

APPALACHIAN REGIONAL COMMISSION (ARC)

Mississippi participates in the [Appalachian Regional Commission](#) (ARC). ARC is a partnership of federal, state and local governments that serves portions of 13 states. The Mississippi ARO is located in the Mississippi Development Authority's Regional Office in Tupelo, and its staff works to fulfill the mission of the ARC program, the Governor's state ARC plan, and the economic development goals and objectives of MDA.

The Mississippi ARO works in a collaborative manner with local planning and development districts (PDDs), economic development organizations, local communities, and other state agencies in the development of eligible projects to address the needs in the 24 Mississippi ARC counties. ARC supports counties in the northeast and east central portion of the state; approximately 616,000 of its 2.8 million residents live in this rural corner of Mississippi.

Mississippi Appalachian Development Plan

ARC provides matching funds for projects in numerous areas under two broad themes:

1. Increase private sector and high wage jobs across the MS Appalachian Region.
2. Develop sustainable communities with high quality of life throughout the Mississippi Appalachian Region.

ARC also has funding available for a special regional initiative in Asset Development. The Mississippi counties served by ARC are Alcorn, Benton, Calhoun, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Clay, Itawamba, Kemper, Lee, Lowndes, Marshall, Monroe, Montgomery, Noxubee, Oktibbeha, Panola, Pontotoc, Prentiss, Tishomingo, Tippah, Union, Webster, Winston, and Yalobusha.

The Mississippi ARO will write each Mississippi Appalachian Local Development District (PDD) in May of each year and solicit project applications for review and consideration. The invitation letter will list funding limitations, project criteria, and any other relevant material to be used in consideration for that particular year's annual cycle. All project applications are due at the ARO in Tupelo by September 1 of each year. Additional information on the application process can be found at <http://www.mississippi.org/content.aspx?url=/page/3019&>. Projects identified as priority will be submitted to ARC-Washington for funding purposes. PDD's will be notified of the projects included in the submission to ARC-Washington.

ARC participation costs will be limited to 50% of project costs, with the following exceptions: For projects located in ARC designated distressed counties, the maximum grant will be 80% of project costs.

ARC assistance for multi-county projects in which at least half the counties are distressed may be increased to as much as 80% of project costs; if at least one, but less than half, of the counties area distressed, ARC assistance is limited to the higher of 50% or the average percentage applicable to the counties in the project.

For additional program information contact the MDA Asset Development Group, Appalachian Regional Office by phone at 662.844.5413.