



READY Grants to Grow Awards by State

As of December 2025

ALABAMA (5 awards)

Grantee: Jefferson State Community College (JSCC)

Award Amount: \$500,000

Project Summary: This project will implement a new, accredited degree program for Diagnostic Medical Sonography professionals to both expand JSCC's health-related programs and strengthen the workforce pipeline for this high-demand field. Project activities are projected to improve 40 students who will enroll in and complete the program, and three organizations that will hire qualified Diagnostic Medical Sonography graduates who hold industry-recognized certifications.

Grantee: Etowah County Commission

Award Amount: \$380,204

Project Summary: This project will train small business owners, local leaders, organizations and employees on effective strategies to address local economic needs, help the county gain competitive economic advantages and advance the prosperity of local communities. Project activities are expected to serve/improve 16 organizations, 60 workers and five communities.

Grantee: Top of Alabama Regional Council of Governments (TARCOG)

Award Amount: \$252,180

Project Summary: This project will establish Loan Fund Director and Outreach Specialist positions to improve consistency and efficiency in the delivery of loans to small businesses. Project activities are projected to serve/improve 158 businesses, 12 communities and two organizations, create 120 businesses, and retain 165 jobs.

Grantee: St. Clair County Commission

Award Amount: \$100,000

Project Summary: This project will develop a strategic economic development plan to improve five communities within the county, provide project planning training for 80 local staff and officials, and offer pre-project funds for priority infrastructure projects.

Grantee: Your Town Alabama

Award Amount: \$30,000

Project Summary: This project will develop a strategic plan to help Your Town Alabama enhance its support for economic development education projects in nine rural communities.

KENTUCKY (4 awards)

Grantee: Foundation for Appalachian Kentucky

Award Amount: \$500,000

Project Summary: This project will support the development of a STEM ecosystem in Appalachian Kentucky through paid work-based learning programs that connect students with local businesses and regional employers. Activities are projected to serve over 1,000 students, 20 counties, 20 educators and 20 community partners, as well as support three regional convenings and nine professional development sessions.

Grantee: Berea College - Brushy Fork Leadership Institute

Award Amount: \$388,610

Project Summary: This project will provide organizational development training, technical assistance and related services to nonprofit organizations throughout Kentucky, Tennessee, Virginia and West Virginia. Activities are projected to improve 120 participants from 60 organizations, as well as the technical assistance skills of 12 workers employed by the grantee.

Grantee: Buffalo Trace Area Development District

Award Amount: \$212,300

Project Summary: This project will expand economic development services to four communities across Fleming and Robertson counties by hiring an additional staff member to conduct research and surveys on housing, collaborate with local officials on property development and lead community economic development planning.

Grantee: City of Corbin

Award Amount: \$60,000

Project Summary: This project will generate a comprehensive, long-term plan to identify and implement strategies for land use, housing, transportation, community facilities and natural resources to maximize economic potential. Project activities will improve the skills of 14 city employees and launch community partnerships with six organizations.

MARYLAND (1 award)

Grantee: Frostburg State University

Award Amount: \$500,000

Project Summary: This project aims to strengthen the region's outdoor recreation economy by facilitating economic development training for staff of the Frostburg Outdoor Recreation Economy Institute (FOREI) and generating one technology/digital infrastructure plan to improve FOREI workflows.

MISSISSIPPI (3 awards)

Grantee: East Central Planning & Development District

Award Amount: \$100,000

Project Summary: This project will conduct geographical information systems (GIS) digital mapping of public utilities in the towns of DeKalb and Scooba in Kemper County. Project activities will help the public works staff in this economically distressed county improve community services related to sewer/water lines, pumps, manholes and other public infrastructure.

Grantee: Kemper County Economic Development Authority

Award Amount: \$100,000

Project Summary: This project will develop a revitalization strategy to spur economic growth, reinvigorate downtowns, create jobs and boost community engagement in the towns of DeKalb and Scooba.

Grantee: Mississippi Main Street Association

Award Amount: \$100,000

Project Summary: This project will create downtown economic revitalization plans for five designated Main Street communities in Yalobusha, Panola, Winston, Monroe and Clay counties.

NEW YORK (4 awards)

Grantee: City of Dunkirk

Award Amount: \$412,115

Project Summary: This project will improve organizational efficiency, costs savings and accounting transparencies by implementing a new Government Resource Planning (GRP) software solution, training staff to use the GRP software and creating a new Information Technology Comptroller position.

Grantee: Catskill Watershed Corporation

Award Amount: \$100,000

Project Summary: This project will enhance operational efficiency, staff capability and program effectiveness through implementing data management software, providing training for staff and creating a new IT specialist position.

Grantee: Cortland County

Award Amount: \$100,000

Project Summary: This project will reduce document processing time and improve operational efficiency to better serve the community by expanding the use of existing document management software across departments and improving the skills of 10 workers through software proficiency certifications.

Grantee: Seneca Nation of Indians

Award Amount: \$53,000

Project Summary: This project will develop an actionable economic revitalization plan for staff, local business owners and community leaders, and evaluate the economic development potential of two buildings on Main Street in Salamanca, New York.

NORTH CAROLINA (5 awards)

Grantee: Outdoor Business Alliance

Award Amount: \$376,500

Project Summary: This project will expand the grantee's support of outdoor recreation entrepreneurship by hiring a full-time Executive Director, a part-time Development Coordinator, and three Regional Managers for new chapters in the Smokies, High Country and Catawba regions. Activities are projected to serve three participants, three communities and one organization.

Grantee: Town of Rutherfordton

Award Amount: \$277,420

Project Summary: This project will improve support of small businesses, entrepreneurs and the tourism sector by hiring a full-time Main Street Coordinator to facilitate training, mentorship and enhanced community engagement. Activities are projected to serve 30 small businesses and 15 entrepreneurs, conduct 12 technical assistance workshops, host six tourism events and distribute at least three small business grants.

Grantee: Grahamtown Team

Award Amount: \$100,000

Project Summary: This project will enhance workforce support and place-based economic development through the implementation of a housing and financial counseling program, and the creation of two comprehensive plans to guide community revitalization.

Grantee: Highlands Cashiers Health Foundation, Inc.

Award Amount: \$99,600

Project Summary: This project aims to strengthen the healthcare workforce and address a shortage of medical services in six rural counties by conducting organizational and community needs assessments, developing a comprehensive organizational plan and providing staff training.

Grantee: John C. Campbell Folk School

Award Amount: \$48,935

Project Summary: This project will develop a business forecasting model and long-term implementation plan for the launch of a capital campaign to generate new revenue streams that further contribute to the economic growth of Cherokee County.

OHIO (5 awards)

Grantee: Ohio University - Voinovich School of Leadership

Award Amount: \$500,000

Project Summary: The project will facilitate training, provide tailored organizational support and create a new position to help 100 Appalachian Ohio municipalities better serve the economic development needs of their communities.

Grantee: Building Bridges to Careers

Award Amount: \$499,829

Project Summary: This project will create a pipeline of skilled workers in Appalachian Ohio and West Virginia by replicating and scaling Building Bridges to Career's successful high school internship program to serve 10 communities, 40 organizations and 1,000 students.

Grantee: Muskingum County Community Foundation

Award Amount: \$290,097

Project Summary: This project will provide support and skill-building for the county's emerging workforce participants by hiring and training a Project Director to launch a new workforce development student program in Muskingum County by October 2028.

Grantee: Ohio's Appalachian Country

Award Amount: \$100,000

Project Summary: The project will conduct a destination assessment and develop a strategic plan to guide tourism planning and economic development efforts across Ohio's 32 Appalachian counties.

Grantee: Tuscarawas County Economic Development Corporation

Award Amount: \$50,000

Project Summary: This project will develop individualized plans for 12 communities to address unique housing needs, engage stakeholders and identify potential support for prioritized economic development projects that align with county-wide growth goals.

PENNSYLVANIA (5 awards)

Grantee: Fayette County Community Action Agency

Award Amount: \$499,964

Project Summary: This project will expand and enhance the agency's services to the county by creating a new Community Liaison/Trainer position to lead the worker training program, increase the number of workers trained, develop and implement community outreach plans, improve internal communications tools and create resources for staff onboarding and donor engagement.

Grantee: Community Kitchen Pittsburgh

Award Amount: \$330,680

Project Summary: This project will hire at least six additional positions to expand the organization's workforce training program, increasing the annual number of enrolled program participants, enhancing support of local employers through job placements and creating additional jobs within the community.

Grantee: City of Carbondale

Award Amount: \$300,000

Project Summary: This project will hire and train a Community and Economic Development Director to implement programs that improve the central business district's public infrastructure to meet the needs of businesses, workers, visitors and residents.

Grantee: Brownsville Area Revitalization Corporation

Award Amount: \$258,800

Project Summary: The project will hire a Director of Mission Advancement to guide strategic economic development, including the creation of a five-year plan for community economic growth and the organization's role in that process.

Grantee: Pennsylvania Environmental Council

Award Amount: \$195,000

Project Summary: This project will provide training and technical assistance for regional trail coalitions in Pennsylvania and New York to serve 20 communities, 250 participants and 40 organizations.

SOUTH CAROLINA (3 awards)

Grantee: City of Union

Award Amount: \$290,197

Project Summary: This project will fund a new Main Street Manager position to lead and coordinate downtown revitalization activities that align with the city's recent Downtown Vision Plan to strengthen place-based economic development.

Grantee: Eden Community Development Corporation

Award Amount: \$100,000

Project Summary: This project will develop one strategic plan to guide the launch of an educational and workforce training program to prepare workers for jobs in the hydroponic agriculture industry.

Grantee: South Carolina Appalachian Council of Governments

Award Amount: \$75,000

Project Summary: This project will develop a 5-10 year economic development strategic plan to identify community challenges and opportunities, outline specific initiatives or activities to seize opportunities or overcome challenges, and identify existing resources that can be leveraged to enhance long-term economic development and community resilience.

TENNESSEE (2 awards)

Grantee: City Fields

Award Amount: \$100,153

Project Summary: This project will increase organizational efficiencies and provide employee training to help streamline housing programs and financial management practices required to meet community housing needs.

Grantee: The Housing Hub

Award Amount: \$99,960

Project Summary: This project will address workforce needs related to quality, affordable housing in Grundy County, Tennessee, by providing training, developing strategic plans for volunteer recruitment and countywide housing, and upskilling employees of two organizations.

VIRGINIA (3 awards)

Grantee: New River/Mount Rogers Workforce Development Foundation

Award Amount: \$500,000

Project Summary: This project will implement a three-pronged organizational strategy to expand workforce training, credentialing and support services for workers and businesses across 13 Southwest Virginia jurisdictions.

Grantee: Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center Foundation

Award Amount: \$280,000

Project Summary: This project will enhance economic and workforce development services for 15 communities by providing in-depth board training and recruitment, establishing an endowment for educational scholarships/tuition assistance, hiring a Director of Development to lead funding and financial support efforts, and developing an organizational strategic plan.

Grantee: Town of Abingdon

Award Amount: \$25,000

Project Summary: This project will develop an economic development strategic plan to assess and outline goals, strategies, objectives and tactics to strengthen workforce development and address housing challenges in Washington County.

WEST VIRGINIA (7 awards)

Grantee: The Martinsburg Initiative

Award Amount: \$500,000

Project Summary: This project will support the hiring of additional behavioral health workers and administrators in four local schools to better meet student needs, reduce waitlists and establish a long-term funding model for reimbursable services.

Grantee: Mountain CAP of WV, Inc

Award Amount: \$500,000

Project Summary: The project will expand the organization's delivery of services to Braxton, Upshur and Webster counties by providing staff training, establishing a new satellite office and hiring a Housing Director and Case Manager for that office.

Grantee: West Virginia Food and Farm Coalition, Inc.

Award Amount: \$499,947

Project Summary: This project will strengthen the state's local food economy by conducting asset mapping, identifying out-of-state food aggregation and distribution partners, purchasing equipment, establishing two co-packing facilities, hiring a marketing consultant for local food producers, and more.

Grantee: Mid-Ohio Valley Regional Planning and Development Council

Award Amount: \$331,885

Project Summary: This project will hire a GIS Specialist and a Grant Writer to provide economic development technical assistance and improve funding access across eight counties and 15 communities.

Grantee: New Roots Community Farm

Award Amount: \$275,141

Project Summary: This project will support the final planning, pre-development and capital-securing activities to construct the New River Gorge Food and Ag Center — a 7,000 square foot facility that will boost the local agriculture economy by housing an expanded market, community event space, aggregation and cold storage, and offices, while also supporting organizational planning and staff training.

Grantee: Woodland Community Lenders

Award Amount: \$117,665

Project Summary: This project will enhance organizational efficiencies to expand business growth and attract private investment in North Central West Virginia by hiring more staff, relocating to a more accessible and appropriately-sized office space, implementing cross-training for all staff members on loan underwriting, loan document management, technical assistance delivery, and impact tracking through newly implemented advanced software solutions.

Grantee: Region VII Planning and Development Council

Award Amount: \$105,000

Project Summary: This project will provide economic development project planning and implementation support — including technical assistance and training — for 31 communities located in Barbour, Braxton, Gilmer, Lewis, Randolph, Tucker and Upshur counties.