



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 Pathways for the completion of your application.

POWER applications will only be accepted if submitted via Pathways by **5:00 pm ET July 8, 2026**. To gain access to the application, you must first complete a Letter of Intent (LOI) by **5:00 pm ET May 22, 2026**. See POWER 2026 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.

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General Questions

1. How much funding is available for POWER 2026?

- a. POWER 2026 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. What are the key dates in the POWER 2026 application process?

- a. Register for Pathways by May 15, 2026.
- b. Contact your State Program Managers before submitting your Letter of Intent (LOI).
- c. Letters of Intent: Due May 22, 2026 @ 5 p.m. ET.
- d. Full application: Due July 8, 2026 @ 5 p.m. ET.
- e. Finalists/Non-Finalists: Notified in Fall 2026
- f. Award Announcement: Winter 2027
- g. Projects start: No sooner than February 1, 2027

5. When will I be able to access the POWER Application?

- a. You will use ARC's new grants management system, Pathways, to submit your LOI and application. Once you submit your LOI, ARC will review for eligibility and fit with POWER funding priorities. If your project advances, we will initiate your application, and you will receive an email and a notification in Pathways to move forward with submitting a full application.

6. I've never used Pathways before. How do I get started?

- a. ARC's [Pathways User Resources](#) page has all you need to get started.

- b. Review the [How-To Guide](#). Use the Registration instructions to help you get started on your registration. Aim to submit your registration request by May 15, 2026.
- c. Once you're registered, you may go back to the How-To Guide for instructions on various topics or use the [Training Videos](#) for guided support, such as how to submit your LOI and application.

7. 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.

8. 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 2026 for a related project if you are expanding to new counties or if you are incorporating a new training program in the same area.

9. 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. We encourage you to use the [Project Summary Resource](#) to ensure you provide all relevant information your SPM needs to understand your project.
- c. If you are not sure who your State Program Manager is, you can find their name and contact information here: [ARC State Program Managers](#).

10. My organization is newly established, and we do not have a UEI number through SAM.gov. How do we meet the UEI 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 submitting an LOI. You must also have “Active” registration status when you submit your application. We strongly encourage you to register with SAM.gov today, or as soon as possible.
- b. To register:
 - i. Log onto [https://sam.gov/](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.

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

- a. You can do both! You can find your ARC State Program Manager using the link above 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.

12. 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.

13. Is there a recording of the POWER Pre-Application Webinar?

- a. Yes, you can find it on our website here: [POWER 2026 Pre-Application Webinar Recording](#)

Eligibility

1. Can I submit an application for more than one project?

- a. Yes, you can submit multiple applications, however we strongly discourage most applicants from doing so. You must be able to demonstrate that your organization has the capacity to manage multiple grants, and that the scopes of work are different between projects.

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 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. Use [FY 2027 economic status designations](#) to calculate your match rate. You must use FY 2027 designations given the timing of this POWER cycle—POWER FY 2026 grants will be awarded in FY 2027.

- 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 Pathways, 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 July 8, 2026 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, if you are selected as a finalists, all matching funds must be confirmed within two weeks of receiving notice you are a finalist.

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 2026 NOSA](#) - gives an overview of ARC's POWER Initiative, and the requirements needed to complete a POWER grant application for fiscal year 2026.
- 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. [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](#).
- e. [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.
- f. [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.

- g. [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](#)
 - ii. [County-level Coal Employment and Production Data](#)
 - iii. [Private-sector Employment in Appalachia](#)