# Appalachian Regional Commission

# ARISE Initiative 2025

## Notice of Solicitation of Applications

# (1)   NOSA Basic Information

This notice of solicitation of applications (NOSA) gives an overview of the Appalachian Regional Commission's Appalachian Regional Initiative for Stronger Economies (ARISE), and the requirements needed to complete an ARISE grant application.

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|---|---|
| **NOSA release date** | **September 9, 2025** |
| **Virtual workshops** | **September 25, 2025 (11:00 a.m. ET)**<br>Application Process Webinar<br><br>**October 28, 2025 (11:00 a.m. ET)**<br>Designing Multi-State Projects: Best Practices Webinar |
| **Pre-applications due** | **December 5, 2025 (5 p.m. ET)** |
| **Full applications due (invitation only)** | **May 15, 2026 (5 p.m. ET)**<br><br>ARC will only consider applications from applicants that have been invited to apply by ARC upon review of the pre-application. |
| **Awards announced** | **Summer 2026** |
| **Selected projects begin** | **No sooner than September 1, 2026** |

More information about ARISE, available technical assistance opportunities, and further guidance on submission is available at www.arc.gov/ARISE. Questions can be emailed to ARISE@arc.gov.

## Executive Summary

ARISE offers federal grant funding for multi-state projects that aim to drive large-scale, regional economic transformation. To date, ARC has invested nearly $179 million in 67 projects impacting all 13 Appalachian states. Applicants can request up to $10 million for implementation projects or up to $500,000 for planning projects. See page 8 for more details. All project proposals must align with at least one of ARC's five strategic investment goals.

# Contents

# (2) Appalachian Regional Commission Overview

The Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) was established through the Appalachian Regional Development Act of 1965 to help bring Appalachia into socioeconomic parity with the rest of the nation. ARC is an economic development entity representing a partnership of federal, state, and local governments. ARC's footprint spans 423 counties across 13 states. This includes all of West Virginia and parts of 12 other states: Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, Mississippi, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia. Learn more about ARC.

## ARC Strategic Investment Goals

All ARISE applications must address one or more of ARC's strategic investment goals:

1. **Building Appalachian Businesses**: Strengthen and diversify the region's economy through 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, affordable, and resilient 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.

# (3) Eligibility

## Organizations Eligible for Funding

Eligible applicants for ARISE grants include the following:
- Local development districts (LDDs)
- Indian tribes or a consortium of Indian tribes
- States, counties, cities, or other political subdivisions of a state, including a special purpose unit of a state or local government engaged in economic or infrastructure development activities, or a consortium of political subdivisions
- Institutions of higher education or a consortium of institutions of higher education
- Public or private nonprofit organizations or associations

**Ineligibility**

ARC does not award grants to the following:

- Individuals
- For-profit entities
- Proposed projects outside of the Appalachian Region
- Proposed projects that fully or partially duplicate or overlap with open or previously awarded ARC grants

# Eligibility Specifications for Current ARC Grantees

Grantees with open ARC projects—including but not limited to ARISE, POWER, INSPIRE, READY Appalachia, WORC, and Area Development— are eligible to apply for ARISE FY 2025 funds. However, the applicant must ensure the following to remain eligible:

- The proposed scope of work must be new and must not overlap with a current open ARC grant.
- **For grantees with open ARC projects scheduled to be completed before September 1, 2026:** New applications should include 1) an expansion of geography, 2) an increased scope of work building on an existing concept, or 3) a proposal with a new concept.
- ARC grantees must provide a thorough status update on their existing project(s). They must also demonstrate sufficient organizational capacity to manage multiple awards simultaneously.

**Note**: Applications that do not meet the above criteria are subject to disqualification.

# Eligible Project Geography

Projects must serve and benefit, at a minimum, two states within a portion of the Appalachian Region as defined by the Appalachian Regional Development Act (ARDA) of 1965, as amended. If projects extend beyond the Appalachian Region, only the portion that falls within the Region is eligible for ARC funding.

# Eligible Number of Partners

There must be at least two eligible organizations collaborating across more than one Appalachian Region state. There must be at least one partner from each state included in the project, and one of those partners must be identified as the lead applicant.

# Cost Sharing or Matching

Applicants must demonstrate a cost share (or a "match") from non-ARC sources:

- Matching funds can be **federal or non-federal contributions, or a combination of both**. They can be cash or in-kind.
- Matching funds **must be allowable under federal grant regulations, 2 CFR 200.306.** They must help you meet the goals of your proposed ARISE project.
- Matching funds **must meet the minimum required match amount,** which is determined by the ARC classification of the county or counties served by the proposed

activity (distressed – 20%; at-risk – 30%; transitional – 50%; competitive – 70%; and attainment – ineligible).

- o [Access a table](#) summarizing ARC's five economic designations and the match requirement for each Appalachian county.
- o [Use ARC's match rate calculator](#) to help you determine the required match.

- Matching funds must be confirmed by May 15, 2026. Applicants whose match is not confirmed by May 15, 2026, are subject to disqualification. ARC reserves the right to disqualify applicants unable to produce adequate and timely assurance of the available matching funds in form and substance satisfactory to ARC.

# (4) Program Description

This NOSA makes available at least $70 million in total, which is provided by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021 (IIJA, Pub.L. 117-58). ARC reserves the right to make awards in excess of the preceding amount if funds become available.

Appalachian Regional Initiative for Stronger Economies (ARISE) is ARC's multi-state initiative that aims to drive large-scale, regional economic transformation through collaborative projects. Significant economic opportunities often reach across state lines, and achieving the maximum economic impact from such opportunities is facilitated by a multi-state approach. For example, industry clusters may exist in adjacent states, or they may reach broadly across states that are not contiguous. ARISE recognizes that helping Appalachia achieve socioeconomic parity with the nation requires strategies that can yield regional impacts. A multi-state approach can enable ARC states acting collectively to realize economic advantages that are greater than the states acting individually. Through carefully crafted planning grants and transformational implementation grants, ARISE will foster creative collaboration across state lines to produce a more robust and sustainable regional economy. To learn more about best practices in development and implementation of regional multi-state partnerships, see [Appendix 6: ARISE Regional Multi-State Collaboration Toolkit.](#)

ARISE aims to create economic mobility and produce high-quality employment for workers who reside in the Region, enabling them to remain and thrive in these communities.

## Essential Elements of ARISE Projects

ARISE resources are meant to have a transformational impact on the Appalachian Region. All grant applications must address the following essential elements of the program:

- **Multi-State Partnerships**—The central element of ARISE is the collaboration across ARC's 13 states, so the aggregate economic impact of collective efforts is greater than isolated activity in any individual state. Projects must serve and benefit, at a minimum, two states within a portion of the Appalachian Region and must include partnerships with at least one partner from each state within the project area. The partnerships can have configurations of geography or programming:
  - o A geography-based configuration is a regional partnership focusing on cultivation and acceleration of an industry, service, or infrastructure across contiguous states.

- A program-based configuration is a program model that is expanded and scaled across multiple states. It does not require a shared border between partner states.
- **Targeted to Advancing Multi-State Economies**—Applicants must have assessed their assets and opportunities and formulated a plan that significantly advances the economies of multiple states. Among other goals, ARISE aims to lay critical groundwork to support local communities' efforts to create well-paying jobs and grow economic opportunities.
- **Assessment and Planning**—Every project must be based on prior assessment and planning. Planning is crucial to project development because it helps the parties involved assess the viability of a project, create roadmaps for implementation, and proactively identify issues, increasing the likelihood of future project success.
  - ARISE makes funding available for planning projects. Planning grants should be used to develop evidence-based plans and strategies for multi-state initiatives that may be implemented in the future.
  - ARISE also makes funding available for implementation projects. Implementation projects are for multi-state programs and are expected to be based on prior planning efforts. Competitive implementation project applications will be evidence-based and ready for successful implementation.
  - **Note:** ARISE planning and implementation projects are not directly linked. This means an ARISE planning award does not guarantee an ARISE implementation award, and obtaining an ARISE implementation award is not contingent upon having previously received an ARISE planning award.
- **Demonstrable Collaboration Among All Partners**—Each multi-state partnership must feature shared input, goals, accountability, and benefits for each partner. ARISE partnerships may build upon existing relationships and collaborations or create new connections. Partnerships should ensure varied representation and participation at all levels, from local stakeholders to state agencies and more. Successful multi-state partnerships ensure that the breadth of the region's communities, people, and assets are well represented and truly engaged in the initiative.
- **Leverage Regional Resources**—Projects should demonstrate a multi-state commitment to the proposed project by leveraging ARC resources with monetary and non-monetary investments from strategic partners, including private and philanthropic organizations and government entities.
- **Outcome Driven**—Projects should define specific output and outcome measures and define how each partner will specifically contribute to achieving those shared goals. Applicants will demonstrate how the project is designed to achieve those outcomes and commit to capturing and sharing those measures over the life of the investment.
- **Aligned with ARC Strategic Investment Goals and State Plans**—Projects must advance one or more of the five strategic investment priorities of ARC's strategic plan, and they must align with the state economic development priorities for the states served by the proposed project. Applicants should also consult Executive Orders, including those on energy policy and ending diversity, equity, and inclusion activities, such as EO 14154 and EO 14151, as they prepare their applications.

## Grant Types

### *Planning Grants*

Planning grants will fund multi-state partners to develop plans, strategies, and feasibility studies in support of future implementation efforts. Planning grants provide time, resources, and support for partnership building*, resource mapping, and needs identification, and they may help communities assemble the partnerships and vision to drive strong implementation projects down the line. Please note, a planning grant award does not guarantee future implementation funding.

**Funding Amounts and Period of Performance**
- **Funding:** Up to $500,000
- **Period of Performance:** Up to 18 months
- **Applicants must address all components noted in the section titled Criteria for Planning Grants.**

**\***ARISE planning funds may be used exclusively to build out partnerships or perform activities in states included in the scope of work for that project. For example, if your project only includes states A and B, you cannot use ARISE funding for any activities in state C.

### *Implementation Grants*

Implementation grants are for programmatic delivery of eligible activities in line with ARISE investment priorities. Funding is available for both construction and non-construction activities.

**Funding Amounts and Period of Performance**
- **Funding:** Up to $10,000,000
- **Period of Performance:** Up to 5 years
- **Applicants must address all components noted in the section titled Criteria for Implementation Grants.**

# (5)  Application Process and Scoring Criteria

## Important Dates

| NOSA release date | September 9, 2025 |
|---|---|
| Virtual workshops | September 25, 2025 (11:00 a.m. ET)<br>Application Process Webinar<br><br>October 28, 2025 (11:00 a.m. ET)<br>Designing Multi-State Projects: Best Practices Webinar |
| Pre-applications due | December 5, 2025 (5 p.m. ET) |
| Full applications due (invitation only) | May 15, 2026 (5 p.m. ET)<br>ARC will only consider applications from applicants that have been invited to apply by ARC upon review of the pre-application. |
| Awards announced | Summer 2026 |
| Selected projects begin | No sooner than September 1, 2026 |

# Steps in Application Process

## *Outreach to State Program Managers*

All applicants are required to submit a project summary to the state program managers of all the states impacted by the proposed project prior to the submittal of a pre-application. Applicants must use the ARC Project Summary Template and send the summary to all state program managers of the states impacted by the proposed project in a single email or mail correspondence. See Appendix 1: Project Summary Template for the template.

Upon receiving the ARC Project Summary, the state program managers will respond to the applicant and may either request more information or acknowledge and confirm that the proposed project aligns with their state's economic development priorities. **Note**: A response from a state program manager does not constitute an invitation to submit a full application or an approval of a proposed project by ARC.

All state program managers impacted by a project proposal must, at minimum, acknowledge and confirm that the project described in the project summary aligns with their states' priorities prior to the submittal of a pre-application. Find the name and contact information for your state program manager on ARC.gov.

Best practices when contacting your state program manager:

- **Clearly and succinctly summarize your proposed project**. It's important to provide your state program manager with a clear, concise written summary of your proposed project including the amount of funding requested, counties impacted, and project partners. Clearly state your intent to apply for ARISE funding. Some questions to consider asking include the following:

    - *Does this project align with the state's economic development priorities?*
    - *Do you have suggestions for partners that can strengthen my project?*
    - *Do you have suggestions on my project design?*
    - *What other resources do you recommend I use to make this proposed project more impactful?*

- **Reach out well in advance of an application deadline**. State program managers field many inquiries from constituents across their state and may not be able to respond to you immediately. Build in extra time for this outreach and do not wait until the last minute to reach out.

- **Be open to feedback**. Although not required, some state program managers may provide feedback on your project summary. They are trusted resources and have deep understandings of their states' economic development strategy. Consider their feedback and, as appropriate, use it to inform your pre-application submission.

## *Submitting a Pre-Application*

Eligible organizations interested in applying for an ARISE grant must first submit a pre-application, due no later than **5:00 p.m. ET on Friday, December 5, 2025,** to ARISE@arc.gov. Pre-applications must adhere to the applicable pre-application template: planning; implementation–non-construction; or implementation–construction. See Appendix 2: Pre-Application Templates for each template.

The pre-application must be submitted as one PDF file, which should not exceed 9 MB in size. Other attachments will not be accepted. Please include "*ARISE Pre-Application Submission*" and the applicant organization's name in the email subject line of your submission.

ARC will review and score the pre-application in accordance with the criteria set in the [Pre-Application Review Criteria](#) section of this NOSA. Successful pre-applications will be invited to submit a full application.

The pre-application consists of the following main sections:
- Cover page (2-page maximum)
- Budget and match (2-page maximum, scored)
- Narrative (6-page maximum, scored)
- For implementation–construction only: Construction information (1-page maximum)

All pre-applications received will be reviewed and scored together after the submission deadline on December 5, 2025.

## *Invitation to Apply*

Upon review and scoring of the pre-application and at its sole discretion, ARC will invite applicants that, in its judgment, meet the requirements of the initiative. An invitation to submit a full application shall not be construed as an ARC commitment to fund the project or as a guarantee of a grant application approval, nor a direct or implied endorsement of the applicant's project or program. A written invitation to submit a full application will be mandatory for ARC to consider an ARISE grant application. ARC will also notify submitters of pre-applications that are not invited to proceed with the full grant application.

Applicants with successful pre-applications will be sent invitations to submit full applications no later than **Tuesday, March 31, 2026**. Applicants who are not invited to submit a full application will be notified no later than March 31, 2026, as well.

Note: If you are invited to apply, the scope of work described in your pre-application must be the same in the full application. Major changes in scope as determined by ARC—including, but not limited to, changes to geography, significant changes to budget, and changes to primary activities—will not be accepted unless otherwise approved by ARC.

## *Submitting a Full Application*

Applicants invited to submit full applications must do so by **5:00 p.m. ET on Friday, May 15, 2026.** Applicants must submit the full application following the instructions provided in ARC's written invitation to submit a grant application. ARC will not consider incomplete or insufficient grant applications nor will it entertain full grant applications from applicants that have not been invited to submit a grant application. The submittal of a grant application does not commit ARC to make any specific award. ARC reserves the right to accept or reject any or all grant applications. All grant awards are contingent upon funding availability and ARC policy priorities.

Full applications are limited to 20 pages of narrative responses and 100 pages of file attachments. Applicants must meet eligibility requirements and the ARC cost-share matching

requirement for the proposed service area. For your reference, a preview of what would be required in a full application is available in Appendix 3: Full Application Checklist.

# Pre-Application Review Criteria for Planning Grants

Scoring table with parameters and possible point values:

| | Points Available |
|---|---|
| **Cover Page (2-page maximum)** | **Not Scored** |
| | |
| **Budget and Match (2-page maximum)** | **8 points** |
| **Budget**<br>Submit abridged budget narrative per the template provided. | 4 |
| **Match**<br>Identify resources to be leveraged as match and the status of that match (speculative, pending, or confirmed).<br>• **Note**: If invited to apply, resources listed as match must be confirmed by the funder by May 15, 2026. Applicants whose match is not confirmed by May 15, 2026, are subject to disqualification. Applicants should demonstrate community and regional commitment to the proposed project by combining ARC resources with a variety of match types (cash, in-kind, loans, etc.) and sources (public, private, philanthropic, etc.). If invited to submit a full application, you will be asked to provide match confirmation letters in your application. Additionally, if real property is being utilized as match, you will need to attach a MAI (Member, Appraisal Institute) appraisal of the property's value. ARC reserves the right to disqualify applicants unable to produce adequate and timely assurance of the available matching funds in form and substance satisfactory to ARC. | 4 |
| **Narrative (6-page maximum)** | **20 points** |
| **Statement of Need or Opportunity**<br>Describe the need or opportunity this project seeks to address. Be as specific to the project's target geographies as possible and cite data. ARC has a vast Research and Data Library that we welcome you to use and cite in this section.<br><br>In this section:<br>• If applicable, explain what the need is and why this project is best suited to fill it. Explain how this project fits with existing initiatives, if applicable, and is not duplicative of ongoing efforts in the project area.<br>• If applicable, explain the opportunity this project seeks to leverage or explore. | 4 |

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| • Explain why this project should be multi-state.<br>• Explain why a planning grant is needed. | |
| **Project Description**<br>Describe what you will do to meet the need or opportunity presented in your statement of need.<br><br>In this section:<br>• Explain the entire proposed scope of work. ARC should understand all project goals and major activities required to achieve those goals.<br>• Explain the proposed geographic areas of focus and rationale for selecting those geographies.<br>• Explain the general project timeline.<br>    ○ **Note**: If invited to apply, you will be required to provide a complete timeline and workplan in your full application. | 4 |
| **Partnerships**<br>Describe how the project team will work together to execute the activities described in the project description.<br><br>In this section:<br>• Explain every partner's role, responsibilities, contributions (which may include match), and benefits (which may include sub-grants) in the proposed scope of work.<br>    ○ **Note**: If invited to apply, you will be required to submit letters of engagement from every partner to confirm their support, role and participation in the project.<br>• Explain why these are the best partners/best team(s) to work on this project.<br>• Explain how these partners will collaborate across state lines.<br>• Explain the project team's ability to accomplish the proposed scope of work and demonstrated capacity to manage large grants and federal awards.<br>• Explain readiness of the project team to begin work if a grant is awarded. This includes, but is not limited to, the team's ability to submit all required documentation by stated deadlines in this ARISE NOSA.<br>• If applicable, explain if there are organizations with an indirect role in this project (for example, a local nonprofit that supports this project but is not directly contributing to its implementation). | 4 |
| **Outputs and Outcomes of Planning Grant**<br>Describe what will result at the end of this planning grant.<br><br>In this section: | 4 |

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| • Use [Appendix 4: Guide to ARC Project Performance Measures](#) to establish performance measures for this project. This will describe the measurable results or impact of the proposed project.<br>    ○ Planning projects must include, at a minimum, the output "plans/reports."<br>• Also explain how pursuing this scope of work will prepare the project team for future implementation. |  |
| **Financial Sustainability**<br>Describe how this project will be sustained after the life of the award.<br><br>In this section:<br>• Explain where future funding for project implementation could be found beyond the ARC ARISE funding.<br>• Explain what benefits will remain after completion of this planning grant if future funding is not secured. | 4 |

# Pre-Application Review Criteria for Implementation–Non-Construction Grants

Scoring table with parameters and possible point values:

|  | Points Available |
|---|---|
| **Cover Page (2-page maximum)** | **Not Scored** |
|  |  |
| **Budget and Match (2-page maximum)** | **8 points** |
| **Budget**<br>Submit abridged budget narrative per the template provided. | 4 |
| **Match**<br>Identify resources to be leveraged as match and the status of that match (speculative, pending, or confirmed).<br>• **Note**: If invited to apply, resources listed as match must be confirmed by the funder by May 15, 2026. Applicants whose match is not confirmed by May 15, 2026, are subject to disqualification. Applicants should demonstrate community and regional commitment to the proposed project by combining ARC resources with a variety of match types (cash, in-kind, loans, etc.) and sources (public, private, philanthropic, etc.). If invited to submit a full application, you will be asked to provide match confirmation letters in your application. Additionally, if real property is being utilized as match, you will need to attach a MAI (Member, Appraisal Institute) appraisal of the property's value. ARC reserves the right to disqualify applicants unable to produce | 4 |

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| adequate and timely assurance of the available matching funds in form and substance satisfactory to ARC. | |
| **Narrative (6-page maximum)** | **24 points** |
| **Statement of Need or Opportunity**<br>Describe the need or opportunity this project seeks to address. Be as specific to the project's target geographies as possible and cite data. ARC has a vast Research and Data Library that we welcome you to use and cite in this section.<br><br>In this section:<br><ul><li>Explain what the need is and why this project is best suited to fill it. Explain how this project fits with existing initiatives, if applicable, and is not duplicative of ongoing efforts in the project area.</li><li>If applicable, explain what opportunity this project seeks to leverage.</li><li>Explain why this project should be multi-state. Explain what project partners working across state lines can achieve together that they could not achieve alone.</li><li>Explain the evidence/data that supports the need for this project.</li></ul> | 4 |
| **Project Description**<br>Describe what you will do to meet the need or opportunity presented in the statement of need.<br><br>In this section:<br><ul><li>Explain the entire proposed scope of work. ARC should understand all project goals and major activities required to achieve those goals.</li><li>Explain the proposed geographic areas of focus and rationale for selecting those geographies.</li><li>Explain the general project timeline.<ul><li>**Note**: If invited to apply, you will be required to provide a complete timeline and workplan in your full application.</li></ul></li><li>Explain how the proposed project significantly advances the regional economy and will create equitable benefits for all states involved.</li></ul> | 4 |
| **Partnerships**<br>Describe how the project team will work together to execute the activities described in the project description.<br><br>In this section:<br><ul><li>For every partner listed in the "List of primary project partners" section of the Cover Page, explain their role in this project. Explain partner's responsibilities, contributions (which may include match), and benefits</li></ul> | 4 |

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| (which may include sub-grants) in the proposed scope of work.<br><ul><li>○ **Note**: If invited to apply, you will be required to submit a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between all project partners that confirms their support, role, and participation in the project.</li></ul><ul><li>Explain why these are the best partners/best team(s) to work on this project.</li><li>Explain how these partners will collaborate across state lines.</li><li>Explain the project team's ability to accomplish the proposed scope of work and demonstrated capacity to manage large grants and federal awards.</li><li>Explain the project team's readiness to begin work if a grant is awarded. This includes, but is not limited to, the team's ability to submit all required documentation by stated deadlines in this ARISE NOSA.</li><li>If applicable, explain if there are organizations with an indirect role in this project (example, a local nonprofit that supports this project but is not directly contributing to its implementation).</li></ul> | |
| **Outputs and Outcomes of Implementation Grant**<br>Describe what will be accomplished by the end of this project.<br><br>In this section:<ul><li>Use Appendix 4: Guide to ARC Project Performance Measures to establish performance measures for this project. These will describe the measurable results or impact of the proposed project.<ul><li>○ Every ARC implementation project should have at least one output measure and one outcome measure from ARC's catalog of measures.</li></ul></li></ul> | 4 |
| **Feasibility**<br>Describe prior planning efforts that support the need and rationale for this project.<br><br>In this section:<ul><li>Explain any previous planning work or activities that have been done to increase the likelihood of this project's success.</li><li>Explain why you are prepared to start implementation.</li><li>If there are any gaps in your planning, explain how they will be addressed through this project.</li></ul> | 4 |
| **Financial Sustainability**<br>Describe how this project will be sustained after the life of the | 4 |

award.

In this section:
- Explain the plan for the project's sustainability after ARISE grant funding expires, and the project is completed. Speak directly to the commitment of the proposed project's stakeholders to sustain the project's activities beyond ARC's investment.
- Indicate whether your project encompasses other factors that would make it financially sustainable, e.g., the project will generate revenue.

# Pre-Application Review Criteria for Implementation - Construction Grants

Scoring table with parameters and possible point values:

| | Points Available |
|---|---|
| **Cover Page (2-page maximum)** | **Not Scored** |
| | |
| **Construction Information (1-page maximum)** | **Not Scored** |
| Provide general information regarding construction activities.<br><br>In this section, you will be asked the following questions:<br>• Will there be construction in more than one state?<br>• Are there non-construction activities in this project?<br><br>You will also be asked for the following information:<br>• Basic Agency information<br>• Engineering or architectural budget, or Preliminary Engineer Report (PER) information<br>• Site control information<br>• Information for tourism projects<br><br>See Appendix 5: Construction Project Requirements for Full Applications for more information regarding requirements for construction grant applicants that are invited to submit a full application. | |
| **Budget and Match (2-page maximum per scope of work)** | **8 points** |
| **Budget**<br>Submit abridged budget narrative for each separate scope of work per the template(s) provided. | 4 |
| **Match**<br>Identify resources to be leveraged as match and the status of that match (speculative, pending, or confirmed). | 4 |

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| • **Note**: If invited to apply, resources listed as match must be confirmed by the funder by May 15, 2026. Applicants whose match is not confirmed by May 15, 2026, are subject to disqualification. Applicants should demonstrate community and regional commitment to the proposed project by combining ARC resources with a variety of match types (cash, in-kind, loans, etc.) and sources (public, private, philanthropic, etc.). If invited to submit a full application, you will be asked to provide match confirmation letters in your application. Additionally, if real property is being utilized as match, you will need to attach a MAI (Member, Appraisal Institute) appraisal of the property's value. ARC reserves the right to disqualify applicants unable to produce timely and adequate assurance of the available matching funds in form and substance satisfactory to ARC. | |
| **Narrative (6-page maximum)** | **24 points** |
| **Statement of Need or Opportunity**<br>Describe the need or opportunity this project seeks to address. Be as specific to the project's target geographies as possible and cite data. ARC has a vast Research and Data Library we welcome you to use and cite in this section.<br><br>In this section:<br>• Explain what the need is and why this project is best suited to fill it. Explain how this project fits with existing initiatives, if applicable, and is not duplicative of ongoing efforts in the project area.<br>• If applicable, explain the opportunity this project seeks to leverage.<br>• Explain why this project should be multi-state. Explain what project partners working across state lines can achieve together that they could not achieve alone.<br>• Explain the evidence/data that supports the need for this project. | 4 |
| **Project Description**<br>Describe what you will do to meet the need or opportunity presented in the statement of need.<br><br>In this section:<br>• Explain the entire proposed scope of work. ARC should understand all project goals and major activities required to achieve those goals.<br>• Explain the proposed geographic areas of focus and rationale for selecting those geographies.<br>• Explain the general project timeline.<br>  o **Note**: If invited to apply, you will be required to | 4 |

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| provide a complete timeline and workplan in your full application.<br>• Explain how the proposed project significantly advances the regional economy and will create equitable benefits for all states involved. | |
| **Partnerships**<br>Describe how the project team will work together to execute the activities described in the project description.<br><br>In this section:<br>• For every partner listed in the "List of primary project partners" section of the Cover Page, explain their role in this project. Explain partner's responsibilities, contributions (which may include match), and benefits (which may include sub-grants) in the proposed scope of work.<br>    ◦ **Note**: If invited to apply, you will be required to submit a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between all project partners that confirms their support, role, and participation in the project.<br>• Explain why these are the best partners/best team(s) to work on this project.<br>• Explain how these partners will collaborate across state lines.<br>• Explain the project team's ability to accomplish the proposed scope of work and demonstrated capacity to manage large grants and federal awards.<br>• Explain the project team's readiness to begin work if a grant is awarded. This includes, but is not limited to, the team's ability to submit all required documentation by stated deadlines in this ARISE NOSA.<br>• If applicable, explain if there are organizations with an indirect role in this project (example, a local non-profit that supports this project but is not directly contributing to its implementation). | 4 |
| **Outputs and Outcomes of Implementation Grant**<br>Describe what will be accomplished by the end of this project.<br><br>In this section:<br>• Use Appendix 4: Guide to ARC Project Performance Measures to establish performance measures for this project. These will describe the measurable results or impact of the proposed project.<br>    ◦ Every ARC implementation project should have at least one output measure and one outcome measure from ARC's catalog of measures. | 4 |

| | |
|---|---|
| **Feasibility**<br>Describe prior planning efforts that support the need and rationale for this project.<br><br>In this section:<br>• Explain any previous planning work or activities that have been done to increase the likelihood of this project's success.<br>• Explain why you are prepared to start implementation.<br>• If there are any gaps in your planning, explain how they will be addressed through this project. | 4 |
| **Financial Sustainability**<br>Describe how this project will be sustained after the life of the award.<br><br>In this section:<br>• Explain the plan for the project's sustainability after ARISE grant funding expires and the project is completed. Speak directly to the commitment of the proposed project's stakeholders to sustain the project's activities beyond ARC's investment.<br>• Indicate whether your project encompasses other factors that would make it financially sustainable, e.g., the project will generate revenue. | 4 |

# (6) Unique Entity Identifier and System for Award Management (SAM)

As required by the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 and 2 CFR 200, applicants are required to meet the following criteria:

- Be registered in the System for Award Management (SAM) ([www.sam.gov](www.sam.gov)) before any ARC funds are awarded to the applicant.
- Provide a valid Unique Entity ID (UEI) in their application.
- Continue to maintain an active SAM registration with current information at all times during which they have an active federal award or an application or plan under consideration by a federal awarding agency.

# (7) Funding Restrictions

Grant awards funded in part or wholly with ARC program funds are subject to the same program funding restrictions of other ARC grants. More information on funding restrictions may be found in Chapter 8 of the ARC Code ([http://www.arc.gov/arc-code](http://www.arc.gov/arc-code)).

In developing their project proposals, applicants should also consult Executive Orders, including those on energy policy and ending diversity, equity, and inclusion activities, such as EO 14154 and EO 14151.

# (8) Indirect Costs

Applicants may include the indirect costs in their budget formulation. Indirect costs are those costs incurred for a common or joint purpose benefiting more than one cost objective, and not readily assignable to the cost objectives specifically benefitted, without effort disproportionate to the results achieved. Entities with a Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (NICRA) must provide an explanation of how the indirect costs are calculated in the grant application and must provide a current version of the NICRA before any ARC funds are awarded. Organizations that do not have a current negotiated indirect cost rate as provided in the Uniform Guidance, 2 CFR §200, may elect to charge a de minimis rate of 15% based on the modified total direct cost. Costs must be consistently charged as either indirect or direct costs, and may not be double-charged or inconsistently charged as both. Applicants are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the cost principles set forth in 2 CFR 200, Subpart E, and the de minimis rate as described in 2 CFR 200.414(f).

# (9) Post-Award Administration

## General

Administration of ARC awards is subject to the same regulations, restrictions, and requirements as other federal awards. These include but are not limited to "Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards" at 2 CFR 200, as currently updated; Buy America Preference for Infrastructure Projects; past performance and non-compliance; restrictions on making awards to corporations convicted of felony criminal

violations and unpaid federal tax liabilities; environmental and historic preservation; and national policy requirements, including but not limited to those protecting free speech, religious liberty, public welfare, the environment, and prohibiting discrimination, e.g., Equal Employment Opportunity and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Recipients of ARC awards are required to comply with all ARC award terms and conditions in addition to the requirements described above.

ARC reserves the right to change the reporting time periods and, depending on the nature of the project, may request additional relevant data. In addition, ARC requires grantees to cooperate with post-award evaluations, which require maintaining records for at least three years after project closeout. All ARC awards are subject to audit. If your organization has been subject to a federal audit within the past five years, please note within your application the recommendations made and your subsequent responses to those recommendations.

## Non-Construction

General management and administration requirements for non-construction projects are contained in the [ARC Grant Administration Manual for Non-Construction Grant Agreements.](#)

## Construction

All ARC construction projects, including projects that include both construction and non-construction components, must be administered by a registered federal agency or state Basic Agency, and are subject to the Build America, Buy America Act (part of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act enacted on November 15, 2021) and 2 CFR Part 184 (Buy America Preference) and Davis-Bacon wage rates, among other federal requirements. While a Basic Agency Agreement is not required at the time of pre-application submission, applicants must indicate which agency they intend to work with. If invited to submit a full application, the applicant must, consistent with the applicable state policy, submit Basic Agency commitment letter(s) with their full application. The Basic Agency commitment letter(s) must be received by ARC no later than May 15, 2026. See [Appendix 5: Construction Project Requirements for Full Applications](#) for more information.

Additionally, ARC must have an agreement in place with the Basic Agency before the project can be approved. Utilizing an agency that does not yet have an agreement with ARC can result in substantial delays. A list of agencies with agreements in place with ARC can be found here: [https://www.arc.gov/basic-agency-partners/.](https://www.arc.gov/basic-agency-partners/)

# (10) Buy America Preference Notice

## General

All grantees must comply with the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) and the Build America, Buy America Act (the Act), Pub. L. No. 117-58, §§ 70901-52, including the implementing requirements at 2 CFR Part 184 and M-24-02, as summarized here. None of the funds provided under ARISE may be used for an infrastructure project unless:

a) All iron and steel used in the project are produced in the United States. This means all manufacturing processes, from the initial melting stage through the application of coatings, occurred in the United States.
b) All manufactured products used in the project are produced in the United States. This means the manufactured product was manufactured in the United States, and the cost of the components of the manufactured product that are mined, produced, or manufactured in the United States is greater than 55 percent of the total cost of all components of the manufactured product, unless another standard for determining the minimum amount of domestic content of the manufactured product has been established under applicable law or regulation.
c) All construction materials are manufactured in the United States. This means that all manufacturing processes for the construction material occurred in the United States. The construction material standards are listed in the definitions section below.

## Incorporation Into an Infrastructure Project

The Buy America preference only applies to articles, materials, and supplies that are consumed in, incorporated into, or affixed to an infrastructure project. As such, it does not apply to tools, equipment, and supplies, such as temporary scaffolding, brought to the construction site and removed at or before the completion of the infrastructure project. Nor does a Buy America preference apply to equipment and furnishings, such as movable chairs, desks, and portable computer equipment, that are used at or within the finished infrastructure project but are not an integral part of the structure or permanently affixed to the infrastructure project.

## Waivers

When necessary, recipients may submit a written waiver request to ARC to waive the Buy America Preference. Waiver requests are subject to public comment periods of no less than 15 days and must be reviewed by ARC and the Office of Management and Budget Made in America Office.

Recipients should consult ARC to determine whether there are any applicable waivers in place.

When ARC has determined that one of the following exceptions applies, a final determination of the waiver request will be made:
a) applying the Buy America Preference would be inconsistent with the public interest.
b) the types of iron, steel, manufactured products, or construction materials are not produced in the United States in sufficient and reasonably available quantities or of a satisfactory quality; or
c) the inclusion of iron, steel, manufactured products, or construction materials produced in the United States will increase the cost of the overall project by more than 25 percent.

See the definitions section of Buy America terms.

## Definitions

a) "Construction materials" means articles, materials, or supplies that consist of only one of the items listed in paragraph (1) of this definition, except as provided in paragraph (2) of this definition. To the extent one of the items listed in paragraph (1)

contains as inputs other items listed in paragraph (1), it is nonetheless a construction material.

> (1) The listed items are: (i) Non-ferrous metals; (ii) Plastic and polymer-based products (including polyvinylchloride, composite building materials, and polymers used in fiber optic cables); (iii) Glass (including optic glass); (iv) Fiber optic cable (including drop cable); (v) Optical fiber; (vi) Lumber; (vii) Engineered wood; and (viii) Drywall.
>
> (2) Minor additions of articles, materials, supplies, or binding agents to a construction material do not change the categorization of the construction material. "Buy America Preference" means the "domestic content procurement preference" set forth in section 70914 of the Build America, Buy America Act, which requires the head of each Federal agency to ensure that none of the funds made available for a Federal award for an infrastructure project may be obligated unless all of the iron, steel, manufactured products, and construction materials incorporated into the project are produced in the United States.

b) "Infrastructure" means public infrastructure projects in the United States, which includes, at a minimum, the structures, facilities, and equipment for roads, highways, and bridges; public transportation; dams, ports, harbors, and other maritime facilities; intercity passenger and freight railroads; freight and intermodal facilities; airports; water systems, including drinking water and wastewater systems; electrical transmission facilities and systems; utilities; broadband infrastructure; and buildings and real property; and structures, facilities, and equipment that generate, transport, and distribute energy.

# (11) General Legal Disclosures

ARISE grant awards pursuant to this NOSA will be made only to the extent that funds are available and may be provided or withheld in ARC's sole discretion. Publication of this NOSA does not obligate ARC to award any specific grant or cooperative agreement or to obligate all or any part of available funds. Applicants intending to contract with a specific individual, consulting group, or organization with ARC funding must have and use a competitive procurement policy that conforms to procurement standards at 2 CFR §§ 200.317–327.

This NOSA does not commit ARC to make any specific award. Notwithstanding any other provisions of the NOSA, ARC reserves the right to award grants, cooperative agreements, or contracts to communities or regions that best meet the requirements of the NOSA. ARC solely reserves the right to accept or reject any or all responses received as a result of this request; to negotiate with all qualified sources; or to cancel in part or in its entirety this NOSA if it is in the interests of ARC to do so.

Please note that ARC will not reimburse any costs associated with the preparation of a response to this NOSA. Consultants and consultant teams that are legally barred from receiving federal contracts or contract payments will not be considered for work with communities or regions under this NOSA.

Grants awarded under the ARISE program are subject to the provisions of the Appalachian Regional Development Act of 1965, as amended; 40 USC Sec. 14101 et seq.; the Appalachian Regional Commission Code; and other terms and conditions set forth in the grant agreement.

Records of the Appalachian Regional Commission's doings and transactions are made available for public inspection pursuant to the Appalachian Regional Development Act of 1965, as amended; 40 USC 14308; and the Commission's Open Records Policy. Applicants must identify and mark all confidential and/or proprietary documents they deem appropriate to submit with their application.

# Appendices

## Appendix 1: Project Summary Template

All applicants are required to submit a project summary to the state program managers of each of the states impacted by the proposed project prior to the submittal of a pre-application. Applicants must use the Project Summary Template and send to all state program managers of the states impacted by the proposed project in a single email or mail correspondence.

- All state program managers whose states are impacted by a project proposal must, at minimum, acknowledge and confirm that the project described in the project summary aligns with their states' priorities prior to the submittal of a pre-application.

## Appendix 2: Pre-Application Templates

Eligible organizations interested in applying for an ARISE grant must first submit a pre-application, due no later than **5:00 p.m. ET on Friday, December 5, 2025,** to ARISE@arc.gov. Pre-applications must adhere to the applicable pre-application template:

- (2.A) Planning
- (2.B) Implementation–Non-Construction
- (2.C) Implementation–Construction

## Appendix 3: Full Application Checklist

Applicants invited to submit full applications must do so by **5:00 p.m. ET on Friday, May 15, 2026.** Applicants must submit the full application following the instructions provided in ARC's written invitation to submit a grant application. For your reference, a preview of the Application Checklist is available.

## Appendix 4: Guide to ARC Project Performance Measures

**Guide to ARC Project Performance Measures**.

- This guide provides general tips for choosing performance measures for your project, as well as specific guidance on performance measures by project type.
- Every ARC implementation project should have at least one output measure and one outcome measure from ARC's catalog of measures. Planning projects must include, at a minimum, the output "plans/reports."

# Appendix 5: Construction Project Requirements for Full Applications

In addition to the preceding requirements of this NOSA, applicants who are invited to submit full applications for construction projects must follow the guidelines below.

## Basic Agencies

- All ARC construction projects, including projects that include both construction and non-construction components, must be administered by a registered federal agency or state Basic Agency.
- By the application submission deadline (May 15, 2026), applicants with construction components in their project must submit a Basic Agency commitment letter (or letters, if there is construction across more than one state), consistent with the applicable state policy. If you have any questions about applicable policy, please reach out to your Basic Agency directly.
- See the list of ARC's Basic Agency partners: https://www.arc.gov/basic-agency-partners/.
- **Note**: Some Basic Agencies will not administer non-construction-related project activities. If a project involves both construction and non-construction work, the applicant must clarify what activities the Basic Agency is willing to administer. Separate budgets will be required for each scope of work (e.g., one for construction, one for non-construction).

## Engineering or Architectural Budget

- By the application submission deadline (May 15, 2026), applicants must provide an engineering or architectural budget detailing line-item project costs. The project total from the engineering or architectural budget should match the total on the submitted Standard Form 424. (Note that for construction projects only, ARC does not require a breakdown of expenditures by funding source).
- Include a line item for administrative costs in the budget. This amount should cover the costs of providing project administration tasks including environmental review, Davis-Bacon Act compliance, procurement management, etc.
- Provide a budget narrative that includes a detailed explanation of expenditures by the line items listed on standard budget forms. Include purpose of travel and supply/equipment lists and describe expenses in the 'other' line item, if applicable.
- If the ARC project is part of a larger, multi-phase project, provide only the detailed budget information that corresponds to the total budget for the ARC and matching funds.
- **Note**: Most Basic Agencies require a Preliminary Engineers Report (PER) in addition to or in lieu of an engineering or architectural budget. They may require the submission of a PER prior to committing themselves to serve as your Basic Agency. If you are not sure what your Basic Agency requires, please reach out to them in advance to ensure you meet their requirements.

**Site Control**

- By the pre-application submission deadline (December 5, 2025), applicants with construction components in their projects must, at a minimum, have selected their intended construction site and identified it in their application.
- Applicants are expected to own the site that would be improved under this NOSA. Applications with alternative arrangements, for which the applicant has the legal right to construct on the property but is not the property owner, will be considered only on a case-by-case basis and are subject to disqualification at ARC's discretion. Further, a federal Basic Agency may not, under its own rules or policies, administer a project with an alternative arrangement. If requested by ARC, supporting documentation of site control must be submitted no later than July 1, 2026.

**Other Considerations**

- ARC will not fund improvements to private property.

# Appendix 6: ARISE Regional Multi-State Collaboration Toolkit

ARISE is intended to support economic, workforce, and community development projects through partnerships across state lines in the Appalachian Region. To support the development of ARISE, ARC contracted with the American Institutes for Research (AIR) to gather input from key leaders and partners on the design and implementation of the new initiative. This culminated in the creation of the Regional Multi-State Collaboration Toolkit, a synthesis of case study interviews, key take-aways and best practices, and resources for the development and implementation of regional multi-state partnerships.