



# Appalachian Regional Commission

The Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) is an independent agency that was created by an act of Congress in 1965 to improve the economic landscape of Appalachia. Its primary function is to provide the framework necessary to support federal, state, and local efforts in creating a competitive economy, thereby raising the standards of living, quality of life, and earning potential for residents of Appalachia.

**Vision Statement:** Appalachia is a region of great opportunity that will achieve socioeconomic parity with the nation

**Mission Statement:** To innovate, partner and invest to build community capacity and strengthen economic growth in Appalachia

## How do we accomplish our mission?

- Grant Making and Targeted Investment Activities
- Partnership and Stakeholder Engagement
- Strategic Planning and Coalition Building
- Research and Evaluation
- Parallel Programming and Technical Assistance

## Core Areas of Investment:

- Entrepreneurship and Business Development
- Workforce Development
- Critical Infrastructure
- Culture and Tourism
- Leadership and Capacity Building

## Organizational Structure:

### Leadership

- Federal – represented by a single federal co-chair appointed by the President, subject to change at the turn of an administration
- State – the governors of all 13 Appalachian States represented by a state co-chair. State Alternates are appointed by each governor to act as state - commission liaisons and represent the interests and priorities of their respective states

### Commission Level:

- Commission Staff – led by a single executive director and comprised of various supportive divisions

### Local Level:

- State Program Managers – serve to operate and manage ARC programs at the state level
- Local Development Districts – multi-county planning organizations that facilitate ARC investments at local and regional levels

## Foundational documents from which authority and policy derives:

- [Appalachian Regional Development Act \(ARDA\)](#)
- [ARC Code](#)

## Guiding documents which inform investment decisions, areas of prioritization, and processes:

- [Current Strategic Plan](#)
- [State plans and strategy statements](#)
- [On-going research, evaluations, data reports](#)

## How are our activities funded?

- Congressional Appropriations (determined and allocated on an annual and on-going basis)
- Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill (through 2026)