan that AgLaunch intends to use as a tool for future funding opportunities to implement its Farm-Centric Innovation Model in neighboring states’ coal-impacted communities.

2022 Award

Project Title: *Appalachian Producers Cooperative: A Farmer-Owned Meat Processor for Appalachian Tennessee*
Grantee: Appalachian Resource Conservation & Development Council
Award Amount: $991,546
Announcement Date: October 2022
Project Summary: ARC grant of $991,546 to Appalachian Resource Conservation & Development Council in Johnson City, Tennessee, for the *Appalachian Producers Cooperative: A Farmer-Owned Meat Processor for Appalachian Tennessee* project. Through a partnership with the Appalachian Abattoir, Appalachian Sustainable Development, and the Cattlemen's Association of Washington County, the project will support the Appalachian Producers Cooperative (APC), the first farmer-owned cooperative established in Tennessee in over 50 years. The purpose of the cooperative is to address the critical community need of meat processing capacity to serve local farmers in East Tennessee and Southwest Virginia. By reinvesting in local food system infrastructure, there is potential to create an economy that generates livable incomes for thousands of Appalachian families. The project is expected to serve 200 businesses and 18 workers/trainees; develop a workforce development program geared towards providing butchering (and related) skills; improve 50 businesses and 14 workers/trainees; create one business and 21 jobs; and leverage $5M in private investment. Additional financial support is being provided by Washington County, Tennessee, through funds from the American Rescue Plan Act.

2021 Awards

Project Title: *ReFrame Construction Workforce Development Cohort*
Grantee: ReFrame Foundation
Award Amount: $32,673
Announcement Date: September 2021
Project Summary: ARC grant of $32,673 to ReFrame Foundation in Jonesborough, Tennessee, for the *ReFrame Construction Workforce Development Cohort* project. ReFrame will conduct feasibility studies and help organizations develop project plans and implementation proposals to promote safe, healthy, and affordable homes that support the work of home repair and rehabilitation partners across Appalachia. In addition, the project will promote economic development and job creation in Tennessee and North Carolina by exploring current and future adult workforce readiness in residential construction. The project will also enable up to 10 nonprofits to participate in the *ReFrame Construction Workforce Development Cohort* and increase their capacity to lead and launch workforce programs in residential home construction. This project is expected to conduct five feasibility studies, serve 10 community partnerships, and improve three community partnerships through training and development of workforce programs.

2020 Awards

Project Title: *Northern Unicoi County Broadband*
Grantee: Erwin Utilities
Award Amount: $400,333
Announcement Date: October 2020
Project Summary: ARC grant of $400,333 to Erwin Utilities in Erwin, TN for the *Northern Unicoi County Broadband project*. This broadband expansion project will provide gigabit service to Unicoi County residents and businesses that are not currently served by a broadband or cable provider. Over 17 miles of fiber will be placed on Erwin Utilities' existing power poles. Broadband expansion will enable the northern area of Unicoi County to offset the county's topographical and geographical hurdles to economic development, resulting in the creation of new businesses, increased access to teleworking opportunities, and greater opportunities for remote learning. After the fiber installation, this project will serve eight businesses and 95 residents in the short term, with growth expected in the next three years. Unicoi County has been adversely affected by the closure of a major rail yard as a result of the decline in coal shipments.

Project Title: *Northeast Tennessee Regional Outdoor Development Strategic Plan*
Grantee: Northeast Tennessee Regional Foundation for Economic Development, Innovation, and Outdoor Recreation (NETRF)
Award Amount: $44,450
Announcement Date: October 2020
Project Summary: ARC grant of $44,450 to Northeast Tennessee Regional Foundation for Economic Development, Innovation, and Outdoor Recreation (NETRF) in Johnson City, TN for the *Northeast Tennessee Regional Outdoor Development Strategic Plan*. The strategic plan will support Phase II of NETRF's regional Outdoor Master Plan. NETRF will gather data on local asset utilization from tourism and outdoor recreation and will recommend best practices for outdoor branding. The Outdoor Master Plan will ultimately encourage environmental stewardship of public land and prioritize investment in the natural assets in the Northeast Tennessee region.

2019 Awards

Project Title: *Duck River EMC's East Loop Fiber Optic and Smart Grid Project*
Grantee: Duck River Electric Membership Corporation
Award Amount: $2,147,125
Announcement Date: February 2019
Project Summary: ARC grant to Duck River Electric Membership Corporation (DREMC) in Shelbyville, TN, for its *East Loop and Smart Grid Fiber Communication* project. The project will deploy smart grid improvements that form the backbone of a gigabit-speed fiber retail broadband network. The project will enable DREMC's Internet service provider (ISP) partners to provide affordable broadband access to 1,202 businesses and 2,876 households in Franklin, Coffee, and Marion Counties, resulting in the creation of 103 new jobs.

Project Title: *Create Appalachia Arts & Technology Economic Development Initiative*
Grantee: East Tennessee State University
Project Title: *Appalachian Investors Alliance (AIA) - Angel Investing in Coal Communities*
Grantee: Appalachian Investors Alliance
Award Amount: $577,840
Announcement Date: February 2019
Project Summary: ARC grant to the Appalachian Investors Alliance in Knoxville, TN, for the *Angel Investing in Coal Communities* program. Building on a prior POWER grant, the project will develop new Angel Investment Funds serving coal-impacted communities in Appalachia and provide technical and investment support to existing funds. The project will create four new angel funds in the Appalachian region, each capitalized with between $500,000 and $2 million of private financing. Additionally, it will provide due diligence support to Appalachian angel investment funds that lack professional management staff, expand educational offerings to investors and entrepreneurs, and sponsor a referral network of syndication and co-investment partners to increase investment in the region. Typically, angel investments focus on companies that support advanced manufacturing, advanced materials, aerospace, healthcare, agricultural technology, and other regionally significant industry clusters. The project anticipates these activities will result in syndication and direct investment of $11.25 million in leveraged private investment, with 25 businesses served, leading to 125 entrepreneurial jobs created.

Project Title: *Lawrence County Broadband Feasibility Study*
Grantee: Lawrence County, Tennessee
Award Amount: $35,000
Announcement Date: February 2019
Project Summary: ARC grant to Lawrence County, TN, for the *Lawrence County Broadband Feasibility Study* project. The broadband feasibility study will be used to help determine next steps in obtaining better broadband coverage throughout Lawrence County. Currently only 25 percent of the population has access to broadband service. The study will include the creation of a steering committee for the county and address identifying broadband demand, creating an accurate broadband availability map, conducting a strategic review of county and city policies for broadband, developing an inventory of assets, and studying potential adoption rates.

Project Title: *Advancing Aviation Technology*
Grantee: Northeast State Community College
Award Amount: $1,566,927
Announcement Date: October 2019
Project Summary: ARC grant to Northeast State Community College in Blountville, TN for the *Advancing Aviation Technology* project. Through a partnership with the Tri-Cities Airport,

the project seeks to build a reliable workforce pipeline of trained and certified aviation maintenance professionals in support of regional economic development priorities. It will expand the community college's Aviation Technology program, relocate the program to a new hangar at the Tri-Cities Airport, and secure FAA Airframe and Powerplant program certification. This includes constructing a new aircraft hangar in the adjacent airport, acquiring instructional equipment, improving program outreach, revising curriculum, and creating jobs by hiring faculty. Over three years, the project will serve eight businesses, while training 72 community college students. The project is also a prerequisite for the success of the Tri-Cities Airport Aerospace Park, which will create up to 2,000 jobs in the aviation maintenance and manufacturing sector. Additional funding for the project is being provided by the Tri-Cities Airport Authority.

Project Title: *Workforce Development and Re-employment Opportunities*
Grantee: East Tennessee Development District (ETDD)
Award Amount: $1,546,400
Announcement Date: October 2019
Project Summary: ARC grant to the East Tennessee Development District (ETDD) in Alcoa, TN for the *Workforce Development and Re-employment Opportunities* project. This project will expand and enhance skills training opportunities in the high-demand fields of allied health, welding, industrial maintenance, construction, diesel repair, and truck driving in East Tennessee and Southern Kentucky. ETDD will partner with Somerset Community College in Kentucky, Tennessee College of Applied Technology-Oneida/Huntsville, and Tennessee College of Applied Technology-Jacksboro. Counselors will work with drug court administrators, jail and prison administrators, and American Job Centers to enroll individuals that normally would not participate in the labor market. The project will develop and promote paid work-based learning opportunities by establishing co-ops, internships, and apprenticeships. Twelve new training programs will be implemented by the three participating colleges, and 465 workers/trainees will obtain a job in their field of study. Additional funding is provided by the Tennessee Higher Education Commission, the York Institute, and USDA Rural Business-Cooperative Services.

Award Amount: $727,815
Announcement Date: October 2019
Project Summary: ARC grant to East Tennessee State University in Johnson City, TN for the *Create Appalachia Arts & Technology Economic Development Initiative*. East Tennessee State University (ETSU), in partnership with the Johnson City Development Authority and Create Appalachia, will establish a micro-enterprise incubator and professional development center to support the launch and continued success of artists and makers working with digital technologies. To attract and retain younger workers needed for robust economic development, ETSU plans to incubate not only individual businesses but also a thriving digital arts industry. This project will leverage the talent of ETSU and the Tennessee Visual Content Modernization Act to encourage the growth of new businesses. ETSU will provide 1570 students, 200 workers/trainees, 35 businesses, and 38 organizations a state-of-the-art instruction facility that can accommodate continuing education in arts technology, entrepreneurship training, business training, and software certification.

Project Title: *Holston Electric Cooperative Rural Broadband*
Grantee: Holston Electric Cooperative
Award Amount: $862,017
Announcement Date: October 2019
Project Summary: ARC grant to Holston Electric Cooperative in Rogersville, TN for the *Holston Electric Cooperative Rural Broadband* project. The project will install 25.9 miles of

fiber optic cable on Holston Electric's existing power poles to provide up to 1 Gbps service to areas not covered by a broadband or cable provider in the Goshen Valley in Hawkins County, TN. A number of employers in the region use the work-at-home model for portions of their workforce. Holston Electric Cooperative projects that several households in this service area are a part of this model, and greater broadband access will give this community access to online education, training, and/or retraining to expand this job market. The new fiber network will make broadband service available to 133 businesses and 600 households and create 20 new jobs over three years. In addition to farms and businesses, the expanded coverage will serve multiple churches, a school, and a fire department.

Project Title: *Northern Unicoi County Broadband*
Grantee: Erwin Utilities
Award Amount: $342,646
Announcement Date: October 2019
Project Summary: ARC grant to Erwin Utilities in Erwin, TN for the *Northern Unicoi County Broadband* project. The project will enable Erwin Utilities to install 16.8 miles of fiber optic cable on existing power poles and provide high-speed broadband to businesses and residential subscribers in areas of northern Unicoi County that are not covered by a broadband or cable provider. With an increasing number of businesses utilizing telework employment, expanded infrastructure will allow more residents to pursue remote work from home. Within three years, the project is expected to expand broadband access for 14 businesses and 488 residents. Erwin Utilities also projects that the expansion will increase the number of businesses in the service area, resulting in three new businesses and 15 additional jobs. The project builds on an existing fiber network, a portion of which was supported by a previous POWER grant.

2018 Awards

Project Title: *Marion County Regional Center for Higher Education Phase II & III*
Grantee: Marion County, Tennessee
Award Amount: $1,501,499
Announcement Date: October 2018
Project Summary: ARC grant to Marion County, TN, for the *Marion County Regional Center for Higher Education Phase II & III* project. ARC funds will be utilized to construct a 30,000-square-foot educational facility that will house new technology and industrial training programs. The project will also conduct outreach to displaced workers from the Widows Creek Power Plant—a coal-fired facility in the area that was recently retired. The project will train 109 people for careers in advanced manufacturing and information technology, and will improve 20 existing businesses in the region.

Project Title: *Volunteer Energy Cooperative Smart Grid and Fiber Optic Deployment Project*
Grantee: Volunteer Energy Cooperative
Award Amount: $1,500,000
Announcement Date: October 2018
Project Summary: ARC grant to the Volunteer Energy Cooperative in Decatur, TN, for the Internet of Things (IoT) Innovation Ecosystem Project. This project involves the buildout of an Internet of Things ecosystem with three components: an IoT technology platform, innovation partners, and an entrepreneurial ecosystem. Volunteer Energy Cooperative (VEC) is developing the IoT technology platform by deploying fiber optic broadband and smart grid technology to improve real time management of power supply and demand. These investments will drive the prototyping of technology solutions by innovation partners like Tennessee Tech University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Lincoln Laboratory. Viable solutions can be further developed and commercialized by entrepreneurial clients of

the Biz Foundry and other entrepreneur centers in the Launch Tennessee network, itself a prior POWER grantee. An IoT innovation ecosystem holds the promise of utilizing local utility infrastructure to expand rural broadband access and to generate new businesses and jobs from an emerging "data economy." Anticipated outcomes of deployment include $4.4 million of additional grid improvements by VEC, 416 households improved by subscribing to fiber broadband service, 22 businesses improved by subscribing to fiber broadband service, 250 households improved by subscribing to load management service, and 13 businesses improved by subscribing to load management service.

Project Title: *"Funding the Future" Pre-Implementation Study*
Grantee: Appalachian Community Federal Credit Union
Award Amount: $68,000
Announcement Date: October 2018
Project Summary: ARC grant to Appalachian Community Federal Credit Union in Kingsport, TN, to underwrite a study for developing an affordable, flexible loan program called *Funding the Future*. The program will focus on providing accessible financing to residents in a 17-county area across Kentucky, Tennessee, and West Virginia for in-demand certificate training programs. Despite being hit by the decline of the coal industry, there exists a demand for good-paying jobs in the service area including welders, line technicians, and commercial truck drivers. Current loan programs at the state and federal level are limited in what they can offer for certificate-granting programs and are restrictive in what can be paid for using loan funds. *Funding the Future* looks to fill the existing funding gap by providing flexible loans for in-demand programs that can also be used to cover living expenses and tools of the trade, as well as tuition and books.

2017 Awards

Project Title: *LaunchTN's Entrepreneurial Education & Workforce Development*
Grantee: Tennessee Technology Development Corp DBA LaunchTN
Award Amount: $500,000
Announcement Date: June 2017
Project Summary: $500,000 ARC grant to LaunchTN in Knoxville, TN, for the *Entrepreneurial Education and Workforce Development* project. LaunchTN is working with partner organizations to provide high-impact entrepreneurial support services to innovators, entrepreneurs, and early-stage companies. The programs help increase availability of and access to resources, grow and diversify the entrepreneurial ecosystem, and create sustainable financial roadmaps for organizations and companies. Activities will focus on expanding rural youth innovation and idea generation programs, increasing access to technology and business support that result in customer acquisition and strategic partnerships, building out a roadmap to the marketplace for entrepreneurs from east Tennessee colleges and universities; and elevating opportunities for independent makers and local craft manufacturers. The programs will primarily target the coal-impacted counties of Anderson, Campbell, Claiborne, Cumberland, Fentress, Grundy, Marion, Morgan, Scott, and Sequatchie. The project is expected to result in 31 new businesses and 60 new jobs created, as well as roughly $154,000 in leveraged private investment.

2016 Awards

Project Title: *Erwin Utilities - Temple Hill & Bumpus Cove Broadband*
Grantee: Erwin Utilities
Award Amount: $400,000
Announcement Date: October 2016
Project Summary: ARC grant to Erwin Utilities in Erwin, TN, for the *Temple Hill & Bumpus Cove Broadband* project. ARC funds will be used to install 35 miles of fiber optic cable on existing pole lines— allowing business and residential subscribers in Temple Hill and Bumpus Cove access to broadband services. The area does not currently have cable broadband available, and DSL service is not offered ubiquitously. Tourism expansion is a major economic driver in the area and increased bandwidth will help expand the tourism industry and revenue base. The project will serve 680 households and 30 businesses, and will act as an economic driver in a three county area in northeast Tennessee, which has been adversely affected by the closure of a major rail yard as a result of the decline in coal shipments.

Project Title: *Unicoi - Mountain Harvest Kitchen Incubator & Entrepreneurial Training Program*
Grantee: Town of Unicoi
Award Amount: $353,086
Announcement Date: October 2016
Project Summary: ARC grant to the Town of Unicoi, TN, for the *Mountain Harvest Kitchen Incubator and Entrepreneurial Training Program*. ARC funds will purchase equipment for a shared-use, commercial kitchen where value-added processing of locally-harvested products will take place. Entrepreneurial training will be offered by partner organizations including AccelNow, the Appalachian Resource Conservation and Development Council, and the University of Tennessee Agricultural Extension for startups and established businesses in the agricultural sector. The program will serve a nine-county region in northeast Tennessee and northwest North Carolina, create 30 new businesses and 60 new jobs, serve 91 trainees, and leverage $1,200,000 in private investment.

VIRGINIA (46 awards)

2024 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.

2023 Awards

Project Title: *Opportunity Appalachia—Expanding Opportunity: Bringing New Investment to Underserved Coal Communities*
Grantee: Appalachian Community Capital
Award Amount: $1,499,850
Announcement Date: October 2023
Project Summary: ARC grant of $1,499,850 to Appalachian Community Capital (ACC), in Christiansburg, Virginia for the *Opportunity Appalachia—Expanding Opportunity: Bringing New Investment to Underserved Coal Communities* project. The project will enable six participating Appalachian states— Virginia, Kentucky, North Carolina, Ohio, Tennessee, and West Virginia—to provide direct development technical assistance to 30 communities. Technical assistance providers will work with the communities, selected through a competitive process, to develop high-impact development projects with prospectus materials and project pitch videos and presentations. When the communities complete the investor prospectus materials, Opportunity Appalachia will reach out to pre-vetted investors directly and through a high-level Investor Convening. The following project partners will offer outreach and technical assistance to communities: Fahe (Kentucky), Mountain BizWorks (North Carolina), OhioSE, University of Tennessee, University of Virginia–Wise, and West Virginia Brownfields Assistance Center. National partners include Main Street America and Coastal Enterprises, Inc. The project is expected to serve and improve 30 businesses and communities, engage 600 participants, create 1,200 jobs and 11 businesses, and leverage $150 million in private investment during the grant period and up to three years after.

Project Title: *Big Cherry Regional Recreation Enhanced Infrastructure*
Grantee: Town of Big Stone Gap, Virginia
Award Amount: $1,221,100
Announcement Date: October 2023
Project Summary: ARC grant of $1,221,100 to the Town of Big Stone Gap, Virginia, for the *Big Cherry Regional Recreation Enhanced Infrastructure* project. The project will develop water, sewer, and electric utility connections to a newly constructed general store, campsites, and restrooms to serve day and overnight visitors to Big Cherry. This project will install 4,400 linear feet of water and sewer line and fencing; a 10,000-gallon water storage tank; and a 5,000-gallon-per-day (GPD) wastewater treatment package plant while serving three

communities and 5,550 new daytime and 5,550 new overnight visitors annually. The installation of essential infrastructure will help make Big Cherry a regional destination for campers, thru-hikers, and community members.

Project Title: *Southwest Virginia Creative Economy and Tourism Workforce Initiative*
Grantee: Friends of Southwest Virginia
Award Amount: $980,000
Announcement Date: October 2023
Project Summary: ARC grant of $980,000 to Friends of Southwest Virginia in Abingdon, Virginia, for the *Southwest Virginia Creative Economy and Tourism Workforce Initiative* project. The project will make the regional tourism workforce more competitive, while also promoting the cultural and outdoor recreation assets of 18 counties and four cities in Southwest Virginia. The project will develop a hospitality and tourism workforce training initiative; enhance the VisitSWVA website; build a digital asset management system for partners to have access to Southwest Virginia marketing collateral; conduct innovative market research for future marketing campaigns; and launch a national Southwest Virginia branding campaign that features the cultural and outdoor experiences of the region. This project will help Friends of Southwest Virginia continue to expand and grow the creative economy and drive economic development in the region. This project will serve and improve 450 businesses, 56 communities, and 900 participants; create 48 new businesses and 245 new jobs; retain 9,782 jobs; and leverage $3.8 million of private investment over the course of the three-year project.

Project Title: *Research into Employer Needs to Support Workers in Coal-Impacted Counties*
Grantee: Society for Human Resource Management Foundation, Inc.
Award Amount: $50,000
Announcement Date: October 2023
Project Summary: ARC grant of $50,000 to the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM) Foundation, Inc., in Alexandria, Virginia, for the *Research into Employer Needs to Support Workers in Coal-Impacted Counties* project. This project, which is focused on 117 counties in Kentucky, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia, will conduct a survey-based research project to collect information about employer competency, perceptions, needs, and capacities in the areas of hiring and retaining workers; addressing employee health needs; identifying community wraparound supports; and employer perceptions of local, state, and federal public policies. The project will result in a comprehensive report that synthesizes research findings to inform future work of the SHRM Foundation in Appalachia. The report will be made available to employers, employees, educators, and policymakers within the workforce ecosystem to inform policies, practices, and programs in Appalachia.

2022 Awards

Project Title: *Food Sector Workforce Expansion in Central Appalachia*
Grantee: Appalachian Sustainable Development
Award Amount: $1,500,000
Announcement Date: October 2022
Project Summary: ARC grant of $1,500,000 to Appalachian Sustainable Development in Duffield, Virginia, for the *Food Sector Workforce Expansion in Central Appalachia* project. Appalachian Sustainable Development in partnership with ACEnet, Coalfield Development, Sprouting Farms, Rural Action, and the Appalachian Resource Conservation & Development Council will build on previous ARC and USDA investments to address new opportunities and challenges facing agricultural producers and food processors as they scale operations to reach wholesale markets. The project will implement three objectives to create an integrated workforce approach: 1) expand and replicate ASD, ACEnet, Sprouting Farms, and Coalfield

Development workforce models to address employment gaps within the food sector; 2) coordinate demand channels from schools and food banks to increase the viability of distribution logistics to retailers in remote areas; and 3) connect emergent food hubs in Wheeling, Welch, Morgantown, and Charleston, West Virginia to workforce development models and hub management practices to foster wider regional food distribution. This project seeks to create a transformative workforce ecosystem, overlaid on a strong food sector value chain, to create economic and social benefits in rural communities in Southwest Virginia, Northeast Tennessee, West Virginia, and Southeast Ohio. This project is expected to serve 125 businesses; improve 88 businesses; create 40 businesses, 53 jobs and one plan; serve 310 workers/trainees; improve 35 workers/trainees; and leverage $965,000 of private investment.

Project Title: *New River Water Trail Expansion Project*
Grantee: New River Valley Regional Commission
Award Amount: $1,500,000
Announcement Date: October 2022
Project Summary: ARC grant of $1,500,000 to the New River Valley Regional Commission in Fairlawn, Virginia, for the *New River Water Trail Expansion Project*. The project will construct or improve four public launches along the New River Water Trail, the regional anchor for outdoor recreation comprising a 37-mile-stretch of river access points. The project also includes a corresponding expansion of the New River Trail website, which guides residents and visitors to plan trips that connect the water trail to existing activities and businesses, including outfitters, dining, lodging, and camping services. In partnership with Pulaski County, City of Radford, Montgomery County, Giles County, the National Park Service, and the Friends of the New River, the project will mobilize a substantial volunteer effort to host regular New River Watershed Roundtable meetings; develop a signage plan, website, and marketing and outreach materials; and conduct ongoing river stewardship efforts that will maintain the river access points into the future. This project will serve the 15 communities along the New River that maintain boat launches and offer important visibility and connection between the New River Water Trail and the recreation and tourism businesses that support it by attracting 1,500 new visitors each year.

Project Title: *Dick & Willie Passage Trail 6A Completion*
Grantee: Henry County, Virginia
Award Amount: $665,000
Announcement Date: October 2022
Project Summary: ARC grant of $665,000 to Henry County in Henry County, Virginia, for Phase 6A of the *Dick & Willie Passage (D&W) Trail Completion* project. The project will complete the last mile of an existing 2.96-mile gap in the D&W Trail, Virginia's longest public trail, connecting neighborhoods to opportunities for shopping, dining, entertainment, the Smith River Sports Complex, and the new Riverview Park. The project also includes improvements to the “Bike Barn,” a low-cost bike loan program that allows tourists and visitors to affordably bike the entire length of the D&W Trail. The expansion of the D&W Trail has been a longstanding regional goal for outdoor recreation; it complements efforts in Patrick County to extend the D&W Trail north and wider efforts to connect with the Beaches-to-Bluegrass Virginia State Trail. Through a partnership with the City of Martinsville, the Martinsville-Henry County Family YMCA, and the Virginia Tourism Corporation (VTC), Henry County will complete the gap in the trail, maintain the trail and Bike Barn, and continue to promote the Dick & Willie Passage as an asset in Virginia's regional trail system.

Project Title: *Expansion of Dental Services for Central Appalachia*
Grantee: The Health Wagon
Award Amount: $500,000
Announcement Date: October 2022
Project Summary: ARC grant of $500,000 to St. Mary's Health Wagon in Clintwood, Virginia, for the *Expansion of Dental Services for Central Appalachia* project. This project, covering the counties of Buchanan, Dickenson, Lee, Russell, Scott, and Wise, will facilitate education and training of new dental professionals, as well as provide comprehensive oral health care services for individuals referred from the Health Wagon's mobile services and stationary clinics. Because the area is significantly impacted by job losses in coal mining, coal power plant operations, and coal-related supply chain industries, the project plans to support individuals impacted by the loss of coal jobs and lack of dental insurance and others who have dental health issues that prevent them from interviews and subsequent hiring. Workforce training will also provide clinical opportunities for students by providing them with the experience of working in rural communities. Students will also have the option to remove dental school debt through the Bureau of Health Professions Loan Repayment Program to establish or work in dental health professional shortage areas. Through partnerships with LENOWISCO Planning District, Virginia Dental Association Foundation, and Virginia Department of Health, this project will improve two organizations, create four jobs (a dentist, dental hygienist, dental assistant, and a dental case manager), improve 2,000 patients through the provision of oral health services, and improve six trainees through clinical workforce training over the course of one year.

Project Title: *The Appalachian Veterinary Expansion Project*
Grantee: Lincoln Memorial University - College of Veterinary Medicine (LMU-CVM)
Award Amount: $1,000,000
Announcement Date: March 2022
Project Summary: ARC grant of $1,000,000 to Lincoln Memorial University – College of Veterinary Medicine (LMU-CVM) in Harrogate, Tennessee, for the *Appalachian Veterinary Expansion Project*. The project will equip a new Veterinary Education and Technology (VET) building under construction in Ewing, Virginia, located in economically distressed and coal-impacted Lee County. The new DeBusk Veterinary Teaching Center (DVTC) will expand the instructional space for LMU in order to educate and train more students in the growing field of veterinary medicine and will serve as a state-of-the art facility to engage regional stakeholders, including cutting-edge clinical skills facilities and multi-program lecture space. The project will increase the number of students and LMU employees in the region and attract new sources of investment for the Cumberland Gap region, benefitting the local economies of Lee County, Virginia, and the surrounding Appalachian counties of Bell, Kentucky, and Claiborne, Tennessee. Over a four-year period, an estimated 500 students who receive instruction and clinical training with the new equipment and technology will graduate with degrees in veterinary medicine. LMU-CVM secured a Virginia Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission Grant Award in the amount of $2 million to be used for the construction of the new VET facility.

2021 Awards

Project Title: *Central Appalachian CDC: Bringing Community Development Investment to Coal-Impacted Communities*
Grantee: Appalachian Community Capital
Award Amount: $1,500,000
Announcement Date: September 2021
Project Summary: ARC grant of $1,500,000 to Appalachian Community Capital in Christiansburg, Virginia, for *Central Appalachian CDC: Bringing Community Development*

Investment to Coal-Impacted Communities. Appalachian Community Capital and its partners will create quality community development and entrepreneurial opportunities by preparing communities and businesses to access new sources of capital. Serving five Central Appalachian states (North Carolina, Ohio, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia), the project will provide 40 coal-impacted communities with technical assistance to structure development financial transactions, guidance in creating prospectuses and pitch decks targeting investors, and outreach and deal placement to pre-vetted investors. This assistance will include a high-level investor convening in Appalachia. The result will be a portfolio of investments that provide investors both sufficient financial returns and robust social returns. Financial support for the project is being provided by the CDFI Fund at the U.S. Department of the Treasury, the Dogwood Health Trust, Goldman Sachs, and OhioSE Economic Development. The project is expected to create 15 businesses and 3,000 jobs while leveraging $400 million in private investment.

Project Title: *Buchanan/Tazewell Wireless Communication Job Growth Corridor*
Grantee: Virginia Coalfield Coalition
Award Amount: $1,000,000
Announcement Date: September 2021
Project Summary: ARC grant of $1,000,000 to the Virginia Coalfield Coalition in Lebanon, Virginia, for the *Buchanan/Tazewell Wireless Communication Job Growth Corridor*. This project will build six new fiber-lit cell towers along a 20-mile stretch of U.S. Route 460. This highway is currently 95% unserved with cell service, making it difficult for local companies to bring clients into their offices or send field technicians out to work sites. A public-private partnership with a national wireless service provider allows the grantee to ensure that the coverage provided by the new cell towers will fill in current service gaps. The project is expected to serve 25 existing businesses and facilitate business retention and recruitment at industrial parks in the region.

Project Title: *Project Trace*
Grantee: LENOWISCO Planning District Commission
Award Amount: $49,875
Announcement Date: September 2021
Project Summary: ARC grant of $49,875 to LENOWISCO Planning District in Duffield, Virginia, in partnership with Invest SWVA, for *Project Trace* to determine the feasibility of adapting or creating an ag-tech tool to track and report food miles of specialty grains grown in Southwest Virginia, specifically in Lee, Scott, and Wise counties. If feasible, the project team will provide additional information regarding the steps necessary to implement the adaptation or development of such a tool. This tool will help to present the value-add of Southwest Virginian grains to the industry, increase grain market opportunities for Southwest Virginian farmers, and drive additional revenue. It is anticipated that one report will be produced as a result of this project.

Project Title: *Building an Outdoor Recreation Economy in Southwest Virginia*
Grantee: County of Russell, Virginia
Award Amount: $1,500,000
Announcement Date: December 2021
Project Summary: ARC grant of $1,500,000 to County of Russell County, Virginia for the *Building an Outdoor Recreation Economy in Southwest Virginia* project. Through this project, Russell County and their partners will construct a visitor center near St. Paul, Virginia, which will serve the seven coalfield counties of Southwest Virginia. Named for the nearby confluence of the Clinch, Powell, and Big Sandy watersheds, the Three Rivers Destination Center will be a multipurpose facility designed to propel Southwest Virginia's tourism and outdoor recreation economy. The center will serve as the headquarters for Heart of

Appalachia Tourism Authority, a visitor center for regional amenities, and an ecology discovery center for the Clinch River State Park.

Project Title: *Appalachian Hardwood Training Initiative (AHTI)*
Grantee: Dabney S. Lancaster Community College
Award Amount: $1,466,029
Announcement Date: December 2021
Project Summary: ARC grant of $1,466,029 to Dabney S. Lancaster Community College in Clifton Forge, Virginia, for the *Appalachian Hardwood Training Initiative (AHTI)* program. The AHTI will develop educational and training opportunities for those employed in the industry's regional sawmills and wood manufacturing facilities as well as for unemployed and underemployed individuals in Appalachia. This project is expected to recruit, serve, and train up to 950 individuals in Virginia, West Virginia, and Kentucky over three years.

2020 Awards

Project Title: *Site Improvements at Commonwealth Crossing Business Centre (CCBC)*
Grantee: Henry County
Award Amount: $1,500,000
Announcement Date: October 2020
Project Summary: ARC grant of $1,500,000 to Henry County in Collinsville, VA for the *Site Improvements at Commonwealth Crossing Business Centre (CCBC)* project. This project will complete a steel natural gas pipeline from the Patriot Line to the Commonwealth Crossing Business Centre (CCBC) and associated facilities. Lack of a direct natural gas line has been cited as a significant recruitment and job-creation weakness for the CCBC. The CCBC is a key component of the county's transition from a mineral-extraction-based economy to a manufacturing economy that seeks to incorporate aviation, automotive, food processing, and advanced film production as sectors in a more diversified local economy. By installing a pipeline that can deliver a maximum natural gas volume of four million standard cubic feet per hour, this infrastructure improvement will expand the area's opportunities for large, transformational projects. The project will serve a facility that has already created over 200 jobs and will enable more companies to move jobs into CBCC and the surrounding area. Key partners include the Harvest Foundation and Southwest Virginia Gas Company.

Project Title: *Pathways to a Strong and Healthy Region*
Grantee: New River/Mount Rogers Workforce Development Area Consortium Board
Award Amount: $1,494,000
Announcement Date: October 2020
Project Summary: ARC grant of $1,494,000 to the New River/Mount Rogers Workforce Development Area Consortium Board in Radford, VA for the *Pathways to a Strong and Healthy Region project.* This project will create a recovery-ready region by collectively tackling the full range of the substance abuse disorder (SUD) problem. Project partners will address the lack of coordination between the economic and workforce development sectors and the healthcare and human service sectors in addressing SUD as an economic development issue. This coordination will help the region create continuity among support services, sustain long-term recovery for individuals, and scale efforts for greater impact on the individual/family, business/industry, and the region. The result will be a strong regional recovery ecosystem. The project will serve 350 workers in recovery and 30 workers in the healthcare/human services sector as well as 150 businesses. Additional support is being provided by the grantee, Eagles Nest Regeneration, and Ballad Health.

Project Title: *Southwest Virginia Medication-Assisted Treatment Services*
Grantee: St. Mary's Health Wagon (The Health Wagon)
Award Amount: $793,500
Announcement Date: October 2020
Project Summary: $793,500 grant to St. Mary's Health Wagon (The Health Wagon), in Wise, VA for the *Southwest Virginia Medication-Assisted Treatment Services* project. The project will establish a substance use treatment program that complements the region's existing services. Southwest Virginia has been hit hard by the downturn in the coal economy and the concurrent epidemic of substance use disorder. Community organizations have been leaders in identifying and implementing services that prevent and treat substance use issues, and they seek to offer an alternative to existing medication-assisted treatment services. The proposed service will be based at the Appalachian Center for Healthcare Excellence, a family practice clinic in Coeburn, VA. The Southwest Virginia Medication-Assisted Treatment Services Project is expected to create four jobs and serve 75 patients in its first year of operation. In the future, the program will have the capacity to serve approximately 150 patients each year.

Project Title: *Tri-State Broadband Infrastructure Feasibility Study*
Grantee: LENOWISCO Planning District Commission
Award Amount: $50,000
Announcement Date: October 2020
Project Summary: ARC grant of $50,000 to LENOWISCO Planning District Commission in Duffield, VA, for the *Tri-State Broadband Infrastructure Feasibility Study*. The project will create a plan to establish a fiber-optic network in a 13-county region of Kentucky, Tennessee, and Virginia. The LENOWISCO Planning District Commission (which comprises the Virginia counties of Lee, Wise, and Scott and the City of Norton) will convene stakeholders and determine the region's critical Network Access Points to connect households and businesses to other nearby regional networks. Currently, only 64 percent of households in this service area have access to high-speed internet. After establishing a fiber-optic network, the multi-county region will be marketed for data center development.

Project Title: *Virginia Rural Leaders Institute (VRLI)*
Grantee: Center for Rural Virginia
Award Amount: $39,755
Announcement Date: October 2020
Project Summary: ARC grant of $39,755 to the Center for Rural Virginia in Richmond, VA for the *Virginia Rural Leaders Institute (VRLI)*. The project will fill a gap in civic leadership development for rural communities in Virginia. VRLI will deliver a robust curriculum involving leadership, community, and economic development competencies to community leaders throughout Southwestern Virginia. Community leaders will be convened over a series of four sessions throughout the region. The first VRLI will graduate 30 leaders and create a state-wide rural network to strengthen rural development at the local level.

Project Title: *New River Water Trail Expansion Strategic Plan*
Grantee: New River Valley Regional Commission
Award Amount: $32,940
Announcement Date: October 2020
Project Summary: ARC grant of $32,940 to New River Valley Regional Commission in Fairlawn, VA for the *New River Water Trail Expansion Strategic Plan*. The project will develop a plan to cultivate natural assets around the New River to increase talent attraction, tourism, and job growth. The strategic plan will formulate a strategy to improve river accessibility and trail signage, provide a market analysis of user groups and potential partners, and create a

marketing strategy for the water trail. The strategic plan will develop an expansion model that can be applied throughout Virginia and its surrounding Appalachian states.

2019 Awards

Project Title: *Seed-to-Sale: Strengthening the Central Appalachian Food Corridor*
Grantee: Appalachian Sustainable Development (ASD)
Award Amount: $1,250,000
Announcement Date: February 2019
Project Summary: ARC grant to Appalachian Sustainable Development (ASD) in Abingdon, VA, for the *Seed-to-Sale: Strengthening the Central Appalachian Food Corridor* project. ASD, in partnership with Refresh Appalachia, Sprouting Farms, the Kentucky Center for Agriculture and Rural Development, Community Farm Alliance, and Whitlock Farm, will expand the impact and scale of the Central Appalachian Food Enterprise Corridor across four Appalachian states. Through previous POWER funding, the Central Appalachian Food Enterprise Corridor has effectively connected established and emerging producers throughout Central Appalachia to wholesale distribution markets, leading to increased agricultural business development and job creation. The current project will focus attention on portions of the Corridor that need additional support by increasing technical assistance and extending effective practices. It will enhance the network through mediation between private industry and small-scale farmers, fostering aggregation and distribution opportunities. It will increase the supply of produce, attracting more regional and national buyers to purchase local produce, and will pursue priority procurement policies by states and institutions. The project will span 91 counties in four states (Virginia, West Virginia, Kentucky, and Tennessee) and serve 349 businesses and 938 participants. It is anticipated that the project will improve 238 businesses and 786 participants, create 38 new businesses and 85 jobs, and leverage $732,666 of private investment.

Project Title: *New Market Tax Credit Project Growth in Appalachia*
Grantee: People Incorporated Financial Services
Award Amount: $486,769
Announcement Date: February 2019
Project Summary: ARC grant to People Incorporated Financial Services (PIFS) in Abingdon, VA, for the *New Market Tax Credit Project Growth in Appalachia* project. PIFS will launch a new program providing technical assistance and advisory services to entrepreneurial start-ups, emerging businesses, units of local government, and other community-based organizations to engage in and carry out high impact, capital intensive projects. PIFS will increase capacity of these actors to undertake transformative community development projects. Capacity building will include assistance in how to plan, structure, fund, and carry out community and economic development projects. It will also build capacity to leverage multiple sources of funding, understand and access complicated financing sources, such as New Markets Tax Credits, and accept significant financial and organizational risk. To select projects, PIFS will work with regional, state, and local economic development organizations, community development leaders, private philanthropy, federal/state agencies, and past POWER grant recipients. PIFS anticipates working with eight to ten unique projects over a three-year period, creating 50 jobs, and leveraging $10 million in new capital into the impacted communities. The initiative will focus on coal-impacted communities in West Virginia, Virginia, Tennessee, and Kentucky.

Project Title: *Bland County Broadband Deployment*
Grantee: Bland County
Award Amount: $459,764
Announcement Date: February 2019
Project Summary: to Bland County, VA, for the *Bland County Broadband Deployment* project. The project will construct a 33-mile fiber run that will be used to supply broadband to businesses in Bland County. The fiber run will start in Rocky Gap and go south through Bastian and on to Bland. The fiber will run along the Route 52 corridor. Once the fiber construction is finished, the competitively selected ISP partner will use wireless technology to reach additional locations off Route 52. The project will make access available to 37 businesses, as well as Bland County schools, the Board of Education Offices, and the Bland County Medical Clinic, a Federally Qualified Health Center.

Project Title: *Building POWERful Economic Diversity and Sustainability within Appalachian Communities*
Grantee: Friends of Southwest Virginia
Award Amount: $100,000
Announcement Date: February 2019
Project Summary: ARC grant to Friends of Southwest Virginia in Abingdon, VA, for the *Building POWERful Economic Diversity and Sustainability within Appalachian Communities* project. It will create an interstate collaborative plan for developing common natural and cultural assets that can boost regional economic diversification. This process will bridge communities in Southwest Virginia with their neighbors in North Carolina, Tennessee, West Virginia, and Kentucky, to create a community-driven identification and planning process. This will expand current collaboratives within the footprint of Friends of Southwest Virginia, including a previous POWER project, beyond Southwest Virginia to develop natural and cultural assets and strategies that are shared across neighboring states. Natural and cultural asset planning across state lines will help generate a diverse and sustainable economy for Central Appalachia.

Project Title: *Recovery Opportunities and Pathways to Employment Success (ROPES)*
Grantee: Southwest Virginia Workforce Development Board
Award Amount: $1,500,000
Announcement Date: October 2019
Project Summary: ARC grant to the Southwest Virginia Workforce Development Board in Lebanon, VA for the *Recovery Opportunities and Pathways to Employment Success (ROPES)* project. The ROPES program will create a recovery-to-employment ecosystem that combines substance abuse disorder recovery and treatment with workforce development and re-employment opportunities. The program will provide upskilling and work-based learning opportunities while at the same time developing a menu of recovery services focused on the post-treatment to employment continuum. The project will make the workforce of Southwest Virginia healthier and more competitive as the region strives to overcome the opioid crisis and revitalize an economy that has been heavily dependent on coal. Guided by the Workforce Board's Business Services Team, the program will work with employers to foster understanding and support for recovery-safe work environments. ROPES will serve and improve 25 businesses, 90 workers/trainees will obtain new employment, and four new jobs for case managers and certified peer recovery specialists will be created.

Project Title: *BARC Rural Economic Development via Broadband*
Grantee: BARC Electric Cooperative
Award Amount: $1,000,000
Announcement Date: October 2019
Project Summary: ARC grant to BARC Electric Cooperative in Millboro, VA for the *BARC Rural Economic Development via Broadband* project. The project will deploy a gigabit last-mile fiber-to-the-premise (FTTP) network to businesses and residents of the Town of Goshen, Virginia, a remote area in Rockbridge County. The area is not currently served by a broadband provider. The reduction in coal rail shipping has caused economic deterioration in the Goshen area. Improved broadband access is crucial for increased economic development, the creation of an entrepreneurial ecosystem, improved educational opportunities, and reduced workforce migration. The eight-mile fiber network will make FTTP available for 301 households and 8 businesses. The network will also further BARC Electric's smart grid strategy by connecting its Network Operations Center to its entire Smart Grid.

Project Title: *SWCC Automotive Service Excellence Center*
Grantee: Southwest Virginia Community College (SWCC)
Award Amount: $588,072
Announcement Date: October 2019
Project Summary: ARC grant to Southwest Virginia Community College (SWCC) in Cedar Bluff, VA for the *SWCC Automotive Service Excellence Center*. The project will create a credit-based, fast-track curriculum to prepare students for entry-level automobile technician positions. Students will receive certification from the National Institute for Automotive Service Education (ASE). Rapid changes within the automotive, heavy-duty truck, and diesel engine fields have created a strong demand for workers with training and certification in the latest technologies, but no specialized training opportunities currently exist within an hour's drive of SWCC. These businesses offer employment opportunities in an area that has been heavily dependent on the coal industry. As a result of the grant, at least 59 students will obtain jobs or will still be enrolled in the program at the end of the three-year project period, 25 workers/trainees will have enhanced positions, and five businesses will be improved.

Project Title: *Technology Innovation Ecosystem for Rural Water Systems*
Grantee: LENOWISCO Planning District Commission
Award Amount: $50,000
Announcement Date: October 2019
Project Summary: ARC grant to LENOWISCO Planning District Commission in Duffield, VA for the *Technology Innovation Ecosystem for Rural Water Systems* project. This pilot project will identify innovative and emerging technologies that can be scaled to monitor and evaluate small, rural public water systems for potential leaks. It will include a strategic analysis of existing leak detection technologies in both real and simulated testing environments. It can provide an immediate cost savings to the Wise County Public Service Authority, reducing water loss costs that are typically absorbed by the customer base. Partners include the Wise County Public Service Authority, University of Virginia's College at Wise, and the MIT Lincoln Lab.

Project Title: *Taking a Proven Energy Model to Scale*
Grantee: Appalachian Voices
Award Amount: $49,940
Announcement Date: October 2019
Project Summary: ARC grant to Appalachian Voices in Boone, NC for the *Taking a Proven Energy Model to Scale* project. The project will provide technical assistance to grow the emerging solar energy cluster in Central Appalachia, helping diversify the regional economy.

It will support a commercial-scale solar group purchase program in Southwest Virginia that helps building owners who want to use solar energy navigate the often complex process of a commercial-scale solar installation and pool demand to reduce costs. The project will examine options for expanding the group purchase approach to other states, conduct a multi-state market analysis of solar opportunities, and prepare an assessment of the solar project finance ecosystem.

2018 Awards

Project Title: *Project Intersection*
Grantee: LENOWISCO Planning District Commission
Award Amount: $917,315
Announcement Date: October 2018
Project Summary: ARC grant to the LENOWISCO Planning District Commission in Duffield, VA, to conduct *Project Intersection*, a new regional 200-acre industrial site in the coalfields of southwestern Virginia. LENOWISCO will partner with the Norton Industrial Development Authority and Lonesome Pine Regional Industrial Facilities Authority in developing the site on abandoned mine land. The ARC grant will be paired with a portion of an already awarded grant from the Abandon Mine Lands (AML) Pilot program of the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement at the U.S. Department of the Interior. Project activities will yield a highly visible, highly desirable, regional industrial and business site. *Project Intersection* is situated at the junction of U.S. Highways 23 and 58A, with the highest cumulative non-Interstate traffic volume in far southwestern Virginia. No comparable combination of available land and transportation infrastructure exists in that part of the state. The development of *Project Intersection* aids the effort to foster diversification and rejuvenation of the regional economy, luring private investment and new employment opportunities. The initial phase of development will create 75 jobs and an initial private capital investment of $10 million as a result of companies locating at the site.

2017 Awards

Project Title: *Impact Appalachia: A Market-Making Fund*
Grantee: Virginia Community Capital
Award Amount: $2,500,000
Announcement Date: January 2017
Project Summary: ARC grant to Virginia Community Capital in Christiansburg, VA, for *Impact Appalachia: A Market-Making Fund for Central Appalachia*. The project will fill critical capital gaps to strengthen Central Appalachia's economy and accelerate market development for a six-state region (Kentucky, North Carolina, Ohio, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia). *Impact Appalachia* will support business development and advance emerging sectors in the region by acting as an entrepreneurial ecosystem coordinator to increase the region's readiness and capacity to attract and absorb capital. It will provide grant-like funds to fill critical gaps in the investment pipeline and will serve as an investment vehicle providing capital to investment-ready businesses. It will also launch an impact investment fund that will raise and deploy affordable capital to expand essential infrastructure and invest in job-creating businesses that build local wealth and increase the number of quality jobs. The project is anticipated to improve 15 communities, leverage $111 million of private capital, and create or retain 649 jobs.

Project Title: *Power Linemen Career Education*
Grantee: Mountain Empire Community College (MECC)
Award Amount: $950,000
Announcement Date: January 2017
Project Summary: ARC grant to Mountain Empire Community College (MECC) in Big Stone Gap, VA, for the *Power Linemen Career Education* program. MECC will partner with regional power industry employers to develop and implement a training curriculum that equips participants across a four-county area in southwest Virginia for entry-level employment as apprentice utility line workers and positions them for a career as journeyman-level power lineman. The project will also partner with the Flatwoods Job Corps Center's in order to utilize their outdoor instructional facilities. The project will serve 362 trainees over the life of the award.

Project Title: *New Economy Loan Fund*
Grantee: Virginia Community Capital
Award Amount: $800,000
Announcement Date: January 2017
Project Summary: ARC grant to Virginia Community Capital in Christiansburg, VA, for the *New Economy Loan Fund* project. The project—which will leverage the capacity of a variety of regional governments, education institutions, and business incubators—will provide needed capital and targeted technical assistance to small business owners in coal-impacted communities across nine counties in southwest Virginia. Specifically, ARC funds will assist in capitalizing a loan fund that will support small business development in the service area, and will enable a full-time technical assistance provider to deliver business assistance directly to entrepreneurs to build the knowledge and skills for continued profitability and sustainability. The project will create or retain 55 jobs, enable 17 businesses to receive loans and 30 businesses to receive technical assistance, and leverage $4,800,000 in private capital.

Project Title: *Southwest Virginia Renewable Energy and Economy*
Grantee: Appalachian Voices
Award Amount: $99,670
Announcement Date: January 2017
Project Summary: ARC grant to Appalachian Voices in Norton, VA, for the *Southwest Virginia Renewable Energy and Economy* Project. The project will conduct a feasibility study, develop a strategic plan, and provide capacity building assistance to determine the viability of a renewable energy plan for the Southwest Virginia region. The project's activities will include a structured process for engaging local officials and organizations that are interested in renewable energy as part of the region's economic diversification strategy.

Project Title: *Virginia Coalfields Telecommunications Planning Grant*
Grantee: Virginia Coalfield Coalition, Inc.
Award Amount: $61,603
Announcement Date: January 2017
Project Summary: ARC grant to the Virginia Coalfield Coalition, Inc., in Lebanon, VA, for technical assistance to conduct a comprehensive assessment of Southwest Virginia's telecommunication needs, which include identifying current levels of service, any gaps in that service, and the affordability of various broadband solutions. The *Virginia Coalfields Telecommunications Planning Grant* will develop a road map to address the specific deficiencies in each community and assess building capacity amongst regional partners. Local sources will provide an additional $37,757 for the project.

Project Title: *Blue Ridge Plateau Abattoir Regional Partnership*
Grantee: Grayson LandCare, Inc.
Award Amount: $34,750
Announcement Date: January 2017
Project Summary: ARC grant to Grayson Land Care, Inc., in Fries, VA, to develop a feasibility study for the development of an abattoir, or slaughter house, in the I-81 and I-77 corridor, a region that includes parts of Virginia and West Virginia. The *Blue Ridge Plateau Abattoir* project will, in cooperation with local partners, directly support the development and planning tasks needed to launch the facility and implement a workforce training program. The proposed abattoir would strengthen the local food system and help diversify the regional economy.

Project Title: *Grant-Writing Assistance for "A Bolder Brew, a Brighter Bouquet: Strengthening the Craft Beverage Cluster Across Southwest Virginia"*
Grantee: Round the Mountain: Southwest Virginia's Artisan Network
Award Amount: $11,108
Announcement Date: January 2017
Project Summary: ARC grant to Round the Mountain: Southwest Virginia's Artisan Network in Abingdon, VA, to provide grant writing assistance to raise funds for the creation of a regional craft beverage cluster that will strengthen Virginia's agriculture industry and tourism in the region. The project will build off the extensive network cultivated by the Southwest Virginia Cultural Heritage Foundation.

2016 Awards

Project Title: *Building Appalachian Spring: Growing the Economy of Southwest Virgini*a
Grantee: Friends of Southwest Virginia
Award Amount: $3,000,000
Announcement Date: October 2016
Project Summary: ARC grant to Friends of Southwest Virginia in Abingdon, VA, for the *Building Appalachian Spring: Growing the Economy of Southwest Virgini*a project. This comprehensive project will significantly enhance the outdoor recreation industry as an economic driver in a four-county region in southwestern Virginia. ARC funds will be used to develop four access points to the New River that strategically link the river to nearby communities' hospitality and tourism services; construct a 4,000-square-foot Gateway Center to the High Knob Recreation Area—providing visitors with more centralized access to numerous nearby recreation assets; build an Appalachian Trail Center in downtown Damascus; and create a 30mile, multi-use trail connecting Breaks Interstate Park directly to downtown Haysi's business district. The project will increase travel expenditures in project locations by $30 million over the next five years, create 60 new businesses and 200 new jobs, and is supported by funding from the Virginia Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission.

Project Title: *Virginia Emerging Drone Industry Cluster Project*
Grantee: Industrial Development Authority
Award Amount: $2,220,000
Announcement Date: October 2016
Project Summary: ARC grant to the Industrial Development Authority in Wise, VA, for the *Virginia Emerging Drone Industry Cluster Project*. ARC funds will be used to position five counties in southwestern Virginia as a national destination for the development of a drone-operator workforce to support the emerging drone industry in the United States. The award will enable Mountain Empire Community College to offer courses that train students, including former coal industry workers, to operate drones and drone sensors to provide commercial and government services—including geospatial surveys, close-up inspections of

fixed structures, and mapping. The award will train 64 new workers, leverage $15,000,000 in additional investment, and enable a private aerospace company in the region to perform work on a major contract—thereby creating 210 new direct and indirect jobs.

Project Title: *The Central Appalachian Food Enterprise Corridor*
Grantee: Appalachian Sustainable Development
Award Amount: $1,500,000
Announcement Date: October 2016
Project Summary: ARC grant to Appalachian Sustainable Development in Abington, VA, for the *Central Appalachian Food Enterprise Corridor*. This 5-state, 43-county project will develop a coordinated local foods distribution network throughout Central Appalachia, and will connect established and emerging producers in Ohio, West Virginia, Tennessee, Southwest Virginia, and Eastern Kentucky to wholesale distribution markets. The ARC award will support planning, partner convening, and capacity building, as well as production and processing equipment, supplies, and labor costs, and will be supported by funding from the Just Transition Fund. The strengthened food corridor will act as regional economic driver–creating 120 jobs, retaining 250 jobs, and ultimately creating 95 new businesses.

Project Title: *Southwest Virginia Regional Cybersecurity Initiative*
Grantee: Southwest Virginia Community College
Award Amount: $1,420,219
Announcement Date: October 2016
Project Summary: ARC grant to Southwest Virginia Community College (SWCC) in Cedar Bluff, VA, for the *Southwest Virginia Regional Cybersecurity* Initiative. The initiative brings together three colleges in southwestern Virginia—SWCC, Mountain Empire Community College (MECC), and University of Virginia's College at Wise (UVa-Wise)—and aims to position this seven county southwestern Virginia area as a regional hub for the cybersecurity industry. Specific activities will include creating a certification/credential program aligned with industry needs and National Security Agency guidelines; providing support services to cybersecurity start-up companies that locate to the region; and expanding UVa-Wise's existing bachelor's degree program in cybersecurity through an accelerator space in which cybersecurity companies can co-locate research and development activities. Additional funding for the project is being provided by the Virginia Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission. The project will train 161 new workers, and retain 110 jobs.

Project Title: *REDI Center for Dislocated Coal Miners*
Grantee: Southwest Virginia Community College
Award Amount: $1,417,375
Announcement Date: October 2016
Project Summary: ARC grant to Southwest Virginia Community College (SWCC) in Cedar Bluff, VA, for the *Retraining Energy Displaced Individuals (REDI) Center for Dislocated Coal Miners* program. The REDI program will provide fast-track reemployment services directly to displaced coal miners—equipping them with the necessary skills to get back to work in a high-demand field, earning comparable wages to their previous employment. Through an intensive, accelerated program of coursework, workers can obtain credentialed skills in as little as four months, rather than the more traditional training periods of a year or more. Training will be focused on three sectors with local employment opportunities: advanced manufacturing, construction, and health technology. The program will certify 165 new trainees over the life of the award, and will be supported by funding from the Thompson Charitable Fund and the Virginia Tobacco Commission.

Project Title: *The Heart of Appalachia Economic Transition Project*
Grantee: Southwest Virginia Alliance for Manufacturing
Award Amount: $1,307,650
Announcement Date: October 2016
Project Summary: ARC grant to the Southwest Virginia Alliance for Manufacturing, Inc., in Abingdon, VA, for *The Heart of Appalachia Economic Transition Project*. The project will align the grantee—a non-profit industry association of manufacturers from southwest Virginia—local workforce development boards, and the Virginia Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) Center to deliver business technical assistance to coal supply chain manufacturers in an effort to return them to profitability. The project will conduct outreach to prospective companies in the 16-county southwest Virginia service territory, and perform network analysis that will allow for participating companies to retool their manufacturing efforts in the most feasible, cost-effective manner possible. In addition, the project will increase the number of young adults pursuing careers in manufacturing by redefining the image and value of manufacturing among young people, their parents, their educators, and policy makers. The award will create 300 jobs and retain 200 existing jobs, and will positively impact the operations of 58 existing businesses.

2015 Awards

Project Title: *RESOURCE-FULL: A Consortium Approach to Workforce and Economic Development in Southwest Virginia*
Grantee: Friends of Southwest Virginia
Award Amount: $75,000
Announcement Date: October 2015
Project Summary: ARC grant to Friends of Southwest Virginia in Abingdon, Virginia, for *RESOURCE-FULL: A Consortium Approach to Workforce and Economic Development in Southwest Virginia*. The U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) is also awarding $275,000 to this project. The ARC award will be used to brand the southwest Virginia region as an international outdoor recreation destination and will include the development of tools and materials to be used for business and employee recruitment.

WEST VIRGINIA (126 awards)

2024 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 Viginia, 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.

2023 Awards

Project Title: *Keith-Albee Renovation*
Grantee: Keith-Albee Performing Arts Center, Inc.
Award Amount: $1,500,000
Announcement Date: October 2023
Project Summary: ARC grant of $1,500,000 to the Keith-Albee Performing Arts Center, Inc., in Huntington, West Virginia, for the *Keith-Albee Renovation* project. The project will renovate and upgrade the Keith-Albee Theater facility to expand programming and bring in new visitors. The Keith-Albee Performing Arts Center is a regional destination venue and an important asset to Huntington. This project will keep the building from falling into disrepair. The work includes waterproofing in the theater basement to protect the structural integrity of the building; replacement and installation of a new water service entrance with a new sprinkler riser with fire protection; refurbishment of 1,180 fixed auditorium seats; and construction of a new handicap seating area.

Project Title: *Powering Prosperity Through Infrastructure Job Training*
Grantee: BridgeValley Community & Technical College
Award Amount: $1,499,969
Announcement Date: October 2023
Project Summary: ARC grant of $1,499,969to BridgeValley Community & Technical College in South Charleston, West Virginia, for the *Powering Prosperity Through Infrastructure Job Training* project. The project will provide credentialed employer-approved training for seven high-demand occupations, including heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers, electrical power-line installers, telecommunications-fiberoptic installers, and transportation infrastructure inspectors. Project funds will modernize existing curricula, increase BridgeValley's capacity to train more students across its two campuses, increase completion rates by providing support services for participant retention, and engage industry partners in assessing program offerings and aligning them with employer needs. Through a partnership with Workforce West Virginia, local municipalities in Southeastern WV, and local employers, BridgeValley seeks to wrap support around current and future students for these new opportunities to train in high-demand fields. The project will serve up to 625 students with services for career preparation, support, and specialized training while they complete an industry credential program.

Project Title: *Constructing Jobs in West Virginia Coal Country*
Grantee: Mountwest Community & Technical College
Award Amount: $1,499,125
Announcement Date: October 2023
Project Summary: ARC grant of $1,499,125 to Mountwest Community & Technical College Huntington, West Virginia, for the *Constructing Jobs in West Virginia Coal Country* project. The project will deliver an innovative training program resulting in cutting-edge construction jobs and an efficient eco-friendly solution to the housing crisis in Cabell, Lincoln, Logan, Mason, Mingo, and Wayne Counties in West Virginia. In partnership with Hope Nation and Rhema Developments, Mountwest will create an education/employment pipeline to bolster the construction industry in target counties. By expanding and strengthening relationships between higher education and the construction industry, the project will create an education-to-employment pipeline that will continue to capture potential trainees by way of existing state programs. Mountwest will offer a permanent construction certificate and associate degree to potential students. This project will also develop a detailed business plan to create a revenue stream from the sale of products (structured engineered panels) and the potential sale of homes that students will create during this program.

Project Title: *Harnessing the Economic Power of the Elk River Trails*
Grantee: Elk River Trail Foundation, Inc.
Award Amount: $1,365,000
Announcement Date: October 2023
Project Summary: ARC grant of $1,365,000 to the Elk River Trail Foundation, Inc., (ETRF) Elkview, West Virginia, for the *Harnessing the Economic Power of the Elk River Trails* project. In early 2022, the ETRF completed its ARC-funded Elk River Trails of West Virginia feasibility study detailing the opportunities for business and tourism infrastructure expansion along the Elk River. This project addresses each of the plan's priorities through a downtown facade program, expansion of the FASTER WV business technical assistance program, new wayfinding signage, and the construction of five water access points and four related trailheads in the towns of Sutton, Clendenin, Gassaway, and Clay. The project is expected to serve eight communities and over 42 businesses. Through its partnership with each Elk River Trail town, the Elk River Foundation, and Advantage Valley, this project will kickstart the implementation of the Elk River Trails of West Virginia plan and intentionally grow business and downtown development alongside the expansion of the Elk River Trail.

Project Title: *Expanding West Virginia's Food System with Regional Entrepreneurship Centers and Innovative Business Streams*
Grantee: West Virginia Food and Farm Coalition, Inc.
Award Amount: $1,134,341
Announcement Date: October 2023
Project Summary: ARC grant of $1,134,341 to the West Virginia Food and Farm Coalition, Inc., in Charleston, West Virginia, for the *Expanding West Virginia's Food System with Regional Entrepreneurship Centers and Innovative Business Streams* project. The project will provide healthy foods to childcare centers across 16 West Virginia counties through the expansion of West Virginia Food and Farm Coalition's "food production hub" network model. This project will also foster entrepreneurial activities by providing workforce development, nutrition and culinary training, technical assistance, and production planning to local farmers. Building on a pilot project with partners Project Healthy Kids; Healthy Kids, Inc.; KEYS 4 Healthy Kids; Random Rabbit, LLC; the West Virginia Association for Young Children; and Expand the Monongalia County Food Production Hub, the project will launch three new hubs in Kanawha, Taylor, and Greenbrier counties and expand the existing Monongalia County Hub. The hubs will serve as the entry point for small or beginning farmers to scale up before accessing the wholesale distribution, grocery, or institutional purchasing market. Project funding will also help market prepared meals and preserved products to hospitals, schools, private schools, childcare centers, clinics, recovery centers, senior centers, and assisted living facilities. The project is anticipated to serve 65 businesses, 16 communities, 40 workers, and 4,000 participants; create 30 jobs and retain 10 jobs; and leverage $4,306,400 in private investment.

Project Title: *Leveraging Opportunities to Grow Industry Careers (LOGIC)*
Grantee: Marshall University Research Corporation
Award Amount: $995,677
Announcement Date: October 2023
Project Summary: ARC grant of $995,677 to Marshall University Research Corporation in Huntington, West Virginia, for the *Leveraging Opportunities to Grow Industry Careers (LOGIC)* project. This project will establish an Advanced Manufacturing Technology training program with multiple career path options for automation, process controls, instrumentation, maintenance, and fabrication. The LOGIC project will work with the growing advanced manufacturing sector to train and equip individuals with in-demand skills that command higher wages. LOGIC is in close partnership with K-12 and higher education providers, advanced manufacturing industries, and local development agencies who will work together to develop and deliver curriculum, recruit participants, and make connections to industry careers. The Marshall Advanced Manufacturing Center (formerly known as Robert C. Byrd Institute) will lead the project and work with integral partners including Mountwest Community and Technical College, Mason County Schools, and the Region II Planning and Development Council. The three-year project aims to serve 210 workers/trainees, 20 high school students, and 35 manufacturing businesses.

Project Title: *Huff Creek Broadband Fiber Deployment*
Grantee: Wyoming County Economic Development Authority
Award Amount: $545,065
Announcement Date: October 2023
Project Summary: ARC grant of $545,065 to the Wyoming County Economic Development Authority in Pineville, West Virginia, for the *Huff Creek Broadband Fiber Deployment* project. The project will construct an estimated 10.5 miles of fiber to connect unserved or underserved households and businesses in the unincorporated communities of Gillman Bottom, Campus, Cyclone, and Lacoma in rural Wyoming County. Expanding access to high-speed broadband will help spur economic development in a remote area with challenging

terrain, an area rich in outdoor recreation but heavily impacted by the decline in coal. Broadband access will also enhance online communications, education, telemedicine, and remote work for the community's residents. The project will improve seven businesses and 89 households.

Project Title: *Mountain State Montessori Early Care & Education Expansion Plan*
Grantee: New River Gorge Learning Co-op
Award Amount: $50,000
Announcement Date: October 2023
Project Summary: ARC grant of $50,000 to New River Gorge Learning Co-op in Fayetteville, West Virginia, for the *Mountain State Montessori Early Care & Education Expansion Plan* project. The project will create a strategic plan for Mountain State Montessori to expand early childcare and education in Fayette, Nicholas, and Raleigh counties. Studies have found that children who participate in high-quality early care and education programs have improved outcomes in adulthood, including higher earnings, lower rates of crime and incarceration, and better health outcomes. The project will ensure that New River Gorge Learning Co-op has a well-developed plan that will enable Mountain State Montessori to double its capacity by adding three new classrooms and expanding childcare slots from 26 to 52 children.

Project Title: *Exploring the Feasibility of Developing a Workforce Training Program/Social Enterprise Focused on Glass and Plastic Recycling*
Grantee: Mountain CAP of WV, Inc.
Award Amount: $49,995
Announcement Date: October 2023
Project Summary: ARC grant of $49,995 to Mountain CAP of WV, Inc., in Buckhannon, West Virginia, for the *Exploring the Feasibility of Developing a Workforce Training Program/Social Enterprise Focused on Glass and Plastic Recycling* project. The project will produce a feasibility plan to establish a recycling plant for glass and plastic, create a social enterprise, and provide workforce development opportunities for those who face employment barriers. The plan will help guide Mountain CAP to address an increase in requests for services from those who are either homeless or families who have been impacted directly by substance use disorder. A study and business plan will determine the feasibility of the program.

Project Title: *West Virginia Community-Driven Outdoor Recreation Economy Initiative*
Grantee: West Virginia University Research Corporation
Award Amount: $45,666
Announcement Date: October 2023
Project Summary: ARC grant of $45,666 to the West Virginia University Research Corporation in Morgantown, West Virginia, for the *West Virginia Community-Driven Outdoor Recreation Economy Initiative (WV CORE)* project. The planning project will create a comprehensive inventory of existing outdoor businesses in West Virginia, benchmark national standards for outdoor recreation businesses and networks, host six business convenings throughout the state to initiate connections and facilitate feedback, and use this research to create an implementation plan for a standardized state outdoor business survey and census. The West Virginia University Research Corporation will offer research and convenings that pair the millions of dollars in infrastructure investment toward West Virginia's outdoor recreation assets with research and networking assistance to develop the outdoor recreation businesses currently operating and expanding in the state. Through a partnership with The Brad and Alys Smith Outdoor Economic Development Collaborative, Mon Forest Towns Partnership, New River Gorge Regional Development Authority, the Outdoor Industry Association, West Virginia Division of Tourism, and many others, the project will produce two plans and serve 15 communities over the course of one year.

Project Title: *Mingo County Rural Infrastructure Sanitation Systems and Water Planning Grant*
Grantee: Mingo County Commission
Award Amount: $40,000
Announcement Date: October 2023
Project Summary: ARC grant of $40,000 to the Mingo County Commission in Mingo County, West Virginia, for the *Mingo County Rural Infrastructure Sanitation Systems and Water Planning Grant* project. The project will create a database of current sewer access in the county and a prioritized project list of improvements based on the database. This project will include consulting services to compile stakeholder interviews, preliminary assessment of all major municipal systems, and the development of a county-wide mapping service usable by all six utility management services in the county. The project will create one report and serve six utility communities over the course of one year.

Project Title: *Exploring, Building, and Developing: Industry/Higher Ed Partnerships in West Virginia*
Grantee: Fairmont State University
Award Amount: $34,604
Announcement Date: October 2023
Project Summary: ARC grant of $34,604 to Fairmont State University in Fairmont, West Virginia, for the *Exploring, Building, and Developing: Industry/Higher Ed Partnerships in West Virginia* project. The project proposes a series of partnership-building activities to investigate collaborative work opportunities with county economic development authorities and regional STEM industries and development of an implementation plan to address the needs of the changing economic landscape in Appalachia. In order to assess the feasibility of a regional collaboration with multiple institutions of higher education and business and industry partners, the primary activities of the planning project will be to strengthen mutual understanding and relationships among the core project team, with the goal of integrating and leveraging relevant existing networks of core project team members; identify the local and regional economic development challenges that call for collaborative action; create partnerships with local industries and/or business organizations and develop a shared mission and goal for collaboration; and to prepare an implementation plan related to regional economic development that will achieve value for all partners.
Project Title: *Arts Business Accelerator*
Grantee: Tamarack Foundation for the Arts, Inc.
Award Amount: $30,758
Announcement Date: October 2023
Project Summary: ARC grant of $30,758 to Tamarack Foundation for the Arts, Inc., in Charleston, West Virginia, for the *Arts Business Accelerator* project. The project will provide arts businesses in southern West Virginia with financial literacy workshops and small business education, tools, and resources. With these ARC planning funds, Tamarack Foundation for the Arts (TFA) will accomplish three main objectives: develop a three-year comprehensive Arts Business Accelerator Implementation Plan; investigate the need for additional levels of arts-based business education and creative entrepreneur support in the project service area using various methods of data collection; and research evidence-based, equitable, art-centered business education/creative entrepreneur programming in partnership with WV State University Extension. The project is anticipated to serve and improve 140 businesses and develop one comprehensive Arts Business Accelerator Implementation Plan.

2022 Awards

Project Title: *Summers County Broadband Expansion Project*
Grantee: Summers County Commission
Award Amount: $2,400,000
Announcement Date: October 2022
Project Summary: ARC grant of $2,400,000 to the Summers County Commission in Hinton, West Virginia, for the *Summers County Broadband Expansion Project*. The project will build 28 miles of fiber optic network infrastructure to connect 489 homes and 179 businesses to reliable and affordable broadband services, enabling the economic growth and diversification necessary to overcome the downturn of the coal industry. This project directly impacts the currently unserved businesses and homes in the project footprint. The grantee will competitively select an internet service provider partner to maintain and operate the network and ensure that those connected have access to this enabling set of services.

Project Title: *Rock Creek Development Park Broadband Project*
Grantee: Boone County Community & Economic Development Corporation
Award Amount: $1,692,507
Announcement Date: October 2022
Project Summary: ARC grant of $1,692,507 to the Boone County Community & Economic Development Corporation in Madison, West Virginia, for the *Rock Creek Development Park Broadband Project*. The project will build 8.2 miles of fiber optic infrastructure and one wireless tower, which will facilitate the deployment of the wireless broadband services necessary to attract investment. The grantee will competitively select an internet service provider partner to deploy, maintain, and operate the network and ensure that wireless services are available throughout the project footprint. The project will act as a catalyst for the redevelopment of a larger former surface coal mine with businesses that rely on fixed and mobile broadband, including a planned 3,000-acre solar field and other diversified industries.

Project Title: *Creating WV's Largest Maple Syrup, Mushroom, Field, and Floriculture Production Systems*
Grantee: Region 4 Planning & Development Council
Award Amount: $1,500,000
Announcement Date: October 2022
Project Summary: ARC grant of $1,500,000 to the Region 4 Planning & Development Council in Summersville, West Virginia, for the *Creating WV's Largest Maple Syrup, Mushroom, Field, and Floriculture Production Systems* project. The Region 4 Planning and Development Council, serving as fiscal sponsor, will work with Fruits of Labor, Seed Sower, God's Way Home, Workforce WV Region 1 Jobs, and Hope WV to create opioid recovery-to-work training opportunities in agriculture. The project will launch a host of agricultural production systems, including floriculture, high tunnel, tap maple syrup, greenhouse, field, commercial mushrooms, and honey. Goods produced will be sold to retail and wholesale markets. Fruits of Labor will also develop nine programs to provide training to participants (businesses, non-profits, entrepreneurs) across the state on how to start, expand, and/or scale existing operations in maple syrup, mushrooms, and/or floriculture. Unemployment rates in the area have been driven by the loss of coal and timber jobs. Creating the opportunity to enter the agricultural job market via floral design, groundskeeping, and value-added maple syrup and mushroom products offers a pathway for those in recovery to transition into productive members of society. This project is expected to serve 10 organizations, 10 businesses, 15 workers/trainees, 20 participants, and 10 students; improve eight organizations, eight businesses, 15 workers/trainees, 16 participants, and eight students; repurpose 200 acres of

land for agricultural production; create 10 jobs; implement nine programs; generate $250,000 in non-export revenues; and leverage $150,000 in private investment.

Project Title: *Wheeling Food Ventures: Small Farm and Food Business Acceleration in the Ohio Valley*
Grantee: Grow Ohio Valley, Inc.
Award Amount: $1,500,000
Announcement Date: October 2022
Project Summary: ARC grant of $1,500,000 to Grow Ohio Valley, Inc. (GOV) in Wheeling, West Virginia, for the *Wheeling Food Hub Operations Project*. The project will provide business development support services to the small farm and food business sector in the upper Ohio Valley in furtherance of the POWER priority of "fostering entrepreneurial activities." The overarching mission of Grow Ohio Valley (GOV) is to strengthen and expand revenues for farmers and food entrepreneurs selling fresh and value-added products. To do this, GOV works at every level of its local food system, from farms to markets. The Wheeling Food Hub Operations Project will involve Grow Ohio Valley leveraging its renovated warehouse property to provide local food entrepreneurs with the tools, guidance, and business development support services to scale up their production of packaged shelf-stable products to be distributed in larger markets. The project is expected to serve 35 businesses, improve 17 businesses, create five new businesses and nine jobs, and leverage $525,000 in private investment.

Project Title: *Turning Coal to Gold: Boosting the Outdoor Economy through the Snowshoe Highlands Ride Center*
Grantee: Region 4 Planning & Development Council
Award Amount: $1,500,000
Announcement Date: October 2022
Project Summary: ARC grant of $1,500,000 to the Region 4 Planning & Development Council in Summersville, West Virginia, for the *Turning Coal to Gold: Boosting the Outdoor Economy through the Snowshoe Highlands Ride Center* project. The project will construct 27 miles of singletrack trail optimized for mountain biking and other ride center improvements to boost the area's tourism industry, which will help offset the decline in coal-related employment and revenues. Through a partnership with the U.S. Forest Service, Snowshoe Mountain Resort, Pocahontas County Convention and Visitor's Bureau, Poca Trails, and the Mon Forest Towns Partnership, this project will help the ride center attain a gold-level certification and become one of the top seven mountain bike destinations in the world. Additional funding is provided by the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation.

Project Title: *West Virginia Grant Resource Centers*
Grantee: Marshall University Research Corporation
Award Amount: $1,500,000
Announcement Date: October 2022
Project Summary: ARC grant of $1,500,000 to the Marshall University Research Corporation in Huntington, West Virginia, for the *West Virginia Grant Resource Centers* project. The project will help communities and others identify appropriate funding sources, write grants, and develop competitive and thorough grant applications. The Centers are forecast to be housed at both Marshall University and its partner, West Virginia University. The centers will serve the entire state, with a particular focus on the most distressed communities and counties. The centers will support communities through direct assistance, workshops, data production for applications, relationship building with funders, and grant writing certification. The partnership between the two universities will leverage their assets related to grant applications for the benefit of the most distressed parts of the state in a time of

unprecedented availability of federal grant monies. Over the course of three years, the project will improve 50 communities and 156 participants and create 15 jobs.

Project Title: *Seeing West Virginia's Future Through a Different Lens*
Grantee: Mountain State Educational Services Cooperative
Award Amount: $1,499,998
Announcement Date: October 2022
Project Summary: ARC grant of $1,499,998 to the Mountain State Educational Services Cooperative in Parkersburg, West Virginia, for the *Seeing West Virginia's Future Through a Different Lens* project. This project is a new, innovative, and holistic workforce development program to develop and revitalize the workforce in West Virginia's Mid-Ohio Valley region by infusing virtual reality (VR) career exploration and job training simulations in targeted industries with the expertise of existing wraparound service providers. This initiative is designed to provide multi-generational service beginning with eighth-grade youth and will expand to encompass unemployed, underemployed, or non-participating adults in need of inspiration, direction, and job training across nine coal-impacted and economically distressed, at-risk, and transitional counties. Together, the project partners will aim to increase the region's labor force participation rate, currently only 50.87%, and develop a qualified workforce pipeline to bolster economic development efforts and decrease the number of citizens living in poverty in the region. By the end of the 3-year grant period, the project is expected to benefit 2,850 adult workers/trainees and 2,970 students with career exploration simulations and virtual reality job skills training that will help identify talents and career interests and raise awareness of opportunities in in-demand occupation and enable them to earn a professional credential or certification.

Project Title: *Data Cabling & Fiber Optic Installation Training Program*
Grantee: Connec Train Corp
Award Amount: $1,370,039
Announcement Date: October 2022
Project Summary: ARC grant of $1,370,039 to Connec Train Corp in Charleston, West Virginia, for the *Data Cabling & Fiber Optic Installation Training Program* project. This project will support Connec Train Corp's (CTC) efforts to establish the first entry-level fiber optic and data cabling training program in West Virginia. The Data Cabling and Fiber Optic Installation Training program will provide a viable career pathway for residents of Cabell, Wayne, and surrounding counties who have lost employment due to reductions in the region's coal and mining industries, as well as COVID-19. In addition to coal-impacted job losses, West Virginia's telecommunication industry is facing severe workforce shortages and experiencing a dire need for local, skilled technicians to successfully carry out the massive broadband infrastructure projects planned in the state. Key partners include Unlimited Future Inc, which will provide classroom space and promotion of the program; Partnership of African American Churches, which will refer graduates from the Infinite Pathways Recovery Program and provide free transportation to the training site at Unlimited Future; and Coalfield Development Corporation, which will provide tuition stipends and on-the-job training wages for trainees. The 1.5-year project aims to enroll 80 workers/trainees and anticipates a 90% pass rate for the Electrician Technician Association exam, which will be administered at the end of the program and will qualify graduates for entry-level positions in broadband installation, maintenance, and repair.

Project Title: *Career Opportunities for Appalachian Legacy (C.O.A.L.)*
Grantee: Marshall University Research Corporation
Award Amount: $1,118,814
Announcement Date: October 2022
Project Summary: ARC grant of $1,118,814 to the Marshall University Research Corporation in Huntington, West Virginia, for the *Career Opportunities for Appalachian Legacy (C.O.A.L.)* project. This project is an innovative multigenerational approach to workforce and economic development established in response to West Virginia's economic challenges as a state severely impacted by the decline of the coal and manufacturing industries. This project will establish a regional, strategic, and transformational process that will build a competitive workforce; foster entrepreneurial activities; and invest in community leaders through a variety of activities and programs focused on workforce readiness and job placement for individuals and direct engagement with local businesses to match workers with employment opportunities. It will also support entrepreneurship and social enterprise with partnerships that provide an apprenticeship model to prepare individuals for the workforce through on-the-job training while earning a competitive wage. In developing and supporting business cultivation, the project will establish partnerships across the 15-county service area; facilitate business education and training in partnership with the West Virginia Chamber of Commerce; facilitate 12 virtual entrepreneurship and social enterprise forums; sponsor mentorship for businesses and individuals for the development of enterprise; and support local and regional business development incubators. By the end of the 3-year grant period, the project is expected to improve 400 workers/trainees, 160 families, and 80 local businesses.

Project Title: *BEDA Food Truck Incubator Project*
Grantee: Bluefield Economic Development Authority
Award Amount: $400,000
Announcement Date: October 2022
Project Summary: ARC grant of $400,000 for the Bluefield WV Economic Development Authority (BEDA) in Bluefield, West Virginia, for *BEDA Food Truck Incubator Project*. The Bluefield WV Economic Development Authority has joined forces with the City of Bluefield, the WV Small Business Development Center, Lemon Grass Kitchen, Sprouting Farms, Fruits of Labor, and others to address the need for new and diverse industries in 10 counties in Regions I and IV of Southern West Virginia. BEDA seeks to enhance business development opportunities for the target communities by offering a Food Truck Incubator Program. This program will provide aspiring food truck entrepreneurs support, advisors, business planning, and online and in-person entrepreneurial training. Once coursework is complete, entrepreneurs will have access to a food truck for 10 events or 60 days to hone their skills and operations. The project is expected to serve 36 businesses and 36 participants; improve 26 businesses and 26 participants; and create 36 businesses and 72 jobs.

Project Title: *EAST Trail Master Plan*
Grantee: City of Elkins, West Virginia
Award Amount: $50,000
Announcement Date: October 2022
Project Summary: ARC grant of $50,000 to the City of Elkins in Elkins, West Virginia, for the *EAST Trail Master Plan* project. The project will develop a plan and blueprint for bike-optimized trails on five properties throughout Randolph County. It will also survey up to 10 miles of trail and conduct preliminary site planning for a community bike skills area to build the region’s outdoor tourism economy. The master plan will help the collaborative known as Elkins Area Shared Trails (EAST) to create a network of multi-purpose trails to capitalize on the strong cycling and outdoor recreation culture of the nearby Mon National Forest. The project will also serve as a pilot project and shared learning opportunity for the 11 other

communities that are part of the Mon Forest Towns Partnership, many of whom are seeking to replicate similar trail planning processes in other parts of the forest. The City of Elkins, in partnership with the West Virginia University Brad & Alys Smith Outdoor Economic Development Collaborative, Davis & Elkins College, Davis Health System, and others, will create a master trail plan for the Randolph County area and complete an outreach tour of the Mon Forest Partnership communities. The partnership plans to share its experience with the wider community by August 2023.

Project Title: *Fahe West Virginia Workforce Alliance*
Grantee: Fahe, Inc.
Award Amount: $50,000
Announcement Date: October 2022
Project Summary: ARC grant of $50,000 to the Federation of Appalachian Housing Enterprises, Inc. (Fahe) in Berea, Kentucky, for *Fahe West Virginia Workforce Alliance* planning project. The project will convene stakeholders, collect data, and build on Fahe's current membership community to develop its plan for building "the Alliance" and inform its goals for serving as a connector for skilled workers, employers, and communities. This project will work to fill knowledge gaps in job placement and workforce opportunities so that stakeholders in West Virginia can form a more supported pathway to employment, leading to a future implementation project. Partners include Almost Heaven Habitat for Humanity, Coalfield Development Corp., Homeownership Center, Southern Appalachian Labor School, and many others.

Project Title: *Workforce Development Roadmap: Re-Training for Electric Utility and Other Energy Sector Jobs, Pre-Apprenticeship to Job Placement*
Grantee: West Virginia University Research Corporation
Award Amount: $50,000
Announcement Date: October 2022
Project Summary: ARC grant of $50,000 to WVU Research Corporation in Morgantown, West Virginia, for the *Workforce Development Roadmap: Re-Training for Electric Utility and Other Energy Sector Jobs* project. This planning project will aim to examine and address future workforce needs from pre-apprenticeship to job placement in the electric utility and other energy sectors in West Virginia. Leveraging partnerships with West Virginia University, the Center for Adult Experiential Learning (CAEL), Innosys, Pierpont Community and Technical College, Workforce WV, West Virginia Community and Technical College System, WV Economic Development, and the United Mine Workers of America Career Centers Inc., the project will create an "Energy Transition Jobs Road Map" over the course of the year-long planning project.

Project Title: *Workforce & Education Development for Applied Behavior Analysis*
Grantee: Augusta Levy Learning Center (ALLC)
Award Amount: $50,000
Announcement Date: October 2022
Project Summary: ARC grant of $50,000 to Augusta Levy Learning Center (ALLC) in Wheeling, West Virginia, for the *Workforce and Education Development for Applied Behavior Analysis (WE Develop ABA)* project. The project will enable a collaborative—including nonprofit, higher education, and state level partners led by ALLC and the Mountaineer Autism Project (MAP)—to conduct an analysis of gaps in access to quality Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) services for adolescents diagnosed with autism in West Virginia. Due to a shortage of providers, fewer than four percent of children diagnosed with autism are receiving evidence-based services in West Virginia. The project will develop a comprehensive statewide strategic plan to grow a workforce with training in ABA services. Appropriate training includes high-school diplomas, vocational accreditation, and/or master's

degrees. The plan will include additional support for developing an ABA-trained workforce in high-need areas in West Virginia. The strategic plan will be developed over the course of a year-long grant period and submitted by ALLC at the conclusion of the planning project.

Project Title: *West Virginia Historic Preservation Training Center*
Grantee: Arthurdale Heritage, Inc.
Award Amount: $35,580
Announcement Date: October 2022
Project Summary: ARC grant of $35,580 to Arthurdale Heritage, Inc., in Arthurdale, West Virginia, for the *West Virginia Historic Preservation Training Center* project. The project includes the hiring of a consultant to conduct a comprehensive survey of historic preservation training opportunities in the West Virginia region and develop an operating plan for the proposed training center. Investing in historic preservation trades and workforce development will directly benefit West Virginia's cultural and historic resources, which require specialized care. Preserving historic resources improves quality of life and reinvigorates community spirit, making way for additional progress. Project partner Preservation Alliance of West Virginia will collect research and materials on trade schools and historic preservation programs. The project will culminate in a final report that will outline key information necessary to create the West Virginia Historic Preservation Training Center.

Project Title: *Blackwater Loop and Regional Heritage Trail*
Grantee: Friends of Blackwater
Award Amount: $1,226,000
Announcement Date: May 2022
Project Summary: ARC grant of $1,226,000 to the Friends of Blackwater in Thomas, West Virginia for the *Blackwater Loop and Regional Heritage Trail* project. To grow regional tourism and the outdoor recreation economy, the project will design and construct an 8-mile Loop Trail and suspension bridge connecting the City of Thomas, the Town of Davis, Monongahela National Forest and Blackwater Falls State Park. Additionally, the project will install trail signage and support planning work for the proposed 107-mile Blackwater Canyon Regional Trail. Friends of Blackwater will partner with the U.S. Forest Service and West Virginia Abandoned Mine Land Office on the project, and will serve Grant, Mineral, Randolph, and Tucker counties in West Virginia and Allegany County, Maryland.

Project Title: *High-technology Advanced Manufacturing Initiative (HAMI)*
Grantee: West Virginia Regional Technology Park Corporation
Award Amount: $886,762
Announcement Date: March 2022
Project Summary: ARC grant of $886,762 to the West Virginia Regional Technology Park Corporation in South Charleston, West Virginia, for the *High-technology Advanced Manufacturing Initiative* (HAMI). In partnership with the Robert C. Byrd Institute (RCBI) of Marshall University, the project will provide hands-on training in the form of customized on-the-job training for incumbent workers; fast-track, short-term customizable training and traditional academic courses (1- and 2-year program options) for under and unemployed individuals; and single topic course offerings for incumbent, underemployed, and unemployed individuals. Training will guide participants to manufacturing career opportunities and includes industry-recognized credentials, formal skill set certificates, a one-year Certificate of Applied Science degree, and an Associate of Applied Science degree. The project will serve six counties in central West Virginia that have been adversely affected by the loss of jobs in coal mining or coal-supply chain industries. The project will work closely with local economic development organizations, such as the Charleston Area Alliance and local manufacturing industry partners. Over the first two years, the project team expects to serve 33 students and 195 workers, as well as improve 15 local businesses.

Project Title: *Creating Regional Outdoor Recreation Economy*
Grantee: Kanawha County Commission
Award Amount: $675,210
Announcement Date: March 2022
Project Summary: ARC grant of $675,210 to the Kanawha County Commission in Charleston, West Virginia, for the *Creating Regional Outdoor Recreation Economy* project. Following an outdoor-recreation-based economic development strategy for the Upper Kanawha Valley (Kanawha and Fayette counties) that was completed in January 2021, the project will focus on the development of the hiking and water trails, trailheads, camping locations and other lodging, and welcome centers, which link the anchor attractions and communities together. This is coupled with the delivery of business support services to expand and create new businesses in coal-impacted communities that support an outdoor recreation economy. With the support of the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation, the project is expected to create 60 jobs, serve 11 communities, and produce 10 specialized development plans.

Project Title: *Generation WV's High POWER Impact Project*
Grantee: Generation WV
Award Amount: $523,253
Announcement Date: March 2022
Project Summary: ARC grant of $523,253 to Generation West Virginia (GWV) in Charleston, West Virginia, for the *Generation WV High POWER Impact Project*. The project will expand and enhance GWV's successful Impact Fellowship to help employers recruit and retain next generation leaders and rebuild coal-impacted economies across West Virginia. This fills the gap in programming for early-career leadership programs in the state by providing "matchmaking" services to quality employers and jobseekers via the new GWV Career Connector as well as professional development programming with the Impact Fellowship. The project aims to retain young talent in West Virginia. Over the three-year grant period, the project anticipates serving 90 early-career workers in the fellowship program, improving 60 local businesses, and leveraging approximately $7,800,000 in private investment from host employers. Generation WV will be supported by multiple partners, including the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation, the West Virginia Development Office, and the Just Transition Fund.

2021 Awards

Project Title: *Pocahontas County Quiet Zone Fiber Deployment*
Grantee: Pocahontas County Commission
Award Amount: $2,500,000
Announcement Date: September 2021
Project Summary: ARC grant of $2,500,000 to the Pocahontas County Commission in Marlinton, West Virginia, for the 2021 *Pocahontas County Quiet Zone Fiber Deployment* project. The project will construct an aerial fiber network to provide broadband to businesses and households in Pocahontas County, the majority of whom reside in the federally mandated National Radio Quiet Zone within a 10-mile radius of the Green Bank Observatory. Pocahontas County must use fiber for this project rather than less expensive solutions like fixed wireless because the Federal Communications Commission prohibits the use of any electrical equipment that could cause radio interference in the Zone. The broadband provided by this project will help expand telemedicine services, establish opportunities for remote work, and support business development in the region. The proposed network is expected to reach approximately 24 businesses and 1,011 homes and has a projected completion date of December 2023.

Project Title: *Woodlands Route 33 Middle/Last Mile Fiber Deployment Project*
Grantee: Woodlands Development Group
Award Amount: $2,500,000
Announcement Date: September 2021
Project Summary: ARC grant of $2,500,000 to the Woodlands Development Group in Elkins, West Virginia, for the *Woodlands Route 33 Middle/Last Mile Fiber Deployment* project. Partnering with Generation WV and the leadership teams of Randolph and Tucker counties, this project will deploy 58 miles of fiber network to 65 businesses and 480 households. This project will receive additional funding from other federal sources and will help support a variety of economic initiatives in the region, including the Virgin Hyperloop Certification Center and the Mon Forest Towns tourism initiative.

Project Title: *The Market Fail; Power Skills and the Social Enterprise Mindset: The WV Jobs Network*
Grantee: High Rocks Education Corporation
Award Amount: $1,499,924
Announcement Date: September 2021
Project Summary: ARC grant of $1,499,924 to High Rocks Education Corporation in Hillsboro, West Virginia, for *The Market Fail; Power Skills and the Social Enterprise Mindset: The WV Jobs Network*. The project will create the West Virginia Jobs Network to create pathways for employers and job seekers to fill existing jobs with support to align the right candidates to the right opportunities. Primary focus will be on southern West Virginia's 54 counties and includes employers and students across much of the state. Activities will offer training and support services, create an accredited power skill certification, and pioneer a social enterprise mindset training curriculum. The network will be led by five anchor organizations that are experts in workforce, young talent, AmeriCorps, and STEM pipelines. Partners include Coalfield Development, Generation WV, First2 Network, and Bristol Connect. The project is expected to include 200 AmeriCorps members completing service in West Virginia, 78 participants in workforce development programs, and 30 first-generation and underrepresented STEM college students.

Project Title: *Appalachia FORWARD (Freight Opportunities Reducing Waste and Revitalizing Development)*
Grantee: Coalfield Development Corporation
Award Amount: $1,464,309
Announcement Date: September 2021
Project Summary: ARC grant of $1,464,309 to Coalfield Development Corporation in Wayne, West Virginia, for the *Appalachia FORWARD (Freight Opportunities Reducing Waste and Revitalizing Development)* project. Focusing on the tri-state area of West Virginia, Ohio, and Kentucky, Appalachia FORWARD will expand the commercial base in recycling, reuse, and bio-based manufacturing. Appalachia FORWARD will provide technical assistance for entrepreneurs and social enterprises in the transportation and reuse sectors; train and hire people in the sustainable deconstruction and reuse upcycling of materials from abandoned, dilapidated buildings; and conduct research, innovation, and testing of upcycling, repair, and bio-based manufacturing business models. Key partners include Rural Action, the Athens-Hocking Recycling Center, Marshall University's Appalachian Transportation Institute, West Virginia community and technical colleges, Pure Cycle (a private business using a patented recycling process to transform plastic waste feedstock), and Goodwill Industries of KYOWVA. In addition to contributions from project partners, additional funding is provided by the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation, Bloomberg Philanthropies, Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors, and the Sugar Bush Foundation. The project is expected to create 50 new jobs and six new businesses and improve skills for 300 workers.

Project Title: *Downtown Appalachia: Revitalizing Recreational Economies (DARRE)*
Grantee: West Virginia Community Development Hub
Award Amount: $1,270,482
Announcement Date: September 2021
Project Summary: ARC grant of $1,270,482 to the West Virginia Community Development Hub in Charleston, West Virginia, for the *Downtown Appalachia: Revitalizing Recreational Economies (DARRE)* project. Focusing on recreational economic development surrounding the Monongahela National Forest, DARRE will help eight small towns revitalize main street properties, link building owners with commercial tenants, and help communities develop the economic, social, and financial capital required to become thriving tourist destinations. The financing partner in the project, Natural Capital Investment Fund in Charles Town, West Virginia, will make equity investments in high-impact projects with an identified need for more significant predevelopment investments. The project will tap the community revitalization experience of the West Virginia Brownfields Assistance Center and the professional insights of the West Virginia University School of Design and Community Development. Major financial support of the project comes from the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation, Generation West Virginia, the Mary Reynolds Babcock Foundation, and the One Foundation. The project is expected to serve 106 businesses and create nine new businesses and 38 jobs.

Project Title: *Cybersecurity and Safety Workforce Development Initiative*
Grantee: Glenville State College
Award Amount: $1,123,656
Announcement Date: September 2021
Project Summary: ARC grant of $1,123,656 to Glenville State College in Glenville, West Virginia, for the *Cybersecurity and Safety Workforce Development Initiative*. This new workforce development program will annually provide training and professional certification opportunities to over 500 unemployed, underemployed, or displaced workers in a 14-county region in North Central West Virginia that suffers from economic distress and the impact of the decline in the coal economy. The training will focus on high-demand fields of cybersecurity, homeland security, policing, corrections, and similar security professions. Recent reports indicate that there are currently more than 1,000 open cybersecurity jobs in West Virginia, and the number is growing rapidly. This project will enable Glenville State, the only four-year college in West Virginia located in an economically distressed county, to build a competitive workforce, increase labor participation rates, and diversify the local economy by supporting the employment needs of a growing industry. The Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation is providing additional support.

Project Title: *Launching the Mountaineer Trail Network*
Grantee: Friends of the Cheat
Award Amount: $1,089,360
Announcement Date: September 2021
Project Summary: ARC grant of $1,089,360 to the Friends of the Cheat in Kingwood, West Virginia, for the *Launching the Mountaineer Trail Network*. The project builds on a previous POWER planning grant that provided initial development of the Mountaineer Trail Network Recreation Authority (MRTNA). Activities will include the launching of the Mountaineer Trail Network; finalizing the development of MRTNA to manage the network over 15 West Virginia counties; conducting outreach to and supporting trails in the region to become part of the formal network; providing tourism-oriented business mentoring; establishing the Network's joint branding and marketing platforms; and launching the network for public use. Engaged in the project are multiple partners, including Hatfield-McCoy Regional Recreation Authority, Downstream Strategies, and WVU Outdoor Economic Development Collaborative. Major financial support for the project is being provided by the Claude Worthington Benedum

Foundation, Just Transition Fund, U.S. Office of Surface Mining Reclamation, and Enforcement and Downstream Strategies. The project is expected to improve 15 communities and create 70 businesses and 1,237 jobs.

Project Title: *WV Center for Nurse Entrepreneurship*
Grantee: Future of Nursing West Virginia
Award Amount: $630,000
Announcement Date: September 2021
Project Summary: ARC grant of $630,000 to Future of Nursing West Virginia in Charleston, West Virginia, for the *WV Center for Nurse Entrepreneurship* project. This project will create a physical space to foster entrepreneurial activities and increase economic opportunities for nurses, especially advanced practice nurses, who are qualified to provide direct health care services, including prescriptions and telehealth. The center will help expand the pilot project training curriculum, provide regional training for nurses looking to be successful entrepreneurs, and expand the online WV Nurses in Business Directory. Staff will train, coach, mentor, and provide financial resources to 100 nurse participants who are expected to open 40 businesses over three years. Project partners include the West Virginia Small Business Development Center and the West Virginia Chamber of Commerce. The U.S. Economic Development Administration and the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation are providing additional funding.

Project Title: *Health Care Workforce Gap Analysis Project*
Grantee: The Center for Rural Health Development
Award Amount: $50,000
Announcement Date: September 2021
Project Summary: ARC grant of $50,000 to the Center for Rural Health Development in Hurricane, West Virginia, for the *Health Care Workforce Gap Analysis Project,* which will focus on the collective system for recruitment and retention of the state's healthcare workforce. This project will build on prior work from the West Virginia Office of Rural Health and other stakeholder research to perform a gap analysis that includes a number of activities: planning, stakeholder engagement and input, data review and analysis, and development of project deliverables. These activities will lead to an internal report for various stakeholders across West Virginia detailing gaps in the state's healthcare workforce; it will eventually lead to an "at-a-glance" document for marketing, fund-development, education, and outreach.

Project Title: *Trail Town Plan for the Elk River Rail Trail System*
Grantee: Braxton County Development Authority
Award Amount: $50,000
Announcement Date: September 2021
Project Summary: ARC grant of $50,000 to the Braxton County Development Authority in Sutton, West Virginia, for the *Trail Town Plan for the Elk River Rail Trail System* project. In partnership with the Elk River Trail Foundation, Inc. (ERTF), the Braxton County Development Authority will inventory tourism infrastructure and identify community assets along the 50-plus-mile Elk River Trail system in Braxton and Clay counties. In addition to identifying potential tourism infrastructure improvements, project activities will include the development of strategies to support business development in the area and the creation of an overall plan with both community- and regional-level goals and objectives.

Project Title: *Equity in Entrepreneurship: Strategic Planning for Youth Entrepreneurship*
Grantee: West Virginia University
Award Amount: $49,974
Announcement Date: September 2021
Project Summary: ARC grant of $49,974 to West Virginia University in Morgantown, West Virginia, for the *Equity in Entrepreneurship: Strategic Planning for Youth Entrepreneurship* project. Headed by the West Virginia University Extension Service in partnership with West Virginia University Chambers College of Business and Economics and the West Virginia Public Education Collaborative, the project will conduct strategic planning for the expansion of youth entrepreneurship education, specifically focusing on rural and low-income youth in West Virginia. The project's goal is to build the capacity of current and next-generation leaders and organizations to innovate, collaborate, and advance community and economic development. The project is expected to produce one plan/report, which will include mapping of available resources, identification of gaps in service, discussion of barriers to participation and strategies for increasing access, and identification of opportunities for increased collaboration.

Project Title: *RenewAll Cultural Wealth Hub: An Investment in Heritage Tourism and Entrepreneurship*
Grantee: RenewAll, Inc.
Award Amount: $47,500
Announcement Date: September 2021
Project Summary: ARC grant of $47,500 to RenewAll in Huntington, West Virginia, for the *RenewAll Cultural Wealth Hub: An Investment in Heritage Tourism and Entrepreneurship* project. The project will transform RenewAll's two-building complex into a flex-space "Cultural Wealth Hub" that will house a vendor space for creative entrepreneurs, a makerspace for cultural goods, a heritage museum and educational center, an indoor/outdoor performing arts and cultural events venue, an entrepreneurial training space, and the office for the RenewAll Main Street organization. RenewAll will develop a model for incubating and supporting more heritage tourism, arts, and cultural entrepreneurship in the Old Central City area. The project is expected to produce five plans/reports, serve 19 businesses, and improve six businesses.

Project Title: *Lewis County Greenways: A Feasibility Study*
Grantee: Lewis County Commission
Award Amount: $40,680
Announcement Date: September 2021
Project Summary: ARC grant of $40,680 to the Lewis County Commission in Weston, West Virginia, for *Lewis County Greenways: A Feasibility Study*. The study will investigate a greenway spanning Braxton, Harrison, and Lewis counties that would provide a people-oriented, non-motorized green pathway that connects historic sites, recreational assets, and business districts along a line of the three counties. The final study will engage local stakeholders and provide recommendations for trail alignment, implementation strategy, budgeting, operations and maintenance, and construction phasing, as well as considerations for the placement of a future community recreation center.

Project Title: *State Use—Job Placement of Disability Community Expansion*
Grantee: West Virginia Association of Rehabilitation Facilities (WVARF)
Award Amount: $40,312
Announcement Date: September 2021
Project Summary: ARC grant of $40,312 to the West Virginia Association of Rehabilitation Facilities (WVARF) in Charleston, West Virginia, for *State Use—Job Placement of Disability Community Expansion* project. The project will conduct a statewide needs assessment and

detailed economic impact study of the State Use Program, identifying state agency needs in order to expand community rehabilitation programs (CRPs) that provide workforce development, employment opportunities, and entrepreneurial support to citizens with disabilities and individuals in recovery from substance use disorder (SUD). With this planning grant, WVARF and its project partners will assist the 27 established CRPs across West Virginia, the SUD recovery community, and corporate partners in crafting the appropriate vocational training to develop a workforce that meets identified state agency needs.

Project Title: *Wayne County Phase 1 Broadband Fiber Project*
Grantee: Wayne County Commissioners
Award Amount: $1,551,200
Announcement Date: December 2021
Project Summary: ARC grant of $1,551,200 to Wayne County, West Virginia for the *Wayne County Phase 1 Broadband Fiber project*. Through this project, Wayne County will deploy 16.8 miles of middle-mile fiber stretching from Mountwest Community College to Wayne County's 911 center. The project will establish last-mile fiber-to-the-premises service in four underserved communities in northern Wayne County: Beech Fork, Marina, Lavalette and Ardel. This project is expected to serve up to 191 businesses, 4 communities and 796 households.

2020 Awards

Project Title: *Thundercloud Gigabit City Deployment*
Grantee: Thundercloud, Inc.
Award Amount: $2,353,788
Announcement Date: October 2020
Project Summary: ARC grant of $2,353,788 to Thundercloud, Inc., in Huntington, WV for the *Thundercloud Gigabit City Deployment project*. The project will support approximately 25 miles of fiber construction to create a fiber loop that will connect Barboursville to downtown Huntington and deploy a robust last-mile underground fiber ring linking businesses and anchor institutions to gigabit speed infrastructure. Once fully operational, it is estimated 500 businesses will utilize the fiber ring. It will be part of a larger planned broadband network in the nine-county Advantage Valley region. The loop will also connect to the Thundercloud Data Center, which is planned for a federally designated Opportunity Zone and is benefitting from a prior POWER grant to Opportunity Appalachia. The center will provide state-of-the-art, secure, dual-redundant, high-capacity data storage and cloud computing capacity for the greater Huntington region. Large anchor institutions are likely candidates to use the data center services. The center would also connect to the established state-of-the-art data center in South Charleston. Thundercloud will boost telehealth and telelearning progress, drive new economic development, serve downtown and technology park businesses seeking better broadband access, and upgrade four key Huntington municipal and public safety facilities.

Project Title: *Creating Communities of Healings by Cultivating Businesses to Address the Opioid Crisis*
Grantee: Region 4 Planning and Development Council
Award Amount: $1,499,894
Announcement Date: October 2020
Project Summary: ARC grant of $1,499,894 to the Region 4 Planning and Development Council in Summersville, WV for *Creating Communities of Healings by Cultivating Businesses to Address the Opioid Crisis*. The Region 4 Planning and Development Council—in partnership with Seed Sower, Inc., Fruits of Labor, Wright Venture Services, the WV Hive, and Workforce WV Region 1—will create a program that strengthens the recovery-to-work ecosystem in southern West Virginia through the growth of social entrepreneurship in the

food sector. This work will encourage businesses to meet the needs of communities coping with the opioid crisis by creating a "social impact hub" that offers cohort-based training for food-based businesses and entrepreneurs seeking to invest in the social mission of recovery. The cultivation of businesses and entrepreneurs to address the opioid crisis in Appalachia is a key component in improving the response to substance use disorder. The project takes advantage of entrepreneurship resources supported by a prior POWER grant to the WV Hive. As a result of the project, 75 businesses, 30 workers/trainees, and 150 participants will be served; 30 businesses, 20 workers/trainees, and 100 participants will be improved; nine jobs will be created; and $500,000 in private investment will be leveraged.

Project Title: *Tri-State Aviation Maintenance Technician Start-Up*
Grantee: Region II Development Council
Award Amount: $1,360,852
Announcement Date: October 2020
Project Summary: ARC grant of $1,360,852 to the Region II Development Council in Huntington, WV for the *Tri-State Aviation Maintenance Technician Start-Up*. The project will fill the growing need for aviation maintenance technicians to support the burgeoning aerospace industry in West Virginia, Ohio, and Kentucky, helping diversify the regional economy. Marshall University will offer a new Aviation Maintenance Technician (AMT) Program that will prepare individuals for aviation maintenance careers. Students will earn an Applied Associate of Science degree to be jointly awarded by Marshall University and Mountwest Community and Technical College. This dual degree option will be the first of its kind in Appalachia. Within three years of the project's completion, at least 105 students and 43 workers/trainees will have obtained new jobs or enhanced their current employment or still be enrolled in the program. And at least 95 businesses will have been improved by hiring these students and workers/trainees. Other major funding is being provided by the U.S. Economic Development Administration.

Project Title: *Strengthening Substance Abuse Recovery Ecosystems to Provide a Healthy and Ready Workforce*
Grantee: Southern Highlands Community Mental Health Center (SHCMHC)
Award Amount: $480,000
Announcement Date: October 2020
Project Summary: ARC grant of $480,000 to Southern Highlands Community Mental Health Center (SHCMHC) in Princeton, West Virginia, for the *Strengthening Substance Abuse Recovery Ecosystems to Provide a Healthy and Ready Workforce* project. This project will implement a peer navigator/recovery coach (PN/RC) model that provides outreach and linkage to integrated care for substance use disorder (SUD), mental health, and drug-use-related chronic infections. SHCMHC, which serves McDowell, Wyoming, and Mercer counties, will employ PN/RCs to reach persons with SUD through existing programs that respond to overdoses, provide syringe services, and via self-referral. This model will build a strong local recovery ecosystem by linking existing medical treatment with job training and assistance for entering the workforce. Through the project, 150 individuals with SUD will complete treatment, and 60 former individuals with substance use disorder will be gainfully employed.

Project Title: *Creating a Sustainable Volunteer Trail Maintenance Program: A Key Requirement for Achieving Economic Development through Recreational Tourism*
Grantee: Appalachian Forest Heritage Area, Inc.
Award Amount: $50,000
Announcement Date: October 2020
Project Summary: ARC grant of $50,000 to Appalachian Forest Heritage Area, Inc., in Elkins, WV for *Creating a Sustainable Volunteer Trail Maintenance Program: A Key Requirement for Achieving Economic Development through Recreational Tourism*. The project will

develop a business plan for a volunteer trail maintenance center and program. Elements of the business plan will include community leadership initiatives, local partnerships, relationships with businesses that benefit from recreational tourism, growing a funding base, delivering trail maintenance training, a volunteer management system, and a communications/marketing plan for the program and center. These elements will provide tourist trail maintenance at low cost while connecting each community to its surrounding natural assets, thereby strengthening the area's recreation-based businesses. Matching funds are provided by the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation.

Project Title: *Wheeling Heritage Gateway Initiative*
Grantee: Wheeling National Heritage Area Corporation (WNHAC)
Award Amount: $50,000
Announcement Date: October 2020
Project Summary: ARC grant of $50,000 to Wheeling National Heritage Area Corporation (WNHAC) in Wheeling, WV, for the *Wheeling Heritage Gateway Initiative*. The project will conduct a feasibility study, including the creation of an economic and technical feasibility strategy, to transform four key sites along Wheeling's Main Street into a unified "heritage gateway" for the downtown core. The centerpiece of the heritage gateway will be a new Wheeling Heritage Center that includes a multiuse visitors center, heritage museum, and events venue. The "heritage gateway" will reinvigorate the downtown, support regional job creation, and attract new visitors and businesses.

Project Title: *Aero-Ready in Southern WV*
Grantee: New River Gorge Regional Development Authority
Award Amount: $50,000
Announcement Date: October 2020
Project Summary: ARC grant of $50,000 to the New River Gorge Regional Development Authority in Beckley, WV, for *Aero-Ready in Southern WV*. This project will craft a strategic plan, including cost analysis, to create and implement a workforce training and education curriculum to support the aerospace industry in southern West Virginia. It will identify gaps in the existing aerospace programming currently serving West Virginia, work with the Federal Aviation Administration, and present an implementation plan for a workforce training and degree curriculum between New River Community and Technical College and WVU Tech.

2019 Awards

Project Title: *Geographic Food and Agriculture Systems Development*
Grantee: West Virginia Food & Farm Coalition, Inc.
Award Amount: $1,020,556
Announcement Date: February 2019
Project Summary: ARC grant to the West Virginia Food & Farm Coalition in Charleston, WV, for the *Geographic Food and Agriculture Systems Development* project. The project will provide coordination, capacity building, training, and technical assistance to enable farmers, food businesses, and community members to determine and execute agribusiness priorities. This will result in increased food production and access to previously unreachable markets, thereby creating greater economic diversity for areas that have been heavily impacted by the decline in coal production. The project will deploy seed capital, in the form of mini grants, to attract private dollars and execute larger-scale projects that strengthen the local food system. The West Virginia Food & Farm Coalition will strengthen the local food supply chain, increase market opportunities for local growers, including more than 75 food-related entrepreneurs, and attract private investment in five foodsheds that span seventeen coal-

impacted counties of West Virginia. Additional funding for the project is provided by the Mary Reynolds Babcock Foundation and the Greater Kanawha Valley Foundation.

Project Title: *Agribusiness Development in the Upper Ohio Valley*
Grantee: Grow Ohio Valley Inc.
Award Amount: $796,924
Announcement Date: February 2019
Project Summary: ARC grant to Grow Ohio Valley (GOV) in Wheeling, WV, for the *Agribusiness Development in the Upper Ohio Valley* project. Serving agricultural producers and businesses in a three-state region (West Virginia, Ohio, and Pennsylvania), Grow Ohio Valley will help diversify and strengthen the regional economy in an area that has been heavily dependent on coal. It will launch a year-round consignment market in an unused downtown space of Wheeling, West Virginia, and will develop a branded product line featuring local ingredients to be sold at the market. The project will bridge gaps in the supply chain by producing in-demand goods not currently grown by local farmers. Additional market opportunities for farmers will be developed through the expansion of GOV's FARMacy initiative, which partners with healthcare providers to offer prescriptions of fresh produce to patients suffering from chronic diseases and substance abuse issues. The project will also roll out a STEM-focused curriculum in Ohio County, West Virginia, schools that equips high school students to pursue indoor agricultural careers. The project will improve 100 businesses, create 66 jobs, launch three businesses, and leverage more than $460,000 in private investment. Additional funding is provided by the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation.

Project Title: *Reintegrate Appalachia: Job Creation and Workforce Development for West Virginians Impacted by Substance Use Disorders*
Grantee: Morgantown Sober Living Inc.
Award Amount: $485,284
Announcement Date: February 2019
Project Summary: ARC grant to Morgantown Sober Living Inc. in Morgantown, WV, for the *Reintegrate Appalachia: Job Creation and Workforce Development for West Virginians Impacted by Substance Use Disorders* project. *Reintegrate Appalachia* is a unique job creation and workforce development project specifically designed for those recovering from substance use disorder (SUD). Morgantown Sober Living, with its addiction treatment expertise and recovery monitoring approach, will enhance Coalfield Development Corporation's successful workforce development model by adding a robust addiction recovery monitoring program to create the 33-6-3-PLUS program. The 33-6-3-PLUS program consists of 33 hours of full-time employment per week, 6 hours per week of higher education in a community or technical college setting, 3 hours per week of a professional development curriculum and mentorship, and an addiction recovery monitoring program (the PLUS). *Reintegrate Appalachia* re-engages each participant in the community through meaningful employment and the opportunity to continue their education and grow their professional skills, while providing the clinical and peer-to-peer support needed to maintain sobriety. The project will establish centers in Braxton, McDowell, Wayne, and Monongalia counties. At least 40 adults will obtain full-time employment and 24 will still be enrolled in the program and working towards that goal at the end of the project period.

Project Title: *Creating a More Vibrant Economy for Coal-Impacted Counties in West Virginia*
Grantee: Center for Rural Health Development
Award Amount: $100,000
Announcement Date: February 2019
Project Summary: ARC grant to the Center for Rural Health Development in Hurricane, WV, for the *Creating a More Vibrant Economy for Coal-Impacted Counties in West Virginia*

project. The project will provide technical assistance for the development of a Community Health Improvement Plan in each of five targeted distressed West Virginia counties (Calhoun, Logan, McDowell, Roane, and Webster). Each plan will be developed by a cross-sector partnership involving government agencies, private businesses, education, economic development organizations, health care organizations, and residents in each county. The project will build capacity through a model of change that was developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO). The project aims to create a culture of health which will help prevent future opioid use and help stymie expansion of the current opioid crisis. Financial partners include the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation, the Logan Healthcare Foundation, and the Sisters of Health Foundation.

Project Title: *Benefit U: An Entrepreneur's Guide to Financial, Health Insurance & Retirement Solutions*
Grantee: Women's Institute for a Secure Retirement
Award Amount: $80,691
Announcement Date: February 2019
Project Summary: ARC grant to the Women's Institute for a Secure Retirement (WISER) in Washington, D.C., for *Benefit U: An Entrepreneur's Guide to Financial, Health Insurance, and Retirement Solutions*. Targeting five distressed counties in West Virginia (Boone, Logan, McDowell, Mingo, and Wyoming), WISER will develop Benefit U to serve as a virtual human relations department for entrepreneurs, self-employed workers, independent contractors, and other workers without access to benefits resources. Benefit U will include paycheck guidance, income tax assistance programs, health insurance navigators, emergency and long-term savings advice, and financial education and retirement planning tools.

Project Title: Craft Beer and Spirit Trail
Grantee: Marshall University Research Corporation
Award Amount: $79,270
Announcement Date: February 2019
Project Summary: ARC grant to the Marshall University Research Corporation, in Huntington, WV for the *Craft Beer and Spirit Trail* project. The project will conduct an economic impact study of the emerging craft beer and spirits industry in central and western West Virginia counties (Cabell, Kanawha, Putnam, and Roane). The study will identify emerging strengths, existing leakages, and new business and employment opportunities to guide local economic development leaders. Project activities will include asset mapping, leakage monitoring, and guidance to establish a road map for building local efforts into a cohesive regional program for the craft beer and spirits trail. Key partners include the WV Department of Tourism, Putnam County Economic Development Authority, Huntington Area Development Corporation, Huntington Regional Chamber of Commerce, and the Charleston Area Alliance.

Project Title: *Linking Trails and Communities to Spawn Economic Growth and Wellness: Expanding the Southern West Virginia Bike Trail Network*
Grantee: New River Gorge Trail Alliance
Award Amount: $59,500
Announcement Date: February 2019
Project Summary: ARC grant to the New River Gorge Trail Alliance (NRGTA) in Fayetteville, WV, for the *Linking Trails and Communities to Spawn Economic Growth and Wellness: Expanding the Southern West Virginia Bike Trail Network* project. The project will guide the expansion of the current regional trail network to add five counties: Kanawha, Monroe, Raleigh, Summers, and Webster. Key partners include the Rails to Trails Conservancy, WV Division of Highways, Region 4 Planning and Development Council, and the National Park

Service. The project will support community engagement for trail towns, trail vision mapping, capacity building for local trail organizations, and trail mapping, which includes rail corridor and road inventory, rail and trail assessment, and trail feasibility efforts. The trail planning documents will serve as a comprehensive roadmap for communities to transform an unused railroad corridor or other areas into a dynamic multi-use trail and will produce trail town toolkits to benefit all eight counties along the trail.

Project Title: *Growing Capacity: Integrating Agri-Development Centers in Central Appalachia*
Grantee: Sprouting Farms Corporation
Award Amount: $1,499,993
Announcement Date: October 2019
Project Summary: ARC grant to Sprouting Farms Corporation in Talcott, WV for the *Growing Capacity: Integrating Agri-Development Centers in Central Appalachia* project. Sprouting Farms, in collaboration with nine key partners, will build upon existing food system work in Central Appalachia by creating a network of Agri-Development Centers in West Virginia and Southwest Virginia. These Centers will support the scaling of agricultural production to meet the needs of additional wholesale markets as well as build a workforce development network that creates a pipeline of skilled, reliable workers. Project activities will support the expansion of a wholesale production incubator program for beginning farmers; the integration of existing post-production and culinary workforce training programs for youth and adults who are unemployed, in recovery, or previously incarcerated; and the development of replicable food enterprise and workforce development programs for partners across Central Appalachia. Sprouting Farms projects that this project will serve 152 business, create 125 new jobs, and leverage $1.4 million in private investment across 16 counties in central Appalachia. Other federal funding is being provided by the USDA Local Food Promotion Program, a Rural Business Development grant, and the Abandoned Mine Lands pilot program. Additional support for the work in West Virginia is being provided by the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation.

Project Title: *Fostering Advantages for Startups and Entrepreneurial Resurgence (FASTER) in West Virginia*
Grantee: Advantage Valley
Award Amount: $1,055,001
Announcement Date: October 2019
Project Summary: ARC grant to Advantage Valley in Charleston, WV and the Wyoming County Economic Development Authority in Pineville, WV for *Fostering Advantages for Startups and Entrepreneurial Resurgence (FASTER) in West Virginia*. This program is designed to encourage economic diversification, business growth, and job creation within a seven-county region of West Virginia. FASTER will partner with local economic development authorities, educational institutions, and business incubators to foster startups and business expansion. The project consists of two components: technical assistance to entrepreneurs and businesses through Advantage Valley and its contractors (a $930,001 grant to Advantage Valley); and recapitalizing a revolving loan fund operated by the Wyoming County Economic Development Authority (a grant of $150,000). The loan fund will be limited to businesses referred by Advantage Valley. Together they will provide entrepreneurial training, business coaching, certifications, and a capital lending fund. FASTER anticipates the creation of at least 50 new businesses, 60 credentialed entrepreneurs, and 150 new jobs, while leveraging $4.5 million in private investment. Additional funding is being provided by the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation, Bridge Valley Community and Technical College, and Unlimited Future, Inc.

Project Title: *3 Steps to Start Up*
Grantee: WV High Technology Consortium Foundation (WVHTC)
Award Amount: $837,970
Announcement Date: October 2019
Project Summary: ARC grant to the WV High Technology Consortium Foundation (WVHTC) in Fairmont, WV for the 3 Steps to Start Up project. The project will connect, accelerate, and launch new businesses in a 42-county, coal-impacted region of West Virginia by establishing a three-step portal of entry for early-stage startups in the state's growing entrepreneurial ecosystem. WVHTC is partnering with WV TechConnect, INNOVA Commercialization Group, and WV Jobs Investment Trust (WVJIT) to build and spread the entrepreneurial pipeline. The "3 Steps" of the project consist of building awareness and education to develop a pipeline of entrepreneurs; providing access to a network of mentors and professional services for early stage businesses; and making available $1.2 million in investment capital from WVJIT for entrepreneurs seeking to launch or expand businesses. The project is expected to serve 85 businesses with entrepreneurial support services and create 124 new jobs and 15 new businesses. Additional funding is being provided by the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation.

Project Title: *Simulated Workplace Entrepreneurship Education Pathway (SWEEP)*
Grantee: EdVenture Group Inc.
Award Amount: $717,166
Announcement Date: October 2019
Project Summary: ARC grant to the EdVenture Group Inc. in Morgantown, WV for the *Simulated Workplace Entrepreneurship Education Pathway (SWEEP)* program. SWEEP seeks to build entrepreneurial mindsets and support business venture development within West Virginia's Career and Technical Education (CTE) students. It capitalizes on the state's innovative Simulated Workplace initiative, which transforms CTE environments into industry-recognized, functioning workplaces in which students drive their own learning. By providing students with in-depth entrepreneurial training in a simulated workplace environment, SWEEP will equip students with the skills needed to find success within their own communities in six economically distressed counties (Calhoun, Fayette, Gilmer, Lincoln, Mingo, and Wyoming). Key partners include the West Virginia Department of Education, Marshall University, Intuit Education, and Standwatch Academy. The project will expose 1000 students and 75 instructors to entrepreneurship education through project-based learning, and 50 business plans will be developed.

Project Title: *Broadband Infrastructure to Augment Education and Industry Cluster Development at the West Virginia Regional Technology Park*
Grantee: West Virginia Regional Technology Park Corp.
Award Amount: $650,000
Announcement Date: October 2019
Project Summary: ARC grant to the West Virginia Regional Technology Park Corp. in South Charleston, WV for the *Broadband Infrastructure to Augment Education and Industry Cluster Development at the West Virginia Regional Technology Park* project. The project will construct a fiber ring around 12 buildings in the West Virginia Regional Technology Park. Currently only half of the buildings at the park have broadband access. The project will equip all of the park's buildings for broadband service speeds up to 100 Gbps and will complete a redundant fiber ring. It will add a 288 fiber-count ring around the park and 24 fiber-count drops into each building. This will cover diverse access from selected buildings to the park's network and from the park's network to the provider's broadband network, providing support for all voice, data networking, and internet access services. This expanded broadband access is expected to serve 30 businesses. It will facilitate an expansion by an existing company in the park, adding 150 new jobs.

Project Title: *Appalachian Beekeeping Collective Diversification and Expansion*
Grantee: Appalachian Headwaters
Award Amount: $622,280
Announcement Date: October 2019
Project Summary: ARC grant to Appalachian Headwaters in Lewisburg, WV for the *Appalachian Beekeeping Collective Diversification and Expansion* project. Appalachian Headwaters will build on a previous POWER grant by expanding its economic diversification and entrepreneur training program focused on the apiculture (honey and bee products) industry to 17 counties in southern West Virginia and five counties in Appalachian Virginia. The project will provide employment opportunities, training, and business support services to take advantage of significant market opportunities in beekeeping and honey production. The project will serve over 1,000 new and existing beekeeping entrepreneurs, and is expected to create an estimated 150 jobs, retain 145 existing jobs, and create 65 new businesses. It will leverage $635,580 in private investment, and non-export sales revenues are expected to increase by $1.4 million after three years. The project will establish a new processing and training hub in southwestern Virginia and develop a training and marketing program for new bee products and services.

Project Title: *Mountaineer Trail Network: Preston County Pilot Trail Plan*
Grantee: Friends of the Cheat, Inc.
Award Amount: $50,000
Announcement Date: October 2019
Project Summary: ARC grant to Friends of the Cheat, Inc. in Kingwood, WV for the development of the *Mountaineer Trail Network: Preston County Pilot Trail Plan*. This project will produce the first comprehensive trail plan within the newly formed Mountaineer Trail Network, a 10-county bike trail system in north-central West Virginia. Centered on Preston County, the trail plan will map all existing trail resources, highlight existing connection gaps, and identify trail routes that would link existing amenities to other key trails and recreation hubs. The project will also conduct a market assessment and a workforce development assessment, linking the trail to broader economic development efforts. As the first trail plan within the Mountaineer Trail Network, the plan will serve as a model to be replicated in the network's other nine counties. Additional funding is coming from the federal Abandoned Mine Lands pilot program.

Project Title: *Bio Based Manufacturing*
Grantee: Wayne County Economic Development Authority
Award Amount: $50,000
Announcement Date: October 2019
Project Summary: ARC grant to the Wayne County Economic Development Authority in Wayne, WV for the *Bio Based Manufacturing* strategic plan. The strategic plan will assess new market and employment opportunities in bio-based manufacturing, and will lead to business formation and job creation in recycling, trucking, logistics, and manufacturing across parts of Ohio, West Virginia, and Kentucky. The project will develop market-ready business plans around bio-manufacturing opportunities in local markets, including upcycling of landfill-destined materials and developing the logistical networks for connecting those opportunities. It will provide the blueprint for further collaboration with Coalfield Development Corporation to create new jobs, rescue and repurpose thousands of tons of materials from landfills, and promote sustainable investment in local economies and infrastructures. Additional funding comes from the West Virginia Specialty Crop program and the Cliff Bar Foundation.

2018 Awards

Project Title: *State of West Virginia Broadband Development Hub*
Grantee: West Virginia Geological & Economic Survey
Award Amount: $100,000
Announcement Date: September 2018
Project Summary: ARC grant to West Virginia Geological & Economic Survey in Charleston, WV, for the State of West Virginia Broadband Development Hub. The grant will fund an online hub hosting information concerning prospective broadband deployment in West Virginia. Initially ten counties and their municipalities will have access to a broadband development hub that will host content related to broadband deployment, including information on access, public rights-of-way, a database of currently available assets, and draft contracts for dealing with service providers. Multiple agencies throughout the state will contribute to the platform. The data collected throughout this process will then be used to create a *Guide to Broadband Development in West Virginia* and a supplemental legaltoolkit. Once the initial ten counties' broadband deployment needs have been addressed, access to the broadband development hub will be extended to the rest of West Virginia. In addition to the POWER grant, an additional $50,000 for the hub is being provided through special ARC funding for broadband work in distressed West Virginia counties.

Project Title: Tug Fork River Water Trail Access Plan
Grantee: National Coal Heritage Area Authority
Award Amount: $64,000
Announcement Date: September 2018
Project Summary: ARC grant to the National Coal Heritage Area Authority in Oak Hill, WV, to study natural and cultural heritage assets of the Tug Fork River and the communities along its banks. The 159-mile river runs through three states—Kentucky, West Virginia, and Virginia—and much of the region has been heavily impacted by the decline of the coal industry. This study would lay the foundation for the development of an outdoor recreation tourism sector by establishing the Tug Fork River as a recreational water trail. GIS technology will be utilized to identify and mark potential river access points, mile markers, and potential hazards. Local communities will be assisted in applying for Kentucky Blueway and West Virginia Water Trail designations. The resulting plan will complement existing county and regional efforts and elevate awareness of the region's natural and cultural assets.

Project Title: *EntreEd K-14: Every Student, Every Year*
Grantee: Consortium for Entrepreneurship Education
Award Amount: $2,196,450
Announcement Date: October 2018
Project Summary: ARC grant to the Consortium for Entrepreneurship Education in Charleston, WV, for the *EntreEd K-14: Every Student, Every Year* project. The EntreEd program enables K–12 teachers to integrate entrepreneurial content and context into delivery of required standards in any subject or grade level. The project will educate the next generation of Appalachia's workforce to create their own businesses to drive the local economy. ARC funds will expand the footprint of the proven EntreEd program into five additional counties in West Virginia, eleven counties in Kentucky, three counties in Ohio, one county in Tennessee, and two counties in Virginia. The program will be supported by expertise from the National Association for Community College Entrepreneurship (NACCE), project management from the EdVenture Group, and funding from the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation. The EntreEd program will serve 15,000 K–12 Appalachian students in 50 individual schools and 7 community colleges over the life of the award.

Project Title: *Appalachian Social Entrepreneurship Investment Strategy*
Grantee: Coalfield Development Corporation
Award Amount: $1,870,000
Announcement Date: October 2018
Project Summary: ARC grant to the Coalfield Development Corporation in Wayne, WV, for the *Appalachian Social Entrepreneurship Investment Strategy*. ARC funds will be used to incubate job-creating social enterprises; scale-up Coalfield Development Corporation's innovate 33-6-3 on-the-job training/education/life skills workforce development model; and expand Coalfield Development Corporation's service territory to other coal-impacted areas in Southern West Virginia. The award will create 85 new jobs and equip 60 trainees to pursue quality jobs in high-demand industries in the Appalachian Region, and will be supported by funding from the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation.

Project Title: *West Virginia Forest Products Cooperative*
Grantee: West Virginia Forest Products Cooperative, Inc.
Award Amount: $1,800,000
Announcement Date: October 2018
Project Summary: ARC grant to the West Virginia Forest Products Cooperative, Inc. (WVFPC) in Princeton, WV, to foster a more competitive forest products-based industry in an interstate region centered at Princeton, West Virginia. WVFPC plans to develop a skilled, competitive workforce capable of utilizing advanced manufacturing equipment and processes for the manufacture of secondary forest products. Training will be provided through a partnership with the Robert C. Byrd Center for Advanced Manufacturing at Marshall University. The Cooperative will also encourage business development and entrepreneurial activities from the pool of trained members. These two initiatives will lead to the formation of a forest products hub that will allow businesses to be independent designers and manufacturers but at the same time capture the efficiencies of scale that are usually only afforded to larger companies. The resulting numbers at the project's completion are expected to include 50 new businesses created, 250 new jobs created, ten existing jobs retained, and $4 million in leveraged private investment, 50 businesses improved, 1,000 workers improved, and 40 students improved. The U.S. Forest Service will provide manufacturing space for WVFPC.

Project Title: *Sprouting Farms*
Grantee: Marshall University Research Corporation
Award Amount: $1,502,938
Announcement Date: October 2018
Project Summary: ARC grant to Marshall University Research Corporation in Huntington, WV, for the *Sprouting Farms* project. The project will facilitate the development of a vibrant agricultural industry in a nine-county area in southern West Virginia by educating new farmers, launching farm businesses, and jumpstarting wholesale market channels, all while encouraging business and farm sustainability. ARC funds will be used to implement workforce and farm business accelerator training programs; secure and upgrade the project site and facilities; and provide direct business support and employment to new agricultural businesses and program graduates. The project will create 20 new businesses and 33 new jobs, and leverage $961,475 in additional investment. Additional funding is being provided by the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation.

Project Title: *Appalachian Hatchery*
Grantee: Marshall University Research Corporation
Award Amount: $1,500,000
Announcement Date: October 2018
Project Summary: ARC grant to the Marshall University Research Corporation in Huntington, WV, for the *Appalachian Hatchery* project. The program, operated through the Robert C.

Byrd Institute, will assist specific businesses affected by the decline in coal production return to profitability through the adoption and deployment of emerging advanced manufacturing technologies—primarily 3D printing and additive manufacturing. In addition, the program will provide other business assistance services, including shared equipment options, modern workforce development strategies, and the establishment of better linkages between large and small manufacturers. The program will serve a 20-county region— including 13 Distressed or At-Risk counties—in southern West Virginia, will create or retain 375 jobs, and will leverage $750,000 in private investment. Additional funding is being provided by the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation.

Project Title: *Creating Opportunities for Recovery Employment (CORE)*
Grantee: Marshall University Research Corporation
Award Amount: $1,499,175
Announcement Date: October 2018
Project Summary: ARC grant to the Marshall University Research Corporation in Huntington, WV, for the Creating Opportunities for Recovery Employment (CORE) Program. The program will develop a regional system to provide treatment and recovery services, job training, and placement assistance for displaced workers suffering from the effects of the downturn in coal production and the opioid epidemic in rural, southern West Virginia. Components of this large-scale project include three hubs offering peer recovery coaches and job training and placement, six Drug Free Moms and Babies sites, three new programs offering medication assisted treatment by health care providers, and a network of private sector partnerships. Other innovative aspects of the CORE Program feature development of social enterprises to create additional sustainable employment opportunities to those in recovery and leveraging sustainable investment in health care delivery services by developing a “pay for success” or other innovative financing model. Key partners in the project include the Region 1 Workforce Development Board, the West Virginia Perinatal Partnership, and Coalfield Development Corporation. As a result of the CORE Program, of 1,500 participating individuals, 850 will gain improvements in the form of documented placement in a new job or the retention of an existing job. Of 250 participating businesses, 83 will benefit, as measured by the successful hiring of at least one CORE client. Sixteen jobs will be created for professionals working in the partner agencies. Approximately three new business social enterprises will be formed, providing employment opportunity and social returns for their communities. Additional funding is being provided by the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation.

Project Title: *Downtown Appalachia Redevelopment Initiative (REDI)*
Grantee: Natural Capital Investment Fund
Award Amount: $1,370,000
Announcement Date: October 2018
Project Summary: ARC grant to the Natural Capital Investment Fund (NCIF) in Shepherdstown, WV, for the Downtown Appalachia Redevelopment Initiative (REDI). The project seeks to create healthy downtown commercial districts with robust, resilient local economies in coal-impacted West Virginia towns by catalyzing downtown revitalization. Through an integrated, comprehensive set of strategies, REDI, in collaboration with the Northern West Virginia Brownfields Assistance Center, will identify, grow, and support property owners, private developers, and community development groups who will invest in and manage their properties to benefit their communities, bringing about the return of healthy real estate markets and local economies, as well as creating economic opportunities. REDI will drive sustainable economic development downtown by building local capacity among private and public sector participants, enabling catalytic commercial real estate redevelopment projects through targeted technical assistance, and providing financial packaging, structuring, and equity-like financing for projects. In addition to providing technical assistance, NCIF will launch a Downtown Appalachia Redevelopment Loan Fund as

a financial resource for eligible property owners. Expected initiative outcomes include: five communities served through the revitalization of significant buildings, five businesses improved through increased property values and/or revenues, $8 million in leveraged private investment (LPI), 80 jobs retained, and 80 jobs created. Additional financial support for REDI is being provided by the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation.

Project Title: *Growing Triple Bottom Line Small Businesses in Coal Impacted Communities in Central Appalachia*
Grantee: Natural Capital Investment Fund, Inc.
Award Amount: $1,250,000
Announcement Date: October 2018
Project Summary: ARC grant to the Natural Capital Investment Fund, Inc. in Shepherdstown, WV, for the *Growing Triple Bottom Line Small Businesses in Coal Impacted Communities in Central Appalachia* project. These funds will be used to expand coal-impacted communities' access to capital in Southern West Virginia by capitalizing a $4,000,000 tourism-related revolving loan fund and developing a West Virginia New Markets Tax Credit Fund. The project will create 200 new jobs and 20 new businesses, bring $5,000,000 of leveraged private investment into the region, and will be supported by funding from the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation.

Project Title: *Mountain State Capital: Filling the Critical Venture Capital Gap in West Virginia*
Grantee: WV Community Development Hub
Award Amount: $1,000,000
Announcement Date: October 2018
Project Summary: ARC grant to the WV Community Development Hub (The Hub) in Charleston, WV, for the *Mountain State Capital: Filling the Critical Venture Capital Gap in West Virginia* project. The project will support the development of a new venture capital (VC) fund to support high-growth startups in Central Appalachia. The fund will be a partnership between The Hub and Mountain State Capital (MSC). It seeks to boost entrepreneurial activities and grow capital investment by supporting the creation of the first seed-stage venture capital investment fund serving West Virginia and Central Appalachia. MSC will fill a critical gap in the state's entrepreneurial ecosystem, providing coaching, technical assistance support, and VC investment funds to business startups. MSC and The Hub, as a community-driven institutional investor, will target West Virginia-based startups during the first phase of the investment cycle. All revenue generated by the initial investment will be directed to a dedicated technical assistance fund to support community development across West Virginia, with particular priority given to coal-impacted rural communities. The success of these business startups will then provide long term investment return to MSC and The Hub and enable the expansion of their technical assistance grants to support community development, entrepreneurial learning, and business development products across the state.

Project Title: *New River Gorge Region - Developing an Entrepreneurial Economy (HIVE)*
Grantee: New River Gorge Regional Development Authority
Award Amount: $967,500
Announcement Date: October 2018
Project Summary: ARC grant to the New River Gorge Regional Development Authority in Beckley, WV, for the *New River Gorge Region – Developing an Entrepreneurial Economy* project. ARC funds will be used to establish a technical assistance support program—which will assist start-up businesses with hands-on technical aspects of their operations—and to hire social enterprise and region-wide business coaches. The project will yield 15 new businesses, improve 294 existing businesses, and create 225 new small business jobs.

Project Title: *Workforce Construction, teleCommunications, & Energy (CCE) Training Center*
Grantee: BridgeValley Community and Technical College
Award Amount: $749,001
Announcement Date: October 2018
Project Summary: ARC grant to BridgeValley Community and Technical College in South Charleston, WV, to develop a Construction, teleCommunications, and Energy (CCE) Workforce Training Center based in Montgomery, West Virginia. This center will provide workforce training in content areas identified by industry partners that provide the job skills needed to obtain an entry-level position in the industry. The center will also have HVAC and energy management coursework that will prepare students with the skills needed to obtain employment in the HVAC industry and electrical metering departments of utility companies. After completing eight weeks of training, students will be eligible for on-the-job training experiences at partnering companies. Expected project outcomes include ten businesses improved through access to skilled workforce and 202 workers/trainees improved through employment.

2017 Awards

Project Title: *Sustainable Employment for Community Health Workers in Coal Impacted Counties*
Grantee: Marshall University Research Corporation
Award Amount: $1,325,655
Announcement Date: January 2017
Project Summary: ARC grant to the Marshall University Research Corporation in Huntington, WV, for the *Sustainable Employment for Community Health Workers in Coal-Impacted Counties* project. The ARC award will create permanent jobs for at least 26 Community Health Workers (CHWs)—who will provide healthcare coordination services directly to high-risk patients in coal-impacted communities across 10 counties in southeastern Ohio, eastern Kentucky, and central West Virginia. CHWs will be a critical component of the local care team, supervised by a Registered Nurse and Nurse Practitioner or other clinician. Their inclusion in the regional healthcare workforce will streamline the provision of healthcare services; increase health outcomes for patients suffering from diabetes, congestive heart failure, and COPD—diseases that are disproportionately common in Appalachia; and ultimately drive down the overall cost of healthcare in the service territory. In addition to the 26 permanent jobs created, the project will serve 625 patients and leverage $780,000 over the life of the award. Additional funding is being provided by the Sisters Health Foundation and the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation.

Project Title: *Green Mining Model Business Program*
Grantee: WV Regional Technology Park Corp.
Award Amount: $1,073,304
Announcement Date: January 2017
Project Summary: ARC grant to the West Virginia Regional Technology Park Corporation in South Charleston, WV, for the *Green Mining Model Business Program*. The project brings 17 public and private partners together to operate a system of linked activities designed to use reclaimed soils on inactive surface mining land to grow value-added crops; extract high-value products from these crops and market/sell them; and leverage land reclamation, crop cultivation, and chemical extraction and processing activities to provide displaced coal and energy industry workers across 13 West Virginia counties with training, employment, and entrepreneurial opportunities. The project will focus primarily on training these displaced workers to farm and cultivate lavender—during a demonstration of the project, it was discovered that cultivation of 2.5 acres of lavender supported the direct and indirect employment of 25 individuals. The WV National Guard and coal company partners will

donate free or reduced-cost land and land preparation assistance to the project, and the West Virginia Regional Technology Park will provide access to its multi-million dollar chemical manufacturing facilities. The project will create 250 direct and indirect jobs, leverage $459,987 private investment, and create six new businesses. Additional funding for will be provided by the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation.

Project Title: *Growing Social Enterprises and Healthy Communities*
Grantee: West Virginia Healthy Kids and Family Coalition
Award Amount: $856,050
Announcement Date: January 2017
Project Summary: ARC grant to the West Virginia Healthy Kids and Family Coalition (HKFC) in Charleston, WV, for the *Growing Social Enterprise and Healthy Communities* project. HKFC will expand the successful Try This WV economic and community development program to 15 local communities in the service territory— which will enable them to phase-in second stage development activities designed to improve community vitality and health. Simultaneously, Strong Mountain Communities, a southern West Virginia economic development organization, will build a pre-market social enterprise development program and create an Investors' Circle; combined, these two activities will deliver technical assistance directly to social entrepreneurs, and will raise capital to invest in the creation and expansion of local social enterprises. The project will serve 23 counties in southern West Virginia, create 100 jobs, leverage $1,200,000 in private and community financing, and will provide for 200 entrepreneurs and community leaders to receive in-depth technical assistance.

Project Title: *Financing Entrepreneurship in Randolph, Barbour and Tucker Counties*
Grantee: Woodlands Community Lenders (WCL)
Award Amount: $300,000
Announcement Date: January 2017
Project Summary: ARC grant to Woodlands Community Lenders (WCL) in Elkins, WV, for the *Financing Entrepreneurship in Randolph, Barbour, and Tucker Counties* project. The ARC award will expand WCL's proven, comprehensive set of services to the tri-county area of Randolph, Barbour, and Tucker Counties in northeast West Virginia. Specifically, the project will deliver program participants services focused around small business development, real estate and downtown redevelopment, innovative financing of entrepreneurs, and finance packaging. WCL will work closely with local small business development center business coaches, and with Main Street/OnTRAC staff to provide technical assistance to borrowers. The project will create 100 jobs and 25 businesses, and will leverage $1,100,000 in additional private investment.

Project Title: *Hobet Strategic Plan*
Grantee: West Virginia Development Office
Award Amount: $200,000
Announcement Date: January 2017
Project Summary: ARC grant to the West Virginia Development Office for the *Hobet Strategic Plan*. West Virginia will receive technical assistance to develop a detailed economic assessment and strategic plan for the best use of the Hobet Surface Mine Site in Boone and Lincoln Counties, previously the largest surface mining operation in the state.

Project Title: Beefing Up the Local Food Economy
Grantee: Unlimited Future, Inc.
Award Amount: $36,700
Announcement Date: January 2017
Project Summary: ARC grant to Unlimited Future, Inc. in Huntington, WV, for capacity building and development of a feasibility study for expansion of local food systems. The

Beefing Up the Local Food Economy project will support the planning process for a value-added meat processing facility in a local, vacant plant. The project will also look at workforce training programs serving the meat business and at expanding market opportunities for producers across the region, which includes Kentucky, Ohio, and West Virginia. Local sources will contribute an additional $20,000 to the project.

Project Title: *Polymer Technology Center of Huntington (P-TeCH) Project*
Grantee: Huntington Municipal Development Authority
Award Amount: $750,000
Announcement Date: March 2017
Project Summary: ARC grant to the Huntington Municipal Development Authority in Huntington, WV, for the Polymer Technology Center of Huntington ("P-TeCH"). Part of a larger plan for creating jobs and businesses in the regional polymer industry, the project will convert a 27-acre abandoned brownfield in downtown Huntington (a former coal barge rail docking facility) into a multi-purpose resource for West Virginia's growing polymer manufacturing sector. A Product Development Center will assist manufacturing and technology firms with product development and design, testing, validation, and other commercialization services. A Light Manufacturing Center will provide business incubation and scale-up manufacturing space for polymer industry start-ups. P-TeCH will also be a job skills and workforce development center for a pipeline of interns, manufacturing workers, and entrepreneurs in the region. The project will partner with a leading private-sector polymer manufacturing company, leverage $2 million in private investment, and improvethe competitiveness of 24 businesses.

Project Title: *Manufacturing Value Stream for Shale*
Grantee: West Virginia University Research Corporation
Award Amount: $400,000
Announcement Date: January 2017
Project Summary: ARC grant to the West Virginia University Research Corporation in Morgantown, WV, for the *Manufacturing Value Stream for Shale* project. The project will transition companies and suppliers affected by the downturn in the coal economy toward the emerging shale-manufacturing sector by providing direct economic diversification and investment assistance. The applicant—partnering with the Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) Centers in West Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Ohio—will identify specific companies in the tri-state service area with shale-manufacturing assets and opportunities; assess participating companies' prospective entry points into the shale-manufacturing value stream; and deliver direct guidance to SMEs on value chain opportunities. The award will create 400 new jobs and 12 new businesses. Additional funding is being provided the by Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation.

Project Title: *KVC Health Systems College*
Grantee: KVC Health Systems, Inc.
Award Amount: $20,800
Announcement Date: May 2017
Project Summary: ARC technical assistance grant to KVC Health Systems, Inc., in Charleston, WV, for the *KVC Health Systems College* project. The technical assistance will help KVC Health Systems develop a feasibility study for the KVC College concept, which envisions repurposing the former campus of the West Virginia University Institute of Technology in Fayette County into a specialized, accredited college with a focus on young adults emerging from foster care. The feasibility study will evaluate the site for redevelopment and determine the appropriate workforce and life skills programming that will benefit the region. The downturn in the regional coal economy and the closure of the WVU Tech branch campus provide an opportunity to recruit and create a skilled workforce and make non-residential

educational programming available. Once the feasibility study and workforce plans are completed, KVC Health Systems will explore various funding opportunities to implement the full concept.

Project Title: *Center of Excellence in Manufacturing Engineering (CEME)*
Grantee: Bluefield State College (BSC)
Award Amount: $1,500,000
Announcement Date: June 2017
Project Summary: ARC grant to Bluefield State College (BSC) in Bluefield, WV, for equipment and program support for the *Center of Excellence in Manufacturing Engineering (CEME)*. The leading-edge training and lab equipment will prepare existing workers and new students, including displaced coal industry workers, to meet the demands of new manufacturing technology and processes. In response to changing industry needs and emerging markets, BSC recently updated its degree and workforce training programs to offer the new Manufacturing Engineering Technology program of study. This project will build the capacity and equip that program so that it may train new students, displaced coal miners, and other workers impacted by the decline of the coal industry. The center will provide consultation, assessments, and other technical assistance to mining equipment and service companies to help them innovate, develop new product lines, and streamline existing services. The center will focus on collaborative robotics and offer services and training related to 3D printing, design for manufacturability, and adaptive manufacturing methods. These activities collectively will create a strong manufacturing sector in an area that has been heavily dependent on coal. The center will serve 15 businesses and 210 students and lead to the creation of approximately 100 jobs.

Project Title: *Sustainable Jobs Initiative*
Grantee: Canaan Valley Institute
Award Amount: $1,499,400
Announcement Date: June 2017
Project Summary: ARC grant to the Canaan Valley Institute in Davis, WV, for the *Sustainable Jobs Initiative*. The project will create an economic diversification and entrepreneur training program to grow the apiculture (honey and bee products) and native plant industries across 14 coal-impacted counties in southern West Virginia, with a focus on using reclaimed mine land. Activities include training for displaced and underemployed workers and veterans to gain the business and technical skills necessary to become successful entrepreneurs in these sectors. A Beekeeping Collective will enable residents of Central Appalachia to take advantage of the robust, growing market for honey and other bee products, while a Native Plant Horticulture Program will train workers to collect, grow, and market high-demand local varietals of native plants, a growing niche market in the eastern United States. Key partners include Appalachian Headwaters, Green Forests Work, the West Virginia Department of Agriculture, and New River Technical and Community College. The project will serve over 2,600 workers, generate $2.4 million of revenue over three years, and attract $4.6 million of leveraged private investment.

Project Title: *Powering Up the Aerospace Workforce in Coal-Impacted Communities of West Virginia*
Grantee: Pierpont Community & Technical College
Award Amount: $1,017,308
Announcement Date: June 2017
Project Summary: ARC grant to Pierpont Community and Technical College in Fairmont, WV, for *Powering Up the Aerospace Workforce in Coal-Impacted Communities of West Virginia* project. The ARC grant will help increase the number of former coal miners who graduate from workforce training and two-year degree programs at the Robert C. Byrd

National Aerospace Education Center (NAEC) in Bridgeport, WV, a joint venture of Pierpont Community and Technical College and Fairmont State University. NAEC provides the state's only FAA-certified aerospace training, degrees, and certifications. The project will maintain and build existing components of the NAEC program, including the Aircraft Structures training program, the Aviation Technician associate's degree program, and the Airframe and Powerplant certificate program. The project will also provide funding for the development of a new 12-month Avionics certificate program. The project rests on a strong partnership with private-sector aerospace companies. It is expected that 130 students will enroll in these programs, and 89 students will complete the various training programs over a two-year period.

Project Title: *Linking Trails and Communities to Spawn Economic Growth: The Southern WV Bike Trail Network*
Grantee: Region 4 Planning and Development Council
Award Amount: $999,963
Announcement Date: June 2017
Project Summary: ARC grant to Region 4 Planning and Development Council in Summersville, WV, for the *Linking Trails and Communities to Spawn Economic Growth: The Southern WV Bike Trail Network* project. The investment will create a regionally connected bike trail system and build on the region's strengths and potential for outdoor recreation and increased tourism. The trail system will be located in Fayette, Nicholas, and Greenbrier Counties—areas hit hard by job losses in the coal industry—and will traverse sections of the Monongahela National Forest, the New River Gorge National River, the Babcock State Park, and other key recreational areas. The project will focus on building new segments and improving existing ones that will provide the greatest economic impact by facilitating access to towns, businesses, and other tourism anchors. Major activities will include trail construction and mapping, developing a trail maintenance program, and facilitating partnerships with local business incubators and regional development organizations to support business creation. The project is expected to attract $3 million in new revenue through increased visitors to the area.

Project Title: *BuildJobs Initiative*
Grantee: PRIDE Community Services
Award Amount: $899,791
Announcement Date: June 2017
Project Summary: ARC grant to PRIDE Community Services in Logan, WV, for the *BuildJobs Initiative* project. In an effort to develop a pool of construction trade professionals for the region, the BuildJobs Initiative will provide training programs with career pathways and re-employment opportunities in construction trades for displaced coal economy workers. It will also provide entrepreneurial support for participants who wish to create new businesses in the construction sector. PRIDE will implement the project in partnership with EnAct Community Action, MountainHeart Community Services, Southern Community Action Council, Coalfield Community Action Partnership, and Southern West Virginia Technical College. The BuildJobs Initiative will focus on five ARC counties in southern West Virginia that have been adversely affected by the decline in the coal industry sector: Boone, Lincoln, Logan, Mingo, and Wyoming. Within three years of the start of the project, 84 displaced workers will be retrained and find employment, and 15 new businesses will be created.

Project Title: *Entrepreneur Coalfield Alternative Opportunity (ECAO)*
Grantee: Southern Appalachian Labor School
Award Amount: $101,981
Announcement Date: September 2017
Project Summary: ARC grant to the Southern Appalachian Labor School in Kincaid, WV, for technical assistance to develop a strategic planning and feasibility study for the establishment of the Entrepreneur Coalfield Alternative Opportunity (ECAO) project. ECAO will be a social enterprise that will train and employ individuals to deconstruct old coal camp houses and replace them with modular units. The feasibility study will focus on establishing market demand for the start-up, documenting the financial ability to maintain positive cash flow, and building a management operational plan and staffing plan. The ultimate goal is a business enterprise that can provide workforce training and improve the local housing stock in Central Appalachia.

Project Title: *Appalachian Heartland Highway Initiative*
Grantee: Region II Development Council, Inc.
Award Amount: $100,000
Announcement Date: September 2017
Project Summary: ARC grant to Region II Development Council, Inc. in Huntington, WV, for a strategic plan that will analyze the feasibility and economic impact of potential heritage tourism projects along West Virginia State Route 152, also known as the Appalachian Heartland Highway. The proposed study will be a coordinated and comprehensive regional planning effort to create a tourism cluster that increases the chances of successfully restructuring the regional economy away from a reliance on the coal industry. A top priority will be to study the construction of an Appalachian Heartland Visitors Center at the interchange of Route 152 and I-64.

2016 Awards

Project Title*: Grant-Writing Assistance for CODE: Creating Opportunities, Diversifying Economy Projects Proposal*
Grantee: The EdVenture Group
Award Amount: $10,000
Announcement Date: June 2016
Project Summary: ARC grant to The EdVenture Group in Morgantown, WV, for the Creating Opportunities, Diversifying Economy for displaced coal miners (CODE) project to develop a sustainable plan for economic diversification. The project being developed is expected to serve 12 counties in West Virginia.

Project Title: *Reconnecting McDowell*
Grantee: Reconnecting McDowell, Inc.
Award Amount: $150,000
Announcement Date: September 2016
Project Summary: ARC grant to Reconnecting McDowell, Inc., in Charleston, WV, to develop an economic development and diversification strategy for the City of Welch and McDowell County centered on the Renaissance Village Apartments, a housing project that will develop rental housing in downtown Welch for teachers and young professionals employed in the area. Renaissance Village will serve as an anchor for redevelopment efforts in the downtown area and provide affordable housing. The planning project will assist with an entrepreneurship and small business initiative, along with financial and operations modeling for Renaissance Village.

Project Title: *Linking Trails and Communities to Spawn Economic Growth and Wellness: The Southern West Virginia Bike Trail Network*
Grantee: West Virginia Connecting Communities Inc
Award Amount: $140,000
Announcement Date: September 2016
Project Summary: ARC grant to the West Virginia Connecting Communities Inc. in Charleston, WV, in partnership with the New River Gorge Trail Association for the development of an economic feasibility study for a regionally-connected bike trail system in Fayette and Nicholas Counties. The focus of the study will be the viability of linking over 500 miles of bike trails and the impact to small communities throughout the region.

Project Title: *Economic Diversification Mentoring for Innovation Acceleration Strategy Communities*
Grantee: West Virginia Community Development Hub
Award Amount: $93,495
Announcement Date: September 2016
Project Summary: ARC grant to the West Virginia Community Development Hub in Fairmont, WV, which, in partnership with the International Economic Development Council, will provide technical assistance to five coal-impacted counties (Boone, Greenbrier, Lincoln, McDowell, and Wyoming) through economic development mentoring for local community teams. As a result of this investment, community teams will develop local economic diversification strategies.

Project Title: *Central WV ATV Trail System Feasibility Study*
Grantee: Webster County Economic Development Hub
Award Amount: $60,000
Announcement Date: September 2016
Project Summary: ARC grant to Webster County Economic Development Authority in Webster Springs, WV, to conduct a feasibility study for the development of a multi-county All-Terrain Vehicle trail system in five counties. This grant will assist in developing a major tourism asset for the region and create opportunities for local small businesses. The project will work in partnership with the Hatfield McCoy Trail Authority.

Project Title: *Mercer County Regional Airport Development and Diversification Initiative*
Grantee: Bluewell Public Service District
Award Amount: $2,500,000 total
Announcement Date: October 2016
Project Summary: $2,500,000 total (a $1,500,000 ARC grant and a $1,000,000 grant for the U.S. Economic Development Administration) to the Bluewell Public Service District in Bluefield, WV, for the *Mercer County Regional Airport Development and Diversification Initiative*. POWER funds will be used to extend public water service along Route 52 and Airport Road to the Mercer County Regional Airport. In addition to providing essential infrastructure to the regional airport, the project will create 38 new jobs, and will capitalize on an existing regional asset by providing funding for a strategic plan that will position the airport and its adjoining 200 acres of flat, developable land as an economic driver for four counties in Southern West Virginia and Southwestern Virginia.

Project Title: *SEED-LIFT: Social Enterprise and Economic Diversification - Leveraging Investment For Transformation*
Grantee: Coalfield Development Corporation
Award Amount: $2,034,667
Announcement Date: October 2016
Project Summary: ARC grant to Coalfield Development Corporation in Wayne, WV, to support its Social Enterprise and Economic Diversification-Leveraging Investment for Transformation (SEED- LIFT) project. The project's primary objective is to remove barriers to participating in the workforce. SEED-LIFT plans to improve the education and skill-sets of residents to ensure workforce readiness within a four-county region in West Virginia (Lincoln, McDowell, Mingo, Wayne). It will strengthen cultural assets (especially coal community downtowns) by investing in community-based real estate development through social entrepreneur oriented revitalization concepts; and will continue to grow Coalfield Development Corporation's network of employers leading to reemployment training and job placement services. Lastly, the project will recapitalize existing social enterprises to expand job creation and business development. At the project's completion, there will be seven communities improved, 60 jobs created, three new businesses created, revenues increased by 35 percent, 50,000 square feet of redeveloped downtown space, and $7 million in leveraged private investment. The project builds on the demonstrated success of Coalfield's previous POWER grant and its innovative 33-6-3 on-the-job training/education/life skills workforce development model. Additional funding is being provided by the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation.

Project Title: *Hardwood Cluster Manufacturing Expansion Project*
Grantee: Randolph County Development Authority
Award Amount: $1,822,500
Announcement Date: October 2016
Project Summary: $1,822,500 total (a $1,200,000 EDA grant and a $622,500 ARC grant) to the Randolph County Development Authority in Elkins, WV, for the *Hardwood Cluster Manufacturing Expansion Project*. POWER funds will be utilized to expand a major cabinet manufacturer's operation by enabling the doubling of its current production rate due to a new national contract—thereby creating 45 new jobs and adding $2,500,000 in annual wages to the regional economy. In addition, the award will strengthen the Hardwood Alliance Zone—a nine-county region in Central West Virginia containing a cluster of hardwood businesses.

Project Title: *Southern Coalfields Sustainable Tourism & Entrepreneurship Program*
Grantee: Hatfield McCoy Regional Recreation Authority
Award Amount: $1,372,275
Announcement Date: October 2016
Project Summary: ARC grant to the Hatfield McCoy Regional Recreation Authority in Man, WV, for the *Southern Coalfields Sustainable Tourism & Entrepreneurship Program*. ARC funds will develop and implement a comprehensive program to expand tourism-related employment and businesses in southern West Virginia, and will foster Hatfield McCoy Trail expansion in Kentucky and Virginia. In addition, the award provides for the deployment of a coordinated marketing effort, which will increase the region-wide economic impact of the Trails by $13,000,000 per year. The project will create 225 jobs and 50 new businesses along the Trails, and will be supported by funding from the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation.

Project Title: *WV Rural Health Infrastructure Loan Fund*
Grantee: Center for Rural Health Development, Inc.
Award Amount: $362,989
Announcement Date: October 2016
Project Summary: ARC grant to the Center for Rural Health Development, Inc., in Hurricane, WV, for the *WV Rural Health Infrastructure Loan Fund* project. ARC funds will assist in capitalizing a revolving loan fund designed to strengthen the health care industry in a 25-county region in central West Virginia. In addition, the award will provide technical and business development assistance to existing health care providers with business-related needs. The project will create or retain 65 jobs, yield $1,000,000 of financing for health care businesses, and provide 216 organizations with technical assistance.

Project Title: *UKV Revitalization Plan*
Grantee: Region 4 Planning and Development Council
Award Amount: $123,488
Announcement Date: October 2016
Project Summary: ARC grant to the Region 4 Planning and Development Council in Summersville, WV, to develop a strategic plan for the Upper Kanawha Valley. In partnership with the Center for Rural Entrepreneurship, the plan will include prioritizing economic strategies, building regional collaboration across counties, and assisting communities to create greater economic diversification that fosters sustainability.

Project Title: *Healthy Workforce Initiative: Workforce Empowerment and Opioid Recovery Center*
Grantee: Williamson Health and Wellness Center
Award Amount: $105,000
Announcement Date: October 2016
Project Summary: ARC grant to Williamson Health and Wellness Center in Williamson, WV, to provide grant writing assistance, and develop a feasibility study, a strategic plan, and preliminary architectural design work for a vacant building in Williamson's downtown, a former "pill mill." If deemed viable, the building will be rebuilt as a one-stop facility thatwould provide workforce training, opioid addiction and substance abuse treatment services to assist individuals in recovery to become employment ready. The service area will include counties in both Kentucky and West Virginia.

Project Title: *Hardwood Industry Cluster Strategic Plan*
Grantee: Randolph County Development Authority
Award Amount: $90,000
Announcement Date: October 2016
Project Summary: ARC grant to Randolph County Development Authority in Elkins, WV, to develop a strategic plan focused on the promotion and expansion of the hardwood industry cluster. In partnership with the Hardwood Alliance Zone, the strategic plan will assist in strengthening the economy of the nine-county region. The project will build on the recent U.S. Economic Development Administration and ARC POWER grants that are enabling a local wood products manufacturer to expand its operations.

2015 Awards

Project Title: *Health Innovation and Food Hub*
Grantee: Williamson Health and Wellness Center
Award Amount: $75,000
Announcement Date: September 2015
Project Summary: ARC grant to the Williamson Health and Wellness Center in Williamson, WV, for the *Health Innovation and Food Hub*. The U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) is also awarding $600,000 to the Coalfield Development Corporation as part of this project. The ARC award will support consulting fees and startup equipment necessary to launch the Health Innovation and Food Hub, which will play a key role in facilitating regional collaborative networks, providing technical assistance and training opportunities, facilitating access to capital, and linking the local food systems infrastructure to supply markets.

POWER Special Regional Projects (23)

2021 Awards

Project Title: *Appalachian Investors Alliance: Capital Access and Impact*
Grantee: Appalachian Investors Alliance (AIA)
Award Amount: $1,496,719
Announcement Date: September 2021
Project Summary: ARC grant of $1,496,719 to the Appalachian Investors Alliance (AIA) in Knoxville, Tennessee, for the *Appalachian Investors Alliance: Capital Access and Impact* project. The project will create new access to capital by creating and supporting angel and micro-venture funds in small and growing Appalachian businesses across nine Appalachian states and 90 Appalachian counties. The project will organize more capital into angel and micro-venture funds, offer technical service support to improve effectiveness of investments, and provide targeted, investor-focused entrepreneurial education and development through instruction and mentoring. This project is expected to serve 100 businesses, 40 communities, and 300 participants; create 6 new businesses and 250 jobs; retain 548 jobs; and leverage $52.3 million in private investment over three years.

2020 Awards

Project Title: *ARC/National Institutes of Health Interagency Agreement: Year 4*
Grantee: National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) at the National Institutes of Health (NIH)
Award Amount: $750,000
Announcement Date: October 2020
Project Summary: ARC grant of $750,000 to the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) for continued collaborative research with other federal partners, including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), on effective interventions for opioid use disorders and related disease in rural Appalachian coal communities. This is the fourth year of support for this initiative. New funding will allow the University of Kentucky to continue implementing clinical programs focused on formerly incarcerated people who use drugs. The ultimate result of this collective research will be the establishment of evidence-based practices that effectively address Appalachia's recovery ecosystem.

Project Title: *Creating a Regional Network of Collegiate Recovery Programs Feasibility Study*
Grantee: Appalachian College Association
Award Amount: $40,713
Announcement Date: October 2020
Project Summary: ARC grant of $40,713 to the Appalachian College Association in Bristol, TN, for the *Creating a Regional Network of Collegiate Recovery Programs Feasibility Study*. The study will create a plan to implement Collegiate Recovery Programs (CRP) on five college campuses in Appalachia: Bethany College and University of Charleston in West Virginia; Union College and University of Pikeville in Kentucky; and Lincoln Memorial University in Tennessee. Planning work will engage a network of teams from each college to develop an implementation model for integrating recovery, degree attainment, and job placement programs into a cohesive CRP for individuals with substance use disorders. The proposed CRPs will enhance the recovery ecosystem in five Appalachian communities, increasing the likelihood that individuals in recovery will graduate from college and enhance their labor force participation.

2019 Awards

Project Title: *Fostering Self ESTEAM in Appalachia's Emerging Workforce*
Grantee: The Consortium for Entrepreneurship Education
Award Amount: $1,431,549
Announcement Date: October 2019
Project Summary: ARC grant to The Consortium for Entrepreneurship Education in Charleston, WV for the *Fostering Self ESTEAM in Appalachia's Emerging Workforce* project. ESTEAM will infuse entrepreneurship into the region's STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) initiatives to graduate a workforce of entrepreneurially-minded students poised to recognize and create solutions to gaps within their local economy. The project is a collaborative effort between EntreEd, the EdVenture Group, the National Association for Community College Entrepreneurship, the National Center for Resource Development, and local community college and education agency partners. The project will offer professional development programming for educators, award an official "America's Entrepreneurial Schools" designation for participating schools, and provide mini-grants for schools that pursue ESTEAM integration. Targeting middle and high school students across seven Appalachian states, the two-year program will deliver high-quality teacher training and support STEAM-focused entrepreneurship projects to reach 51 Appalachian counties and a potential 75 rural school districts. The project will expand best practices from EntreEd's previously awarded POWER grant. Additional funding is being provided by the Greater Kanawha Valley Foundation.

Project Title: *Shale POWER*
Grantee: Southwestern Pennsylvania Coalition (SPC)
Award Amount: $1,423,497
Announcement Date: October 2019
Project Summary: ARC grant to the Southwestern Pennsylvania Coalition (SPC) in Pittsburgh, PA for the *Shale POWER* project. The project will develop regional centers for technical assistance to manufacturers in Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Ohio that are seeking to expand into the shale energy sector. The technical assistance and business support will target small and medium enterprises and will include mini-grants, one-to-one counseling, and training. *Shale POWER* will engage directly with these entities to connect them to the shale-manufacturing sectors, develop business strategies for expanding in these sectors, and support workforce and job development to meet the burgeoning demand in shale-related markets. The project is expected to create 400 new jobs, retain 600 existing

jobs, create 50 new businesses, and leverage $250 million in private investment. It builds on an earlier POWER grant that assessed the demand for business technical assistance in this sector and informed the shape and scale of the current project. Anchors institutions for the project are Carnegie Mellon University, West Virginia University, and Belmont College.

Project Title: *Opportunity Appalachia*
Grantee: Appalachian Community Capital (ACC)
Award Amount: $1,039,500
Announcement Date: October 2019
Project Summary: ARC grant to Appalachian Community Capital (ACC) in Christiansburg, VA for the *Opportunity Appalachia* project. ACC has partnered with five organizations, including the Appalachian Partnership for Economic Growth in Ohio, the University of Virginia's College at Wise, and the West Virginia Community Development Hub, to develop a program that attracts investment funding to federally designated Opportunity Zones located in Central Appalachia. *Opportunity Appalachia* will cultivate investment deals that both benefit investors and provide robust social returns for communities found with the zones. It will provide technical assistance to develop and structure investable transactions, create investment prospectuses and pitch decks, and lead outreach to potential investors. The project will develop transactions to create a portfolio of Opportunity Zone investments in Central Appalachia. This initiative is expected to bring an estimated $7.5 million of new private investment to Opportunity Zones in Central Appalachian coal communities, investing in 15 businesses and creating 720 jobs, 70 of which are projected to be for persons in recovery from substance abuse. Additional funding is being provided by the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation.

Project Title: *ARC/National Institutes of Health Interagency Agreement on HIV, HCV and Opioid Overdose: Year 2*
Grantee: National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) at the National Institutes of Health
Award Amount: $750,000
Announcement Date: October 2019
Project Summary: ARC grant to the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) at the National Institutes of Health for continued collaborative research with other federal partners, including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, on effective interventions for opioid use disorders and related diseases in rural Appalachian coal communities. This is the third year of support for this initiative. Prior work has included research on clinical practices for addressing overdose, HIV, and hepatitis interventions. The new funding will allow the University of Kentucky and West Virginia University (the Appalachian institutions in the NIDA project) to begin implementing clinical programs focused on the substance abuse recovery ecosystem.

Project Title: *An Assessment of the Impact of the Downturn in the Coal Economy in Appalachia*
Grantee: West Virginia University
Award Amount: $500,000
Announcement Date: October 2019
Project Summary: ARC grant to the Regional Research Institute at West Virginia University in Morgantown, WV for an assessment of the evolving impact of the downturn in the coal economy in Appalachia. This research builds on research reports released by the Regional Research Institute in 2018 exploring the coal industry ecosystem in Appalachia. The new research will provide quarterly updates to Appalachian-based coal employment and production data and forecasts, shift-share analysis of Appalachian counties, and updates to data on power plant retirements and repowerings to reflect recent changes in the industry. It will also provide identification and analysis of existing industrial clusters and causal impacts

of coal employment on local education funding, as well as a scan of state treatment and recovery responses to substance abuse epidemic and an examination of entrepreneurship ecosystem conditions for coal-impacted communities.

Project Title: *POWER Monitoring and Evaluation*
Grantee: Chamberlin Dunn, LLC
Award Amount: $199,665
Announcement Date: October 2019
Project Summary: ARC grant to Chamberlin Dunn, LLC of Indianapolis, IN, for a contract to monitor and evaluate the POWER Initiative. Chamberlin/Dunn will continue their work in assessing previous POWER grants. The new scope of work will include two components: an evaluation of three high-priority topics (substance abuse recovery ecosystem projects, Central Appalachia POWER projects, and multi-state/multi-site projects) and an evaluation of POWER projects funded in FY2018-2019, along with an assessment of technical assistance grants from prior years that have not been covered in earlier reviews. Chamberlin/Dunn will work with ARC and its partners to determine the extent to which POWER grantees are progressing toward their stated performance goals. Deliverables include monthly reports that provide a snapshot of grantee performance. The reports will highlight success stories, flag potential challenges, and recommend technical assistance and training needs to ensure grantee success.

Project Title: *Enhancing the Economic Impact of Rural Hospitals and Health Centers*
Grantee: Partners in Health Network, Inc.
Award Amount: $49,974
Announcement Date: October 2019
Project Summary: ARC grant to Partners in Health Network, Inc. in Charleston, WV for the *Enhancing the Economic Impact of Rural Hospitals and Health Centers* project. The project will prepare a feasibility study for expanding the Appalachian Pulmonary Health Project to additional critical access rural hospital and healthcare facilities in 12 medically underserved counties in Kentucky, West Virginia, and North Carolina that have been adversely affected by the downturn in the coal economy. The study will help members of the Partners in Health Network plan for this large-scale implementation to achieve economic development and recovery by maintaining necessary health services, preserving and expanding the rural health infrastructure, and contributing to a ready and healthy workforce.

2018 Awards

Project Title: *ARC/National Institutes of Health Interagency Agreement on HIV, HCV and Opioid Overdose: Year 3*
Grantee: National Institute on Drug Abuse
Award Amount: $750,000
Announcement Date: March 2018
Project Summary: ARC grant to continue a collaborative effort with the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and other federal partners to research opioid abuse and related problems of HIV and Hepatitis C (HCV) in Appalachia's coal communities.

Project Title: *POWER Monitoring and Evaluation*
Grantee: Chamberlin Dunn, LLC
Award Amount: $184,595
Announcement Date: October 2018
Project Summary: to Chamberlin/Dunn, LLC of Indianapolis, IN, for a contract to monitor and evaluate the POWER Initiative thus far. In particular, contractors will work with ARC and its

partners to determine the extent to which POWER grantees funded in Fiscal Years 2015-2017 are progressing toward their stated performance goals. Deliverables include monthly reports that provide a snapshot of grantee performance during that period. The purpose is to highlight success stories, flag potential challenges, and recommend technical assistance and training needs to ensure grantee success, particularly in performance monitoring and evaluation.

2017 Awards

Project Title: *Career Online High School: A Leaping Strategy for Appalachian Communities*
Grantee: Jobs for the Future, INC
Award Amount: $100,000
Announcement Date: January 2017
Project Summary: ARC grant to Jobs for the Future (JFF) in Boston, MA, for the *Career Online High School: A Leapfrog Strategy for Appalachian Communities* project. JFF will partner with Cengage Learning to eliminate high school completion barriers for individuals in Appalachian states and help them progress along learning and career paths. Key to the project's success will be the integration of a cutting-edge high school diploma completion model with educational and career pathway strategies and supports to ensure long term workforce and economic opportunity for students. Through a competitive process, JFF will work with coal-impacted communities from Kentucky, Tennessee, and West Virginia to help students complete high school and secure in-demand jobs. The project will train 40 students and expose 1,000 participants to the high school completion program.

Project Title: *Industry-Informed Infrastructure in Appalachian Colleges*
Grantee: American Association of Community Colleges
Award Amount: $175,000
Announcement Date: March 2017
Project Summary: ARC grant to the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) in Washington, DC, for the Industry-Informed Infrastructure in Appalachian Colleges ("I3") project. I3 will start as a two-state pilot effort over one year to expand the industry connections and technical training capacities of community colleges serving coal-impacted communities in Pennsylvania and West Virginia, along with adjacent areas of neighboring states. The activities in Pennsylvania will focus on the oil and gas industry, while those in West Virginia will highlight management and leadership in the hospitality industry.

Additional components of the project will link participating community colleges with industry leaders in other high-demand sectors identified by the colleges. The initiative is founded on the concept that Appalachian community colleges deserve the highest-caliber industry infusion of resources to create critical talent pipelines for the Region's workforce. AACC will identify national industry partners and trade associations that can be leveraged to provide reduced-price services or partnerships that can build the capacity of the colleges, communities, and students. At least 12 colleges are expected to benefit from the project.

Project Title: *Growing Food System Capacity and Scaling Economic Impact in Central Appalachia*
Grantee: Natural Capital Investment Fund, Inc
Award Amount: $1,200,000
Announcement Date: September 2017
Project Summary: ARC grant to the Natural Capital Investment Fund, Inc., in Shepherdstown, WV, on behalf of the Central Appalachian Network (CAN) for the Growing Food System Capacity and Scaling Economic Impact project. ARC's investment will support the members and partners in CAN to build upon five years of collective local food systems

development work across Central Appalachia. Building a strong local food economy will help diversify and strengthen the regional economy. The project will target production capacity, one of the primary leverage points holding back the Region's food system. This will be achieved by providing small and medium-sized farms, farm workers, value-added processors, and food businesses with technical assistance, training, capacity building, capital improvements of equipment and facilities, market development, supply chain intermediation, and peer learning. Members of CAN include the Appalachian Center for Economic Networks, Appalachian Sustainable Development, the Coalfield Development Corporation, the Community Farm Alliance, and Rural Action. It is anticipated that the project will serve and improve 37 existing businesses, create 26 new businesses, create 100 jobs, and leverage $4 million in additional private investment across 58 counties in 5 states (Kentucky, Ohio, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia).

2016 Awards

Project Title: *Stronger Economies in Coal-Reliant Places*
Grantee: National Association of Counties Research Foundation
Award Amount: $60,000
Announcement Date: July 2016
Project Summary: for a partnership with the National Association of Counties Research Foundation to provide additional technical assistance to 11 teams from Appalachian coal communities that participated in the The U.S. Economic Development Administration-funded Innovation Challenge for Coal-Reliant Communities Program. This support includes grant writing, feasibility studies, strategic plan development or updates and capacity building to facilitate strategic and sustainable investments. Community teams are located in Kentucky, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia.

Project Title: *ARC/National Institutes of Health Interagency Agreement on HIV, HCV and Opioid Overdose: Year 1*
Grantee: National Institute on Drug Abuse
Award Amount: $750,000
Announcement Date: August 2016
Project Summary: ARC grant to the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), and other federal partners to help continued collaborative research on effective interventions for opioid use disorders and related diseases in rural Appalachian coal communities. Appalachia faces disproportionate impacts from substance use disorders, as well as an increased risk for the spread of associated diseases such as HIV and hepatitis C. As part of a multi-year Federal effort that aims to implement and assess evidence-based interventions in rural areas, ARC funds will allow teams from the University of Kentucky and West Virginia University to continue research focused on coal-impacted communities in the Region. Successful completion of this effort will help establish and deploy best practices in the prevention and treatment of opioid use, HIV, and hepatitis, especially within the context of rural Appalachia.

Project Title: *Coalfields Cluster Mapping Initiative*
Grantee: Region 1-Planning and Development Council
Award Amount: $497,000
Announcement Date: September 2016
Project Summary: ARC grant to the Region 1 – Planning and Development Council in Princeton, WV, for the *Coalfields Cluster Mapping Initiative* research project. ARC funds will be used to map the extent of the coal industry supply chain across the tri-state region of Kentucky, Virginia, and West Virginia. The resulting detailed information on the supply chain will complement ongoing work undertaken by other ARC-funded projects, examining the

extent of the decline in the coal economy and providing business technical assistance to aid the impacted supply chain firms in their return to growth and profitability.

$400,000 for a partnership with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S Department of Agriculture (USDA) to expand the Cool & Connected Initiative to help 10 Appalachian coal-impacted communities use broadband service to revitalize small-town main streets and promote economic development. Participating communities will receive technical assistance for strategic planning, as well as initial implementation support for the first steps of their plans. The communities are located in Alabama, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia.

Project Title: *Economic Analysis of Coal Industry Ecosystem in Appalachian*
Grantee: West Virginia University Research Corporation
Award Amount: $349,999
Announcement Date: September 2016
Project Summary: ARC grant to West Virginia University Research Corporation in Morgantown, WV, for the *Economic Analysis of Coal Industry Ecosystem in Appalachia* project. This study will examine the full ecosystem of the coal industry in Appalachia through in-depth quantitative analysis. Specifically, this research will identify, quantify, and map data on all relevant coal industry activity throughout the Appalachian Region. The three tasks of this research project are to: 1) identify all components of the coal ecosystem and estimate the supply chain impacts in Appalachia; 2) examine the implications of the coal industry downturn on freight rail, barge, and truck transportation in Appalachia; and 3) develop a typology of regional economies that surround the coal-fired plants in the Region using both econometric and input-output techniques.

Project Title: *Building Entrepreneurial Communities: The Foundation of an Economic Transition for Appalachia*
Grantee: Center for Rural Entrepreneurship in Chapel Hill, NC
Award Amount: $1,747,806
Announcement Date: October 2016
Project Summary: ARC grant to the Center for Rural Entrepreneurship in Chapel Hill, NC, for the *Building Entrepreneurial Communities: The Foundation of an Economic Transition for Appalachia* project. The project will build and strengthen the entrepreneurial ecosystem in an 18-county region covering southeastern Ohio, southern West Virginia, and southeastern Kentucky. Project activities include establishing a support system that can identify and develop new entrepreneurs; assisting new and expanding businesses with skill development; and connecting entrepreneurs with existing capacity building resources in the region. The project will create 72 new businesses and 250 new jobs.

Project Title: *Strengthening Economic Resilience in Appalachian Communities*
Grantee: Downstream Strategies
Award Amount: $149,998
Announcement Date: October 2016
Project Summary: ARC grant to Downstream Strategies in Morgantown, WV, for the *Strengthening Economic Resilience in Appalachian Communities* project. This research will explore and document strategies and policies local leaders can use to enhance the future economic prospects of coal-impacted communities throughout the Appalachian Region. There are four key components to this research project: 1) develop a comprehensive, quantitative framework to explore economic resilience; 2) identify a series of best practice strategies for strengthening local economic resilience; 3) conduct up to 10 in-depth case studies; and 4) produce a concise guidebook that interprets and integrates findings of the research, written specifically for local economic development practitioners.

Project Title: *Appalachian Angel Investor Network*
Grantee: Rain Source Capital Inc.
Award Amount: $499,480
Announcement Date: November 2016
Project Summary: ARC grant to RAIN Source Capital, Inc., for the *Appalachia Angel Investor Network* project. ARC funds will enable the awardee to work with existing and new angel investment funds to enhance the capability of coal-impacted communities across 9 Appalachian states to make investments in start-up, early stage, and growth companies. Specifically, the project will create at least four new angel funds in target communities, and will provide tools, training, and support services to existing angel funds and networks already operating in Appalachia. The project will result in the creation of 20 new businesses and 100 new jobs, and will leverage $4,000,000 in private investment from 100 investors.

2015 Awards

Project Title: *Export Promotion for the Mining Equipment Supply Chain*
Grantee: Southern Alleghenies Planning & Development Commission (SAPDC)
Award Amount: $352,000
Announcement Date: September 2015
Project Summary: ARC grant to Southern Alleghenies Planning & Development Commission in Altoona, PA, to provide training, technical support, and expanded market opportunities to Appalachian based coal supply chain companies through partnerships developed at MineExpo 2016, the world's largest and most comprehensive exposition dedicated to mining equipment, products, and services. This trade show is part of the 2016
U.S. Commercial Service International Buyer Program schedule, which connects U.S. exhibitors with foreign buyer delegations at the show. ARC funds will be used to ensure the participation of companies from Appalachia and enable them to get international trade support tailored to the specific needs of the individual companies. Southern Alleghenies Planning and Development Commission is coordinating the ARC assistance.