

Project Title	Organization	ARC Amount	Match Funds	Total Project	Project Description
RecoveryCare: An Initiative to Train Healthcare Professionals in Appalachian Kentucky	FAMILY SCHOLAR HOUSE, INC	\$ 483,536.00	\$ 317,437.00	\$ 800,973.00	Family Scholar House (FSH), in partnership with The Jordan Center, consultants, and key workforce organizations, has been approved for ARC INSPIRE funds to establish a recovery-to-work ecosystem in Appalachia, Kentucky. Through the implementation of a new program, RecoveryCare, FSH will recruit and enroll 135 individuals recovering from opioid misuse in a comprehensive CNA apprenticeship program comprising both theoretical and on-the-job learning at a healthcare facility, provide holistic wrap-around support services, foster job placement into healthcare-related fields, and develop a framework for the program's sustainability within the region. As a result of this proposed project, 135 workers/trainees, 20 businesses, and 8 communities will be served, and 1 training curriculum will be created. It is anticipated that this project will enhance the healthcare workforce, reduce unemployment, and address the opioid epidemic in the Appalachian region of Kentucky by empowering individuals in recovery from opioid misuse through comprehensive training, support, and employment opportunities in healthcare fields. ARC funds will support personnel, fringe benefits, travel, contractual costs, a subaward, outreach, software, and participant support costs.
Robertson County Multi-purpose Agricultural Site	ROBERTSON COUNTY EXTENSION	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 125,000.00	The Robertson County Extension has been approved for \$100,000 in ARC POWER funding to plan the development of a multi-purpose agricultural site. The plan 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. Planning will also provide cost estimates and preliminary design of facilities.
Strong Foundations: Fortifying the Building Blocks of Economic Development in Appalachian Kentucky	MOUNTAIN ASSOCIATION FOR COMMUNITY ECONO	\$ 2,000,000.00	\$ 500,000.00	\$ 2,500,000.00	Mountain Association for Community Economic Development, Inc. (Mountain Association) has been approved for ARC POWER funding for Strong Foundations: Fortifying the Building Blocks of Economic Development in Appalachian Kentucky. This project aims to strengthen and expand enterprises in sectors that are foundational to economic development. Mountain Association proposes to do this by (1) deepening support of foundational economic sectors, (2) expanding access to capital, (3) implementing a new technical assistance approach to more efficiently and effectively meet the needs of clients across these sectors, leveraging their strong regional partnerships to reach and support the range of small businesses and entrepreneurs essential to ensuring these sectors are robust and meet the needs of Appalachian Kentucky. It is anticipated that 450 businesses and 100 participants will be served/improved, 50 new businesses created, 150 jobs created, 120 jobs retained, and \$6M leveraged in private investments during the project period as a result of the proposed project.
Strengthening Local Food Systems Through Production of Appalachian Seed Crops	University of Kentucky Research Foundation, The	\$ 1,715,526.00	\$ 429,384.00	\$ 2,144,910.00	The University of Kentucky Research Foundation has been approved for ARC POWER funding for Strengthening Local Food Systems Through Production of Appalachian Seed Crops. The project team is committed to providing science based direct technical assistance to entrepreneurs interested in commercial seed production; transferring knowledge to improve seed production practices and business profitability; and promoting the sourcing of locally grown products by commercial growers, market gardeners, and community members, serving prospective and established farms and agribusinesses across the ARC-KY region. It is anticipated that 175 businesses and 700 participants will be served/improved, 9 jobs will be created, 166 jobs will be retained, 12 businesses will be created, and 12 plans will be created as a result of the proposed project. This program, in partnership with 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 and Organic Association of KY will reach 700+ farmers and agribusinesses with technical assistance to small- and medium-scale seed producers in all 54 counties of the KY ARC region. Together they will provide support to build diverse and resilient agriculture products and markets, supporting established operations of all scales and developing new growers to help improve production knowledge, efficiencies, and profitability; provide education for business launch and expansion in the art of seed production; and business planning to increase demand for locally-produced seed crops through public awareness of sourcing opportunities and identifying potential buyers and making connections between growers and buyers to build out the seed supply chain. The project will produce geographically appropriate resources to train new growers and maintain enthusiasm for seed production, as well as to train new employees and beginning entrepreneurs in critical knowledge and skills. Continuity of support for the industry is assured following this infusion of targeted support, resource development, and relationship-building. ARC funds will support personnel, fringe benefits, equipment, travel, supplies, contractual, and other costs.
KY-WORCS Planning Grant: Matching Rural Talent to Metals Industry Demand	METALS INNOVATION INITIATIVE INC	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 125,000.00	Metals Innovation Initiative, Inc. (MI2) has been approved for ARC funding for the Kentucky Workforce Optimization Redistribution Comprehensive Strategy (KY-WORCS), a 12-month planning project to lay the groundwork for a scalable metals certification program aligned with regional employer demand. MI2 will partner with Accelerate KY, Big Sandy Community & Technical College, Prestonsburg Economic Development Foundation, and the Pike County Industrial Development & Economic Authority to connect skilled job seekers with available jobs and develop a comprehensive implementation plan to strengthen the metals manufacturing workforce pipeline in Appalachian Kentucky. The project will focus on two distressed counties, Pike and Floyd, where demand for metals manufacturing workers remains strong. MI2 and its partners will identify high-wage, remote-compatible metal careers, assess local workforce and facility assets for potential hub sites, and design a scalable online certification program responsive to employer needs. The project will produce three actionable plans that position the region to launch workforce hubs and expand access to quality jobs. ARC funds will support travel, contractual, and indirect costs associated with the project.
From Mining to Medicine: Pathways to a Healthier Region	St. Claire Medical Center, Inc.	\$ 960,000.00	\$ 240,000.00	\$ 1,200,000.00	St. Claire Medical Center, Inc. (UK St. Claire HealthCare) and its partners, the Northeast Kentucky Area Health Education Center, Southeast Kentucky Area Health Education Center, and Southern Kentucky Area Health Education Center, will expand health careers by providing opportunities to educational institutions and students in the region to enter a healthcare training pathway program. The program will help students build skills to advance their education or enter the workforce. It is anticipated that 535 students will be improved as a result of the proposed project. This region has lost more than 32,000 coal industry jobs since 2011. By providing hands-on activities, workshops, job shadowing, internships, and other educational programs, the project will introduce more than 10,000 students across the service area to available career paths. The program will also help prepare 765 students for entry into health-care training programs at any postsecondary or terminal-degree-granting institution. This project will diversify the region's economy by producing additional health care professionals, thereby improving the region's health. St. Claire Medical Center, Inc., and its partners will provide in-kind personnel, benefits, space, and contractual staff. ARC funds will support supplies, travel, personnel, indirect costs, benefits, and other program related costs.
Red Bird Mission Connected Campus Initiative: High-Speed Internet for Rural Learning, Workforce Development, and Economic Opportunity	RED BIRD MISSION, INCORPORATED	\$ 1,948,980.00	\$ 489,208.00	\$ 2,438,188.00	Red Bird Mission has been approved for \$1,948,980 in ARC POWER Broadband funds 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-impacted 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. Broadband is essential for sustaining and expanding programs and employment, but the existing network fails to deliver reliable speed and suffers frequent multiday outages. Red Bird Mission will competitively procure an Internet Service Provider (ISP) under a seven-year BaaS contract to install a five-mile redundant fiber route connecting the campus to two network access points, providing 10 Gbps symmetrical service and ensuring coverage during outages. Connect Humanity, a nonprofit subrecipient, will assist with RFP development, ISP selection, monitoring, and compliance. Red Bird Mission will modernize its network by replacing aging wireless equipment, expanding Wi-Fi to all facilities, and upgrading its computer lab, while building staff capacity to apply the new broadband effectively. A Digital Program Manager will help residents gain computer and internet skills and employment training, while an E-Commerce Manager will expand Red Bird's web presence, train artisans and producers to sell online, and increase digital outreach to donors and volunteers. Mountain Association, a nonprofit subrecipient, will provide business coaching to grow Red Bird's digital enterprises and broadband-enabled revenue sources to help sustain service beyond the BaaS period.

Leatherwood Wildcat Coal Lodge Project	PERRY COUNTY FISCAL COURT	\$ 2,000,000.00	\$ 9,506,116.00	\$ 11,506,116.00	The Perry County Fiscal Court has been approved for \$2,000,000 in ARC POWER funding to assist in the renovation and repurposing of 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. The project will train 25 students in the culinary arts and create 30 new jobs, directly supporting Perry County's transition from a coal dependent economy to one driven by adventure tourism and entrepreneurship. The 36,280 square foot, one-story facility sits on 5.75 acres of property in the Leatherwood Community of Perry County and was purchased by the applicant in 2024. ARC funds will support site development, HVAC, plumbing, electrical work and general construction on the building to renovate it into overnight lodging rooms, reception/guest service area, office space, full service kitchen, dining area, teaching kitchen for the culinary program, classroom space and event/meeting spaces. In partnership with Hazard Community and Technical College (HCTC) and an ARC INSPIRE-supported Culinary Arts program, the facility will also serve as a training site for individuals in recovery from substance use disorder where participants will gain hands-on instruction, earn credentials and transition into employment across the tourism and hospitality sectors. The Perry County Fiscal Court will own, operate and maintain the Leatherwood Wildcat Coal Lodge upon completion. The Lodge will be supported through earned revenues including lodging fees from the 17 overnight rooms, restaurant and catering income from the full-service dining operation and event/meeting space rentals. The on-site culinary teaching kitchen will also host community workshops, cooking classes and culinary events, further diversifying income while supporting local tourism and workforce engagement. A comprehensive market analysis, tourism spending model, financial projections and feasibility study were completed for the project and provide a sound basis for its long-term sustainability.
Cooking up the Economy: Historic Martin County Courthouse Business Incubator Project	COUNTY OF MARTIN	\$ 521,739.00	\$ 130,435.00	\$ 652,174.00	Martin County, and its coalition of partners, has been approved for \$521,739 from the ARC POWER program to complete the Cooking up the Economy: Historic Martin County Courthouse Business Incubator project. This project will 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. The grantee will use ARC funding for personnel, fringe benefits, supplies, equipment, and construction costs. To ensure success, this project will leverage four partners. Martin County, who owns the courthouse, will serve as the lead partner in overseeing renovations and facility operations. The Big Sandy Area Local Development District (BSADD) will serve as the project's primary programmatic partner, providing food entrepreneurs technical assistance through its Fueling Innovation, Revitalization, and Entrepreneurship (FIRE) program. The Martin County Extension Office will provide technical assistance and expertise related to agriculture, food safety, and nutrition. Finally, Martin County Public Schools will utilize the space for workforce development. Overall, this project will support small businesses, promote entrepreneurship, strengthen the agricultural economy, and improve the quality of life for community members in Martin County.
Center of Excellence - Economic Revitalization	KENTUCKY STATE UNIVERSITY	\$ 1,569,616.00	\$ 429,387.00	\$ 1,999,003.00	Kentucky State University (KSU) has been approved for ARC funding to establish a Center of Excellence for Landscape Restoration and implement workforce training programs that address the urgent need for restoration skills in Central Appalachia. The project will develop and deliver research-based training programs that prepare participants for high-quality, well-paying jobs in ecological restoration and related industries. Over the project period, KSU and its partners, the University of Tennessee, Tennessee State University, Virginia Tech, and Renew Appalachia will design and implement thirteen training programs aligned with industry standards and regional economic development priorities, reaching approximately 1,000 participants across Eastern Kentucky. Training will be delivered through a combination of virtual instruction and hands-on, field-based learning, equipping landowners, practitioners, and community stakeholders with practical skills in restoration, carbon tracking, and sustainable land management. The Center of Excellence will serve as a hub for workforce development, informed by over a decade of research and community engagement in coal-impacted areas such as Martin and Pike counties. The project will also support the development of market-driven restoration strategies that enhance income-generating opportunities on formerly mined lands while strengthening local capacity for long-term environmental stewardship. ARC funds will support personnel, fringe benefits, supplies, and contractual costs necessary to develop curricula, deliver training, and operate the Center of Excellence.
3D Printed CoalCrete Regional Accelerator	KENTUCKY COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE SYSTEM	\$ 2,000,000.00	\$ 624,671.00	\$ 2,624,671.00	Somerset Community College, in partnership with Hazard Community and Technical College, has been approved for ARC funding for the 3D Printed CoalCrete Regional Accelerator project to expand workforce training and support businesses in adopting coal-enhanced 3D-printed concrete technologies. The project aims to equip workers with in-demand skills while helping small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and municipalities integrate advanced construction methods. The Accelerator will be implemented through partnerships with the Kentucky Community and Technical College System, Ohio University, Virginia Tech, Southeast Kentucky Economic Development, regional SMEs, and local governments. Key activities include the procurement and installation of two large-format 3D concrete printers at Somerset Community College and Hazard Community and Technical College, as well as a graphitization furnace at Ohio University to support materials development. The project will deliver workforce training through courses, workshops, and hands-on demonstrations, serving 2320 students through applied learning and skill development opportunities. A total of 46 businesses will be served through technical assistance, shared-use access to equipment, and training to support adoption of 3D concrete printing technologies. The project is expected to result in the creation of 4 new businesses and 65 jobs. Additional activities include the development and testing of advanced coal-based concrete materials, pursuit of industry certifications, and regional convenings and cluster development efforts to strengthen partnerships and support long-term economic growth. ARC funds will support personnel, fringe benefits, travel, equipment, supplies, student support costs, and subawards to partners.

TEK Center Building Capacity to Build the Workforce	TEK CENTER INC	\$ 1,765,720.00	\$ 468,930.00	\$ 2,234,650.00	TEK Center, Inc. has been approved for ARC POWER Initiative Implementation funding for training equipment and start-up operational expenses for the TEK Center, a new nonprofit training center in Eastern Kentucky developed with community partners including the Martin County Economic Development Authority (MCEDA), the Foundation for Appalachian Kentucky, Serving Our Appalachian Region (SOAR), and the Eastern Kentucky Concentrated Employment Program (EKCEP) to provide displaced, unemployed, underemployed, and individuals in recovery from substance use disorder with workforce training and career pathway programs in high growth industry sectors including advanced manufacturing, technology, and the skilled trades. With this grant, the project will provide the high-tech training equipment, personnel, and program resources needed to ensure the new facility operates at full capacity starting in 2027 and achieves long-term sustainability. The project directly supports ARC's workforce ecosystem goal by building career pathways that connect workers to stable employment in high-demand sectors, reducing poverty and unemployment in a region long dependent on coal. It also builds critical community infrastructure by establishing a permanent, fully resourced training campus serving an 18-county economically distressed region within an hour's drive. By linking modern facilities, industry-grade training equipment, and strategic employer partnerships, the project creates both physical infrastructure (a permanent training hub) and human infrastructure (a skilled workforce) that together support immediate training needs and long-term economic diversification. It is anticipated that, by the end of the three-year grant period and annually thereafter, an estimated 675 students will be served and 507 improved; 30 organizations will be served and 20 improved; and 10 new jobs will be created as a result of this project. By aligning ARC's POWER investment with support from other federal and local partners, including the Economic Development Administration (EDA) and project partners SOAR, Big Sandy Area Development District (BSADD), and Mountain Association (MA), this project helps to ensure that the TEK Center can launch at full capacity without the Center bearing the entire upfront cost burden, securing long-term viability and regional workforce transformation. By equipping a new 30,000-square-foot facility with industry-grade equipment and aligning training with employer demand, the project fosters the growth of industry clusters that replace lost coal employment with sustainable, regionally competitive jobs. Training will target individuals displaced from or affected by the decline of coal, as well as underemployed workers and new entrants to the labor market. Partnerships with regional employers ensure that programs align with actual hiring needs, while federal financial aid systems will make participation accessible to low-income and displaced workers. By expanding enrollment and credential attainment each year, the project directly addresses POWER's goal of increasing labor participation and supporting transitions into high-demand sectors. With this grant, The Center will help local governments, utilities, and contractors keep pace with infrastructure demands and position the region for sustainable growth. ARC funds and match funding contributions will support costs for personnel, fringe benefits, and training equipment and supplies. Indirect costs are also included in the budget, calculated at a rate of 10% of modified total direct costs (MTDC)
Building Capacity for Creative Leadership	CITY OF PIKEVILLE EXPOSITION CENTER CORP	\$ 25,000.00	\$ -	\$ 25,000.00	During the grant period, the Appalachian Center for the Arts will recruit and hire an Operations and Administrative Support Coordinator to strengthen daily organizational operations. This position will be based at the organization's facility in Pikeville and will support programming that serves its patrons throughout Eastern Kentucky. The Executive Director will oversee the hiring process at the beginning of the grant period and supervise the coordinator once hired. The coordinator will coordinate logistics for artists and instructors, maintain contracts and compliance documentation, and support communication with volunteers, community partners, and visiting performers. By implementing improved administrative workflows, digital scheduling tools, and organized documentation systems, the coordinator will ensure smoother day-to-day operations and greater responsiveness to community programming needs. Additionally, leadership of the organization and board members will participate in professional fundraising training through Do Good University designed to strengthen internal development capacity and build a more sustainable funding model. The Executive Director will lead these efforts at the organization's headquarters in Pikeville while engaging board members and community stakeholders from across Eastern Kentucky. Training sessions and strategic planning activities will focus on grant writing, corporate sponsorship development, donor cultivation, annual campaign planning, and long-term financial strategy. ARC funding will be utilized for personnel and other expenses.
Appalachian Restoration Project: Building Recovery to-Work Pathways Across Southeast Kentucky	APPALACHIAN RESTORATION PROJECT INC	\$ 500,000.00	\$ 185,700.00	\$ 685,700.00	Appalachian Restoration Project (ARP) has been approved for ARC funding to serve 60 adults in recovery from substance use disorder through a three-year recovery-to-work initiative that provides participants with a six-month recovery-to work pathway, paid internships, recovery housing, workforce training and wraparound support. The project will engage 12 businesses across southeast Kentucky through employer outreach and support, with eight businesses expected to host or prepare to host paid interns and strengthen their ability to support workers in recovery. Participants will receive paid internship opportunities, housing at no cost, workforce training assistance and other supports intended to help them maintain recovery while building job skills and work history. Over the three-year grant period, ARP expects to enroll approximately 20 adults annually in the six-month recovery-to-work pathway. Participants will receive paid internship and related workforce support, with vouchers available to address individual workforce training needs, including training or tuition costs required for participation in an internship. ARP will also work with employers to identify internship opportunities, provide recovery-ready workplace support, and strengthen employer practices for recruiting and retaining workers in recovery. Participant and employer engagement will be tracked through case management records, internship records, training documentation, employer outreach and follow-up. ARC funds will support personnel and fringe benefits, participant support costs, and indirect costs.
Healing, Empowering, and Living Program (HELP): Employment-Based Recovery Services in Rural Central Appalachia	Mercy Health - Marcum and Wallace Hospital LLC	\$ 381,000.00	\$ 253,076.00	\$ 634,076.00	With implementation funding, Mercy Health - Marcum and Wallace Hospital (MWH) will address the prevailing gaps in vocational rehabilitation between evidence and practice within the target service area (Estill and Powell counties in Kentucky) through the development of a Community Care Hub, including a Job Resource Center, that will act as a single access point for people in recovery following the proven Hub model method for recovery ecosystems. Additional activities will include the engagement of local employers, business associations, and community development agencies in the implementation of a pragmatic and feasible framework for the coordination of vocational services that aims to leverage the collaborative infrastructure of an existing community health coalition (the Project HOME Network). This includes the implementation of a workforce recruitment and retention plan (implementing a communications plan and appropriate outreach strategies to recruit individuals from within the recovery community), implementing employment-focused case management and the creation of individualized pathways to competitive employment within the local economy, and implementing an onboarding process that incorporates assessment and linkages with social service providers in order to address unmet needs of the target population across multiple life domains. MWH and its partners will also work with area employers to create recovery-oriented workplaces. This includes the distribution of best-practice training curriculum for positive supervisory practices for those in recovery, implementing internal monitoring mechanisms and data dashboards to evaluate relapse prevention and risk factor reduction (to inform continuous improvement activities), and promoting linkages to recovery-oriented systems, including, but not limited to, peer support and peer mentoring. ARC funding will be utilized for personnel, fringe benefits, travel, supplies, other, and indirect costs.

Gateway to Creative Success: Strengthening Kentucky's Gateway District Workforce	MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL FOR THE ARTS, INC	\$ 315,000.00	\$ 315,000.00	\$ 630,000.00	Gateway Regional Arts Center has been approved for ARC funding for a regional, creative recovery-to-work initiative designed to strengthen workforce participation and small-business development among individuals impacted by substance use disorder across Kentucky's Gateway region. The project will provide workforce readiness instruction, creative entrepreneurship training, business launch support, employer engagement, public library resource connectivity, and wraparound navigation services for adults in recovery, reentry, unemployment, underemployment, or economic instability. Over the three-year period, GRAC and its partners will deliver training modules on resumes, interviews, workplace communication, digital literacy, Canva-based branding, e-commerce, product development, pricing, ROI, business finance basics, and vendor booth readiness, along with individualized coaching and market access support. The project will be implemented through a hub-and-spoke model centered at GRAC, with support from the Montgomery County Health Department/BRITE Program, the Mt. Sterling-Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce, the Montgomery County Industrial Authority, Gateway Area Development District, and the Montgomery County Public Library network. These partners will coordinate employer engagement, recovery-resource navigation, regional outreach, and access to hyperlocal tools such as internet, printing, meeting space, entrepreneurship materials, job-search tools, community postings, and referral pathways. Tangible project outputs will include new training curricula, referral pathway tools, resource directories, market-opportunity calendars, business-development materials, and technology-supported workforce learning resources. ARC funds will support personnel, fringe benefits, supplies, travel, participant workforce supports, and contractual services.
		\$16,386,117.00	\$ 13,939,344.00	\$ 30,325,461.00	