



# FY 2025 Pre-Application

## North Carolina Appalachian Regional Commission

### FY 2025 Pre-Application Guidelines

#### The Appalachian Regional Commission

The Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) is a federal-state partnership that promotes economic development across 423 counties in the 13-state Appalachian region, which stretches from western New York to northern Mississippi. The Commission includes the governors of the states in the region and a Federal Co-Chair appointed by the President. ARC's mission is to innovate, partner, and invest to build community capacity and strengthen economic growth in Appalachia. Each year, Congress provides funding that ARC uses to support projects aimed at strengthening the economy and improving the quality of life for people living in Appalachia.

#### ARC Strategic Plan

A comprehensive strategic planning process involving federal, state, and local officials and citizens resulted in, [Appalachia Envisioned: A New Era of Opportunity – ARC Strategic Plan 2022-2026](#), which focuses investments under these five general goals:

1. **Building Appalachian Businesses:** Strengthen the economy through entrepreneurship and business development.
2. **Building Workforce Ecosystems:** Expand systems to help people secure and advance in stable careers.
3. **Building Infrastructure:** Ensure access to reliable, affordable, and resilient utilities and infrastructure.
4. **Building Regional Culture and Tourism:** Preserve and invest in cultural and natural assets to drive community and economic development.
5. **Building Community Leaders and Capacity:** Support local leaders with technical assistance and resources for effective planning and project execution.

**\*\*Pre-applications must meet one of the ARC Goals\*\***

## North Carolina Targeted Investment Priorities

Governor Stein will utilize resources provided by the ARC to advance North Carolina's economic development goals in Western North Carolina. Aligned with Governor Stein's priorities, ARC resources will be used to: strengthen the workforce, support businesses, and empower communities while supporting the region to become more resilient as a result of Hurricane Helene.

NC ARC Investment Priorities:

- Projects that enhance long-term infrastructure commitments that allow for commerce and creation and retention of jobs,
- Projects that support local government infrastructure resiliency, with an emphasis on enhancing economic development opportunities,
- Projects that enrich partnerships between local industries, k-12 schools, and community colleges to expand and enhance workforce development opportunities to ensure a pipeline of skilled workers in the region, and
- Projects that spur economic activity in the health care sector and improve the quality of health care services in rural communities throughout the region; while supporting local efforts to tackle health care challenges, specifically substance use disorder.

## Funding and Match Guidance

The state has set a general guideline that ARC assistance for projects do not exceed \$700,000 for construction projects and \$300,000 for non-construction projects.

However, special consideration will be given to construction projects in distressed and at-risk counties resulting in job creation, as well as projects that make necessary improvements that build resiliency as direct result of Hurricane Helene. Selected projects that address these priorities may request up to \$1,000,000 in ARC funding.

Special consideration may also be given to non-construction projects with an emphasis on workforce development, that is providing job training opportunities for individuals impacted by Hurricane Helene, with an allowable funding amount up to \$500,000.

The NC ARC Program has the discretion to reduce the requested funding amount for projects when necessary to meet all investment needs.

To comply with Congressional instructions, the matching requirements in multicounty projects will vary, depending on the designated economic status of the counties involved. Multicounty projects serving fewer than the 31 counties will be computed based on the average of the eligible financing level for the counties involved. Please use this match calculator to determine percentages: <https://www.arc.gov/resource/match-rate-calculator/>. Note all matching funds must be secured by May 30, 2025.

## County Economic Status in Appalachian North Carolina, Fiscal Year 2025

Economic Status	County
Distressed	-
At-Risk	Alleghany, Cherokee, Cleveland, Graham, Rutherford, Swain, and Watauga
Transitional	Alexander, Ashe, Avery, Buncombe, Burke, Caldwell, Catawba, Clay, Davie, Forsyth, Haywood, Henderson, Jackson, Macon, Madison, McDowell, Mitchell, Polk, Stokes, Surry, Transylvania, Wilkes, Yadkin, and Yancey
Competitive	-
Attainment	-

### Pre-Application Submission

The North Carolina ARC Program invites pre-applications from eligible applicants. A pre-application must be received in order to be invited to submit a full application.

**Eligible applicants are local development districts, Indian tribes, states, counties, cities, institutions of higher education and nonprofit organizations located in or serving in the Appalachian Region of North Carolina are eligible for funding.** North Carolina has 31 counties which encompass the region that include the following: Alexander, Alleghany, Ashe, Avery, Buncombe, Burke, Caldwell, Catawba, Cherokee, Clay, Cleveland, Davie, Forsyth, Graham, Haywood, Henderson, Jackson, McDowell, Macon, Madison, Mitchell, Polk, Rutherford, Stokes, Surry, Swain, Transylvania, Watauga, Wilkes, Yadkin, and Yancey.

Pre-applications for the 2025 Federal Fiscal Year will be accepted beginning March 21st, 2025. Please email pre-applications in PDF form to the NC ARC Program Manager at [arc@commerce.nc.gov](mailto:arc@commerce.nc.gov) (detailed submission instructions below). **Pre-applications must be received by 5:00pm on April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025.** Electronic applications are required. Incomplete applications will not be accepted. Applications and other resources are available at the following website:

<https://www.nccommerce.com/about-us/divisions-programs/rural-economic-development/appalachian-regional-commission#documents>

For questions, please contact Olivia Collier, ARC Program Manager at [ocollier@commerce.nc.gov](mailto:ocollier@commerce.nc.gov), or by phone at (919) 218-3623.

# FY 2025 Pre-Application

## North Carolina Appalachian Regional Commission

**Application Instructions:** All required fields must be filled in completely and accurately.

Once all application fields are completed you must save the application form to your computer prior to e-mailing. Pre-Application should be submitted via e-mail to the attention of:

**Appalachian Regional Commission Program**  
**NC Department of Commerce**  
[arc@commerce.nc.gov](mailto:arc@commerce.nc.gov)

Please include “FY 2025 Pre-Application – Organization Name” in the subject line

### APPLICANT INFORMATION

Agency/Organization	
E-Mail	
Telephone	
Mailing Address, City, State, Zip Code	
Project Contact Name and Title	

### PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title		
Amount of ARC Requested		
Project Type	CONSTRUCTION	NON-CONSTRUCTION

### COUNTIES SERVED BY THE PROJECT (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

Alexander	Alleghany	Ashe	Avery	Buncombe
Burke	Caldwell	Catawba	Cherokee	Clay
Cleveland	Davie	Forsyth	Graham	Haywood
Henderson	Jackson	McDowell	Macon	Madison
Mitchell	Polk	Rutherford	Stokes	Surry
Swain	Transylvania	Watauga	Wilkes	Yadkin
Yancey				

Local Development District (Check all that apply)  
<https://www.ncregions.org/regional-councils/>

High Country Council of Governments	Foothills Regional Commission	Land of Sky Regional Council
Piedmont Triad Regional Council	Southwestern Commission	Western Piedmont Council of Governments

**PROJECT PERIOD:** List the proposed start and ending dates for the project, not to exceed 24 months.

**Start Date:**

**End Date:**

**ARC INVESTMENT GOAL:**

All projects must address at least one of the ARC Investment Goals. Please select which goal your project will support:

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT.** Description of major activities to be conducted under grant proposal. The description must address who, what, where, when and how for each major activity. There is a 2,000-character limit.

**PROJECT BENEFITS:** What measurable results will your project achieve? Describe the expected outputs and outcomes for this project. Describe how this project will help move the community/region towards economic success. ARC has specific standards for how project benefits must be reported. See [Guide to ARC Performance Measures](#) to accurately describe projected project outcomes. There is a 2,000-character limit.

Ex. If a water and sewer extension will connect to 10 new businesses the project benefit performance measures would be presented like this:

\_\_\_ Linear Feet – The amount of linear feet of water and sewer line will be installed.

\_\_\_ businesses served/\_\_\_ businesses improved – 9 businesses would be improved by connection to these new utilities.

**BUDGET NARRATIVE:** Provide a detailed budget narrative that provides an explanation of anticipated expenditures for the line items that will be included in the budget. Describe what the ARC and matching funds will be used for and how this will lead to project success. List the sources and amounts of all non-ARC matching funds. There is a 2,000 character limit.



# BUDGET FORM

**\*Note: All matching funds must be secured by May 30, 2025.**

Type	Source	Planning & Operations	Construction & Renovation	Equipment	Total	Percent*	Status of Funds
<b>State:</b>							
<b>Local :</b>							
<b>In-Kind :</b>							
<b>Federal Funds: (ARC, EPA, USDA, CDBG, etc.)</b>							
	ARC						
<b>Other Funds:</b>							
<b>TOTAL</b>							

Signature of Authorized Representative\*

Name

Title

Date

## \*Digital Signature Instructions:

1. You will be prompted to "Configure Digital ID for Signing." Select "Create a New Digital ID"
2. "Select Destination of the new Digital ID" then select "Save to File"
3. Enter your information as you would like to appear on your digital ID
4. Create a password for your new Digital ID
5. When prompted to "Sign with Digital ID", select the ID you just created.
6. Enter password and click "Sign"
7. Save your completed and signed document. Then follow the submission instructions.