

The Alliance for Appalachia

# Revitalizing Appalachia: A toolkit for cleanup & community development



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## Introduction

### **Why the toolkit?**

This toolkit was initiated to share restorative, community development opportunities. Across the region abandoned mine sites and legacy pollution points are barriers to clean water and healthy lands and at the same time, there are great economic opportunities around their cleanup and endless opportunities for reuse. The Alliance is a grassroots coalition of environmental and social justice organizations dedicated to supporting whole, healthy communities. Our goal is to provide a guide that will assist community leaders through the lifecycle of an AML reclamation project– from defining community needs to building partnerships for projects in their area.

This toolkit builds on our research culminated in 2015 with the publication of the paper: [Abandoned Mine Land Program: A policy analysis for Central Appalachian and the Nation](#).

### **Who is this for?**

Federal agencies and entities with governmental accountability have a key role in responding to the needs of Appalachian communities, municipalities, development districts, public works programs, and transportation authorities among others. This support extends to not-for-profit, and for-profit organizations such as small businesses and private-public partnerships that serve areas of interest such as conservation.

The federal and regional funding programs listed in this toolkit emphasize a clean-up economy and provide opportunities for cross-sector, multi stakeholder engagement. We believe that community and resident participation is critical to the success of these development initiatives, and that as community members we have the power and responsibility to influence development plans by engaging with federal agencies and local foundations that are administering and applying for funds. We believe that sharing information at the grassroots level is essential to successful program management.

### **What's next?**

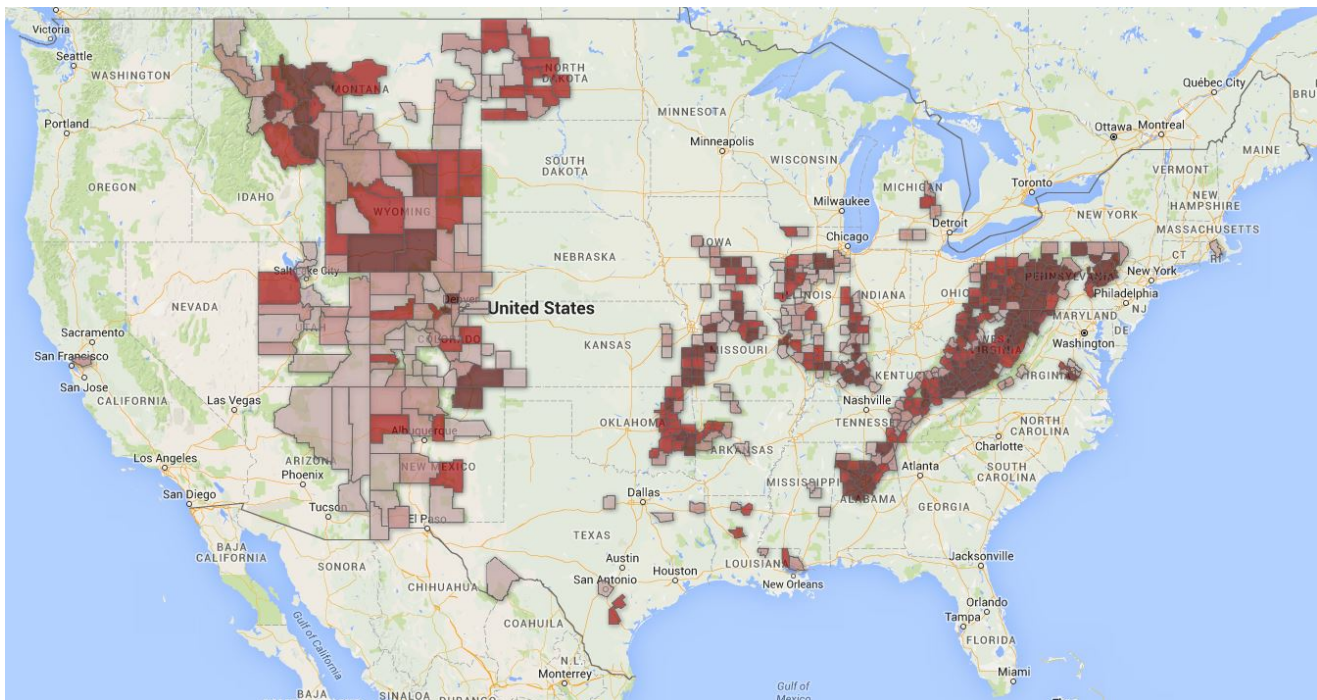
If any of the programs here sounds like a good match for your community, we encourage you to start the conversation! Reach out to the contacts provided, talk to your neighbors, your local electeds, and community development authorities about your ideas and let these resources help turn your idea into action. For resources and activities to help define community needs, check out the [Highlander Center's Economics and Governance Curriculum](#).



## Abandoned Mine Lands

Abandoned mine lands (AML) is a term used to describe lands and waters impacted or inadequately reclaimed by coal operations before 1977, when the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act was enacted. Across the country, more than 6.2 million acres exist that would cost an estimated \$10 billion to properly restore ([Source](#)). Of course, mining operations since 1977 have also adversely affected lands and waters, and while these lands do not always fall under the same federal programs for cleanup, they impose the same problems of pollution to surrounding communities and ecosystems and are often referred to as sites of *legacy pollution*.

Do abandoned mine lands exist in your community? [Click here to access the inventory](#) or [here to contact your state AML program](#).



(Source: [Daily Yonder](#) from the federal Abandoned Mine Land Inventory System. Follow link for interactive map)

### What kinds of problems exist on abandoned mine sites?

From clogged streams and dangerous highwalls to gob piles and open mine portals, abandoned mine lands pose serious threats to the health and safety of people in the surrounding area as well as people living downstream. The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection provides descriptions and pictures of problem features often

found on post-mined land in this handy resource: [Pennsylvania DEP AML problem features](#).

### What are the jobs and skills needed to perform them?

“Just Transition strategies were first forged by labor unions and environmental justice groups, rooted in low-income communities of color, who saw the need to phase out the industries that were harming workers, community health and the planet; and at the same time provide just pathways for workers to transition to other jobs. It was rooted in workers defining a transition away from polluting industries in alliance with fence line and frontline communities” (Excerpt from the Climate Justice Alliance [Just Transition Framework](#)).

We believe that a just transition creates meaningful work that is regenerative and restorative, and that promotes ecological resilience. Cleaning up abandoned mine lands and legacy pollution is labor intensive and generates a variety of jobs both in the supply chain and through ancillary, or supportive industries. Especially in communities that have experienced a severe job loss from the coal industry, restoration economies often rely on the same earth-moving skills as the extraction process, thus providing jobs to the same workforce who lost them before.

From the Eastern Pennsylvania Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation, [EPCAMR](#), the following list is an example of some of the jobs created through cleaning up and restoring mining-impacted lands and waters.

- Watershed, macro-invertebrate and visual habitat assessments
- Water quality and quantity monitoring of acid mine drainage
- Technical assistance, education and outreach to municipalities
- GIS mapping of surface and underground mines
- 3D mine pool modeling and development
- Leveraging funds and partners on reclamation, remediation, and redevelopment projects
- Natural stream channel design and construction projects
- Dam removal and trout stream habitat improvement projects
- Green infrastructure planning for municipalities

## Examples of Economic Opportunities on Reclaimed Mines

For more information and examples, visit [www.powerplusplan.org](http://www.powerplusplan.org)



### Agriculture in Virginia and West Virginia

In Wise County, VA, a [winery](#) whose vineyards are located on a reclaimed surface coal mine has been thriving for more than a decade. Meanwhile, in Mingo County, WV a high priority abandoned mine site will be reclaimed giving way to the construction of an aquaponics facility on site that will sustainably produce fish and vegetables.

Photo credit: [Youtube/American Express](#)

### Recreational tourism in Maryland

The North Branch Potomac River in Maryland was once decimated by acid mine drainage from a nearby coal mine. The river, which ran orange from the pollution, was reclaimed by the state AML agency and now runs clear enough to support a bustling local recreational tourism industry.

Businesses that have been able to grow and thrive because of the reclaimed stream now contribute a [\\$3 million impact](#) to the local economy, including 40 full-time jobs in angling and boating.

Photo credit: [Downstream Strategies](#)







### Commerce and trade park in Pennsylvania

Abandoned surface and underground mines, like the [West Suscon abandoned coal mine](#), had left a scarred landscape in Luzerne County, PA. After reclamation efforts, however, a business park was constructed on the land. The commerce and trade park employs [4,500 people](#) and is home to 39 companies. While more industrial parks are not the economic solution for many rural communities, this case study demonstrates that mine sites could be reclaimed for brick-and-mortar project applications like local businesses, job training facilities, and business incubators.

Photo credit: [Mericle Commercial Real Estate Services](#)

### Community-led development in Kentucky

In Seco, Kentucky, local residents founded Highland Winery in a former coal company store & Vineyard on a former surface mine growing 9 varieties of grapes on 13 acres. On another 72-acre site, the same owners grow various types of evergreen trees, each year selling approximately 20,000 trees after they have grown to the desirable 8- foot tall Christmas trees. In addition, Highland sells seedlings to surface mines to be used for reclamation.

Photo credit: [Facebook](#)



## Case Studies

In 2018, a coalition of organizations in Appalachia issued a report highlighting 20 projects across 4 states that would clean up abandoned coal mine lands and give them new life with innovative economic development projects. The report, [Many Voices, Many Solutions: Innovative Mine Reclamation in Central Appalachia](#), provides case study analyses for each project including economic data, information on reclamation needs, and project partnerships.

The report was authored by the Reclaiming Appalachia Coalition-- Appalachian Voices, Appalachian Citizens' Law Center, Coalfield Development Corporation and Rural Action alongside technical expertise of Downstream Strategies.

## Federal Funding Resources for Community Development

### Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC)

The Appalachian Regional Commission is a regional economic development agency that represents a partnership of federal, state and local government. ARC's structure was designed to ensure an active federal-state partnership. There are 14 Commission members: the [governors](#) of the 13 Appalachian states and a [federal co-chair](#), who determine the program and policies of the agency. Grassroots participation is provided through [local development districts](#).

The [Appalachian Regional Development Initiative \(ARDI\)](#) is a partnership between ARC and ten federal agencies that aims to conduct local outreach for community participation in federal programs, and to collaborate with regional stakeholders to make strategic and cost-effective investments in Appalachia.

### ARC General Program Grants

The Appalachian Regional Commission is an economic development agency that represents a partnership of local, state, and federal governments. Grassroots participation is provided through [local development districts](#). ARC provides funding in the form of grants to program areas listed below. The agency's funding targets special resources to the most economically distressed counties in the Region. ARC funding can also be complementary to other funding sources, like environmental clean-up or remediation grants.

- [Asset-based development](#) Appalachia's natural, cultural, structural, and leadership resources can play an important role in building a strong and sustainable economy in the Region. ARC's Asset-Based Development Initiative seeks to help communities



identify and leverage local assets to create jobs and build prosperity while preserving the character of their community.

- [Community infrastructure](#) ARC's community infrastructure work focuses primarily on the provision of water and wastewater services to support business and community development projects, and to alleviate public and environmental health hazards.

ARC also supports infrastructure investments that promote economic and employment opportunities. The provision of water, sewer, gas, fiber, and access roads are critical to attracting new development and supporting the expansion and economic health of the Region's existing business sector. ARC uses grant funds to leverage other public dollars and private-sector investment to attract commercial and industrial development.

- [Energy](#) By using its full range of energy resources and employing emerging energy technologies and practices, the Region can create and retain jobs; increase the supply of locally produced, clean, affordable energy; help companies stay competitive; and keep the Region moving toward energy independence.

ARC provides a range of assistance to help communities develop clean energy programs, as well as support to help new energy businesses expand and create local jobs. Commission-supported activities include training and education programs focusing on energy efficiency, renewable energy, and clean fossil energy production; direct grant support for energy-efficient buildings and water facility projects, and the underwriting of programs to help clean-energy businesses expand and grow; strategic partnerships to develop new policies and programs with leaders in the new energy economy.

- [Telecommunications](#) ARC, through its Information Age Appalachia (IAA) program, is engaged in helping make advanced communications systems a reality in all of Appalachia. IAA is built around four main pillars: access to infrastructure, training and education, e-commerce and tech job creation. The program is also geared toward assisting in the uses of an advanced telecommunications infrastructure, including distance learning applications for rural school systems, advanced telemedicine applications for rural health clinics, high-speed internet access for business applications; and access to training curriculum for workforce training.
- [Tourism development](#) Tourism development can be an important part of a community's strategy for building a sustainable economic future. Many Appalachian communities have developed successful tourism strategies based on the Region's cultural heritage, history, and natural beauty. Each project has specific and community-based goals, but all contribute to the overall impact of tourism as a key component in building long-term economic health in the Region.

Some tourism projects are funded through ARC's [Asset-Based Development Initiative](#)

- [Health](#) Access to comprehensive, affordable health care is vital to social and economic growth in the Appalachian Region. ARC's health projects focus on community-based efforts to encourage health-promotion and disease-prevention activities. ARC works with other organizations to address the high incidence of life-threatening diseases in the Region, as in its ongoing partnership with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in diabetes and cancer education, prevention, and treatment programs in the Region's distressed counties.
- [education and training](#), [export and trade development](#), [entrepreneurship and business development](#), [leadership development and capacity building](#), [transportation and highways](#)

### How to Apply for an ARC Program Grant

Before starting any grants process, [contact your state program manager](#) directly and talk to them about your ideas.

[Learn more about the application process here.](#)

[State Plans and Strategies](#)

[Guide to determining coal impacts](#)

## Department of Energy (DOE)

DOE, through its [Energy Jobs Strategy Council](#) – which focuses on supporting communities in their energy transformation and economic development opportunities -- will provide energy-related technical assistance resources to POWER grant recipients and applicants from DOE offices and National Labs, and access to investment in a range of energy technology and manufacturing projects through its Loan Program Office. Additional technical assistance programs include integrating combined heat and power in existing energy systems, designing energy efficiency strategies to create jobs and energy savings, deploying carbon capture, utilization and storage technologies for existing power plants, the reuse of energy and mining land sites, and expanding renewable energy deployment and jobs.

Contact Information: [Energyjobscouncil@hq.doe.gov](mailto:Energyjobscouncil@hq.doe.gov)

## Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE)

### AML Pilot Program

OSMRE has made funding available for projects in the Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Economic Development Pilot Program (AML Pilot) for Fiscal Year 2017. This pilot program will provide grants to the six Appalachian states with the highest

amount of unfunded Priority 1 and Priority 2 Abandoned Mine Lands (AML) problems based on OSMRE's AML inventory data as of September 30, 2016. Kentucky, Pennsylvania and West Virginia will each receive \$25 million, while Alabama, Ohio and Virginia will each receive \$10 million in order to accelerate the remediation of AML sites with economic and community development end uses. The intent of the pilot program is to explore and implement strategies to return legacy coal sites to productive uses. See Guidance [OSMRE's Guidance for Eligible Projects](#)<sup>1</sup>. This program is administered by state AML programs.

Federal Contact Information: Sterling Rideout, [srideout@osmre.gov](mailto:srideout@osmre.gov)

AL Abandoned Mine Reclamation Program: [website](#), phone: (205) 945-8671

KY Division of Abandoned Mine Lands: [website](#), phone: (502) 564-2141

OH Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Programs: [website](#), phone: (740) 274-4943

PA Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation: [website](#), phone: (814) 472-1800

WV Office of Abandoned Mine Lands & Reclamation: [website](#), phone: (304) 926-0499

VA Abandoned Mine Land Program: [website](#), phone: (276) 523-8206

## Economic Development Administration (EDA)

The U.S. Economic Development Administration is a government agency that leads the federal economic development agenda, by fostering local and regional development efforts. Grants made under these programs are designed to leverage existing regional assets to support the implementation of economic development strategies that advance new ideas and creative approaches to advance economic prosperity in distressed communities. EDA's programs focus on innovation and regional collaboration, and has established the following investment priorities:

- Collaborative Regional Innovation
- Public/Private Partnerships
- National Strategic Priorities
- Global Competitiveness
- Environmentally-Sustainable Development
- Underserved Communities

### Public Works Program

EDA Public Works program investments help facilitate the transition of communities from being distressed to becoming competitive by developing key public infrastructure, such as technology-based facilities that utilize distance learning networks, smart rooms,

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<sup>1</sup> Based on FY 2018 program and funding.



and smart buildings; multi-tenant manufacturing and other facilities; business and industrial parks with fiber optic cable; and telecommunications and development facilities. In addition, EDA invests in traditional public works projects, including water and sewer systems improvements, industrial parks, business incubator facilities, expansion of port and harbor facilities, skill-training facilities, and brownfields redevelopment.

### **Economic Adjustment**

Assists state and local interests in designing and implementing strategies to adjust or bring about change to an economy. The program focuses on areas that have experienced or are under threat of serious structural damage to the underlying economic base. Under Economic Adjustment, EDA administers its [Revolving Loan Fund \(RLF\) Program](#), which supplies small businesses and entrepreneurs with the gap financing needed to start or expand their business.

The *Economic Adjustment Assistance Program* is EDA's most flexible program, and can assist state and local entities in responding to a wide range of economic challenges through:

- Strategy Grants to support the development, updating or refinement of a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS); or
  - Implementation Grants to support the execution of activities identified in a CEDS, such as infrastructure improvements, including site acquisition, site preparation, construction, rehabilitation and equipping of facilities. Specific activities may be funded as separate investments or as multiple elements of a single investment.
- [Learn more.](#)

### **Partnership Planning**

Locally-owned strategic planning is critical to facilitating regional economic development efforts. Effective planning creates a road map, which practitioners and policymakers can use to identify and take the actionable steps necessary to realize their desired economic vision.

EDA supports Partnership Planning investments to facilitate the development, implementation, revision, or replacement of Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies (CEDS), which articulate and prioritize the strategic economic goals of recipients' respective regions.

[Learn more.](#)

## **Local Technical Assistance & University Center Programs**

The Local Technical Assistance program helps analyze the feasibility of potential economic development projects, such as an industrial park or a high-technology business incubator. Because of these feasibility studies, many communities have subsequently received funding under EDA's Public Works or Economic Development Assistance programs, or other federal and state programs, to implement those projects. The EDA-supported University Center (UC) program is specifically designed to marshal the resources located within colleges and universities to support regional economic development strategies in regions of chronic and acute economic distress. The UCs, which EDA considers long-term partners in economic development, are required to devote the majority of their funding to respond to technical assistance requests originating from organizations located in the economically distressed portions of their service regions. [Learn more](#).

[Click for more information on how to apply for EDA and partner funding](#)  
[Contact your local representative](#)

## **Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)**

### **Environmental Justice**

#### **Environmental Justice Small Grants Program**

EPA's Environmental Justice Small Grants program provides financial assistance to community-based organizations, and local and tribal governments working on projects to address environmental and public health concerns. The program uses grants to strengthen community-based programs that engage overburdened communities and build partnerships to promote environmental well-being and improve public health.

**Request for applications** are announced and accepted every 2 years. Proposals are accepted during odd number years and not accepted during even numbered years. Each funding cycle has a special emphasis such as community-based preparedness and resilience efforts (community climate resilience).

For more information and to apply, visit <https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice>

[Fact Sheet on EJ Small Grants Program](#)

[2017 Awarded Projects Summaries](#)

#### **EJ Collaborative Problem-Solving Cooperative Agreement Program (EJCPS)**

The EJCPS Program provides up to \$120,000 in financial assistance over a two-year period to enable community-based organizations to partner with stakeholders from across industry, government, academia to develop and implement solutions that will

significantly address environmental and/or public health issues at the local level. Projects must use the CPS Model, comprised of seven elements of a successful collaborative partnership, to address local environmental and/or public health issues. Because EPA requires substantial involvement and interaction between the applicant, EPA regions and OEJ, these awards will be made in the form of cooperative agreements.

**Request for Proposals:** One award will be made per region in amounts of up to \$120,000 per award for a two-year project period. Request for proposals are announced every several years.

**How to apply** To find the application or more information, visit

<https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice>

**[Factsheet on Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Cooperative Agreement Program](#)**

### Other EJ-Related Funding Opportunities

- **[Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training Grants](#)** - These grants allow nonprofit and other organizations to recruit, train, and place predominantly low-income and minority, unemployed and underemployed people living in areas affected by solid and hazardous waste. Residents learn the skills needed to secure full-time, sustainable employment in the environmental field, including assessment and cleanup. These green jobs reduce environmental contamination and build more sustainable futures for communities.
- **[Diesel Emissions Reduction Act \(DERA\) Grants](#)** - Since 2008, EPA has funded nearly 60,000 pieces of clean diesel technology through the National Clean Diesel Campaign. These technologies include emissions and idle control devices, aerodynamic equipment, engine and vehicle replacements, and alternative fuel options. The projects meet critical local air quality needs by deploying both proven and emerging technologies much earlier than would otherwise occur.
- **[Extramural Research: STAR Grants, P3, Fellowships, & SBIR Programs](#)** - Supporting high quality research by the nation's leading scientists and engineers to improve EPA's scientific basis for decisions on national environmental issues. EPA supports leading edge extramural research in exposure, effects, risk assessment, and risk management through competitions for STAR grants, fellowships, and research contracts under the Small Business Innovative Research Program.



## Brownfields

### EPA Brownfields Funding

EPA's Brownfields program provides direct funding for Brownfields assessment, cleanup, revolving loans, and environmental job training. To facilitate the leveraging of public resources, EPA's Brownfields Program collaborates with other EPA programs, other federal partners, and state agencies to identify and make available resources that can be used for Brownfields activities. In addition to direct Brownfields funding, EPA also provides technical information on Brownfields financing matters. [Learn more here](#).

[Region 3 \(serving DE, DC, MD, PA, VA, and WV\) Brownfields Program](#)

[Region 4 \(serving AL, FL, GA, KY, MS, NC, SC, and TN\) Brownfields Program](#)

### EPA Brownfield Resources

- [Sign on to the Brownfields Listserv](#) to receive updates on grants announcements and connect with potential partners.
- [The Central Appalachian Brownfields Innovation Network \(CABIN\)](#) CABIN provides education on the benefits of the sustainable redevelopment of brownfields and formerly mined lands. CABIN works with stakeholders across Appalachia through face-to-face and a virtual platform for peer exchange of best practices and tools by facilitating redevelopment experience-sharing between brownfield-impacted communities in Central Appalachia. CABIN matches redevelopment leaders and stakeholders from across the region with communities facing similar opportunities and challenges, allowing communities to learn from the best practices and experiences of their peers.
- [Technical Assistance to Brownfield Communities Program \(NJIT TAB\)](#) Technical Assistance to Brownfield (TAB) Communities is a program ran by The New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT) that offers (completely free) independent resource to communities and nonprofits attempting to cleanup and reclaim brownfields. The program is available to communities in EPA Regions 1, 3 and 4 who are interested in learning about, identifying, assessing, cleaning up and/or redeveloping brownfields. The program provides free assistance in every step of the brownfield redevelopment process. Call the **NJIT TAB Hotline** at 973-642-4165 or by email at [tab@njit.edu](mailto:tab@njit.edu)
- [Central Appalachian Brownfields Project Marketplace](#) The Central Appalachian Brownfields Project Marketplace is hosted by the West Virginia

Brownfields Assistance Centers at West Virginia University and Marshall University. This portfolio showcases redevelopment sites in West Virginia, Kentucky, Virginia, Tennessee, Ohio, North Carolina, and Pennsylvania and is provided free to attendees of the Inaugural Central Appalachian Regional Brownfields Summit in Charleston, West Virginia September 7th and 8th, 2016.

\*Starting January 1, 2018, EPA will require a new process called "Workspace" for submitting grant proposals/applications through [grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov). EPA's Office of Grants and Debarment recorded two Grants.gov-led sessions that provides training and a demonstration on Workspace. Recordings of these webinars can be found [here](#).

## Small Business Administration (SBA)

SBA, through its Small Business Development Center (SBDC) program, intends to provide up to three \$100,000 Portable Assistance grants to SBDCs in coal-impacted communities to conduct additional, concerted technical assistance and counseling to existing and aspiring small businesses in these areas. Through its Office of Native American Affairs (ONAA), SBA intends to provide up to three \$50,000 7(j) technical assistance grant awards to provide training and counseling to aspiring small business owners in Native American communities impacted by changes in the coal economy. Additionally, ONAA will provide education and training to tribal leaders in coal-impacted Native American communities through an executive education program developed in partnership with The New School. Through its Regional Innovation Cluster program, SBA intends to award preference points to applicants serving coal-impacted communities if the agency issues a new Regional Innovation Cluster solicitation.

Contact Information: Matthew Stevens, [Matthew.Stevens@sba.gov](mailto:Matthew.Stevens@sba.gov)

## United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)

### Rural Business Cooperative Service (RBS)

USDA's Rural Business-Cooperative Service offers programs to support business development and job training opportunities for rural residents.

Our programs help provide the capital, technical support, educational opportunities and entrepreneurial skills that can help rural residents start and grow businesses or access jobs in agricultural markets and in the bio-based economy. USDA and our public and private partners are connecting rural residents to the global economy by:

Supporting business growth and development;

- Facilitating sustainable renewable energy development;
- Developing regional food systems;
- Generating and retaining jobs through recreation and natural resource restoration, conservation, and management;
- Increasing access to broadband

These investments support the nation's long-term prosperity by ensuring that rural communities are self-sustaining, repopulating and thriving economically. [Learn more.](#)

Contact Information: Sam Rikkers, [samuel.rikkers@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:samuel.rikkers@wdc.usda.gov)

## Multi-Agency and Special Programs

### POWER Funding<sup>2</sup>

The *Partnerships for Opportunity and Workforce Economic Revitalization Program (POWER)* Initiative is an integrated, multi-agency effort to invest federal economic and workforce development resources in communities and regions negatively impacted by changes in the coal economy, including the complete supply chain of coal-reliant industries, i.e. coal mining, coal-fired power plants, and related transportation, logistics, and supply chain manufacturing.

The POWER Initiative is administered by the Appalachian Regional Commission, the U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration, and the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration. In 2016, these three administration's invested \$38.8 million in coal-impacted communities.

If you want to know more, don't hesitate to contact program representatives in the early stages of your planning and proposal, to determine which funding streams are most applicable to your community project, and for technical assistance.

### ARC

ARC POWER funding gives preferences to investments that successfully address factors such as having a regional focus, being large-scale projects, articulating

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<sup>2</sup> Information here is based on funding that was announced in 2016. POWER Initiative Funding for 2017 will depend on the 2017 Budget to be passed by Congress. We will update this page accordingly.



long-term assessment and planning, are targeted to economic restructuring, are collaborative and demonstrate community commitment, and finally, are outcome driven.

ARC POWER funding priorities consisted of:

- Building a competitive workforce;
- Enhancing access to and use of broadband services;
- Fostering entrepreneurial activities; and
- Developing industry clusters in communities; and
- Strengthening substance abuse response.

It is anticipated that projects receiving ARC funding will include one or more of the following as their primary outcomes:

- Jobs created: New, high-quality jobs that did not exist in the locale prior to the activity.
- Jobs obtained: Workers are assisted in securing employment in existing high-quality jobs; may involve training and other services.
- Businesses created: Any new business started in the locale, both by local entrepreneurs and start-ups and new facilities located in the community by existing businesses.

POWER Initiative are currently available through both EDA and ARC. It is strongly encouraged that you to [contact state program representatives](#) in the early stages of your proposal planning to determine which funding streams are most applicable to your community project and to receive technical assistance.

[For an overview of the current program, click here.](#)

[For recent awards summaries and more information, click here.](#)

### **Assistance to Coal Communities**

EDA is facilitating a program that was previously referred to as POWER, now called Assistance to Coal Communities. EDA's role is to facilitate planning, collaboration and coordination among participating federal agencies to ensure that:

- Assistance to Coal Communities grant funds are competitively awarded to those projects designed to produce transformational economic diversification and workforce development outcomes; and
- Multiple federal funding streams are successfully aligned and integrated to support various projects, and are invested in discrete, non-duplicative activities.

We strongly encourage you to contact program representatives in the early stages of your planning and proposal, to determine which funding streams are most applicable to your community project, and for technical assistance.

Inquiries about any aspect of ACC grants can be submitted by email to [edi@eda.gov](mailto:edi@eda.gov).

[For most recent award summaries, click here.](#)

### **POWER National Dislocated Worker Grants**

In 2015, the White House announced the Partnerships for Opportunity in Workforce and Economic Revitalization (POWER) Initiative in an effort to address displacement of energy sector workers and impacted communities that have relied on the coal industry. ETA awards POWER National Dislocated Worker Grants (DWGs) to state workforce development agencies on behalf of eligible coal-impacted communities. POWER DWGs may be requested by a state workforce agency in coordination with, and on behalf of, communities or regional economies that have seen significant layoffs of workers in coal mining, coal-fired power plants, and in the manufacturing, transportation or logistics chains of either. POWER DWGs provide not only traditional training and reemployment services for affected workers, but also include a strategic planning component, allowing the grantees to use a portion of the grant funds to align the economic and workforce development strategies in local communities to promote economic diversification and job growth.

POWER DWG funds will be available for award between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2018, or until the balance of the \$38 million set-aside has been awarded. Eligible applicants may apply at any point during this open period; DWGs are available on a rolling basis to respond to needs that arise, and are not limited to specific application periods. ETA, along with partners such as Manufacturing Extension Partnerships (MEP), also intends to provide technical assistance to state and local workforce development agencies and partners, focusing primarily on use of existing resources, including state Rapid Response funds, to conduct layoff aversion activities to minimize the impacts of downturns in the coal industry on downstream industries and sectors.

Contact Information: Jeff Ryan, [Ryan.Jeff@dol.gov](mailto:Ryan.Jeff@dol.gov)

[August 2016 awards summary](#)

[October 2016 awards announcement](#)

## The RECLAIM Act

### A Legislative Opportunity to Reclaim Abandoned Mine Lands



## The RECLAIM Act

*A vital economic boost for communities struggling with the decline of the coal industry*

The RECLAIM Act is a powerful step toward revitalizing communities adversely affected by America's shift away from coal. The bill commits \$1 billion to help clean up dangerous abandoned coal mines, which will spur job creation and local business investment for community oriented, economic development and diversification projects. The projects already in operation are highly popular in the surrounding communities and expanding their number and reach will help more communities build better, brighter futures.

RECLAIM is a major opportunity for areas that have historically depended on the coal industry for jobs, economic stability, and union benefits to rebuild themselves by creating new, diverse businesses on their own terms. RECLAIM is by no means a cure-all for regions adversely affected by America's shift away from coal, but it is a strong answer to the call for more diversification in their economies and can be a guiding light for innovative policies to help them rebuild.



PHOTO CREDIT: ADAM WELLS, APPALACHIAN VOICES. COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION PROJECT IN RUSSELL COUNTY, VIRGINIA THAT INCLUDES DEVELOPMENT OF MULTI-USE TRAILS TO CONNECT DOWNTOWN DANTE TO OTHER NEARBY COMMUNITIES AND RECREATION AREAS, AND THE SEALING OF TWO OPEN MINE PORTALS.



If your district contains abandoned mines, this bipartisan proposal will benefit your constituents directly. Even if your district has no abandoned mines, this bill creates jobs in communities that are struggling and uses existing funds.

According to the OSMRE, an estimated 4,600 reclamation jobs would be created across the country, and laid off miners have the skills necessary for this type of work. The funding supplied through RECLAIM isn't just about cleaning up abandoned mining sites, it's also about rebuilding communities to be stronger and more resilient in a changing economic landscape through comprehensive local discussions and shared benefits. What's needed in these communities is real economic diversity and opportunities that extend beyond coal mining with good family-sustaining wages, union memberships, and gainful benefits.

The funds would strategically clean up sites that are linked to a long-term economic project on the reclaimed site, such as agriculture, renewable energy, industrial parks, and recreational tourism projects—a process that doesn't take a cent of taxpayer money. The \$1 billion would come from the \$2.3 billion Abandoned Mine Lands (AML) Fund currently sitting in Washington that is untouched and gathering interest. Under the status quo, this \$1 billion will be disbursed to Uncertified AML states and tribes in 2023 and thereafter, while Certified states and tribes (such as Missouri, Wyoming, Louisiana, and Texas) will not receive anything. Under RECLAIM however, even certified states would receive \$25 million for mine reclamation.

The RECLAIM Act is a real opportunity to create jobs, empower local communities, and build long-term opportunities for working families in communities where coal has historically been the backbone of the local economy.

Now more than ever, it is imperative that Congress pass it as quickly as possible. We're calling on members of Congress to show their support for RECLAIM by joining the growing list of co-sponsors of this legislation.



PHOTO CREDIT: EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA COALITION FOR ABANDONED MINE RECLAMATION. SIXTH-GRADE STUDENTS COLLECT IRON OXIDE FROM ACID MINE DRAINAGE IMPACTED STREAMS ON THE SUSQUEHANNA RIVER AND ITS TRIBUTARIES IN LUZERNE COUNTY, PA.



PHOTO CREDIT: COAL COUNTRY SPORTS COMPLEX. BEFORE THERE WERE SOCCER FIELDS ON THE SITE THERE WAS THE LITTLE DOG COAL MINE, AN UNDERGROUND PILLAR AND POST MINE THAT WAS THE ECONOMIC ENGINE OF THE CITY UNTIL IT CLOSED IN THE LATE 1960'S.

## Just Transition Resources

### Appalachian Transition Fellowship Program

<http://www.appfellows.org/>

The Appalachian Transition Fellowship is a year-long, full-time, paid program designed for emerging community leaders who are committed to working in Central Appalachia for the economic transition of the region.

**Geographic Interest:** Central Appalachia is defined as West Virginia, Southwest Virginia, Eastern Kentucky, Eastern Tennessee, Appalachian Ohio and Western North Carolina.

### Non Extractive Financing Loans

Non-Extractive Financing Funders support communities that work towards a Just Transition to socially, culturally, and ecologically sustainable and fair economies through infrastructure that democratizes wealth.

A core part of this Just Transition is the creation of cooperatively-governed enterprises that are committed to improving conditions in the community through their products and services that meet community needs. By building a cooperative economy through our collective efforts, we strengthen community resilience, the ability to withstand and recover from shocks and disruptions. Most importantly, the daily practice of cooperation helps us transform the dynamics between ourselves, our communities and the rest of the living world from interactions that are transactional to relationships that are sacred.

### Climate Justice Alliance Just Transition Fund

The CJA Just Transition Loan Fund & Incubator will support (1) development of community & worker controlled just transition projects through technical assistance and non-extractive financing; (2) development of local non-extractive loan funds; and (3) shared learning opportunities to build our capacities to build the economies we need.

### CRITERIA:

The loan fund & incubator will use the following criteria to prioritize support for projects:

- Productive sustainability - designed to be economically self-sustaining
- Maximizes community benefit and builds community leadership, capacity, and collective power
- Radical inclusion - projects in communities and regions with less access to resources or more impacted by extraction
- Non-extraction - builds community wealth
- Builds cooperative, democratic ownership within communities
- Aligns with CJA Just Transition Principles
- Connects to ongoing CJA Just Transition campaigns that are visionary and oppositional

- Accountable to a base of CJA members

Contact: [lupe@climatejusticealliance.org](mailto:lupe@climatejusticealliance.org)

### The Working World

The Working World builds cooperative businesses in low-income communities, using a groundbreaking model that combines non-extractive finance with tailor-made business support. They put finance in the hands of working people without making them put down collateral or take on the burden of debt that may threaten their wellbeing.

Communities can apply who are located in the Working World's peer network.

<https://www.theworkingworld.org/us/peer-network/>

## Private Foundation Grant Writing Resources

### Foundation Center Resources

Foundation Center maintains the most comprehensive database on grantmakers and their grants. It also operates research, education, and training programs designed to advance knowledge of philanthropy at every level. <http://foundationcenter.org/>

- **The Funding Information Network:** The Foundation Center provides free funding information through more than 450 Funding Information Network located at libraries, community foundations, and other nonprofit resource centers. These centers provide access to the Foundation Center Grant Database to be used for grant research as well as training and additional resources. Find a network location near you at <http://foundationcenter.org/ask-us/find-us>
- **GrantSpace:** GrantSpace provides easy-to-use, self-service tools and resources to help nonprofits worldwide become more viable grant applicants and build strong, sustainable organizations. At GrantSpace you can find online classes and events, view sample grant documents, read grant writing advice and articles, and find answers to your grant related question. <http://grantspace.org/>

### Grassroots Institute for Fundraising Training (GIFT)

GIFT promotes the connection between fundraising, social justice and movement-building. We believe that how groups are funded is as important to achieving their goals as how the money is spent, and that building community support is central to long-term social change. We provide training, resources and analysis to strengthen organizations, with an emphasis on those focused on social justice and based in communities of color. <http://www.grassrootsfundraising.org/>