



# INSPIRE Award Summaries by State

September 2025

The [Investments Supporting Partnerships In Recovery Ecosystems \(INSPIRE\) Initiative](#) addresses the [substance use disorder \(SUD\) crisis](#) across Appalachia by creating or expanding a recovery ecosystem that will lead to workforce entry or re-entry. In September 2025, ARC announced \$11 million for 32 projects across nine Appalachian states.

## GEORGIA (2 awards)

**Project Title:** *Pathways to Recovery & Opportunity*

**Grantee:** City of Refuge Dalton

**Award Amount:** \$100,000

**Announcement Date:** September 2025

**Project Summary:** ARC grant of \$100,000 to City of Refuge Dalton in Dalton, Georgia, for the *Pathways to Recovery & Opportunity* project. This project will enable City of Refuge Dalton (CORD) to comprehensively assess service gaps and barriers to workforce entry for individuals in substance use disorder (SUD) recovery and develop a strategic framework to coordinate partner organization services across 11 counties. This will facilitate seamless access to SUD treatment, mental health support, and employment training, and cultivate employer partnerships to provide tailored workforce training and job opportunities. This planning process will culminate in a strategic plan, detailing a long-term program for integrating SUD treatment, workforce development, and wrap-around services, including a clear employer partnership model and a framework for future funding applications and program expansion. The project is expected to develop five plans/reports.

**Project Title:** *Project Purpose: Pathways to Prosperity in Northwest Georgia*

**Grantee:** Georgia Tech Research Corporation

**Award Amount:** \$56,731

**Announcement Date:** September 2025

**Project Summary:** ARC grant of \$56,731 to the Georgia Tech Research Corporation in Atlanta, Georgia, for the *Project Purpose: Pathways to Prosperity in Northwest Georgia* planning initiative. The project will implement a comprehensive planning effort to expand workforce training and recovery-focused services for justice-involved individuals with substance use disorder (SUD) in Polk, Floyd, and Chattooga counties. Led by the Georgia Manufacturing Extension Partnership (GaMEP) and the Center for Economic Development Research (CEDR) at Georgia Tech, the 18-month planning project will be completed in three phases: assessment and partnership development, curriculum and employer engagement, and implementation planning.

with long-term strategies. It is anticipated that a recovery-to-work curriculum expansion plan as well as an employer engagement and plan will be developed to guide implementation and long-term impact.

## **KENTUCKY (5 awards)**

**Project Title:** *Horizon's Workforce & Recovery Network*

**Grantee:** Kentucky Rural Health Information Technology Network, Inc.

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

**Announcement Date:** September 2025

**Project Summary:** ARC grant of \$500,000 to Kentucky Rural Health Information Technology Network, Inc. in Corbin, Kentucky, for the *Horizon's Workforce & Recovery Network* project. This project will focus on the Kentucky counties of Knox, Laurel, and Whitley, where the growing prevalence of synthetic opioids continues to drive overdose fatalities and strain local treatment systems. It will integrate structured job training with robust recovery supports and equip individuals in both early and continued recovery with the tools and opportunities needed to thrive in the workforce. In addition to providing evidence-based substance use disorder (SUD) practices, Horizon will offer peer-led workforce training, vocational and industry-specific job preparation, Recovery Ready Workplace (RRW) engagement, stigma reduction and employer partnerships in key industries such as HVAC, healthcare, and manufacturing. As a result of this project, 20 businesses will be enhanced through RRW engagement, 150 workers/trainees will improve their vocational skills, 100 participants will receive evidence-based SUD wrap-around services, and seven communities will benefit from recovery-to-work programming.

**Project Title:** *From Recovery to Career: Culinary Workforce Development Initiative*

**Grantee:** Hazard Community and Technical College

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

**Announcement Date:** September 2025

**Project Summary:** ARC grant of \$500,000 to Hazard Community and Technical College (HCTC) in Hazard, Kentucky, for the *From Recovery to Career: Culinary Workforce Development Initiative*. In partnership with the Perry County Fiscal Court, HCTC will expand workforce training across the Kentucky counties of Breathitt, Knott, Lee, Leslie, Owsley, Perry, and Wolfe through the development of a culinary training program for students in substance use disorder (SUD) recovery. The Fiscal Court will equip the instructional space, and HCTC will collaborate with regional recovery facilities and workforce partners to enroll students. Participants will complete up to 35 credit hours of flexible, hands-on training to earn a Culinary Arts Certificate, and will gain real-world experience and industry-recognized credentials that will lead to employment in the culinary and hospitality sectors. This investment will strengthen 15 businesses through improved job retention and support 18 students in securing lasting careers.

**Project Title:** *Second Chance Workforce Ecosystem Expansion*

**Grantee:** Dream Coalition dba Thrive Community Coalition

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

**Announcement Date:** September 2025

**Project Summary:** ARC grant of \$500,000 to the Dream Coalition dba Thrive Community Coalition in Inez, Kentucky, for the *Second Chance Workforce Ecosystem Expansion* project. In partnership with workforce development partners, regional employers and local treatment and recovery centers, the Thrive Coalition will enhance the recovery ecosystem in Floyd, Johnson, Martin, and Pike counties through expansion of workforce training and employment opportunities for those in recovery and improve training and technical assistance for local employers to become recovery-friendly workplaces. The project will create a recovery-friendly workforce ecosystem that benefits both individuals and businesses, by improving 90 workers/trainees and 15 businesses.

**Project Title:** *Pathways to Careers*

**Grantee:** Pathways, Inc.

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

**Announcement Date:** September 2025

**Project Summary:** ARC grant of \$500,000 to Pathways, Inc. in Ashland, Kentucky, for the *Pathways to Careers* project. This program will strengthen connections in 10 counties, between workforce development organizations, training providers, recovery services and businesses to assist individuals in recovery to gain meaningful employment. Pathways will partner with the Ashland Community and Technical College, Maysville Community and Technical College, and the Bluegrass Community and Technical College to provide soft skills training, short-term trade training and college courses to the 10-county service area of northeastern Kentucky. Additionally, local chambers of commerce will provide employers with training and information about becoming a Fair Chance employer, and the Tri-County Kentucky Agency for Substance Abuse Policy will identify individuals in recovery to participate in the program. It is anticipated that 355 workers and 125 students will be served by the project by enrolling in training/education programs and receiving employment supports. Approximately 120 participants are expected to attend employment fairs, and 60 businesses will receive Fair Chance training and information.

**Project Title:** *Ground Up Coffee Project: Northeastern Kentucky Recovery Enterprise Planning*

**Grantee:** Fresh Start Health Foundation, Inc.

**Award Amount:** \$100,000

**Announcement Date:** September 2025

**Project Summary:** ARC grant of \$100,000 to Fresh Start Health Foundation, Inc. (FSHF) in Ashland, Kentucky, for the *Ground Up Coffee Project: Northeastern Kentucky Recovery Enterprise Planning* project. FSHF will develop a framework for a recovery-focused revenue-generating business project serving Boyd, Carter, Lewis, and Rowan counties in Kentucky. During the planning period, the initiative will evaluate optimal operational models, strategic location options and effective business approaches for a coffee-based revenue-generating business project. As a

result of this project, a series of five reports will be developed, including a feasibility study and market analysis to assess Fresh Start's impact on workforce collaboration; a comprehensive long-term business plan; a workforce training curriculum for recovery-friendly employment; a performance measurement framework with identified funding sources; and an implementation action plan incorporating stakeholder engagement and research findings.

## **NEW YORK (1 award)**

**Project Title:** *Bridges to Employment: A Pathway from Recovery to Self-Sufficiency*

**Grantee:** Chemung Schuyler Steuben Workforce New York

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

**Announcement Date:** September 2025

**Project Summary:** ARC grant of \$500,000 to Chemung Schuyler Steuben Workforce New York in Corning, New York, for the *Bridges to Employment: A Pathway from Recovery to Self-Sufficiency* project. Focused on Chemung, Schuyler, and Steuben counties, this program will provide resources to connect individuals recovering from substance use disorder (SUD) with opportunities for training and long-term employment. Chemung Schuyler Steuben Workforce New York will work with regional employers to provide support services and develop recovery-ready workplace programs. Capabilities Inc. will provide workplace support through an Employer Resource Network which will help employers recruit, retain and engage a productive workforce. Catholic Charities Steuben/Livingston will provide emergency service supports such as food, case management and prevention education services. It is anticipated that 125 businesses will attend workshops and trainings to become recovery-ready workplaces, and 200 workers will receive career counseling, skills training, and/or job placement assistance by the end of the three-year project period.

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

**Project Title:** *CareReach: Bridging Health, Recovery & Opportunity in Western North Carolina*

**Grantee:** CareReach, Inc.

**Award Amount:** \$498,832

**Announcement Date:** September 2025

**Project Summary:** ARC grant of \$498,832 to CareReach, Inc. in Marion, North Carolina, for the *CareReach: Bridging Health, Recovery & Opportunity in Western North Carolina* program. Care Reach, Inc., and its partners will provide career readiness training and navigation, collaborate with local businesses to create recovery-friendly practices and bridge service gaps by inputting trained staff into re-entry services across Avery, Madison, McDowell, Mitchell, and Yancey counties. Project staff will facilitate outreach events to engage participants in substance use disorder recovery and refer them to healthcare and support services. The project is expected to serve 120 businesses, 200 workers, and 2,100 participants over the course of three years.

**Project Title:** *Strengthening Pathways to Recovery: Workforce & Community Empowerment Initiative*

**Grantee:** Mediation & Restorative Justice Center

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

**Announcement Date:** September 2025

**Project Summary:** ARC grant of \$500,000 to Mediation & Restorative Justice Center, Inc. (MRJC) in Boone, North Carolina, for the *Strengthening Pathways to Recovery: Workforce & Community Empowerment Initiative*. The project will expand recovery housing, peer support, and case management services to help individuals affected by opioid and polysubstance use disorders reenter the workforce in Watauga County. MRJC will partner with Wilkes Recovery Revolution, the Boone Area Chamber of Commerce, and STABLE Workplaces to enhance services at the Reentry Service Station, support workforce engagement through the STABLE Workplaces Initiative, and increase distribution of life-saving kits. The initiative builds on a 2022 ARC INSPIRE project and addresses the lasting impacts of Hurricane Helene by supporting economic and public health recovery in a high-risk county. It is anticipated that 15 businesses, 45 workers/trainees, and 75 participants will be served.

## OHIO (6 awards)

**Project Title:** *Stronger Futures Initiative: Career Transitions for Recovery*

**Grantee:** Community Action Committee of Pike County

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

**Announcement Date:** September 2025

**Project Summary:** ARC Grant of \$500,000 to the Community Action Committee (CAC) of Pike County in Piketon, Ohio, for the *Stronger Futures Initiative: Career Transitions to Recovery*. Focusing on Adams, Brown, Pike and Scioto counties, the project partners – including Community Action Organization of Scioto County and Adams-Brown Community Action Partnership - will work with CAC Pike County to coordinate and provide workforce training and recovery support services. This project will enhance their existing Transitions program to strengthen the regional recovery ecosystem through personalized case management, workforce training and recovery support services. It is anticipated that 80 workers and 50 businesses will be served, and 70 workers and 35 businesses will be improved through participation in the project.

**Project Title:** *Expanding Behavioral, Rural, and Community Health Educational and Career Opportunities for Our Regional Recovery Ecosystem*

**Grantee:** Shawnee State University

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

**Announcement Date:** September 2025

**Project Summary:** ARC grant of \$500,000 to Shawnee State University in Portsmouth, Ohio, for the *Expanding Behavioral, Rural, and Community Health Educational and Career Opportunities for Our Regional Recovery Ecosystem* project. This project will expand substance use disorder (SUD) recovery support services, as well as education and workforce development programs in the health field that will strengthen the regional SUD recovery ecosystem in eight economically

distressed and at-risk counties in Appalachian Ohio and Kentucky. The programs supported with this grant will also help address the need for more educational and professional development opportunities in social work, human services, and the behavioral and community health fields to expand the workforce to meet the need for more recovery professionals in the region. It is anticipated that the project will improve 15 businesses and 124 students through workforce development programming.

**Project Title:** *A Good Start: Recovery to Work Job Readiness Program*

**Grantee:** Youngstown Area Goodwill Industries, Inc.

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

**Announcement Date:** September 2025

**Project Summary:** ARC grant of \$500,000 to Youngstown Area Goodwill Industries, Inc. in Youngstown, Ohio, for *A Good Start: Recovery to Work Job Readiness Program*. Focusing on Columbiana, Mahoning, and Trumbull counties, this project will utilize a three-phase approach to providing general job readiness and industry-specific workforce training to individuals in recovery. Along with employer, recovery, and training provider partners, Goodwill Youngstown will work with individuals in recovery to prepare for and find meaningful employment. It is anticipated that 168 workers/trainees will be served through securing jobs or advancing to further training, and 10 businesses will be served and improved by hiring program participants.

**Project Title:** *Peer Recovery Organization - Access to Core Community and Employment Support Services*

**Grantee:** On Our Way Home, Inc.

**Award Amount:** \$473,037

**Announcement Date:** September 2025

**Project Summary:** ARC grant of \$473,037 to On Our Way Home, Inc. in New Richmond, Ohio, for the *Peer Recovery Organization - Access to Core Community and Employment Support Services (PRO-ACCESS)* project. In partnership with One Ohio Foundation and Ohio Department of Medicaid, On Our Way Home, Inc. will provide recovery support services to individuals in Brown County. The services will focus on providing safe and stable housing and support services to overcome and manage health conditions, facilitate employment skill development, and foster community and social networks. It is anticipated the project will serve 30 workers, 12 businesses, nine communities, 76 participants, and three students over three years.

**Project Title:** *LIFT-UP: Planning for Workforce Training Program in Drone Operations for Individuals in Recovery*

**Grantee:** Kent State University

**Award Amount:** \$100,000

**Announcement Date:** September 2025

**Project Summary:** ARC grant of \$100,000 to Kent State University (KSU) in Kent, Ohio, for the *LIFT-UP: Planning for Workforce Training Program in Drone Operations for Individuals in Recovery* project. This project will research and develop a workforce



training program in drone operations for individuals in SUD recovery in Ashtabula and Trumbull counties by creating a framework across three key program components: nature-based experiential learning through outdoor drone training, behavioral health support with integrated counseling and peer mentoring, and entrepreneurship development that prepares participants for self-employment opportunities in the drone industry. The project will result in the production of a program design needs assessment, partnership strategy and workforce integration plan, FAA workforce training curriculum, and long-term funding plan.

**Project Title:** *Recovery Housing as Workforce Housing: Strengthening the Recovery Ecosystem with Data Driven Solutions*

**Grantee:** Ohio Recovery Housing, Inc.

**Award Amount:** \$85,213

**Announcement Date:** September 2025

**Project Summary:** ARC grant of \$85,213 to Ohio Recovery Housing, Inc. (ORH) in Columbus, Ohio, for the *Recovery Housing as Workforce Housing: Strengthening the Recovery Ecosystem with Data Driven Solutions* project. This project will focus on a comprehensive research and evaluation assessment on substance use disorder (SUD) recovery and workforce housing needs in 32 Appalachian Ohio counties. The assessment will identify gaps, cost-benefits, and broader systemic needs, culminating in a strategic Action Plan designed to support local operators, community members, and regional leaders in strengthening recovery-to-work ecosystems. As a result of the project, five plans will be developed and shared through targeted reports, planning tools, and other mediums designed to inform local planning, resource allocation, and workforce development programs that include people in SUD recovery.

## **PENNSYLVANIA (6 awards)**

**Project Title:** *Recovery Works: Rebuilding Lives, Revitalizing the Workforce*

**Grantee:** FAVOR Laurel Highlands

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

**Announcement Date:** September 2025

**Project Summary:** ARC grant of \$500,000 to FAVOR Laurel Highlands in Johnstown, Pennsylvania, for the *Recovery Works: Rebuilding Lives, Revitalizing the Workforce* project. This project will expand FAVOR Laurel Highlands' existing recovery ecosystem work in Cambria County to include workforce development elements as well as expanded relationships with employers. It will provide Recovery Friendly Workplace training for employers, direct support in employment placement and readiness and will host Certified Recovery Specialist training. FAVOR Laurel Highlands will partner with the Regional Chamber and Goodwill of the Southern Alleghenies for employment readiness and connections with employers, and with the county probation office and Johnstown Area Regional Industries for referrals for individuals in recovery. It is anticipated that 25 businesses, 75 worker-trainees, 71 patients and one community will be improved through this project.

**Project Title:** *Southwest Pennsylvania Regional Recovery Ecosystem*

**Grantee:** Tri-County Workforce Investment Board, Inc.

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

**Announcement Date:** September 2025

**Project Summary:** ARC grant of \$500,000 to Tri-County Workforce Investment Board, Inc. in Butler, Pennsylvania, for the *Southwest Pennsylvania Regional Recovery Ecosystem* project. This project will partner with multiple key workforce development boards, training providers, and employers to expand the regional recovery ecosystem in nine Southwest Pennsylvania counties. This project will provide industry-aligned training and job placement for individuals in substance use disorder recovery and Recovery Friendly Workplace (RFW) strategies and training for regional businesses. The project is expected to serve 150 workers/trainees and 80 businesses and improve 120 workers/trainees and 40 businesses.

**Project Title:** *Recovery-to-Work: Building a Comprehensive Recovery-to-Work Ecosystem*

**Grantee:** Workforce Wayne, Inc.

**Award Amount:** \$143,640

**Announcement Date:** September 2025

**Project Summary:** ARC grant of \$143,640 to Workforce Wayne, Inc. in Honesdale, Pennsylvania, for the *Recovery-to-Work: Building a Comprehensive Recovery-to-Work Ecosystem* project. This project will partner with multiple key workforce organizations, training providers, and service agencies to establish a comprehensive recovery-to-work ecosystem in Pike and Wayne counties. Through the Recovery-to-Work Program, Workforce Wayne will equip individuals in substance use disorder (SUD) recovery with industry-recognized skills, certifications, job placement and wraparound services. To support these efforts, the grantee will engage local employers and businesses in Recovery Friendly Workplace trainings and initiatives to reduce stigma and increase employment opportunities. The project is expected to serve and improve 100 workers/trainees, 30 businesses, and two communities.

**Project Title:** *Families Involved in Recovery Support and Transformation - Community Access to Recovery and Employment Support Services*

**Award Amount:** \$100,000

**Grantee:** Families Involved in Recovery Support and Transformation (FIRST Center)

**Announcement Date:** September 2025

**Project Summary:** ARC grant of \$100,000 to Families Involved in Recovery Support and Transformation (FIRST Center) in Huntingdon, Pennsylvania, for the *Proposal/Project: Families Involved in Recovery Support and Transformation (FIRST) - Community Access to Recovery and Employment Support Services (CARES)* planning project. Focusing on Bedford, Fulton, Huntingdon, Juniata, and Mifflin counties, the project will allow the Families Involved in Recovery Support and Transformation (FIRST) Center to collaborate with community members, recovery stakeholders, and public and private sector employers to develop a data-driven strategic plan to enhance recovery services, supports, and employment opportunities for people in substance use disorder (SUD) recovery to enter and maintain employment. As part of the planning process, the FIRST Center will identify leadership to support a regional recovery workforce ecosystem, develop a needs



assessment that informs a regional strategic recovery workforce and workplace plan, increase awareness and support of current recovery resources, and cultivate a culture of recovery support in the community and the workplace. FIRST Center will create six plans/reports as part of this project.

**Project Title:** *Fit4Work Reengagement Program*

**Grantee:** Northern Tier Regional Planning & Development Corporation

**Award Amount:** \$100,000

**Announcement Date:** September 2025

**Project Summary:** ARC grant of \$100,000 to Northern Tier Regional Planning and Development Corporation (NTRPDC) in Towanda, Pennsylvania, for the *Fit4Work Reengagement Program*. Focusing on Bradford, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Tioga, and Wyoming counties, this project will expand NTRPDC's existing Fit4Work project, leveraging data collection, stakeholder engagement and workforce analysis to learn how to adapt this model to serve a substance use disorder (SUD)-impacted population. Along with recovery, training, and industry partners, NTRPDC will develop a plan to create a supportive, recovery-friendly workforce ecosystem.

**Project Title:** *Recovery Ecosystems at Work*

**Grantee:** Lehigh Valley Hospital, Inc.

**Award Amount:** \$100,000

**Announcement Date:** September 2025

**Project Summary:** ARC grant of \$100,000 to Lehigh Valley Hospital, Inc. in Allentown, Pennsylvania, for the *Recovery Ecosystems at Work* project. This project will enable Lehigh Valley Hospital, Inc., and partners across seven counties to establish a multisector workforce development collaborative to explore how partnerships between primary care, recovery support, and workforce development organizations can prepare people in recovery and their employers to meet the region's healthcare and workforce needs. Partners will participate in quarterly regional meetings and workgroups to discuss recovery assets and gaps and share insights about employment barriers. It is anticipated that a recovery-to-work asset report, a peer support plan and workforce development plan, and a recovery ready assessment will be created upon the project's completion.

## **TENNESSEE (3 awards)**

**Project Title:** *Skill Up Tennessee Recovery Initiative*

**Grantee:** The University of Tennessee

**Award Amount:** \$492,043

**Announcement Date:** September 2025

**Project Summary:** ARC grant of \$492,043 to the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, Tennessee, for the *Skill Up Tennessee Recovery Initiative*. This project will expand the University of Tennessee Extension's existing workforce development and job skills training program to specifically focus on individuals with or at risk of substance use disorder (SUD). The program will focus on vocational and technical training, as well as workforce readiness across 21 Appalachian Tennessee counties. It will also provide SUD education for local employers to help them become Recovery Friendly

Workplaces. The project will develop expertise in the recovery ecosystems space among UT Extension Agents. Project outcomes will include 50 participants/worker-trainees improved through obtaining employment and 10 businesses improved by implementing recovery-friendly workplace strategies.

**Project Title:** *Visionary Actions Leveraging Unified Employment*

**Grantee:** Schools Together Allowing No Drugs

**Award Amount:** \$475,975

**Announcement Date:** September 2025

**Project Summary:** ARC grant of \$475,975 to Schools Together Allowing No Drugs (STAND) in Oneida, Tennessee, for the *Visionary Actions Leveraging Unified Employment (VALUE)* project. The project will focus on Campbell, Claiborne, Clay, Fentress, Overton, Jackson, Morgan, and Scott counties to expand and scale STAND's Correctional Career Pathways project to address substance use disorder (SUD) and support the successful reintegration of incarcerated individuals back into their communities. This project will prepare justice-involved individuals for the workforce through a rigorous, evidence-based curriculum, while also providing targeted job training, prevention education, and skill-building programs for individuals in SUD recovery. The project is anticipated to improve eight businesses, 40 workers or trainees and eight communities by enhancing employment retention, reducing recidivism and SUD, increasing financial and community stability, and expanding the local labor pool.

**Project Title:** *Recovery Grundy*

**Grantee:** Recovery Soldiers Ministries

**Award Amount:** \$100,000

**Announcement Date:** September 2025

**Project Summary:** ARC grant of \$100,000 to Recovery Soldiers Ministries (RSM) in Elizabethton, Tennessee, for the *Recovery Grundy* project. This project will enable Recovery Soldiers Ministries to assess the substance use disorder (SUD) recovery ecosystem in Grundy County, Tennessee, and create a detailed plan to enhance strategies for workforce entry/re-entry, wraparound services, and stigma reduction. As part of the assessment process, RSM will engage focus groups, utilize surveys, and conduct interviews with individuals in recovery, employers, behavioral health providers, and other stakeholders. This project will result in a report that clarifies objectives, informs resource allocation, identifies risks, establishes metrics, defines stakeholder roles, creates a communication plan, and builds an evaluation framework.

## **VIRGINIA (2 awards)**

**Project Title:** *Project SOAR*

**Grantee:** Mountain Empire Community College

**Award Amount:** \$491,548

**Announcement Date:** September 2025

**Project Summary:** ARC grant of \$491,548 to Mountain Empire Community College in Big Stone Gap, Virginia, for *Project SOAR*. The project will expand workforce training

and wraparound recovery services for individuals impacted by substance use disorder in Lee, Scott, Wise, and Dickenson counties, as well as the city of Norton. The project will deliver training in high-demand skilled trades such as carpentry, electrical, plumbing, and welding, alongside legal assistance, housing support, transportation, and career counseling. Services will also reach individuals in correctional settings through newly established regional training hubs. It is anticipated that 70 individuals in recovery will be improved through participation in training and recovery support services; 70 workers/trainees will be credentialed, employed, or demonstrate skills improvement; 12 businesses will be improved through recovery-to-work efforts; and at least nine new part-time jobs will be created.

**Project Title:** *Hope Stage 2*

**Grantee:** Appalachian Center for Hope

**Award Amount:** \$100,000

**Announcement Date:** September 2025

**Project Summary:** ARC grant of \$100,000 to the Appalachian Center for Hope (ACH) in Blacksburg, Virginia, for the *Hope Stage 2* planning project. This project will enable the Appalachian Center for Hope and community partners to embark on a 12-month intensive planning process to determine service and resource gaps in the substance use disorder (SUD) support community in Smyth County. It will also identify viable funding sources to expand services and outline concrete actions ACH can take to overcome the stigma-related obstacles that have impeded previous project achievement. The project is expected to result in one plan/report.

## **WEST VIRGINIA (5 awards)**

**Project Title:** *Bridging the Gap: Innovation Transportation Network*

**Grantee:** Recovery Point West Virginia

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

**Announcement Date:** September 2025

**Project Summary:** ARC grant of \$500,000 to Recovery Point West Virginia in Huntington, West Virginia, for the Bridging the Gap: Innovation Transportation Network project. This project will build a statewide coalition of recovery support service providers, who provide non-emergency medical and workforce development transportation services. This project will aim to integrate SUD recovery initiatives into broader health and economic development plans at the state and community levels and support the provision of peer-driven wraparound services across 12 West Virginia counties. In addition, this program will respond to the service gaps in behavioral health access and transportation, training and employment transportation, and rural job opportunity support and wraparound services by leasing vehicles and hiring staff to expand non-emergency medical and workforce development transportation services to rural Appalachian communities. It is anticipated that 100 businesses, 76 workers, 12 communities, and 400 participants will be served/improved as a result of this project.

**Project Title:** *Recovering Together: A Community Outreach Expansion & Employment Project to Combat Substance Abuse in Three Appalachian States*

**Grantee:** West Virginia Drug Intervention Institute

**Award Amount:** \$498,880

**Announcement Date:** September 2025

**Project Summary:** ARC grant of \$498,880 to West Virginia Drug Intervention Institute in Charleston, West Virginia, for the *Recovering Together: A Community Outreach Expansion & Employment Project to Combat Substance Abuse in Three Appalachian States* project. Focused on 21 counties across West Virginia, Kentucky, and Tennessee, this project will employ individuals in recovery, aged 18 and older, to serve as outreach coordinators. These individuals will receive job skills training and employment services, distribute emergency opioid response kits to communities, and conduct outreach to decrease stigma and increase community resources needed to address substance use disorder. They will work in tandem with law enforcement and other local partners to educate community members about overdose prevention and treatment, and recovery resources. It is anticipated that 21 communities, 10 workers/trainees, 50 participants, and 400 businesses will be served/improved, and one report will be completed as a result of this project.

**Project Title:** *Eastern Panhandle Center for Workforce Recovery Solutions*

**Grantee:** Blue Ridge Community and Technical College

**Award Amount:** \$480,928

**Announcement Date:** September 2025

**Project Summary:** ARC grant of \$480,928 to Blue Ridge Community and Technical College (BRCTC) in Martinsburg, West Virginia, for the *Eastern Panhandle Center for Workforce Recovery Solutions* project. Focusing on Berkeley, Jefferson, and Morgan counties, the project will integrate recovery-informed training pathways with employer engagement and wraparound services to address key barriers to maintaining employment. BRCTC will provide advanced skills training aligned with in-demand occupations and expand a regional workforce resource and training hub to support the eastern panhandle's recovery-to-work ecosystem. As a key connector among employers, economic development agencies, and workforce partners, BRCTC will also implement the Recovery-to-Work Employer Leadership Academy (ELA), an eight-hour training that equips employers, HR professionals, and supervisors with tools to effectively recruit, support, and retain employees in recovery. It is anticipated that 30 students will attain industry-aligned credentials or certificates, and 15 businesses will be improved through participation in the ELA.

**Project Title:** *Calhoun RISE (Recovery, Integration, and Sustainable Employment)*

**Grantee:** The EdVenture Group, Inc.

**Award Amount:** \$469,893

**Announcement Date:** September 2025

**Project Summary:** ARC grant of \$469,893 to The EdVenture Group, Inc. in Morgantown, West Virginia, for the *Calhoun RISE (Recovery, Integration, and Sustainable Employment)* project. In partnership with other recovery-to-work ecosystem partners, local employers, local governments, and the justice and public health systems, this project will help build a recovery ecosystem in economically

distressed and recovery underserved Calhoun County by providing essential recovery support services and educational and workforce training opportunities to residents affected by SUD so they can successfully enter or reenter the workforce. The project is expected to serve 10 businesses, 33 workers/trainees and 100 community member participants.

**Project Title:** *SERVE: Skills Development, Empowerment, Recovery Support, Vocational training, and Economic*

**Grantee:** West Virginia Ministry of Advocacy and Workcamps, Inc.

**Award Amount:** \$62,554

**Announcement Date:** September 2025

**Project Summary:** ARC grant of \$62,554 to West Virginia Ministry of Advocacy and Workcamps, Inc. (WVMAW) in Oak Hill, West Virginia, for the *SERVE* project. This project will initiate a planning process with focus on program design, partnership development, and feasibility research to ensure the successful implementation of a long-term workforce entry and re-entry program focusing on the West Virginia counties of Fayette, Kanawha, Mason, Nicholas, Raleigh, and Webster. The project will contribute to the long-term development of a recovery-to-work program which will provide residents in substance use disorder (SUD) recovery access to vocational training and employment opportunities to become financially independent and actively contribute to their communities. The project is expected to create three plans/reports via a feasibility study, strategic plan, and a SUD focused training model.