



## Rural Economic Development and Infrastructure in Appalachia

Rural Gateway Peer-to-Peer  
April 19, 2017

# Appalachian Regional Commission

- Mission

Innovate, partner, and invest to build  
community capacity and strengthen  
economic growth in Appalachia



# About ARC

- Special state-federal regional partnership
- Created 1965, 13 member states, 420 counties
- Federal Co-Chair and States' Co-Chair
- 13 member states collectively have co-equal power with the Federal Co-Chair
- Funds targeted to address disparity between the region and rest of the country



# ARC Funding 2017

- \$70 million base level funding to all 13 states
- \$50 million POWER Initiative (Partnerships for Opportunity and Workforce and Economic Revitalization). Targeted to coal impacted counties in the region.



# ARC Strategic Plan

- Five- Year Strategic Plan 2016-2020
- Strategic Investment Goals:
  - \*Economic Opportunities
  - \*Ready Workforce
  - \*Critical Infrastructure
  - \*Natural and Cultural Assets
  - \*Leadership and Community Capacity



# Program Design- Base Level Funds

- Funding allocated to all 13 states based on formula
- Number of counties in region
- Economic status of counties
- Program divided into Area Development (\$51 million) and Distressed Counties (\$19 million)
- Each state responsible for development of application submissions to ARC



# Special Funding Allocations

- POWER Initiative \$50 million
- Southern Appalachia Automotive Sector
- High-speed broadband development



# Base-level Funded Projects

- Asset-based development;
- Community infrastructure;
- Education and training;
- Energy;
- Entrepreneurship and business development;
- Export and trade development;
- Health





# Base-level Funded Projects- con't.

- Leadership development and capacity building;
- Telecommunications;
- Tourism development; and
- Transportation and highways.



# Funding Priorities- POWER Program

- Building a competitive workforce
- Enhancing access to and use of broadband services
- Fostering entrepreneurial activities
- Developing industry clusters in communities



# POWER Project Awards

Projects focused on technology, manufacturing, entrepreneurship, broadband, healthcare, workforce, tourism and downtown revitalization.

Awardees included local communities, non-profits, community colleges, technical colleges, universities and workforce development councils.



# Public and Private Resources

- ARC very limited financial assistance. Projects require other resources such as federal, state and local public funds. Examples include USDA, EPA, Brownfield , Energy, Labor, Health, Education and Transportation.
- Private funds include banks, CDFIs, foundations, local donations and private companies.
- Partnerships with local organizations, private companies, schools, foundations and individuals are critical to project development.



# Best Practices

- Build relationships with state and local officials, local development districts, funding partners and other organizations that may be of assistance in the development of your proposal.
- Work with the appropriate ARC State Alternate and State Program Manager as you work on proposals.
- Examples of ARC funded projects can be found on the Appalachian Regional Commission Website.



# ARC Contact Information

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