



AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN

COAL COMMUNITIES COMMITMENT FACT SHEET

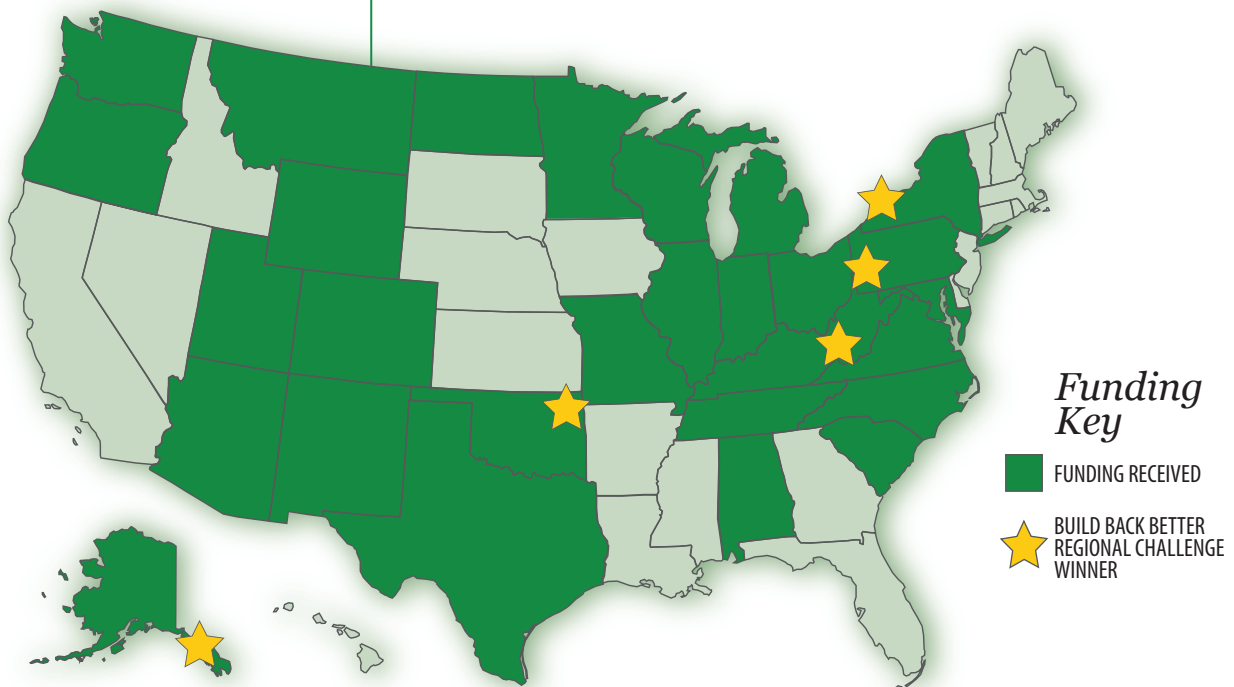
Diversifying Coal Communities for a Resilient Future

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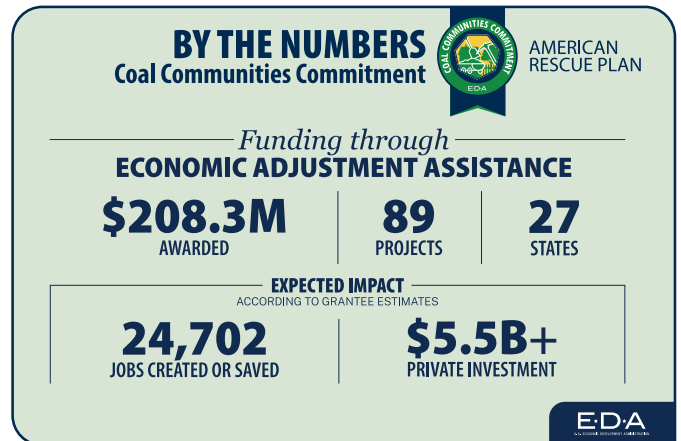
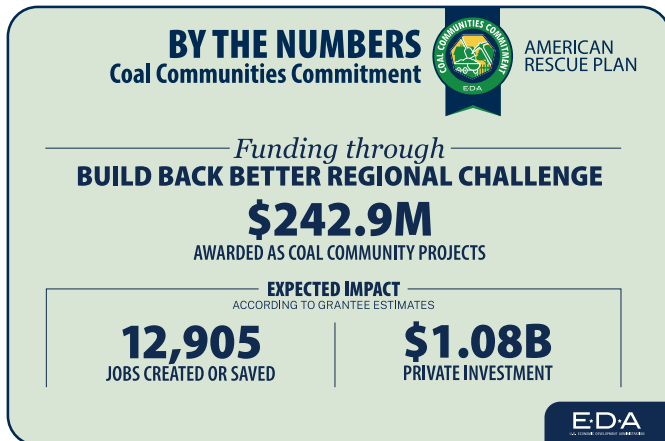
The U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA)'s [Coal Communities Commitment](#) was designed to allocate \$300 million of its \$3 billion American Rescue Plan appropriation, specifically with \$200 million from the [Economic Adjustment Assistance](#) (EAA) program and \$100 million from the Build Back Better Regional Challenge (BBBRC), to support coal communities as they recover from the pandemic and to help them create new jobs and expand opportunities for the businesses and people there.

As a result of robust demand, EDA has significantly exceeded this commitment, allocating \$551.8 million of funding to coal communities across its six American Rescue Plan programs. This funding includes \$208.3 million and 89 projects from EAA and \$242.9 million across nine BBBRC phase 1 awards and five BBBRC winners in [Alaska](#), [New York](#), [Oklahoma](#), [Pennsylvania](#) and [West Virginia](#). Another \$100.6 million from EDA's other American Rescue Plan programs is invested in or benefits coal communities.

The Coal Communities Commitment both supports critical infrastructure development for local economic development and accelerates competitiveness and economic growth in coal communities across the country. This funding meets communities where they are in their transition and supports the unique needs of coal communities as they recover from the pandemic, develop resilient economies and create good paying jobs and opportunities. This commitment builds on President Biden's [Executive Order](#) on Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad, which created an Interagency Working Group to identify and deliver Federal resources to revitalize the economies of coal, oil and gas, and power plant communities.



SUPPORTING COAL COMMUNITIES



Coal Communities Commitment – Build Back Better Regional Challenge (BBBRC)

Through the BBBRC EDA is investing in coal communities across the clean energy, mariculture, advanced mobility and next-generation manufacturing industries. These projects aim to boost these emerging industries in coal communities and create thousands of good jobs in the process. The five winning coalitions include:

- In Alaska, the [Alaska Mariculture Cluster](#), led by Southeast Conference, is catalyzing a sustainable mariculture industry, producing shellfish and seaweed for the long-term benefit of Alaska’s economy, environment, and communities. (\$49 million)
- In New York, [Western New York Advanced Manufacturing](#), led by the Empire State Development Corporation, is investing in the distressed eastern side of Buffalo, NY and accelerating the growth of advanced manufacturing in the region. (\$25 million)
- In Oklahoma, the [Tulsa Regional Advanced Mobility \(TRAM\) Corridor](#), led by the Indian Nations Council of Governments, is transitioning the region from its legacy of oil, gas, coal and traditional manufacturing to advanced mobility, automation, and unmanned aerial systems. (\$39 million)
- In Pennsylvania, the [Southwestern Pennsylvania \(SWPA\) New Economy Collaborative](#), a coalition of the region’s leading university, philanthropic, and private sector leaders, is supercharging SWPA’s globally recognized robotics and autonomy cluster and ensuring that its economic benefits equitably reach rural and coal-impacted communities in the 11-county region. (\$62.7 million)
- In West Virginia, the [Appalachian Climate Technology coalition \(ACT Now\)](#), led by Coalfield Development Corporation, is spurring job growth in 21 economically distressed and coal-impacted counties in southern West Virginia by creating a hub of clean energy and green economy jobs. (\$62.8 million)

Coal Communities Commitment – Economic Adjustment Assistance (EAA)

Coal communities need a diverse set of resources to accelerate economic development and competitiveness. Given the highly flexible nature of the EAA program, EDA was able to provide a range of locally led solutions for this important group of communities. For example, of the 89 EAA projects, 47% of projects focused on enabling and/or repairing infrastructure such as water and sewage systems, roads and broadband implementation, which are critical investments required to attract businesses and begin a transition to a post-coal economy. Another 24% of projects are for planning grants and/or technical assistance, which enable many communities to take the first step to designing a community-driven economic development strategy for their future. Finally, other awards include but are not limited to business facility expansion, equipment and workforce and talent development.

Other Coal Programming at EDA

In addition to the two American Rescue Plan Coal Communities Commitment programs, EDA made over \$100 million in American Rescue Plan awards that will also impact coal communities. These investments include:

- 5 [Good Jobs Challenge](#) awards impacting coal communities (Total: \$78.2 million)
- 10 [Travel, Tourism & Outdoor Recreation](#) awards that support coal communities (Total: \$25.6 million)
- 1 [Indigenous Communities](#) award in a coal community (\$1.9 million)
- 1 [Networks](#) award to the [National Association of Counties](#) to launch a coal-focused knowledge-sharing and peer-learning Community of Practice to support these and other EDA coal grantees, as well as to help build capacity in potential future coal community applicants. (\$2.5 million)

EDA has also long invested in coal communities through various other annual programs including Assistance to Coal Communities, Economic Adjustment Assistance, Public Works and Local Technical Assistance.

CORE THEMES

Flexible Funding

The unique value of EDA's Coal Communities Commitment is the flexibility of the funding, allowing coal communities at all stages of development to apply for **what they need most, from basic infrastructure or planning grants to workforce development to significant investments in next-generation industries.**

In Ohio, EDA provided the [City of Jackson](#) with a \$2.4 million EAA award to make upgrades to its water and wastewater infrastructure, including repairs. Due to the downturn in the coal industry following two coal-fired plant closures in 2018 and replacement of recovery from the pandemic, this region of Ohio has experienced challenges in securing basic infrastructure investments. The project includes repairing and replacing the City's water and wastewater main trunk lines to improve water and wastewater service to the City's current employers, which will help attract and support additional businesses in the region.

People and Community

Coal communities are investing in their people to help grow and advance their economies, with a focus on **training local talent and supporting homegrown entrepreneurial activity.** Thanks to investments provided through this Commitment, coal communities are able to further build entrepreneurial hubs, create workforce training programs and revitalize historic buildings to create more attractive office space.

In Maryland, EDA provided the [Hagerstown Community College](#) with a \$5.8 million EAA award to renovate a facility to support workforce training programs that will support job growth in the construction, skilled trades and in the commercial vehicle industry.

Planning and Transition

While most coal communities already have talent and strategic resources, they often lack support to convene local stakeholders and build a strategy to transition to a prosperous post-coal future. Through the EAA program, EDA invests in planning grants to help coal communities **define their own long term economic development priorities and strategies** that benefit their communities.

In Missouri, EDA provided the [City of Springfield](#) with a \$800,000 EAA award to conduct planning efforts to guide the redevelopment of the Lake Springfield area surrounding a former coal power plant. Through this project, the City will formulate a plan for the reuse of the plant and its surroundings, and to determine the feasibility of various commercial and industrial uses that support the city's goals and align with local community needs.

Growth and Competitiveness

EDA is **helping coal communities leverage their local assets**, such as their natural resources, local workforce and infrastructure, as they invest significant capital in transitioning to new industries and away from a coal-based economy.

In West Virginia, EDA provided the [Appalachian Climate Technology coalition \(ACT Now\)](#), led by Coalfield Development Corporation, with a \$62.8 million BBBRC award. With EDA funding, the coalition will support 21 economically distressed and coal-impacted counties in southern West Virginia as they transition from coal to solar power. These EDA investments will go towards implementing sustainable reuse projects on abandoned mine sites; rejuvenating brownfield sites with new facilities equipped to train a diversified, skilled workforce and providing advanced manufacturing capacity; and developing entrepreneurial programs to support employment in environmental sustainability.

For more information about the Coal Communities Commitment, please visit www.eda.gov/arpa/coal-communities/

For more information on how EDA defines a coal community, please visit www.eda.gov/arpa/coal-communities/faq/



For more information about Economic Development Administration's six American Rescue Plan Programs, collectively called Investing in America's Communities, please click here.