

Kentucky POWER Projects

Appalachia Angel Investor Network - RAIN Source Capital will work with existing and new angel investment funds to enhance the capability of coal-impacted communities across 9 Appalachian states to make investments in start-up, early stage, and growth companies. Specifically, the project will create at least four new angel funds in target communities, and will provide tools, training, and support services to existing angel funds and networks already operating in Appalachia. The project will result in the creation of 20 new businesses and 100 new jobs, and will leverage \$4,000,000 in private investment from 100 investors.

Appalachian HEAT Squad - The Federation of Appalachian Housing Enterprises (FAHE) in Berea will improve the energy efficiency of low-income homes in coal-impacted communities across a nine-county region in eastern Kentucky—while also creating entrepreneurial and skills-based training opportunities in the area. The project will partner with Hazard Community and Technical College and the Mountain Association for Community Economic Development (MACED) to deliver the entrepreneurial education and construction training component, and with two other training organizations to increase the skill-base for private housing contractors operating in the region. The project will create or retain 119 jobs, increase the quality, affordability, and performance of over 270 homes, and leverage \$525,000 in private investment.

Appalachian Wildlife Center Infrastructure - The Appalachian Wildlife Foundation Inc. in Corbin will install water infrastructure at the future site of the Appalachian Wildlife Center, a conservation education and research facility. The Wildlife Center facility—located on 19 miles of reclaimed mine land—will feature the largest elk restoration and viewing effort in the United States. The facility will be modeled on the successful Elk Country Visitor Center in Benezette, Pennsylvania. The project will position a 10-county region in the tri-state area of southeastern Kentucky, northeastern Tennessee, and southwestern Virginia as a national tourist attraction, and will create 86 new jobs.

Beefing Up the Local Food Economy - Unlimited Future in Huntington, WV will conduct capacity building and development of a feasibility study for expansion of local food systems. The project will support the planning process for a value-added meat processing facility in a local, vacant plant. The project will also look at workforce training programs serving the meat business and at expanding market opportunities for producers across the region, which includes Kentucky, Ohio, and West Virginia. Local sources will contribute an additional \$20,000 to the project.

Building Entrepreneurial Communities: The Foundation of an Economic Transition for Appalachia – The Center for Rural Entrepreneurship in Chapel Hill, NC will build and strengthen the entrepreneurial ecosystem in an 18-county region covering southeastern Ohio, southern West Virginia, and southeastern Kentucky. Project activities include establishing a support system that can identify and develop new entrepreneurs; assisting new and expanding businesses with skill development; and connecting entrepreneurs with existing capacity-building resources in the region. The project will create 72 new businesses and 250 new jobs.

Central Appalachian Food Enterprise Corridor - Appalachian Sustainable Development in Abington, VA will develop a coordinated local foods distribution network throughout Central Appalachia, and will connect established and emerging producers in Ohio, West Virginia, Tennessee, Southwest Virginia, and Eastern Kentucky to wholesale distribution markets. The ARC award will support planning, partner convening, and capacity building, as well as production and processing equipment, supplies, and labor costs, and will be supported by funding from the Just Transition Fund. The strengthened food corridor will act as regional economic driver—creating 120 jobs, retaining 250 jobs, and ultimately creating 95 new businesses.

City of Whitesburg Daniel Boone Hotel Stabilization - The City of Whitesburg will make immediate and urgent repairs to stabilize the historic, brick Daniel Boone Hotel—which represents the city's rise after the arrival of railroads and the opening of the region's coalfields. The hotel is a central component of Whitesburg's economic development future and revitalization plans. After the structure is stabilized and renovated, it will be a regional destination and economic driver. The project will create 23 jobs, leverage \$2,000,000 in private investment, and will attract 9,900 additional visitors annually to the area.

Downtown Revitalization in the Promise Zone - The University of Kentucky Research Foundation in Lexington will partner with the Community and Economic Development Initiative of Kentucky, the Foundation for Appalachian Kentucky, the Kentucky Promise Zone, Shaping Our Appalachian Region (SOAR), and the Kentucky Mainstreet Program—to help revitalize the downtowns of 8 distressed towns in the Southeastern Kentucky Promise Zone. The project will provide each community with tailored economic studies that identify economic opportunities, support strategic planning sessions to capitalize on those opportunities, provide financial support for key steps to implement those strategies, and build local leadership and business capacity. The project will create 24 new downtown businesses, 72 new jobs, and leverage \$800,000 in private investment.

Eastern Kentucky Coal County Transformation – The Big Sandy Community and Technical College in Prestonsburg will work with three eastern-Kentucky education institutions—Big Sandy, Hazard Community and Technical College, and Southeast Kentucky Community and Technical College—to launch a comprehensive, employer-driven workforce development program focused on building the digital economy and strengthening digital innovation and entrepreneurship across a 16-county region in eastern Kentucky. The consortium—in partnership with Shaping Our Appalachian Region (SOAR) and the Eastern Kentucky Concentrated Employment Program (EKCEP)—will establish educational programs that develop workforce skills in emerging regional career clusters such as cybersecurity, medical coding, and advanced manufacturing. The program will specifically engage dislocated workers from the coal industry through targeted advertisements, and will provide adult basic education as needed to ensure that these individuals can participate in the training courses. In addition, to support the development of a technology-driven economy beyond classroom training, the program will identify and promote a number of digital innovation hubs, providing facilities and resources to encourage entrepreneurial activities. Success coaches will be available to instill critical 21st century skills and provide support to nascent technology workers, and a regional committee will be established to monitor industry trends and best practices. The project will serve 300 trainees and improve the operations of 30 existing businesses in the first two years of the award, and will lay the groundwork for the development of a vibrant and lasting digital economy in eastern Kentucky.

Economic Transition for Eastern Kentucky (ETEK) Initiative - The Mountain Association for Community Economic Development (MACED) will expand fast-track retraining and entrepreneurial technical assistance services targeted to dislocated coal workers; establish an intern program aimed at placing former coal workers in the energy efficiency sector; and increase access to capital through a \$1,000,000 venture capital loan fund. The project will create 200 new jobs and 100 new enterprises, serve 500 existing businesses, and bring \$12,000,000 in leveraged financing to a 54-county region in Eastern Kentucky.

EntreEd K-14: Every Student, Every Year - The Consortium for Entrepreneurship Education in Charleston, WV will enable K–12 teachers to integrate entrepreneurial content and context into delivery of required standards in any subject or grade level. The project will educate the next generation of Appalachia’s workforce to create their own businesses to drive the local economy. ARC funds will expand the footprint of the proven EntreEd program into five additional counties in West Virginia, eleven counties in Kentucky, three counties in Ohio, one county in Tennessee, and two counties in Virginia. The program will be supported by expertise from the National Association for Community College Entrepreneurship (NACCE), project management from the EdVenture Group, and funding from the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation. The EntreEd program will serve 15,000 K–12 Appalachian students in 50 individual schools and 7 community colleges over the life of the award.

Healthy Workforce Initiative: Workforce Empowerment and Opioid Recovery Center – The Williamson Health and Wellness Center will provide grant writing assistance, and develop a feasibility study, a strategic plan, and preliminary architectural design work for a vacant building in Williamson’s downtown. If deemed viable, the building will be rebuilt as a one-stop facility that would provide workforce training, opioid addiction and substance abuse treatment services to assist individuals in recovery to become employment ready. The service area will include counties in West Virginia and Kentucky.

Intergenerational Training Center – The Hazard Community and Technical College (HCTC) in Hazard will be used to construct a 14,700 square foot facility at HCTC’s Lees College Campus in Jackson, KY that will deliver job training and credentialing courses focused around four emerging regional career clusters: information technology, telemedicine and

health sciences, mechatronics, and eco-tourism/small business development. The project will leverage the capacity of the Eastern Kentucky Concentrated Employment Inc. (EKCEP) and the Kentucky Career Center to promote and market the program to out-of-school youth and displaced and underemployed workers impacted by the decline in the coal industry. The project will serve a seven-county area in southeastern Kentucky, and will train 295 dislocated workers and credential 228 students over the life of the award.

Kentucky College of Optometry - POWER funds will be used by the University of Pikeville to purchase equipment, instructional supplies, and other materials to help launch a new College of Optometry. The college will both grow the healthcare workforce and improve access to vision care in Central Appalachia. KYCO will be only the second optometry college in the Appalachian Region, and will primarily serve Eastern Kentucky, Southern West Virginia, and Southwestern Virginia. Within the first three years of the award, KYCO will graduate 60 optometrists, provide care to 12,000 patients, and bring \$26,000,000 in direct economic impact to the regional economy.

Kentucky Highlands Employment and Financial Training Program - The Kentucky Highlands Investment Corporation in London will capitalize a loan fund to enable Kentucky Highlands to invest in local entrepreneurs at both the start-up and expansion stages of companies located across 21 southeastern Kentucky counties. In addition, ARC's award will engage the Appalachian Community Federal Credit Union (ACFCU) to expand their portfolio of financial literacy services to the project's service territory. Specifically, ACFCU programs will increase financial knowledge, security, and wellness through the provision of credit builder loans, debt consolidation loans, payday alternative loans, affordable non-prime auto loans, and 80/20 mortgage loans. The project will create or retain 200 jobs and leverage \$2,250,000 in private investment.

KY-WV Regional Drone Technology Workforce Project – The Maysville Community and Technical College (MCTC) in Maysville will partner with Southern West Virginia Community and Technical College to deliver comprehensive training courses in small-air drone operation to a seven-county area in southern West Virginia and a 13-county area in northeastern Kentucky. Specific training activities will enable graduates to operate drones and drone sensors to provide in-demand commercial services -- such as the close-up inspection of fixed structures like power lines, utility poles, and cell phone towers. The project will serve 100 trainees over the two-year life of the award, will leverage \$14,000,000 in private investment, and will, in conjunction with a previous ARC POWER award, further strengthen the emerging drone industry cluster in the West Virginia-Kentucky-Virginia tri-state area.

Leveraging Innovation Gateways and Hubs Toward Sustainability (LIGHTS) - Ohio University in Athens, OH will strengthen Southern Ohio's entrepreneurial ecosystem by leveraging the capacity of four strategically located "Innovation Hubs" —which provide facilities, equipment and design/engineering expertise to entrepreneurs—and five regional "Gateway Centers" that link local entrepreneurs to a broad array of support services throughout the ecosystem. The project will build on the successful TechGROWTH Ohio model, create 360 new jobs, 50 new small businesses, and bring \$5,000,000 in leveraged private investment to the area.

Local Food Supply Chain Development in Eastern Kentucky - The Kentucky Center for Agriculture and Rural Development in Elizabethtown will work with entrepreneurs using the Jackson County Regional Food Center in Tyner. They will receive technical assistance in areas such as business planning and marketing to help them reach targeted markets for their products. EDA is also awarding \$468,635 to this project.

Mines to Minds: Southeast Kentucky High-Tech Workforce Training - Appalshop Whitesburg will purchase digital multimedia supplies and equipment and to fund the creation of a technology and digital workforce development training curriculum in collaboration with area educators and regional employers. EDA is also awarding \$200,000 to this project.

Region I Cluster Mapping Initiative – Region I Planning and Development Council will provide training, technical support, and expanded market opportunities to Appalachian-based coal supply chain companies through partnerships developed at MineExpo 2016, the world's largest and most comprehensive exposition dedicated to mining equipment, products, and services. This trade show is part of the 2016 U.S. Commercial Service International Buyer Program schedule, which connects U.S. exhibitors with foreign buyer delegations at the show. ARC funds will be used to ensure the participation of companies from Appalachia and enable them to get international trade support tailored to the

specific needs of the individual companies. Southern Alleghenies Planning and Development Commission in Altoona, Pennsylvania, is coordinating the ARC assistance.

Southern Coalfields Sustainable Tourism & Entrepreneurship Program - The Hatfield McCoy Regional Recreation Authority in Man, WV will develop and implement a comprehensive program to expand tourism-related employment and businesses in southern West Virginia, and will foster Hatfield McCoy Trail expansion in Kentucky and Virginia. In addition, the award provides for the deployment of a coordinated marketing effort, which will increase the region-wide economic impact of the Trails by \$13,000,000 per year. The project will create 225 jobs and 50 new businesses along the Trails, and will be supported by funding from the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation.

Stronger Economies in Coal-Reliant Places - The National Association of Counties Research Foundation will provide additional technical assistance to 11 teams from Appalachian coal communities that participated in the EDA-funded Innovation Challenge for Coal-Reliant Communities Program. This support includes grant writing, feasibility studies, strategic plan development or updates and capacity building to facilitate strategic and sustainable investments. Community teams are located in Kentucky, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia.

Sustainable Employment for Community Health Workers in Coal-Impacted Counties - The Marshall University Research Corporation in Huntington, WV will create permanent jobs for at least 26 Community Health Workers (CHWs)—who will provide healthcare coordination services directly to high-risk patients in coal-impacted communities across 10 counties in southeastern Ohio, eastern Kentucky, and central West Virginia. CHWs will be a critical component of the local care team, supervised by a Registered Nurse and Nurse Practitioner or other clinician. Their inclusion in the regional healthcare workforce will streamline the provision of healthcare services; increase health outcomes for patients suffering from diabetes, congestive heart failure, and COPD—diseases that are disproportionately common in Appalachia; and ultimately drive down the overall cost of healthcare in the service territory. In addition to the 26 permanent jobs created, the project will serve 625 patients and leverage \$780,000 over the life of the award. Additional funding is being provided by the Sisters Health Foundation and the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation.

TechHire Eastern Kentucky (TEKY) Initiative: Developing a Technology-Driven Workforce - Eastern Kentucky Concentrated Employment Program will serve young adults aged 17-29 who are out of school, and older adults who are unemployed, laid-off, or underemployed by offering several avenues to industry-led accelerated technology training, paid work-based internships, and employment opportunities in IT careers. This comprehensive workforce development initiative will train 200 new workers, create 160 jobs, and serve to bolster existing and emerging sectors that rely on a skilled information technology workforce in 23 Eastern Kentucky counties. The initiative will provide the trained workers necessary for a private technology company to expand its operations into Eastern Kentucky.

Unleashing the Power of the I-Way! - \$75,000 Saving Our Appalachian Region (SOAR) in Pikeville will work with the Kentucky Institute for Economic Development to offer annual training in professional development and economic development best practices to professionals recruited by the Eastern Kentucky Concentrated Employment Program (EKCEP) and other partners. The EDA is awarding \$1,000,000 and ETA is awarding \$2,000,000 to the Commonwealth of Kentucky as part of this project.

UPLIFT Appalachia Recovery - The Federation of Appalachian Housing Enterprises (FAHE) in Berea will finance three community recovery facilities that will support residents' recovery from addiction, provide needed health services, and create job opportunities in coal-impacted communities. These facilities will primarily serve three eastern Kentucky counties—each of which is located within the federally designated USDA Strike Force Zone. Specifically, the award will facilitate the development of a housing facility in Louisa, KY, that works with patients for 2-3 years and focuses on transitioning them from the center's care directly into an internship or job; assist in the creation of a 100-bed facility in Somerset, KY, that employs a peer-based care model in which patients in different stages of recovery work together to get and remain sober; and enable an existing facility in Jackson, KY to expand their services to an additional 990 people, to build a dental clinic, and to partner with the University of Pikeville for optometry care. The award will serve 5,060 patients, create or retain 63 jobs, and will leverage investment from USDA's Uplift America program and private investors.