

# Population Positive: Reducing Economic Distress in Central Appalachia through Remote Work-Ready Residents, Businesses, and Communities

## PROJECT SNAPSHOT



GRANTEE

**Shaping Our Appalachian Region (SOAR)**



STATES IMPACTED

**Kentucky, West Virginia**



ARC FUNDING

**\$500,000**



PARTNERS

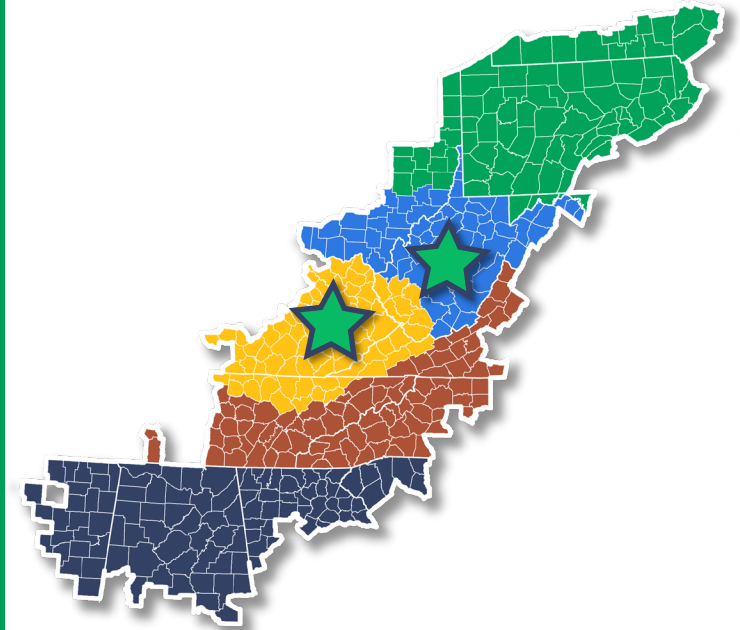
**First Ascent and Ascend West Virginia, West Virginia University, Center on Rural Innovation (CORI), Generation, and Social Finance**



ANNOUNCEMENT DATE

**September 2025**

## STATES IMPACTED



## PROJECT SUMMARY

Impacting 94 counties across Kentucky and West Virginia, Shaping Our Appalachian Region (SOAR) will use ARISE funding to create a three-pronged strategic plan to develop a workforce ecosystem centered on remote work, hybrid work and the digital economy. The plan will create a roadmap for residents, businesses and communities to secure living-wage hybrid and remote careers without having to leave the region.

SOAR and partners bring a combined \$306,531 in matching funds to the project. Over the course of the 1-year performance period, the project will serve 500 workers, 50 communities and 80 small businesses.