



FUNDING ALERT!

Professional Assistance for Today's Unprecedented Funding Opportunities

Program Name

Appalachian Regional Initiative for Stronger Economies (ARISE)

Funding Amounts

Up to \$80 million from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act

- Up to \$10M available for planning grants
- Up to \$63.5M available for implementation grants

Key Dates

- **August 23** – Application period opens and release of RFP
- **September 12** – Pre-application period opens
- **Accepting applications on a rolling basis**
- Review of complete applications prioritized on a quarterly basis
 - **November 30, 2022** – First round of complete applications deadline
 - **February 28, 2023** – Second round of complete applications deadline
 - **May 31, 2023** – Third round of complete applications deadline
 - **August 31, 2023** – Fourth round of complete applications deadline

Eligible Applicants

- Local development districts (LDDs)
- Indian Tribes or a consortium of Indian Tribes
- States, counties, cities, or other political subdivision of a state, including a special purpose unit of a state or local government engaged in economic or infrastructure development activities, or a consortium
- Institutions of higher education or a consortium
- Public or private nonprofit organizations or associations
- **Must include at least two eligible organizations collaborating across more than one Appalachian Region state**

Eligible Areas

- Projects must serve, at a minimum, two states within a portion of the Appalachian Region
 - Appalachian Region includes certain counties in Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, Mississippi, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and all of West Virginia
 - A map of the Appalachian Region is available here: <https://www.arc.gov/appalachian-counties-served-by-arc/>
- If projects extend beyond the Appalachian Region, only that portion that is within the Region is eligible for ARC funding

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\$80 million

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Eligible Projects

Projects must address at least 1 of ARC's 5 strategic investment priorities:

- Building workforce developments
- Building businesses
- Building infrastructure
- Building regional culture and tourism
- Building leaders and community capacity

Concept Paper

- Applicants required to contact state program managers of impacted states before submitting concept paper or application
 - [List of all ARC program managers](#)
- Up to four-page concept paper required as part of pre-application
- Include contact information and describe project scope including:
 - Proposed funding opportunity requested (Planning or Implementation Grant)
 - Proposed project
 - Partners
 - Geographic scope
 - Funding request amount
- Applicants required to submit a concept paper to ARISE@arc.gov

Application Contents

- Applicants are limited to 20 pages of narrative responses and 100 pages of file attachments
- Applicant must be registered in SAM.gov, and provide Unique Entity ID
- An application must include:
 - Executive Summary
 - Statement of Need or Opportunity
 - Project Description
 - Project Team – Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is required as proof of partnership collaboration
 - Project Outputs and Outcomes
 - Match and Budget Evaluation
 - Feasibility
 - Sustainability
 - Application Documents – SF-424, MOU, Supporting Documents

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Scoring Criteria

- Executive Summary
- Statement of Need or Opportunity – **10 points**
- Project Description – **15 points**
- Project Team Collaboration – **20 points**
- Outputs and Outcomes – **30 points**
- Budget and Match – **10 points**
- Feasibility – **10 points**
- Sustainability – **5 points**
- Application Documents

Buildout Requirements

- All ARC construction projects must be administered by a registered federal agency or state basic agency
- ARC must have an agreement in place with the basic agency before project can be approved
 - List of agencies with agreements in place with ARC can be found here: <https://www.arc.gov/basic-agency-partners/>

Eligible Costs

From ARC's Access to Capital Projects Application and Operating Guidelines

- Working capital, including financing of inventory
- Receivables financing
- Product development and testing
- Professional services, marketing activities, employee training, and other purposes
- Machinery, equipment, and other fixed asset acquisition, including transportation/delivery and installation costs
- Construction, alteration, modification, repair, and renovation of existing or new facilities
- Refinancing existing debt
- Land acquisition that is an integral part of a project
- Acquisition of an existing business

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Ineligible Costs

From ARC's Access to Capital Projects Application and Operating Guidelines

- Loans or equity investments to applicants or a subsidiary
- Land acquisition, except as noted above
- ARC funds or funds used as match cannot be used for loans and equity investments in an attainment county
 - ARC counties and their economic status, updated every fiscal year, can be found at www.arc.gov/research-and-data/
- Loans that assist the relocation of businesses from other labor areas are prohibited by law (40 USC 14524(b))
- Loans or equity investments that provide mandatory equity contribution required of borrowers for other federal programs
- Loans or equity investments that refinance existing debt solely to reduce the risk to existing lenders
- Support or opposition of union organizing

Links & Emails

- [Appalachian Regional Commission ARISE RFP](#)
- [ARISE Pre-application workshop](#)
- [ARISE Case Studies Toolkit](#)
- [Program FAQs](#)
- Please submit questions to ARISE@arc.gov

- Opportunity Evaluation
- Effective Grant Writing
- Track Record of Success