Application Basics

ARC program is very competitive

Eligible application ≠ competitive application

Competitive Applications

- Address a compelling need (priority in ARC-designated distressed counties)
- Show multiple and lasting benefits for a community or region
- Tie into other economic and community development activities
- Show detailed and measurable outcomes focused on economic development

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Application Basics

ARC is a __partnership__ between the federal government and the 13 states that are in ARC

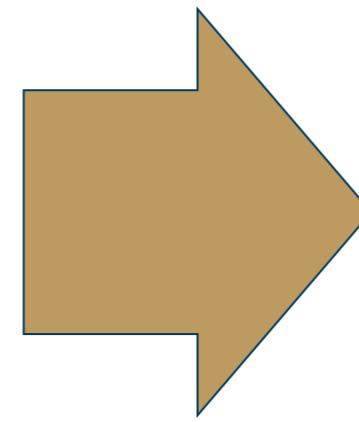States set their own priorities, application process, and basically generate projects

States know their needs and assets

Applicants submit their ARC applications to the states where they are reviewed

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Application Basics

APPROVAL PROCESS FOR APPLICATIONS IS A 2-STEP PROCESS

WV Development Office staff review projects & recommendations are made to Governor for approval

→

Projects recommended by Governor are forwarded to ARC Headquarters for final approval

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Area Development Application Timeline (Estimate)

Submit your application to WV Development Office

WV Development Office reviews applications and makes recommendations to Governor

Recommended projects are sent to ARC - ARC reviews and approves projects

January 31, 2021 → Winter/Spring 2021 → Summer 2021

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Who is Eligible

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS INCLUDE:

Local government

Community and economic development agencies

Regional planning and development councils

Non-profit organizations

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What is Eligible

Eligible project activities must be consistent with FY 2021 ARC/WV Goals, Objectives, Strategies

These strategies are listed on pages 9-15 of the WV ARC Technical Assistance Guide

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What is Eligible

ARC CAN FUND:

Construction Projects

Non-Construction projects (program services

Planning Grants

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What is Eligible

ELIGIBLE COSTS INCLUDE:

Construction

Administration (including staffing; however you must show how staff will be maintained after ARC funding ends)

Programming

Materials and supplies

Indirect costs

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What is NOT Eligible

ARC WILL NOT FUND:

Government buildings

General government or agency expenses

Public safety project (police, fire)

Political activities (lobbying, advocacy)

Individuals and businesses are not eligible for direct ARC assistance

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Residential Service Policy

ARC will provide grants for basic residential infrastructure projects only for communities in ARC *designated distressed counties*, except that such assistance may be provided in a transitional or at-risk county upon a special showing of compelling need, such as the location of the project in a distressed area of the county or as disaster relief or to address a mandate of the Federal EPA or a state health or environmental

Project Guidelines

ARC is the last dollar in

All other funding must be secured – your application needs to show you have secured your match

Match can be cash or in-kind

In-kind match must be realistic

Applicant must show, in detail, how the value of the in-kind match was derived

No maximum limit for a grant request (no floor or ceiling)

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West Virginia ARC Highest Priorities

Infrastructure projects (water & wastewater)

- Projects can be rehab or serve new customers
- Projects should be tied to economic development (serve businesses, important economic development anchors)
- Tied to community development (serve important community anchors such as schools, hospitals, medical clinics, etc)
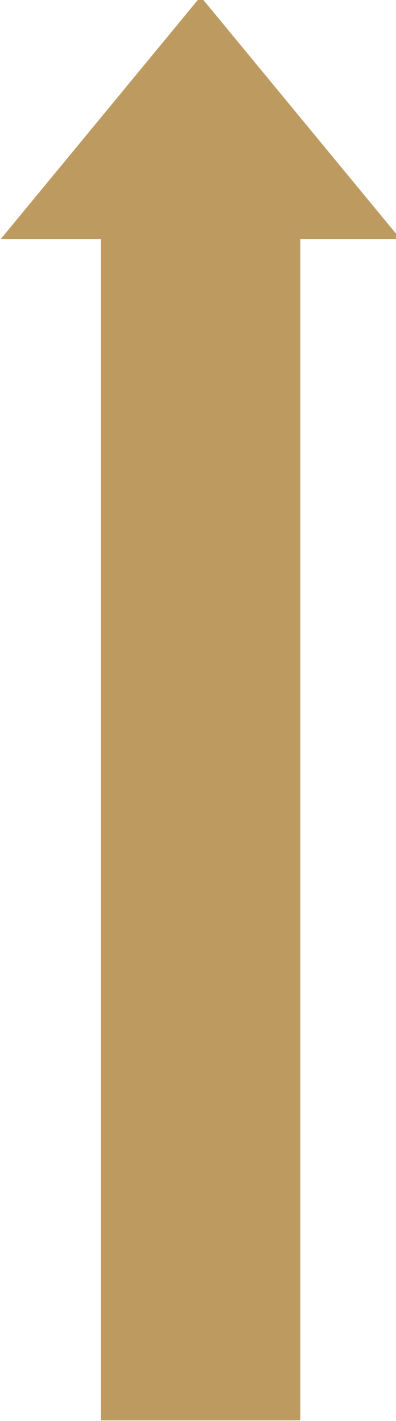
Substance Abuse/Opioids

- Substance abuse projects must focus on transition back into the workforce
- Projects requesting funding for substance abuse treatment or prevention activities will most likely not be funded

Brownfields/Abandoned & dilapidated buildings

- ARC can fund planning, feasibility studies, clearance, clean up, debris removal, construction, abatement, renovation
- ARC funds must be used for public benefit
- Structures to be cleared and reused must be either publicly owned or owned by a non-profit organization/agency
- Any type of request for clearance of structures should include a full plan for reuse of the area
- Weak project applications would request funds simply to tear down buildings (and nothing else)
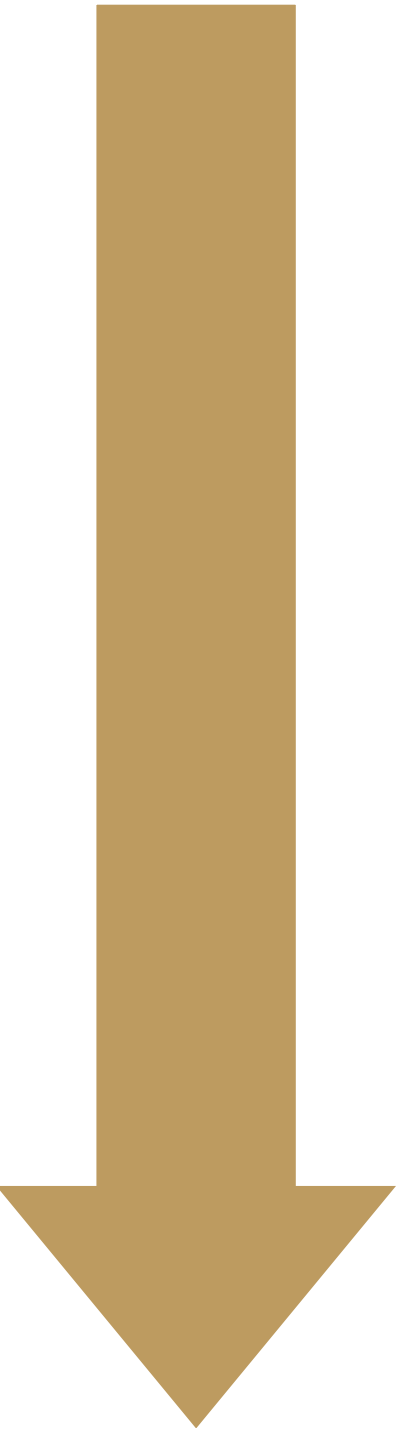
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West Virginia ARC Highest Priorities

Projects with one of the previously listed priorities and located in an ARC distressed county will receive the highest priority

Projects outside the highest priorities must focus on economic development (should have outcomes such as jobs created, businesses created, number of people trained and placed into positions)

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Developing an application

FIRST STEP IN DEVELOPING AN APPLICATION:

Follow the Checklist for ARC Construction or Non-Construction Project Applications

It is important to arrange your project information as specified in the checklist – the checklist will tell you exactly what forms you need and what questions to address

For planning requests, use the non-construction checklist

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Developing an application

BOTH PROJECT CHECKLISTS HAVE 4 SECTIONS:

Section 1 Executive Summary: see Executive Summary Template found on our website www.wvcad.org/resources for developing the executive summary

Section 2 Required Application Forms: the forms come with directions for completing them or are self-explanatory (just read, sign and date)

Section 3 Project Narrative: answer the questions in the checklist on separate pages; use the numbered headings in the checklist for your narrative

Section 4 Budget Information: answer the questions in the checklist and provide the required documents and attachments

BOTH CHECKLISTS, IN SECTION 3, ASK YOU TO LIST THE PRIMARY ARC GOAL, OBJECTIVE, AND STATE STRATEGY FOR YOUR PROJECT – THESE CAN BE FOUND ON PAGES 9-15 OF THE WV ARC TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GUIDE

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Tips for Developing a Competitive Application

- **Pay close attention to the evaluation criteria listed on pages 16-18 of the technical assistance guide**

- **Look particularly at the investment impact criterion**

- **Look at the investment impact criteria on pages 17-18 of the West Virginia ARC Technical Assistance Guide**

WV Project Evaluation Criteria

Strategic & Impactful

Sustainable

Collaborative

- **Does your project have multiple and lasting benefits for the community or area?**

- **What relationship does your project have with other community/economic development efforts in the area? What is the linkage between your project and those efforts?**

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Tips for Developing a Competitive Application

COMPETITIVE APPLICATIONS, IN ANY CASE, WILL FOCUS ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

EXAMPLES OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INCLUDE:

- Infrastructure (water, sewer, storm water, broadband)
- Capitalizing business loan funds
- Providing training services to businesses and entrepreneurs
- Workforce development (job training)
- Site development
- Brownfields (reusing contaminated properties for commercial or industrial uses)
- Economic development plans for a community or region

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Tips for Developing a Competitive Application

What is the added value that ARC funding will bring to what you are already doing?

How will your project be sustained once ARC funding end?

Outcomes should be aimed at jobs created, businesses created, individuals trained and placed in employment, etc.
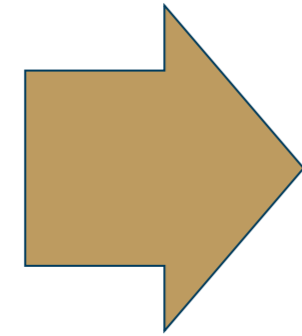
ARC funds should enhance or expand what you are already doing, not allow you to merely maintain what you are already doing
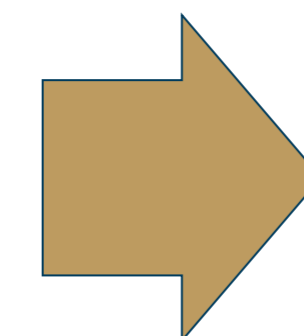
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Submitting an application

DEADLINE TO SUBMIT APPLICATIONS IS JANUARY 31, 2021

Submit one original and one copy of your application to WV Development Office (address on page 2 of WV ARC Technical Assistance Guide

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Do not staple your application or use notebooks or binders – use only binder clips

→

Submit application in order specified on checklist

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FOR ASSISTANCE WITH APPLICATION OR QUESTIONS, CONTACT:

Krista Cox
WV Development Office

- 304-558-2234
- Krista.K.Cox@wv.gov

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