Appalachian Region

- 13 states
- 423 counties
- 206,000 square miles
- 26 million people
- 74 local development districts
Appalachian Regional Commission

ARC VISION STATEMENT
Appalachia is a region of great opportunity that will achieve socioeconomic parity with the nation.

ARC MISSION STATEMENT
To innovate, partner and invest to build community capacity and strengthen economic growth in Appalachia.
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

2016–2020
117 High-Poverty Counties

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1960 Census
Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates, 2015–2020
Federal–State Partnership

The Commission

FEDERAL CO-CHAIR

GOVERNORS/ALTERNATES

Commission Staff

INSPECTOR GENERAL

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
What does ARC do?

- Strengthen Businesses and Entrepreneurs
- Develop a Workforce Ecosystem
- Build Critical Infrastructure
- Invest in Culture and Tourism
- Foster Leadership and Community Capacity
County Economic Status 2023
ARC Signature Programs

- **POWER** (Partnerships for Opportunity and Workforce Revitalization)
- **INSPIRE** (Investments Supporting Partnerships in Recovery Ecosystems)
- **ARISE** (Appalachian Regional Initiative for Stronger Economies)
- **READY Appalachia**
- Appalachian Leadership Academy
• Special program for coal-impacted communities
• $65 million available in 2023
• Grants of up to $1.5 million ($2.5 million for broadband)
• Application deadline April 19
• www.arc.gov/POWER
• $368.1 million in 449 projects touching 360 counties
• Projected to --
  • create or retain more than 39,600 jobs
  • leverage more than $1.57 billion in additional private investment
  • prepare over 100,000 workers and students for opportunities in entrepreneurship, broadband development, tourism, and other industry sectors
Building and strengthening local recovery ecosystems

- $13 million available in 2023
- Grants of up to $500,000
- 64 applications seeking ~$21 million
- www.arc.gov/INSPIRE
• Special emphasis on multistate activities
• Must involve activities and partners in at least two states
• Grants of up to $10 million for implementation and $500,000 for planning
• 4-page concept paper is required
• Rolling application process
• Priority for projects that have the potential to transform the local economy
• Applicants must contact the ARC offices in the states to be covered by the grant prior to submitting concept paper
• www.arc.gov/ARISE
Community Capacity Building Initiative

• 4 economic development pillars:
  • Nonprofits (closed)
  • Local Development Districts (just closed)
  • Community Foundations (under development)
  • Local Governments (coming soon)

• Small-group virtual training and match-free grant funding

• www.arc.gov/ready
ARC Partnering with Philanthropy

- Direct grants to AFN
- Co-investing in specific projects
- Supporting proposal writing
- Encouraging concept development
- Collaborating on common activities
- Piloting replicable models
- Shaping program design
- Driving a regional conversation
Preparing for a Bright Future

- Capitalizing on **assets**—physical, social, economic, human
- Building vibrant **partnerships**—local and regional
- Crafting a transformational **vision**
- Creating a message of **hope and resilience**
- Cultivating **strong leaders**