



Appalachian
Regional
Commission

POWER Award Summaries by State

FY 2025

ALABAMA (1 Award)

City of Dora Water Tank Project

Grantee: City Of Dora

Counties: Walker

ARC Funding: \$1,000,000

Partners: Walker County Economic Development Authority, Walker Area Community Foundation

Project Summary: City of Dora in Alabama will use POWER funding to build a new 250,000-gallon elevated water storage tank to add system capacity and enable development at Heritage Landing, a site developed with \$3,000,000 of federal funding through the Abandoned Mine Land Revitalization Program. Water tank installation will meet Heritage Landing's final infrastructure need to be a highly desirable site for potential businesses.

The City of Dora and partners bring a combined \$1,000,000 in matching funds. This project will construct 250,000 gallons of water capacity, 1,000 linear feet of water main pipe, serve one business and generate \$8,000,000 in leveraged private investment over the three-year performance period.

KENTUCKY (10 Awards)

Leatherwood Wildcat Coal Lodge Project

Grantee: Perry County Fiscal Court

Counties: Perry

ARC Funding: \$2,000,000

Partners: Hazard Community & Technical College, Kentucky Mountain Regional

Recreational Authority, Leatherwood Off-Road Park & Campground, Kentucky River Properties LLC, L.K.L.P. Community Action Council, Hazard-Perry County Tourism, Hazard-Perry County Chamber of Commerce

Project Summary: Perry County Fiscal Court in Kentucky will use POWER funding to help renovate and repurpose the former Leatherwood Elementary School into the Leatherwood Wildcat Coal Lodge. The project will transform a vacant coal-era facility into a vibrant center featuring 17 overnight lodging rooms, a full-service restaurant, a culinary teaching kitchen, event and classroom spaces, and offices. Once complete, the facility will train students in the culinary arts and individuals in recovery from substance use disorder and create new jobs, directly supporting Perry County's transition from a coal-dependent economy to one driven by adventure tourism and entrepreneurship. ARC funds will support site development, HVAC, plumbing, electrical work and general construction on the building to renovate it into overnight lodging rooms, reception and guest service area, office space, full-service kitchen, dining area, teaching kitchen for the culinary program, classroom space and event/meeting spaces.

Perry County Fiscal Court and partners bring a combined \$9,506,116 in matching funds. This project will renovate 36,280 square feet of building interior, serve 3,500 new daytime visitors, serve 4,592 new overnight visitors, serve 25 participants through the culinary training program, create 31 jobs, and generate \$1.1 million in annual revenue over the course of the three-year performance period.

Strong Foundations: Fortifying the Building Blocks of Economic Development in Appalachian Kentucky

Grantee: Mountain Association for Community Economic Development, Inc.

Counties: Adair, Bath, Bell, Boyd, Breathitt, Carter, Casey, Clark, Clay, Clinton, Cumberland, Edmonson, Elliott, Estill, Fleming, Floyd, Garrard, Green, Greenup, Harlan, Hart, Jackson, Johnson, Knott, Knox, Laurel, Lawrence, Lee, Leslie,

Letcher, Lewis, Lincoln, Madison, Magoffin, Martin, McCreary, Menifee, Metcalfe, Monroe, Montgomery, Morgan, Nicholas, Owsley, Perry, Pike, Powell, Pulaski, Robertson, Rockcastle, Rowan, Russell, Wayne, Whitley, Wolfe

ARC Funding: \$2,000,000

Partners: Kentucky Highlands Investment Corporation (KHIC), Appalachian Cradle to Career Partnership (AppC2C), TEK Center,

Appalachian Early Childhood Network (AECN), Kentucky Small Business Development Center (SBDC), Invest606

Project Summary: Mountain Association for Community Economic Development, Inc. (Mountain Association) in Kentucky will use POWER funding to strengthen and expand enterprises in sectors that are foundational to economic development. Project activities include deepening support of foundational economic sectors, expanding access to capital, and implementing a new technical assistance approach to more efficiently and effectively meet the needs of small businesses in Appalachian Kentucky.

Mountain Association and partners bring a combined \$500,000 in matching funds. This project will serve 450 businesses, improve 360 businesses with technical assistance, serve 100 participates, improve 80 participants through group training, create 50 new businesses and 150 new jobs, retain 120 existing jobs, and generate \$6,000,000 in leveraged private investment over the course of the two-year performance period.

Red Bird Mission Connected Campus Initiative: High-Speed Internet for Rural Learning, Workforce Development, and Economic Opportunity

Grantee: Red Bird Mission, Incorporated

Counties: Bell, Clay, Leslie

ARC Funding: \$1,948,980

Partners: Mountain Association, Connect Humanity

Project Summary: Red Bird Mission, Incorporated in Kentucky will use POWER funding to establish reliable, high-speed internet at its Beverly, Kentucky campus using the Broadband as a Service (BaaS) model. As the only broadband-enabled hub in a 45-mile radius within the coal region of Bell, Clay, and Leslie Counties, Red Bird Mission serves more than 10,000 residents annually, including 5,000 who access on-campus education, health, and workforce development services. Expanding broadband access is essential for sustaining and expanding programs and employment opportunities in this service area.

Red Bird Mission, Incorporated and partners bring a combined \$489,208 in matching funds. This project will serve 10,000 participants, 145 students, 46 households, three communities and three businesses by providing 10,000 Mbps symmetrical speeds over the course of the seven-year performance period.

TEK Center Building Capacity to Build the Workforce

Grantee: TEK Center, Inc.

ARC Funding: \$1,765,720

Counties: Breathitt, Elliott, Floyd, Johnson, Knott, Lawrence, Lee, Leslie, Letcher, Magoffin, Martin, Menifee, Morgan, Owsley, Perry, Pike, Rowan, Wolfe

Partners: Big Sandy Area Development District, Shaping Our Appalachian Region (SOAR), Mountain Association

Project Summary: TEK Center, Inc., in Kentucky will use POWER funding to equip and launch the new TEK Training Center, a regional workforce hub that will prepare displaced, unemployed and underemployed residents for careers in advanced manufacturing, skilled trades and technology. The project will provide industry-grade training equipment, personnel, and program resources needed to operate at full capacity and deliver high-quality career pathway programs aligned with employer demand.

TEK Center, Inc., and partners bring \$468,930 in matching funds. This project will serve 675 students and 30 employer organizations and will improve 507 students and 20 employer organizations, while creating 10 new full-time jobs at the TEK Training Center over the three-year performance period.

Strengthening Local Food Systems Through Production of Appalachian Seed Crops

Grantee: The University of Kentucky Research Foundation

Robertson, Rockcastle, Rowan, Russell, Wayne, Whitley, Wolfe

Counties: Adair, Bath, Bell, Boyd, Breathitt, Carter, Casey, Clark, Clay, Clinton, Cumberland, Edmonson, Elliott, Estill, Fleming, Floyd, Garrard, Green, Greenup, Harlan, Hart, Jackson, Johnson, Knott, Knox, Laurel, Lawrence, Lee, Leslie, Letcher, Lewis, Lincoln, Madison, Magoffin, Martin, McCreary, Menifee, Metcalfe, Monroe, Montgomery, Morgan, Nicholas, Owsley, Perry, Pike, Powell, Pulaski,

ARC Funding: \$1,715,526

Partners: Community Farm Alliance, KY Center for Agriculture and Rural Development, KY Department of Agriculture, Kentucky Horticulture Council, KY Nursery and Landscape Association, KY Vegetable Growers Association, Michigan State University, Organic Association of Kentucky

Project Summary: The University of Kentucky Research Foundation will use POWER funding to provide direct technical assistance to entrepreneurs interested in commercial seed production, transfer knowledge to improve seed production practices and business profitability, and promote the sourcing of locally grown products by commercial growers,

market gardeners and community members across Appalachian Kentucky. This project will strengthen local horticultural economies by building production and market literacy, expanding access to industry-aligned training resources, and supporting the development of resilient, diversified seed production enterprises.

The University of Kentucky Research Foundation and partners bring a combined \$429,384 in matching funds. This project will serve 175 businesses and 700 participants, improve 88 businesses and 525 participants, create 12 businesses and nine jobs, retain 166 jobs, and develop 12 business plans over the course of the three-year performance period.

Center of Excellence – Economic Revitalization

Grantee: Kentucky State University (KSU)

State: Kentucky

Counties: Martin, Pike

ARC Funding: \$1,569,616

Project Summary:

Kentucky State University (KSU) will use POWER funding to establish a Center of Excellence for Landscape Restoration that will develop and implement 13 workforce training programs to prepare participants for careers in the ecological restoration and land management sector in Central Appalachia.

KSU and partners bring a combined \$429,387 to the project. This project will serve 1,000 participants and 80 businesses through training over the three-year performance period.

From Mining to Medicine: Pathways to a Healthier Region

Grantee: St. Claire Medical Center, Inc.

Counties: Bath, Bell, Boyd, Breathitt, Carter, Casey, Clark, Clay, Elliott, Estill, Fleming, Floyd, Garrard, Greenup, Harlan, Jackson, Johnson, Knott, Knox, Laurel, Lawrence, Lee, Leslie, Letcher, Lewis, Lincoln, Madison, Magoffin, Martin, McCreary, Menifee, Montgomery, Morgan,

Nicholas, Owsley, Perry, Pike, Powell, Pulaski, Robertson, Rockcastle, Rowan, Wayne, Whitley, Wolfe

ARC Funding: \$960,000

Partners: Northeast Kentucky Area Health Education Center, Southeast Kentucky Area Health Education Center, Southern Kentucky Area Health Education Center

Project Summary: St. Claire Medical Center, Inc., in Kentucky will use POWER funding to expand health sector workforce development by creating structured pathways that prepare students for careers in healthcare. Through hands-on activities, job shadowing,

internships and training programs, the initiative will introduce more than 10,000 students to healthcare career options and support hundreds in advancing into diploma, degree or terminal degree programs. The project will help address severe healthcare workforce shortages in the impacted counties.

St. Claire Medical Center, Inc., and partners bring \$240,000 in matching funds. This project will enroll 765 students in diploma or degree programs and improve 535 students who will advance into higher level training or enter the healthcare workforce in the region over the three-year performance period.

Cooking up the Economy: Historic Martin County Courthouse Business Incubator Project

Grantee: Martin County

Counties: Martin

ARC Funding: \$521,739

Partners: Big Sandy Area Development District (FIRE program), Martin County Schools, Martin County Extension Office

Project Summary: Martin County in Kentucky will use POWER funding to create a commercial kitchen and food-based business incubator in the historic Martin County Courthouse. The project marks the final stage of a large-scale adaptive reuse project, which has transformed the historic building into a multi-purpose community development facility. Once operational, the fully licensed kitchen will be available for use by local food entrepreneurs and small businesses. It will also serve as a business incubator, hosting technical assistance programs for small businesses entering the food economy. Key components of this project include completing the kitchen renovations, installing appliances, hiring an incubator director, and developing policies for shared kitchen use.

Martin County and partners bring a combined \$130,435 in matching funds. This project will serve 45 businesses, 450 participants and 5 communities; improve 12 businesses, 150 participants and three communities; create 10 jobs and seven businesses; retain six jobs; and generate \$75,000 in leveraged private investment over the course of the three-year performance period.

Robertson County Multi-Purpose Agricultural Site

Grantee: Robertson County Extension

Counties: Robertson

ARC Funding: \$100,000

Partners: Partner organizations to be determined

Project Summary: Robertson County Extension in Kentucky will use POWER funding to plan the development of a multi-purpose agricultural site on seven acres of undeveloped

land. This planning project will include a utility needs assessment, environmental scoping and a master site plan that identifies the most advantageous layout of facilities to support future growth and expansion. The planning work will guide the long-term development of training and workshop space, agriculture barns and facilities for youth programs, an industrial kitchen, a farmers market area, trails and greenspace, parking and other community amenities.

Robertson County Extension will contribute \$25,000 in matching funds. This project will develop one comprehensive site development plan over the one-year performance period.

KY-WORCS Planning Grant: Matching Rural Talent to Metals Industry Demand

Grantee: Metals Innovation Initiative, Inc.

Counties: Floyd, Pike

ARC Funding: \$100,000

Partners: AccelerateKY, Big Sandy Community and Technical College, City of

Pikeville, Floyd County Fiscal Court, Prestonsburg Economic Development Foundation, Pike County Industrial Development Authority

Project Summary: Metals Innovation Initiative, Inc., will use POWER funding to conduct planning activities needed to develop a scalable metals certification program that prepares residents of coal communities in Eastern Kentucky for high-demand careers in the growing metals manufacturing sector. This project will identify high-wage, hub-compatible occupations, assess local workforce and infrastructure assets, and design an industry-aligned certification program to prepare residents for these roles.

Metals Innovation Initiative, Inc., and partners bring a combined \$25,000 in matching funds. This project will serve and improve two communities and develop three strategic plans over the course of the one-year performance period.

MISSISSIPPI (1 Award)

Magnolia Makes: Coal to Advanced Manufacturing Careers

Grantee: Flextech Alliance, Inc.

Counties: Benton, Calhoun, Chickasaw, Clay, Itawamba, Kemper, Lee, Lowndes, Marshall, Monroe, Noxubee, Oktibbeha, Panola, Pontotoc, Yalobusha

ARC Funding: \$100,000

Partners: NextFlex, Accelerate MS, Itawamba Community College, Northwest Mississippi Community College, East Mississippi Community College, Three Rivers Planning & Development District, Mueller Industries, Syntron Material Handling, Auto Parts Manufacturing Mississippi, General Atomics

Project Summary: Flextech Alliance, Inc., will use POWER funding to design an implementation roadmap to help coal workers transition into sustainable careers in advanced manufacturing. Through coordinated planning, the project will identify community resources, evaluate and map workforce assets, analyze skills gaps relative to industry demand, and develop stackable credentials and work-based learning opportunities to build pathways for advanced manufacturing training and employment.

Flextech Alliance, Inc., and partners bring a combined \$42,857 in matching funds. This project will develop six reports over the course of the one-year performance period.

OHIO (5 Awards)

REACH - The Aging Workforce

Grantee: Access Tusc

Counties: Belmont, Carroll, Coshocton, Guernsey, Harrison, Monroe, Muskingum, Noble, Tuscarawas, Washington

ARC Funding: \$2,000,000

Partners: Buckeye Hills Regional Council, Area Agency on Aging (Region 9), Public Health Departments for Carroll, Guernsey,

Harrison, Muskingum and Tuscarawas Counties, Local Senior Centers for Guernsey, Muskingum and Tuscarawas Counties, Ohio University, Care Coordination Systems, LLC, Health Management Associates, Inc., Partnerships for Advancing Community Health

Project Summary: Access Tusc in Ohio will use POWER funding to address gaps in care for the aging workforce by developing training on aging and chronic diseases, and job opportunities for the emerging community health worker (CHW) workforce. The project will also contract with commercial and Medicare Advantage payers to explore funding mechanisms for CHWs, develop collaborations with partners, and support new technology innovation for small nonprofits by helping them access Health Information Exchange data for real-time medical visits and hospitalizations.

Access Tusc and partners bring a combined \$2,184,500 in matching funds. This project will serve 15 healthcare businesses, 20 workers and trainees through enrollment in the aging-focused CHW certification program; serve 800 participants and improve 560 participants through participation in aging workforce programming; serve 10 total communities through the presence of CHWs; and create 22 jobs over the course of the three-year performance period.

Shawnee State University: Transforming the Regional Industrial Chemistry Workforce Through the POWER of Innovation

Grantee: Shawnee State University

Counties: Boyd, Carter, Elliott, Fleming, Greenup, Lawrence, Lewis, Robertson, Rowan (Kentucky); Adams, Jackson, Lawrence, Pike, Scioto, Vinton (Ohio)

ARC Funding: \$2,000,000

Partners: BESTOhio, Airable Research Labs / Ohio Soybean Council, Centrus Energy Corp, Trillium H2 Power, Greenup County School District, Lewis County School District, South Central Ohio ESC9, Ross-Pike ESD, Portsmouth STEM Academy

Project Summary: Shawnee State University (SSU) in Ohio will use POWER funding to modernize and expand its industrial chemistry program through purchasing and installing state-of-the-art equipment, enhancing curriculum, and adding new certificates, degrees, and professional development programs. To help build a pipeline of students and introduce them to careers in industrial chemistry, SSU will also develop and execute Chemistry Outreach Programming for K-12 students.

SSU and partners bring a combined \$500,000 in matching funds. This project will serve 5,620 students (K-12) and 25 organizations; improve 5,496 students (K-12) and 20 organizations through training; serve 10 businesses, improve eight businesses through project engagement; and develop three new programs of study related to the industrial chemistry field over the course of the three-year performance period.

Connected Infrastructure & Industrial Cybersecurity Workforce Initiative

Grantee: Youngstown State University

ARC Funding: \$1,513,568

Counties: Ashtabula, Columbiana, Mahoning, Trumbull (Ohio); Lawrence, Mercer (Pennsylvania)

Partners: Mahoning Valley Manufacturers Coalition, Lawrence Mercer Manufacturers Coalition, Jobs for Ohio Graduates

Project Summary: Youngstown State University (YSU) in Ohio will use POWER funding to launch a new workforce development program that creates a Connected Infrastructure Lab at the YSU Excellence Training Center, a regional hub for advanced manufacturing established with prior POWER funding. The project will develop a highly skilled workforce trained for smart and connected factories through short-term, hands-on credentialed training for OT/IT systems and industrial networking; automation and connected productions including robotics, programmable logic controllers, and smart systems; industrial cybersecurity; broadband and wireless infrastructure; and drone systems to support connected infrastructure deployment and maintenance, asset monitoring, and data collection. These will form an interconnected system within a smart factory, and braiding the knowledge bases together will allow students to learn the entire operations ecosystem or focus on a single technical specialty.

YSU and partners bring a combined \$1,168,761 in matching funds. This project will serve 165 students with workforce training over the course of the three-year performance period.

From Coal Plant Closure to Job Creation: Expanding Capacity in Niles

Grantee: City of Niles

Counties: Trumbull

ARC Funding: \$402,500

Partners: BRT Extrusions Inc., AMP-Ohio (American Municipal Power), BEL (Beneficial Electrification League)

Project Summary: City of Niles in Ohio will use POWER funds to construct new electrical infrastructure and upgrade distribution capacity to support local industry expansion. The project addresses economic disruptions caused by the closure of the Niles Generating Station coal-fired power plant by modernizing outdated infrastructure and enabling new manufacturing investment and job creation.

City of Niles and partners bring a combined \$172,000 in matching funds. This project will serve seven businesses, construct 1,200 linear feet of new electrical pole line, and attract an estimated \$20,000,000 in leveraged private investment over the three-year performance period.

Southeast Ohio Workforce Innovation Planning Initiative

Grantee: Washington State College of Ohio

Counties: Athens, Meigs, Monroe, Morgan, Noble, Washington

ARC Funding: \$100,000

Partners: Washington State College of Ohio, Warren Local Schools, Fort Frye Local Schools, Morgan Local Schools, Caldwell Exempted Schools, Building Bridges to Careers (BB2C), Southeastern Ohio Port Authority, GRIT Ohio, Appalachian Ohio Manufacturers' Coalition (AOMC), Miba Bearings U.S.

Project Summary: Washington State College of Ohio will use POWER funding to develop a regional K12-to-career pathways strategy for Southeast Ohio. Through collaboration with school districts, career centers, community partners and industry leaders, the project will assess existing programs, identify best practices, and design a more consistent and equitable regional framework that aligns student readiness with long-term workforce needs. The initiative will analyze regional aptitude and labor market data to ensure the strategy reflects both student interests and employer demand.

Washington State College of Ohio and partners bring \$42,857 in matching funds. This project will produce one regional plan that outlines goals, recommendations and next steps to strengthen career pathways across the six-county service area over the course of the one-year performance period.

PENNSYLVANIA (15 Awards)

East Lakeview Business Park Development

Grantee: Enterprise Development Center
Of Erie County, Inc
Counties: Erie

ARC Funding: \$2,000,000
Partners: City of Erie, Erie Chamber,
Infinite Erie

Project Summary: The Enterprise Development Center of Erie County, Inc (EDCEC) in Pennsylvania will use POWER funding to redevelop the decades-long vacant, former Hammermill Paper site into East Lakeview Business Park, a 90,000 square-foot warehouse and office space.

Construction will include foundation and floor systems, building superstructure, utility services, plumbing, HVAC and electrical. Associated site development will include driveway access, parking area, loading docks, exterior materials storage, and staging areas. Once complete, the site will house Nine Ships, a three-company entity that designs, manufactures, and internationally ships modular buildings, allowing them to execute long-term production contracts currently being rejected due to space and capacity limitations.

EDCEC and partners bring a combined \$11,993,048 in matching funds. This project will improve 90,000 square feet of space, create 80 jobs and generate \$7,800,000 in increased revenue over the course of the three-year performance period.

College of Osteopathic Medicine Training Project

Grantee: Indiana University of
Pennsylvania Research Institute
Counties: Armstrong, Bedford, Blair,
Cambria, Indiana, Jefferson,
Westmoreland

ARC Funding: \$2,000,000
Partners: Broad Top Area Medical Center,
Conemaugh Memorial Medical Center,
Hyndman Area Health Center, Nulton
Diagnostic Treatment Center

Project Summary: Indiana University of Pennsylvania Research Institute in Pennsylvania will use POWER funding to equip a new interdisciplinary simulation and diagnostic training facility and develop a cross-disciplinary, rural-focused healthcare training program for students in the College of Osteopathic Medicine and across existing healthcare professional training programs. This project will strengthen the rural healthcare workforce in Appalachian Pennsylvania by expanding high-quality simulation and diagnostic training, advancing interprofessional education models, and preparing more than one thousand students to serve in rural and coal communities.

Indiana University of Pennsylvania Research Institute and partners bring a combined \$2,000,000 in matching funds. This project will implement eight new healthcare education and training programs, and improve 204 healthcare organizations in 11 rural communities over the three-year performance period.

Powering Northern Appalachia with Pittsburgh Laser Engine: Workforce Developments and Laser Manufacturing Innovations

Grantee: University of Pittsburgh	International Brotherhood of Electric
Counties: Allegheny, Fayette, Greene, Washington, Westmoreland	Workers (IBEW), Naval Nuclear Laboratory (NNL), National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL), AIM Photonics, Penn State Electro-Optic Center (EOC),
ARC Funding: \$1,620,000	Coherent Inc, Corning Inc., Aerotech Inc., ANSYS Inc., Lake Shore Cryotronics Inc., MECCO Inc., TRUMPF LASER Inc.
Partners: Roberts Morris University (RMU), City of Pittsburgh, United Mine Worker of America Career Center (UMWACC),	

Project Summary: The University of Pittsburgh in Pennsylvania will use POWER funding to establish the Pittsburgh Laser Engine (PLE), a full-service regional hub to address the workforce and business needs of the laser photonic industry, which is an essential technology for advanced manufacturing and artificial intelligence infrastructure. The new hub will integrate workforce training, applied research and development, and small-business support to address regional and national needs for middle-skilled laser photonic technicians and engineers. The project will deliver two flagship training programs—Advanced Laser Processing and Fiber Optic Sensing—that equip participants with in-demand technical skills and connect them to employment opportunities. In addition, PLE will establish a world-class laser engineering center to support industry-driven R&D, rapid prototyping, and startup acceleration for 40 businesses.

The University of Pittsburgh and partners bring a combined \$2,319,468 in matching funds. This project will serve 300 students, 320 workers and 40 businesses; improve 250 students, 280 workers and 20 businesses through increased revenue; create four businesses; and generate \$3,000,000 in leveraged private investment over the course of the three-year performance period.

Regional Healthcare Employment Ecosystem (RHEE) Collaborative

Grantee: Local Workforce Investment Board for the Westmoreland-Fayette Workforce Investment Area

Counties: Armstrong, Beaver, Bedford, Blair, Butler, Cambria, Fayette, Fulton, Greene, Huntingdon, Indiana, Somerset, Washington, Westmoreland

ARC Funding: \$1,500,000

Partners: Southern Alleghenies Workforce Development Board, Southwest Corner Workforce Development Board, Tri-County Workforce Investment Board, Westmoreland-Fayette Workforce Investment Board

Project Summary: The Local Workforce Investment Board for the Westmoreland-Fayette Workforce Investment Area in Pennsylvania will use POWER funding to expand workforce development and career pathway programming to address healthcare workforce challenges across 14 coal counties in Appalachian Pennsylvania. This project will strengthen the regional healthcare workforce pipeline by aligning training with labor market needs, supporting work-based learning, and expanding partnerships that increase access to high-demand career pathways among employers, educators and community organizations.

The Local Workforce Investment Board for the Westmoreland-Fayette Workforce Investment Area and partners bring a combined \$1,500,000 in matching funds. This project will serve 90 businesses and 568 workers and trainees; improve 60 businesses and 426 workers and trainees; and develop one coordinated regional workforce ecosystem strategy over the course of the three-year performance period.

CREATE PA: Enhancing Creative and Film Industry Workforce Development

Grantee: Greater Pittsburgh Office of Promotion

Counties: Allegheny, Fayette, Westmoreland

ARC Funding: \$601,250

Partners: Westmoreland County Chamber of Commerce, Fayette County Chamber of Commerce

Project Summary: Greater Pittsburgh Office of Promotion (dba Pittsburgh Film Office) in Pennsylvania will use POWER funding to expand its existing successful workforce training program to prepare displaced coal workers for careers in the film industry. Together with the local Chambers of Commerce and the Studio Mechanics Union, the CREATE PA training program will offer stackable credentials in multiple high-demand film industry careers, including set construction, film grip technicians, film electricians, and production

assistants. Program participants will also receive job placement assistance, employer connections, and guidance toward union entry to accelerate wage growth and long-term earning potential.

Greater Pittsburgh Office of Promotion and partners bring a combined \$470,676 in matching funds. This project will serve five film production businesses, two communities and 60 workers and trainees; and improve four businesses and 54 workers over the course of the three-year performance period.

Building Appalachia's Workforce Ecosystem & Increasing Economic Mobility in the Greater Mon Valley Region

Grantee: Per Scholas, Inc.

County: Allegheny

ARC Funding: \$500,000

Partners: South Allegheny School District, Glassport Borough, Partner4Work

Project Summary: Per Scholas, Inc., in Pennsylvania will use POWER funding to expand the Glassport Satellite Classroom pilot program, providing information technology (IT) training and employment pathways for residents of the Greater Mon Valley region. Building on its successful pilot program, Per Scholas, Inc., will establish a fully operational IT satellite training site, providing participants with tuition-free training and comprehensive wraparound support services. The project will also strengthen employer and community partnerships to increase access to high-demand technology careers.

Per Scholas, Inc., and partners bring a combined \$500,000 in matching funds. This project will serve 90 students, improve 77 students, and develop one expanded community-anchored training model over the course of the two-year performance period.

PIT2Work: An Employer-Driven Model to Create a Sustainable Workforce

Grantee: Allegheny County Airport Authority

Counties: Allegheny, Beaver, Fayette, Greene, Washington, Westmoreland

ARC Funding: \$400,000

Partners: Partner4Work, Pittsburgh Gateways

Project Summary: Allegheny County Airport Authority (ACAA) in Pennsylvania will use POWER funding to grow the construction industry workforce in Southwestern Pennsylvania. To help meet employer demand for qualified workers in the expanding

construction sector, this project will equip trainees with essential skills, certifications and pathways to family-sustaining careers. Upon completion of the pre-apprenticeship program, graduates will be equipped to pursue roles in construction, airport-related infrastructure, and operations.

ACAA and partners bring a combined \$400,000 in matching funds. This project will serve 40 businesses and 100 trainees and improve 25 businesses and 85 workers through training and technical assistance over the course of the three-year performance period.

The Western Pennsylvania Career Pathways Initiative

Grantee: Literacy Pittsburgh

Counties: Allegheny, Beaver, Greene, Washington

ARC Funding: \$400,000

Partners: Partner4Work, Southwest Corner Workforce Development Board, University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC), Pittsburgh Gateways, Intermediate Unit 1

Project Summary: Literacy Pittsburgh in Pennsylvania will use POWER funding to expand workforce development programming for high-demand careers in construction and building trades, healthcare, finance and technology. Working with regional workforce boards, major employers and training partners, the project will provide adult learners from four Appalachian counties with industry-recognized training and certifications. The initiative will strengthen the regional workforce system, expand access to career-focused education in distressed communities and help connect residents to family-sustaining employment.

Literacy Pittsburgh and partners bring \$625,000 in matching funds. This project will serve 300 workers and trainees and improve 235 participants through training and certifications over the two-year performance period.

Fostering Life Sciences Entrepreneurship by Addressing Gaps

Grantee: Pittsburgh Life Sciences Alliance

Counties: Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, Fayette, Greene, Indiana, Lawrence, Washington, Westmoreland

ARC Funding: \$100,000

Partners: Carnegie Mellon University, LifeX Accelerator, University of Pittsburgh

Project Summary: Pittsburgh Life Sciences Alliance in Pennsylvania will use POWER funding to create a plan that outlines strategies to expand the regional life sciences sector. The plan will benchmark Southwest Pennsylvania against successful national hubs and identify methods to strengthen commercialization and enterprise growth in the life sciences sector. It will also assess structural barriers in the research-and-development-to-enterprise pipeline; examine regional capacity in funding, infrastructure, and talent; and

develop evidence-based recommendations to accelerate company formation and long-term sector growth.

Pittsburgh Life Sciences Alliance and partners bring a combined \$100,000 in matching funds. This project will develop one strategic plan over the course of the one-year performance period.

Programmatic and Facilities Evaluation

Grantee: Sun Area Technical Institute

Counties: Northumberland, Snyder, Union

ARC Funding: \$100,000

Partners: Sun Area Technical Institute

Joint Operating Committee, Lewisburg School District, Selinsgrove School District, Midd-West School District, Mifflinburg School District, Shikellamy School District

Project Summary: Sun Area Technical Institute in Pennsylvania will use POWER funding to conduct a comprehensive feasibility study evaluating its Career and Technical Education programs and facility capacity in relation to regional labor market needs. This project will analyze workforce demand; engage employers and workforce partners; and develop an actionable plan to strengthen training pathways in advanced manufacturing, energy technology, and industrial maintenance.

Sun Area Technical Institute and partners bring a combined \$100,000 in matching funds. This project will develop one feasibility plan over the course of the one-and-a-half-year performance period.

From Coal to Opportunity: A Regional Strategy for Armstrong and Indiana Counties

Grantee: ARIN Intermediate Unit 28

Counties: Armstrong, Indiana

ARC Funding: \$100,000

Partners: Armstrong and Indiana County Career Pathways Partnership (AICPP), which is comprised of 11 school districts (Apollo-Ridge, Armstrong, Freeport Area, Indiana Area, Homer-Center, Leechburg Area, Marion Center Area, Penns Mano, Purchase Line, River Valley, United); Lenape Technical School and Indiana

County Technology Center; Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Butler County Community College, Penn Highlands Community College, Westmoreland County Community College; The Tri-County Workforce Investment Board; Armstrong Center for Community Learning, Indiana County Chamber of Commerce, Indiana County Development Corporation, PA Career Link Armstrong and Indiana County

Project Summary: ARIN Intermediate Unit 28 in Pennsylvania will use POWER funding to develop a regional workforce development plan to prepare local students and displaced workers for the redevelopment of the Homer City site into one of the nation's largest natural gas-fueled power plants and a large-scale data center. The project plan will coordinate labor market research, align curriculum with industry needs, develop career pathway trajectories, and create authentic workplace learning opportunities. By bridging education and industry, the project ensures Armstrong and Indiana Counties are ready to capture the full benefits of this historic investment.

ARIN Intermediate Unit 28 and partners bring a combined \$100,000 in matching funds. This project will develop one regional workforce development plan for the Homer City site over the course of the one-year performance period.

Creative Corridor: Planning for Trail-Connected Downtown Revitalization

Grantee: Nonprofit Partners, Inc.	Westmoreland County, Redevelopment
Counties: Fayette, Westmoreland	Authority of the County of Fayette,
ARC Funding: \$100,000	Touchstone Center for Crafts, Shiftworks
Partners: SWPA Municipal Project Hub	Community + Public Arts
(the Hub), Redevelopment Authority of	

Project Summary: Nonprofit Partners, Inc., acting on behalf of the SWPA Municipal Project Hub (the Hub), in Pennsylvania will use POWER funding to help strengthen trail-connected downtowns through arts-driven entrepreneurship, creative reuse and cultural tourism in West Newton, Smithton, Sutersville, Ohiopyle and Connellsville. This project will develop a toolkit, community-specific property portfolios and an investment prospectus to help local trail towns establish year-round economic stability.

Nonprofit Partners, Inc., and partners bring a combined \$76,478 in matching funds. This project will produce one plan over the course of the one-year performance period that will identify where arts and maker enterprises can generate year-round economic activity.

Strengthening Education & Workforce Development in Westmoreland County

Grantee: Economic Growth Connection of Westmoreland
Counties: Westmoreland

ARC Funding: \$100,000
Partners: Educational Working Group, Economic Development Working Group

Project Summary: Economic Growth Connection of Westmoreland in Pennsylvania will use POWER funding to develop a countywide workforce strategy to expand career pathways, increase access to credentials, and strengthen postsecondary partnerships. This project will address gaps created by the loss of key postsecondary resources and lay the foundation for a more coordinated and sustainable talent pipeline to support regional economic growth in Westmoreland County. In partnership with the Educational Working Group and Economic Development Working Group, the grantee will conduct a comprehensive assessment of existing career pathways, credentials and dual enrollment opportunities, while identifying barriers such as educator shortages and transportation challenges.

Economic Growth Connection of Westmoreland and partners bring a combined \$110,000 in matching funds. This project will develop one plan to establish a countywide workforce strategy for Westmoreland County over the course of the one-year performance period.

Exploring the Potential for the “Low Altitude Economy” to Drive Growth and Innovation in Southwestern Pennsylvania

Grantee: Saint Vincent College
Counties: Allegheny, Beaver, Cambria, Fayette, Somerset, Washington, Westmoreland
ARC Funding: \$95,000
Partners: Aerium, Community College of Beaver County (CCBC), Private Industry

Council of Westmoreland/Fayette, Inc. (PIC), Eastern Westmoreland Career and Technology Center (EWCTC), Greater Latrobe School District, Westmoreland County and Greater Latrobe-Laurel Valley Chambers of Commerce, Westmoreland/Fayette Workforce Investment Board (WFWIB)

Project Summary: Saint Vincent College in Pennsylvania will use POWER funding to assess the feasibility of developing drone and unmanned aerial vehicle education programs to address workforce needs in southwestern Pennsylvania. This project will study how drone technologies are used across business, healthcare, public safety and emergency services, and identify gaps in workforce training.

Saint Vincent College and partners bring a combined \$95,000 in matching funds. This project will produce one planning report over the one-year performance period.

Rural Venture Studio Planning

Grantee: Triangle Works Collaborative, LLC

Counties: McKean

ARC Funding: \$50,000

Partners: University of Pittsburgh at

Bradford, Bradford Area School District,

American Refining Group Nth Solutions, LLC

Project Summary: Triangle Works Collaborative, LLC in Pennsylvania will use POWER funding to plan and design a venture studio in McKean County to actively co-develop new businesses as well as provide shared engineering, prototyping, regulatory and go-to-market support for entrepreneurs. This project will support a comprehensive market study, stakeholder engagement, and a 3-5 year financial/business plan while integrating workforce training and internships to support high-quality jobs in the innovation sector.

Triangle Works Collaborative, LLC and partners bring a combined \$50,000 in matching funds. This project will develop a strategic, phased plan for a venture studio over the course of the one-year performance period.

TENNESSEE (1 Award)

Energizing Opportunity: Tullahoma's POWER Project for Economic Diversification

Grantee: Tullahoma Utilities Authority

Counties: Coffee, Franklin

ARC Funding: \$1,500,000

Partners: South Central Tennessee Development District (SCTDD), The Beneficial Electrification League (BEL)

Project Summary: Tullahoma Utilities Authority in Tennessee will use POWER funds to address infrastructure gaps caused by coal-related economic disruption in Appalachian Tennessee. This project will lead to comprehensive grid modernization across Coffee and Franklin counties through the installation of 12 three-phase voltage regulator banks across three substations, which will enhance electric reliability, reduce outages, and lower operational costs.

Tullahoma Utilities Authority and partners bring a combined \$1,500,000 in matching funds. This project will serve 1,980 businesses, two communities and 10,200 households; add 1,400 kilowatt of energy supply; create eight jobs; reduce annual operating costs by \$360,000; and attract \$22,000,000 in leveraged private investment over the three-year performance period.

VIRGINIA (3 Awards)

Career Pathways for Advanced Manufacturing and Trade-Based Technicians

Grantee: Southwest Virginia Community College

Counties: Buchanan, Dickenson, Russell, Tazewell

ARC Funding: \$1,818,822

Partners: Southwest Virginia Workforce Development Board, Buchanan County Career and Technical Education, Dickenson County Career and Technical Education, Russell County Career and Technical Education, Tazewell County Career and Technical Education

Project Summary: Southwest Virginia Community College in Virginia will use POWER funding to expand existing workforce training and career pathway programs and establish new degree and certification opportunities in advanced manufacturing and skilled trades. This project will enhance training across high-demand occupational fields, introduce new academic and credentialing pathways, and strengthen regional employer partnerships to help build a pipeline of skilled workers prepared for high-quality, family-sustaining jobs.

Southwest Virginia Community College and partners bring a combined \$469,242 in matching funds. This project will serve 390 students, improve 293 students, and develop expanded training and credentialing pathways over the course of the three-year performance period.

Project RISE: Regional Initiative for Scalable Entrepreneurship in Southwest Virginia

Grantee: Rector and Visitors of the University of Virginia

Counties: Bland, Buchanan, Carroll (Galax city), Dickenson, Grayson, Lee, Russell,

Scott, Smyth, Tazewell, Washington (Bristol city), Wise (Norton city), Wythe

ARC Funding: \$100,000

Partners: GO Virginia Region One, Opportunity Southwest Virginia

Project Summary: Rector and Visitors of the University of Virginia will use POWER funding to develop a strategic plan to strengthen a high-growth entrepreneurial ecosystem across GO Virginia Region One. This project will map existing assets, identify ecosystem gaps, convene regional partners and stakeholders, and produce a forward-looking plan that supports scalable business development in key regional industry clusters.

Rector and Visitors of the University of Virginia and partners bring a combined \$52,636 in matching funds. This project will produce one regional entrepreneurship and innovation plan over the one-year performance period.

Planning Grant: AI-Driven Cybersecurity Career Pathways

Grantee: Radford University	Commission (NRVRC), New River/Mount
Counties: Floyd, Giles, Montgomery (Radford city), Pulaski	Rogers Workforce Development Board (NRMRWDB), Montgomery County
ARC Funding: \$97,472	Economic Development Authority (EDA), Radford city, Onward, MELD
Partners: New River Community College, Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS), Pulaski County Public Schools (PCPS), New River Valley Regional	Manufacturing, Carilion Clinic (NRV Region)

Project Summary: Radford University in Virginia will use POWER funding to explore how artificial intelligence (AI) can strengthen workforce diversification and economic resilience in coal communities and areas designated as economically transitional. This project will assess employer demand for AI adoption, identify workforce gaps, and co-design a regional roadmap for AI-enabled career pathways.

Radford University and partners bring a combined \$97,660 in match funds. This project will produce two plans, an AI workforce feasibility report, and an implementation roadmap over the course of the one-year performance period.

WEST VIRGINIA (11 Awards)

Clear Fork Rails-to-Trails Project Phase II

Grantee: Raleigh County Recreation Authority

Counties: Raleigh

ARC Funding: \$2,000,000

Partners: Region I Planning and Development Council, Raleigh County Parks and Recreation Authority (RCPRA), The Thrasher Group, Chapman Technical Group, Raleigh County Commission

Project Summary: Raleigh County Parks and Recreation Authority (RCPRA) in West Virginia will use POWER funding to construct 3.8 miles of multi-use recreation trail along a former CSX rail corridor in northwestern Raleigh County. As part of the Clear Fork Rail Trail Phase II plan, this project encompasses trail development, structural improvements to an existing trestle, and a new pedestrian bridge to help drive outdoor recreation tourism to the area.

RCPRA and partners bring a combined \$6,680,000 in matching funds. This project will serve two communities, 2,000 day visitors and 500 overnight visitors, create nine jobs and 3.84 miles of new trails, develop 14 acres for outdoor recreation, and generate \$271,000 in increased revenue from tourism traffic over the course of the two-year performance period.

Growing the Expanding Markets Initiative

Grantee: Advantage Valley, Inc.

Counties: Boone, Cabell, Clay, Jackson, Kanawha, Lincoln, Mason, Putnam, Wayne

ARC Funding: \$2,000,000

Partners: Marshall University Advanced Manufacturing Center, U.S. Department of

Commerce – Rural Export Center, Charleston Area Alliance, Putnam County Development Authority, Huntington Area Development Council, Mason County Development Authority, Jackson County Development Authority, Clay County Business Development Authority

Project Summary: Advantage Valley in West Virginia will use POWER funding to grow the Expanding Markets Initiative, a regional effort that helps manufacturers and small businesses strengthen operations, grow their customer bases, and access new domestic and international markets. This project will add five county-level business specialists, expand supply chain matchmaking events, support export development through the Rural Export Center, and launch a commercial kitchen incubator to grow opportunities for regional food producers.

Advantage Valley and partners bring a combined \$937,000 in matching funds. This project will serve 225 businesses and nine communities, improve 100 businesses, create 200 new

jobs, retain 150 existing jobs, develop 30 customized market research and export readiness reports, and generate an estimated \$2.5 million in leveraged private investment over the three-year performance period.

Manufacturing Alternative Pathways (MAP): Infrastructure and Support Services in Manufacturing Education for Coal-Impacted Communities

Grantee: BridgeValley Community and Technical College

Counties: Clay, Fayette, Jackson, Kanawha, Pleasants, Putnam, Ritchie, Roane, Tyler, Wirt, Wood

ARC Funding: \$1,999,999

Partners: West Virginia University at Parkersburg, Chemours, Constellium, HINO Motors, RL Laughlin, Somar, Jackson County Development Authority,

Putnam County Development Authority, Region 4 - Mid Ohio Valley Workforce Development Board, South Charleston Chamber of Commerce, West Virginia Manufacturers Association, West Virginia Regional Technical Park, Wood County Development Authority, Fayette County Board of Education, Putnam Career and Technical Center, Ritchie County Schools, Wood County Schools

Project Summary: BridgeValley Community and Technical College in West Virginia will use POWER funding for the Manufacturing Alternative Pathways (MAP) initiative to strengthen advanced manufacturing training programs and expand workforce opportunities across central West Virginia. This project will build a regional manufacturing corridor that supports students, workers, and employers in transitioning to high-wage manufacturing careers.

BridgeValley Community and Technical College and partners bring a combined \$857,143 in matching funds. This project will serve 900 students, 20 businesses, 20 organizations and 100 workers and trainees. It is also expected to improve 765 students, 16 businesses, and 85 workers and trainees over the course of the three-year performance period.

Accelerating Coal Technologies (ACT) Coalition

Grantee: Center for Applied Research & Technology, Inc.

Counties: Lincoln, Logan, McDowell, Mercer, Mingo, Monroe, Raleigh, Summers, Wyoming

ARC Funding: \$1,990,000

Partners: Bluefield West Virginia Economic Development Authority (BEDA), Region 1 West Virginia Planning & Development Council

Project Summary: Center for Applied Research & Technology, Inc., in West Virginia will use POWER funding to create new business development partnerships and provide innovative technical assistance to coal industries in southern West Virginia. This project will strengthen industry clusters in coal and energy-related technologies and products by fostering collaborative economic development approaches that create entrepreneurship and employment opportunities for local citizens.

Center for Applied Research & Technology, Inc., and partners bring a combined \$497,500 in matching funds. This project will serve 16 businesses, 96 participants, and nine communities; produce four business development plans; create 48 new jobs; retain 48 existing jobs; and generate \$2,000,000 in leveraged private investment over the course of the two-year performance period.

The STEAM Innovation Alliance

Grantee: West Virginia University Research Corporation

Counties: Barbour, Berkeley, Boone, Braxton, Brooke, Cabell, Calhoun, Clay, Doddridge, Fayette, Gilmer, Grant, Greenbrier, Hampshire, Hancock, Hardy, Harrison, Jackson, Jefferson, Kanawha, Lewis, Lincoln, Logan, Marion, Marshall, Mason, McDowell, Mercer, Mineral, Mingo, Monongalia, Monroe, Morgan, Nicholas, Ohio, Pendleton, Pleasants, Pocahontas,

Preston, Putnam, Raleigh, Randolph, Ritchie, Roane, Summers, Taylor, Tucker, Tyler, Upshur, Wayne, Webster, Wetzel, Wirt, Wood, Wyoming

ARC Funding: \$1,471,909

Partners: WVU Extension Young Innovators program, WVPEC's STEAM TAC, West Virginia Department of Education, Verizon Wireless, BHE Renewables, Hope Gas, Benedum Foundation, EQT Foundation, WVURC

Project Summary: West Virginia University Research Corporation will use POWER funding to create the STEAM Innovation Alliance, a partnership of the West Virginia Policy Education Commission (WVPEC), Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math Technical Assistance Center (STEAM TAC) and West Virginia University Extension Service's (WVUES) Young Innovator Program. This project will provide immersive, hands-on STEAM experiences for educators and students, and design and launch real-world solutions through entrepreneurship.

West Virginia University Research Corporation and partners bring a combined \$1,137,537 in matching funds. This project will serve 15,300 6-12th grade students in 14 rural schools; improve 3,930 students through training; provide 446 educators with training and professional development; and improve 293 educators through training completion over the course of the three-year performance period.

Future-Proofing and Expanding Economic Development in Rural West Virginia Healthcare Industry Clusters

Grantee: Williamson Health & Wellness Center, Inc.

Counties: Boone, Lincoln, Logan, Mingo, Wayne, Wyoming

ARC Funding: \$1,250,000

Partners: Williamson Memorial, Inc., Southern West Virginia Area Health Education Center

Project Summary: Williamson Health & Wellness Center, Inc., in West Virginia will use POWER funding to expand access to lab and radiology services, strengthen training for healthcare professionals, and create new jobs for healthcare professionals across six coal counties. This project will increase operational capacity at regional healthcare facilities by extending service hours, hiring additional staff, upgrading equipment, and providing training to improve staff proficiency with advanced technologies.

Williamson Health & Wellness Center, Inc., and partners bring a combined \$443,556 in matching funds. This project will serve 42 organizations, 14,422 patients, and 164 workers and trainees; create 26 jobs; retain 14 jobs; and increase laboratory services revenue by \$100,767 over the course of the two-year performance period.

Building Resilient Communities (BRiC): Developing a Workforce while Revitalizing the Housing Market

Grantee: Marshall University Research Corporation

Counties: Wayne, Cabell

ARC Funding: \$1,186,651

Partners: WV Brownfields Assistance Center, City of Huntington, RenewAll, Inc., Fairfield Community Development Corporation, Marshall University Appalachian Resiliency Center (MUARC)

Project Summary: Marshall University Research Corporation in West Virginia will use POWER funding to improve the City of Huntington's housing supply and develop the home construction and maintenance workforce pipeline. This project will conduct environmental assessments of dilapidated properties, develop micro-credentialing opportunities in high-demand assessment and abatement fields, and generate impact and housing reports on model housing development.

Marshall University Research Corporation and partners bring a combined \$537,846 in matching funds. This project will serve 8 businesses; support 100 workers; and create 60 economic analysis plans, one housing development report, and 58 environmental reports over the course of the two-year performance period.

Nurse Education and Workforce Project

Grantee: Bethany College

Counties: Brooke, Marshall, Ohio

ARC Funding: \$400,000

Partners: West Virginia Wesleyan College,
WVU Medicine Wheeling Hospital, WVU
Medicine Reynolds Memorial Hospital

Project Summary: Bethany College in West Virginia will use POWER funds to address the state's nursing shortage by implementing a healthcare workforce training initiative. The project will recruit nursing students in partnership with West Virginia Wesleyan College's accredited nursing program for didactic education and two WVU Medicine hospitals for clinical training.

Bethany College and partners bring a combined \$400,000 in matching funds. This project will serve 100 workers and trainees and 20 businesses during the three-year performance period.

Gauley River Region Multi-modal Trail System Planning Project

Grantee: Town of Gauley Bridge, Inc.

Counties: Fayette

ARC Funding: \$100,000

Partners: Coalfield Development
Corporation, Town of Ansted, Unlimited
Future, Inc.

Project Summary: The Town of Gauley Bridge, Inc., in West Virginia will use POWER funding to complete a planning study for a new multi-modal trail system linking Gauley Bridge to Ansted and connecting to major regional trail networks including the Elk River Trail and the Hatfield-McCoy system. This planning project will include route analysis with community input, environmental and cost assessments, land ownership and acquisition planning, and integration strategies with existing trails. It will also analyze the economic impact on business and job creation, including partnership strategies that maximize local employment opportunities.

The Town of Gauley Bridge, Inc., and partners will contribute \$44,035 in matching funds. This project will produce one comprehensive planning report during the one-year performance period.

Future Community Development Certification Program

Grantee: Future Generations University Corporation

Greenbrier, Hancock, Harrison, Jackson (West Virginia)

Counties: Cameron, Centre, Clarion, Clearfield, Clinton, Elk, Forest, Jefferson, Lycoming, McKean, Potter, Tioga, Warren (Pennsylvania); Dickenson (Virginia); Barbour, Boone, Braxton, Brooke, Cabell, Calhoun, Clay, Doddridge, Fayette, Gilmer,

ARC Funding: \$100,000

Partners: West Virginia Community Development Hub, Pennsylvania Wilds Center for Economic Development, Dickenson County Economic Development

Project Summary: Future Generations University Corporation in West Virginia will use POWER funding to plan and develop a credentialed workforce development certificate for rural community leaders across Central Appalachia. To help strengthen economic development through local leaders, this project will assess regional needs, identify successful community development practices, and co-create a 12-15 credit curriculum aligned with workforce development and micro-credentialing standards.

Future Generations University Corporation and partners bring a combined \$47,406 in matching funds. Over the course of the one-year performance period, this project will produce three planning documents, including an education and curriculum plan, a business and financial viability plan, and an outreach plan.

Preston County Workforce Training Center Feasibility Study

Grantee: Preston County Economic Development Authority (PCEDA)

Counties: Preston

ARC Funding: \$30,400

State: West Virginia

Partners: Rivers & Roads Consulting

Project Summary:

The Preston County Economic Development Authority (PCEDA) will use POWER funding to complete a feasibility study that will assess the potential development of a workforce training center on PCEDA-owned property in Kingwood, West Virginia. The study will evaluate regional workforce needs, identify gaps in existing training offerings and analyze high-demand sectors including healthcare, transportation, HVAC, and other skilled trades. This study will help PCEDA determine the best approach to establishing a workforce training center that will strengthen the regional talent pipeline.

PCEDA and partners bring a combined \$30,400 in matching funds. This project will develop one feasibility study over the course of the one-and-a-half-year performance period.