The Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) is a federal-state partnership. Its mission is to innovate, partner, and invest to build community capacity and strengthen economic growth in 420 counties across the 13 Appalachian states.

Between 2011–2016, Appalachia lost 33,500 direct coal mining jobs, representing 82 percent of America’s job loss in this sector. Between 2000–2014, Appalachia had a net loss of 622,000 manufacturing jobs. Appalachia’s college graduation rate is 22 percent, well below the national average of 29 percent. The Region is also experiencing high rates of cancer, heart disease, diabetes and other chronic illnesses, as well as catastrophic opioid drug abuse.

ARC’s strategic plan identifies five investment strategies to address these challenges and to benefit the 25 million residents of Appalachia by creating economic opportunity; preparing a ready workforce; building critical infrastructure; leveraging natural and cultural assets; and cultivating leadership and community capacity.

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**THE APPALACHIAN REGIONAL COMMISSION**

**ADDRESSES REGIONAL POVERTY**

- Appalachian counties are designated high poverty, down from 295 in 1965
- Over 68% of ARC’s investments provided substantial benefit to economically distressed counties and areas between FY 2012–FY 2016

**CREATES JOBS**

- Over 18,000 jobs were created or retained by ARC investments in FY 2016
- Nearly 101,000 jobs were created or retained by ARC investments between FY 2012–FY 2016

**BUILDS INFRASTRUCTURE**

- 110,250 Appalachian households now have access to water and/or sanitation services due to ARC investments over the past 5 years
- 90% of the Appalachian Development Highway System is complete or under construction

**LEVERAGES ADDITIONAL CAPITAL**

- $6.71 in private investment dollars were leveraged for every $1 ARC invested between 2012–2016
- $2.7 billion in private investments were attracted to the Region due to ARC investments FY 2012–FY 2016