



INSPIRE Award Summaries by State

September 2024

The [Investments Supporting Partnerships In Recovery Ecosystems \(INSPIRE\) Initiative](#) addresses the [substance use disorder \(SUD\) crisis](#) across Appalachia by creating or expanding a recovery ecosystem that will lead to workforce entry or re-entry.

In September 2024, ARC announced nearly \$11.5 million for 39 projects across nine Appalachian states.

KENTUCKY (5 awards)

Project Title: *Building Hope Beyond Recovery*

Grantee: Housing Development Alliance, Inc.

Award Amount: \$500,000

Announcement Date: September 2024

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$500,000 to the Housing Development Alliance, Inc., in Hazard, Kentucky, for the *Building Hope Beyond Recovery* project. This project will provide workforce training and certification in housing construction to individuals in substance use disorder (SUD) recovery to support flood recovery efforts in Breathitt, Knott, Leslie, and Perry counties. The demand for skilled construction workers will increase as large post-flood construction projects begin throughout the region later in 2024. The Building Hope Beyond Recovery program expects to provide skilled hands-on training in housing construction to 12 individuals in SUD recovery, job experience with a livable wage, and flexible scheduling to accommodate completion of recovery programs and/or court requirements.

Project Title: *Gateway from Recovery to Work*

Grantee: Goodwill Industries of Kentucky, Inc. (GWIK)

Award Amount: \$500,000

Announcement Date: September 2024

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$500,000 to Goodwill Industries of Kentucky, Inc. (GWIK), in Louisville, Kentucky, for the *Gateway from Recovery to Work* project. The Gateway from Recovery to Work (GRW) project will include 20 months of skills-based training for individuals in recovery to earn industry-recognized credentials for employment in high-demand sectors paying livable wages. The GRW program will also provide a network of supportive services, including recovery and case management support through six months of employment, conducive to sustained sobriety and employment. Career pathways for GRW clients have been carefully selected based on credential requirements, the degree of recovery support in the workplace, labor market data, and employer feedback. The program is expected to provide 50 individuals in recovery with credentials to achieve and maintain employment with 12 recovery-friendly employers.

Project Title: *The HUB-Letcher County (HUB-LC)*

Grantee: Kentucky River District Health Department

Award Amount: \$499,206

Announcement Date: September 2024

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$499,206 to Kentucky River District Health Department in Whitesburg, Kentucky, for the *HUB-Letcher County (HUB-LC)* project. The HUB-LC will develop and expand the recovery ecosystem in rural Appalachian Kentucky. Through partnerships with Southeast Community and Technical College, local employers will provide an opportunity for individuals to come out of substance use disorder (SUD) treatment and into training or an apprenticeship program. It is intended that this training will lead to a career and help trainees gain self-sufficiency. It is anticipated that 29 businesses will be improved by gaining a skilled workforce, and 800 participants will be improved by gaining skills and the removal of barriers to their immediate employment.

Project Title: *BENEFIT (Building an Ecosystem Network with Employment Focused Intensive Treatment)*

Grantee: Foothills Academy, Inc., dba Foothill-CBI

Award Amount: \$396,039

Announcement Date: September 2024

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$396,039 to Foothills Academy, Inc., dba Foothill-CBI, in Albany, Kentucky, for the *BENEFIT (Building an Ecosystem Network with Employment Focused Intensive Treatment)* project. The BENEFIT project will target justice-involved adults in substance use disorder (SUD) recovery, seeking to break down silos and create cross-sector collaborations to create a recovery-to-workforce model for Clinton and Wayne counties. The BENEFIT program will create a one-stop shop for individuals in recovery by providing SUD treatment, creating linkages between education and training providers and organizations that provide wraparound services, reducing barriers to employment, and providing job placement. It is anticipated that 40 participants and four businesses will be served as a result of the project.

Project Title: *Planning for a Recovery Ecosystem in Rural Kentucky*

Grantee: Mercy Health-Marcum and Wallace Hospital

Award Amount: \$50,000

Announcement Date: September 2024

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$50,000 to Mercy Health-Marcum and Wallace Hospital in Irvine, Kentucky, for the *Planning for a Recovery Ecosystem in Rural Kentucky* project. The project will integrate the existing Helpful Opportunities for Medical Advancement (HOME) network of federally qualified health centers and Critical Access Hospitals into the recovery ecosystem in rural Appalachian Kentucky. Following a scan of recovery-friendly workplaces and a needs assessment of employers of individuals in recovery, Mercy Health-Marcum and Wallace Hospital will develop a regional workforce recruitment and retention plan for individuals in recovery, a strategic plan for the HOME Network itself, and a replicable template for instituting a recovery-friendly workplace.

NEW YORK (1 award)

Project Title: *Recovery Integrated Supportive Employment (RISE) Recovery-to-Work Program*

Grantee: University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC) Chautauqua

Award Amount: \$458,705

Announcement Date: September 2024

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$458,705 to UPMC Chautauqua in Jamestown, New York, for the *Recovery Integrated Supportive Employment (RISE) Recovery-to-Work Program* in Chautauqua County, New York. The RISE Recovery-to-Work Program will build on the success of UPMC Chautauqua partners in building and funding a comprehensive approach to prevention, treatment recovery, and support for individuals with substance use disorder (SUD) throughout Chautauqua County. By developing partnerships with current employers in the region, the RISE Recovery-to-Work Program will encourage recovery-friendly work environments that emphasize the value of recruiting and supporting new and current employees at risk of substance use and reduce workplace stigma around addiction. It is anticipated that 315 participants and 30 businesses will be served as a result of the project.

NORTH CAROLINA (2 awards)

Project Title: *Treatment Court Support Systems*

Grantee: Land of Sky Regional Council

Award Amount: \$499,879

Announcement Date: September 2024

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$499,879 to Land of Sky Regional Council in Asheville, North Carolina, for the *Treatment Court Support Systems* project. The Treatment Court Support Systems project will partner with drug treatment court systems in Buncombe, Henderson, Madison, McDowell, Rutherford, and Transylvania counties to support individuals in their recovery journey and place them on a trajectory for a successful career. The project will guide participants as they move through the recovery court and mandated treatments, linking job-ready participants with employment and support for retention. The project will also assist participants with transportation, treatment, housing assistance, and other necessary supports as they start their recovery journey. It is anticipated that 200 workers/trainees and 50 businesses will be served as a result of the project.

Project Title: *Expanding the Recovery Ecosystem for Western North Carolina Opportunity Youth*

Grantee: HIGHTS, Inc.

Award Amount: \$18,000

Announcement Date: September 2024

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$18,000 to HIGHTS, Inc., in Cullowhee, North Carolina, for the *Expanding the Recovery Ecosystem for Western North Carolina Opportunity Youth* project.

HIGHTS has identified a critical need for a continuum of behavioral health services and support tailored to youth experiencing mental health and substance use challenges in Western North Carolina. The planning grant will address this issue by facilitating and coordinating a comprehensive needs assessment. This assessment will focus on the recruitment of youth to pursue human services credentials and provide sustainability for behavioral health services in the future. The resulting report will include a statement of need describing the counties impacted by the project, the target population that will enter the workforce, the impacts of substance use in the region, gaps in current services, and the community needs pertaining to the expansion, creation, or improvement of a recovery

ecosystem. Four action plans will also be created that outline the intended results, projected outputs and outcomes, budgetary considerations, and collaborators essential for success.

OHIO (5 awards)

Project Title: *Expanding Networks in Recovery Initiatives for Collective Health (ENRICH)*

Grantee: Appalachian Center for Economic Networks, Inc.

Award Amount: \$499,945

Announcement Date: September 2024

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$499,945 to Appalachian Center for Economic Networks, Inc. (ACENet) in Athens, Ohio, for the *Expanding Networks in Recovery Initiatives for Collective Health (ENRICH)* project. In collaboration with Rural Action, Ohio University, and Passion Works Studio, ACENet has designed workforce development pathways for individuals in recovery. This INSPIRE investment will further accelerate networked services to customize a more robust regional recovery-to-work model. The implementation of the ENRICH project will include broadening the employer pipeline committed to creating a workplace culture that supports meaningful employment, and strategically offering the appropriate job readiness training, sector-specific skills, and on-the-job experience opportunities targeted to substance use disorder (SUD)-impacted individuals to create a bridge between the employer pipeline and the recovery ecosystem. It is expected that the ENRICH project will provide job readiness and skills training for 120 individuals in recovery.

Project Title: *SSU Center for Rural Community Health: Addressing the Unique Health Needs of Our Region through Research, Education, and Collaboration*

Grantee: Shawnee State University

Award Amount: \$490,570

Announcement Date: September 2024

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$490,570 to Shawnee State University (SSU) in Portsmouth, Ohio, for the *SSU Center for Rural Community Health: Addressing the Unique Health Needs of Our Region through Research, Education, and Collaboration* project. This project will support new program initiatives for the soon-to-be-launched College of Health and Human Services Center for Rural Community Health, which will focus on developing and implementing solutions to strengthen the substance use disorder (SUD) recovery ecosystem in southern Ohio and northern Kentucky. Through research, data analysis, and collaboration with over 80 community partners throughout the seven-county service area, the grantee will develop resources to address the impact of SUD on children; create a Support Navigator position that will function as a one-stop shop for assisting local K-12 and SSU students with locating recovery resources for themselves or family members in addiction; and establish a pilot pathway-to-degree program in which SSU students in recovery will receive tuition assistance and tutoring in order to successfully complete an associate's degree program. It is anticipated that by the end of the three-year grant period, 3,810 K-12 and SSU students will be served and 30,808 improved; 51 business will be served and 40 improved; 44 organizations will be served and 35 improved; and seven communities will be served and improved by the project. This project will also create two jobs.

Project Title: *REACH Appalachia Recovery Initiative*

Grantee: R.E.A.C.H. (Restoring, Educating, Advocating, Collaborating, and Hope) For Tomorrow Inc.

Award Amount: \$50,000

Announcement Date: September 2024

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$50,000 to R.E.A.C.H. For Tomorrow Inc. in Greenfield, Ohio, for the *REACH Appalachia Recovery Initiative*. This project will empower individuals in recovery by providing comprehensive vocational, certificate, and apprenticeship programs to individuals in Highland, Ross, and Pike counties. The project will fund a comprehensive needs assessment and feasibility analysis, focusing on identifying specific vocational training needs in key sectors such as administration, construction, auto maintenance, and food service. The team will collaborate with existing training programs, or design tailored initiatives, to align with regional job market demands. It is anticipated that one comprehensive plan and/or feasibility study will be completed as a result of this proposed project. This program aims to establish an employment services agency dedicated to supporting individuals in recovery by providing human resources (HR) support to employers by managing hiring, urine screenings, transportation assistance, and case-by-case management to enhance the overall reliability and longevity of recovery employees.

Project Title: *Recovery Leadership Development*

Grantee: Washington County Commissioners

Award Amount: \$50,000

Announcement Date: September 2024

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$50,000 to the Washington County Commissioners (WCC) in Marietta, Ohio, for the *Recovery Leadership Development* project. This project will complete an inventory of substance use disorder (SUD) recovery capital in Southeast Ohio, Eastern Kentucky, and West Virginia, including an assessment of accomplishments, barriers, challenges, assets, and history of service organizations providing individuals in recovery with support services. WCC and their partners will produce a report that assesses and identifies SUD and behavioral health community needs, including the need for direct recovery services, employer engagement opportunities, the community's capacity to support the provision of services, and input from those in recovery on service delivery and recovery capital.

Project Title: *Recovery to Work Ecosystem for an Opioid-Independent Ohio*

Grantee: Pain Labs

Award Amount: \$43,536

Announcement Date: September 2024

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$43,536 to Pain Labs in New Albany, Ohio, for the *Recovery to Work Ecosystem for an Opioid-Independent Ohio* project. This project will serve the counties of Athens, Coshocton, Hocking, Muskingum, Perry and Vinton, and involve partnership development with other physical therapy clinics, employment service organizations, and employers to join a preventative care-focused recovery-to-work ecosystem. The project will also involve data analysis to identify communities most in need, as well as potential employers for individuals in recovery and best practices for tracking outcomes among participants in the ecosystem. Finally, the project will help Pain Labs develop outreach materials for partners and individuals to participate in their recovery-to-work ecosystem.

PENNSYLVANIA (6 awards)

Project Title: *Child Care Access for Recovery to Work Opportunities*

Grantee: Allegheny County

Award Amount: \$500,000

Announcement Date: September 2024

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$500,000 to Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, for the *Child Care Access for Recovery to Work Opportunities* project. The project will involve the provision of job training to individuals in recovery through two programs conducted by project partner Partner4Work: The Transitional Jobs Program and the Certified Recovery Specialist. The project will also include two-year childcare service for participants who may need support to participate in the job training programs, a crucial wraparound service for many individuals in recovery. Individuals using childcare placements will receive continued childcare support through Pennsylvania state programs. The project expects to provide job training to 100 individuals in recovery and 25–30 job training participants with two-year childcare support.

Project Title: *Fulton Inspires Recovery Employment*

Grantee: Fulton County Family Partnership

Award Amount: \$500,000

Announcement Date: September 2024

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$500,000 to Fulton County Family Partnership (FCFP) in McConnellsburg, Pennsylvania, for the *Fulton Inspires Recovery Employment* project. This project will expand FCFP's capacity to serve Fulton County through additional positions focusing on workforce re-entry and connecting individuals who are in recovery and/or are justice-involved to support pathways to the workforce. FCFP will provide case management services and community navigation expertise, and the primary employer partner, JLG Industries Inc., will leverage their expertise in supporting those in recovery and the justice system to build employer engagement and outreach best practices. Through this project, it is estimated that 50 workers/trainees and 15 businesses will be served through wrap around support services, increased hiring and recovery-friendly workplace practices, and capacity building.

Project Title: *ReWork-Empowering Recovery and Career Success*

Grantee: Pennsylvania Women Work

Award Amount: \$500,000

Announcement Date: September 2024

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$500,000 to Pennsylvania Women Work in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, for the *ReWork-Empowering Recovery and Career Success* project. The Pennsylvania Women Work (PWW) project will build on an existing workforce development program in residential recovery facilities, expand on the strong network of partners, establish direct pipelines to employment opportunities in sectors promising growth and advancement, and create an environment for long-term recovery and career success. Wraparound services will include intensive career development support, skill-building and mentorship opportunities, and long-term recovery and career advancement resources. Key partners in the program include Alleghany Health, Per Scholas, Bidwell Training Center, and Trying Together. It is anticipated that 294 workers/trainees will be served and 60 businesses will be improved to better support and employ individuals in recovery in Appalachian Pennsylvania.

Project Title: *Recovery to Work for Justice-Involved Juveniles and Adults*

Grantee: Employment Opportunity and Training Center of NEPA dba Outreach-Center for Community Resources

Award Amount: \$499,989

Announcement Date: September 2024

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$499,989 to Employment Opportunity and Training Center of NEPA dba Outreach-Center for Community Resources in Scranton, Pennsylvania, for the *Recovery to Work for Justice-Involved Juveniles and Adults* project. The project will bring together a consortium of partners to develop a ready workforce for in-demand jobs and expand recovery employment opportunities through training for unemployed, underemployed, and justice-involved youth and adults seeking reentry into the workforce in Lackawanna, Luzerne, Monroe, Pike, Susquehanna, and Wyoming counties. Project resources include recovery services, life skills, financial literacy, GED classes, individualized case management, advanced training to meet labor force needs for skilled jobs, and other necessary services to allow for participants in recovery to have successful community reentry and long-term recovery. It is anticipated that 125 workers/trainees, 195 businesses, and 150 patients will be improved by access to recovery employment support in Appalachian Pennsylvania.

Project Title: *Integrated Care for a Recovery Ecosystem*

Grantee: B-K Health Center Inc. dba NEPA Community Health Care

Award Amount: \$50,000

Announcement Date: September 2024

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$50,000 to B-K Health Center Inc. dba NEPA Community Health Care in Montrose, Pennsylvania, for the *Integrated Care for a Recovery Ecosystem* project. B-K Health Center Inc. dba NEPA Community Health Care, Susquehanna County Interfaith, Community Foundation of the Endless Mountains, and regional partners will build a task force to address recovery needs more comprehensively through a strategic plan for Susquehanna County, Pennsylvania. The strategic plan will include a community needs assessment to pinpoint gaps in the current recovery ecosystem and a funding atlas that outlines availability, requirements, deadlines, and application processes for funding opportunities across local, state, and federal resources. It is anticipated that one strategic plan will be completed to outline the needs of Susquehanna County and to identify where to best direct available resources throughout the county and plan for the sustainability of solutions as the grantee works towards implementation.

Project Title: *Manufacturing Hope Program Planning Project*

Grantee: Hope Center for Arts and Technology, Inc.

Award Amount: \$50,000

Announcement Date: September 2024

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$50,000 to the Hope Center for Arts and Technology, Inc., in Sharon, Pennsylvania, for the *Manufacturing Hope Program Planning Project*. This project will enable Hope Center to conduct a community needs assessment and prepare a strategic plan to implement a new substance use disorder (SUD) recovery-to-work program that will foster a recovery ecosystem in Mercer and Lawrence counties in Appalachian Pennsylvania and Mahoning and Trumbull counties in Appalachian Ohio. When implemented, the new program will guide individuals in recovery through a recovery-conducive vocational training program in the high-demand manufacturing sector, pair them with employers in the area, and support them during and after their transition into the manufacturing workforce. It is anticipated that by the end of the 10-month grant period, one strategic plan will be developed to implement a new SUD recovery workforce training program.

SOUTH CAROLINA (1 award)

Project Title: *Community-Based Awareness and Support Peer Training Program*

Grantee: South Carolina Self-Help Association Regarding Emotions (SC SHARE)

Award Amount: \$150,317

Announcement Date: September 2024

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$150,317 to the South Carolina Self-Help Association Regarding Emotions (SC SHARE) in Cayce, South Carolina, for the *Community-Based Awareness and Support Peer Training Program* project. This project will support the production of a series of training videos to be used for a new substance use disorder (SUD) recovery-focused workforce training program to expand peer support staff and services for individuals in recovery in three counties in Appalachian South Carolina. The peer support training videos will consist of seven free online modules covering high-priority topics such as mental health, first aid, and suicide prevention; peer support ethics; harm reduction; trauma-informed care; and more. The grantee will coordinate the training with multiple behavioral health service providers that have expressed a need for this type of training for their employees, volunteers, and board members in non-traditional peer-support roles, including hospitals and health advocacy organizations, substance abuse treatment providers, veteran's service organizations, school districts, and non-profit social service agencies. It is anticipated that by the end of the three-year grant period, 200 workers/trainees will be served and 150 improved, and 40 organizations will be served and improved with this project.

TENNESSEE (9 awards)

Project Title: *Re-Entry to Work*

Grantee: Helen Ross McNabb Center, Inc.

Award Amount: \$450,000

Announcement Date: September 2024

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$450,000 to Helen Ross McNabb Center, Inc., in Knoxville, Tennessee, for the *Re-Entry to Work* project. The project will address substance use in Hamilton County by fostering a healthy recovery ecosystem and enhancing workforce opportunities for formerly incarcerated individuals. The project will provide an intensive 90-day treatment program for eligible substance use disorder (SUD)- and justice-impacted men, including a full array of wraparound recovery services such as transitional housing, work readiness, and skills training. The McNabb Center will also provide employers with training in SUD recovery policies and procedures as well as a job coach to assist with any work-site issues to help with retention. It is expected that the project will serve 120 justice-impacted individuals.

Project Title: *Empowering Recovery and Careers Pathways*

Grantee: REBOOT Recovery, Inc.

Award Amount: \$398,000

Announcement Date: September 2024

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$398,000 to REBOOT Recovery, Inc., in Pleasant View, Tennessee, for the *Empowering Recovery and Careers Pathways* project. This project will provide substance use disorder (SUD) evidence-based, peer-led, trauma-focused programs and workforce development training opportunities for SUD-impacted individuals in eight Tennessee counties and 10 Virginia counties. Through partnerships with leading workforce development organizations in the region, the project will provide both individuals and employers comprehensive training programs so employers can better support individuals in recovery and employees can obtain, retain, and advance their employment goals. The project

expects that 125 worker/trainees will be improved through workforce development and training activities, and 125 participants will be improved through evidence-based, peer-to-peer, trauma-informed programming.

Project Title: *Greene County Tennessee SUD Ecosystem Network*

Grantee: DePriest Center

Award Amount: \$50,000

Announcement Date: September 2024

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$50,000 to DePriest Center in Murfreesboro, Tennessee, for the *Greene County Tennessee SUD Ecosystem Network* project. The project will plan for a comprehensive approach to addressing substance use disorder (SUD) and integrating services on the recovery-to-work continuum in Greene County. The project is designed to determine where to fill the gap in resources and support services through collaborative efforts and grassroots planning. It is anticipated that by project closeout the primary output of this planning project will be one comprehensive plan/report, inclusive of a comprehensive SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats) analysis.

Project Title: *Hamilton County Regional Recovery to Work Ecosystem*

Grantee: The Launch Pad

Award Amount: \$50,000

Announcement Date: September 2024

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$50,000 to the Launch Pad in Chattanooga, Tennessee, for the *Hamilton County Regional Recovery to Work Ecosystem* project. The project will support the creation of a Recovery-to-Work Coalition to engage partners that help women with substance use disorder (SUD) through GED acquisition, post-secondary education, and re/upskilling programs. The Launch Pad will hire a Career Coach and consultants to engage and recruit existing and new ecosystem partners to participate in the planning process and commit to implementation roles, increase employers' knowledge of hiring and supporting those in SUD recovery, and identify educational resources committed to serving those in recovery. The project expects to develop one recovery to work strategic implementation guide.

Project Title: *Long-Term Care Nursing Workforce Master Plan*

Grantee: LeadingAge Tennessee

Award Amount: \$50,000

Announcement Date: September 2024

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$50,000 to LeadingAge Tennessee in Knoxville, Tennessee, for the *Long-Term Care Nursing Workforce Master Plan* project. This project will include a needs assessment to understand the substance use disorder (SUD)-related resources, challenges, and gaps in long-term care (LTC) facilities in rural and underserved communities in Appalachian Tennessee. The needs assessment will inform a master plan with a comprehensive approach to addressing SUD among seniors in LTC facilities, including training opportunities for LTC employees on SUD awareness, prevention, screening, and treatment.

Project Title: *Recovery Ecosystem Mapping for Appalachian Development and Employment (REMADE)*

Grantee: University of Tennessee-Knoxville

Award Amount: \$50,000

Announcement Date: September 2024

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$50,000 to the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, Tennessee, for the *Recovery Ecosystem Mapping for Appalachian Development and Employment (REMADE)* project. This project will conduct workforce needs assessments to identify strengths, gaps, and opportunities in the recovery-to-work ecosystems in Campbell, Claiborne, Cocke, Morgan, and Scott counties. The project will also include strengthening the connection between regional recovery-to-work resource providers and identifying recovery-friendly employers in the region. The project will yield five planning reports, one for each county, with opportunities for current improvements and future growth presented to county leadership and opioid settlement task forces.

Project Title: *ThriveTN: Transforming Recovery in Eastern Tennessee*

Grantee: Align9

Award Amount: \$50,000

Announcement Date: September 2024

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$50,000 to Align9 in Lenoir City, Tennessee, for the *ThriveTN: Transforming Recovery in Eastern Tennessee* project. Align9 will partner with Angelic Ministries, Loudon Medical Center, Thumbprint Consulting, Prevention Alliance of Loudon County, and Prevention Alliance of Morgan County to conduct comprehensive community needs assessments across the four target counties and multiple stakeholders in the recovery ecosystem. These assessments will determine workforce shortage gaps, recovery ecosystem gaps, and individual-level gaps that create barriers to workforce training for individuals in recovery. Through this analysis, tailored workforce initiatives will be created to lay the groundwork for a future strategic plan.

Project Title: *Knoxville-Knox County Restorative Health Program Planning*

Grantee: Knoxville Academy of Medicine Foundation

Award Amount: \$25,300

Announcement Date: September 2024

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$25,300 to Knoxville Academy of Medicine Foundation in Knoxville, Tennessee, for the *Knoxville-Knox County Restorative Health Program Planning* project. This project will create a comprehensive plan to strengthen and expand the recovery ecosystem in Knoxville, Tennessee. The plan will promote resilient ecosystem linkages among health navigation, primary care, behavioral health, and workforce entry/re-entry providers, with the ultimate goal of strengthening the regional systems that help Appalachians find and keep jobs that lead to economic mobility. It is anticipated that one comprehensive plan will be produced as a result of the project, which will include a community asset map, recovery employment data, community network readiness, and more.

Project Title: *Dream Center of Cleveland Planning Grant*

Grantee: Dream Center of Cleveland

Award Amount: \$18,750

Announcement Date: September 2024

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$18,750 to the Dream Center of Cleveland in Cleveland, Tennessee, for the *Dream Center of Cleveland Planning Grant*. This project will enable the Dream Center to conduct a community needs assessment of the local recovery ecosystem in

Bradley and Polk counties and a feasibility study for a new recovery residence for adult men in recovery from substance use disorder (SUD). The new recovery residence will provide a safe, sober living environment for adult men ages 18–29 in recovery from SUD, where they will be linked to the local recovery-to-work ecosystem for medical care, mental health care, and assistance with financial literacy, education, job training, and job placement. It is anticipated that one strategic plan will be prepared outlining the feasibility of a new recovery residence for men.

VIRGINIA (2 awards)

Project Title: *Groundwork: Building Pathways for Recovery-Centered Supported Employment*

Grantee: Appalachian Sustainable Development

Award Amount: \$493,902

Announcement Date: September 2024

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$493,902 to Appalachian Sustainable Development in Duffield, Virginia, for the *Groundwork: Building Pathways for Recovery-Centered Supported Employment* project. This project will build a strong and supported assistance pipeline specifically for those experiencing substance use disorder recovery. It will build the capacity of Groundwork participants to transition into well-paid jobs supporting businesses, organizations, and the regional recovery ecosystem in Scott and Tazewell counties. It is anticipated that 40 participants, 12 businesses, 10 organizations, and two communities will be served by this project.

Project Title: *Map to Recovery: From Incarceration to Opportunity*

Grantee: Project13Three

Award Amount: \$50,000

Announcement Date: September 2024

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$50,000 to Project13Three in Tazewell, Virginia, for the *Map to Recovery: From Incarceration to Opportunity* project. The project will map the recovery ecosystem of Tazewell County and create a plan for connecting individuals affected by incarceration and substance use disorder (SUD) with the recovery ecosystem. The team will gather information and data from stakeholders, project leadership team members, and the community through surveys, interviews, meetings with service providers, and attendance at SUD support groups. Following the planning process, Project13Three will facilitate a summit meeting to present the findings of the report and share with local businesses information about SUD supports and becoming a recovery-friendly employer. The plan will help make SUD recovery resources and services more visible and accessible to service providers and individuals affected by incarceration and SUD who are in need of recovery/re-entry supports.

WEST VIRGINIA (7 awards)

Project Title: *Therapeutic Landscapes and Aquaculture—Workforce Development Opportunities*

Grantee: Region 4 Planning and Development Council

Award Amount: \$500,000

Announcement Date: September 2024

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$500,000 to Region 4 Development Council in Summersville, West Virginia, for the *Therapeutic Landscapes and Aquaculture—Workforce Development Opportunities* project. This project will create a new recovery workforce pathway in therapeutic landscape development and aquaculture to meet a growing need for

expanded opportunities across 12 counties in southern West Virginia. It will also establish an evidence-supported therapeutic horticulture/ecotherapy program to provide healing support to the service area through community outreach and growing recovery-friendly workforce partnerships in the service area. It is anticipated that 100 participants and 30 workers/trainees will be served through workforce programming.

Project Title: *New Heights Recovery Continuum*

Grantee: Williamson Health & Wellness Center

Award Amount: \$500,000

Announcement Date: September 2024

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$500,000 to Williamson Health & Wellness Center in Williamson, West Virginia, for the *New Heights Recovery Continuum* project. This project builds upon an 18-month U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Rural Communities Opioid Response Program (RCORP) planning grant that engaged local community members, organizations, and businesses to conduct an in-depth assessment of unmet needs across the recovery ecosystem. This project will also invest in healthcare networks and partnerships that support substance use recovery, launch supportive recovery-focused job training programs, and coordinate recovery services and employment training. As a result of this project, 10 businesses, 75 workers/trainees, and 132 participants will be improved through social enterprise development, workforce skills training, and expand recovery capital.

Project Title: *Expansion of Libera Mentorship Program for At-Risk Young Women in WV*

Grantee: Libera, Inc.

Award Amount: \$499,999

Announcement Date: September 2024

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$499,999 to Libera, Inc., in Morgantown, West Virginia, for the *Expansion of Libera Mentorship Program for At-Risk Young Women in WV*. This project expands their Mentorship and Success Planning program to serve substance use disorder (SUD)-impacted young women, not just the young women transitioning from foster care, via a new permanent office in Charleston. This expansion will serve female youth in juvenile detention centers, residential facilities, emergency shelters, and Title I high schools in Fayette, Magnolia, Marion, Mercer, Ohio, and Preston counties. Libera, Inc., will purchase a 12-to-15-person van to provide transportation for participants, hire a new staff member to provide in-house behavioral health services, and provide participant access to basic needs and emergency funding. This project also includes the launch of the Accelerate (HER) pilot program, a mentorship program that will offer educational and career training. As a result of the proposed project, it is anticipated that seven communities, five students, 30 workers/trainees, 40 participants, seven organizations, and one business will be improved, and five new jobs will be created.

Project Title: *LevelUP Program*

Grantee: Marshall University Research Corporation

Award Amount: \$499,949

Announcement Date: September 2024

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$499,949 to the Marshall University Research Corporation in Huntington, West Virginia, for the *LevelUP Program*. This project centers on the establishment of the LevelUP Program, a new initiative to serve underserved young people ages 18–25 who are leaving foster/kinship care and transitioning to adulthood independence in Cabell, Boone, and Clay counties. Community-based coalitions of support providers will work with program participants on skills training, prevention education, recovery support,

career and life planning, and referrals. The project will connect young people to job readiness, employment, credentialing, certification, adult education or degree programs, and other essential wraparound support services to facilitate successful entry into the workforce and sustained recovery. It is anticipated that by the end of the 15-month grant period, one guidance document will be prepared; 15 businesses will be served and 10 improved; 10 organizations will be served and six improved; 185 participants will be served and 75 improved; and 100 workers/trainees will be served and 50 improved.

Project Title: *Remote Readiness Resource Network, R (3) N*

Grantee: Rural Appalachian Improvement League, Inc.

Award Amount: \$493,592

Announcement Date: September 2024

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$493,592 to Rural Appalachian Improvement League, Inc., (RAIL) in Mullens, West Virginia, for the *Remote Readiness Resource Network, R (3) N* project. With its partners, RAIL will develop supportive pathways to remote work for individuals in substance use disorder (SUD) recovery in Wyoming County, West Virginia. This project will also provide additional capacity to RAIL to support recovery groups, remote training workshops, and support services to participants. It is anticipated that 120 workers/trainees, 175 students, six organizations, and 200 participants will be served through this project.

Project Title: *Cultivating Recovery Employment and Training Education (CREATE)*

Grantee: Randolph County Housing Authority

Award Amount: \$485,598

Announcement Date: September 2024

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$485,598 to Randolph County Housing Authority in Elkins, West Virginia, for the *Cultivating Recovery Employment and Training Education (CREATE)* project. This project will target individuals who are justice-involved or in recovery from substance use disorder (SUD) and are looking to rejoin the workforce with vocational training in wood product manufacturing or construction. Wraparound services will include recovery support services and transitional housing in north central West Virginia. CREATE will also work with workforce agencies to engage employers to hire those in recovery and update policies and procedures to reduce the barriers of employment. It is anticipated that 30 workers/trainees, 20 businesses, and 150 participants will be served through training and wraparound services as a result of this project.

Project Title: *WV REACHback Recovery / Reentry Navigator Program*

Grantee: The REACH Initiative

Award Amount: \$480,890

Announcement Date: September 2024

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$480,890 to the REACH Initiative in Charleston, West Virginia, for the *WV REACHback Recovery / Reentry Navigator Program* project. This project will provide career and essential skills training, assist with work requirements, and improve health-related social capital while also providing connections to recovery-friendly workplaces and employers in Boone, Jackson, Kanawha, Lincoln, Logan, McDowell, and Mingo counties. Through collaboration with community-based organizations, the REACH Initiative will provide workforce support and resources for individuals in recovery from substance use disorder (SUD) while piloting a new SUD- and justice-involved workforce model for the state. As a result of this project, 15 organizations will be improved, 15 communities improved, 830 workers/trainees served, 70 businesses improved, and 3.5 jobs created.

REGIONAL (1 award)

Project Title: *Discovering Workforce Strategies for the Recovery Community of Appalachia*

Grantee: National Alliance for Recovery Residences (NARR)

Award Amount: \$49,830

Announcement Date: September 2024

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$49,830 to the National Alliance for Recovery Residences (NARR) in St. Paul, Minnesota, for the *Discovering Workforce Strategies for the Recovery Community of Appalachia* project. This project aims to complete an environmental scan to identify the recovery-to-work (RTW) ecosystem in both NARR-certified recovery houses and Oxford Houses across the 13 states and 423 counties of the Appalachian Region. Additional goals include performing an ecosystem analysis of how recovery housing is addressing workforce challenges, identifying specific examples of small businesses/social enterprises growing out of recovery housing programs, and developing a strategic plan to be used as a guiding document on next steps to improve the RTW ecosystem in Appalachia. Robust partnerships include NARR affiliates in Appalachian states and counties, Oxford House, Inc., Get Help, Recovery Jobs, and Give Help. This project will result in state-specific strategic planning tools to guide the Appalachian states in making decisions about workforce assets in recovery housing settings.