

We are pleased to formally open the 2025-2026 [Appalachian Regional Commission \(ARC\)](#) grant funding round. Funding through the program is a federal (ARC), state (PA DCED) and local (NTRPDC) partnership.

As the designated Local Development District for the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC), we are excited to provide you with information related to the ARC [Area Development](#) and ARC [Local Access Road](#) Programs. NTRPDC serves as the regional partner and conduit for ARC funding. Counties NTRPDC serves include Bradford, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Tioga, and Wyoming.

Pre-applications will be considered for funding in the Spring/Summer of 2026.

ARC awards grants to projects that align with one of [five goals](#) outlined in ARC's current [Strategic Plan](#) that can demonstrate measurable results. The resulting investments ultimately help Appalachian communities address economic disparity and advance prosperity. Typically, grants are awarded to State and local agencies and governmental entities, local governing boards, and nonprofit organizations such as schools and organizations.

### **ARC Grant Quick Facts:**

#### How much can be requested?

- Area Development Grants range from \$30,000 to \$750,000
- Local Access Road Grants range between \$500k-\$1M

#### Do ARC grants require a match?

- Area Development Grants in the NTRPDC region require 1-to-1 federal to state/local match. Match can include cash, in-kind, and other secured funding sources.
- Local Access Road Grants do not require match, but match is highly recommended to remain competitive.

#### Funding Priorities

- Area Development Grants: Building Appalachian Businesses, Workforce Ecosystems, Infrastructure, Regional Culture and Tourism, and Community Leaders and Capacity.
- Local Access Road Grants seek, develop and upgrade publicly owned roads into major job centers (business/technology parks, health/hospital complexes, arenas, stadiums). These roads must be built to PennDOT standards and require federal/state prevailing wage rates to be paid, thus increasing the cost of the project.

#### What are the funding priorities for this grant?

- Priority is assigned to projects that will be ready to be implemented by Spring/Summer of 2026 and can demonstrate that the non-federal matching funds are committed.
- Job creation/retention, leveraged private investment, businesses started/improved are highly desired outcomes.
- Given the complexity of application and since ARC is a small federal agency, we recommend you focus your project on equipment, staffing, planning, engineering design, or technical assistance versus construction.

## Other Considerations

- This is a reimbursement grant. You cannot make purchases prior to receiving a grant contract from ARC. (This includes the purchase of equipment or services that will be used for match.) Once you execute the contract, you will submit invoices after each 120-day period. Your contract period will likely start August, September or October 1st.
- ARC is federal agency and funds from their grant are federally sourced. Federal wage rates (Davis Bacon Act) will be required for grant and matching funds.
- For project budgets: Supplies should include items that are less than \$5,000 and Equipment should include items that are over \$5,000.
- Higher Education Projects:
  - include the job placement rate of graduates for Appalachia and non-Appalachia counties. ARC and DCED typically wish to see that 80% of graduates stay within Appalachia. If your number is not this high, please provide some justification based on job centers/clusters.
  - ARC central office takes notices of current Community College of Appalachia members.
- Any construction project (Area Development and Access Road) requires a federal cognizant agency, often referred to as a BFA (Basic Federal Agency), as a partner (USDA, Army Corp of Engineers, US DOT FHWA, EDA). PennDOT serves as the BFA for Access Road projects and the PA CDBG office can serve as the BFA for Area Development – if no other federal fund is involved in the project.
- If you are selected for a full application, you must have the match committed. Before beginning a pre-app, please make sure your matching funds can be committed by the Fall. It is ok to pledge reserves as match and then substitute new revenue or grant award at a later time. However, this option should not be used unless you are willing to use your reserves if your options fall short.

## ARC Timeline:

- Pre-applications due to NTRPDC COB June 13th
- Pre-applications due to DCED mid/late summer
- Full applications invited late Fall
- Full applications due early next calendar year (January)
- Review process takes several months (first at the state level and then at the federal level)
- Spring to Summer – timeline for hearing back final status on projects

## How do I apply?

- A copy of the required ARC pre-application (two-pages or less) should be submitted to Katie Smith. There are individual templates for both the Area Development and the Local Access Road Program. Additional information may be required once the pre-application is reviewed by NTRPDC staff.
- Katie Smith  
Economic Development Program Manager  
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