

# 2022 Virginia Appalachian Regional Commission

## STRATEGY STATEMENT





# **Virginia ARC 2022 Strategy Statement**

# **Governor Ralph S. Northam**

## **Erik C. Johnston**

Director, ARC State Alternate

## **Tamarah Holmes, Ph.D.**

Program Manager

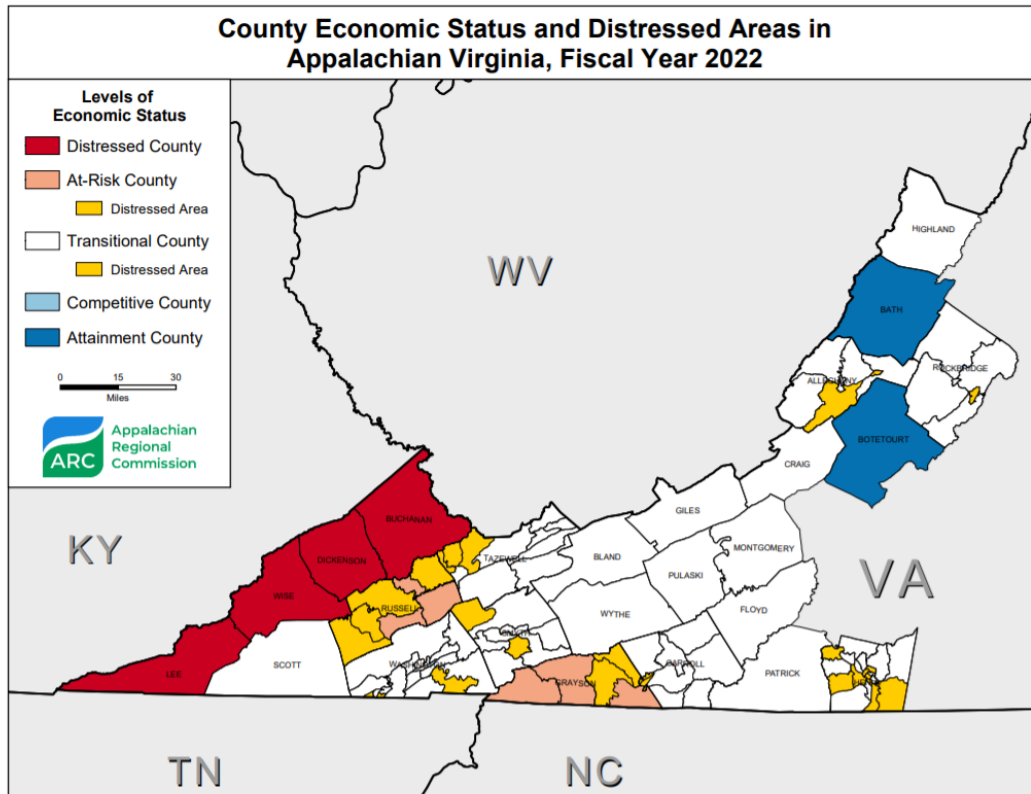
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In accordance with Chapter 5.3 of the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) Code, this document will serve as the Commonwealth of Virginia's Appalachian Regional Commission 2022 Strategy Statement. The purpose of the 2022 Strategy Statement is to establish our goals, objectives, and priorities for Virginia's ARC Region. The implementation of the 2022 Strategy Statement will enable the Commonwealth of Virginia to meet the diverse and changing needs of our Appalachian region. More specifically, the 2022 Strategy Statement will:

1. Discuss economic challenges and opportunities in the region, as well as new developments and resources that are impacting Virginia's Appalachian region;
2. Provide an overview of targeted investment priorities for the program year;
3. Discuss specific strategies for the state's distressed counties and census tract areas;
4. Discuss the Virginia ARC program policies; and
5. Describe the methods used to review proposals to ensure an equitable distribution of state contributions for projects to its Appalachian area.

Gov. Ralph S. Northam serves as the Virginia Commission member. Gov. Northam has appointed Erik C. Johnston as the director of the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD), the agency responsible for ARC program administration. Johnston serves as the Governor's alternate to ARC. Tamarah Holmes, Ph.D., will serve as the ARC program manager and is responsible for program administration, as well as overseeing the agency's role as the Registered State Basic Agency (RSBA).

The Appalachian region of Virginia encompasses 25 counties and eight independent cities. For Program Year 2022. The counties of Buchanan, Dickenson, Lee, and Wise, the City of Norton, and thirteen census tracts in other localities are designated as distressed.





## **Regional, State and Federal Partners**

The Region's seven Local Development Districts (LDDs) and various federal and state agencies, as well as regional partners, assist the Virginia ARC program with investment strategies and project development.

The Local Development Districts (LDDs) are:

- Cumberland Plateau Planning District Commission
- LENOWISCO Planning District Commission
- New River Valley Regional Commission
- West Piedmont Planning District Commission
- Mount Rogers Planning District Commission
- Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission
- Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission

DHCD is a leader in the Commonwealth for the development and implementation of strategies that improve the quality of life in Virginia communities through local and regional planning, community and economic development programs, the availability of affordable housing, and building local leadership capacity. DHCD administers the Virginia Small Cities Community Development Block Grant Program, which enables the agency to be in a unique position to coordinate these programs, as well as maintain the working relationships with federal and state agencies, including United States Department of Agriculture-Rural Development (USDA-RD), and the Economic Development Administration (EDA). State agency partners include the Virginia Department of Health (VDH), Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS), Virginia Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission (VTRRC), Virginia Resources Authority (VRA), Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy (DMME), Virginia Economic Development Partnership (VEDP) and Virginia Tourism Corporation (VTC). The Virginia ARC program relies on partnerships with various regional organizations, including but not limited to the Southwest Cultural Heritage Foundation and Friends of Southwest Virginia, GO Virginia Regional Councils 1, 2, 3 and 8, Virginia Coalfield Economic Development Authority (VCEDA), Virginia Community Capital (VCC) and Blue Ridge Economic Development Authority (BRECD).

# Economic Challenges and Opportunities

## *Challenges*

In November 2021, the Virginia ARC program conducted an input session with various regional stakeholders to identify economic challenges in the region.

## *Opportunities*

The Appalachian region of Virginia is rich in natural, cultural and heritage assets, and talented people. Future areas of economic opportunity in the region lie in maintaining existing and developing new infrastructure, including broadband, attracting new businesses and industry, the development of businesses to support a growing tourism and outdoor recreation industry, strengthening the competitiveness of existing industry and continuing to develop a highly-skilled workforce.

## **Virginia's Targeted Investment Priorities**

Projects that demonstrate their contributions to improving or increasing the economic impact of the targeted investment priorities identified will be given priority in rankings for funding.

Governor Northam's priorities are:

- Support the deployment of broadband infrastructure to enable universal access in unserved areas of the region.
- Support efforts that are addressing the opioid and substance abuse crises.
- Support the development of regional solutions to address water/wastewater infrastructure needs, economic and entrepreneurial priorities, asset-based development and downtown revitalization.
- Support efforts to initiate and expand access to early childhood development/education programs to increase access to workforce development and employment opportunities
- Support efforts to address unmet housing needs by strengthening the housing economy and ensuring quality affordable housing is available in coordination with economic development efforts



# Alignment of Virginia ARC Objectives with ARC Goals

The governor's priorities have been developed with broad input from the Virginia ARC region. Future decision-making and strategic investment decisions in the Appalachian region of Virginia will align with ARC goals and objectives as required by Section 7.3 of the Appalachian Regional Commission Code. The Virginia ARC state objectives and strategies are closely aligned to the goals and objectives in the [Appalachian Regional Commission 2022-2026 Strategic Plan](#). Virginia's objectives, the corresponding ARC goal and the specific State strategies are as follows:

## **Virginia ARC Objective I**

Promote regional partnerships that support regional economic development, encourage activities that diversify the economic base and enhance entrepreneurial activities.

ARC Goal: Strengthen and diversify the Region's economy through inclusive economic development strategies and investments in entrepreneurship and business development.

Strategies:

- 1.1 Assist with installation of public infrastructure (water, sewer, broadband) for new business location/expansion and creating jobs for the region.
- 1.2 Support projects that encourage broad-based, regional cooperation and provide increased regional economic growth opportunities.
- 1.3 Support entrepreneurs, cultivate entrepreneurship and diversify existing businesses.
- 1.4 Support tourism activities that are directly linked to overall regional economic development strategies.
- 1.5 Encourage the development of telecommunications and other technologies to assist in improving the participation of Appalachian businesses in the international marketplace.
- 1.6 Coordinate economic development projects with housing production, supporting housing production technology and supporting regional and local pilot projects that increase the supply of affordable housing units.

## **Virginia ARC Objective II**

Develop a healthy, world-class and highly-skilled, competitive workforce that is well-educated and appropriately trained for the job market, while strengthening ties between economic development drivers and housing partners.

ARC Goal: Expand and strengthen community systems (education, healthcare, housing, childcare, and others) that help Appalachians obtain a job, stay on the job, and advance along a financially sustaining career pathway.

Strategies:

- 2.1 Coordinate and focus workforce development programs coupled with access to safe and affordable housing to support economic development opportunities.
- 2.2 Strengthen the delivery of workforce readiness and training programs among the various provider agencies in order to improve business retention, recruitment and expansion.
- 2.3 Encourage the establishment of partnerships and innovative arrangements among health care providers in Appalachian Virginia in order to assure quality care and the efficient use of available health care resources.
- 2.4 Support efforts that address the opioid and substance abuse crisis.
- 2.5 Support efforts to initiate and expand early childhood education programs.
- 2.6 Continue efforts to place doctors and other medical professionals in medically underserved areas through physician and other recruitment programs.
- 2.7 Support projects, which include wellness and healthcare prevention efforts, such as the use of telemedicine technology.

**Virginia ARC Objective III**

Assist communities to develop, expand and upgrade infrastructure, including broadband, to allow for greater access to resources and opportunities for increased economic growth and to improve the quality of life.

ARC Goal: Ensure that the residents and businesses of Appalachia have access to reliable and affordable utilities and infrastructure in order to successfully live and work in the Region.

Strategies

- 3.1 Support the deployment of broadband infrastructure to enable universal access in unserved areas of the region.
- 3.2 Encourage strategic, appropriate development along ADHS corridors (industrial parks, commercial development and intermodal transportation).
- 3.3 Capitalize on the Appalachian Development Highway System (ADHS) and its development potential.
- 3.4 Support local access road projects, which would result in job creation or retention opportunities.
- 3.5 Assist water supply and wastewater treatment projects that will support private investment, leading to job creation or retention.
- 3.6 Support the deployment of regional solutions to address water/wastewater infrastructure needs.



## **Virginia ARC Objective IV**

Assist communities in the preservation, development and promotion of natural and cultural assets for local economies and improved quality of life.

ARC Goal: Strengthen Appalachia's community and economic development potential by preserving and investing in the Region's local, cultural heritage, and natural assets.

Strategies:

- 4.1 Support strategic investments in natural, cultural and heritage resources to advance local economic growth.
- 4.2 Preserve and strengthen existing natural and cultural assets in support of economic opportunities that generate local and regional benefits.
- 4.3 Preserve and strengthen existing natural and cultural assets through strategic investment that advance local and regional benefits.
- 4.4 Encourage the leveraging of natural and recreation opportunities to the town/city center area.

## **Virginia ARC Objective V**

Strengthen current and next-generation local and regional leadership capacity to enhance collaborative and community-based skills to improve quality of life in Appalachian Virginia.

ARC Goal:

Invest in the capacity of local leaders, organizations, and communities to address local challenges by providing technical assistance and support to access resources, engage partners, identify strategies and tactics, and conduct effective planning and project execution.

Strategies:

- 5.1 Support efforts encouraging civic engagement and participation in an effort to advance communities.
- 5.2 Encourage the development of leadership development opportunities.
- 5.3 Support visioning, strategic planning and implementation of resident engagement approaches to foster increased civic participation.
- 5.4 Support local and regional networks, partnerships and other models of collaboration that catalyze public, private and nonprofit action for regional impact.
- 5.5 Foster civic entrepreneurship.

# Strategies for Distressed Counties and Areas

The Appalachian Regional Commission uses an index-based county economic classification system to identify and monitor the economic status of Appalachian counties. The system compares each county's averages for the following three economic indicators with national averages: the three-year average unemployment rate, per capita market income and poverty rate. The resulting values are summed and averaged to create a composite index value for each county. Each county in the nation is then ranked, based on its composite index value. Counties are designated as distressed, at-risk, transitional, competitive or attainment, based on their ranking in the index. Designations are revised annually using the most current data available. In 2022, four counties, one city and 13 census tracts are designated as distressed.

Two additional initiatives housed at DHCD aimed at addressing economic challenges in the Commonwealth are GO Virginia and Opportunity Zones. GO Virginia Regions 1, 2, 3 and 8 encompass localities in the Virginia ARC region. There are presently 212 designated Opportunity Zones in Virginia, 32 of which are located in the ARC region.

GO Virginia is a business-led economic development initiative that is changing the way Virginia's diverse regions collaborate on economic and workforce development activities. It supports efforts to create more high-paying jobs through incentivized collaboration between business, education and government to diversify and strengthen the economy in every region of the Commonwealth.

The initiative is based on three main points:

- **Virginia urgently needs strong private-sector growth.**

Federal cutbacks have exposed our over-dependence on public-sector jobs. Virginia needs strong private-sector growth and job creation.

- **Growth in Virginia's diverse regions requires collaboration.**

To grow and diversify our economy, business, education and government, regions must collaborate effectively.

- **State government must be a catalyst and partner.**

State government must provide incentives for strategic, job-focused collaboration in each region of the Commonwealth.



### ***Go Virginia Regions located within the ARC Region***

*Region 1* consists of the cities of Bristol, Galax, and Norton, and the counties of Bland, Buchanan, Carroll, Dickenson, Grayson, Lee, Russell, Scott, Smyth, Tazewell, Washington, Wise and Wythe.

*Region 1 Priority Industry Clusters are:*

- Advanced Manufacturing
- Agriculture and Food and Beverage Manufacturing
- Information and Emerging Technologies
- Energy and Minerals

*Region 2* consists of the cities of Covington and Radford, and the counties of Alleghany, Botetourt, Craig, Floyd, Giles, Montgomery and Pulaski.

*Region 2 Priority Clusters are:*

- Manufacturing
- Life Sciences and Health Care
- Food and Beverage Processing
- Information and Emerging Technologies

*Region 3* ARC localities consist of the city of Martinsville and the counties of Henry and Patrick.

*Region 3 Priority Clusters are:*

- Business Services/IT Data Centers
- Advanced Manufacturing and Materials
- High-Value Natural Resource Production
- Health Care

*Region 8* ARC localities consist of the cities of Buena Vista and Lexington, and the counties Bath, Highland and Rockbridge.

*Region 8 Priority Clusters are:*

- Financial and Business Services
- Health Care
- Information Technology/Communications
- Light Manufacturing
- Transportation and Logistics

## **Opportunity Zones**

The Federal Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 included provisions for a new revitalization tool, the Opportunity Zone and Opportunity Fund. The program allows investors to receive tax benefits on currently unrealized capital gains by investing those gains in qualified census tracts referred to as Opportunity Zones. Qualified census tracts were eligible based on median income that does not exceed 80 percent of the statewide median income or has a poverty rate of at least 20 percent. The investors for Opportunity Zones could be local investors, from the wider region, or from anywhere in the U.S. The policy enables funds to be responsive to the needs of different communities, allowing for investment in operating businesses, equipment, and real property. Any entity can establish an Opportunity Zone Fund as long as they follow the guidelines set out by the statute and U.S. Department of Treasury.

The Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) currently serves as the coordinating agency for Opportunity Zones. The Commonwealth expanded its efforts to maximize the program by creating Opportunity Virginia: Virginia's Opportunity Zone Marketplace. This partnership between the Secretary of Commerce and Trade, Virginia Community Capital, DHCD and the Virginia Housing Development Authority is focused on creating a pipeline of projects and attracting investors to these projects in every one of Virginia's 212 zones.

## **Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy (DMME) Abandoned Mine Land**

Virginia's Abandoned Mine Land (AML) Program was established in the late 1970's to correct pre-federal Act (1977) coal mine related problems adversely impacting public health, safety, general welfare and the environment. Abandoned mine land related problems include landslides, stream sedimentation, hazardous structures, dangerous highwalls, subsidence, loss of water, acid mine drainage and open mine portals. AML sites eligible for reclamation must have been mined prior to December 15, 1981. There must also be no other individual, firm or organization responsible to reclaim the site. DMME's Division of Mined Land Reclamation (DMLR) annually applies for a grant from the U.S. Office of Surface Mining (OSM) to reclaim high priority AML sites across the state. Grant funds are used to design reclamation plans, obtain consents for rights of entry, publish public notices in local newspapers to advertise for construction contractors and to ensure the site is reclaimed and the problems abated according to the engineering design. Grant funds come from fees paid by the coal industry on each ton of coal mined.

## **Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission**

The Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission is a 28-member body created by the 1999 General Assembly. Its mission is the promotion of economic growth and development in tobacco-dependent communities, using proceeds of the national tobacco settlement. To date, the

Commission has awarded 2,102 grants totaling more than \$1.1 billion across the tobacco region of the Commonwealth, and has provided \$309 million in indemnification payments to tobacco growers and quota holders. There are sixteen (16) counties and four (4) cities in the ARC region that are in the Tobacco region.

## New Developments or Resources in the ARC Regions

The Virginia ARC program provides assistance and resources in the development and implementation of strategies that improve the region's quality of life through local and regional planning, community and economic development programs, and building local leadership capacity.

The following are a list of DHCD resources invested in the Virginia ARC region for the 2020-2021 period and the localities or organization that received grant awards:

**Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG)** provides funding to eligible units of local government for planning and implementing projects that address critical community development needs, including housing, infrastructure and economic development.

### *2020 CDBG Competitive Awards:*

Buchanan County (\$570,000), Floyd County (\$1,080,000), Lee County (\$346,500), Wise County (\$885,000), Scott County (\$313,500), Town of Glade Spring (\$599,035), Town of Pulaski (\$700,000), City of Norton (\$1,500,000)

### *2021 CDBG Competitive Awards:*

Russell County (\$640,000), City of Martinsville (\$1,183,310), Town of Pulaski (\$580,000), Town of Damascus (\$771,300) Town of Dungannon (\$883,563)

### *2021 CDBG Regional Water/Wastewater Awards:*

Russell County (\$2,500,000)

**Virginia Main Street (VMS)** is a preservation-based economic and community development program that follows the Main Street Four-Point Approach developed by the National Trust Main Street Center. VMS offers a range of services and assistance to communities interested in revitalizing their historic commercial districts.

### *2020 Virginia Main Street Awards:*

Abingdon Main Street (\$10,000), City of Radford (\$7,000), Downtown Wytheville, Inc (\$17,500), St Paul Tomorrow (\$10,000), Downtown Danville Association dba River District Association (\$48,000)

*2021 Virginia Main Street Awards:*

Downtown Wytheville, Inc (\$25,000), St Paul Tomorrow (\$1,500), City of Martinsville (\$25,000), Town of Rocky Mount (\$25,000), Downtown Danville Association dba River District Association (\$25,000)

**Industrial Revitalization Fund (IRF)** provides gap financing for construction projects aligned with local and regional economic development strategies, primarily in economically distressed communities. The program targets vacant non-residential structures whose poor condition creates physical and economic blight to the surrounding area in which the structure is located.

*ARC Region Grantees:*

TheTown of Vinton (\$468,750), Town of Wytheville (\$600,000), Town of Bedford (\$550,000), Town of St Paul (\$550,000)

**GO Virginia** brings together leaders from business, higher education, local government, workforce, economic development, and planning to ensure alignment of resources, the closing of skills gaps, and that each region finds success; this will lead to a growing and diversified Virginia economy.

*GO Virginia ARC Projects (2020-2021):*

Project Energizer (\$50,000), SWVA Regional Agribusiness Opportunities (\$100,000), Project Innovation (\$100,000), Farmer Pipeline: Maintaining the Supply Chain by Growing Farmers (\$99,996), Perseverance (\$100,000), Retooling Manufacturers for Strategic Industries (\$2,950,000), Lonesome Pine RIFA Project Intersection (\$485,000), Ignite Tech Talent Pipeline (\$251,960), William King Museum of Art - Digital Workforce Development (\$70,910), Wildwood Natural Gas Textension (\$527,600), Energy Storage & Electrification Manufacturing Jobs (\$486,266), Project Fuse (\$70,000), Project Thoroughbred (\$100,000), GROW(th): The Business of Agriculture in SWVA (\$290,850), SWVA Startup Program (\$52,950)

**Virginia Telecommunication Initiative (VATI)** extends broadband service to currently unserved areas. VATI prepares communities to build, utilize, and capitalize on telecommunications infrastructure with the goal of creating strong, competitive communities.

*VATI Awards (2020-2021):*



Buchanan, Dickenson, Russell, and Tazewell Region Project (\$16,000,000), Smyth, Washington, Wythe, and the Town of Damascus (\$7,800,000), Montgomery County (\$900,000), Grayson County (\$1,800,000), Giles County (\$500,00), Bland County (\$192,141), Smyth County (\$65,000)

# Virginia ARC Operating Policies

In Virginia, the level of ARC funds requested may not exceed 50 percent of the total project cost; except: 1) in designated at-risk and distressed counties, cities, or census tracts; 2) Access Road projects are eligible for up to 100 percent; and 3) regional projects that meet the requirements outlined in the Appalachia Regional Development Reform Appalachian Regional Commission of 1998, which involves the participation of distressed counties, cities or census tracts. The level of ARC funds requested for projects in designated competitive counties or cities may not exceed 30 percent of the total project cost unless the applicant provides adequate justification to meet the exceptions in the ARC Code.

## Funding Limits

### *Area Development*

- Construction projects are eligible for up to \$700,000 in funding
- Non-construction projects are eligible for up to \$100,000 (\$300,000 for regional projects) in funding
- Planning grants are eligible for up to \$50,000 in funding

### *Access Road*

- Access Road projects are eligible for up to \$500,000

### *Administrative Allowance*

- Up to 10 percent of ARC funds can be used to cover administrative costs, except for projects that use CDBG funds as a match
- Up to \$2,500 is available to assist with environmental review costs

### *Project Management*

In Virginia, DHCD serves as the ARC Registered State Basic Agency and is responsible for administrative and fiscal oversight and compliance monitoring of construction projects.

All construction projects must have a project sign installed at the construction site within 30 days of the execution of the ARC Grant Agreement. The sign must include the DHCD and ARC logos.

# General Information

- DHCD staff are available to provide pre-project development technical assistance.
- Applications are available in the DHCD Centralized Application and Management System (CAMS) after the how-to-apply workshop.
- All projects must meet an ARC goal, ARC objective and Virginia ARC goal and strategy from the Virginia ARC Four-Year Development Plan.
- Applicants must consult with the planning district commission prior to submission to DHCD.
- Match funds cannot be expended prior to final approval by the federal co-chair.
- Higher priority is given to projects that are deemed ready to go. To meet this requirement, the applicant should have all other funding for the project committed.
- Project applications must include measurable outputs and outcomes that are consistent with ARC performance measurement requirements.
- Individuals and for-profit enterprises are not eligible for direct grant assistance, but may benefit from and be served by the investment of ARC funds.
- Any project requesting start-up funds should be prepared to identify the sources that will underwrite the costs after the first year of ARC funding.
- For awarded construction projects, which have been appropriately procured, DHCD may, on a case-by-case basis, approve additional funding if available, not to exceed 15 percent, upon approval of corresponding documentation.

## *Application Review Process*

### **Step One:**

DHCD will review applications using evaluation criteria and priorities established in the Four-Year Development Plan. DHCD will develop a preliminary list of funding recommendations for submission to the Governor's office. The Governor will have final approval for the recommendation of a project for funding to the ARC. Please note the recommendation from the Governor's office **DOES NOT** guarantee funding from the federal co-chair.

### **Step Two:**

Following an announcement by the Governor's office, DHCD staff will contact the applicant for additional information and to obtain federal forms required for submission to ARC. The submission to ARC will include required federal forms and may require the applicant to revise the application, provide clarification or additional information prior to submission. Failure to respond by the DHCD deadline may jeopardize funding.

Please note that ARC may request additional information during their review. Final approval of funding under this program will be made at the discretion of the ARC federal co-chair.

### *Application Evaluation Criteria*

The following evaluation criteria will be used in the project selection process:

1. Applicant and activity eligibility.
2. Demonstrated need for the project.
3. Ability to meet the challenges and opportunities identified in the proposed service area.
4. Ability to fill a “gap” in currently offered services available locally or regionally.
5. Possession of clearly described performance targets (product-focused outputs) to be achieved throughout the project and the overall outcomes.
6. Capacity of applicant organization to implement the project and readiness to-go of project.
7. Leveraging non-ARC resources.
8. Establishment or significant enhancement of collaborative relationships among local and regional providers.
9. Sustainability or the ability to maintain the proposed effort into the future.

### *Application Timeline*

**November 2021** – Input Sessions conducted

**December 2021** – How-to-Apply Workshop conducted

**December 2021** – Application for funding is active in CAMS

**February 2, 2022** – Applications are due

**February** – Applications reviewed by DHCD staff

**March through May** – Applications are submitted to the Governor’s office for review and announced contingent upon ARC approval. Final approval of funding under this program will be made at the discretion of the ARC federal co-chair.

**March through May** – Applications are submitted to ARC for review

**June** - ARC approved projects and applicants are awarded

## Appendix A

### 2021 Virginia Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) Program Grant Recommendations

| Project Applicant/Project Title   | Funding          | Project Description   |
|---|------------------|---|
| <i>Town of<br/>Dungannon/Dungannon<br/>Comprehensive Water<br/>Improvements</i> | \$500,000    ARC | This project will replace approximately 15,000 LF of water system lines and appurtenances, including water line reconnections to an estimated 42 residential and 25 non-residential customers. These improvements will increase accountability and hydraulic efficiencies of the water distribution system.   |
| <i>City of Galax/Project Light</i>  | \$500,000    ARC | Project Light renovates a blighted building in the City of Galax designed to support non-profit community services for addiction recovery, job training, and recovery-to-work skills for at least 50 recovering addicts to maintain sobriety for two years and employment for one year. The facility will provide literacy and family education services as well as a training and community soup kitchen with the ability to serve 1,200 meals to the community each week. ARC funding will be utilized to build out the training and education rooms as well as portions of the commercial kitchen. |



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| <p><i>Henry County/Historic<br/>Fieldale Recreation Center<br/>Restoration Project</i></p> | <p>\$500,000    ARC</p> | <p>The Historic Fieldale Recreation Center Restoration project will restore the Fieldale Recreation Center into a multipurpose community center supporting 2 full-time businesses as well as the non-profit Fieldale Heritage Inc. which promotes the community through education, cultural, and recreational activities. This project is the culmination of a regional planning grant “Fifteen Magical Miles” and a recent ARC planning and feasibility grant recipient.</p> |
| <p><i>Town of Lebanon/Russell<br/>Theater Restoration Project</i></p>                      | <p>\$500,000    ARC</p> | <p>The Town of Lebanon will restore and enhance the historic Russell Theater. The theater will serve as a community facility for a revitalized downtown Lebanon and will provide two (2) full-time and three (3) part-time jobs. ARC funds will be used to pay administrative operations and construction of the theater, including furnishing, fixtures, and equipment.</p>  |

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| <p><i>Town of Pulaski/Calfee<br/>Training School Adaptive<br/>Reuse</i></p> | <p>\$500,000      ARC</p> | <p>The proposed project will repurpose the historic Calfee Training School kitchen and auditorium into the Calfee Community and Cultural Center's Huckstep Community Kitchen and Broadneaux-Baker Hall, to include: (1) a childcare center that will serve 97 children, a majority from LMI families, (2) a commercial kitchen that supports local value-added food entrepreneurs and food distribution agencies,(3) a digital learning lab that will support workforce development trainings, (4) a museum that will highlight local Appalachian African-American leaders and history, (5) an event space for community, cultural, and educational programming, and (6) small business incubation and meeting spaces.</p> |
| <p><i>Wise County/Hamiltontown<br/>Sewer Project</i></p>                    | <p>\$438,826      ARC</p> | <p>This project will install approximately 5,540 LF of new gravity sewer lines in the Hamiltontown Community of Wise County, providing new sewer service to 13 households.</p>   |

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| <p><i>Lee County/Blackwater<br/>Phase II Water Project</i></p>   | <p>\$ 315,000    ARC</p>    | <p>This project will provide new potable public water to 21 households and 46 customers in rural Lee County, 73.9 percent of this population being considered Low to Moderate Income. Currently, no public water system exists within the project area, but this project continues the previously ARC-funded Lee County Blackwater Phase I water system. The project will install approximately 21,590 LF of water distribution line and related appurtenances to provide dependable and reliable potable water service.</p> |
| <p><i>William King<br/>Museum/William King<br/>Museum of Art - Cultural<br/>Campus Phase II Part 2</i></p> | <p>\$275,000        ARC</p> | <p>The William King Museum of Art Cultural Campus Phase II, Part 2 is a construction project that will complete the museum's transformation of its 22-acre campus into a safe and accessible destination for visitors to the museum to stimulate economic growth through tourism, facilitate community engagement and quality of life, and improve accessibility to this historic landmark.</p>  |
| <p><i>Dickenson County/Edwards<br/>Ridge Waterline<br/>Replacement Project</i></p>                         | <p>\$267,000    ARC</p>     | <p>The Backbone Ridge /Edwards Water Line Replacement Project will replace undersized and leaking water lines and provide an adequate and safe water supply to a total of 35 existing homes located in the Backbone Ridge community of Dickenson County. A total of 9,300 L.F. of 4-inch, 1,700 L.F. of 2-inch,</p>  |

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|---|---------------------|--|
|   |                     | 400 L.F. of 1-inch, and 3,500 L.F. of 3/4-inch water lines and appurtenances. Dickenson County is designated as an ARC Distressed locality.  |
| <i>LENOWISCO<br/>PDC/InvestSWVA Initiative</i>            | \$ 200,000    ARC   | This public-private economic development partnership will be focused on implementing existing projects led by InvestSWVA, a proven initiative creating new jobs, investment, and opportunities for Southwest Virginia's communities impacted by the decline of the coal industry. InvestSWVA will continue to identify and target economic development opportunities within the energy, advanced agricultural, and data center sectors for Southwest Virginia. |
| <i>Reynolds Homestead/Critz<br/>Community Enhancement</i> | \$51,592        ARC | The project includes the design study for a community gathering space focused on bridging racial and equity divisions, offer educational and professional development programs, entrepreneurship training, provide after-school programs for students at the Hardin Reynolds Memorial School, as well as provide cultural heritage activities, health and wellness programs, and community arts programs.  |

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| <p><i>FIRST Chesapeake/FIRST Chesapeake Robotics Workforce Development Programming for SWVA</i></p>       | <p>\$46,250      ARC</p> | <p>FIRST Chesapeake Robotics, a nonprofit organization supporting STEM-based concepts in K-12 schools, will expand an existing after-school robotics program in the counties of Floyd and Pulaski and establish a new program for K-12 students to build skills needed in the workforce.</p>   |
| <p><i>Montgomery County/Montgomery Museum of Art and History: A Museum Growing with its Community</i></p> | <p>\$25,000      ARC</p> | <p>The Montgomery Museum of Art and History will support Appalachia's community and economic development efforts in Southwest Virginia. The funds will be used by the museum to conduct a strategic master planning and design process that will include engaging stakeholders in developing a final design, as well determine construction costs, develop a construction timeline, and identify potential funding sources for construction.</p> |