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**Pre-application**

**The following information is to assist applicants in understanding the Appalachian Regional Commission’s and the State of Georgia’s investment goals. Please read carefully before completing the pre-application.**

**Georgia and the Appalachian Regional Commission**As a member state of the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC), Georgia participates in providing technical assistance and area development funding to its 37 counties spanning the northern third of the state.

**ARC’s Strategic Plan 2022-2026:** Georgia supports projects that help the region reach its economic and community development goals:

## Goal 1: Building Appalachian Businesses

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

## Goal 2: Building Appalachia’s Workforce Ecosystem

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

## Goal 3: Building Appalachia’s Infrastructure

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

## Goal 4: Building Regional Culture and Tourism

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

## Goal 5: Building Community Leaders and Capacity

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

# **Georgia’s ARC Area Development Investment Priorities for Fiscal Year 2023**

In order to maximize the benefit of ARC funds across its 37-county region, Georgia will focus funding on projects that address the following identified needs for Fiscal Year 2023:

* **Downtown Development:** ARC Goals One (Economic Opportunities), Three (Critical Infrastructure) and Four (Natural and Cultural Assets) all support this regional priority. As Georgia’s small businesses and rural communities work to strengthen their economic resilience in 2022 and beyond, ARC funds can assist by supporting projects that create and retain jobs, strengthen existing businesses, help create new businesses, improve the quality of life in communities, and reimagine how businesses will be successful in a post-COVID Appalachian downtown.
* **New, Improved or Enhanced Infrastructure:** ARC Goal Three (Critical Infrastructure) supports this ongoing priority for Appalachian Georgia. Many rural governments are continuing to attract new industry and business locations and many others are working to create the necessary capacity to support new development. ARC funds can assist with necessary infrastructure improvements to continue to strengthen and grow our economy. This may include activities supporting the creation of affordable, workforce housing initiatives aimed at supplying the inventory necessary to enable business growth and expansion within Georgia’s ARC region.
* **Creating Resilient Communities:** ARC Goal Five (Leadership and Community Capacity) support this priority. Both the Appalachian Regional Commission and the Georgia Department of Community Affairs continue to prioritize projects that are part of larger plans, either of local governments or authorities. Several of Georgia’s ARC counties have invested in long-range planning activities, many with ARC’s investment. Georgia will continue to invest ARC funds in support of planning activities at a local and regional level.
* **Regrowth of the Tourism Economy:** ARC Goals One (Economic Opportunities) and Four (Natural and Cultural Resources) support this ongoing priority for the region. Much of North Georgia is federally or state protected land and is a constant attraction for myriad outdoor activities. While Georgia has seen an upswing in vacation rentals in the Appalachian region, many of the tourist- related businesses and attractions are rebounding more slowly. Projects that support existing tourism-related business, allow the public and private sectors to maximize the benefit from their unique assets, attract new visitors and create or retain jobs are important to Georgia’s ARC region.
* **Workforce Development:** ARC Goal Two (Ready Workforce) supports this priority. Across the 37-county region, Georgia’s manufacturers and businesses are seeking employees to fill existing vacancies. Projects that help citizens increase or enhance their skills, provide apprenticeships that benefit both employers and employees, or provide support to employees to remain employed are beneficial as we recover from the long-term effects of COVID.
* While deployment of broadband to under-and-unserved areas of Georgia remains a highest priority statewide and across the ARC region, Georgia DCA will temporarily minimize its use of ARC funds to assist with that effort in light of new federal and state-dedicated funds for the specific purpose of increasing broadband coverage.

**Georgia ARC Program Policies**
The Department of Community Affairs seeks to address the goals of the Appalachian Regional Commission, the State of Georgia, and the communities we aim to serve in a responsible and fair manner. Accordingly, our program adheres to the following policy guidelines:

* Maximum ARC investment per construction project is $1,000,000. The maximum may be waived by the Governor at their discretion.
* All projects should secure other necessary funding before submitting a full application. Other considerations for full applications may include environmental concerns and permitting.
* Eligible applicants include:
	+ Local governments
	+ Development Authorities
	+ Non-profit organizations (must provide adequate certification of status)
	+ Educational institutions
	+ Public healthcare institutions
	+ Public-private partnerships are eligible, but applicant must be a public or non-profit entity

**Construction Projects**

* In the case of tourism-related construction projects, credible forecasts for increased commercial activity must be included.
* DCA or the Georgia Environmental Finance Authority will serve as the Registered State Basic Agency for the administration of construction projects. (GEFA will administer water/sewer projects and DCA all others that qualify as construction). DCA may grant an exception to this policy only in the case where another federal agency (USDA, EDA or others) participating in the project is willing to administer ARC funds.
* Projects must obtain all reviews and approvals pertaining to federal financing PRIOR to construction start dates. These include, but are not limited to:
	+ Environmental assessments
	+ Wage and labor rate approvals
	+ Procurement approvals
	+ Contractor approvals
	+ Organizations seeking ARC funding for construction projects should be aware of time constraints associated with federal financing. All activities associated with construction projects must adhere strictly to these requirements.

**Non-construction or Operating Projects**

* ARC funding is limited to start-up costs and two years of operation costs MAXIMUM.
* No project is guaranteed more than one year of support.
* Projects requesting start-up funds should identify sources of funding to continue the project upon cessation of ARC investment, or indicate a plan for cultivating future funding.
* In most cases, operating proposals should indicate an 18-month initial start-up phase. New projects generally meet unexpected delays, and this 18-month window can help alleviate the need to extend a project to meet its initial objectives.
* Any project seeking continuation funding (second or third year) should contact Georgia’s ARC office at least one month prior to the pre-application deadline to discuss additional funding. These projects must provide evidence of satisfactory performance in meeting first-year objectives in order to be considered for any additional funding.
* ARC will serve as the administering agency for all non-construction projects.

**Georgia Appalachian Regional Commission
 Pre-application for Project Funds**

**Please be advised that completion of this pre-application does not constitute submission of a complete ARC application and is not a commitment to fund or a notification of grant award, or notification that any proposed activities are eligible for financing through ARC.** Within seven business days of receipt of this application, DCA will issue a finding as follows:

* PROCEED. The described project meets the goals of ARC and the State of Georgia. Complete a full ARC application for consideration within the current ARC funding cycle
* NEEDS MORE INFORMATION. Based on the description provided, DCA staff are unable to determine the project’s ability to meet ARC and Georgia goals. DCA will provide additional technical assistance, upon request, to enhance this project’s ability to meet these goals. Consider applying for funding in a future ARC funding cycle.
* NO. This project does not meet the goals of ARC and/or Georgia and is not an appropriate fit for ARC investment.

As you know, each application must stand on its own merit and obtain sufficient points under the formal review process to be funded. Since the competitiveness of your project is unknown at this time, any group that secures financing and moves ahead with any portion of the project should do so under the full realization that funding is not guaranteed until a grant award and contract has been executed by DCA.

***Certification:***

I, the undersigned authorized representative of the applicant, acknowledge that this document is a pre-application for funding and that further documentation is necessary should this pre-application be invited to submit a full application. I acknowledge that this document is not a guarantee of funding through Georgia’s Appalachian Regional Commission program.

Signature of Authorized Representative: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Name and Title: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\*\* ***Incomplete applications will not be reviewed for funding \*\****

**PROJECT TYPE: (Check one)**

Construction \_\_\_\_

Non-construction\_\_\_\_

**AMOUNT OF ARC FUNDS REQUESTED: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

County in which project is located: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

ARC County Designation/Match Rate (check one)

Distressed \_\_\_\_

At-Risk \_\_\_\_\_

Transitional \_\_\_\_\_

Competitive \_\_\_\_\_

***Projects serving multiple counties must contact DCA to determine match rate.***

**PROJECT TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**APPLICANT INFORMATION:**

Legal name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

ZIP Code: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**ADDITIONAL CONTACT INFORMATION**This information should indicate an individual with knowledge of the application to whom DCA staff may direct questions about the application.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**PROJECT DETAIL:** Describe your project, including all partners and private investment. Provide a clear overview of the entire project and a general description of who will benefit.

Please indicate the following (five page limit):

1. A general overview of the need for the project, including brief description of community conditions, who this project will benefit; and the requested amount of ARC investment.
2. Which ARC goal(s) this project will meet and advance
3. How this project will further Georgia’s investment goals for the ARC region
4. Where the project will take place
5. When the project will be implemented and how long it will take (beginning and ending dates)
6. How ARC funds will be managed and by whom

**Details:**

**PROJECT BENEFITS:** Describe the expected outputs and outcomes for this project, along with other project benefits likely to result from the project (e.g., positive impact on future economic development activity in the area). Describe how this project will help move the community/region towards economic success?  [See Guide to ARC Performance](http://www.arc.gov/images/grantsandfunding/grantee_info/GuidanceforPerformanceMeasures.pdf) Measures for assistance identifying outputs and outcomes. (Two page limit)

**Benefits:**

**BUDGET NARRATIVE:** Provide a detailed budget narrative that list the sources of ARC funds and all non-ARC matching funds. (Two page limit) Include:

1. What activities ARC funding will cover
2. The amount of financing necessary to fund the entire project
3. The amount of private investment
4. The amount of additional public investment
5. If in-kind funds are proposed, please describe the activities dedicated to the project
6. Who will manage ARC funds

**Narrative:**

**BUDGET:** Include all funding amounts and sources. Please complete all appropriate columns and specify whether funds are approved (available immediately) or pending (application in progress or under review.)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **TYPE** | **Source** | **Planning/****Operations** | **Construction/Renovation** | **Equipment** | **Total** | **% of Total** | **Status of Funds** |
| **Local:** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **In-kind:** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Federal:** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Other:** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **TOTAL** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**I, the undersigned representative of the applicant, do attest that to the best of my knowledge, the information contained herein is true and correct. I understand that funding through the Appalachian Regional Commission is contingent in part upon compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), among other laws and regulations, and that failure to comply with federal regulations will result in ineligibility for funding through Georgia’s ARC program.­­­**

**Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Title: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**