



Appalachian Regional Commission

Lexi Oliva, ARC Technical Assistance

July 29, 2026

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

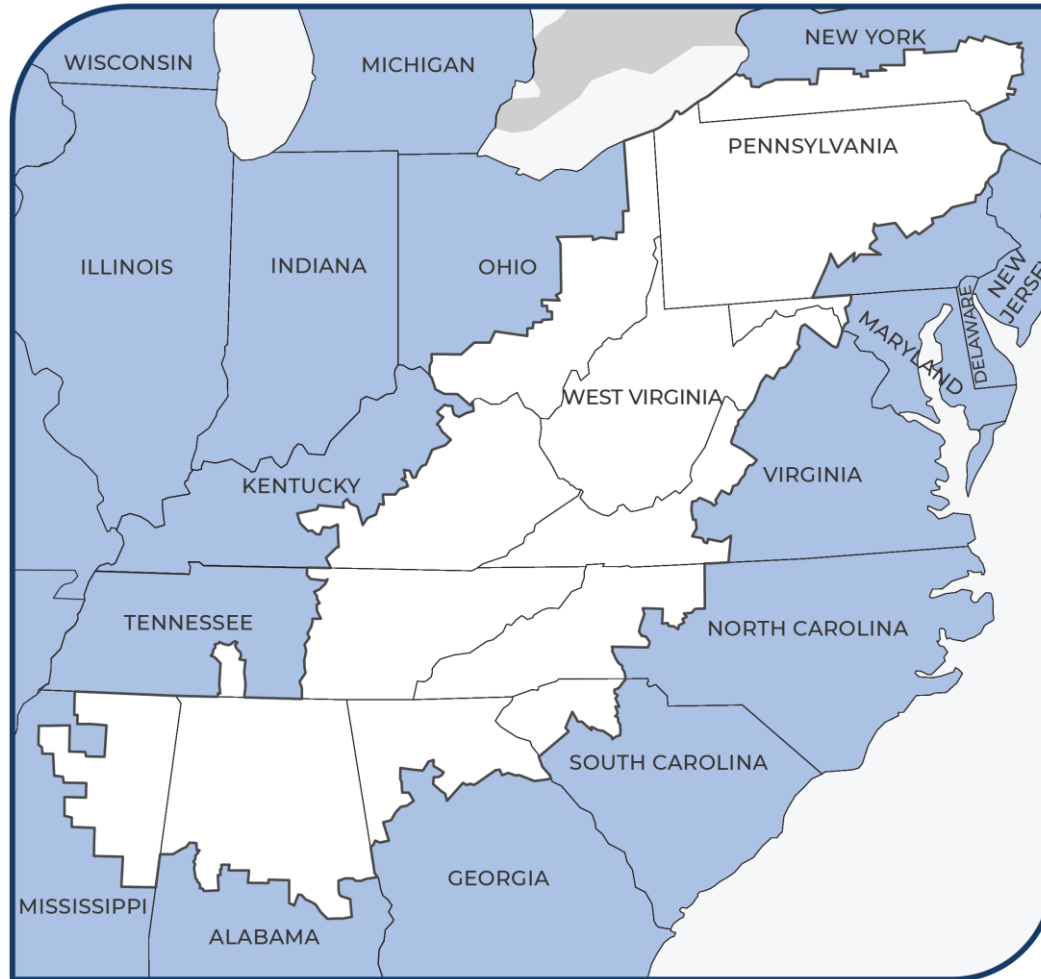
State

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

Commission

- Executive Director
- Commission Staff

Appalachian Regional Commission



Vision

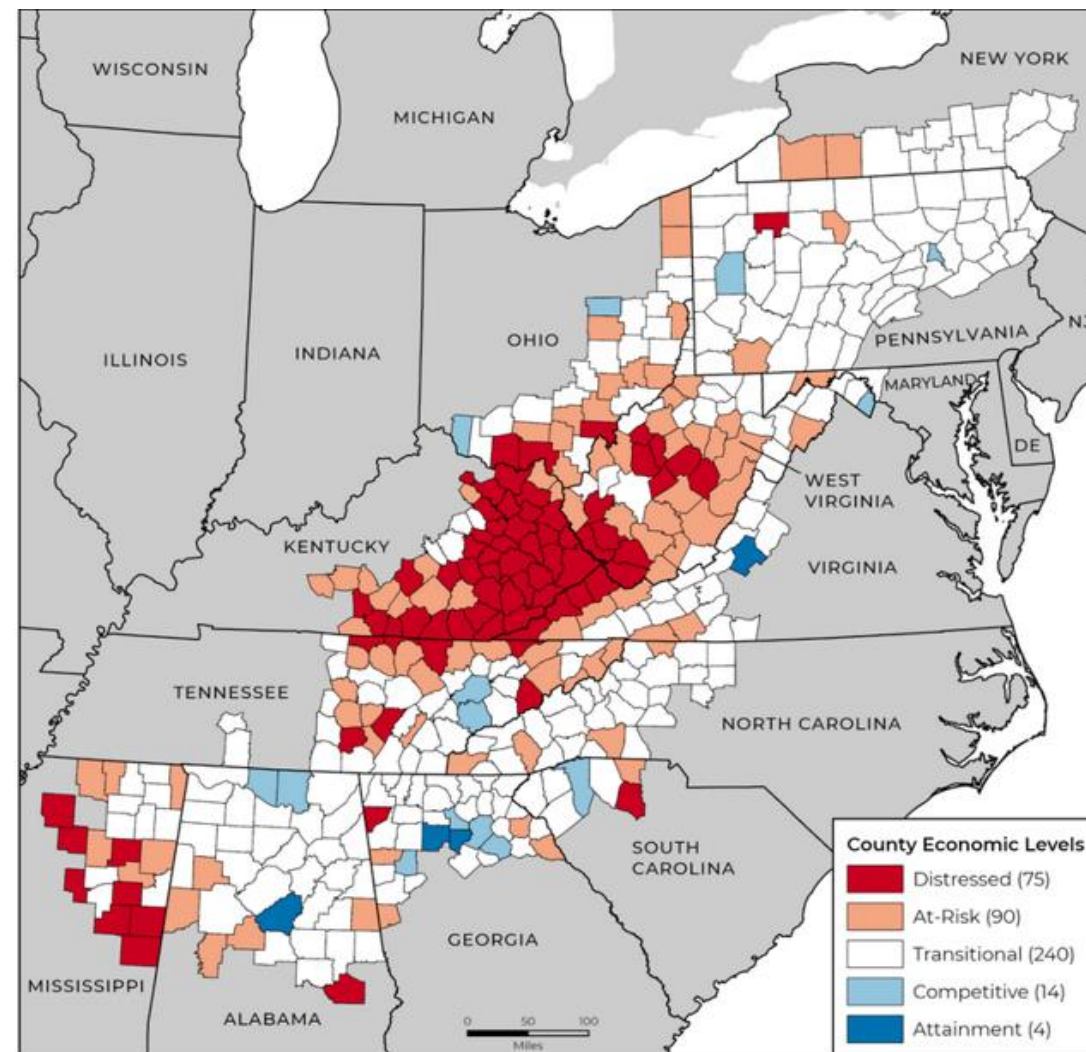
Appalachia is a region of great opportunity that will reach its full economic potential.

Mission

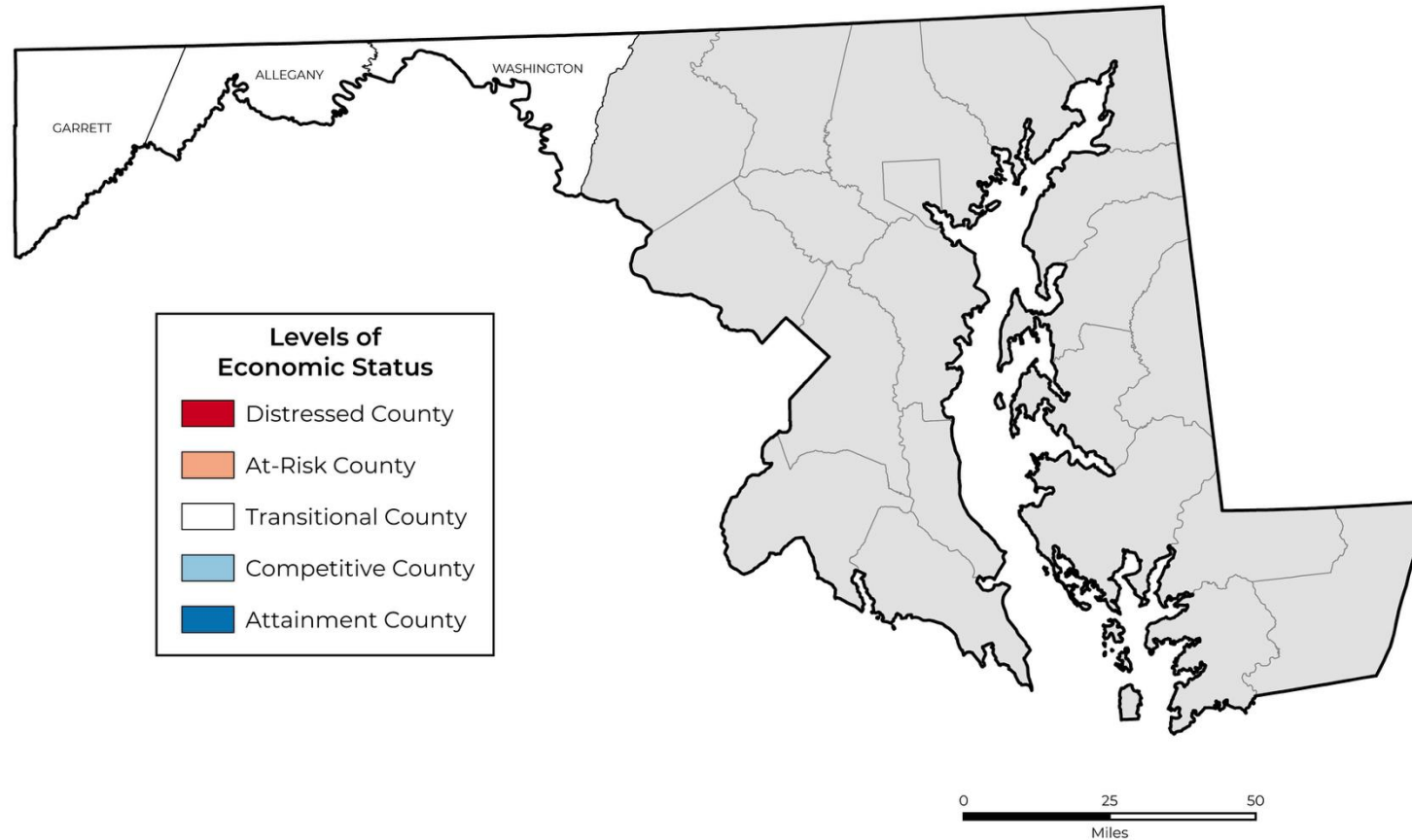
Invest and partner to strengthen economic development in Appalachia.

County Economic Status, FY 2026

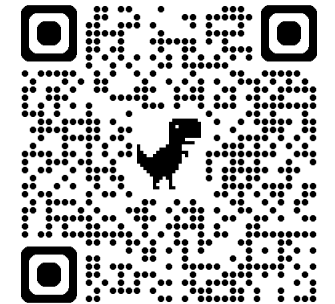
- **Distressed:** The most economically depressed counties, ranking in the worst 10% of the nation's counties
- **At-risk:** Counties at risk of becoming distressed
- **Transitional:** Counties transitioning between at-risk and competitive status.
- **Competitive:** Counties able to compete in the national 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.



County Economic Status in Appalachian Maryland, Fiscal Year 2027



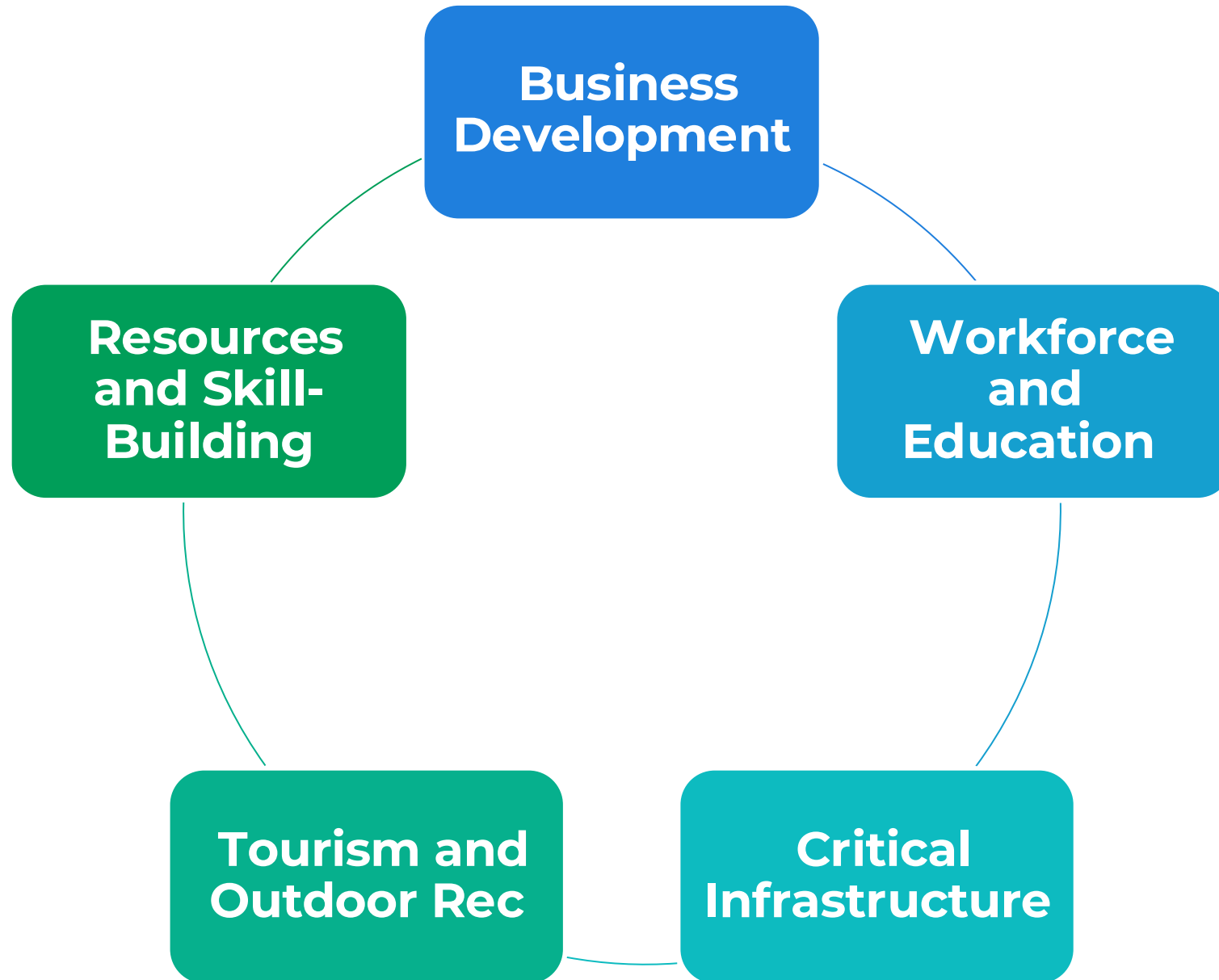
Scan here to
view match
requirements
and resources



The "Economic Development Lens"

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

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



Applicant Eligibility

- Local development districts (LDDs)
- Indian Tribes or a consortium of Indian Tribes
- States, counties, cities, or other political subdivision of a state
- Institutions of higher education
- Nonprofit organizations or associations

**ARC does not provide grants to individuals or for-profit entities*

Project Eligibility

- ARC funded projects must target counties within the Appalachian Region as indicated by the Appalachian Development Act of 1965
- ARC funded projects must advance and align with ARC/State priorities
- All projects and project activities must comply with applicable policy and regulation (both ARC and Federal)
- Applicants **MUST** have active registration in **SAM** and a Unique Entity Identification number. This is true at the most basic level, including account creation in ARC's grants management system

ARC Funding Activities and Opportunities

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](#)



INSPIRE

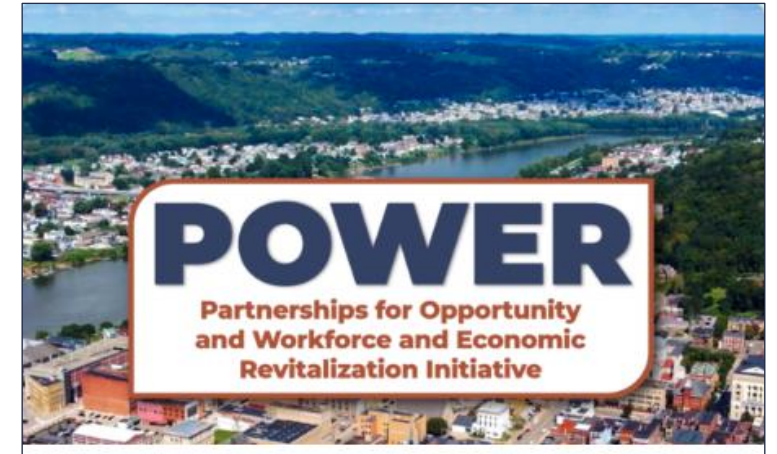
Investments Supporting Partnerships
In Recovery Ecosystems Initiative

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



POWER

Partnerships for Opportunity
and Workforce and Economic
Revitalization Initiative

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

READY Pillar Program: Small-group virtual training and match-free grant funding opportunities, focused on four economic development pillars:

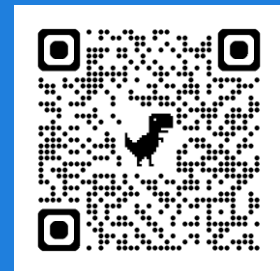
- Nonprofits
- Local Development Districts
- Community Foundations
- Local Governments

Curriculum from past trainings available on ARC's website:

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



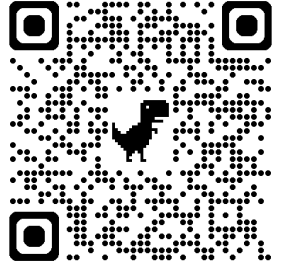
**Local Governments: Applications are due
July 31, 2026**



Next Steps

If you are an eligible entity...

1. Check out ARC's [Grants and Opportunities webpage](#). View details on all open opportunities at ARC, as well as key resources for prospective applicants
2. If you are specifically interested in **Maryland's Area Development Program**:
 - Reach out to Dave Cotton, Maryland's SPM:
david.cotton@maryland.gov
 - Reach out to your Local Development District, [Tri-County Council for Western Maryland, Inc](#):
elizabeth@tccwmd.org



Additional Federal Regional Commissions and Authorities

- **Delta Regional Authority (DRA)**: Includes 255 designated parishes in Louisiana and counties in Alabama, Arkansas, Illinois, Kentucky, Mississippi, Missouri, and Tennessee.
- **Denali Commission**: Focuses on infrastructure and economic challenges in Alaska.
- **Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC)**: Serves northern Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, and New York.
- **Southeast Crescent Regional Commission (SCRC)**: Includes parts of Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, and all of Florida.
- **Southwest Border Regional Commission (SBRC)**: Encompasses the southern border regions of Arizona, California, New Mexico, and Texas.

Interested in learning more?

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

Sign up here

