

The Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) and Economic Development Administration (EDA) have awarded the following grants to MRBF partners through the federal POWER program. The Partnerships for Opportunity and Workforce and Economic Revitalization program is a multi-agency, congressionally funded initiative that targets federal resources to help communities that have been affected by job losses in coal mining, coal power plant operations, and coal-related supply chain industries due to the changing economics of America's energy production.

\$2,022,133 ARC grant to the **Mountain Association for Community Economic Development (MACED)** in Berea, KY, for the Economic Transition for Eastern Kentucky (ETEK) Initiative. The ARC award 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.

\$1,464,251 ARC grant to the University of Kentucky Research Foundation in Lexington, KY, for the Downtown Revitalization in the Promise Zone project. This project—partnering 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—will 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.

\$1,000,000 ARC grant to the **Federation of Appalachian Housing Enterprises, Inc., (FAHE)** in Berea, KY, for the Appalachian HEAT Squad project. ARC's investment will be utilized to 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.

\$1,000,000 ARC grant to the **Federation of Appalachian Housing Enterprises (FAHE)** in Berea, KY, for the UPLIFT Appalachia Recovery project. The ARC award will be used to 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.

\$75,000 ARC grant to the Kentucky Center for Agriculture and Rural Development in Elizabethtown, KY, for Local Food Supply Chain Development in Eastern Kentucky project. EDA is also awarding \$468,635 to this project. Entrepreneurs using the Jackson County Regional Food Center in Tyner, KY, will receive technical assistance in areas such as business planning and marketing to help them reach targeted markets for their products. The **Community Farm Alliance** is a key partner in the project.

\$75,000 ARC grant to **Appalshop, Inc.**, in Whitesburg, KY, for Mines to Minds: Southeast Kentucky HighTech Workforce Training. EDA is also awarding \$200,000 to this project. ARC funds will be used to purchase digital multi-media 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.

\$1,500,000 ARC grant to **Appalachian Sustainable Development** in Abingdon, VA, for the Central Appalachian Food Enterprise Corridor. This 5-state, 43-county project 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.

\$800,000 ARC grant to **Virginia Community Capital** in Christiansburg, VA, for the New Economy Loan Fund project. The project—which will leverage the capacity of a variety of regional governments, education institutions, and business incubators—will provide needed capital and targeted technical assistance to small business owners in coal-impacted communities across nine counties in southwest Virginia. Specifically, ARC funds will assist in capitalizing a loan fund that will support small business development in the service area, and will enable a full-time technical assistance provider to deliver business assistance directly to entrepreneurs to build the knowledge and skills for continued profitability and sustainability. The project will create or retain 55 jobs, enable 17 businesses to receive loans and 30 businesses to receive technical assistance, and leverage \$4,800,000 in private capital.

\$99,670 ARC grant to **Appalachian Voices** in Norton, VA, for the Southwest Virginia Renewable Energy and Economy Project. The project will conduct a feasibility study, develop a strategic plan, and provide capacity building assistance to determine the viability of a renewable energy plan for the Southwest Virginia region. The project's activities will include a structured

process for engaging local officials and organizations that are interested in renewable energy as part of the region's economic diversification strategy.

\$1,870,000 ARC grant to the **Coalfield Development Corporation** in Wayne, WV, for the Appalachian Social Entrepreneurship Investment Strategy. ARC funds will be used to incubate job-creating social enterprises; scale-up Coalfield Development Corporation's innovate 33-6-3 on-the-job January 2017 12 training/education/life skills workforce development model; and expand Coalfield Development Corporation's service territory to other coal-impacted areas in Southern West Virginia. The award will create 85 new jobs and equip 60 trainees to pursue quality jobs in high-demand industries in the Appalachian Region, and will be supported by funding from the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation.

\$1,250,000 ARC grant to the **Natural Capital Investment Fund, Inc.** in Shepherdstown, WV, for the Growing Triple Bottom Line Small Businesses in Coal Impacted Communities in Central Appalachia project. These funds will be used to expand coal-impacted communities' access to capital in Southern West Virginia by capitalizing a \$4,000,000 tourism-related revolving loan fund and developing a West Virginia New Markets Tax Credit Fund. The project will create 200 new jobs and 20 new businesses, bring \$5,000,000 of leveraged private investment into the region, and will be supported by funding from the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation.

\$856,050 ARC grant to the **West Virginia Healthy Kids and Family Coalition (HKFC) in Charleston, WV**, for the Growing Social Enterprise and Healthy Communities project. HKFC will expand the successful Try This WV economic and community development program to 15 local communities in the service territory— which will enable them to phase-in second stage development activities designed to improve community vitality and health. Simultaneously, **Strong Mountain Communities**, a southern West Virginia economic development organization, will build a pre-market social enterprise development program and create an Investors' Circle; combined, these two activities will deliver technical assistance directly to social entrepreneurs, and will raise capital to invest in the creation and expansion of local social enterprises. The project will serve 23 counties in southern West Virginia, create 100 jobs, leverage January 2017 14 \$1,200,000 in private and community financing, and will provide for 200 entrepreneurs and community leaders to receive in-depth technical assistance.

\$93,495 ARC grant to the **West Virginia Community Development Hub** in Fairmont, WV, which, in partnership with the International Economic Development Council, will provide technical assistance to five coal-impacted counties (Boone, Greenbrier, Lincoln, McDowell, and Wyoming) through economic development mentoring for local community teams. As a result of this investment, community teams will develop local economic diversification strategies.

\$75,000 to the Williamson Health and Wellness Center in Williamson, WV, for the Health Innovation and Food Hub. EDA is also awarding \$600,000 to the **Coalfield Development Corporation** as part of this project. The ARC award will support consulting fees and startup equipment necessary to launch the Health Innovation and Food Hub, which will play a key role in facilitating regional collaborative networks, providing technical assistance and training opportunities, facilitating access to capital, and linking the local food systems infrastructure to supply markets.