Partnerships for Opportunity and Workforce and Economic Revitalization (POWER)

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

This document outlines some common questions we receive from applicants and our answers. This FAQ is not exhaustive of all application requirements - you should consult the POWER Notice of Solicitation of Applications (NOSA) and follow all instructions in the POWER application portal for the completion of your application.

POWER applications will only be accepted if submitted via the POWER application portal by **5:00 pm ET October 22, 2025**. To gain access to the POWER application portal, you must first complete a Letter of Intent (LOI) by **5:00 pm ET September 12, 2025**. See POWER 2025 NOSA for more information.

Before you prepare any application documents, please ensure you carefully and completely review the POWER NOSA.

For any questions about this resource or the POWER Initiative please contact power@arc.gov.

Contents

General Questions

1. **How much funding is available for POWER 2025?**

    a. POWER 2025 makes available up to $65,000,000 for economic development projects in coal-impacted Appalachian communities. This is consistent with prior years of funding.

2. **How much can I request for a POWER Planning Grant?**

    a. You can request up to $100,000 for planning projects.

3. **How much can I request for a POWER implementation grant?**

    a. You may request between $400,000 and $2,000,000 for POWER implementation projects. You may request up to $2,500,000 if your implementation project is a broadband construction or Broadband as a Service project.

4. **I applied to POWER funding in the past. What updates were made between this year and last year?**

    a. The two key changes between POWER 2024 and POWER 2025 were 1) an increase in the funding cap for planning projects and 2) inclusion of new resources like the POWER Application Checklist.

    b. Also, all applicants should consult [Executive Orders](#), including those on energy policy and ending diversity, equity and inclusion activities, such as EO 14154 and EO 14151, as they prepare their applications.

5. **What are the key dates in the POWER 2025 application process?**

    a. Letters of Intent: Due September 12, 2025 @5:00 p.m. ET.

        i. You must contact your State Program Manager ahead of the submission of your LOI.

    b. Full application: Due October 22, 2025 @5:00 p.m. ET.

    c. Finalists/Non-Finalists: Notified in February 2026

    d. Award Announcement: Late Spring 2026

    e. Projects start: May 1, 2026

6. **Is there a preview of the application?**

   a. Applicants will complete the application in the POWER Portal. Though we do not have a preview application, we did create the [POWER Application Checklist](#) which will give you an idea of all required application components and documentation

7. **When will I be able to access the POWER Portal?**

   a. You will use ARC's POWER Portal to submit your application and will gain access to the portal once you submit a LOI and ARC confirms your eligibility. If we don't need any additional information or clarification regarding your eligibility, our typical turnaround time is 48-72 hours from when you submit your LOI to when we grant access to the POWER Portal. Access to the POWER Portal will be granted via email to the primary contact listed in your LOI. If we are unable to verify your eligibility and require additional information, we will contact you for clarification.

8. **Do I need to complete a POWER Planning Grant before I can apply for an Implementation Grant?**

   a. No, you do not have to complete a POWER-specific planning grant to be eligible for POWER implementation funding. However, you will be required to demonstrate prior planning and assessment documentation in the POWER Implementation Grant Application.

9. **I have received ARC funding in the past. Can I apply for POWER funding for a project similar to my prior work?**

   a. You can apply for POWER as long as the scope of work is different or if you are serving a different geography. For example, if you received a POWER grant in 2023 for a workforce training project, you could apply for POWER 2025 for a related project if you are expanding to new counties or if you are incorporating a new training program in the same area.

10. **Do I need to contact my State Program Manager prior to submitting a Letter of Intent? How do I know who my State Program Manager is or how to contact them?**

    a. Yes, you are required to contact the State Program Manager for any state impacted by your proposed project. Send them a summary of the project and be open to feedback. Reach out as soon as possible to give your State Program Manager enough time to review before the LOI deadline.

    b. If you are not sure who your State Program Manager is, you can find their name and contact information here: [ARC State Program Managers](#).

11. **My organization is newly established, and we do not have a UEI number through SAM.gov. How do we meet this requirement?**

    a. All ARC applicants must be registered in the System for Award Management (SAM) ([sam.gov](#)) and have a UEI assigned to them before any ARC funds are awarded. We strongly encourage you to register with SAM.gov today, or as soon as possible, and no later than the submission of your POWER application.

    b. To register:

        i. Log onto https://sam.gov/
        ii. On the home page, find "Register Your Entity or Get a Unique Entity ID." Click "Get Started."
        iii. You will be asked to set up an account on SAM.gov and submit select information about your organization. We recommend you review SAM.gov's resource "Entity Registration Checklist" to preview those requirements.

12. **If we have questions regarding our proposed project and its viability or eligibility, should we ask our state managers or is there someone at ARC we can talk to?**

    a. You can do both! You can find your ARC State Program Manager here and/or you can reach out to the ARC POWER Team at power@arc.gov.

    b. Note that due to the competitive nature of the POWER Initiative, we cannot review or comment on specific application materials,

such as a letter of intent or a complete application. However, we're happy to discuss eligibility questions or application processes with you.

13. **Do you weigh any of the ARC, POWER, or State and Regional investment priorities more heavily than the others?**
    a. No, projects impacting the range of investment priorities are all weighed equally. However, you must be sure to demonstrate how your project aligns with at least one ARC Investment Priority, POWER Investment Priority, and State/Regional Priority.

14. **Is there a recording of the POWER Pre-Application Webinar?**
    a. Yes, you can find it on our website here: POWER 2025 Pre-Application Webinar Recording

Eligibility

1. **Can I submit an application for more than one project?**
   a. Yes, you can submit multiple applications. However, you must demonstrate that your organization has the capacity to manage multiple grants, and that the scopes of work are different.

2. **Can my organization serve as the lead applicant for one project and partner for another?**
   a. Yes, but again, you must demonstrate the capacity and preparedness to engage in multiple projects.

3. **What types of organizations are eligible to apply for POWER?**
   a. Organizations eligible to receive ARC funding are:
      i. Local development districts (LDDs)
      ii. Indian tribes or a consortium of Indian tribes
      iii. States, counties, cities, or other political subdivisions of a state, including a special purpose unit of a state or local government engaged in economic or infrastructure development activities, or a consortium of political subdivisions
      iv. Institutions of higher education or a consortium of institutions of higher education
      v. Public or private nonprofit organizations or associations

4. **Are all ARC counties eligible for POWER or is there a specific subset of eligible counties?**

    a. Projects impacting any of ARC's counties are eligible for POWER.

5. **Are multi-state projects permitted?**

    a. Yes, POWER projects may be multi-state. Multi-state POWER projects are required to have at least one project partner from each state included in the project scope.

Budget and Match

1. **How do I know how much matching funds I need for my prospective POWER project?**

    a. Each fiscal year, ARC evaluates economic data and categorizes the economic status of each county in the Appalachian Region as distressed, at-risk, transitional, competitive or attainment. Each economic designation has a different match rate, which determines the amount of funding that ARC is able to provide.

    b. You can get an estimate of your match rate by using the ARC Match Rate Calculator. When you enter your geographic scope and budget information in the POWER Portal, it will calculate the specific match rate required for your project geography.

2. **The funding request range for Implementation awards is $400,000 to $2,000,000. Can I apply for an implementation project requesting less than $400,000?**

    a. No, $400,000 is the funding floor for POWER Implementation Grants.

3. **Can I use unrecovered indirect costs as match for my project?**

    a. Yes, you may use any unrecovered indirect costs as matching funds for the project.

4. **For construction projects, do we need final architectural/engineering reports when we submit our application, or can we supplement those after?**

   a. You are required to have final construction budget documents submitted at the time of your application submission. Applications without all required documentation will be considered incomplete and may be ineligible for funding.

5. **How do we ensure we are compliant with prevailing wage requirements?**

   a. All laborers and mechanics employed by contractors or subcontractors in the construction, alteration, or repair, including painting and decorating, of projects, buildings, and works which are financially assisted by an ARC grant must be paid at least prevailing wage for the locality as determined by the U.S. Department of Labor. More information available at: https://www.dol.gov/agencies/whd/fact-sheets/66-dbra and https://www.dol.gov/agencies/whd/government-contracts/construction.

6. **I have potential matching funds that may not be confirmed by the October 22 application deadline. Can I still include these match dollars in my application?**

   a. Yes, you can include pending match as part of your budget in the application. However, all matching funds must be confirmed by March 20, 2026.

7. **The NOSA mentions that federal funds (cash or in-kind) are allowable as part of match. If federal funds are included, is there a limit?**

   a. No, there is no set limit.

Other

1. **What other resources can I access to help me with my application?**
   a. POWER 2025 NOSA - gives an overview of ARC's POWER Initiative, and the requirements needed to complete a POWER grant application for fiscal year 2025.

b. [ARC funding priorities](#) – Every POWER project must align with at least one of ARC's investment priorities for Appalachia.

c. [State plans and strategies](#) – Each of Appalachia's 13 states develops a four-year plan and annual strategy outlining its funding priorities for ARC projects. Each POWER project must align with the plans and strategies for the state(s) served by their proposed project.

d. [Application checklist](#) - Outlines the major components of the POWER 2025 application and required documentation. You can use this list to plan for what will be required should you apply for POWER funding.

e. [Standard forms for non-construction applications](#) - This page leads to all standard forms for non-construction projects as well as written instructions and a how-to video. Please note: Some standard forms will be filled in directly on the application portal. Please read the instructions in the portal carefully.

f. [Standard forms for construction applications](#) – This page contains the same resources as above, but for construction applications.

g. [ARC budget and match overview](#) – This page introduces prospective grant applicants to ARC's budget and match requirements. It also defines ARC's required match rates and gives guidance on budget and match documentation for both construction and non-construction project applications. You will also find additional resources on this page including [ARC's Match Rate Calculator](#) and [County Economic Status Designations](#).

h. [Budget narrative](#) - This template is a workable document and can be used to develop the required budget narrative for POWER applications.

i. [Guide to ARC performance measures](#) – This guide details all of ARC's recognized performance metrics. You'll find general tips for choosing performance measures for your project, as well as specific guidance on performance measures by project type.

j. [Application guidance by project type](#) – ARC investments, including those made through POWER, general fall into a number of project types, described on this page. This resource can help applicants ID pertinent information including project examples, key investment principles, project considerations, and links to additional resources, for their particular project types.

k. [ARC coal research](#) – This page leads you to research lead by ARC and its partners that can help you craft a strong Coal Impact Narrative. This includes but is not limited to:
    i. [An Economic Analysis of the Appalachian Coal Ecosystem](#)
    i. [County-level Coal Employment and Production Data](#)
    ii. [Private-sector Employment in Appalachia](#)