

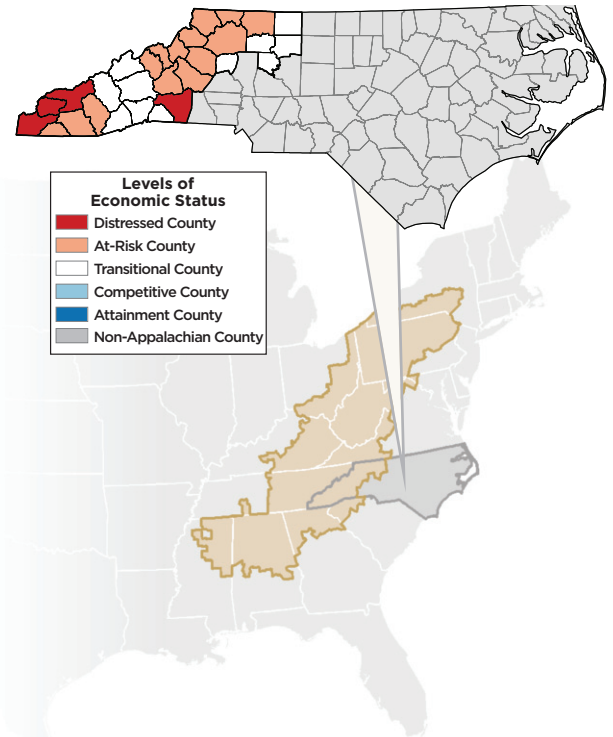


INVESTMENTS IN NORTH CAROLINA October 2015–January 2017

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. ARC’s strategic plan identifies five investment goals to advance this mission: creating economic opportunity; preparing a ready workforce; building critical infrastructure; leveraging natural and cultural assets; and cultivating leadership and community capacity.

In partnership with the **North Carolina Department of Commerce**, ARC has supported **68 projects** in North Carolina totaling more than **\$7.3 million**. These investments have been matched by more than **\$14.1 million** and will attract an additional **\$42.0 million** in leveraged private investments in North Carolina. They will also create or retain more than **1,200 jobs**, train and educate more than **1,400 students and workers**, and benefit the **1.7 million residents** in **North Carolina’s 29 Appalachian counties**.

County Economic Status in Appalachian North Carolina, FY 2016



INVESTMENT PRIORITIES IN NORTH CAROLINA

The North Carolina Department of Commerce has prioritized these three ARC investment goals:



READY WORKFORCE

ARC has invested over **\$1.8 million** to increase the education, knowledge, skills, and health of North Carolina’s Appalachian residents to work and succeed.



CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

ARC has invested over **\$3.0 million** in North Carolina’s critical infrastructure development, including broadband, transportation, and water/wastewater systems.



LEADERSHIP & COMMUNITY CAPACITY

ARC has invested nearly **\$1.6 million** to build the capacity and skills of Appalachia’s current and next-generation leaders and organizations in North Carolina to advance community and economic development



ADDITIONAL PRIORITIES

ARC has invested an additional **\$900,000** to strengthen the economy and leverage cultural and natural assets in Appalachian North Carolina.

IMPACT ON DISTRESSED COUNTIES

In Appalachian North Carolina, **four counties** were considered economically distressed in fiscal year 2016. **36 projects** totaling **66%** of ARC investment dollars will have a direct impact on these counties.

INVESTMENTS IN ACTION

ARC invested nearly **\$1.8 million** to strengthen North Carolina’s economy by expanding manufacturing training programs and bolstering rural wi-fi capabilities. With these investments, the state’s **Isothermal Community College** and **Southwestern Community College** will be able to develop **robust curricula and technical training** in manufacturing related to the automotive and aerospace industries, and ten rural communities in western North Carolina will be able to offer **enhanced wi-fi services** to visitors, residents, and students. Bryson City, Forest City, Granite Falls, Hudson, Morganton, Rosman, Valdese, Walnut Cove, Wilkesboro, and the town of Rutherford College will receive direct support to expand and increase wi-fi services to their downtowns to benefit students, support Main Street development, attract visitors, and **serve more than 415 businesses**.