



POWER Funds Leveraged 2017

JUST
TRANSITION
FUND

Building visionary and resilient communities for a new energy economy

In 2015, President Obama launched the POWER Initiative to help coal-dependent communities adapt to the changing energy landscape by investing in workers and jobs, while also addressing important legacy costs. Since 2015, participating federal agencies made upwards of \$130 million available for coal-impacted communities through competitive grants, including \$92 million through the POWER Initiative. Federal funds aimed to support economic and workforce development strategies in places most affected by the changing coal industry and power sector.

THE JUST TRANSITION FUND

To help frontline communities across the country access POWER funds, the Rockefeller Family Fund and the Appalachia Funders Network created the Just Transition Fund. Designed to more broadly create robust, resilient communities in coal-dependent areas, the Fund seeks to strengthen and scale projects that align with its commitment to sustainable economic development, equity, and energy resilience in priority places.

In October, the federal government announced the second round of 2016 POWER grant recipients. The Fund was thrilled to learn that roughly \$560,000 in 2016 POWER Capacity Building grants from JTF leveraged \$12 million in federal funding. Since its inception, the Fund has awarded nearly \$1 million in community grants, which has leveraged and injected **\$14 million in federal funds directly into coal-dependent communities.**

Just Transition Fund grantees and partners that received 2016 and 2017 POWER awards follow.

FRIENDS OF SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA

ABINGDON, VA

\$3,000,000 from the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) to support the Building Appalachian Spring: Growing the Economy of Southwest Virginia project. The project will support and grow the outdoor recreation industry as an economic driver in four counties in Southwest Virginia. (JTF provided support to Friends for the Clinch River Valley Initiative.)

COALFIELD DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

WAYNE, WV

\$1,870,000 from ARC for the Appalachian Social Entrepreneurship Investment Strategy. The grant will be used to incubate job-creating social enterprises, scale up Coalfield Development Corporation's workforce development model, and expand their service territory to other coal-impacted communities in southern West Virginia.

APPALACHIAN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

ABINGDON, VA

\$1,500,000 from the ARC for the Central Appalachian Food Enterprise Corridor. Funds will enable ASD and its partners to develop a local foods distribution network across the Central Appalachian region of five states, including Ohio, West Virginia, Tennessee, Virginia, and Kentucky.

APPALACHIAN HEADWATERS/GREEN FOREST WORK

LEWISBURG, WV

\$1,499,400 from ARC to Appalachian Headwaters and Green Forest Work (GFW) and their partners. Funds will enable the development of programs that support reforestation projects while at the same time providing job training, connecting locals with economic opportunities, and cultivating sustainable entrepreneurship in Kentucky, Virginia, and West Virginia.

BEREA COLLEGE

BEREA, KY

\$100,000 EDA planning grant to Berea College to develop a collective impact strategy to engage opportunity youth. (JTF grantee is Brushy Fork Institute housed at Berea College.)

NATURAL CAPITAL INVESTMENT FUND, INC

SHEPHERDSTOWN, WV

\$1,250,000 from the ARC for the Growing the Triple Bottom Line Small Businesses in Coal Impacted Communities in Central Appalachia project. Federal funds will help expand access to capital for coal-impacted communities, create new jobs and businesses, and encourage private investment to support small businesses in underserved locations throughout the region.

FAHE

BEREA, KY

\$1,000,000 from the ARC for the Appalachian HEAT Squad, a pilot energy efficiency project. Fahe is working to improve the energy efficiency of low-income homes in coal-impacted communities across a nine-county region in eastern Kentucky. Funding will enable Fahe to strengthen and scale the project, while also creating entrepreneurial and skills-based training opportunities in the area.

RURAL ACTION

THE PLAINS, OH

\$119,460 from the ARC to develop a strategic plan and feasibility study for the Appalachian Ohio Solar Supply-Chain Initiative. By leveraging commitments to develop 400 megawatts of solar generation in the region, the initiative seeks to attract component manufacturers and create manufacturing jobs in communities impacted by coal power plant closures.

APPALSHOP, INC.

WHITESBURG, KY

\$200,000 from the Economic Development Administration (EDA) and \$75,000 from the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) for Mines to Minds: The Southeast Kentucky High Tech Workforce Certificate Project.

CLEAN AIR COALITION OF WESTERN NEW YORK

BUFFALO, NY

\$160,000 from EDA to spearhead an economic development initiative involving a diverse group of agencies, local government officials, organized labor representatives, community organizations and private businesses to redevelop the region after the closure of the Huntley Coal Plant in Tonawanda, NY.

KENTUCKY CENTER FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

FRANKFORT, KY

\$468,635 from EDA and \$75,000 from ARC for local food supply chain development in Eastern Kentucky. (JTF grantee is Community Farm Alliance.)

FRIENDS OF SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA

ABINGDON, VA

\$275,000 from EDA and \$75,000 from ARC for RE-SOURCE-FULL: A Consortium Approach to Workforce and Economic Development in Southwest Virginia. (JTF provided support to Friends for the Clinch River Valley Initiative.)

RURAL ACTION

THE PLAINS, OH

\$68,700 ARC grant to support emerging social enterprise development. In addition, collaborative planning with JTF funds also supported a \$250,000 Small Business Administration grant to the Appalachian Partnership for Economic Growth for the Appalachian Ohio wood products industry cluster.

WEST VIRGINIA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT HUB

CHARLESTON, WV

\$100,000 EDA planning grant to create economic development plans for five counties in West Virginia.

CHICAGO TRANSIT AUTHORITY

CHICAGO, IL

\$200,000 EDA grant to create a redevelopment plan for the Fisk Power Plant. (JTF grantee is the Delta Institute.)

COALFIELD DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

WAYNE, WV

\$600,000 from EDA and \$75,000 from ARC to create a regional economic diversification project.

APPALACHIAN VOICES

NORTON, VA

\$99,670 This grant will support Appalachian Voices's Southwest Virginia Renewable Energy and Economy Project. AppVoices will use the POWER grant to build capacity, conduct a feasibility study, develop a strategic plan, and engage with local partners to develop a renewable energy plan for Southwest Virginia.

UNLIMITED FUTURE, INC

HUNTINGTON, WA

\$36,700 Unlimited Future, Inc. will use this grant to support the expansion of local food systems through their Beefing Up the Local Food Economy project. The grant will facilitate capacity building, a feasibility study, and analysis of workforce development programs and market opportunities for the meat business and producers in Kentucky, Ohio and West Virginia.

Although federal funding for POWER grants is uncertain for fiscal year 2018 and beyond, agencies including the Appalachian Regional Commission and the Economic Development Administration have funding to assist coal communities throughout the remainder of FY 2017. In the upcoming months, the Just Transition Fund will continue to help impacted communities access this support.

For more information about the Just Transition Fund and its upcoming programs, please contact:

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