

PROJECT PACKAGE

FY2027

**Appalachian Regional Commission
and
Economic Development Administration**

June 2026



**TRI COUNTY
COUNCIL**
FOR WESTERN MARYLAND

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ARC STRATEGIC GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

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ARC STRATEGIC GOALS AND OBJECTIVES



ARC's mission is to innovate, partner, and invest to build community capacity and strengthen economic growth in Appalachia.

The Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) is a regional economic development agency that represents a partnership of federal, state, and local government. Established by an act of Congress in 1965, ARC is composed of the governors of the 13 Appalachian states and a federal co-chair, who is appointed by the president. Local participation is provided through multi-county local development districts. ARC invests in activities that address the five goals identified in the Commission's strategic plan:

1 Building Appalachian Businesses

Strengthen and diversify the Region's economy through inclusive economic development strategies and investments in entrepreneurship and business development.

2 Building Appalachia's Workforce Ecosystem

Expand and strengthen community systems (education, healthcare, housing, Childcare, and others) that help Appalachians obtain a job, stay on the job, and advance along a financially sustaining career pathway.

3 Building Appalachia's Infrastructure

Ensure that the residents and businesses of Appalachia have access to reliable and affordable utilities and infrastructure in order to successfully live and work in the region.

4 Building Regional Culture and Tourism

Strengthen Appalachia's community and economic development potential by preserving and investing in the Region's local, cultural heritage, and natural assets.

5 Building Community Leaders and Capacity

Invest in the capacity of local leaders, organizations, and communities to address local challenges by providing technical assistance and support to access resources, engage partners, identify strategies and tactics, and conduct effective planning and project execution.

Each year ARC provides funding for several hundred investments in the Appalachian Region, in areas such as business development, education and job training, telecommunications, infrastructure, community development, housing, and transportation. These projects create thousands of new jobs; improve local water and sewer systems; increase school readiness; expand access to health care; assist local communities with strategic planning; and provide technical and managerial assistance to emerging businesses.



AREA DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS CRITERIA

Area Development Projects Criteria

Maryland's FY27 ARC Area Development package will be assembled to advance job-creating economic development across Allegany, Garrett, and Washington Counties by investing in infrastructure, sites, workforce, and innovation assets that enable private-sector growth.

The following items were considered before a project was submitted for consideration of the Appalachian Regional Commission Area Development Program.

- Projects consistent with the 2026 Maryland ARC Strategy Statement should be given priority. Some of these projects include Technology Development, Broadband, Education and Workforce Development, Tourism, Energy, Recovery Ecosystems and Traditional Infrastructure. <https://www.tccwmd.org/wp-content/uploads/State-of-MD-ARC-Annual-Strategy-Statement-FY2026.pdf>.
- Also, please note that each project should be able to demonstrate measurable outcomes and/or economic impact. <https://www.arc.gov/resource/guide-to-arc-project-performance-measures/>.
- References should be made to any plan and/or economic development documents that show the project is part of an overall plan for stimulating economic development.
- Please refer to the ARC Strategic Goals and Objectives when completing the PPD. Ensure that your project is consistent with them. <https://www.tccwmd.org/wp-content/uploads/State-Strategic-Goals-and-Objectives-2024-2028.pdf>
- Matching funds for projects must be in place and committed at the time of application. Once projects are invited to apply, applications will be due by November 15, 2026.

PRIORITY LIST FY 2027

AREA DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

PROJECT NAME	County	ARC	Federal	Local/State	Private/ Other	TOTAL
Consolidated Technical Assistance	Region	\$350,000			\$350,000	\$700,000
<u>TCCWMD Regional Request Total</u>		\$350,000			\$350,000	\$700,000
1 <u>Barton Business Park Pad Site Development</u>	Allegany	\$100,000	\$0	\$100,000	\$0	\$200,000
2 <u>ACM Western Maryland Works Welding Equipment Modernization for Workforce Training</u>	Allegany	\$150,000	\$0	\$150,000	\$0	\$300,000
3 <u>ACM Dental Clinic Facility Upgrade for Workforce Training</u>	Allegany	\$146,300	\$0	\$146,300	\$0	\$292,600
4 <u>Western Maryland Advanced Manufacturing and Product Commercialization Hub</u>	Allegany	\$243,000	\$0	\$243,000	\$0	\$486,000
5 <u>Academy of Health – Program Expansion</u>	Allegany	\$45,000	\$0	\$45,000	\$0	\$90,000
6 <u>Bishop Walsh School: Enhanced Makerspace for AI, Cybersecurity, Computer Science, and Engineering</u>	Allegany	\$25,000	\$0	\$25,000	\$0	\$50,000
7 <u>Equipment for Scientific Research and Training</u>	Allegany	\$262,500	\$0	\$262,500	\$0	\$525,000

	PROJECT NAME	County	ARC	Federal	Local/State	Private/ Other	TOTAL
8	<u>Water Sustainability Improvements – New Well and Pump Station Design</u>	Allegany	\$127,500	\$0	\$127,500	\$0	\$255,000
9	<u>UPMC Healthcare Access – Surgical Technology</u>	Allegany	\$125,000	\$0	\$125,000	\$0	\$250,000
10	<u>Network Modernization to Support Workforce Training</u>	Allegany	\$215,000	\$0	\$215,000	\$0	\$430,000
11	<u>ACM Automotive Technology Hybrid Vehicle for Workforce Training</u>	Allegany	\$44,000	\$0	\$44,000	\$0	\$88,000
12	<u>Enhancing the Capacity of FSU’s Communication Leadership Lab</u>	Allegany	\$45,000	\$0	\$45,000	\$0	\$90,000
13	<u>UPMC Laboratory Diagnostic System</u>	Allegany	\$117,500	\$0	\$117,500	\$0	\$235,000
14	<u>Updating the ACM Workforce Training and Development Center</u>	Allegany	\$500,000	\$0	\$500,000	\$0	\$1,000,000
<u>Allegany County Request Totals</u>			\$2,145,800	\$0	\$2,145,800	\$0	\$4,291,600
1	<u>The Western Maryland Area Health Education (AHEC West) Oakland Opportunity Hub</u>	Garrett	\$500,000	\$0	\$0	\$700,000	\$1,200,000
2	<u>McHenry Water/Sewer Line Extension US219</u>	Garrett	\$1,500,000	\$0	\$1,500,000	\$0	\$3,000,000
3	<u>Garrett County Community Action Council Transitional Housing Project</u>	Garrett	\$400,000	\$0	\$400,000	\$0	\$800,000
4	<u>825 High Street Community Workforce & Innovation Center</u>	Garrett	\$250,000	\$0	\$0	\$250,000	\$500,000

	PROJECT NAME	County	ARC	Federal	Local/State	Private/ Other	TOTAL
5	<u>Mountain Laurel Medical Center Dental Clinic</u>	Garrett	\$40,000	\$0	\$0	\$40,000	\$80,000
<u>Garrett County Request Totals</u>			\$2,690,000		\$1,900,000	\$990,000	\$5,580,000
1	<u>Regional Entrepreneur Growth Initiative</u>	Washington	\$50,000	\$0	\$50,000	\$0	\$100,000
2	<u>Transmission Line Upgrades</u>	Washington	\$500,000	\$0	\$500,000	\$0	\$1,000,000
3	<u>Appalachian Dementia Care Workforce Training and Therapeutic Wellness Demonstration Center</u>	Washington	\$100,000	\$0	\$100,000	\$0	\$200,000
4	<u>Marsh Run Trail Project</u>	Washington	\$75,000	\$0	\$75,000	\$0	\$150,000
5	<u>Western Maryland Skilled Trades Workforce Development Center</u>	Washington	\$750,000	\$0	\$750,000	\$600,000	\$2,100,000
6	<u>Town of Hancock Collection System Replacement</u>	Washington	\$261,500	\$0	\$261,500	\$0	\$523,000
7	<u>Town of Smithsburg Wastewater Pump Station Replacement</u>	Washington	\$1,437,000	\$941,000	\$1,437,000	\$0	\$3,815,000
<u>Washington County Request Totals</u>			\$3,173,500	\$941,000	\$3,173,500	\$600,000	\$7,888,000
<u>Total Fundable Project Requests</u>			\$8,359,300	\$941,000	\$7,219,300	\$1,940,000	\$18,459,600

	PROJECT NAME	County	ARC	Federal	Local/State	Private/ Other	TOTAL
Projects Not Invited to Apply: **not eligible under ARC priorities/criteria							
1	<u>Seating and Furniture Refresh Project</u>	Washington	\$20,000	\$0	\$25,202	\$0	\$45,202
2	<u>Update to the City's Comprehensive Plan</u>	Washington	\$150,000	\$0	\$150,000	\$0	\$300,000
3	<u>Expansion of Printer Capacity for FSU and Community Use</u>	Allegany	\$93,000	\$0	\$93,000	\$0	\$186,000
4	<u>Garrett County Fairgrounds Infrastructure Project</u>	Garrett	\$400,000	\$0	\$400,000	\$0	\$800,000
Projects Not Invited to Apply: *not eligible as of 06/24/26 due to infrastructure ownership							
1	<u>Fort Ritchie Sewer System Improvements for Economic Development</u>	Washington	\$404,910	\$0	\$404,910	\$0	\$809,820

**PRELIMINARY
PROJECT
DESCRIPTIONS**

Preliminary Project Description

Project Name: Consolidated Technical Assistance (CTA)

Applicant: Tri County Council for Western Maryland

Contact: Guy Winterberg

County: Allegany/Garrett/Washington

Phone: 301-689-1300

Email: guy@tccwmd.org

Project Description:

Projects developed and submitted under the Consolidated Technical Assistance Program are smaller non-construction projects that focus on economic development and long-term sustainability. Projects should be able to demonstrate job growth and/or how the project will lead to private sector or other investment in the region. By consolidating these projects under this program, we aim to achieve helping the small towns or other grantees with little staff to still take advantage of available federal funds while lessening the amount of paperwork needed. While targeted projects for this grant are planning projects, any project that meets the criteria above would be eligible.

ARC Goals to Be Addressed, Objectives, and Strategy

ARC Investment Goal 1: Building Appalachian Businesses – Strengthen and diversify the Region’s economy through inclusive economic development strategies and investments in entrepreneurship and business development.

State Objective 1.2: Prepare for the economic development of the next century and attract new businesses.

State Strategy 1.2.4: Provide technical assistance and support development of plans and studies.

Proposed Basic Agency (*Construction Projects Only*):

Proposed Funding Sources and Amounts:

ARC	\$350,000
Other	<u>\$350,000</u>
Total Cost	\$700,000



Preliminary Project Description

Project Name: Barton Business Park Pad Site Development

Applicant: Allegany County

Contact: Jeff Barclay

County: Allegany

Phone: 301-777-5967

Email: jbarclay@alleganygov.org

Project Description:

Allegany County government is looking to make one of its remaining lots in the Barton Business Park shovel ready. The lot is 4G which is 17.28 acres in size. a 150,000 square feet pad will be constructed on the site. This means the lot will be graded, stone will be brought in, and sediment control will be completed. Additionally, fiber optic will be run to the pad.

This project will allow this business park to be more marketable to advanced manufacturing firms and for the circular economy. Having shovel ready sites shortens the time to market. The time to market begins when the lease is signed or the property is acquired, and ends when the building is completed and open for business. A shovel ready site reduces risk, cuts through permitting paperwork, and ultimately saves prospective businesses time and money usually required to prepare the sites for construction.

The Barton Business Park is the newest industrial park in Allegany County. This project is a key investment for the region and Allegany County. It will lead to additional jobs and economic opportunities for the entire Allegany County region. The County has sought to develop new business/industrial parks and encourage newer, less heavy, high tech firms like those in the advanced manufacturing sector and the circular economy sector to establish businesses in Allegany County. By filling the void left by heavy industry in the 1970's and 1980's with these smaller industries, Allegany County can enhance its existing workforce and promote community as well as economic development by marketing towards these businesses. This project will enhance the Barton Business Park which is one of the six business parks that Allegany County operates.

In addition to this project, which will enhance the Barton Business Park, the County also is developing additional economic development opportunities through its other existing industrial parks. This will help the County in its efforts to bring new businesses to the region and enhance the marketability of the Barton Business Park by creating business friendly, development ready sites. Each business/industrial park seeks to promote growth and development of a wide range of business enterprises, and by enhancing each individual park; it becomes more attractive to businesses contemplating locating in Allegany County. This in turn makes it easier to market the entire Allegany County region, and helps entice advanced manufacturing and circular economy businesses to the Barton Business Park location. In short, this pad site project at the Barton Business Park enhances the park and not only helps in the County's marketing efforts, but can be used as a tool to market other marketable sites already in place or planned for Allegany County.

ARC Goals to Be Addressed, Objectives, and Strategy

ARC Investment Goal 3: Building Appalachia's Infrastructure – Ensure that the residents and businesses of Appalachia have access to reliable, affordable, resilient, and energy efficient utilities and infrastructure in order to successfully live and work in the Region.

State Objective 3.5: Support construction of business development sites and public facilities and the adaptive reuse of obsolete and/or unsafe properties to stimulate economic and community development.

State Strategy: 3.5.1: Support investment in development ready sites.

Proposed Basic Agency (Construction Projects Only): MD DHCD

Proposed Funding Sources and Amounts:

Allegany County	\$100,000
ARC	<u>\$100,000</u>
Total Cost	\$200,000



Preliminary Project Description

Project Name: ACM Western Maryland Works Welding Equipment Modernization for Workforce Training

Applicant: Allegany College of Maryland

Contact: Courtney McKay

County: Allegany

Phone: 301-784-5153

Email: cjensen2@allegany.edu

Project Description:

Allegany College of Maryland's Western Maryland Works (WMW) facility delivers critical advanced manufacturing and welding training that prepares participants for high-demand careers in the region's manufacturing sector. The welding program currently serves approximately 40 students annually (10 MIG/TIG students and 10 stick welding students per semester). Furthermore, through partnerships with local trade unions and Industry Partners an additional 25 to 30 workforce trainees are served through the WMW welding programs annually.

The existing welding equipment is outdated (all current units average 12 to 20 years old) and falls below current industry standards. Students are therefore being trained on equipment that does not reflect the modern tools and processes they will encounter upon entering the workforce. This project will replace the outdated welders with modern, state-of-the-art, industry-standard welding equipment. Total project cost for this proposal is \$300,300.

The upgraded equipment will enable WMW to deliver higher-quality, relevant hands-on training aligned with AWS standards in processes such as MIG, TIG, and stick welding. These improvements will strengthen the regional welding workforce pipeline, support local manufacturing employers, and build on prior ARC investments such as MD-21700 Welding the Workforce: Robotic Welding Training. As a transitional Appalachian county, Allegany County will benefit from this investment through enhanced workforce readiness and economic diversification in advanced manufacturing.

ARC Goals to Be Addressed, Objectives, and Strategy

ARC Investment Goal 2: Building Appalachia's Workforce Ecosystem – Expand and strengthen community systems (education, healthcare, housing, childcare, and others) that help Appalachians obtain a job, stay on the job, and advance along a financially sustaining career pathway.

State Objective 2.1: Support and promote educational programs that will prepare students for jobs in the 21st century.

State Strategy 2.1.3: Work to create and support programs directed toward postsecondary access and success.

Proposed Basic Agency (Construction Projects Only):

Proposed Funding Sources and Amounts:

ARC	\$ 150,150
ACM Match	\$ <u>150,150</u>
Total Cost	\$ 300,300



Preliminary Project Description

Project Name: ACM Dental Clinic Facility Upgrade for Workforce Training

Applicant: Allegany College of Maryland

Contact: Courtney McKay

County: Allegany

Phone: 301-784-5153

Email: cjensen2@allegany.edu

Project Description:

The Allegany College of Maryland (ACM) Dental Hygiene Associate of Applied Science (AAS) program, a long-standing and highly successful initiative for over 50 years, trains future dental hygienists for entry into the workforce and successful careers. The program accepts a cohort of 20 students each fall into its two-year program. Participants routinely achieve first-attempt pass rates of 92–94% on the National Board Dental Hygiene Exam, with an overall pass rate of 100%.

In FY23, ACM received an Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) grant titled 'ACM Dental Hygiene Enhancement Project' to upgrade and replace critical equipment and training tools in the lab, including dental chairs, sensors, a digital radiography system, and a statim sterilization machine. However, the infrastructure and fixtures of the dental hygiene clinic, housed in the Allied Health building constructed in 1994, are long overdue for renovation.

This \$292,600 project will modernize the clinical training environment through targeted improvements including: restroom renovation, new clinic floor, new locking cabinets w/ medical-standard counter tops, new patient room furniture, and painting the entire dental clinical area. These upgrades will provide students with a clean, safe, and contemporary setting that supports high-quality hands-on training aligned with current industry standards.

As a transitional Appalachian county, Allegany County will benefit from this investment, which sustains a vital healthcare workforce pipeline, addresses regional dental professional shortages, and enables ACM to continue producing well-prepared graduates who fill in-demand positions in oral health care across Western Maryland and beyond.

ARC Goals to Be Addressed, Objectives, and Strategy:

ARC Investment Goal 2: Building Appalachia's Infrastructure – Ensure that the residents and businesses of Appalachia have access to reliable, affordable, resilient, and energy efficient utilities and infrastructure in order to successfully live and work in the Region.

State Objective 2.1: Support and promote educational programs that will prepare students for jobs in the 21st century.

State Strategy: 2.1.3: Work to create and support programs directed toward postsecondary access and success.

Proposed Basic Agency (Construction Projects Only):

Proposed Funding Sources and Amounts:

ARC	\$146,300
ACM Match	<u>\$146,300</u>
Total Cost	\$292,600



Preliminary Project Description

Project Name: Western Maryland Advanced Manufacturing and Product Commercialization Hub

Applicant: Frostburg State University

Contact: Jamil Abdo

County: Allegany

Phone: 301-687-7026

Email: jabdo@frostburg.edu

Project Description:

The proposed project will establish a Western Maryland Advanced Manufacturing and Product Commercialization Hub within the existing Center for Product Design and Advanced Manufacturing (CPDAM) at Frostburg State University. Building on current capabilities, the project will expand the center through the strategic acquisition of advanced manufacturing equipment, prototyping and testing systems, and integrated digital design and manufacturing tools to create a comprehensive, open-access innovation hub for the Appalachian region.

The hub will provide structured access and technical support services to small businesses, startups, entrepreneurs, and regional industries across Allegany and surrounding counties. Through this initiative, users will be able to move from initial concept to functional prototype and toward market-ready products within a single, integrated environment. Services will include engineering design support, rapid prototyping, product testing and validation, and small-batch manufacturing. These capabilities will reduce development costs, shorten time-to-market, and improve the competitiveness of local businesses.

The project will focus on several key objectives, including establishing a regional advanced manufacturing hub, supporting product development and commercialization for small businesses and startups, delivering workforce training in advanced manufacturing and digital design technologies, and strengthening partnerships between the university, industry, and regional stakeholders. The hub will also provide entrepreneurship and business development support, including guidance on commercialization, market readiness, and scaling strategies.

By integrating technical services, workforce training, and business support, the project will create a complete pipeline that supports innovation from concept to commercialization. The initiative will strengthen university-industry partnerships, support small business growth, and contribute to job creation and long-term economic development in Appalachian Maryland.

ARC Goals to Be Addressed, Objectives, and Strategy:

ARC Investment Goal 1: Building Appalachia's Businesses – Strengthen and diversify the Region's economy through inclusive economic development strategies and investments in entrepreneurship and business development.

State Objective 1.2: Prepare for the economic development of the next century and attract new businesses.

State Strategy 1.2.2: Facilitate the development of research and testing facilities and workforce training for new technology.

Proposed Basic Agency (*Construction Projects Only*):

Proposed Funding Sources:

ARC	\$243,000
FSU Match	<u>\$243,000</u>
TOTAL	\$486,000



Preliminary Project Description

Project Name: Academy of Health – Program Expansion

Applicant: Allegany County Board of Education

Contact: Joseph Brewer

County: Allegany

Phone: 301-729-1105

Email: joseph.brewer@acpsmd.org

Project Description:

Allegany County Public Schools seeks funding through the Appalachian Regional Commission to support the expansion of its Academy of Health Professions Career and Technical Education (CTE) program. The primary purpose of this funding request is to support the hiring of an additional full-time instructor, including salary and associated fixed costs for benefits, in order to increase student access and address critical workforce shortages in the regional healthcare sector.

The Academy of Health Professions prepares students to earn Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) and Geriatric Nursing Assistant (GNA) licensure—credentials that are in high demand across Allegany County. Local healthcare providers, including UPMC Western Maryland and area nursing homes, continue to report significant and persistent shortages of CNA/GNA-certified professionals. These positions are essential to maintaining patient care capacity and supporting the overall healthcare system in this rural Appalachian region.

Currently, the Academy of Health Professions operates with a single instructor who serves one cohort of 15 juniors and one cohort of 15 seniors, resulting in approximately 15 program completers annually. However, student demand for the program significantly exceeds capacity. For Fiscal Year 2027 (FY27), 31 students have applied for just 15 available seats, demonstrating a clear and sustained unmet need among students seeking healthcare career pathways.

To address both workforce shortages and student demand, Allegany County Public Schools proposes to expand the program through the addition of a second full-time instructor. This expansion will be implemented in phases:

FY27: The newly hired instructor will establish and teach an additional junior-level cohort of 15 students, immediately increasing program access.

FY28: The program will reach full implementation, with the second instructor supporting both a junior and senior cohort, effectively doubling total program capacity.

Upon full implementation, the program will serve up to 60 students annually (30 juniors and 30 seniors), resulting in approximately 30 CNA/GNA-certified graduates each year—doubling the current output of skilled healthcare workers entering the local workforce.

In addition to meeting employer needs, the project will expand equitable access to high-quality CTE programming, ensuring that more students—particularly those seeking immediate employment or postsecondary healthcare pathways—have the opportunity to obtain industry-recognized credentials while still in high school.

ARC Goals to Be Addressed, Objectives, and Strategy

ARC Investment Goal 2: Building Appalachia’s Workforce Ecosystem – Expand and strengthen community systems (education, healthcare, housing, childcare, and others) that help Appalachians obtain a job, stay on the job, and advance along a financially sustaining career pathway.

State Objective 2.4: Expand access to high quality healthcare as well as programs and services that support overall mental and physical health for workers and their families.

State Strategy 2.4.1: Work to create and support programs directed toward postsecondary access and success.

Proposed Basic Agency (Construction Projects Only):

Proposed Funding Sources:

ARC	\$45,000
Local Funds	<u>\$45,000</u>
Total Cost	\$90,000



Preliminary Project Description

Project Name: Bishop Walsh School: Enhanced Makerspace for AI, Cybersecurity, Computer Science, and Technology

Applicant: Bishop Walsh School

Contact: Merideth Nagle

County: Allegany

Phone: 301-724-5360

Email: mnagle@bishopwalsh.org

Project Description:

The Enhanced Maker space for AI, Cybersecurity, Computer Science, and Engineering Pathways project will transform Bishop Walsh School's existing maker space into an advanced, cyber-connected, AI-connected learning environment serving students in grades 5 through 12. Unlike a traditional maker space focused primarily on fabrication, this refreshed space will support hands-on learning tied directly to regional workforce needs in advanced manufacturing and engineering, aerospace and defense, biotechnology and life sciences, and computing-related fields including artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, software, and digital systems across Appalachian Maryland.

The project will be led by Bishop Walsh School and is intended to complement, not compete with, other strong STEM and innovation efforts already active in the region. The purpose is to broaden student opportunity in ways that also broaden the long-term workforce pipeline by adding another sustained, school-based access point during the regular school day and through after-school programming

During the school day, the enhanced maker space will support interdisciplinary instruction across language arts, art, music, media, business, mathematics, science, engineering, and agriculture-connected learning. Outside the school day, it will support clubs and programs such as robotics, STEM programming, BW Grows, and related innovation-focused activities.

A core instructional component will be the use of LEGO Education computer science and AI resources across multiple grade bands, supported by upgraded equipment such as computing workstations, cameras, desks, robotics and engineering materials, and related maker space resources. The project will also include teacher training led by experts from higher education and business, modest stipends for participating teachers, and honoraria for guest presenters. Teachers receiving project-supported training will be required to demonstrate that they have integrated at least one makerspace-supported activity, lesson, or project into their teaching, and those implementations will be documented in a shared repository for broader faculty discussion and possible use in adjacent courses.

Bishop Walsh School intends for this project to complement, not compete with, the many strong STEM, robotics, and innovation efforts already serving the region. The school recognizes and values the important work being done by organizations and partners across the area, including community-based initiatives that have helped build interest and capacity in robotics, engineering, and applied STEM.

This project is designed to add capacity to that ecosystem by creating an enhanced school-based makerspace that broadens access during the school day and through after-school programming, strengthens teacher integration across disciplines, and helps more students see pathways into high-demand fields. In that way, the project supports the same larger regional goal: expanding the workforce pipeline for Appalachian Maryland.

Over a 3-year project period, the project will focus on expanding student access, improving student skills and pathway awareness, and building teacher capacity for school-wide integration.

ARC Goals to Be Addressed, Objectives, and Strategy

ARC Investment Goal 2: Building Appalachia's Workforce Ecosystem – Expand and strengthen community systems (education, healthcare, housing, childcare, and others) that help Appalachian's obtain a job, stay on the job, and advance along a financially sustaining career pathway.

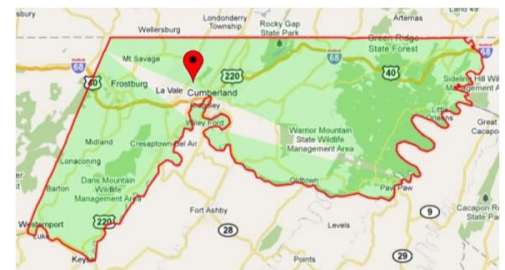
State Objective 2.1: Support and promote educational programs that will prepare students for jobs in the 21st century.

State Strategy 2.1.1: Expand and support the P-Tech model and K-12 STEM, alongside active learning labs in preparing students for 21st century jobs.

Proposed Basic Agency (Construction Projects Only):

Proposed Funding Sources and Amounts:

ARC	\$25,000
Bishop Walsh School	<u>\$25,000</u>
Total Cost	\$50,000



Preliminary Project Description

Project Name: Equipment for Scientific Research and Training

Applicant: Appalachian Laboratory

Contact: David Nelson

County: Allegany

Phone: 301-689-7171

Email: dnelson@umces.edu

Project Description:

The Appalachian Lab (AL) of the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science (UMCES) is a vital anchor institution in Frostburg, Maryland. The AL is renowned for its world-class research on the environment that helps to inform decision making by governments, non-profit organizations, and businesses locally, regionally, and throughout the world. The AL also serves as a hub for educating the next generation, workforce training, community engagement, and economic development. The lab provides essential STEM internship opportunities for local students, education opportunities for citizens, and serves as a gathering space for non-profit organizations. Annually, the AL contributes \$9+ million to the region's economy. Recent support from ARC helped AL upgrade its wired and wireless data networks and purchase equipment for research on improving agricultural productivity and on using artificial intelligence (AI) in environmental science. These investments have already created a > 20x return-on-investment, revolutionized AL's scientific capacity, created jobs, and contributed to economic development. In addition, recent public-private partnerships based at the AL have successfully leveraged external funding and are poised to create manufacturing jobs in Allegany County. To sustain this momentum, create long-term impact, and train students with the skills they need to succeed, the AL requires access to modern cutting-edge equipment and transportation. Here we request ARC support for state-of-the-art equipment to advance AL priorities in five areas that benefit the people, environment, and economy of western Maryland and Appalachia. First, we request funds for temperature imagers to discover ways to advance the management of forest resources. Second, we request funds for a quantitative polymerase chain reaction machine and a thermomixer to accelerate research in the field of environmental DNA and next-generation biomonitoring and aid in the management of aquatic resources. Third, we request funds for two vehicles dedicated to transporting and operating two new pieces of equipment to advance scientific understanding related to fertilizer production and animal migration, as well as to increase participation and enhance the experience of undergraduate students enrolled in our summer internship program. Fourth, we request funds for memory to increase the storage capacity of AL's high-speed, high-capacity, scientific computing cluster for big data and AI research. Finally, we request funds for hydrologic monitoring equipment to advance scientific understanding of flooding and help managers prevent and respond to such conditions in the region. FY27 ARC support of these priorities will enable new scientific insights, train students in new skills, create jobs, facilitate new public-private partnerships, increase the quality of research and educational at AL, and contribute to solving broad regional environmental challenges in Appalachia. Furthermore, this project will contribute to the region's goal of building an "outdoor economy" and it aligns with Allegany County's goal of attracting environmentally-focused businesses to the county.

ARC Goals to Be Addressed, Objectives, and Strategy:

ARC Investment Goal 1: Building Appalachian Businesses – Strengthen and diversify the Region's economy through inclusive economic development strategies and investments in entrepreneurship and business development.

State Objective 1.2: Prepare for the economic development of the next century and attract new businesses.

State Strategy 1.2.2: Facilitate the development of research and testing facilities and workforce training for new technology.

Proposed Basic Agency (Construction Projects Only):

Proposed Funding Sources:

ARC	\$262,500
Appalachian Lab	<u>\$262,500</u>
TOTAL	\$525,000



Preliminary Project Description

Project Name: Water Sustainability Improvements - New Well and Pump Station Design

Applicant: The City of Frostburg

Contact: Emily Weber

County: Allegany

Phone: 301-914-1791

Email: eweber@frostburgcity.org

Project Description:

The City of Frostburg is completing a comprehensive Water Sustainability Improvements Project to strengthen system reliability and support long-term economic stability. Improvements include the engineering and design of a new well and pump station, installation of variable frequency drives (VFDs) at Piney Reservoir pump station, rehabilitation of an existing well at Savage Springs, and critical repairs to a finished water storage tank. Collectively, these improvements will increase system capacity, improve efficiency, and enhance operational flexibility.

While Frostburg's water system has historically provided reliable service, the past three years have exposed critical vulnerabilities that necessitate immediate investment. Since 2023, the City has intermittently provided water to neighboring municipalities in the George's Creek Valley area, including Midland, Lonaconing, and Barton, during periods of stress on their systems. These communities continue to face ongoing regional supply challenges, and while Frostburg remains committed to supporting its neighbors, doing so has placed a strain on the City's infrastructure.

This strain became especially evident during a drought event in 2024, when the City came dangerously close to depleting its available water supply while serving Frostburg residents and businesses, Frostburg State University, the City's largest water customer, and surrounding communities. This occurred during the summer months when university-related demand was at a seasonal low. Additionally, student enrollment was lower than in previous years, further reducing overall water usage. Under typical academic-year demand or historic enrollment levels, the City would likely have experienced a critical water shortage. In response, a voluntary water conservation notice was issued to reduce consumption.

These conditions highlight a significant risk to public health, service reliability, and economic development. Without strategic water infrastructure improvements, the City cannot reliably support future economic growth, including planned expansion within the industrial park. In addition, this limitation poses a direct risk to existing businesses that rely on dependable water service, as well as to future investment and job creation.

The City of Frostburg is seeking ARC funding for the engineering and design of a new well and pump station. A hydrogeologic assessment is currently underway, and initial test drilling has identified a strong groundwater flow indicating a promising water source for the new commercial well. The new well will not increase the City's total treated water output or encourage greater usage. Rather, its purpose is to safeguard the system during periods of drought, when a source may be temporarily offline, or during times of unusually high demand. Spreading demand across more sources creates the flexibility needed to address maintenance needs and respond to unexpected challenges without disrupting the distribution of water to our customers.

The collective improvements will address the aforementioned challenges by increasing system redundancy, improving energy efficiency, and enhancing overall reliability. By strengthening core infrastructure, Frostburg will be better positioned to maintain uninterrupted service to its residents and businesses, support neighboring communities, and accommodate growth. With funding from ARC, the City can take this critical step toward a more secure, flexible, and resilient water future.

ARC Goals to Be Addressed, Objectives, and Strategy

ARC Investment Goal 3: Building Appalachia's Infrastructure – Ensure that the residents and businesses of Appalachia have access to reliable, affordable, resilient, and energy efficient utilities and infrastructure in order to successfully live and work in the Region.

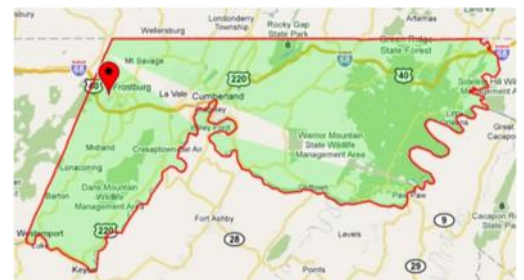
State Objective 3.1: Develop and support basic infrastructure and facilities needed to support community and economic development.

State Strategy 3.1.1: Develop and improve water systems to ensure that residents and businesses have clean water.

Proposed Basic Agency (Construction Projects Only): CDBG

Proposed Funding Sources:

ARC	\$127,500
MWIFA Capital Project	
Financial Assistance Request	<u>\$127,500</u>
Total	\$255,000



Preliminary Project Description

Project Name: Healthcare Access – Surgical Technology

Applicant: UPMC Western Maryland

Contact: Karen Johnson

County: Allegany

Phone: 240-964-8060

Email: Johnsonks@upmc.edu

Project Description:

UPMC Western Maryland is the only hospital in Allegany County, Maryland, the only full-service acute care hospital within an hour's drive, and the largest employer in the county with 2100 jobs and an economic impact of over \$725 million annually. This singular healthcare access and economic position aligns well with ARC goals and objectives: Investment Goal 2: Building Appalachia's Workforce Ecosystem, which includes expanding and strengthening community systems (notably, healthcare); Objective 2.4, highlighting expansion of access to high quality healthcare; and Strategy 2.4.4, supporting projects for healthcare prevention and wellness.

To maintain patient access to essential surgical procedures, to support a surgical team of 114 individuals, and to recruit additional surgeons, a critical piece of advanced technology must be purchased, and we are seeking ARC support.

The technology is a surgical C-Arm. The year 2000 model currently in use has well exceeded its expected lifespan, is technologically obsolete, and has become increasingly unreliable, causing unplanned downtime and delayed and/or canceled procedures. It is used in over 1000 procedures annually, and is central to neurointerventional and neurosurgical procedures, orthopedic surgery, urological surgery, bronchoscopies, and catheter and port placements.

Significant technological advances over the past two decades have rendered the 2000 model obsolete, incapable of providing enhanced imaging modes including radiation dose reduction, image clarity and precision, and real-time visualization for complex procedures. Modern dose optimization and imaging capabilities are especially critical in neurosurgical and vascular procedures where precision is non-negotiable.

Having reliable, modern technology is essential to maintain and grow surgical patient capacity, support sustained employment of surgical teams, enhance recruitment of surgeons, and ensure the facility remains competitive in the region.

To summarize, highly utilized and critical equipment has become unreliable. The outdated technology cannot provide imaging services now regularly available to patients in other areas. Without modernization, our area will not be able to continue to compete in the healthcare economy, nor serve our existing patients and attract new ones. In addition--and critical to our rural area--we need this technology to attract surgeons in a very competitive market. Our current complement of surgeons is 40, and we are recruiting for an orthopedist, a gastroenterologist, and an obstetrician. Average surgeon salaries range from \$400k (general) to \$800k (specialists) and each successful recruitment leverages several additional support staff.

ARC Goals to Be Addressed, Objectives, and Strategy

ARC Investment Goal 2: Building Appalachia's Workforce Ecosystem – Expand and strengthen community systems (education, healthcare, housing, childcare, and others) that help Appalachians obtain a job, stay on the job, and advance along a financially sustaining career pathway.

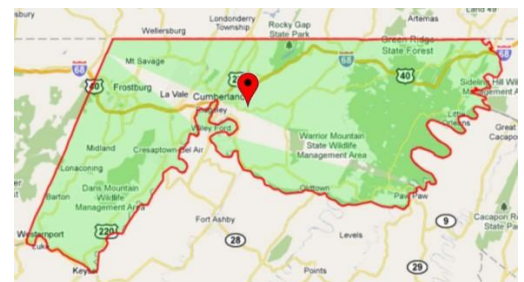
State Objective 2.4: Expand access to high quality healthcare as well as programs and services that support overall mental and physical health for workers and their families.

State Strategy 2.4.2: Increase access to comprehensive and affordable healthcare.

Proposed Basic Agency (Construction Projects Only):

Proposed Funding Sources and Amounts:

ARC	\$125,000
UPMC WMD	<u>\$125,000</u>
Total Cost	\$250,000



Preliminary Project Description

Project Name: Network Modernization to Support Workforce Training
Applicant: Allegany College of Maryland
Contact: Courtney McKay
County: Allegany
Phone: 301-784-5143
Email: cjensen2@allegany.edu

Project Description:

Upgrading aging wireless access points and replacing end-of-life network switches on Allegany College of Maryland campuses is a critical investment to ensure reliable, secure, high-performance wireless access in a modern BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) environment. The current infrastructure, built for far fewer devices and older Wi-Fi standards, can no longer meet academic, residential, or workforce training demand.

This investment advances regional economic development by expanding Allegany College of Maryland’s capacity to deliver high-quality workforce training in healthcare, trades, advanced manufacturing, cybersecurity, business, and emerging fields. Reliable, high-bandwidth wireless infrastructure is necessary to support hands-on training with industry standard technology, virtual simulations, cloud-based workforce platforms, and hybrid instructional models increasingly used by regional employers. Enhanced connectivity enables ACM to scale programs that prepare residents for high-demand jobs, support employer upskilling needs, and improve job placement pipelines throughout Western Maryland.

Students now connect multiple devices simultaneously, creating high-density usage that older access points cannot support. This results in congestion, dropped connections, and inconsistent performance during peak instructional and residential periods. Modern Wi-Fi 6/-capable access points are designed for these environments, offering higher throughput, lower latency, and increased efficiency for cloud-based coursework, collaboration tools, video learning, and technical platforms used in career and workforce programs.

Many supporting network switches are end of life, no longer receiving security updates or hardware support. These devices lack the power, speed, and reliability required for today's wireless infrastructure, particularly adequate PoE (Power over Ethernet) capacity and multi-gigabit bandwidth. Replacing them is necessary to enable the full performance and security benefits of new access points and to reduce the risk of outages, bottlenecks, and vulnerabilities.

A modernized wireless and switching environment is essential for effective BYOD support and equitable student access. It ensures consistent connectivity across academic, residential, and training environments; reduces classroom and lab disruptions; and meets student expectations for enterprise-grade wireless service. These upgrades directly strengthen learning accessibility, program delivery, and overall operational efficiency.

ARC Goals to Be Addressed, Objectives, and Strategy:

ARC Investment Goal 2: Building Appalachia’s Workforce Ecosystem – Expand and strengthen community systems (education, healthcare, housing, childcare, and others) that help Appalachians obtain a job, stay on the job, and advance along a financially sustaining career pathway.

State Objective 2.1: Support and promote educational programs that will prepare students for jobs in the 21st century.

State Strategy 2.1.3: Work to create and support programs directed toward postsecondary access and success.

Proposed Basic Agency (Construction Projects Only):

Proposed Funding Sources:

ARC	\$215,000
Allegany College of Maryland	<u>\$215,000</u>
TOTAL	\$430,000



Preliminary Project Description

Project Name: ACM Automotive Technology Hybrid Vehicle for Workforce Training

Applicant: Allegany College of Maryland

Contact: Courtney McKay

County: Allegany

Phone: 301-784-5153

Email: cjensen2@allegany.edu

Project Description:

Allegany College of Maryland (ACM) proposes to purchase one hybrid-powered vehicle to modernize hands-on training equipment in the Automotive Technology Associate of Applied Science (AAS) and Certificate (CERT) programs. The programs' current fleet consists of two full electric vehicles and numerous internal combustion vehicles; however, there is no hybrid vehicle available for instruction.

According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, hybrid vehicle sales continued to surge in 2025 while battery electric vehicle sales declined, with approximately 22% of all light-duty vehicles sold in the U.S. being hybrid, battery electric, or plug-in hybrid with hybrids specifically gaining market share and now surpassing true electric vehicles in growth trajectory. This shift in consumer and industry demand highlights the need for automotive technicians skilled in hybrid systems.

The hybrid vehicle will enable ACM to deliver updated curriculum in hybrid powertrain diagnostics, maintenance, repair, and safety to approximately 25 students per year across the AAS and CERT programs. Students will gain real-world, applied skills aligned with current industry standards and ASE certification pathways.

As a transitional Appalachian county, Allegany County benefits from this investment, which directly addresses regional workforce shortages in advanced automotive technology and supports economic diversification by producing job-ready graduates for employers in transportation, fleet services, and emerging green vehicle sectors.

ARC Goals to Be Addressed, Objectives, and Strategy:

ARC Investment Goal 2: Building Appalachia's Workforce Ecosystem – Expand and strengthen community systems (education, healthcare, housing, childcare, and others) that help Appalachians obtain a job, stay on the job, and advance along a financially sustaining career pathway.

State Objective 2.1: Support and promote educational programs that will prepare students for jobs in the 21st century.

State Strategy 2.1.3: Work to create and support programs directed toward postsecondary access and success.

Proposed Basic Agency (Construction Projects Only):

Proposed Funding Sources:

ARC	\$44,000
Allegany College of MD	<u>\$44,000</u>
TOTAL	\$88,000



Preliminary Project Description

Project Name: Enhancing the Capacity of FSU’s Communication Leadership Lab

Applicant: Frostburg State University

County: Allegany

Contact: Elesha L. Ruminski, Ph.D.

Phone: 301-687-4480

Email: elruminski@frostburg.edu

Project Description:

This project would enhance the capacity of FSU's Communication Leadership Lab to support civil discourse experiences, collaborative partnership-building, and communication skills development for campus and local community members through professional development enhancement as well as improved marketing and facilitated public communication discussion events and workshops. This project builds on communication practitioner work begun more than a decade ago through a previous grant from the Maryland Judiciary's Mediation and Conflict Resolution Office (MACRO) (<https://www.courts.state.md.us/macro>) to support the "Sustaining Campus and Community" dialogue series (<https://www.frostburg.edu/academics/colleges-and-departments/department-of-communication/frostburg-dialogue/Series.php>). Specifically, this proposal seeks support for faculty time and professional development, student Lab Assistant internship stipends, marketing materials, and event supplies to allow the Lab to function as a "center for public life," its original intention when it was formed following a Kettering Foundation learning exchange in 2016. The Kettering Foundation (<https://kettering.org/>) supported the creation of a center framework and mission that supports campus and community interactions and communication competence in our region. The mission of the Lab is to support cooperation and regional capacity through communication leadership development by serving as an "engagement hub" focused on the teaching, practice, and research on public communication practices and ethics. It is the only communication center of its kind in the tri-state region west of Washington, DC. While Frostburg is a rural community, Frostburg State University has many students and employees from the DC-Baltimore corridor, the Tristate region and beyond. Our region also faces many challenges requiring communication leadership such as environmental stewardship, energy solutions, infrastructure redevelopment, and economic development. The Lab helps students and regional citizens to navigate the complexities of our changing world by providing access to expert, educational, and technological resources that encourage development of communication leadership competence. Through teaching, partnering, research and grant-seeking, the Communication Leadership Lab hopes to 1) mentor, tutor and train students and community members in subjects including public speaking, online conferencing, citizen videography and democracy engagement techniques; 2) plan virtual, face-to-face, and hybrid communication events, including discussion forums to support our network of campus and community partners; and 3) contribute to creating a cooperative climate that sustains the university's relationship with regional communities through student-faculty-partner research, internships, and consulting collaborations. Communication skills, often referred to as a "soft skills," are required "high-touch" (rather than high-tech) skills that support decision-making and problem-solving processes to help our region navigate the changes and challenges that will continue to arise due to AI and communication technology reliance and political divisiveness. Through the Lab, Dr. Ruminski will work with campus and community partners to develop discussion events, a training sessions, and internship partnerships. This project will support economic and community development by offering communication expertise and meeting technology access and education. For example, community members and partners could work with FSU faculty and students to learn how to frame needed public discussions, develop strategic or promotional materials, and to use social media, Zoom, and other communication technologies for connection and networking that supports partnership-building and collaboration. Consulting and training offered by Frostburg State University (FSU)'s Strategic Communication faculty working through the Lab will support local community members and partners as well as businesses and nonprofits in the areas of leadership, conflict management, social media, public relations, and strategic communication while integrating experiential learning opportunities for students. These activities often encourage transfers and recent graduates to contribute to a stronger sense of community pride by staying in the region to stay local and in some cases even launching entrepreneurial efforts in the region.

ARC Goals to Be Addressed, Objectives, and Strategy

ARC Investment Goal 5: Building Community Leaders and Capacity – Invest in the capacity of local leaders, organizations, and communities to address local challenges by providing technical assistance and support to access resources, engage partners, identify strategies and tactics, and conduct effective planning and project execution.

State Objective 5.2: Promote collaborative partnerships.

State Strategy 5.2.1: Support groups, meetings and workshops that provide opportunities for cooperation and capacity building.

Proposed Basic Agency (Construction Projects Only):

Proposed Funding Sources:

ARC	\$45,000
FSU Match	<u>\$45,000</u>
Total Cost	\$90,000



Preliminary Project Description

Project Name: Laboratory Diagnostic System

Applicant: UPMC Western Maryland

Contact: Karen Johnson

County: Allegany

Phone: 240-964-8060

Email: Johnsonks@upmc.edu

Project Description:

UPMC Western Maryland is the only hospital in Allegany County, Maryland, the only full-service acute care hospital within an hour's drive, and the largest employer in the county with 2100 jobs and an economic impact of over \$725 million annually. This singular healthcare access and economic position aligns well with ARC goals and objectives: Investment Goal 2: Building Appalachia's Workforce Ecosystem, which includes expanding and strengthening community systems (notably, healthcare); Objective 2.4, highlighting expansion of access to high quality healthcare; and Strategy 2.4.4, supporting projects for healthcare prevention and wellness.

To strengthen our community healthcare system, expand access to high quality healthcare, and support 108 laboratory employees and a 405-member medical staff, a critical piece of advanced technology must be purchased.

The MALDI-TOF microbial identification system is a mission critical diagnostic instrument, operating seven days per week and performing approximately 45,000 organism identifications each year. Physicians across emergency, inpatient, critical care, and surgical settings rely on this technology to make timely, informed decisions and initiate appropriate antimicrobial therapy quickly. Timely identification contributes to reduced length of stay, improved clinical outcomes, and lower mortality risk. Literally, it saves lives. Without MALDI-TOF technology, identification would revert to traditional methods requiring 48–72 hours after specimen receipt. With MALDI-TOF, identification can begin as early as four hours after organism growth, with most organisms identified within 20 hours of specimen collection.

The current machine is both beyond its life expectancy and outdated technologically. It is in its final year of service support (2026) and beyond that, if it goes out of service for any reason, it cannot be repaired. Any loss of capability would immediately and significantly impact patient care. In essence, it would “stop the presses.”

Additionally, recent technological advances provide more accurate, faster results and – significantly – eliminate the use of corrosive and carcinogenic chemicals required to clean reusable plates. This represents a substantial improvement in employee safety and aligns with best practices for laboratory workforce protection.

In summary, having reliable, modern technology is essential to maintain and grow our patient capacity, support sustained employment of laboratory teams and medical staff, eliminate potential health and safety hazards, and ensure the facility remains competitive in the region.

ARC Goals to Be Addressed, Objectives, and Strategy:

ARC Investment Goal 2: Building Appalachia's Workforce Ecosystem – Expand and strengthen community systems (education, healthcare, housing, childcare, and others) that help Appalachians obtain a job, stay on the job, and advance along a financially sustaining career pathway.

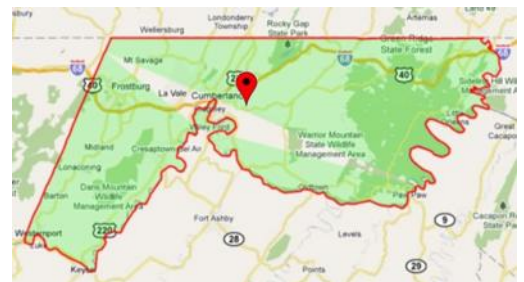
State Objective 2.4: Expand access to high quality healthcare as well as programs and services that support overall mental and physical health for workers and their families.

State Strategy 2.4.2: Increase access to comprehensive and affordable healthcare.

Proposed Basic Agency (Construction Projects Only):

Proposed Funding Sources:

ARC	\$117,500
UPMC WMD	<u>\$117,500</u>
TOTAL	\$235,000



Preliminary Project Description

Project Name: Updating the ACM Workforce Training and Development Center

Applicant: Allegany College of Maryland

Contact: Courtney McKay

County: Allegany

Phone: 301-784-5153

Email: cjensen2@allegany.edu

Project Description:

Allegany College of Maryland is in the design phase of a comprehensive renovation of its Workforce Training and Development Center, a facility originally constructed in 1978 that has served as a cornerstone for workforce education in the region for decades. The renovation is being supported through a combination of state, county, and institutional funds and represents a strategic investment in modernizing a critical workforce asset. The renovation is designed to transform the existing facility into a flexible, accessible, and energy-efficient learning environment that meets current ADA standards, reduces long-term operational costs, and supports a wide range of workforce training activities aligned with local and regional economic priorities. This project will help equip the newly-renovated center with technology and other instructional resources.

Workforce training needs are evolving at an accelerating pace, driven by rapid technological change, shifting employer expectations, and the growing influence of artificial intelligence across industries. Employers increasingly require training that is adaptable, technology-enabled, and responsive to emerging skills demands. To remain responsive to these needs, training facilities must offer spaces that can be easily reconfigured for different instructional models, including hands-on technical training, short-term credential programs, cohort-based instruction, and employer-specific customized training. The renovated Workforce Training and Development Center is intended to serve as a dynamic hub capable of accommodating these changing requirements while supporting collaboration among students, instructors, and employer partners.

This project requests ARC funding to support the purchase of technology, furniture and furnishings for the newly renovated Workforce Training and Development Center. These investments are essential to fully realize the benefits of the physical renovation by ensuring the space is functional, flexible, and welcoming for adult learners and workforce participants. Modular furniture, adaptable classroom layouts, and ergonomically designed furnishings will allow ACM to quickly adjust learning environments to meet diverse training needs while promoting comfort, efficiency, and effective instruction. By equipping the redesigned facility with appropriate furnishings, this project ensures that the Center can immediately support expanded workforce training capacity and deliver high-quality, employer-driven programs that contribute to a skilled workforce and a resilient regional economy.

ARC Goals to Be Addressed, Objectives, and Strategy

ARC Investment Goal 2: Building Appalachia's Workforce Ecosystem – Expand and strengthen community systems (education, healthcare, housing, childcare, and others) that help Appalachians obtain a job, stay on the job, and advance along a financially sustaining career pathway.

State Objective 2.1: Support and promote educational programs that will prepare students for jobs in the 21st century.

State Strategy 2.1.3: Work to create and support programs directed toward postsecondary access and success.

Proposed Basic Agency (Construction Projects Only):

Proposed Funding Sources:

ARC	\$ 500,000
Allegany College of MD	\$ 500,000
Total Cost	\$1,000,000



Preliminary Project Description

Project Name: Oakland Opportunity Hub

Applicant: Western MD Area Health Education (AHEC West) **County:** Garrett

Contact: Melissa Clark

Phone: 301-777-9150 x115

Email: mclark@ahecwest.org

Project Description:

Maryland Area Health Education Center West dba AHEC West proposes to purchase, renovate and redevelop 98-100 S. Third Street, Oakland MD 21550 a 21,912 sqf, 1.28 acre property. After renovation, the property would be known as the "Oakland Opportunity Hub (Hub)."

The Hub will be a multi-organization partnership led by AHEC West which will provide space for but not limited to: workforce training; wellness and recovery services, re-entry services, life skills training to address social risk factors and health related social needs. The Garrett County Health Department's 360 Food Access Hub will relocate to the site as well. The renovation will include 5 affordable housing units on the second floor.

Proposed partners will include but are not limited to Garrett County Health Department, Garrett Community Action Committee, Archway Station, Garrett County Sheriff and Mountain Laurel Medical Center.

Proposed activities include: Peer Recovery and Community Health Worker certification and services; healthy cooking classes; health and wellness activities; workforce skills enrichment; service navigation and other community supports.

ARC Goals to Be Addressed, Objectives, and Strategy

ARC Investment Goal 1: Building Appalachian Businesses – Strengthen and diversify the Region’s economy through inclusive economic development strategies and investments in entrepreneurship and business development.

State Objective 1.3: Support reinvestment in existing communities throughout the region.

State Strategy 1.3.2: Provide the necessary infrastructure for revitalization and reinvestment.

Proposed Basic Agency (Construction Projects Only): AHEC West

Proposed Funding Sources:

ARC	\$ 500,000
Match Funding Sources	<u>\$ 700,000</u>
Total Cost	\$1,200,000



Preliminary Project Description

Project Name: McHenry Water/Sewer Line Extension U.S. 219

Applicant: Garrett County Public Utilities

Contact: Andrew Tichinel

County: Garrett

Phone: 301-334-5407

Email: atichinel@garrettcounty.md.gov

Project Description:

Garrett County is seeking \$1.5 million in ARC funding for the McHenry Water & Sewer Extension Project. The proposed projects would serve both sides of US Route 219 in McHenry between Pysell Road and Friendsville Road (Route 42) just north of Route 219 intersection.

The project includes approximately 9,000 feet of water and sewer line installation serving 40 +/- additional customers through the Springwood and Pinewood developments along the east side of US Route 219, the Maryland State Police Barrack, warehouses and a proposed restaurant on the west side of Route 219 and approximately 8+ acres of commercial property.

ARC Goals to Be Addressed, Objectives, and Strategy:

ARC Investment Goal 3: Building Appalachia's Workforce Ecosystem – Expand and strengthen community systems (education, healthcare, housing, childcare, and others) that help Appalachians obtain a job, stay on the job, and advance along a financially sustaining career pathway.

State Objective 3.5: Develop a network of employment supports to help Appalachians enter and remain in the workforce.

State Strategy 3.1.1: Develop and improve water systems to ensure that residents and businesses have clean water.

Proposed Basic Agency (Construction Projects Only):

Proposed Funding Sources:

ARC	\$1,500,000
Garrett County Sanitary Commission/ Garrett County Government	<u>\$1,500,000</u>
TOTAL	\$3,000,000



Preliminary Project Description

Project Name: Garrett County Community Action Council Transitional Housing Project

Applicant: Garrett County Community Action Council

County: Garrett

Contact:

Phone:

Email:

Project Description:

PENDING, PER STATE PROGRAM MANAGER

ARC Goals to Be Addressed, Objectives, and Strategy

ARC Investment Goal:

State Objective:

State Strategy:

Proposed Basic Agency (Construction Projects Only):

Proposed Funding Sources:

ARC	\$400,000
Garrett County CAC	<u>\$400,000</u>
Total Cost	\$800,000



Preliminary Project Description

Project Name: 825 High Street Community Workforce & Innovation Center

Applicant: Holler to Hilltop Revival Corp

Contact: Chrissy Marucci

County: Garrett

Phone: 240-321-8856

Email: director@hollertohilltop.org

Project Description:

Holler to Hilltop Revival Corp proposes the adaptive reuse of the historic 825 High Street property in Oakland, Maryland into the 825 High Street Community Workforce & Innovation Center, a regional workforce development and small business incubation hub designed to generate measurable economic impact in Garrett County and the surrounding Appalachian region.

The project will renovate approximately 3,000 square feet of underutilized commercial space to create:

- Skilled trades and green jobs training labs
- Flexible classroom and credentialing space
- Small business incubation and co-working offices
- Broadband-enabled smart workforce training infrastructure

ARC funds will be used specifically for construction and renovation, code compliance upgrades, workforce training equipment, and technology infrastructure necessary to deliver industry-recognized credential programs.

This project addresses critical regional challenges, including:

- Skilled labor shortages in construction, infrastructure, and energy efficiency sectors
- Low labor force participation and barriers to employment
- Limited entrepreneurial support infrastructure in rural communities
- Underutilized downtown properties limiting economic productivity

The Center will serve as a regional workforce pipeline, connecting educational institutions, workforce agencies, local employers, and economic development partners. Training programs will be aligned with employer demand and paired with hands-on, project-based learning and business incubation support to ensure direct pathways to employment, wage growth, and business creation.

The project advances Maryland ARC priorities by linking workforce development, economic diversification, and adaptive reuse of development-ready assets to job creation and private sector growth.

ARC Goals to Be Addressed, Objectives, and Strategy:

ARC Investment Goal 1: Building Appalachian Businesses – Strengthen and diversify the Region’s economy through inclusive economic development and strategies and investments in entrepreneurship and business development.

State Objective 1.1: Support entrepreneurship and business development in the region.

State Strategy 1.1.3: Provide the infrastructure to support businesses in the region.

Proposed Basic Agency (*Construction Projects Only*):

Proposed Funding Sources:

ARC	\$250,000
Private/Philanthropic Support	\$100,000
In-Kind Contributions	<u>\$150,000</u>
TOTAL	\$500,000



Preliminary Project Description

Project Name: Mountain Laurel Medical Center Dental Clinic

Applicant: Mountain Laurel Medical Center

Contact: Michelle Dixon

County: Garrett

Phone: 301-533-3300 x3030

Email: mdixon@mtnlaurel.org

Project Description:

The project involves the construction/renovation of space at Mountain Laurel Medical Center, Grantsville, MD location for use as a dental clinic. The project includes:

1. Specialized Plumbing & Mechanical Systems
 - Central Air & Vacuum
 - Clinical Sinks & Waterlines
2. Electrical & Data Infrastructure
 - Dedicated Circuits
 - Imaging Power Loads
 - IT Connectivity
3. Infection Control & Sterilization Zones
 - Unidirectional Workflow
 - Utility Connections
 - Enhanced Ventilation

The total cost of the project is \$80,000 with a request for \$40,000 ARC funding and a \$40,000 MLMC match.

Garrett County is a federally designated Dental Health Professional Shortage Area with many residents must travel out of the area for preventive and restorative dental care, creating barriers for Medicaid recipients, low-income households, older adults, children and individuals living with chronic disease.

The project is part of MLMC's larger Rural Integrated Oral Health Assess Imitative and addresses ongoing barriers to dental care in rural Western Maryland. Completing these upgrades during the current construction phase will support the planned dental expansion initiative which will require and investment of \$300,000-\$400,000.

ARC Goals to Be Addressed, Objectives, and Strategy:

ARC Investment Goal 2: Building Appalachian Businesses – Strengthen and diversify the Region’s economy through inclusive economic development and strategies and investments in entrepreneurship and business development.

State Objective 2.4: Support entrepreneurship and business development in the region.

State Strategy 2.4.2: Provide the infrastructure to support businesses in the region.

Proposed Basic Agency (*Construction Projects Only*):

Proposed Funding Sources:

ARC	\$40,000
Mountain Laurel Medical Center	<u>\$40,000</u>
TOTAL	\$80,000



Preliminary Project Description

Project Name: Regional Entrepreneur Growth Initiative

Applicant: Hagerstown Community College

Contact: Jessica Bowman

County: Washington

Phone: 240-500-2577

Email: jsbowman2@hagerstowncc.edu

Project Description:

Hagerstown Community College (HCC) is seeking \$50,000 to expand the David W. Fletcher Incubator+ Labs as a tri-state entrepreneurship resource. The proposed project builds on HCC's existing entrepreneurship ecosystem in Washington County, which currently serves over 30 small businesses and entrepreneurs with state-of-the-art facilities, access to resources, networking opportunities, and coaching.

The need for expanded regional entrepreneurship support is substantial. Across the proposed six-county service area, there are more than 30,000 non-employer establishments, reflecting a substantial base of sole proprietors and very small businesses that may benefit from technical assistance, coaching, business planning, and growth support. Economic conditions also vary across the region, with median household income ranging from \$59,603 to \$98,806 and average poverty rates ranging from 8.7% to 16.6% across the six counties. These differences reinforce the need for a regional entrepreneurship resource that offers affordable, practical support to businesses that may lack access to critical resources.

Research also shows that rural businesses often face greater barriers than their urban counterparts. Rural entrepreneurs are less likely to reach major revenue milestones and often have less access to specialized technical assistance, peer networks, and knowledgeable mentors. In Appalachia, these challenges are exacerbated by geographic distance, uneven access to support services, and persistent capital gaps. As a result, many entrepreneurs need more than a one-time workshop; they need coordinated support that helps them move from idea development to feasibility, business planning, launch, and growth.

Proposed project activities will include outreach to local businesses to better understand regional needs and identify gaps in services; development of a more visible and accessible public-facing resource center; expanded coaching and business-planning assistance; targeted consultant support in areas such as financial management, marketing, operations, and growth strategy; entrepreneur workshops and networking opportunities; enhanced support for entrepreneur conferences; and improvements to digital tools that help participating businesses stay engaged, access resources, and achieve business development milestones. Partnerships with regional development organizations will ensure services are non-duplicative and expand upon each other.

HCC anticipates serving at least 100 businesses/entrepreneurs, improving 60 businesses through business-capacity or business-performance gains, and supporting a feasibility study for in-demand entrepreneur resources during the project period. Additional outcomes include increased participation in training and networking activities, stronger connections to regional support organizations, and improved readiness among participating businesses to pursue financing, expansion, and long-term sustainability.

ARC Goals to Be Addressed, Objectives, and Strategy

ARC Investment Goal 1: Building Appalachian Businesses – Strengthen and diversify the Region’s economy through inclusive economic development strategies and investments in entrepreneurship and business development.

State Objective 1.1: Support entrepreneurship and business development in the region.

State Strategy 1.1.1: Provide technical assistance and other support services for entrepreneurship and small business deployment in the region.

Proposed Basic Agency (Construction Projects Only):

Proposed Funding Sources:

ARC	\$ 50,000
Hagerstown Community College	<u>\$ 50,000</u>
Total Cost	\$100,000



Preliminary Project Description

Project Name: Transmission Line Upgrades

Applicant: The City of Hagerstown

Contact: Nancy Hausrath

County: Washington

Phone: 301-739-8577 x677

Email: NHausrath@hagerstownmd.org

Project Description:

The Zone 1 Water System Improvement Project includes the construction of a water booster station, an elevated water storage tank and the required water mains (transmission and distribution) to serve a portion of the Water System Zone 1 customers. This project will improve water system pressure and fire protection in Zone 1 in the Robinwood/Mt. Aetna corridor serving Meritus facilities and residential communities within this corridor .

The Study is complete and design is underway for the water system improvements. The City anticipates the developer of the proposed Arborview residential subdivision, Meritus, and the City will share the cost of the needed water system improvements.

The elevated water storage tank site will be located in the planned Arborview residential subdivision. The transmission main providing water to the tank will be constructed along in Mt. Aetna Road and the water distribution system will be constructed within the Arborview subdivision and connected to the existing water distribution system mains.

Engineering is underway- engineering fees may be used as part of the City contribution for this grant. The balance of the City share will be from the project construction. This funding will be used for the construction of the required water system improvements in Zone 1.

ARC Goals to Be Addressed, Objectives, and Strategy

ARC Investment Goal 3: Building Appalachia’s Infrastructure – Ensure that the residents and businesses of Appalachia have access to reliable, affordable, resilient, and energy efficient utilities and infrastructure in order to successfully live and work in the Region.

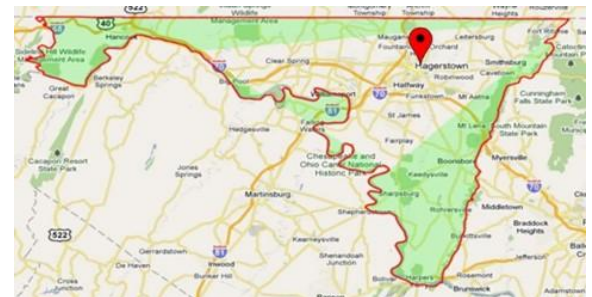
State Objective 3.1: Develop and support basic infrastructure and facilities needed to support community and economic development.

State Strategy 3.1.1: Develop and improve water systems to ensure that residents and businesses have clean water.

Proposed Basic Agency (Construction Projects Only): Utilities Department

Proposed Funding Sources:

ARC	\$ 500,000
City of Hagerstown CIP and Utility Improvement Funds	<u>\$ 500,000</u>
Total Cost	\$1,000,000



Preliminary Project Description

Project Name: Appalachian Dementia Care Workforce Training and Therapeutic Wellness Demonstration Center

Applicant: Betty's Wish, Inc.

Contact: LouAnn Haw

County: Washington

Phone: 301-842-2273

Email: lhaw@bettyswish.org

Project Description:

Betty's Wish proposes to establish the Appalachian Dementia Care Workforce Training and Therapeutic Wellness Demonstration Center at Betty's House & Wellness Center in Washington County, Maryland. The project will address a growing shortage of trained dementia-capable caregivers and healthcare workers across the Appalachian region while expanding supportive services for older adults and family caregivers. Appalachian communities are experiencing rapid population aging, with increasing numbers of residents living with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias. At the same time, healthcare providers, home care agencies, and community organizations throughout the region report persistent shortages of trained caregivers prepared to support individuals living with cognitive impairment. This workforce gap threatens the ability of older adults to remain safely in their homes and places significant strain on family caregivers.

The proposed project will create a community-based training and demonstration center that strengthens the regional healthcare workforce while improving quality of life for older adults and caregivers. The center will provide structured workforce training programs for caregivers, community health workers, healthcare staff, students, and family caregivers. Training will focus on dementia-capable care, behavioral support strategies, communication techniques, caregiver wellness, and practical approaches for supporting individuals living with cognitive decline in home and community settings. A therapeutic garden and outdoor wellness space will serve as a central feature of the demonstration center. The garden will function as a hands-on learning environment where participants can observe and practice evidence-informed therapeutic approaches such as sensory engagement, nature-based programming, and structured outdoor activities that improve cognitive stimulation, reduce stress, and enhance emotional well-being for older adults. These approaches will provide practical tools that caregivers can replicate in home care, residential care, and community programs.

Through workforce education and community programming, the project will strengthen the regional pipeline of dementia-capable caregivers and healthcare workers. The initiative will help prepare individuals for employment in home care, assisted living, and healthcare services while supporting existing workers in advancing their skills and career pathways. This project aligns with Washington County's economic development strategy to strengthen the healthcare workforce and address the growing needs of an aging population.

The training program will support workforce entry into home care, assisted living, and healthcare roles throughout the Appalachian region.

Within the first 24 months, the project will train approximately 150 caregivers and healthcare workers and provide therapeutic programming and caregiver education to an estimated 400 older adults and family caregivers. By combining workforce development with innovative therapeutic programming, the project will establish a replicable rural model for strengthening dementia care capacity across the Appalachian region.

ARC Goals to Be Addressed, Objectives, and Strategy

ARC Investment Goal 2: Building Appalachia's Workforce Ecosystem – Expand and strengthen community systems (education, healthcare, housing, childcare, and others) that help Appalachians obtain a job, stay on the job, and advance along a financially sustaining career pathway.

State Objective 2.4: Expand access to high quality healthcare as well as programs and services that support overall mental and physical health for workers and their families.

State Strategy 2.4.1: Support training and education programs for healthcare professionals.

Proposed Basic Agency (Construction Projects Only):

Proposed Funding Sources:

ARC	\$100,000
Betty's Wish Match	\$100,000
Total Cost	\$200,000



Preliminary Project Description

Project Name: Marsh Run Trail Project

Applicant: The City of Hagerstown

Contact: Jim Bender

County: Washington

Phone: 301-766-4238

Email: jbender@hagerstownmd.org

Project Description:

This project entails the construction of a new multi-use trail between Park Circle and Potomac Street on the southern edge of the downtown core. This trail would provide a pedestrian and bicycle connection between the City's Cultural Trail and the Hagerstown Field House indoor sports facility; it would also provide a safe passageway to provide access to downtown for residents in the Bester catchment area (the City's south end). Completion of the project would meet the City's strategic goals of enhanced connectivity and improved walkability.

The trail would be a 10'-wide paved trail running from Summit Avenue to Potomac Street, connecting to existing multi-use trails at either end. The trail would be constructed in an existing City right-of-way, so no land acquisition would be required. The most significant element of this plan would be a proposed tunnel under a CSX Transportation railroad siding; the tunnel would be lighted, and equipped with drainage facilities to minimize the risk of flooding. Construction plans for the trail have been developed to the 90 percent stage; the requested funding would be used to complete the design, and prepare the project for competitive bidding and construction.

ARC Goals to Be Addressed, Objectives, and Strategy:

ARC Investment Goal 4: Building Regional Culture and Tourism – Strengthen Appalachia’s community and economic development potential by preserving and investing in the Region’s local, cultural heritage, and natural assets.

State Objective 4.1: Invest in the development of vibrant downtowns and provide support for Appalachian placemaking.

State Strategy 4.2.1: Support the expansion of responsible outdoor recreation opportunities that will fuel the region’s tourism economy and increase employment opportunities.

Proposed Basic Agency (*Construction Projects Only*): City Engineer

Proposed Funding Sources:

ARC	\$ 75,000
City of Hagerstown CIP Match	<u>\$ 75,000</u>
TOTAL	\$150,000



Preliminary Project Description

Project Name: Western Maryland Skilled Trades Workforce Development Center

Applicant: Plumbers & Pipefitters Local 486 Joint
Apprenticeship Training Committee

County: Washington

Contact: Charlie Petrovia

Phone: 410-375-4571

Email: charliep@486school.org

Project Description:

The Plumbers & Steamfitters Local 486 Joint Apprenticeship Training Committee proposes the continued phased redevelopment and expansion of a workforce training facility in Hagerstown, Maryland into the Western Maryland Skilled Trades Workforce Development Center, a regional apprenticeship and workforce training hub serving Washington County and the broader Appalachian region.

The facility includes approximately 9,000 square feet of workforce training space with Phase I renovation activities substantially complete. Approximately \$550,000 has already been invested into facility acquisition, renovation, and workforce training infrastructure improvements. The project is anticipated to open in January 2027.

The project supports registered apprenticeship pathways in:

- Welding
- Plumbing
- HVAC
- Steamfitting

The facility currently serves approximately 30 apprentices, growing from an initial enrollment of 8 apprentices during the first year of operations. Apprentices completing the program receive journeyman certification eligibility and placement opportunities through the Local 486 union hiring hall. Local workforce demand currently exceeds supply, with approximately 200 journeymen currently needed within the regional service area.

The facility will include:

- 8 classrooms
- 1 shop area
- 3 instructional laboratories
- 2,700 square foot welding shop
- HV AC training laboratory
- Plumbing training laboratory

Phase II improvements will focus on workforce infrastructure and operational readiness enhancements including:

- Electrical upgrade to 3-phase power servicing five units
- New site plan and associated improvements
- HV AC laboratory buildout
- Plumbing laboratory buildout
- Additional workforce training infrastructure improvements

ARC Goals to Be Addressed, Objectives, and Strategy

ARC Investment Goal 2: Building Appalachia’s Workforce Ecosystem – Expand and strengthen community systems (education, healthcare, housing, childcare, and others) that help Appalachians obtain a job, stay on the job, and advance along a financially sustaining career pathway.

State Objective 2.2: Expand partnerships among local schools, colleges, and businesses to support workforce development and improve workforce readiness.

State Strategy 2.2.2 Work with local employers to create and expand apprenticeship programs.

Proposed Basic Agency (Construction Projects Only): Maryland Department of Commerce

Proposed Funding Sources:

ARC	\$ 750,000
State of Maryland	\$ 750,000
Local 486 Investment/Match	<u>\$ 600,000</u>
Total Cost	\$2,100,000



Preliminary Project Description

Project Name: Town of Hancock Collection System Replacement

Applicant: Town of Hancock

Contact: Michael Faith

County: Washington

Phone: 301-678-5622

Email: townmanager@townofhancock.org

Project Description:

The Town of Hancock’s sewer system serves the Town (773 EDUs) via approximately 40,000 LF of gravity sewer line, four force mains, four pump stations, and 240 manholes. The Town’s collection system was installed prior to 1980 at an unknown date and consisted of terra cotta sewer lines and brick manholes. Various improvements have been made to the system since then. In 2000, a project was completed to reline the existing sewer lines on Main Street, Hillside Road, Fairview Drive, Wine Street, Clay Street, and Grand Street and to install new sewer on Limestone Road, Creek Road, and Dale Street. Relining was only completed on the sewer lines and not the corresponding brick manholes.

Influent flow to the WWTP is not recorded on a daily basis, but analysis of the Town’s pump station logs provided by the Town show that the Town’s system experiences approximately 30% I&I during rain events. In addition to I&I, preliminary analysis indicated that the system was in poor condition and failing in various locations due to hydrogen sulfide and age.

A comprehensive study of the sewer system including manhole inspection, smoke testing, flow monitoring, and acoustic inspection was conducted by RK&K. The final report was submitted to the Town in March 2022.

In addition to I&I issues, operation and maintenance issues were prominent in the Town’s system. Blocked lines, roots, sags in lines, surcharging manholes, lines with improper slope, force main breaks, and insufficient manhole structures were found.

The gravity line that crosses a tributary to the Potomac River overflows due to insufficient slope and shallow manholes on a frequent basis. The gravity line to the Subway Pump Station overflows adjacent to the Western Maryland Rail Trail and Potomac River every time there is a rain event. Overflows have occurred in residents’ yards due to blocked lines. Force main failures have caused overflows into the C&O canal and Potomac River. These overflows pose safety risks to residents, tourists on the C&O and Western MD Rail Trail, and Town employees.

These issues pose a safety risk to Town employees tasked with maintaining the system and pose a health and sanitary risk to residents of the Town of Hancock and the environment. As a result, replacement of brick manholes and VCP lines, replacement of PVC lines with O&M issues and sags, and rehabilitation of the newer PVC and precast portions of the system is recommended.

Lastly, the Town is proposing to serve the Lanco Cheese Factory with public wastewater service. The gravity system, force main, and pump station which would serve Lanco do not have sufficient capacity for Lanco’s flow, and must be upgraded in order to serve the commercial business.

ARC Goals to Be Addressed, Objectives, and Strategy

ARC Investment Goal 3: Building Appalachia’s Infrastructure – Ensure that the residents and businesses of Appalachia have access to reliable, affordable, resilient, and energy efficient utilities and infrastructure in order to successfully live and work in the Region.

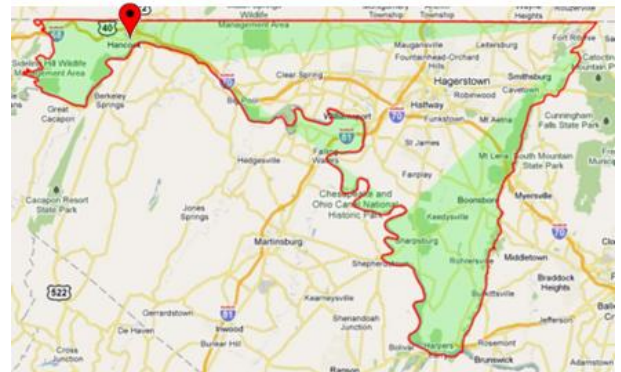
State Objective 3.1: Develop and support basic infrastructure and facilities needed to support community and economic development.

State Strategy 3.1.2: Develop and improve wastewater systems for residents and businesses.

Proposed Basic Agency (Construction Projects Only):

Proposed Funding Sources:

ARC	\$261,500
Town of Hancock	<u>\$261,500</u>
Total Cost	\$523,000



Preliminary Project Description

Project Name: Town of Smithsburg Wastewater Pump Station Replacement

Applicant: Town of Smithsburg

Contact: Brian Brandt

County: Washington

Phone: 301-824-7234

Email: townmanager@townofsmithsburg.org

Project Description:

The Town of Smithsburg’s Pump Station Replacement Project is a critical infrastructure investment needed to protect public health, ensure environmental compliance, and support long-term community resiliency. Three wastewater pump stations—High School, Henrietta, and Chips Meadows—were constructed between 1965 and 1976 and have now exceeded their useful life. The force mains connected to these stations are severely corroded, restricting flow and increasing friction losses. Two of the stations currently have overflow structures that discharge directly into nearby streams during wet-weather events, posing an immediate threat to Little Grove Creek, surrounding waterways, and downstream communities. Modernizing this infrastructure is essential to eliminate untreated wastewater discharges and maintain compliance with state water quality standards.

Smithsburg is home to nearly 3,000 residents, including a meaningful proportion of low- to moderate-income households who are disproportionately affected by wastewater system failures. The three public schools located within the town—Smithsburg Elementary, Middle, and High School—also depend on this infrastructure for reliable service. Overflow events create significant public health risks, affect school operations, and increase the potential for contamination in residential areas. Replacing the failing stations will prevent backups, reduce odors and sanitary sewer overflows, and ensure a stable wastewater system that residents and institutions can depend on.

This project will construct three modern, packaged pump stations equipped with reliable controls and monitoring systems. The existing stations, which lack appropriate monitoring, cannot alert operators quickly during rising flows, equipment failures, or wet-weather surcharging. The replacement of approximately 2,500 linear feet of corroded cast-iron force mains will restore normal conveyance capacity and decrease the energy required for pumping. The project also reduces inflow and infiltration by correcting deficiencies such as roof downspouts draining into wet wells and other stormwater intrusions. These upgrades directly support environmental health by reducing pollutant loading into local water bodies and strengthening the region’s watershed protection efforts.

This project will serve the entire community by improving wastewater reliability, protecting public health, and safeguarding waterways. The benefits extend beyond the immediate service area by reducing pollutant discharges that affect downstream users. For historically underserved residents, the project ensures equitable access to safe and reliable wastewater service. For all taxpayers, it provides a cost-effective way to prevent system failures, support economic stability, and reduce future maintenance costs. The pump station replacements represent a long-term investment in the region’s infrastructure, environment, and quality of life—making the project a high-value priority

ARC Goals to Be Addressed, Objectives, and Strategy

ARC Investment Goal 3: Building Appalachia’s Infrastructure – Ensure that the residents and businesses of Appalachia have access to reliable, affordable, resilient, and energy efficient utilities and infrastructure in order to successfully live and work in the Region.

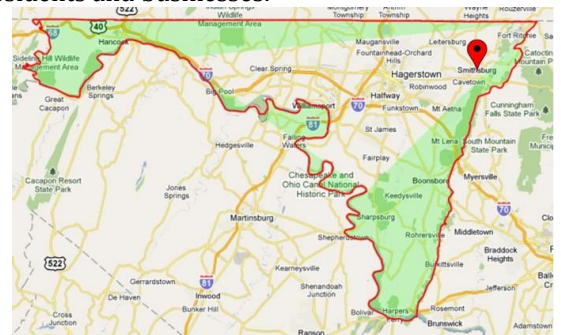
State Objective 3.1: Develop and support basic infrastructure and facilities needed to support community and economic development.

State Strategy 3.1.2: Develop and improve wastewater systems for residents and businesses.

Proposed Basic Agency (Construction Projects Only):

Proposed Funding Sources:

ARC	\$1,437,000
Local/State/County	\$1,437,000
Other Contribution	<u>\$ 941,000</u>
Total Cost	\$3,815,000



Preliminary Project Description

Project Name: Seating and Furniture Refresh Project

Applicant: Maryland Theatre Association, Inc.

Contact: Bailey Kercheval

County: Washington

Phone: 301-790-3500 x102

Email: bdk@mdtheatre.org

Project Description:

The Maryland Theatre is a historic venue that welcomes more than 100,000 visitors annually for a wide range of performances, shows, and events, including parties, fundraisers, business seminars, and community gatherings. While the Theatre greatly benefited from its most recent major upgrade—the addition of the Performing Arts Center in 2019—the furniture installed at that time, along with seating in the historic auditorium, has since experienced extensive wear and tear due to constant, high-volume use. These items can no longer be maintained at an acceptable standard through cleaning and routine upkeep alone, and the Theatre now faces the clear need to replace or refurbish them entirely. In the Ballroom, all 300 chairs—used weekly, and often more frequently—require complete replacement of cushions and seat backs. The Ballroom serves as a wedding venue, private party space, business and local government event center, dining hall, and presentation area for numerous local organizations. Replacing these chair components will significantly improve patron comfort while enhancing the overall aesthetic to reflect the Theatre's prestige and longstanding reputation. Within the historic auditorium, the Theatre's geriatric-accessible chairs have become aged, uncomfortable, and difficult to clean. Replacing all four chairs will greatly improve accessibility and comfort for patrons who rely on geriatric seating accommodations, ensuring a more dignified and inclusive experience. The Theatre's Third Floor View Studio is heavily utilized by students from the Barbara Ingram School for the Arts five days a week. The replacement of specialty student furniture in this space would be welcomed by both students and faculty and would provide a more supportive and effective learning environment. In the Second Floor Cocktail Lounge, seating has become visibly worn after years of heavy use. This space serves as one of the Theatre's premier areas for refreshments, social gatherings, cocktail events, and intermissions between performances. Replacing and reupholstering the seating and seat backs will deliver an immediate and noticeable improvement to patron comfort and overall experience. The Maryland Theatre frequently attracts visitors from more than 50 miles away, many of whom dine at local restaurants, shop at nearby retail establishments, and contribute to the local economy. Beyond serving as a regional tourist destination, the Theatre is also a vital community amenity, utilized annually by more than 5,000 volunteers and performers. A core goal of The Maryland Theatre is to partner with local arts organizations and nonprofits throughout Washington County. This project will be experienced by tens of thousands of visitors each year, reinforcing the Theatre's position as a premier cultural destination while encouraging additional facility rentals and repeat visitation. Ultimately, these improvements will help drive consistent foot traffic to Hagerstown's downtown Arts and Entertainment District and support continued economic benefits for surrounding businesses.

ARC Goals to Be Addressed, Objectives, and Strategy

ARC Investment Goal 4: Building Regional Culture and Tourism – Strengthen Appalachia's community and economic development potential by preserving and investing in the Region's local, cultural heritage, and natural assets.

State Objective 4.3: Enhance and protect historic and cultural resources.

State Strategy 4.3.2: Assist in development of responsible tourism opportunities related to historic and cultural resources.

Proposed Basic Agency (Construction Projects Only):

Proposed Funding Sources:

ARC	\$20,000
Wash County Community Organization Funding	\$25,202
Total Cost	\$45,202



Preliminary Project Description

Project Name: Update of the City's Comprehensive Plan

Applicant: The City of Hagerstown

Contact: Matthew Ross

County: Washington

Phone: 301-766-4313

Email: mross@hagerstownmd.org

Project Description:

The City of Hagerstown is requesting ARC Grant funding to provide technical assistance with the update of the City's Comprehensive Plan. The current Comprehensive Plan, visionHagerstown2035, was adopted in 2018, and serves as a 20-year road map for the City's physical, social, and economic development to ensure smart and sustainable growth. To comply **with** State law, Staff is actively planning for a consultant team to assist with this update. Specifically, the City anticipates needing a consultant team for the highly technical water resources element section. Additional review and analyses of City codes, ordinances, and policies may be necessary and performed by the chosen consultants. Assistance with community engagement efforts will also be needed for community buy-in of the completed plan.

The Choice Neighborhood initiative, funded by HUD, may also serve as a tool for the housing element of the Comprehensive Plan. The City, in partnership with the Hagerstown Housing Authority, is actively working on this planning grant and subsequently, the implantation plan. The 2025 update to the 10-Year Downtown Plan, funded by an ARC Grant, will also assist the City's Comprehensive Plan update in the downtown element. Both these projects will assist the Comprehensive Plan update process as there is pertinent information that can be used in specific elements.

ARC Goals to Be Addressed, Objectives, and Strategy

ARC Investment Goal 1: Building Regional Culture and Tourism – Strengthen Appalachia's community and economic development potential by preserving and investing in the Region's local, cultural heritage, and natural assets.

State Objective 1.2: Support and enhance the outdoor recreation opportunities for residents and visitors and support sustainable economic growth.

State Strategy 1.2.4: Assist in development of responsible tourism opportunities related to historic and cultural resources.

Proposed Basic Agency (Construction Projects Only):

Proposed Funding Sources:

ARC	\$150,000
City of Hagerstown	<u>\$150,000</u>
Total Cost	\$300,000



Preliminary Project Description

Project Name: Expansion of Printer Capacity for FSU and Community Use

Applicant: Frostburg State University (FSU)

Contact: Ken Emerick

County: Allegany

Phone: 301-687-4701

Email: kmemerick@frostburg.edu

Project Description:

Frostburg State University seeks funding to acquire a Roland VeraObject CO-640i-F3 UV Printer to expand printing capabilities, provide hands-on learning opportunities for students, and enhance campus operations. This project aligns with the Appalachian Regional Commission's (ARC) Investment Goal 2: Building Appalachia's Workforce Ecosystem, which focuses on equipping students with workforce-ready skills. Specifically, it supports State Objective 2.1, which promotes educational programs that develop marketable skills, and State Strategy 2.1.3, which enhances postsecondary career training. Through partnerships with faculty in the graphic arts program, this initiative will provide 20 to 30 students per semester with practical experience in print production, design applications, and business operations, preparing them for careers in design, marketing, manufacturing, and entrepreneurship.

UV printing is an advanced digital process that uses ultraviolet light to instantly cure ink, creating high-resolution, scratch-resistant, and weatherproof prints on materials such as metal, wood, acrylic, glass, and plastic. The Roland VeraObject CO-640i-F3 UV Printer can print directly onto three-dimensional objects, offering students and university departments a versatile tool for producing durable, professional-grade materials.

Beyond education, the printer will reduce outsourcing costs and improve efficiency in campus-wide printing needs. Various departments, including Athletics, Admissions, and the University Store, will benefit from custom-printed signage, awards, locker nameplates, parking tags, and promotional items with faster turnaround times and lower costs. The printer will also support unique projects such as props for the Theater Department, branded materials for alumni engagement, and specialty items for university events. Additionally, the print shop will offer services to external clients, generating revenue to offset operational costs while providing a valuable resource to local businesses. This investment will enhance student learning, streamline university operations, and strengthen regional workforce development.

ARC Goals to Be Addressed, Objectives, and Strategy

ARC Investment Goal 2: Building Appalachia's Workforce Ecosystem – Expand and strengthen community systems (education, healthcare, housing, childcare, and others) that help Appalachians obtain a job, stay on the job, and advance along a financially sustaining career pathway.

State Objective 2.1: Support and promote educational programs that will prepare students for jobs in the 21st century.

State Strategy 2.1.3: Work to create and support programs directed toward postsecondary access and success.

Proposed Basic Agency (Construction Projects Only):

Proposed Funding Sources:

ARC	\$ 93,000
Frostburg State University	<u>\$ 93,000</u>
Total Cost	\$186,000



Preliminary Project Description

Project Name: Garrett County Fairgrounds Infrastructure Project

Applicant: Garrett County Agriculture Fair Board

Contact: Jason Rush

County: Garrett

Phone: 301-616-8523

Email: info@garrettcountyfair.org

Project Description:

The Garrett County Agriculture Board, a Maryland Non-Profit, operates the Garrett County Fairground. The Fairgrounds located in the heart of Garrett County at Deep Creek Lake is the center for events in the County. The exhibit hall and grounds host over 60,000 people annually for cultural and community events, entertainment, and the Garrett County Fair.

The proposed project will upgrade the existing water and wastewater infrastructure and electrical capacity a new exhibit building and new handicapped restrooms.

The Garrett County Fairground Infrastructure meets ARC's Goal 4-Building Regional Culture and Tourism-Strengthen Appalachia's community and economic development potential by preserving and investing in the Region's local, cultural, heritage, and natural assets.

This will allow the facility to attract larger events, providing an economic impact to the lodging, restaurants and retail businesses throughout Garrett County meeting Goal 4, 4.2 Investing in economic and community development initiatives that preserve and promote Appalachian communities' vibrant arts, cultural, and heritage traditions.

ARC Goals to Be Addressed, Objectives, and Strategy

ARC Investment Goal 4: Building Regional Culture and Tourism – Strengthen Appalachia’s community and economic development potential by preserving and investing in the Region’s local, cultural heritage, and natural assets.

State Objective 4.2: Support and enhance the outdoor recreation opportunities for residents and visitors and support sustainable economic growth.

State Strategy 4.3.2: Assist in development of responsible tourism opportunities related to historic and cultural resources.

Proposed Basic Agency (Construction Projects Only):

Proposed Funding Sources:

ARC	\$400,000
Maryland State Bond	\$200,000
Garrett County Agriculture Board	<u>\$200,000</u>
Total Cost	\$800,000



Preliminary Project Description

Project Name: Fort Ritchie Sewer System Improvements for Economic Development
Applicant: Washington County Board of Commissioners **County:** Washington
Contact: David Mason, PE **Phone:** 240-313-2600
Email: dmason@washco-md.net

Project Description:

Washington County is working towards making improvements and repairs to the existing sanitary sewer infrastructure on an aging 62.9 acre parcel for economic redevelopment at the historic Ft. Ritchie, in Cascade, MD. This project and economic opportunity for continued growth in the Cascade, MD area recently came about by an amended agreement approved by the Board of County Commissioners on May 21st, 2026 and, upon funding, Washington County is poised to act. Not only will this project lead to increased private investment and job growth while meeting ARC Investment Goal 1, State Objective 3.1, and State Strategy 3.1.2, this project has the ancillary benefit of protecting local water quality in the adjacent Lake Wastler and Lake Royer, and will also reduce any potential pollution loading to Falls Creek by eliminating the existing sewer I&I issues related to the aging sewer infrastructure.

This project will open the path to private investment and economic development on commercial properties at the old historic military fort by:

1. Replacing 18 Gravity Sewer Manholes
2. Replacing 1,640 feet of 8-inch gravity sewer (SDR-26 Pipe)
3. Replacing 1,509 feet of 10-inch gravity sewer (SDR-26 Pipe)
4. Replacing 554 feet of 6-inch Service Main (SDR-26 Pipe)
5. Replacing 25 existing sewer laterals
6. Providing 100 sq yards of non-paved restoration
7. Installing Erosion and Sediment Controls for the project

Per the amended agreement, the developer is responsible for road improvements that result from project construction activities and will pave the way for businesses and manufacturers to access the existing historic buildings and new construction.

On top of these privately funded post construction improvements, the Cascade Town Centre Development, LLC (CTCD) has already invested over \$6,083,522 in this area and, based on the proposed sewer upgrade project, has secured two businesses that have signed Letters of Intent (LOI) to open at the 42,000 square-foot 25050 N. Malbrook St location. The addition of these businesses, particularly, JG Business Link International, will contribute to local economic growth and opportunity by adding approximately 205 new jobs, ranging from entry level to senior management. JGBLI has committed in their LOI to investing \$4,000,000 for interior construction to accommodate business facilities relating to their manufacturing and packing operations.

CTCD anticipates that this project will lead to substantial job creation and ultimately lead to private investments in excess of \$200,000,000 in Ft. Ritchie and the surrounding community.

ARC Goals to Be Addressed, Objectives, and Strategy

ARC Investment Goal 3: Building Appalachia’s Infrastructure – Ensure that the residents and businesses of Appalachia have access to reliable, affordable, resilient, and energy efficient utilities and infrastructure in order to successfully live and work in the Region.

State Objective 3.1: Develop and support basic infrastructure and facilities needed to support community and economic development.

State Strategy 3.1.2: Develop and improve wastewater systems for residents and businesses.

Proposed Basic Agency (Construction Projects Only):

Proposed Funding Sources:

ARC	\$404,910
Washington Co Commissioners	<u>\$404,910</u>
Total Cost	\$809,820



Strategic Goals and Objectives

The following is Maryland's integration of its objectives and strategies to further ARC's goals:

ARC Investment Goal 1: Building Appalachian Businesses – Strengthen and diversify the Region's economy through inclusive economic development strategies and investments in entrepreneurship and business development.

State Objective 1.1: Support entrepreneurship and business development in the region.

State Strategy 1.1.1: Provide technical assistance and other support services for entrepreneurs and small business deployment in the region.

State Strategy 1.1.2: Support efforts to improve access to capital for businesses.

State Strategy 1.1.3: Provide the infrastructure to support businesses in the region.

State Objective 1.2: Prepare for the economic development of the next century and attract new businesses.

State Strategy 1.2.1: Identify areas for development of research and testing facilities for new technology.

State Strategy 1.2.2: Facilitate the development of research and testing facilities and workforce training for new technology.

State Strategy 1.2.3: Support and promote agritourism, agricultural and other resource-based businesses based on regional needs and demands.

State Strategy 1.2.4: Provide technical assistance and support development of plans and studies.

State Objective 1.3: Support reinvestment in existing communities throughout the region.

State Strategy 1.3.1: Work in partnership with local jurisdictions to support projects that encourage revitalization and reinvestment.

State Strategy 1.3.2: Provide the necessary infrastructure for revitalization and reinvestment.

State Strategy 1.3.3: Increase workforce and affordable housing stock.

State Objective 1.4: Increase international exports from the ARC region.

State Strategy 1.4.1: Provide training and technical assistance for businesses on a regional scale.

State Strategy 1.4.2: Develop programs that will assist in marketing and business development on an international level.

ARC Investment Goal 2: Building Appalachia’s Workforce Ecosystem – Expand and strengthen community systems (education, healthcare, housing, childcare, and others) that help Appalachians obtain a job, stay on the job, and advance along a financially sustaining career pathway.

State Objective 2.1: Support and promote educational programs that will prepare students for jobs in the 21st century.

State Strategy 2.1.1: Expand and support the P-Tech model and K-12 STEM, alongside active learning labs in preparing students for 21st century jobs.

State Strategy 2.1.2: Work with local employers to create and expand apprenticeships and other school to work transition programs.

State Strategy 2.1.3: Work to create and support programs directed toward postsecondary access and success.

State Objective 2.2: Expand partnerships among local schools, colleges, and businesses to support workforce development and improve workforce readiness.

State Strategy 2.2.1: Provide continuing education training in advanced skills for workers in the region.

State Strategy 2.2.2: Work with local employers to create and expand apprenticeship programs.

State Strategy 2.2.3: Work with local businesses to develop programs that will encourage workers to take advantage of post-secondary education programs.

State Strategy 2.2.4: Support training for displaced workers and formerly incarcerated individuals.

State Objective 2.3: Develop a network of employment supports to help Appalachians enter and remain in the workforce.

State Strategy 2.3.1: Develop workforce training and job placement programs for those entering or reentering the workforce.

State Strategy 2.3.2: Support the development of a cohesive system of key services that support access to and retention of employment in the region.

State Strategy 2.3.3: Support transportation, childcare, eldercare, affordable housing, and food opportunities for individuals in their reentry to the workforce.

State Strategy 2.3.4: Support temporary housing options for patients in recovery programs and returning to the workforce.

State Objective 2.4: Expand access to high quality healthcare as well as programs and services that support overall mental and physical health for workers and their families.

State Strategy 2.4.1: Support training and education programs for healthcare professionals.

State Strategy 2.4.2: Increase access to comprehensive and affordable healthcare.

ARC GOALS AND OBJECTIVES 2024-2028

State Strategy 2.4.3: Support programs in innovative public health practices to ensure a ready workforce.

State Strategy 2.4.4: Support projects for healthcare prevention and wellness.

ARC Investment Goal 3: Building Appalachia’s Infrastructure – Ensure that the residents and businesses of Appalachia have access to reliable, affordable, resilient, and energy efficient utilities and infrastructure in order to successfully live and work in the Region.

State Objective 3.1: Develop and support basic infrastructure and facilities needed to support community and economic development.

State Strategy 3.1.1: Develop and improve water systems to ensure that residents and businesses have clean water.

State Strategy 3.1.2: Develop and improve wastewater systems for residents and businesses.

State Strategy 3.1.3: Develop and implement combined stormwater overflow systems to ensure compliance with state and federal regulations.

State Objective 3.2: Ensure that all Appalachian Maryland have access to quality and affordable telecommunications and broadband services.

State Strategy 3.2.1: Increase access to reliable and affordable broadband and cellular services.

State Strategy 3.2.2: Develop, support, and maintain infrastructure for broadband and cellular communications.

State Objective 3.3: Support proactive efforts to adopt alternative energy strategies and bolster energy infrastructure.

State Strategy 3.3.1: Develop sustainable clean energy solutions at a local and regional scale.

State Strategy 3.3.2: Develop programs that increase job opportunities, strengthen energy independence, boost business viability, and bolster long-term climate resilience.

State Strategy 3.3.3: Provide technical assistance and support development of plans and studies.

State Objective 3.4: Develop a balanced transportation system, which is supportive of economic growth and investment potential in the region.

State Strategy 3.4.1: Development of a north-south transportation network in the region.

State Strategy 3.4.2: Improve secondary and local access highways road that will support primary highway development and yield an integrated network in the region.

ARC GOALS AND OBJECTIVES 2024-2028

State Strategy 3.4.3: Support development of key transportation corridors (highway, rail, aviation) that enhance economic opportunity.

State Strategy 3.4.4: Support multimodal transportation options.

State Objective 3.5: Support construction of business development sites and public facilities and the adaptive reuse of obsolete and/or unsafe properties to stimulate economic and community development.

State Strategy 3.5.1: Support investment in development ready sites.

State Strategy 3.5.2: Support development of plans and strategies to redevelop and repurpose unused, underutilized, or neglected sites, brownfields, and mine-scarred lands to fuel economic and community development.

State Strategy 3.5.3: Support development of technology centers, commercial and industrial sites, healthcare and educational facilities, makerspaces and incubators, and other venues to promote placemaking and boost economic growth.

ARC Investment Goal 4: Building Regional Culture and Tourism – Strengthen

Appalachia’s community and economic development potential by preserving and investing in the Region’s local, cultural heritage, and natural assets.

State Objective 4.1: Invest in the development of vibrant downtowns and provide support for Appalachian placemaking.

State Strategy 4.1.1: Provide technical assistance and planning support to advance downtown revitalization efforts to drive economic growth and community development.

State Strategy 4.1.2: Support regional marketing programs for the travel and tourism industry.

State Strategy 4.1.3: Support the development of heritage tourism products linked to state and national byway and heritage area efforts.

State Objective 4.2: Support and enhance the outdoor recreation opportunities for residents and visitors and support sustainable economic growth.

State Strategy 4.2.1: Support the expansion of responsible outdoor recreation opportunities that will fuel the region’s tourism economy and increase employment opportunities.

State Strategy 4.2.2: Assist in development of responsible tourism opportunities related to responsible outdoor recreation.

State Objective 4.3: Enhance and protect historic and cultural resources.

State Strategy 4.3.1: Support programs to identify, enhance and preserve Maryland’s heritage and cultural resources.

ARC GOALS AND OBJECTIVES 2024-2028

State Strategy 4.3.2: Assist in development of responsible tourism opportunities related to historic and cultural resources.

ARC Investment Goal 5: Building Community Leaders and Capacity – Invest in the capacity of local leaders, organizations, and communities to address local challenges by providing technical assistance and support to access resources, engage partners, identify strategies and tactics, and conduct effective planning and project execution.

State Objective 5.1: Strengthen leadership skills and capacity.

State Strategy 5.1.1: Support programs that provide training in leadership development for youth, interested citizens, and community leaders.

State Strategy 5.1.2: Support programs that provide management skills to nonprofit organizations.

State Objective 5.2: Promote collaborative partnerships.

State Strategy 5.2.1: Support groups, meetings and workshops that provide opportunities for cooperation and capacity building.

FY2027 ARC FUNDED PROJECTS SUMMARY

Project Package Timeline, Review and Selection Process

- Request for Preliminary Project Proposals sent to points of contact by **February 13, 2026**.
FY2027 ARC projects are requested from County Government, Local Government, non-profit organizations and educational institutions. Eligible applicants interested in submitting a project request contact: Allegany County Department of Economic and Community Development, Garrett County Department of Business Development, or Washington County Office of Community Grant Management.
- Preliminary Project Descriptions (PPD's) are submitted to respective County Commissioners for review and priority ranking no later than **April 3, 2026**.
- PPD's to be reviewed and ranked by the Boards of County Commissioners and submitted to Tri County Council for Western Maryland (TCCWMD) before **May 15, 2026**.
- Tri County Council for Western Maryland and Maryland Department of Planning's ARC Program Manager review, collate, and rank the project requests. The Completed Project Package is compiled and presented to the board of TCCWMD on **June 24, 2026** for approval and submittal to the State.
Preliminary Project Descriptions are reviewed and ranked based upon the set of criteria outlined by the ARC Strategy Statement: Project Readiness, Degree of Need, State Targeted Investment Priorities, Project Evaluation/Prioritization, Scope and Cost Effectiveness, Degree of Distress, Degree of Non-ARC Funds.
- Projects in a fundable position are invited via a written notice of Invitation to Submit Application during **July 2026**.
- Matching Funds for projects must be in place and committed at the time of application to ARC.
- All projects in a fundable position under the FY27 project package should submit application to the ARC Program Manager no later than **4pm on November 15, 2026** with **ARC FY27 Project** in the email subject line.

*In the event a project is not submitted by **November 15, 2026**, funding will be transferred to another project to ensure the region does not lose those funds.*

As the Local Development District (LDD) for the State of Maryland, Tri County Council for Western Maryland provides access to the following project planning guides on its website:
www.tccwmd.org.

2026 Annual Strategy Statement Maryland
2024-2028 Appalachian Maryland Development Plan
Appalachia Envisioned A New Era of Opportunity ARC Strategic Plan Fiscal Years 2022-2026
2024-2028 ARC Strategic Goals and Objective

Special thanks to those participants of the FY27 Project Package:

Allegany County Department of Economic & Community Development

701 Kelly Road
Cumberland, Maryland 21502
301-777-5967
www.alleganyworks.org



Garrett County Department of Business Development

Frederick A. Thayer III Courthouse
203 South Fourth Street, Room 208
Oakland, Maryland 21550
301-334-1921
business.garrettcounty.md.gov



Washington County Office of Community Grant Management

33 West Washington Street, Room 210
Hagerstown, Maryland 21740
240-313-2092
www.washco-md.net/grant-management



Tri-County Council for Western Maryland Projects Committee

11 S. Lee Street
Cumberland, MD 21502
301-689-1300
www.tccwmd.org

