



Appalachian Regional Commission Overview

Appalachian Regional Commission



- Created in 1965
- Federal, state and local government partnership
- 13 states
- 423 counties
- 206,000 square miles
- 26+ million people
- 74 local development districts

Unique Structure

Federal

- Federal Co-Chair appointed by the President
- Federal Office Staff

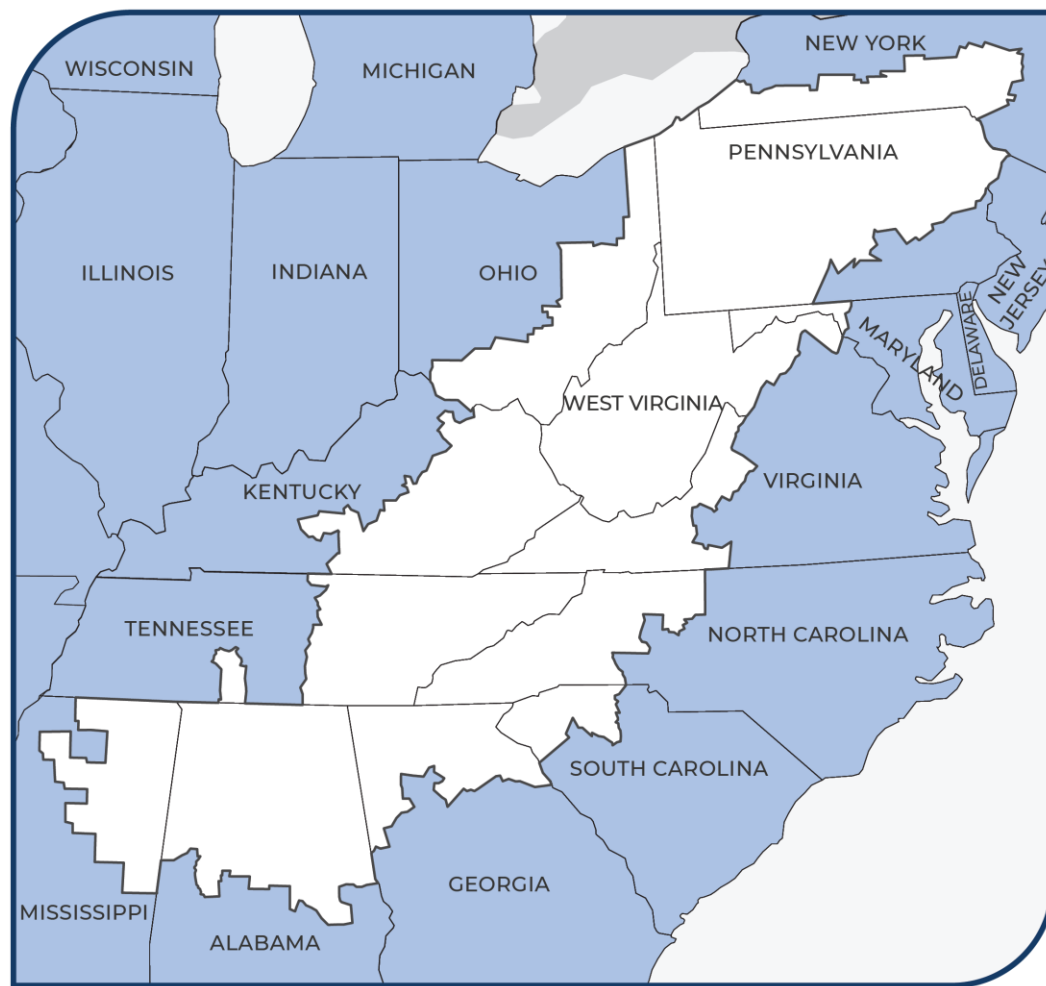
State

- State Co-Chair Representing State Interests
- State Governors/Alternates
- State Program Managers
- LDDs

Commission

- Executive Director
- Commission Staff

Appalachian Regional Commission



ARC invests and partners in the Appalachian Region to strengthen economic development and help the region reach its full economic potential.



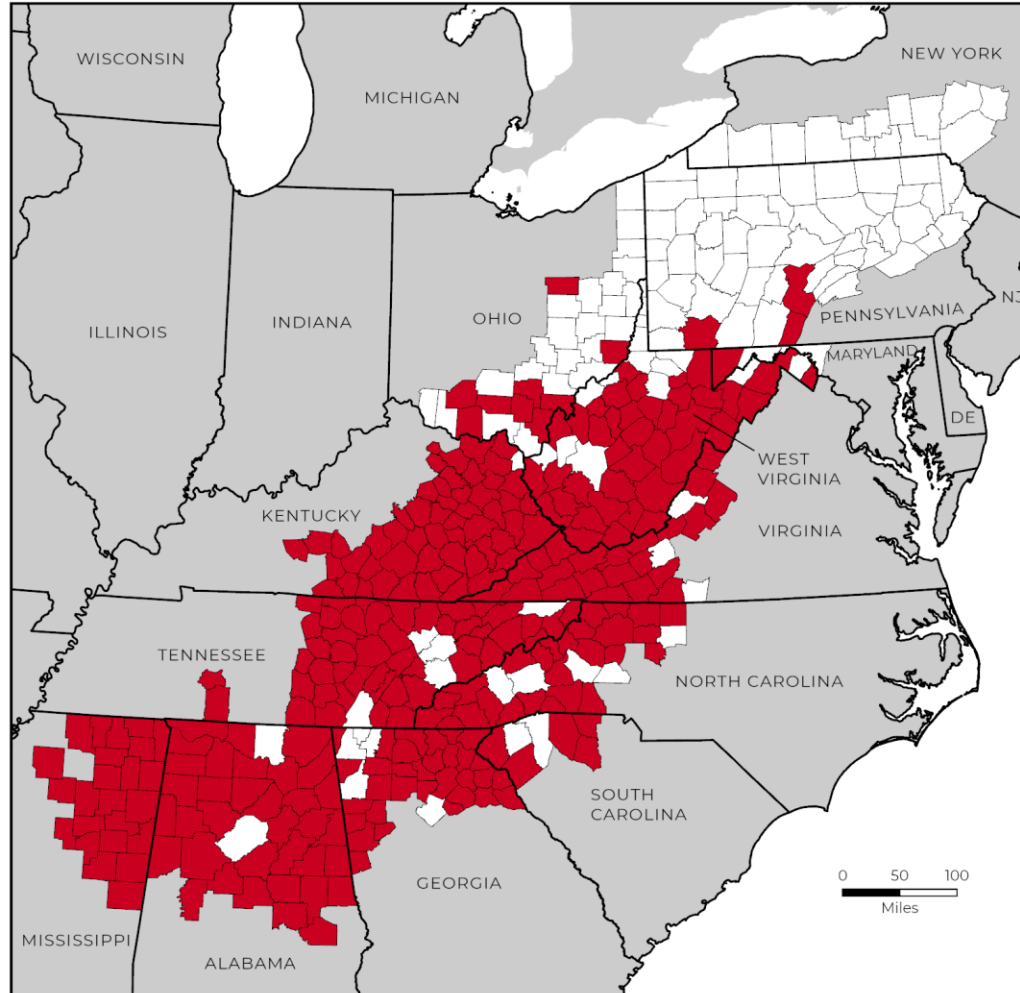
Appalachian
Regional
Commission

High-Poverty Counties in the Appalachian Region

(Counties with Poverty Rates At Least 1.5 Times the U.S. Average)

1960

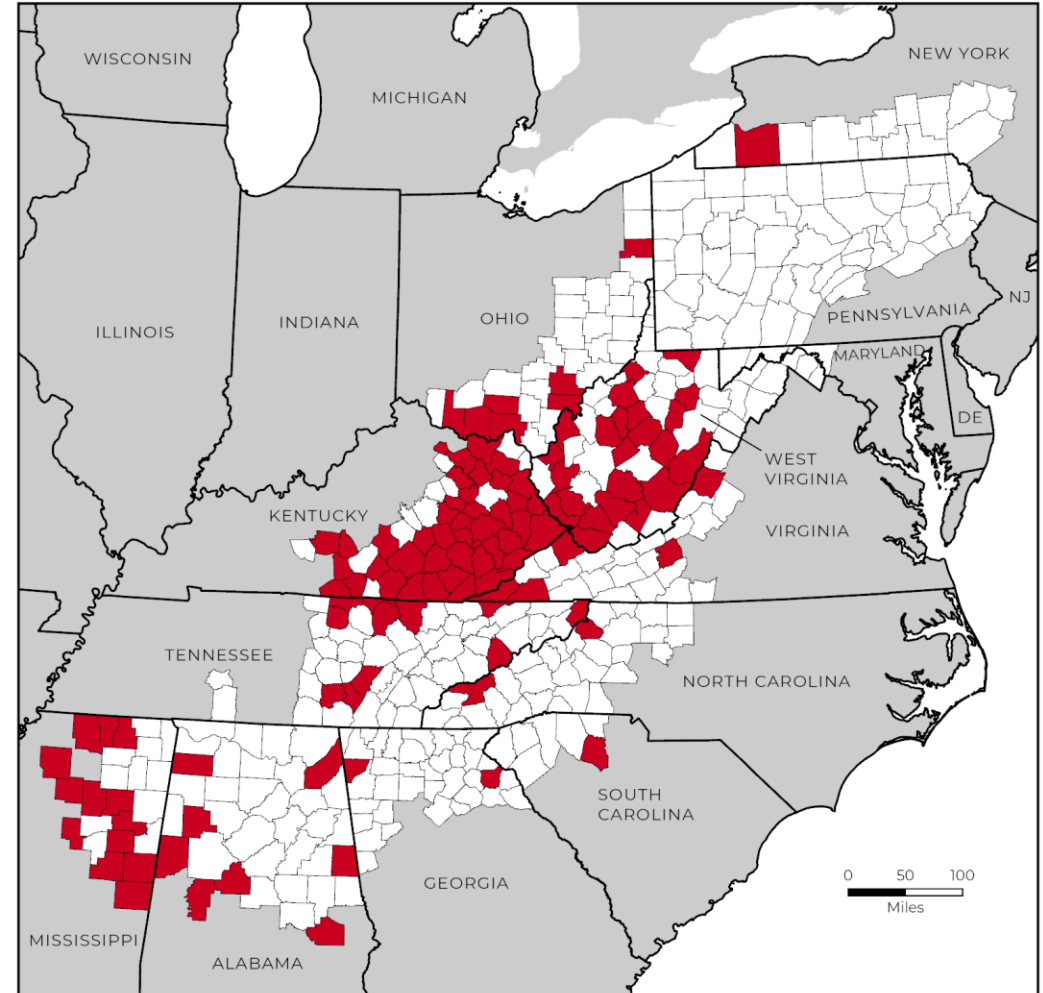
297 High-Poverty Counties



Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1960 Census

2020-2024

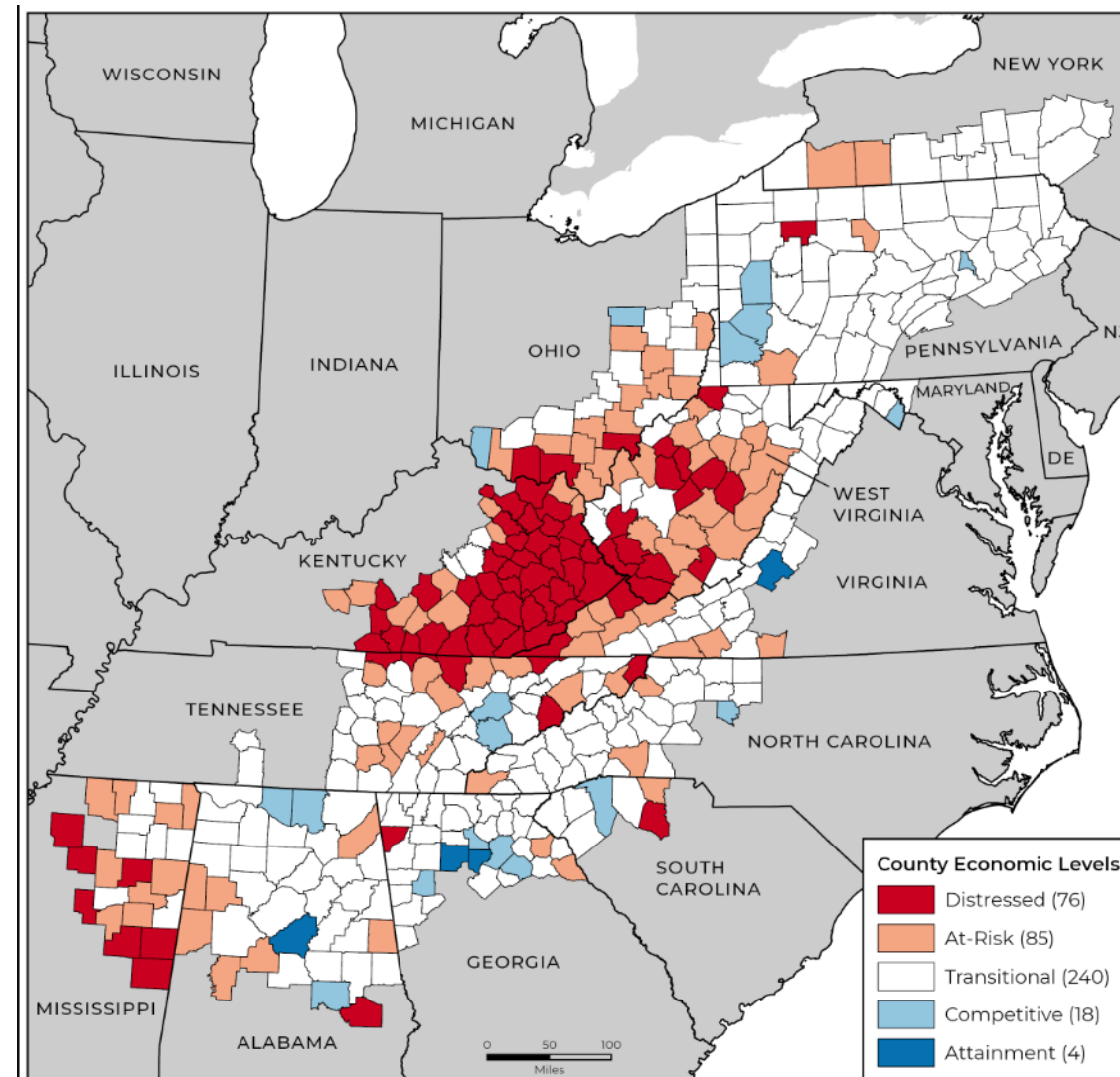
115 High-Poverty Counties



Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates, 2020-2024

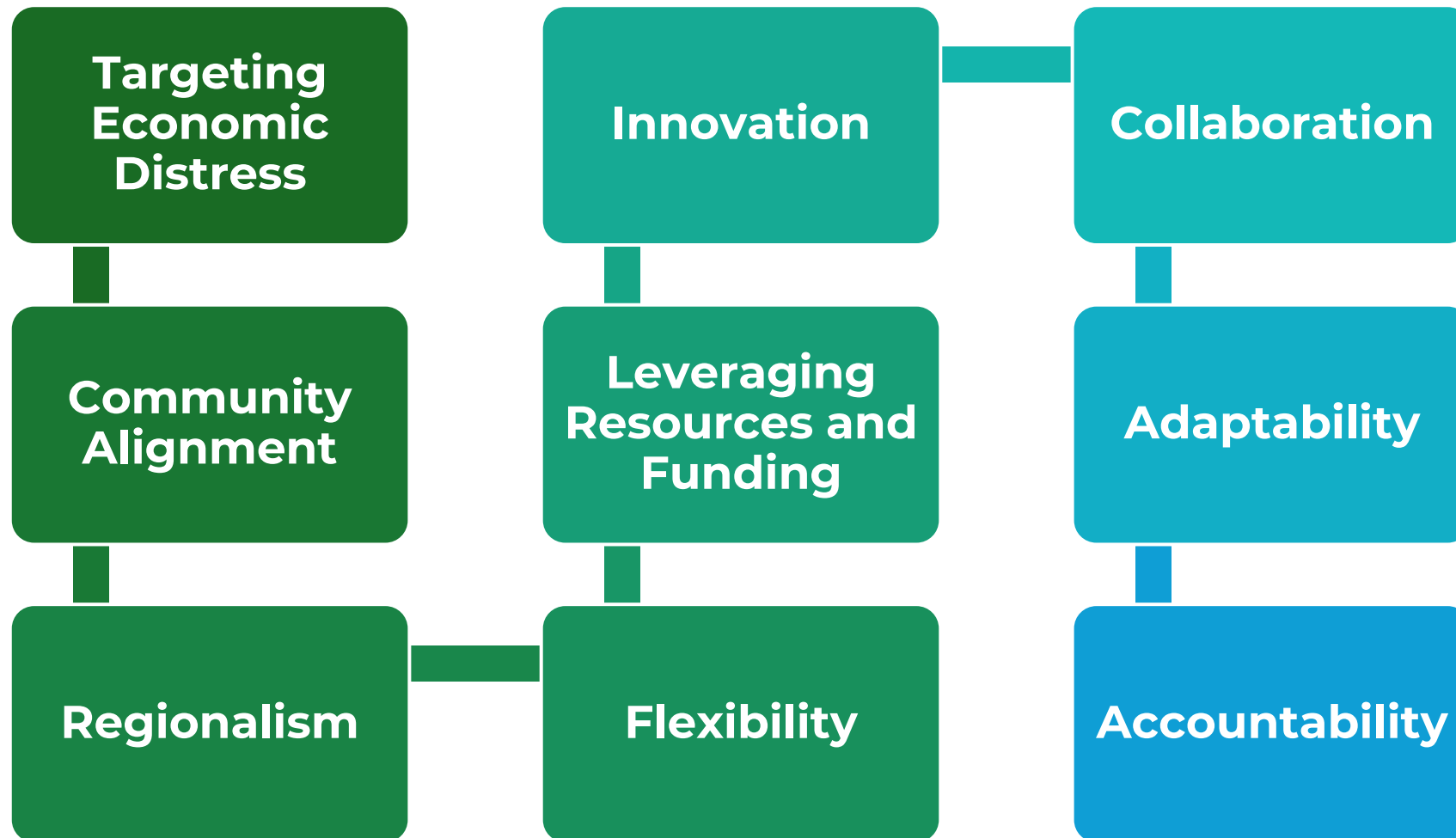
County Economic Status, FY 2027

- **Distressed:** The most economically depressed counties, ranking in the worst 10% of the nation's counties.
- **At-risk:** Counties at risk of becoming distressed.
- **Transitional:** Counties transitioning between at-risk and competitive status.
- **Competitive:** Counties able to compete in the national economy but don't rank in the highest 10% of the nation's counties.
- **Attainment:** The economically strongest counties, ranking in the best 10% of the nation's counties.



ARC Guiding Principles

ARC is committed to innovating, partnering, and investing in ways that accomplish the following:



ARC's Investment Priorities



Business Development



Workforce Development



Infrastructure



Tourism and Outdoor Recreation



Community Resources and Skill-Building

ARC Signature Grant Programs

ARC Signature Initiatives



Area Development Program

ARC's Area Development program empowers Appalachian communities to work with their state governments to design impactful projects that will strengthen infrastructure, businesses, the workforce and more.

arc.gov/grants-and-opportunities/area-development-program/

Contact your [SPM](#)

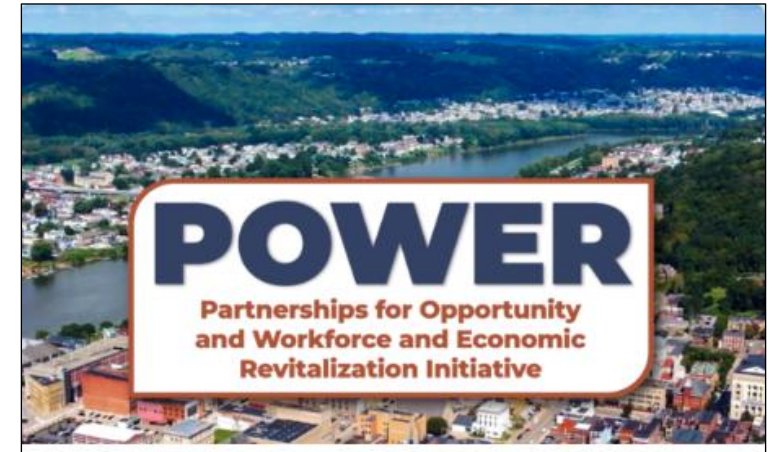


Investments Supporting Partnerships in Recovery Ecosystems Initiative

ARC's INSPIRE Initiative addresses the substance use disorder (SUD) crisis in Appalachia by creating or expanding recovery ecosystems that will lead to workforce entry or re-entry.

arc.gov/grants-and-opportunities/sud/

Contact: Sud@arc.gov



Partnerships for Opportunity and Workforce and Economic Revitalization Initiative

ARC's POWER Initiative targets federal resources to communities affected by job losses in coal mining, coal power plant operations and coal-related supply chain industries.

arc.gov/grants-and-opportunities/power/

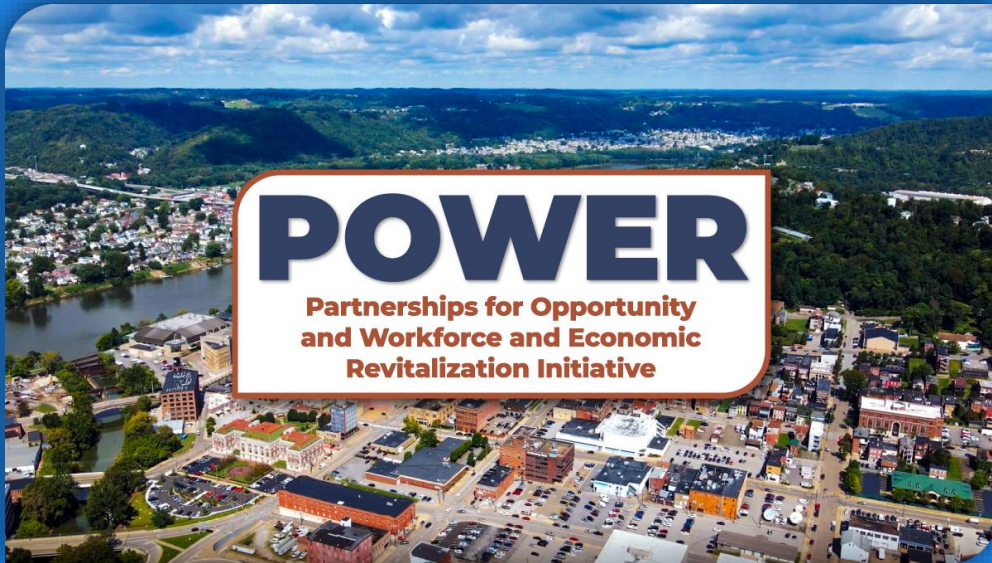
Contact: Power@arc.gov

arc.gov

Area Development



- ARC's base program
- Formula-driven and State-led: Funding is allocated first to the states to support local investment priorities and to empower Appalachian communities
- Varied Funding Priorities, Timelines, Application Processes, and Award Caps
- Applicants must work with their State Program Managers in the development of their project and submission of their proposal



- Special program for coal communities
- \$65 million available in 2026
- Grants of up to \$2 million (\$2.5 million for broadband)
- Typical Application Cycle: Winter - Early Spring (delayed in FY2025)
- www.arc.gov/POWER



- Building and strengthening local recovery-to-work ecosystems
- \$13 million available in 2026
- Grants of up to \$500,000
- Typical Application Cycle: Winter- Early Spring
- www.arc.gov/INSPIRE

First NOSA released March 26, 2024

Eligible Activities: Natural Gas Energy Hub
Research; Hydrogen Energy Hub
Implementation

Research and Implementation Grants
Available

Award Cap: \$5 million

<https://www.arc.gov/energyhub/>



**Appalachian Regional Energy
Hub Initiative**

Additional Programs and Opportunities

- Partnership with the Department of Labor, in collaboration with the Delta Regional Authority and the Northern Border Regional Commission
- WORC is a competitive workforce grant program funded and reviewed by DOL with no match requirement
- Funding targeted exclusively to entities within the ARC region
- ARC provides technical assistance post-award for WORC grantees in the region
- www.arc.gov/WORC



Academies and Institutes

<https://www.arc.gov/academies-and-institutes/>



Appalachian STEM Academy

Middle and High Schools Students/Teachers

Application Window: Early Winter



Appalachian Entrepreneurship Academy

High Schools Students

Application Window: Early Winter



Appalachian Collegiate Research Initiative

College Students

Application Window: Early Winter



Appalachian Leadership Institute

Appalachians interested in community/economic development

Application Window: Spring

ARC Grants: Basic Eligibility Requirements

Applicable to all ARC Grants

Eligible Grantees:

Local development districts (LDDs)

Indian Tribes

States/local government

Institutions of higher learning

Nonprofits

Eligible Projects:

Target counties within the Appalachian Region

Advance and align with ARC/State goals for economic development

Generate measurable impact

Federal Requirements and ARC Policy:

Appalachian Regional Development Act (ARDA, 1965)

ARC Code (including regulations on applicant match)

Title 2 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 200 ("2 CFR Part 200")

Unique Entity ID (UEI)

- UEIs are required during initial stages of any ARC application (State pre-apps, competitive LOIs, etc.)
- Go to [SAM.Gov](https://sam.gov) to request or view your UEI
- To get a Unique Entity ID (UEI) number, go to the official [SAM.gov](https://sam.gov) website
 - Select "Get Started" and choose whether you need a **full entity registration** or just a UEI for reporting purposes (sub-awardee)

SAM.GOV Account Activation and Registration

- Register at SAM.gov now or view your [your entity registration record](#).
- **Entity registrations expire annually and require annual renewal.** If your registration has expired, go [here](#) for instructions on how to renew your entity registration. Go [here](#) to learn about entity registration renewal extension.
- **If registration is not active or the organization is not registered at all, this will delay the award of the grant or payment processing significantly.**

SAM.Gov Entity Information

- **Active** Registration?
- Debt subject to **federal offset**?
- Financial Assistance Representation and Certification – **YES**
- Any other red flags...

**SAM.Gov
Additional
Considerations**

Project Suitability

Measure Project Idea Against:

- ✓ **ARC Mission Alignment**
- ✓ **Goal Alignment**
- ✓ **Project Impact** (outputs/outcomes)
- ✓ **Other Considerations:**
 - Project-Specific Challenges
 - Administrative Priorities
 - "Shovel Ready" Projects
 - Open ARC Project with Overlapping Scope

Mission Alignment

Ask yourself...

- Who or what is in the service area?
- Does it make sense for ARC funds to support?
- What do you find if you Google the beneficiary?

For Example: Projects that serve **single businesses** or include **golf courses, yacht clubs, or gated communities** do not align with **ARC's mission** and are likely unsuitable for ARC funding.

Goal Alignment

Take a quick look at
ARC's Strategic Plan and
State Development
Plans and Strategy
Statements.

Does your project help to build or strengthen:

- Appalachian businesses?
- Workforce system?
- Infrastructure?
- Culture and Tourism?
- Community Skills and Resources?

Check against our resources

ARC Strategic Plan:

<https://www.arc.gov/strategicplan/>

State Plans and Strategies:

<https://www.arc.gov/state-plans-strategies/>

Project Suitability? Check Against ARC's Guide to Performance Measures

[Home](#) / [Grants and Opportunities](#) / [Applicant Resources](#) / [Guide to ARC Project Performance Measures](#)

Guide to ARC Project Performance Measures

[Applicant Resources](#) [Funding Opportunities and Resources](#) [Grantee Resource](#) [Guides and Manuals](#) [Video](#)

All ARC projects must have documented performance measures. Applicants estimate their project's measures in project applications, and report on progress in interim and closeout reports. For detailed information about measuring performance for your project, click the link for your project type in the list below.

Measures may be outputs or outcomes. **Outputs** are the direct products of project activities and are frequently measured in terms of the volume of work accomplished. **Outcomes** are benefits or changes for individuals, communities, organizations, businesses, or other entities during or after the project's grant period. They are the measurable results or impact.

Every ARC implementation project should have at least one output measure and one outcome measure from ARC's catalog of measures. Planning projects must include, at a minimum, the output **plans/reports**. There are some output measures that have a direct correlation with an outcome measure—these are called **paired measures** and must be reported together. Paired measures demonstrate improvements experienced by individuals or entities served by an ARC-funded project, and are expressed as **served** and **improved** (e.g., students served, students improved). Other measures, called **standalone measures**, can be reported individually. Project proposals may include both paired and standalone measures when applicable.

- Working Backwards....
- Verify that your project's impact can be defined using ARC's performance measures
- Determine what measures might make the most sense and what kind of project they align with
- Allow this information to determine whether to pursue funding and to help guide the development of your application

Project Specific Challenges

- **Isolated activities that are not part of a comprehensive project** (e.g., sidewalks and HVAC systems) may not be appropriate.
- **Community recreation projects** (e.g., skate parks, basketball courts, soccer fields as well as parks and playground equipment), **community enhancement projects** (e.g., memorials and public artwork), **social service projects** (e.g., senior living centers) tend to lack strong economic impact and will often be turned down.
- **ARC does not provide grants for municipal services/infrastructure** (e.g., Courthouses or Fire Stations; county/city road paving or repair; paramedic equipment).

Other Considerations

- ARC maintains alignment with the priorities of the current administration and will not approve projects that conflict with executive orders:

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/executive-orders/>

- Projects should be "**shovel ready**," or fully developed and ready to go.
- Current or Previously Awarded Grantees: Proposed projects that **fully or partially duplicate or overlap with open or previously awarded ARC grants** will not be eligible.

What Makes a Strong Proposal

The "Economic Development Lens"

ARC places high-value on projects that wherein the correlation with **economic impact** is clear and made prominent.

All proposals are considered from the perspective of **economic development** and reviewed using this lens.

Demonstrating Economic Impact

For example, a Theater Project (renovation/expansion):



- Emphasis on the arts, cultural enlightenment, historical significance, entertainment value (economic value is lost)



- Description of how many visitors the theater attracts, how that number stands to increase with the project, and how much revenue the visitors generate for downtown businesses
- "In the 2017-2018 season, a total of **17,315** individuals attended a ticketed performance in the theater generating approximately **\$500,000** in spending by patrons downtown. **With the proposed renovation and expansion, an additional 5,500 individuals...**"

Core Elements of ARC Projects

Strategic

- Project aligns with the goals of the community and regional plans

Impactful

- Project has specific performance targets aimed at helping Appalachia economically prosper

Collaborative

- Project engages partnerships to achieve common or aligned goals

Sustainable

- Project has a plan for maintaining the program or asset after the grant period has ended

ARC Program in Kentucky



KENTUCKY

STATE PROFILE | FISCAL YEAR 2025
(OCTOBER 1, 2024–SEPTEMBER 30, 2025)

FISCAL YEAR 2025 INVESTMENT SNAPSHOT



\$23.6M ARC OBLIGATIONS

\$20.9M PROJECT MATCHING FUNDS

\$44.6M TOTAL PROJECT FUNDS

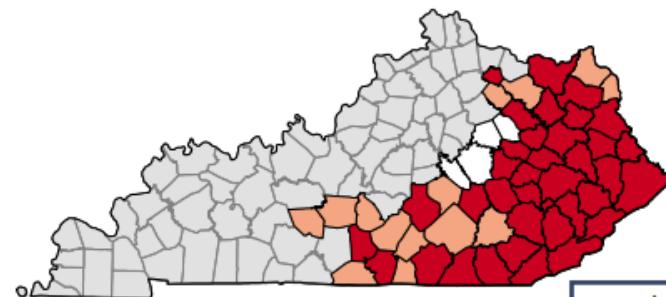
49 PROJECTS

1,863 STUDENTS AND WORKERS
TRAINED AND EDUCATED

7,887 HOUSEHOLDS/BUSINESSES
SERVED WITH INFRASTRUCTURE



FY 2025 COUNTY ECONOMIC STATUS IN KENTUCKY



Levels of Economic Status

- Distressed County
- At-Risk County
- Transitional County
- Competitive County
- Attainment County
- Non-Appalachian County

FISCAL YEAR 2025 INVESTMENT PRIORITIES



COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE

\$14.8M

invested in Kentucky to ensure access to reliable and affordable broadband, clean water and updated wastewater systems, highways and more



WORKFORCE ECOSYSTEM

\$4.9M

invested in Kentucky to expand community systems that will help Appalachians obtain a job, stay on the job and advance their careers



COMMUNITY LEADERS & CAPACITY

\$3.2M

invested in growing the capacity of local leaders, organizations and communities to address challenges and create opportunities in Kentucky

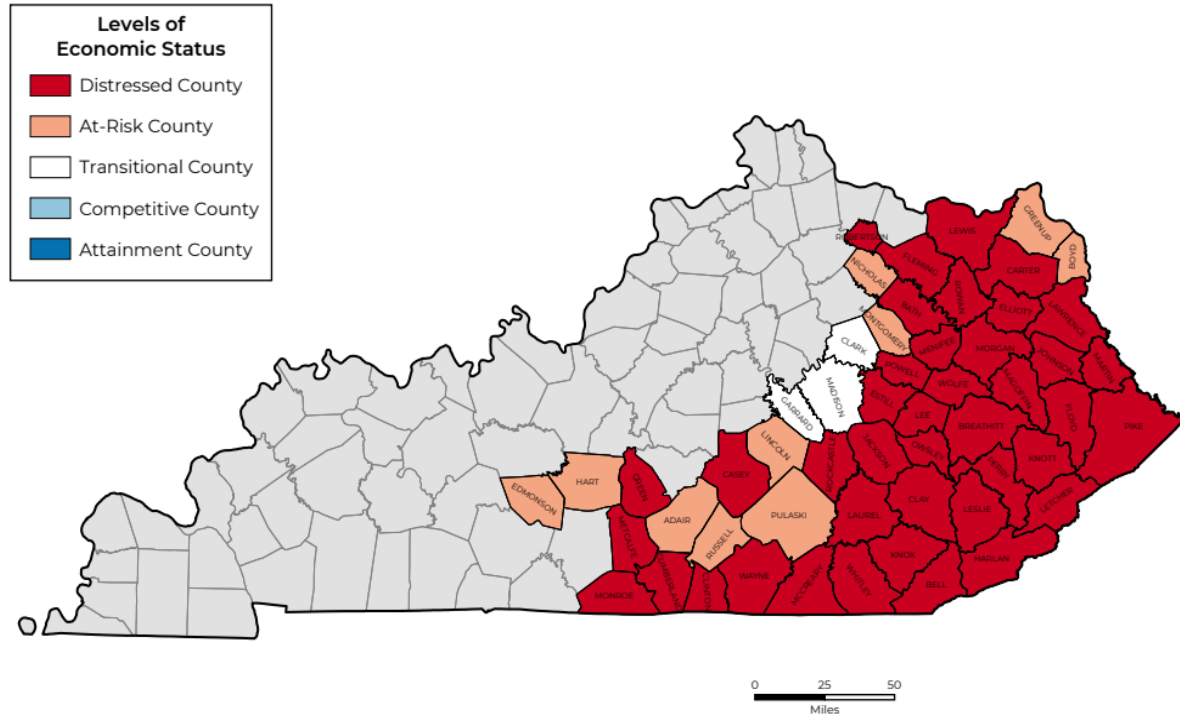


BUILDING BUSINESSES

\$790K

invested in entrepreneurship and business development to strengthen the economy in Kentucky

County Economic Status in Appalachian Kentucky,
Fiscal Year 2027



Kentucky Counties Served:

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

Examples of common Kentucky ARC Projects include...

- Water/sewer line extension and treatment expansion
- Telecommunication/broadband deployment
- Learning center development
- Education/workforce development training
- Industrial site development
- Asset-based development planning/activities
- Leadership development/civic capacity building

State Plans and Strategies

ARC's current [strategic plan](#) is a blueprint for investments at the regional level. Each of Appalachia's 13 states develops a companion four-year plan and annual strategy statement outlining its funding priorities for ARC projects.

Kentucky Appalachian Development Plan

[Read Full Report](#)

Kentucky Strategy Statement

[Read Full Report](#)

<https://www.arc.gov/appalachian-states/kentucky/>



The cover features a dark blue background. At the top, a man in a suit stands at a podium with the Kentucky state seal, next to an American flag and a 'TEAM KENTUCKY' logo. Below this are three smaller images: a person on a log, two men working on a wooden project, and a rural landscape. The title 'Commonwealth of Kentucky' is in large white letters, followed by 'Appalachian Regional Commission Development Plan 2021-2025' in smaller white text. The 'TEAM KENTUCKY' logo and the 'DLG' logo are at the bottom.

Commonwealth of Kentucky

Appalachian Regional Commission
Development Plan
2021-2025

TEAM KENTUCKY



**Interested in
Applying or
Learning More?**

Pre-Application Cycle for FY27: Open NOW – Closes September 30th

ARC Program in Kentucky:

<https://dlg.ky.gov/grants/federal/arc/Pages/default.aspx>

Questions?

Contacts:

- **Brennan Tucker**, State Program Manager, Brennan.Tucker@ky.gov
- **Raven Aiken**, Local Government Advisor, Raven.Aiken@ky.gov

Best Way to Prepare for Full Application Entry?

ARC's Application Template



The screenshot shows the top portion of the 'Non-Construction Project Application Template'. At the top is the ARC logo and the text 'Appalachian Regional Commission'. Below this is the title 'Non-Construction Project Application Template'. The 'INSTRUCTIONS' section explains that applicants should use this template to develop a complete project application, noting that the structure models the project record format in Pathways, ARC's Grant Management System. It advises labeling sections with correct headings and subheadings, with headings in bold and capital letters, and subheadings in bold. A 'PRE-APPLICATION REQUIREMENT' section states that applicants must be fully registered in The System for Award Management (SAM) and have an active Unique Entity Identifier (UEI), which must be renewed annually. A 'PROJECT INFO' section includes an 'Executive Summary' instruction, stating it should serve as a high-level snapshot of the project. Below this is a bulleted list of required information: Lead Applicant Organization, Lead Applicant, Project Title, Planning or Implementation Project?, Geographic Scope, Project Purpose, and Project Summary. The footer of the template indicates it is page 1 of 1 and was revised in November 2025.

ARC Appalachian Regional Commission

Non-Construction Project Application Template

INSTRUCTIONS: All applicants requesting ARC investment funding should use this template to develop a complete project application. The structure of this template models the project record format in Pathways, ARC's Grant Management System, to allow applicants to easily and accurately transfer hardcopy data into applicable fields while uploading and tagging supporting documents as appropriate. Make sure to label each section with the correct heading and subheading and that the information you provide is clear, concise, and complete (**HEADINGS**, which mirror the tabs you will find in Pathways, are bold and capitalized; **subheadings**, which mirror individual response fields in Pathways, are in bold).

Double check for consistency across all forms, fields, or documents and follow the submission process as required by your state's ARC program office.

PRE-APPLICATION REQUIREMENT: Applicants must be fully registered in The System for Award Management (SAM) and have an active Unique Entity Identifier (UEI). UEIs need to be renewed every year; any lapse may result in deactivation which may take months to remedy. See <https://sam.gov/content/duns-uei> for more information.

PROJECT INFO

Executive Summary

This section serves as an executive summary of your project and provides ARC with some basic information as well as a high-level snapshot of what your project entails. Responses here should summarize the longer and more detailed information required in the narrative.

- **Lead Applicant Organization**
- **Lead Applicant**
- **Project Title**
- **Planning or Implementation Project?**
- **Geographic Scope:** List the State(s) and County(ies) that are impacted by the project and include their economic status designations.
- **Project Purpose:** Summarize the purpose of this project (1-2 sentences)
- **Project Summary:** Summarize the major activities to be conducted. The description should

1 | Page
Revised November 2025

- Includes all required components of a full application package, reducing likelihood of omission or error
- Provides guidance and links to helpful resources
- Specifies the kind of supportive documentation you need
- Is formatted to align with the Pathways structure

Find here



Remember the Four "C's" of a Solid Application

Clear

Concise

Comprehensive

Consistent

ALL applications end up in Pathways prior to a full review and approval by ARC.

Following the ARC Application **templates as written** will allow you time to **prepare and supports the seamless transfer of data** from one source (e.g., Word) to Pathways.

The screenshot displays the 'Pathways Grant Management Portal' interface. On the left is a green sidebar with navigation links: 'Main', 'Notes', and 'Invite Collaborator(s) 1'. The main content area is titled 'Applicant Home' and shows the application ID 'Area_2024_00000562 - Laura's Construction Application - 8/11/25'. Below the title is an 'Instructions' section with a link to 'Area Development'. A horizontal tab bar includes 'PROJECT INFO' (selected), 'APPLICANT INFO', 'PROJECT CLASSIFICATION', 'FINANCIAL', 'NARRATIVE', 'BROADBAND', 'ATTACHMENTS', 'ASSURANCES', 'AFFA', and 'SYSTEM-GENERATED EMAILS'. The 'PROJECT INFO' section contains the following fields:

- * Status**: Full Application Draft
- * Lead Applicant Organization**: Appalachian Regional Commission
- * Does the Lead Applicant Organization (above) show the intended applicant organization?**: Radio buttons for Yes and No.
- * Lead Applicant**: Elijah Biggs
- * Project Title**: Text input field containing 'Laura's Construction Application - 8/11/25'.
- * Project Type**: Implementation
- * Implementation Type**: A dropdown menu with 'Construction' selected and a note 'Please click Save Draft after making a selection.'
- Administering Agency**: A dropdown menu with '-Select One-' selected.

Pathways



Appalachian
Regional
Commission

Initial Registration in Pathways

pathways.arc.gov

New users without
an active application
or project

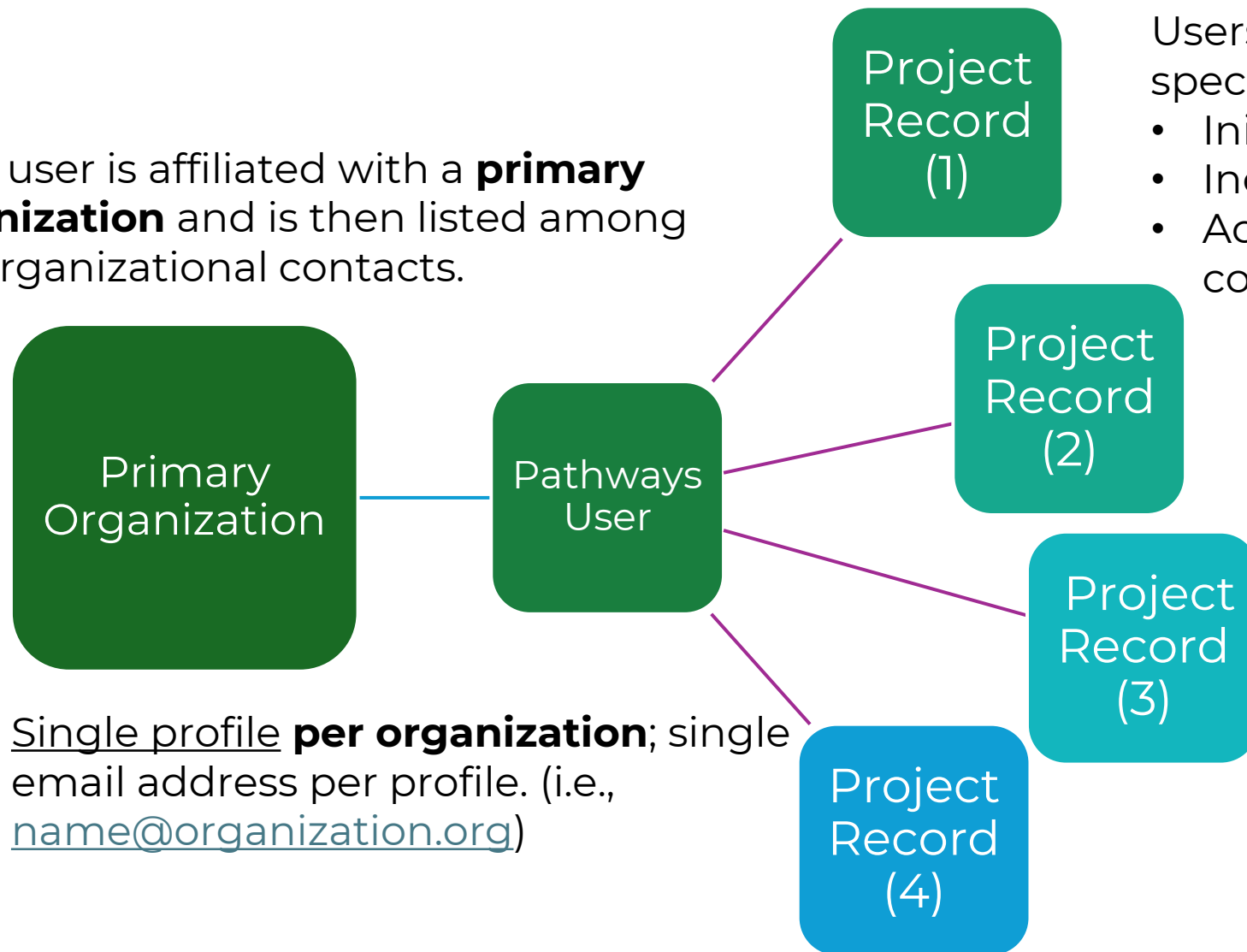
New users applying
for a competitive
initiative

Direct link via email

Connects recipient
to a specific
organization, project
or application

Generated by state
request/submission
of pre-app, invitation
to collaborate

Each user is affiliated with a **primary organization** and is then listed among the organizational contacts.



Users become connected to a specific project when:

- Initiating the application
- Included on a spin-up
- Accepting an invitation to collaborate

Single profile **per organization**; single email address per profile. (i.e., name@organization.org)

**Request to Activate Sent to
Project Compliance**

**PC Checkpoint:
Existing Profile?
Single User Email Account?
Official Email Domain?
UEI?**

**Email Notification Sent to
Complete Profile, Set-Up
Password**

ARC Email Policy:

- Accounts must be single-user accounts only
- Accounts must include a business-specific domain if available

Key Personnel:

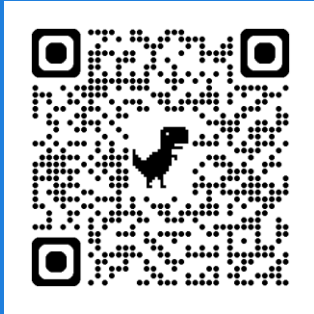
- Authorized Representatives **MUST** be directly affiliated with the Applicant Organization

Policy Updates and Reminders

Once You Receive Access to Pathways – Tips, Tricks, and FAQ's

- There is only one field (in Area Development) that contains a maximum word count – **Project Description 400** (you may see this labeled within Pathways)
- Use **plain text** if looking to copy and paste (no rich text, bullet points, emboldened words, etc.)
- **Record locks** – only one user is able to access a project record for edit at time
- Pay attention to **role designations, notifications, and workflows** – some communication might have to take place outside of Pathways
- **Save Draft** – the "magic button" - hit it often
- **In system validation points and error messaging** – consistency, accuracy, completeness, correct labeling all counts

**Looking for
More...**



- Regional or Agency Information
- State/LDD Specific Information
- Research and Data
- Project Ideas and Inspiration
- Applicant and Grantee Resources
- Information on Applicable Policies and Regulations (Including 2CFR200)

Check out ARC's Website! www.arc.gov

Contact Information

Laura Snell, Program Manager,
Technical Assistance Division, ARC
Lsnell@arc.gov

Lexi Oliva, Program Analyst,
Technical Assistance Division, ARC
Loliva@arc.gov

Connect with ARC



twitter.com/ARCgov



facebook.com/ARC.gov



instagram.com/ARCgov



linkedin.com/company/appalachian-regional-commission



In the Region

arc.gov/newsletter-signup



Appalachian
Regional
Commission