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**The Environmental Justice Scorecard has been updated.** Phase Two of the Environmental Justice Scorecard was released on July 24, 2024.

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# Appalachian Regional Commission

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**1 office(s), 1 location(s), 90 employees,**  
and **13 new hire(s)** in Fiscal Year 2023

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The Appalachian Regional Commission's (ARC) mission is to innovate, partner, and invest to build community capacity and strengthen economic growth in Appalachia.

ARC investments include resilient basic infrastructure improvements, such as water and sewer, and workforce training in advanced manufacturing.

Some examples of well-known ARC offices, bureaus, or agencies are:

- The ARC Annual Conference
- ARC Getting the Grant Workshops
- The Appalachia Envisioned Roadshow

## Progress on Advancing Environmental Justice

This section demonstrates key progress on advancing environmental justice at the Appalachian Regional Commission in Fiscal Year (FY) 2023, which is from October 2022 to September 2023.

**Key Highlights** ([show less](#) ^ )

**Partnerships for**

## **Interagency Working Group on Coal and Power Plant Communities and Economic Revitalization**

The Interagency Working Group on Coal and Power Plant Communities and Economic Revitalization is a collaborative effort of multiple federal agencies to promote and support economic revitalization in communities impacted by coal-specific job losses. In FY 2023, ARC partnered with the Department of Agriculture and Kentucky Highlands Investment Corporation to host a forum in Appalachian Kentucky designed to build collaboration, capacity, and relationships by connecting community networks with targeted federal and civic partners.

[Learn more](#) 

## **Opportunity and Workforce and Economic Revitalization (POWER) Initiative**

The economic downturn of the coal industry has had a significant impact on Appalachia. The regionally competitive Partnerships for Opportunity and Workforce and Economic Revitalization (POWER) Initiative was designed to specifically address

economic inequity through a tailored development approach. Since 2015, ARC has invested \$421.6 million in 507 projects touching 365 counties across Appalachia through the POWER Initiative. In FY 2023 alone, ARC has invested \$56 million in 70 projects across Appalachia through the POWER Initiative.

[Learn more](#) 


## Justice40 Initiative

This section demonstrates progress on the implementation of the Justice40 Initiative at the Appalachian Regional Commission in Fiscal Year (FY) 2023, which is from October 2022 to September 2023.

### Overview

ARC's mission aligns with the Justice40 Initiative. In FY 2023, 70% of ARC's appropriations were invested in disadvantaged communities, which include distressed counties or areas. ARC's collaborative nature and grassroots delivery system can help to provide small, rural communities with the strategic technical assistance necessary to achieve economic transformation.

ARC references Justice40 covered programs in the [budget, performance, and policy tab](#) of the ARC website. For more information, please visit ARC's [website](#).

For more information on ARC's Justice40 covered programs, please contact [info@arc.gov](mailto:info@arc.gov) 

### What is the Justice40 Initiative?

The Justice40 Initiative set the goal that 40 percent of the overall benefits of certain federal investments flow to disadvantaged communities that are marginalized by underinvestment and overburdened by pollution.

[Learn more](#) 

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## Justice40 Covered Programs

([show less](#) ^ )

The Appalachian Regional Commission has:

- **1** Justice40 covered program(s), including **1** Justice40 covered program(s) that is/are funded by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the Inflation Reduction Act, or both

## Progress on the Justice40 Initiative

Through President Biden's [Investing in America](#) agenda and other sources, **ARC** has:

approximately

**\$1.4 billion**

in funds available to obligate (i.e., to spend) in Fiscal Years (FY) 2022 - 2027 through its Justice40 covered programs.<sup>1</sup>

Through President Biden's [Justice40 Initiative](#), **ARC** is working to deliver benefits to disadvantaged communities. Each program that is part of the Justice40 Initiative delivers benefits in at least one of [seven investment categories](#), and many programs are delivering benefits to communities across

multiple categories of investment. The **1** covered program(s) at **ARC** working to deliver benefits for communities include:

- **1** program(s) protecting communities from the impacts of climate change
- **1** program(s) advancing clean and affordable energy for communities
- **1** program(s) advancing affordable and sustainable housing
- **1** program(s) delivering training and workforce development benefits
- **1** program(s) delivering critical clean water and wastewater infrastructure benefits

Overall, agencies are making concrete, tangible improvements to benefit disadvantaged communities across America through the Justice40 Initiative. These investments are resulting in cleaner air and water, more affordable clean energy, good-paying jobs, and other results that people are seeing and feeling today and into the future.

<sup>1</sup>*In the Phase Two Scorecard, the Justice40 Initiative section contains information about*

*federal investments that Congress has funded through both discretionary and mandatory appropriations, as well as supplemental appropriations, such as those that Congress made in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (Pub. L. 117-58) and the Inflation Reduction Act (Pub. L. 117-169). The Phase Two Scorecard includes information on each agency's budget authority (that is, the total amount of funds that Congress has appropriated to the agency to spend on Justice40 covered programs) and the period of availability (that is, the period of time over which Congress has authorized the agency to spend the funds).*

*In some cases, agencies may not yet have the authority to spend the full amount indicated, such as when Congress has appropriated funds that will only become available in future Fiscal Years. Agencies provided the data presented here in spring 2024, and therefore the data does not reflect the annual appropriations for Fiscal Year 2024 that Congress made in March 2024.*

*Thus, the information that the Phase Two Scorecard presents in this section includes what the agency has available to spend in its Justice40 covered programs (i.e., its budget authority). These figures represent the total funding amount for all Justice40 covered programs, not only the portion that benefits disadvantaged communities.*

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## **Justice40 Covered Program Highlights ([show less ^](#))**

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The Appalachian Regional Commission is delivering benefits, or is projected to deliver benefits, for disadvantaged communities through grants or awards made through its Justice40 covered programs, such as:



## **Appalachian Regional Commission Grants**

In FY 2023, Appalachian Regional Commission Grants provided \$88,411,173 in funding through ARC's Justice40 covered program. In total, 163 grants were awarded, leveraging over \$1.8 billion in private investment. Appalachian Regional Commission Grants benefitted Appalachian communities through business development, workforce development, infrastructure, tourism, and community capacity activities.

## **Bipartisan Infrastructure Law-Funded Appalachian Regional Commission Grants**

In FY 2023, Bipartisan Infrastructure Law-funded Appalachian Regional Commission Grants provided \$102,509,340 in funding through ARC's Justice40 covered program. In total, 107 grants were awarded, leveraging over \$25 million in private investment. Bipartisan Infrastructure Law-Funded Appalachian Regional Commission Grants were used to provide Appalachian communities with safer drinking water, enhanced connectivity through broadband, and to build community capacity, among many others.

## Partnerships for Opportunity and Workforce and Economic Revitalization Initiative

The Partnerships for Opportunity and Workforce and Economic Revitalization (POWER) Initiative targets federal resources to help communities and regions 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. In FY 2023, ARC awarded nearly \$56 million in 70 investments to help coal-impacted communities in Appalachia diversify and grow their economies.

Learn more 

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## Funding Announcements

([show less](#) ^ )

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The Appalachian Regional Commission has:

- **4** funding announcement(s) covered under the Justice40 Initiative
- **\$400 million** available through Justice40 covered program(s) funding

announcements<sup>2</sup>

## Area Development Program

ARC's Area Development program relies on a flexible "bottom up" approach to economic development, empowering Appalachian communities to work with their state governments to design impactful investment opportunities supporting ARC's mission and investment priorities. In FY 2023, ARC received an appropriation of \$200 million for area development activities and allocated by formula \$110.11 million, 55% of the appropriation, to the states. Within the framework of the strategic plan, the states have wide discretion in the use of these funds.

[Learn more](#) 

<sup>2</sup>Further, this section also includes funding that was made available through an agency's Justice40 covered programs in FY 2023. The funding was made available through various mechanisms, like grants, loans, agreements, contracts, notices of funding opportunity, and other funding announcements. These funding announcements were from Justice40 covered programs that were funded through discretionary and mandatory appropriations, as well as supplemental appropriations, such as those enacted under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (Pub. L. 117-58) and the Inflation Reduction Act (Pub. L. 117-169).

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## Covered Program Design or Modification ([show less ^](#))

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The Appalachian Regional Commission made program or design modifications to maximize benefits and/or remove barriers or constraints for disadvantaged communities, such as:

## Appalachian Regional Initiative for Stronger Economies

The Appalachian Regional Initiative for Stronger Economies (ARISE) aims to drive large-scale, regional economic transformation through multi-state collaborative projects across Appalachia. ARC launched ARISE to strengthen Appalachian business and industry, and to grow and support the development of new opportunities across multiple states. In FY 2023, ARC updated the application process to include a requirement that applicants must highlight partnerships across multiple states and provide a plan that showcases the economic impact of proposed project. In FY 2023, ARC awarded \$50.4 million to 17 projects that expand broadband access, educate workers in emerging sectors, bolster green manufacturing, and support workforce and business opportunities across 12 states.

Learn more 

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Justice40 In Action ([show less](#) ^ )

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The Appalachian Regional Commission is delivering benefits, or is projected to deliver benefits, for disadvantaged communities through the Justice40 Initiative, including:

### **Manufacturing the New Energy Economy in Appalachia**

With ARC's investment of \$10 million, announced in 2023, it is projected that 1,100 businesses will be served, 5,500 jobs will be created, 15,190 jobs will be retained, and \$44 million will be saved in cost reductions. Funds will be used to provide training, technical assistance, supply chain mapping, and guidance on factory upgrades to support manufacturers of renewable energy, hydrogen power, low-carbon and decarbonized power, smart grid improvements, electric vehicles, and green buildings.

[Learn more](#) 

### **Manufacturing the New Energy Economy in Appalachia**

*Photo credit:  
Tennessee  
Department of  
Economic and  
Community  
Development*

The “Manufacturing the New Energy Economy in Appalachia” project will harness the tools of ten Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) affiliates to provide technical assistance, training, supply chain mapping and diversification

## **Hamlin Sewer System Improvements Project**

ARC announced an investment of \$3,325,000 in Lincoln County, West Virginia, in 2023, to improve the Town of Hamlin's Sewer System. This investment was made in a county that includes one disadvantaged community, and that is also a distressed and persistent poverty county. The project will correct existing deficiencies, protect the health, safety, and dependability of services for residents and businesses, and support the economic growth vital to Lincoln County's future.

support, guidance on factory upgrades and product expansions, and other support to small and medium manufacturers seeking to enter or grow production in clean energy and green technology sectors. The foundational improvements facilitated by the project will have lasting effects that vastly outlive the duration of the project itself, with over 20,000 jobs created or retained in the region,



### **Building a Competitive Workforce to Boost Semiconductor Manufacturing in the ARC Region**

ARC's \$1.4 million investment, announced in 2022, will revitalize the workforce in Western Pennsylvania by preparing for the emerging market of semiconductor manufacturing and implementing 41 new Advanced Workforce Trainings in the areas of semiconductor manufacturing. This project will benefit several disadvantaged communities and is expected to recruit and train up to 550 workers at the Steamfitters' 570,000-square-foot facility in Harmony, Pennsylvania.

[Learn more](#) 

as well as putting Appalachia at the forefront of green industry and solutions to climate change.

[Learn more](#) 

## **Environmental and Civil Rights Protection**

Federal agencies are advancing environmental justice by carrying out their responsibilities under the law to identify and address disproportionate and adverse public health and environmental, climate-related, and cumulative impacts on communities with environmental justice concerns. Agencies are working to ensure that all communities experience the protection of our country's bedrock environmental laws. The following information reflects some of the environmental and civil rights work at the Appalachian Regional Commission has done in Fiscal Year (FY) 2023, which is from October 2022 to September 2023.

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### **National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Environmental Justice** ([show less](#) ^)

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This section demonstrates progress on environmental protections, such as the National Environmental Policy Act, at the Appalachian Regional Commission in Fiscal Year (FY) 2023, which is from October 2022 to September 2023.

ARC's 2022-2026 [Strategic Plan](#) reflects some of the environmental and civil rights work ARC did in FY 2023. ARC has agreements in place with other federal agencies and with Registered State Basic Agency Partners to do NEPA work on ARC's behalf.

## What is NEPA?

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires federal agencies to consider and disclose the environmental health and community impacts of certain decisions or actions before taking them.

[Learn more](#) 

## Centering Environmental Justice in Decision-Making

This section demonstrates progress on

community engagement (e.g., partnerships with non-federal organizations, technical assistance, and public processes) and partnership and consultation with Tribal Nations at the Appalachian Regional Commission in Fiscal Year (FY) 2023, which is from October 2022 to September 2023.

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### Technical Assistance ([show less](#) ^ )

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- **18** technical assistance outreach event(s) to improve access and information about federal programs related to environmental justice

For more information on the Appalachian Regional Commission's technical assistance events, please visit

<https://www.arc.gov/events/>

## Getting the Grant

ARC's regional workshop series on "Getting the Grant" provides an opportunity to introduce its competitive program, to provide a Notice of Solicitation of Applications to stakeholders, and to provide hands-on, technical assistance to applicants and attendees. In FY 2023, there were 584 attendees across three events. The workshops took place in Belden, Mississippi, Knoxville, Tennessee, and Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Each of the workshops benefited disadvantaged communities.

**Learn more** 

## **State Partner Workshops**

ARC regularly leads workshops in conjunction with its state partners to provide technical assistance to applicants interested in pursuing opportunities through ARC's Area Development Program. These training events are specifically tailored to fit the demands and priorities of the state with which ARC is partnering. ARC hosted 14 trainings and events for state partners in FY 2023.

## **Local Development District Training**

Since Local Development Districts (LDD) play a large role in developing ARC projects and providing technical assistance to applicants, LDD workshops are more intensive than typical applicant or grantee workshops. Based on post-workshop survey responses, 100% of attendees indicated that the workshop met its stated objectives and deepened their understanding of how to develop projects and prepare ARC applications. ARC hosted five LDD trainings in FY 2023.

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## Partnership and Consultation with Tribal Nations ([show less ^](#))

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This section demonstrates progress on Tribal partnerships and consultations at the Appalachian Regional Commission, including steps that that agencies take to respect Tribal sovereignty and ensure government-to-government consultation on federal policies in Fiscal Year (FY) 2023, which is from October 2022 to September 2023.

ARC created a [Plan for Tribal Consultation and Coordination Policy](#) for Tribal Consultation as required.

## Institutionalizing Environmental Justice

This section demonstrates progress to institutionalize environmental justice at the Appalachian Regional Commission including to implement [Executive Order 14008](#) and [Executive Order 14096](#) , in Fiscal Year (FY) 2023, which is from October 2022 to September 2023.

## Overview

ARC's [2022-2026 Strategic Plan](#) includes components of environmental justice. The strategic plan was updated for FY 2022 to FY 2023.

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### More information

[Whitehouse.gov](https://www.whitehouse.gov)

[Freedom of Information Act  
\(FOIA\)](#)

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### Additional government services

[Find a contact at USA.gov](#)

[Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov)

[EnvironmentalJustice.gov](https://www.environmentaljustice.gov)

[Environmental Justice  
Clearinghouse](#)



**The Office of Management and Budget and the Council  
on Environmental Quality**