

The Partnerships for Opportunity and Workforce and Economic Revitalization (POWER) Initiative: POWER 2016 Grants

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Economic Development Administration (EDA) of the U.S. Department of Commerce and the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) are publishing this document to announce the availability of additional program funds for grants under the Partnerships for Opportunity and Workforce and Economic Revitalization (POWER) Initiative, which is an integrated, multi-agency effort to align and invest federal economic and workforce development resources in communities and regions negatively impacted by changes in the coal economy.

This document serves as an addendum to the following FY 2016 EDA federal funding announcement:

- EDA Federal Funding Opportunity (FFO) announcement number **EDAP2016**, “FY 2016 Economic Development Assistance Programs - Application submission and program requirements for EDA’s Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance programs,” (**FY16 EDAP FFO**) effective date October 26, 2015 (<http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=279842>).

This document also announces the availability of ARC program funds for purposes of POWER 2016 grants:

- ARC POWER 2016 funds are made available under the Appalachian Area Development Program, authorized by the Appalachian Regional Development Act (ARDA) of 1965, as amended (40 U.S.C. § 14101-14704).

Information provided under this announcement is organized under the following section headings and related topics to provide prospective applicants with information about the POWER Initiative in general, and the requirements and procedures pertaining to the POWER 2016 grant application process.

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A. POWER 2016 Program Description

1. POWER Initiative

This document announces the availability of funding under the Partnerships for Opportunity and Workforce and Economic Revitalization (POWER) Initiative, which is an integrated, multi-agency effort to align and invest federal economic and workforce development resources in communities and regions negatively impacted by changes in the coal economy¹. In order for coal-impacted communities to diversify their local and regional economies successfully, POWER prioritizes targeting federal resources to projects and activities that:

- Will produce multiple economic and workforce development outcomes, such as promoting regional economic growth and diversification, new job creation, and re-employment opportunities for displaced coal economy workers; and
- Are specifically identified under local and regional economic development plans that have been collaboratively produced by diverse local and regional stakeholders.

EDA will make POWER 2016 awards through the agency's Economic Adjustment Assistance (EAA) program, which is authorized under section 209 of the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965, as amended (42 U.S.C. § 3149) (PWEDA), and the EAA regulations set out at 13 CFR part 307. As noted above, this announcement is an Addendum to EDA's **FY16 EDAP FFO**.

ARC will make POWER awards through the Appalachian Area Development Program, authorized by the Appalachian Regional Development Act (ARDA) of 1965, as amended (40 U.S.C. § 14101-14704). Information on the ARC pre-application/proposal process can be found under Section H ("ARC POWER 2016 Grant Summary") of this document.

2. POWER 2016 Grants

POWER 2016 grant funds are available through both EDA and ARC. Under this announcement, applicants may apply for funding from ARC, EDA, or both. The application procedures for POWER 2016 grants are modeled directly after the two-phase application process described under EDA's **FY16 EDAP FFO** (<http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=279842>). Therefore, in order to be considered for a POWER 2016 implementation award, applicants must first submit a project pre-application/proposal, for **review and consideration** before submitting a complete application. For purposes of this FFO, the term "pre-application/proposal" is synonymous with a **project proposal** under EDA's revised, two-phase application process.

¹ "Coal economy" is a term that reflects the complete supply chain of coal-reliant industries. This includes, but is not limited to: coal mining, coal-fired power plants, along with related transportation, logistics, and supply chain manufacturing.

In order to reduce the pre-application/proposal preparation burden for potential applicants, EDA and ARC will utilize the forms and related content required under the **FY 16 EDAP FFO**. See section IV.B.1 on pages 15-16 of the **FY16 EDAP FFO** for information about the specific forms required for pre-application/proposal submission (<http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=279842>). Instructions pertaining to the preparation and submission of both a pre-application/proposal, as well as a complete application for a POWER 2016 grant can be found under Section D (“POWER 2016 Application and Submission Information”) below.

There are no submission deadlines for this funding opportunity. Pre-applications/proposals and complete applications will be accepted on an ongoing basis and processed in accordance with the requirements set out in this announcement. As total available POWER 2016 funding is limited, interested applicants are strongly encouraged to begin preparing project pre-applications/proposals at their earliest convenience. Applicants are strongly encouraged to contact program representatives with either EDA and/or ARC for additional information about the POWER 2016 pre-application/proposal and complete application submission requirements. Refer to the information provided under Section G, “POWER 2016 Agency Contacts” below. EDA and ARC will process POWER submissions in accordance with the guidance provided under this announcement until the publication of any future POWER funding announcement.

The period of performance and funding amounts referenced in this announcement are subject to the availability of funds. Additional information about POWER 2016 grants is available under Section B (“POWER 2016 Award Information”), below.

3. POWER Priorities, Objectives, and Funding Principles

This section contains information describing the POWER 2016 priorities, objectives, and funding principles. Potential applicants are strongly urged to review this information carefully before submitting a pre-application/proposal.

POWER Priorities

The goal of POWER is to align and leverage complementary federal economic and workforce development resources, targeting federal assistance through competitively awarded grants to partnerships anchored in communities impacted by changes in the coal economy. By aligning and leveraging multiple resources (both federal and non-federal), POWER 2016 solicits and prioritizes the selection of projects that integrate multiple economic and workforce development systems and resources in support of implementing existing economic development strategic plans.

Applicants are encouraged to contact EDA and/or ARC for further guidance regarding the eligibility requirements for each agency, as well as those for POWER. See agency contact information provided under Section G “POWER 2016 Agency Contacts” below.

POWER Objectives

Through POWER, both EDA and ARC encourage implementation projects, but will support both strategic planning and implementation (to include infrastructure and design and engineering) projects.² The primary objectives of POWER grants are to invest in economic and workforce development projects and activities that will produce any one or any combination of the following outcomes:

- **Economic Diversification** – Diversify the commercial and industrial bases of local and regional economies;
- **Job Creation** – Create jobs in new and/or existing industries;
- **Capital Investment** – Attract new sources of job-creating investment (both public and private); and
- **Workforce Development and Reemployment Opportunities** – Provide a range of workforce services and skills training, including paid work-based learning opportunities, resulting in industry-recognized credentials for high-quality, in-demand jobs.

POWER 2016 encourages applicants to leverage a variety of program resources from multiple sources, both public and private, in order to enhance the ability of coal-impacted communities and regions to successfully address these POWER objectives.

POWER Funding Principles

Competitive project applications will be those that identify effective, strategic approaches to mitigating economic distress resulting from contractions in the coal economy. To be competitive, applicants that are asked to submit a complete POWER 2016 application should provide full and complete information in response to one or more of the following POWER 2016 funding principles, as appropriate:

- *Economic Development and Diversification Strategic Planning*: The applicant should specify if the proposed project is the result of a strategic planning effort or if

²As noted above, POWER 2016 implementation funds will be awarded, among other factors, to projects that implement any portion of a region or community's current economic development strategic plan. To be eligible for an EDA project implementation grant, the project must be consistent with the region's current EDA-accepted Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) or equivalent EDA-accepted regional economic development strategy that meets EDA's CEDS or strategy requirements. EDA POWER 2016 grants can also be used to support strategic planning projects. Contact your regional EDA POWER Program representative (see Section G, below) for additional information about EDA strategic planning resources.

Communities and other jurisdictions within the Appalachian region may also request planning assistance directly from ARC. The ARC FFO for planning and technical assistance is available online at the following link: <http://www.arc.gov/POWER>. In addition, ARC reserves the right to issue additional FFOs and information highlighting other federal funding sources targeted towards specific market and/or services related to the POWER Initiative and this FFO.

the applicant is requesting assistance for the creation of a strategic plan.

- *Implementation Projects:* As noted above, implementation projects should demonstrate a clear link to a community's or a region's current strategic plan for economic development.
- *Collaborative Partnerships:* POWER 2016 funds are intended to help leverage program funds from multiple sources (both public and private). Competitive applications will successfully demonstrate that the applicant is engaged in collaborative relationships with a variety of local and regional stakeholders (public, private, for-profit and nonprofit) whose combined contributions will be invested to support the development and implementation of the proposed project.
- *Economic and Workforce Development Integration:* Competitive applications will clearly demonstrate how the project is designed to simultaneously address the workforce needs of local and regional businesses and the re-employment needs of local and regional workers who have been displaced by changes in the coal economy. Among other things, this approach will consist of activities that result in the creation of new businesses and/or job opportunities, as well as activities that provide workers with the skills they need to secure employment in the community's and region's in-demand business sectors.
- *High Quality Jobs and Worker Advancement:* Numerous communities, regions, and states across the country have historically relied upon the coal industry to provide good, reliable jobs and economic prosperity. Contractions in the coal economy and the resulting loss of these jobs are particularly harmful to workers in coal-related industry sectors (equipment manufacturing, etc.), who may find it challenging to find new employment opportunities that provide an equivalent level of compensation and benefits. Competitive pre-applications/proposals and any resulting applications will be those that propose to implement or otherwise incorporate workforce development strategies that prioritize:
 - The creation and growth potential of family-supporting jobs and careers;
 - Workforce development activities that offer workers "career pathways" upon re-employment – clear steps to additional education and training directly linked to higher-skilled and better paying jobs within the targeted industry; and
 - The provision of job training courses that equip workers with industry-recognized credentials that enhance their economic mobility and advancement.³
- *Multi-Jurisdictional Project Impact:* Among other factors, applications that strive to

³Each agency recognizes that the quality of jobs created in emerging industries is often evolving, and such industries typically do not yet have mature career pathways or skill standards. Applicants focused on emerging industries where these circumstances prevail should explain how their proposed strategies will create the conditions for increasing job quality and better defined pathways for worker advancement over the longer term (which may extend beyond the time frame of eligible funding).

produce economic diversification and job creation on a multi-jurisdictional basis will be prioritized for selection and funding. “Multi-Jurisdictional” is a term that can include, but is not limited to:

- Multiple communities within a county;
- Multiple counties within a region;
- Multiple regions within a state; and
- Multiple regions in two or more states.

Eligible POWER economic development projects and activities funded by both EDA and/or ARC can include, but are not limited to:

- Supporting the creation of new businesses and jobs in a variety of industry sectors, including, but not limited to advanced manufacturing, agriculture, energy, information technology (IT), health care, telecommunications, tourism and recreation, transportation, and cultural and natural assets;
- Implementing local and regional job creation and growth and economic diversification strategies targeted towards affected workers and businesses;
- Cultivating entrepreneurship, including strengthening of the entrepreneurial ecosystem and development of entrepreneurship education;
- Addressing substance abuse disorders and primary care concerns in the context of business development, job creation and skills training, including support for sustainable healthcare enterprises that employ qualified treatment professionals;
- Strengthening or developing existing or emerging industry clusters⁴;
- Developing business incubator programs;
- Enhancing access to and use of broadband services to support job growth through business creation and expansion.
- Facilitating access to private capital investment and providing related capacity building and technical assistance; re: effective utilization of capital investment for business development and job creation;
- Facilitating and promoting market access for goods and services created and manufactured by businesses in the impacted community/region;
- Implementing comprehensive strategies that integrate any combination of eligible activities and that leverage investments from EDA and/or ARC, other POWER federal agencies, as well as other public and private organizations at the state, regional, and local levels;
- Developing economic diversification strategies.
- Providing Registered Apprenticeship and other, similar on-the-job training models;
- Staffing, operating and administrative costs for recipient organizations as they undertake eligible project activities;

⁴ Industry clusters are networks of interconnected firms and supporting institutions in a common geographic region. Clusters also are generally defined by and benefit from shared labor pools, infrastructure and markets.

- Developing local and regional capacity to provide skills training services and opportunities resulting in a local and regional pipeline of workers who possess industry-recognized credentials for high-quality, in-demand jobs.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to contact agency program staff with EDA and/or ARC for specific guidance pertaining to the eligible use of program funds. Refer to Section G, “POWER 2016 Agency Contacts” below.

B. POWER 2016 Award Information

1. Availability of Funding

POWER 2016 grant funds are available through both EDA and ARC, as follows:

- EDA is making an additional **\$19.6 Million** available for POWER project grants under the agency’s EAA program as announced in the **FY16 EDAP FFO**⁵.
 - EDA expects to make individual POWER grants ranging between approximately **\$250,000 - \$1.5 Million** for each project it selects. Although EDA expects to award grants, EDA may choose to make awards via cooperative agreements based on the anticipated amount of substantial involvement between EDA and the recipient during the period of performance, which may include collaboration between EDA and the recipient to implement the scope of work and/or hands-on technical assistance and involvement in project activities. Substantial involvement indicates that EDA may assist, guide, coordinate, or participate in project activities in a partnership role; it is not to assume direction, prime responsibility, or a dominant role in the activities.
- ARC is making **\$45 Million** available for POWER project grants under the Appalachian Area Development Program, authorized by the Appalachian Regional Development Act (ARDA) of 1965, as amended.
 - On average, ARC expects to make individual grant awards ranging between **\$500,000 - \$1.5 Million** for each project it awards within the Congressionally-defined Appalachian Region. A map of the ARC Region is available online at the following link: <http://www.arc.gov/POWER>.
 - ARC may also choose to make awards via cooperative agreements.

POWER 2016 awards will be made only to the extent that funds are available. Neither EDA nor ARC will be held responsible (collectively or individually) for pre-application/proposal or application preparation costs. Publication of this announcement obligates neither EDA nor ARC (collectively or individually) to award any specific grant or cooperative agreement or to obligate all or any part of available funds.

⁵ See the joint explanatory statement to the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016 (Pub. L. No. 114-113, Dec. 18, 2015) and the joint explanatory statement to the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2015 (Pub. L. No. 113-235, Dec. 16, 2014).

2. Period of Performance Timelines by Funding Agency

The period of performance for awards from EDA and/or ARC under POWER 2016 is expected to last up to three years (36 months). Both agencies expect that all projects will proceed efficiently, and prefer applicants with demonstrated capacity to implement investments expeditiously to accelerate positive economic impacts from this investment.

C. POWER 2016 Eligibility Information

1. “Coal-Impacted Communities”: Documentation of Economic Impact

Eligible POWER 2016 projects must be located within and targeted to communities or regions that have been impacted, or can reasonably demonstrate that they will be impacted, by coal mining or coal power plant employment loss, or employment loss in the supply chain industries⁶ of either. Ongoing transitions in the United States energy sector generate outcomes that may impact, or have already impacted, different communities at different points in time.

Complete applications for a POWER 2016 grant must provide appropriate third-party economic and demographic statistics for the applicable community or region in order to document the extent to which contractions in the coal economy have negatively impacted the community or region. Applicants may use data that are available online at <http://www.arc.gov/POWER> and at <http://eda.gov/power> to demonstrate community and regional impacts of coal economy transitions. In some instances, inclusion of a region in one of those datasets will be adequate documentation of coal-impact. If a particular region is not included in these referenced datasets, the applicant will need to cite the data source used to demonstrate impact.

Economic indicators, labor market analyses, official announcements made by local and regional industries and firms, demographic, and industry data are strong sources of data to demonstrate these impacts. Applicants are encouraged to provide data (median income, coal mine closures, etc.) from federal sources that may include, but are not limited to the following sources:

- Department of Commerce
 - Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA), <http://www.bea.gov/>
 - U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey (ACS), <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/>
- Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), <http://www.bls.gov/>
- Energy Information Administration (EIA), <https://www.eia.gov/>
- Department of the Interior
 - Mine Safety Health Administration (MSHA), <http://www.msha.gov/OpenGovernmentData/OGIMSHA.asp>
 - Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), American Indian Population and Labor Force Reports <http://www.bia.gov/WhatWeDo/Knowledge/Reports/index.htm>.

⁶ Examples of supply chain industries include, but are not necessarily limited to, manufacturers of mining equipment and parts for coal-fired power plants and transportation companies that carry coal.

2. Eligible Applicants

Each agency’s applicant eligibility requirements are summarized under **Table 1**, below. Each applicant and all co-applicants must be individually eligible for the respective agency’s programs as noted in Table1, below.

TABLE 1: Applicant Eligibility

| Eligible Applicants: EDA EDAP | Eligible Applicants: ARC |
|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. District Organization; 2. Indian Tribe or a consortium of Indian Tribes; 3. State, county, city, or other political subdivision of a State, including a special purpose unit of a State or local government engaged in economic or infrastructure development activities, or a consortium of political subdivisions; 4. Institution of higher education or a consortium of institutions of higher education; 5. Public or private non-profit organization or association acting in cooperation with officials of a political subdivision of a State⁷. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Local Development Districts; 2. Indian Tribe or a consortium of Indian Tribes; 3. State, county, city, or other political subdivision of a State, including a special purpose unit of a State or local government engaged in economic or infrastructure development activities, or a consortium of political subdivisions; or 4. Institution of higher education or a consortium of institutions of higher education; 5. Public or private non-profit organization or association. |

In addition, EDA and ARC have additional economic distress and geographic eligibility requirements. To be eligible for EDA funding, an applicant must propose a project located in or substantially benefitting a region that meets EDA distress criteria. Please see section III.A and B on pages 8 – 12 of the **FY16 EDAP FFO** for complete information on EDA’s eligibility requirements under the EAA program. To be eligible for ARC funding, applicants must propose to serve and benefit a portion of the Appalachian Region as defined by the Appalachian Regional Development Act of 1965, as amended. A map and a description of the ARC Region can be found online at the following link: <http://www.arc.gov/POWER>.

3. Cost Sharing or Matching

Both EDA and ARC having matching share requirements. See section III.C on pages 12 – 13 of the **FY16 EDAP FFO** for additional guidance on EDA’s project matching funds requirements (<http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=279842>). For a description of ARC matching requirements, see the section on “Cost Sharing or Matching Share Requirement for ARC Funding,” under Section H “ARC POWER 2016 Grant Summary” below.

In certain situations, both EDA and ARC **may** be able to supplement the other agency’s federal share, which may lower the amount the applicant is required to provide as match⁸. Applicants are strongly encouraged to check with their EDA and/or ARC POWER Contact to see if they are eligible for this supplemental funding. Refer to Section G, “POWER Agency Contacts” below.

⁷ See section 3 of PWEDA (42 U.S.C. § 3122) and 13 C.F.R. § 300.3.

⁸ For EDA, see section 205 of PWEDA (42 U.S.C. § 3145) and the implementing regulation at 13 CFR § 301.6. For ARC, see 40 U.S.C. § 14321.

4. Other: Project Team Composition

Per the priorities and funding principles described previously, applicants are expected to assemble new or existing partnerships of economic development and workforce development stakeholders to serve as members of a Project Team, which may include partners that are not eligible for EDA or ARC funding, but are integral to a proposed project's success. While individuals and for-profit entities may support a project as a partner, please note EDA is not authorized to provide grant funds directly to individuals or to for-profit entities. In addition, please note that all procurement transactions must meet the procurement standards set out at 2 CFR §§ 200.317 through 200.326.

For purposes of application eligibility, it is not a requirement for each member of a Project Team to be located in a coal-impacted community; however, proposed projects must target workers and businesses in coal-impacted communities. Any member of a given Project Team may serve as the primary/lead applicant, and recipient, of either/both EDA and/or ARC POWER grant awards, provided the applicant meets all eligibility criteria for each program.

Overall Project Team membership can be comprised of, and is not limited to or minimally required to be, the following types of organizations:

- economic development organizations
- local governments
- planning organizations and development districts
- labor unions and labor-management apprenticeship programs
- state and local workforce agencies
- institutions of higher education, including (but not limited to) community colleges and other job training and adult education providers
- not-for-profit and community-based organizations including community action agencies that provide supportive services and human services providers
- chambers of commerce, industry and trade associations, local and regional business owners, and other representatives from the private sector.

D. POWER 2016 Application and Submission Information

1. Obtaining a POWER 2016 Pre-Application/Proposal Package, and an Application Package

Applicants may access the POWER 2016 [pre-application/proposal package](http://power.arc.gov) ("POWER 2016 Pre-Application") electronically online at the following link: <http://power.arc.gov>.

Alternatively, applicants may prepare and submit paper/hard copies of their pre-applications/proposals and applications. To this end, applicants may obtain the appropriate proposal or application package electronically at www.grants.gov (Grants.gov). Applicants may search for the required forms on Grants.gov using Funding Opportunity Number **EDAP2016**.

Applicants that are eligible for assistance under this announcement may also request a paper/hard copy of both a pre-application/proposal package and a complete application package by contacting the applicant's ARC or regional EDA representative according to the agency contact information provided under Section G "POWER 2016 Agency Contacts" below.

2. Content and Form of POWER 2016 Pre-Application/Proposal and Complete Application Package

POWER 2016 grants will be awarded through a **two-phase process**:

- **Phase 1, Project Pre-Application/Proposal:** In order to be considered for a POWER 2016 award, applicants must first submit a project pre-application/proposal for **review and consideration**. Applicants are asked to submit POWER 2016 project pre-applications/proposals electronically via the POWER Initiative Pre-Application/Proposal Portal available online at the following link: <http://power.arc.gov>. Program staff from EDA and ARC will review POWER 2016 pre-applications/proposals according to each agency's respective enabling statutes, policies and procedures. Additional guidance pertaining to the pre-application/proposal preparation and submission procedures is provided below.
- **Phase 2, Complete Project Applications:** Upon the completion of their respective pre-application/proposal review and consideration processes, EDA and ARC program staff will determine which pre-application/proposals/proposals warrant a request for a *complete application*.

Phase 1: POWER 2016 Pre-Application/Proposal Content and Form

In order to be considered for funding assistance under POWER 2016, applicants must first submit a project pre-application/proposal for **review and consideration**. In order to reduce the pre-application/proposal preparation burden for potential applicants, EDA and ARC will accept the forms and related content required under EDA's **FY16 EDAP FFO**, which may be accessed at <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=279842>. As noted above, an electronic version of the pre-application/proposal package is available online at the following links: <http://power.arc.gov>. Applicants may download and print a hard copy of this package from www.grants.gov, or request a paper pre-application/proposal package by contacting the applicant's regional EDA representative or the ARC according to the agency contact information provided under Section G, "POWER 2016 Agency Contacts" below.

All applicants should specify their requested funding sources and amounts in their pre-application/proposal. Projects that are proposed to benefit communities located outside of the defined Appalachian Region will be considered for funding solely by EDA. Projects applications benefitting the congressionally-defined Appalachian region and that are requesting funds from both agencies should specify the amount(s) being requested from ARC and EDA. Program staff from EDA and ARC will review POWER 2016 proposals according to each agency's respective enabling statutes, policies and procedures.

NOTE: The eligible activities that EDA and ARC POWER funds can be used for are in some ways similar and in some ways distinct. Agency staff may contact the applicant to suggest a different funding source or funding ratio which may be more appropriate and in some cases may be required for the project to be eligible for funding.

See section IV.B.1 on pages 15-16 of the **FY16 EDAP FFO** for information about the specific forms required for a complete POWER 2016 pre-application/proposal submission.

Pre-Application/Proposal Cover Letter

In order to help ensure that EDA and ARC staff correctly categorize each POWER project pre-application/proposal submission, applicants are **strongly encouraged** to provide a cover letter specifying that the pre-application/proposal package is specifically submitted for consideration under **POWER 2016**. The letter should also specify the source or sources of POWER 2016 program funds that the applicant is applying for.

Phase 2: POWER 2016 Project Complete Application Content and Form

Applicants whose pre-applications/proposals are determined to be responsive to the factors set out in Section E.1 on page 18 of this announcement may be asked to submit a complete application for a POWER 2016 grant.

Applications Only for EDA Grants, and Applications for both EDA and ARC POWER 2016 Grants: Applicants applying under either of the above-titled scenarios will be required to follow EDA's FY16 EDAP application preparation and submission requirements. See section IV.B.2 on pages 16-21 of **FY16 EDAP FFO** for information about EDA's application preparation and submission requirements and procedures (<http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=279842>). Additional guidance is provided in Section D.6 on pages 15 -17, below.

As stated above, applicants may download and print a hard copy of this application package from www.grants.gov, or request a paper application package by contacting the applicant's regional EDA representative or the ARC according to the agency contact information provided under Section G, "POWER 2016 Agency Contacts" below.

Applications Only for ARC POWER 2016 Grants: Applicants that are applying solely for an ARC POWER 2016 grant will be asked by ARC to submit additional project information and related documentation according to ARC's standard application policies and procedures. The types of information that ARC may request can include, but is not limited to specification of outcome measures consistent with ARC practice, documentation of availability of match, letters of support, and a detailed project budget. Additional ARC project application requirements are described in detail at the ARC POWER home page (<http://www.arc.gov/POWER>). Applicants may also contact ARC for further information about the agency's application preparation and submission process at the following email address: POWER@arc.gov.

3. Unique Entity Identifier and System for Award Management (SAM)

To enable the use of a universal identifier and to enhance the quality of information available to the public as required by the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006, to the extent applicable, applicants are required to: (i) Be registered in the System for Award Management (SAM) before submitting its application; (ii) provide a valid unique entity identifier in its application; and (iii) continue to maintain an active SAM registration with current information at all times during which it has an active Federal award or an application or plan under consideration by a Federal awarding agency. EDA may not make a Federal award to an applicant until the applicant has complied with all applicable unique entity identifier and SAM requirements and, if an applicant has not fully complied with the requirements by the time EDA is ready to make an award, EDA may determine that the applicant is not qualified to receive an award and use that determination as a basis for making an award to another applicant.

Recipients will be subject to reporting requirements, as identified in OMB guidance published at 2 C.F.R. parts 25 and 170 (2014). The guidance set out at 2 C.F.R. part 25 may be located online at the following link: <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2014-title2-vol1/pdf/CFR-2014-title2-vol1-part25.pdf>. The guidance set out at 2 C.F.R. part 170 may be located at online at the following link: <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2014-title2-vol1/pdf/CFR-2014-title2-vol1-part170.pdf>. Note that SAM now encompasses the Central Contractor Registration (CCR), and that the unique entity identifier is commonly the Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) Numbers.

4. POWER 2016 Submission Dates and Times

There are no submission deadlines under POWER 2016. Pre-applications/proposals (and any subsequent complete applications) are accepted and reviewed on an ongoing basis and until such time as program funds are no longer available. As total available POWER 2016 funding is limited, interested applicants are strongly encouraged to begin preparing project pre-applications/proposals at their earliest convenience. Applicants are strongly encouraged to contact program representatives with EDA and/or ARC for additional information about the POWER 2016 pre-application/proposal and complete application submission requirements. Refer to the information provided under Section G, "POWER 2016 Agency Contacts" below.

5. POWER 2016 Funding Restrictions

POWER 2016 grant awards funded in part or in whole with EDA and/or ARC program funds are subject to the program funding restrictions of each funding agency. For information about EDA EAA funding restrictions, please refer to section II.C on page 8 of the **FY16 EDAP FFO**. For information about ARC Area Development Assistance, see Section H ("ARC POWER 2016 Grant Summary"), below. Additional program information is available online at the following link: <http://www.arc.gov/POWER>.

6. Other Submission Requirements

POWER 2016 Pre-Application/Proposal Submission Instructions

Applicants have the option of submitting either electronic or hard copy versions of their POWER 2016 pre-applications/proposals according to the following guidelines.

1. **Electronic Online Submissions:** Both POWER 2016 funding agencies (EDA and ARC) encourage applicants to submit POWER 2016 project pre-applications/proposals (and related attachments) electronically via the POWER Initiative Portal available at the following link: <http://power.arc.gov>. **NOTE:** This online POWER pre-application/proposal submission portal has been established for POWER 2016 project **pre-applications/proposals** only. Specific guidance pertaining to the complete application preparation and submission procedures is provided below.
2. **Hard Copy Submissions:** Applicants who elect to submit hard copies of their project pre-applications/proposals must include each of the following in their pre-application/proposal package submission:
 - a. **One original and two copies** of the complete pre-application/proposal package (including **all required signatures**, as applicable) must be mailed with delivery confirmation that indicates the pre-application/proposal packages have been received in the applicable EDA regional office and in the ARC office in Washington, DC, respectively.
 - Applicants are encouraged (but not required) to also include an electronic version of their pre-application/proposal on a CD to facilitate processing.
 - b. Hard copies of pre-application/proposal packages must be delivered to EDA and/or ARC, as applicable, at the following addresses:
 - **EDA:** The pre-application/proposal submission should be mailed to the applicable EDA regional office according to the geographic location of the proposed implementation project. Applicants are encouraged to refer to Section VIII (“EDA Contact Information”) of the **FY16 EDAP FFO** for the mailing address of their regional EDA office.
 - **ARC:** Hard copy submissions should be mailed to the Appalachian Regional Commission, C/O ARC POWER Manager, 1666 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Suite 700, Washington, DC 20009-1068.

POWER 2016 Complete Application Submission Instructions

Applicants have the option of submitting either electronic or hard-copy versions of their complete POWER 2016 applications according to the following guidelines.

- Applicants submitting applications solely for an EDA POWER 2016 grant, or for both an

EDA POWER 2016 grant and an ARC POWER 2016 grant, will be required to follow EDA's FY 16 EDAP application preparation and submission requirements.

- Applicants submitting applications solely for an ARC POWER 2016 grant will be asked by ARC to submit additional project information and related documentation according to ARC's standard application policies and procedures. The types of information that ARC may request can include, but is not limited to specification of outcome measures consistent with ARC practice, documentation of availability of match, letters of support, and a detailed project budget. The specific information and related documentation required may vary depending on the type and nature of the project. Applicants may refer to Section H ("ARC POWER 2016 Grant Summary"), below, for additional information.

1. **Electronic Online Submissions**

- a. **EDA, or both EDA and ARC:** Applicants that are asked to either apply solely for an EDA POWER 2016 grant, or to apply for both an EDA POWER 2016 grant and an ARC POWER 2016 grant, are strongly encouraged to electronically submit complete POWER 2016 applications through Grants.gov. **Neither facsimile nor email transmissions of complete applications will be accepted.** Once an application is submitted, it undergoes a validation process through Grants.gov during which the application may be accepted or rejected by the system. **Please be advised that the validation process may take 24 to 48 hours to complete. Proposals or applications that contain errors will be rejected by Grants.gov, and will not be forwarded to EDA for review. The applicant must correct the error before Grants.gov will accept and validate the proposal or application.**

Applicants submitting complete applications via Grants.gov are strongly encouraged to refer to the submission guidance provided in section IX. on pages 34 – 37 of the **FY16 EDAP FFO** ("Instructions for Application Submission via Grants.gov").

- b. **ARC:** Applicants that are asked to apply solely for an ARC POWER 2016 grant can submit their application packages electronically to ARC through the POWER Initiative Online Portal at the following link: <http://power.arc.gov>.
2. **Hard Copy Submissions:** Applicants who elect to submit hard copies of their complete POWER 2016 application or applications must include each of the following in their application package submission:
- c. **One original and two copies** of the complete application package (including **all required signatures**, as applicable) must be mailed with delivery confirmation that indicates the application package has been received in the applicable EDA regional office and/or in the ARC office in Washington, DC, as applicable.
- Applicants are encouraged (but not required) to also include an electronic version of their pre-application/proposal on a CD to facilitate processing.

- d. Hard copies of complete POWER 2016 application packages must be delivered to EDA and/or ARC, as applicable, at the following addresses:
- **EDA:** Complete applications submissions should be mailed to the applicable EDA regional office according to the geographic location of the proposed implementation project. Applicants are encouraged to refer to Section VIII (“EDA Contact Information”) of the **FY16 EDAP FFO** for the mailing address of their regional EDA office.
 - **ARC:** Complete application submissions should be mailed to the Appalachian Regional Commission, C/O ARC POWER Manager, 1666 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Suite 700, Washington, DC 20009-1068.

NOTE: If an applicant employs both submission methods (electronic submission AND a hard copy) only the electronic submission (Grants.gov or online portal) will be considered and reviewed.

7. Other Participating Agencies

The POWER Initiative involves the support and participation of additional federal agencies and offices that can provide POWER grant recipients, and coal-impacted communities more broadly, with technical assistance and other forms of project assistance and resources. Applicants under this POWER funding announcement are encouraged to consider leveraging additional project support that may be available under through various agency program offices. A summary description of the various federal agencies and program offices (including contact information) whose resources may be available to further support the work of the POWER Initiative can be found online at the following link: <http://eda.gov/power/agencies>.

Applicants are also encouraged to work with their respective local workforce development boards and state workforce investment agencies to leverage additional project support with a Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration (ETA) POWER Dislocated Worker Grant (DWG).

- As of the publication date of this announcement, **ETA POWER DWG** funds remain available for award under the FY15 POWER FFO. Visit the following web page for information about how to apply to ETA for a POWER Implementation Grant: https://wdr.doleta.gov/directives/corr_doc.cfm?DOCN=9195.

E. POWER 2016 Pre-Application/Proposal and Complete Application Review Information

1. POWER 2016 Pre-Application/Proposal Review

Program staff from EDA and ARC will review POWER project pre-applications/proposals according to each agency's respective policies and procedures under their respective funding announcements:

1. For EDA, at least three EDA staff will review all complete proposal packages received to ensure that they are responsive to this FFO and reflective of the essential criteria necessary for EDA's competitive consideration. EDA staff will use the following factors to determine if a proposal is "Responsive" or "Not Responsive" to this announcement:
 - a. The project's alignment with the priorities and objectives of POWER 2016 (specified under "POWER Priorities" on page 4, "POWER Objectives" on page 5 and "Coal-Impacted Communities": Documentation of Economic Impact" on page 9 above);
 - b. The project's potential to foster job creation and/or promote private investment in the regional economy or the project's ability to provide information and tools necessary to further regional economic goals;
 - c. The applicant's eligibility to receive an EDA grant (for more information on applicant eligibility requirements, see section C.2. on page 10 of this announcement);
 - d. The eligibility of the Region in which the project will be located or will benefit (for more information on Regional economic distress eligibility requirements, see section III.B on pages 9 – 12 of the **FY16 EDAP FFO**); and
 - e. The project's alignment with the goals of the Public Works or Economic Adjustment Assistance programs, as applicable, as detailed in section I.C on pages 5 – 7 of the **FY16 EDAP FFO**.

If EDA determines that a pre-application/proposal is "Responsive" to each of the above factors, EDA will ask the application to submit a complete application to proceed to phase 2 of the POWER 2016 grant review process.

2. For ARC, program staff and state representatives will jointly review applications based on the criteria set out in section H, below. Reviewers will consider the extent to which the pre-application/proposal addresses the strategic investment goals, investment priorities, and funding preferences.

2. POWER 2016 Complete Application Selection Criteria and Process

In addition to both agencies' respective application selection criteria⁹, EDA and ARC will also evaluate each complete application for a POWER 2016 grant according to the following criteria (as specified previously under "POWER Funding Principles" on pages 5-8 of this announcement), with each criterion receiving equal weight:

- The integration and/or alignment of the impacted region's workforce development needs and priorities with the economic development strategy referenced under the pre-application/proposal;
- The extent to which the strategy or strategies are designed to create jobs that pay family-supporting wages, create career pathways for workers, and are linked to industry-recognized credentials for high-demand positions; and
- The geographic impact and resulting economic benefit of the proposed scope of work.

Funding agencies reserve the right to negotiate the budget costs with the applicants that have been selected to receive awards, which may include requesting that the applicant remove or adjust certain proposed costs. Additionally, funding agencies may request that the applicant modify objectives or work plans and provide supplemental information pertaining to any aspect of the application. Funding agencies also reserve the right to reject an application where information is uncovered that raises a reasonable doubt as to the applicant's ability to successfully fulfill the objectives and requirements of the grant award.

Funding agencies, under their complete and sole discretion, may select for award some, all, or none of the applications received under this competitive solicitation. The final approval of selected applications and issuance of awards will be by the funding agencies' selecting official or officials. The award decisions of the funding agencies' selecting official or officials are final.

Each agency's respective selecting officials are authorized to make the final decision on whether to fund an application.

- EDA's selecting officials are the Regional Directors in each of EDA's six regional offices.
- ARC's selecting officials are the ARC Federal Co-Chair and the respective state representative.

Award notifications will be made in accordance with either funding agency's grant announcement procedures. For projects that are selected to receive awards from more than one funding source (e.g., awards combining funds from both EDA and ARC) the grant award notification will be coordinated among those funding agencies to ensure consistency of expectations and instructions.

⁹ EDA application submissions are evaluated by an EDA Investment Review Committee at the regional office level, and in accordance with criteria specified on in section V.B. on pages 22 – 23 of the **FY16 EDAP FFO**. ARC pre-application/proposal submissions are evaluated according to the investment goals, investment priorities, and funding preferences set forth under section H. "ARC POWER 2016 Grant Summary", below.

For additional application, submission, application review and selection process requirements, applicants are advised to review sections IV-V of the **FY16 EDAP FFO**¹⁰.

F. POWER 2016 Federal Award Administration

For federal award administration requirements such as the administrative and national policy requirements, regulations, administrative requirements and cost principles, and other award information, including Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), past performance and non-compliance, restrictions on making awards to corporations convicted of felony criminal violations and unpaid federal tax liabilities, environmental and historic preservation, implementing the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements, applicants are advised to review sections VI and VII starting on page 24 of the **FY16 EDAP FFO**.

G. POWER 2016 Agency Contacts

Both EDA and ARC strongly encourage interested applicants to contact program representatives at each agency with any questions they have about the POWER Initiative in general, as well as with any specific questions they have about the use of agency funds to support projects in their communities and regions.

Applicants with general questions regarding POWER 2016 and the POWER Initiative may submit these to either or both of the following email addresses, as applicable:

- POWER@eda.gov
- POWER@arc.gov

Applicants with specific EDA project-related questions are encouraged to contact their regional POWER points of contact for information and technical guidance.

| EDA Regional Office | Regional POWER POC | Email | Phone Number |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|--|---------------------|
| Atlanta | Pam Farmer | PFarmer@eda.gov | 404-730-3026 |
| Austin | Rick Sebenoler | RSebenoler@eda.gov | 512-381-8155 |
| Chicago | Robin Bush | RBush@eda.gov | 312-789-9750 |
| Denver | Jenny Benz | JBenz@eda.gov | 303-844-5363 |
| Philadelphia | Chivas Grannum | CGrannum@eda.gov | 215-597-8723 |
| Seattle | Brian Parker | BParker2@eda.gov | 206-220-7675 |

¹⁰ In addition to the requirements of sections IV-V of the FY 16 EDAP FFO, EDA, prior to making a Federal award with a total amount of Federal share greater than the simplified acquisition threshold, is required to review and consider any information about the applicant that is in the designated integrity and performance system accessible through SAM (currently FAPIIS). See 41 U.S.C. § 2313. Each applicant, at its option, may review information in the designated integrity and performance systems accessible through SAM and comment on any information about itself that a Federal awarding agency previously entered and is currently in the designated integrity and performance system accessible through SAM. EDA will consider any comments by the applicant, in addition to the other information in the designated integrity and performance system, in making a judgment about the applicant's integrity, business ethics, and record of performance under Federal awards when completing the review of risk posed by applicants as described in 2 C.F.R. § 200.205.

Applicants with specific ARC project-related questions are encouraged to contact the ARC POWER Program Manager at the following email address: POWER@arc.gov

The following section provides information describing the program funding objectives, priorities, and project selection criteria for the \$45 million available for Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) POWER Initiative grants in FY 2016. Similar information about the EDA's EAA Program is available under EDA's **FY16 EDAP FFO**, which is available at the following link: <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=279842>.

H. ARC POWER 2016 Grant Summary

ARC Overview

The Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) is a regional economic development agency that represents a partnership of federal, state, and local government. Established by an act of Congress in 1965 (Appalachian Regional Development Act 40 U.S.C. § 14101-14704), ARC is composed of the governors of the 13 Appalachian states and a federal co-chair, who is appointed by the president.

ARC Regional Eligibility Criteria

Applicants for ARC funding must serve and benefit a portion of the Appalachian Region as defined by the Appalachian Regional Development Act of 1965, as amended. The Appalachian Region includes certain counties in the states of Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, Mississippi, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and all of the State of West Virginia. A map and a description of the Appalachian Region counties can be found online at the following link: <http://www.arc.gov/POWER>. For projects serving communities both within and outside of the Appalachian region, only that portion of the project accruing benefits to communities within the Appalachian region will be eligible for funding.

ARC Strategic Investment Goals

ARC has identified five strategic investment goals to advance its vision and mission and to guide its work over the next five years. These goals reflect consensus among local, state, and federal partners on the most critical investment opportunities in Appalachia. While the investment goals are distinct, they are also interdependent, with progress on one goal often requiring investment in another.

- **Goal 1, Economic Opportunities:** Invest in entrepreneurial and business development strategies that strengthen Appalachia's economy.
- **Goal 2, Ready Workforce:** Improve the education, knowledge, skills, and health of residents to work and succeed in Appalachia.
- **Goal 3, Critical Infrastructure:** Invest in critical infrastructure—especially broadband; transportation, including the Appalachian Development Highway System; and

water/wastewater systems.

- **Goal 4, Natural and Cultural Assets:** Strengthen Appalachia's community and economic development potential by leveraging the Region's natural and cultural heritage assets.
- **Goal 5, Leadership and Community Capacity:** Build the capacity and skills of current and next-generation leaders and organizations to innovate, collaborate, and advance community and economic development.

ARC Investment Priorities

ARC POWER 2016 funding priorities consist of:

- Building a competitive workforce
- Enhancing access to and use of broadband services
- Fostering entrepreneurial activities
- Developing industry clusters in communities

It is anticipated that projects receiving ARC funding will include one or more of the following as their primary outcomes:

- **Jobs created:** New, high-quality jobs that did not exist in the locale prior to the activity.
- **Jobs obtained:** Workers are assisted in securing employment in existing high-quality jobs; may involve training and other services.
- **Businesses created:** Any new business started in the locale, both by local entrepreneurs and start-ups and new facilities located in the community by existing businesses.

ARC Funding Preferences

In order to maximize the impact of ARC investments on the economic transition in coal-impacted communities, ARC will give preference to investments under this FFO that successfully address the following factors:

- **Regional Focus** – Targeted areas should be regional, defined minimally as multi-county, with potential investment amounts scaled upward as the size and complexity of the region increases to include multi-state areas.
- **Large-Scale Projects** – To maximize impact and minimize administration costs, projects should be large in scope with budgets that, in many cases, are expected to range from \$500,000 to \$1.5 million.
- **Include Assessment and Planning** – Communities receiving money for activities should have a well-articulated analysis of why and how the local and regional economy has been negatively impacted by the downturn in the coal industry and demonstrate how the proposed effort adds value to a larger, more long-term vision and action plan being implemented in the Region (e.g., alignment with Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies (CEDS) and other regional strategic plans).
- **Targeted to Economic Restructuring** – Communities must have assessed their assets and opportunities and have formulated a plan that focuses on restructuring the economy

(e.g. sector strategies, entrepreneurial development) and identifies both short-term (1-2 years) and long-term (3 years and beyond) anticipated outcomes.

- **Collaborative** – Investments should have multiple stakeholders engaged in project implementation from the private, public, and nonprofit sectors, and from multiple disciplines; there should be evidence of strong input and engagement of the broader community in planning and project design.
- **Evidence of Leverage** – Investments should demonstrate community and regional commitment to the proposed project by combining ARC resources with other public, private, and philanthropic resources.
- **Outcome-driven** – Communities should define specific output and outcome measures, demonstrate how the project is designed to achieve those outcomes, and commit to capturing and sharing those measures over the life of the investment. Given the urgency in addressing needs in coal-impacted communities and regions, anticipated outcomes for both the short- and long-term should be clearly articulated.

ARC Regional Eligibility Criteria

Applicants for ARC funding must serve and benefit a portion of the Appalachian Region as defined by the Appalachian Regional Development Act of 1965, as amended. The Appalachian Region includes certain counties in the states of Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, Mississippi, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and all of the State of West Virginia. A list of Appalachian Region counties can be found online at the following link: <http://www.arc.gov/POWER>. For projects serving communities both within and outside of the Appalachian region, only that portion of the project accruing benefits to communities within the Appalachian region will be eligible for funding.

Additional Application Instructions

Projects proposing to serve the Appalachian region must include the following information in their online applications or on Form ED-900P. The following Numbers and Titles reference items in Form ED-900P.

- I.A.2. Description of the region -- Projects serving or benefiting the Appalachian region must include a list of the states and counties participating in or benefitting from the project and attach a map of the project service area. For construction projects, if the map attached in response to item II.B.2 includes the states and counties impacted, that will be sufficient.
- I.A.7. Funding and cost share matrix –
 - Applicants should specify the total federal funding being requested. Projects that are proposed to benefit communities, all of which are located outside of the defined Appalachian Region, will be considered for funding solely by EDA. Project applications benefitting the congressionally-defined Appalachian region should specify the amount(s) being requested from each agency, ARC and EDA. Program staff from EDA and ARC will review POWER 2016 implementation initiative proposals according to each agency's respective enabling statutes, policies and procedures.

- The eligible activities that EDA and ARC POWER funds can be used for are in some ways similar and in some ways distinct. Agency staff may contact the applicant to suggest a different funding source or funding ratio which may be more appropriate and in some cases may be required for the project to be eligible for funding.
- Attach a budget narrative that breaks down the major cost items on forms SF424a or SF424c.

Cost-Sharing or Match-Sharing Requirement for ARC Funding

Under POWER 2016, applicants for an ARC grant must demonstrate a matching share from other federal or non-federal sources that is available and committed to the project. The maximum share of ARC assistance is determined by the ARC classification of the county or counties served by the proposed activity. Applicants may request up to 80 percent of the total project cost when the county served by a project has been designated as economically “distressed” according to ARC’s FY16 classification. A table summarizing ARC’s economic designations and the maximum ARC share for each Appalachian county can be found online at the following link: <http://www.arc.gov/POWER>.

To determine the match rate for an ARC multi-county project, special matching rules apply:

1. If there is a distressed county in a project and:
 - a. At least half of the counties are distressed, the project may be funded at up to 80% of project costs;
 - b. At least half of the counties are some combination of distressed and at-risk, ARC assistance can be the higher of 70% of project costs or the average percentage applicable to the various counties in the project;
 - c. Fewer than half the counties are distressed, ARC assistance can be the higher of 50% of project costs or the average percentage applicable to the various counties in the project.
2. If there is no competitive county or attainment county in a project, and at least half the counties are at-risk, the project may be funded at up to 70 percent of project costs.
3. All other multi-county projects shall be funded at the average percentage applicable to the various counties in the project (i.e., 80 percent, 70 percent, 50 percent, 30 percent, or 0 percent); except that the portion of a project that is attributable to an attainment county in a project that does not include a distressed county shall be considered ineligible for ARC assistance and may not be considered for matching purposes.

Projects selected for an ARC POWER 2016 award that are also selected for an EDA award (either POWER 2016 or FY16 Economic Adjustment Assistance) may have the option to apply all or a portion of the EDA award to meet ARC match requirements. Applicants are strongly encouraged to contact ARC for detailed guidance on the use of EDA award funds to meet ARC match requirements: POWER@arc.gov.

NOTE: At its discretion, ARC may identify promising pre-applications/proposals serving the Appalachian region and return them to the respective applicants with requests for further information and/or development. These pre-applications/proposals may then be resubmitted for consideration at a later date.