



Appalachia Community Grant Program

Frequently Asked Questions

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Grant Funds are part of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), State & Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. And Ohio House Bill 377 and projects must adhere to the policies set by them.

General Questions

Q: What is considered transformational?

A: Large, regional impact that is visible and long-lasting. Projects should improve the quality of life in the region and make the area more attractive to visitors and future residents.

Eligible Lead Applicants

Q: Can educational institutions be eligible lead applicants?

A: Yes, Educational institutions can be Eligible Lead Applicants with documented support from the local government in project areas.

Q: Are public schools considered local governments?

A: No, public schools are considered eligible institutions, but not local governments.

Q: Is a letter from county commissioners considered a government letter of support?

A: For an Appalachian Technical Assistance Grant, yes. A detailed subrecipient agreement is necessary for Appalachian Development Grants.

Q: Do all proposals need an Eligible Lead Applicant?

A: Yes

Q: Can Eligible Lead Applicants represent multiple projects?

A: Yes

Q: Can individuals apply?

A: No

Q: Can a nonprofit healthcare institution be an Eligible Lead Applicant?

A: Yes, with support from their local government.

Q: Can ODOD procured planners be an Eligible Lead Applicant?

A: No, The Ohio Department of Development (ODOD) procured planners are not eligible to serve as lead applicants.

Q: Can only one entity per county request funding, or can different lead entities from a county request funds?

A: Multiple entities within a county can request funding.

Q: Can consultants apply for Technical Assistance grants?

A: No, consultants are not eligible for to apply for Appalachian Technical Assistance Grants but can be hired by local communities or apply as a procured planner through the RFP process.

Q: Can a statewide agency NOT located in the 32 counties apply for funding to plan, administer, and implement projects within the 32 counties, if done in partnership with the local governments and LDDs?

A: A statewide agency is not an Eligible Lead Applicant but can be a partner on an application.

Q: If a publicly elected school board passes a resolution of support for a Technical Assistance Grant application, does that qualify as indication of local government support?

A: As long as the resolution of support identifies a specific project the resolution is tied to. Projects must still provide support from local units of government or government-related entities, such as townships, villages, cities, port authorities, community improvement corporations, county governments or council of governments.

Q: Are park districts eligible lead applicants?

A: Yes

Q: For nonprofit applicants, does documented support from local governments need to come from counties or municipalities or does that extend to entities like Local Development Districts (LDDs) or Educational Service Centers (ESCs)?

A: If partnering with an LDD or ESC, projects must still provide support from local units of government or government-related entities, such as townships, villages, cities, port authorities, community improvement corporations, county governments or council of governments.

Q: Is there a limit to lead applicants in the county?

A: There is not a limit to Eligible Lead Applicants, however, Eligible Lead Applicants are responsible for being the single point of contact and fiscal agent for its respective application(s), distributing funds to other partners included in the application, and must ensure compliance by all project participants.

Q: Are subrecipient agreements required for all project partners?

A: Yes, for all Appalachian Development Grants.

Availability of Funding

Q: Will the second phase funding be spread out evenly among counties, or will it depend on other applications?

A: Funding is competitive and are not guaranteed to be spread out between counties.

Q: Could a community receive two development grants, one in each round? If so, then could that community also get an Appalachian Technical Assistance grant for the second development grant goal?

A: Yes, a community may be awarded for separate projects, but the projects cannot be phased.

Q: Will more than one project be considered per county?

A: Yes

Appalachian Technical Assistance Grants

Q: Regarding \$250,000 planning dollars, if multiple counties partner, do planning dollars reflect same – if there are two counties, does project planning receive \$500,000?

A: The \$250,000 county set-aside is not reserved for specific entities within a county. Eligible Lead Applicants can partner to request funding from multiple counties, but funding will be competitive and is not guaranteed. For example, an Eligible Lead Applicant in Belmont County could request \$15,000 for the Technical Assistance Grant, and an Eligible Lead Applicant in Jefferson County could request \$10,000 for the same project, but each award would come out of the respective county set-aside.

Q: Do technical assistance funds have to come out of the \$250,000 county allocation or can it be pulled from a separate allocation?

A: \$250,000 per county is available for Appalachian Technical Assistance Grants

Q: Do TA grants cover final design costs that would exceed \$250,000?

A: Appalachian Technical Assistance Grants won't exceed \$250,000 per county but multi-county projects can submit an application together to combine resources.

Q: If lead applicants don't need to submit a planning grant application, what are they required to do to apply?

A: Eligible Lead Applicants must apply for the Appalachian Technical Assistance Grant in order to receive funds for planning. However, ODOD procured planners will be available to all Eligible Lead Applicants regardless of whether or not they apply for or receive an Appalachian Technical Assistance grant. Additionally, applicants are not required to apply for an Appalachian Technical Assistance Grant or use an ODOD procured planner to apply for Appalachian Development Grants.

Q: Am I correct that Round 1 is to request assistance from a planner(s) OR technical assistance funds in preparing plans and applications for Round 2?

A: Round 1 is to apply for Appalachian Technical Assistance or Appalachian Development Grants. ODOD procured planners will be available after the conclusion of Round 1 and

will be free and available to all applicants. Applicants can utilize both Appalachian Technical Assistance Grants and ODOD procured planners for planning assistance.

Q: Do we need specific projects for the technical assistance grants?

A: Applicants need to have an idea of what the project is and which component the project fits.

Q: If one of our board members is part of a regional council of government could they be our lead applicant?

A: No, individuals are not Eligible Lead Applicants.

Q: Can technical assistance funding be used to hire a grant writer for the development grant proposal?

A: Yes

Q: Can the TA funding be used to support internal planning positions (in addition to utilizing the free planners)?

A: Yes

Q: Will all Technical Assistance projects need to be funded through the \$250,000 per county funds or is there other funding available for broad regional projects that would cross all or nearly all counties?

A: Counties are encouraged to work together when applying for Appalachian Technical Assistance Grants. ODOD will have procured planners and will be providing the Appalachian Technical Assistance Grants. As stated in the program guidelines, *Requests for funding outside of the Appalachian Technical Assistance Grant may be submitted to the Governor's Office of Appalachia for consideration by emailing appalachia@development.ohio.gov.* These requests will be considered on a case-by-case basis after the Appalachian Technical Assistance Grants and the procured planner have been awarded. basis.

Q: Will technical assistance activities include professional services like engineering associated with environmental due diligence?

A: Appalachian Technical Assistance Grant activities include administrative costs: reasonable personnel and staff time, travel, supplies, and materials; operating costs: internet, utilities; preliminary engineering; legal fees; grant writers; community planners and/or consultants; and other eligible costs as approved by ODOD.

Q: Would the technical assistance grant be a good choice to fund a project of a multi-municipal bike trail along the river?

A: The Appalachian Technical Assistance Grant and procured planners are available for application development of projects like the above.

Q: Must all Technical Assistance funds awarded be spent prior to Round 2 development application?

A: Not necessarily, all Appalachian Development Grant funding must be spent prior to October 31, 2026. However, a plan should be ready to provide as part of the Appalachian Development Grant application.

Q: In preparing budgets for technical assistance grants, how are communities to decide whether to include the cost for a planning consultant in the technical assistance application or to use one of the state's community planners?

A: Communities should work together to determine what fits their project best. LDDs are a good resource to help with this.

Q: If a community includes the cost of consultant in the technical assistance application and then discovers in 2023 that a state community planner is available to do the work, then is the community able to use those funds allocated for a consultant for another task?

A: Activities can be removed but costs cannot be reallocated. Communities need to decide whether or not they want to use their own planners or ODOD provided planners.

Department of Development Procured Planners

Q: For communities that plan to submit a development grant in Round 2, will design plans need to be completed before the fall of 2023 and can community planners assist with plan development or will communities need to retain an engineer or architect to prepare plans?

A: ODOD procured planners will likely be able to assist with plan development, however design is an eligible cost for the Appalachian Technical Assistance and Appalachian Development Grants.

Q: What will the process look like for a community to access a Development-procured planner?

A: Additional details will be provided on the program webpage and shared via the [email list](#) when details are available after the planning partner(s) have been secured.

Q: Can an organization work with a community planner without applying for one?

A: Yes, there will not be applications for community planners.

Q: Can a community apply for a Technical Assistance grant and use a ODOD procured planner?

A: Yes

Q: Once a community receives a planning grant award, will communities use the approved ODOD planners to do the planning work or will RFPs be issued for planning firms to bid on?

A: An RFP is available now for planning firms to bid on. Once confirmed, ODOD procured planners will be free and available to all applicants. The RFP is available at https://ohiobuys.ohio.gov/page.aspx/en/bpm/process_manage_extranet/9754

Q: Can planners be outside of the 32-county Appalachian region?

A: Yes

Q: Who decides how planners get assigned to communities? Do communities have a say in who plans?

A: More information will be available on the program website when available.

Q: What is the difference between technical assistance and regional planner?

A: Appalachian Technical Assistance Grants can help with capacity issues to apply for Appalachian Development Grants. Communities with previously established ideas for Appalachian Development Grants can help fund known expenses through Appalachian Technical Assistance Grants. However, Appalachian Technical Assistance Grants are competitive and are not guaranteed. ODOD procured planners will be free and available to all and do not require an application. Planners are there to help with additional planning process and to support communities in preparing their Appalachian Development Grant plans and applications.

Q: Will there be a webinar and Q&A for planners interested in submitting an RFP?

A: No. All questions regarding procured planners are available on the [OhioBuys](#) site in the inquiry section.

Q: Are procured planners available after Round 1 grants?

A: Yes, planners will be available throughout the life of the program.

Appalachian Development Grants

Q: Is the \$50 million available in Round 1 the entire amount available for all projects or per project?

A: \$50 million is available in total for all projects in round 1 Appalachian Development Grants.

Q: What if more than \$50 million is requested in round 1 Development grants?

A: House Bill 377 sets the \$50 million limit and more than \$50 million will not be funded in Round 1.

Q: How will 50 million for round 1 development be dispersed? Will it be equally divided?

A: Funding is competitive. There are no allocations for specific counties or communities.

Q: If final design fees are an eligible expense, is the work of the design team considered a 'shovel ready' activity?

A: No.

Q: Can a project qualify if the cost exceeds \$1 million but with leveraged funds the ask ends up being less than \$1 million still needed?

A: No, Appalachian Development Grant applications must be \$1 million minimum.

Q: Does every project within an application have to be \$1 million or just the entire application must be a minimum of \$1 million?

A: The entire application must meet the \$1 million minimum.

Local Development Districts (LDDs)

Q: How much influence do these LDD's have on these grants?

A: Local Development Districts are intended to be a supporting entity for projects and can serve as Eligible Lead Applicants for communities. Applicants are not required to work with Local Development Districts. Local Development Districts will not score or award projects.

Q: Do we have to go through LDD's to get local government approvals?

A: No, the LDDs are an available resource, but not a requirement.

Q: What percentage of project funding will go to the development districts?

A: LDD's have received funding from ODOD to provide technical assistance to communities separate from the program.

Q: If applying across LDD lines, would it be better to have an LDD or county lead applicant? Would each county need to apply?

A: LDD lines do not matter, the roles of each partner are important.

Q: What is meant by a "stronger application" when using or going through the LDD?

A: LDDs are a resource and can help navigate partnerships, assist with an application development and more. LDD's can help with projects but are not required and not part of score.

Q: Since units of local government within a county, as well as other entities, are either not required to obtain a letter of support from a county how can a county identify and reach out to these entities to include them in the county's application for either grant program?

A: LDDs are available to help connect applicants on related projects.

Application Rounds and Award Period

Q: When does round 2 for the Development grants start?

A: Round 2 applications are scheduled to open November 2023.

Q: Will there be a round 3 and if so, how much money would be allocated in each round?

A: There will be a round 3 for Appalachian Development Grants if funding is still available. There is not a specific allocation limit for round 2.

Q: What is the funding period? E.g. when would awarded funds need to be expended by?

A: October 2026

Q: If an application was not awarded funds in Round 2, and funding is available for a Round 3, will the application automatically be reconsidered?

A: No, applicants would need to reapply.

Q: What is the deadline for Round 2 if the Technical Assistance grant is only round 1?

A: Please see guidelines. Appalachian Technical Assistance Grant opportunity is only available in round 1.

Q: What happens if projects cannot be completed by 2026 from supply chain issues and labor shortages?

A: 2026 serves as the fund's deadline through ARPA and is a required deadline unless changes are made by the federal government regarding the funds.

Allowable Expenses and Project Eligibility

Q: Does a regional water treatment plant improvement project, serving two counties, qualify for funding?

A: Water and sewer projects are not eligible as standalone projects but can be included as part of a larger transformational project. Funding may be available through other programs for this.

Q: Can funding be used to reduce lead service lines?

A: No. Water and sewer projects are not eligible as standalone projects but can be included as part of a larger transformational project.

Q: Can this be leveraged with POWER?

A: Yes.

Q: Can admin expenses (lead applicant project administrative expenses i.e. personnel and fringe) take place outside of the Appalachian Counties? In other words, can admin work take place in Franklin County?

A: Yes, administrative expenses may take place outside of the 32-county Appalachian region, however, all physical project activities must be within the region.

Q: Can funds be paid to builders outside of the 32-county region? Ex) a builder in Pittsburgh

A: Builders may be sourced from outside of the region but all physical activities must be in region.

Q: Is the construction of a food bank eligible?

A: The construction of a food bank would not be eligible as a standalone project, but could be eligible as part of a larger transformational project.

Q: Would the construction of a new health department be an eligible project?

A: No, government buildings are not eligible.

Q: Are community pools eligible?

A: Additional details are needed, this could be eligible on a case-by-case basis based on the scope of the project.

Q: Are stadium projects eligible?

A: No. The ARPA [Final Rule](#) specifically lists stadiums as presumptively not allowed.

Q: Are lodges for nonprofits eligible?

A: No. Assistance to eligible non-profits must be related and proportional to addressing impacts or disproportionate impacts related to the pandemic. Enumerated uses include

loans or grants to mitigate financial hardship or technical or in-kind assistance or other services that mitigate negative economic impacts of the pandemic.

Q: Are marketing activities for tourism-based projects eligible?

A: Eligible uses for tourism only mention providing aid to the tourism industry for specific impacts. Since this is not an enumerated eligible use in the ARPA Final Rule, this would need to meet the criteria of addressing an impact from the pandemic and this response is related and reasonably proportional to address the harm. This could be tricky as overall marketing efforts for tourism would not fit this criterion, so harm would have to be shown indicating the need to market as a drop in tourism continues to exist from pre-pandemic levels and the marketing matches the impact. See page 32 of the ARPA [Final Rule](#).

Q: Would a newly built school-based health clinic be an eligible infrastructure project?

A: Project costs incurred prior to the grant agreement are not eligible. School-based health clinic construction project is eligible.

Q: Can funds be used to repurpose unwanted school buildings into community centers or business incubators?

A: Yes

Q: Can we request a loan?

A: No, loans are not an eligible ARPA expense.

Q: Can grant funds be used for property acquisition?

A: Property acquisition is eligible as part of a larger project, however, any activities that happen outside of the grant period are not eligible expenses.

Q: Are new-construction affordable/workforce housing projects eligible for funding?

A: Yes, on a case-by-case basis.

Q: Is creating a historic district within a village included in infrastructure, along with revitalizing old buildings and businesses?

A: Yes

Q: Are publications for nonprofit local news organizations eligible?

A: No

Q: Is purchase and/or development of low-income or elderly housing eligible?

A: Not as a standalone project, but it could be part of a larger project.

Q: For an older building, are renovation costs for the entire building eligible or just the facade?

A: Renovation and façade improvements are both eligible costs.

Q: Is a county-wide fire and EMS training facility eligible?

A: Training activities are eligible, but a standalone training facility for emergency services would not qualify. Municipal service buildings are not eligible.

Q: If preliminary engineering is an eligible cost for Development grants and you apply for a development grant, then how is the project "shovel-ready"?

A: For Round 1, projects must be shovel ready, but those costs are eligible for Round 2 applications. We recommend applying for and utilizing Technical Assistance Grants for engineering costs.

Q: Are community parks eligible that are not located near an uptown area?

A: Yes, project activities do not have to be located in a downtown to be eligible.

Q: Are government-owned properties eligible?

A: Government-owned service buildings are not eligible, but a government entity could purchase a building as part of a project.

Q: Are bike paths with contiguous counties eligible?

A: Yes

Q: Are home and community-based services (healthcare) eligible?

A: Home-based services are not eligible. Additional details are needed for community-based services, this could be eligible on a case-by-case basis.

Q: Is the purchase of medical equipment eligible?

A: As part of a school-based health clinic or similar project, it could be eligible, however, projects must be transformational in scope.

Q: Are architectural and engineering fees eligible expenses for Technical Assistance grants?

A: Yes

Q: Are design fees an eligible cost for Development grants?

A: Yes

Q: Are design fees an eligible cost for Technical Assistance grants?

A: Yes

Q: Do projects need to physically be located in multiple counties or does a project that reaches in other counties qualify for Regional Impact?

A: Projects that are located in multiple communities will score better. Applicants must demonstrate activities and impact in each county listed.

Q: Main street improvements and downtown redevelopment projects would seem to be challenging to make "regional." Could you provide any clarity on how multiple downtowns might work together for a regional impact?

A: Communities are encouraged to work together and consider what they have in common to coordinate a project.

Q: Will a project located in a single county that impacts many surrounding counties qualify as "regional impact"?

A: Applicant must demonstrate impact and activities benefiting every county in the application.

Q: Does regional impact mean a geographical connection? How is it defined?

A: Regional impact can be a geographical connection but doesn't have to be. Regional impact is defined as within ARC's 32-county Appalachian region.

Q: Would a pedestrian bridge connecting to a park/natural resource be eligible as part of an infrastructure project?

A: Yes, as part of a larger project.

Q: What is the allowable administrative fees and/ or is there an indirect cost rate?

A: Please see page 5 of the guidelines.

Q: Can funds be used to help improve private property within a community?

A: Yes

Q: Can the Appalachian Development Grant funding include not only capital to create infrastructure, but also include maintenance cost of maintaining new infrastructure during the period up to 2026?

A: Projects need to be sustainable and this needs to be documented in the application.

Q: Are environmental assessments and remediation eligible under Appalachian Development Grant applications?

A: Yes

Q: Could a co-working space be eligible for a standalone application?

A: It would be eligible but would not score as well as if it was part of a larger project.

Q: Can someone use this to make the community more accessible for people with disabilities?

A: Yes.

Q: Are seating and lights for community baseball park and improvements to walking and hiking trails - all owned by a 501(3)c allowed?

A: Yes

Q: Does trail development as an infrastructure project include the restoration/repair of an existing recreational trail?

A: Yes

Q: Is the renovation of privately-owned buildings eligible?

A: Yes, but they need to partner with an Eligible Lead Entity.

Q: Is expansion of and/or building a new fire station with a community center eligible?

A: No, municipal buildings and services are not eligible.

Q: Could a new fiber network infrastructure connecting local government and/or educational buildings be eligible?

A: Funds are not eligible for a standalone broadband project but broadband components could be part of a larger project.

Q: If a project requires broadband for telehealth or worker training would that be eligible to include?

A: Yes

Q: Can you further elaborate on eligible activities for "revitalizing old buildings?" Asbestos and lead abatement? Mold abatement? Roof repairs? Interior demolition? Interior improvements for new tenants/residents? Full or partial building demolition? Improvements on property: tank removal? sidewalk/driveway improvements? Others?

A: The program encourages visible change in the region. Improvements that contribute to that visible change are eligible.

Q: Since there is no cap, if our application includes numerous activities, but the total cost is high, will you cut back and fund certain activities, or will the entire application be tossed?

A: We will only fund eligible activities, entire applications will not be tossed for having ineligible activities.

Q: Would a regional training center for CDL be covered under these funds for workforce training?

A: Yes.

Q: Is hospitality, DEI and tourism training for service industry partners eligible?

A: Yes, as eligible workforce costs.

Q: Can funding be used to expand existing programs that would fit into the parameters of this grant?

A: No, currently provided services are not eligible.

Q: Are mobile health vehicles/clinics eligible?

A: Yes

Q: Is workforce housing a permissible project if they are done in an historic building?

A: Yes

Q: Can projects include the purchase of a block of multiple properties and their subsequent revitalization?

A: Yes

Q: Can a primary applicant (government entity) develop a revitalization project and then sell it to a for profit entity after implementation?

A: Yes

Q: Is the clearing of trees and excavation considered the beginning of 'shovel ready' for a construction project?

A: Yes

Q: Would a mobile clinic that would take a provider out into the community be eligible?

A: Yes

Q: Could you use funds eligible project that might fall outside of the Appalachian region? For example, could fund be used to complete a trail that connects to a neighboring non-Appalachian project?

A: No, all project activities must be within the 32-county Appalachian region.

Q: Are architectural fees that have already been incurred for existing projects that will be seeking funding from this program eligible?

A: No, fees incurred prior to the grant period are not eligible.

Q: The guidelines online include "large-scale economic development site infrastructure" as an eligible Downtown Redevelopment activity. Could you expand on what is meant by that?

A: Large-scale economic development sites do not have to be in the downtown. Large scale development sites should be at least 500 contiguous acres.

Q: Does a mega site have to be 500 usable acres or 500 assembled acres? Namely, if only 460/400 are developed would that work?

A: Mega sites should be at least 500 contiguous acres.

Q: Can some funding be used for seed money to pay for salary for six months to get a program up and generating revenue?

A: Costs could be eligible, but sustainability needs to be demonstrated in the project details.

Q: What is the definition of shovel ready for capital vs. non-capital projects?

A: For capital projects, construction activities must start within 90 days of receipt of funds. For non-capital projects, program activities must be ready to start.

Q: Are urban agriculture, community gardens, and pollinator patches eligible since?

A: Yes

Q: What type of construction projects are eligible?

A: Examples of construction projects are available in the program guidelines.

Q: Can Technical Assistance funds be used for acquiring permits IE. Corps, EPA, etc?

A: Yes

Q: Are vehicle purchases or other operational expenses for fleets serving public or human resources transportation eligible?

A: Additional details are needed; this could be eligible on a case-by-case basis.

Q: If project were physically located on private land, would it be eligible for project funding if a nonprofit was lead and a long-term contract for economic development was in place?

A: Additional details are needed; this could be eligible on a case-by-case basis.

Q: Can school district owned property be purchased with Development Funding?

A: Additional details are needed; this could be eligible on a case-by-case basis.

Q: What happens when project impact is multiple impact of both instate and out of state in a metro area?

A: Project impact can be out of state, but physical activities must take place within the 32-county Ohio Appalachian region.

Q: Can funds be used for partial completion of projects?

A: Funds can be used to complete previously initiated projects, but projects cannot be phased.

Q: Is food processing equipment permitted if a company provides food production training?

A: Yes

Q: Would a satellite public health center be eligible if a local health department applied?

A: Satellite public health centers are eligible, however, local health departments are not Eligible Lead Applicants but can be a partner on an application.

Q: Are costs associated with an affordable housing project eligible?

A: Additional details are needed. Could be eligible on a case-by-case basis.

Q: Is IT infrastructure for clinics, schools, or Main Street complexes eligible?

A: Could be eligible as part of a larger project, but not standalone.

Q: Are transportable training spaces considered infrastructure?

A: Not infrastructure, but eligible under workforce.

Q: Are renewable energies, like solar panels, eligible for public and/ or private entities? (Businesses and residences)

A: Individual residences are not eligible. Additional details on project and business information are needed. Could be available for on a case-by-case basis.

Q: Are alternative fuel and electric microgrids eligible for these funds?

A: Additional details are needed. Could be eligible on a case-by-case basis.

Q: Can you define private property that would be eligible?

A: See treasury guidance.

Q: Can funds be used for new road construction related to a public/private partnership economic development site?

A: Additional details are needed. Could be eligible on a case-by-case basis.

Q: Are administration funds available to the lead applicants?

A: Administrative costs reimbursed must adhere to all uniform guidance and may not exceed 3% of the total project amount for an Appalachian Development Grant. Administrative costs related to Appalachian Technical Assistance Grant application preparation are not eligible.

Q: How is "improvement" defined in relation to improvements eligible on a multi-purpose trail?

A: Projects must be transformational in scope.

Q: Can funding be used to build a bridge within a multipurpose trail?

A: Yes

Q: In reference to workforce projects that entail curriculum development, is there a requirement for the applicant to restrict students/ trainees as only residents of the Appalachian counties in Ohio? Does online training need restricted to only available to people in the 32 Counties?

A: Program participants do not specifically have to be from/live in the 32-county region, but program activities must take place within the region.

Q: Can funds be used for land acquisition that would lead to a dam removal and eventually installation of a hike/ bike trail?

A: Yes

Q: Do TA funds qualify for land purchases or is that through development funds?

A: Appalachian Development Grant funds.

Q: Would research for a project be an eligible component?

A: No

Q: Do projects geared towards improving "downtown revitalization" need to be geographically located inside of a town or village?

A: No.

Q: Will downtown revitalization efforts be able to extend to rural areas?

A: Yes

Q: Are water trails eligible?

A: Yes

Q: Can funds be used to create and improve safe pedestrian access?

A: Yes, as part of a larger project.

Q: "Funds will not be allowed to establish ongoing permanent expenses for advocacy of any kind." Can you elaborate?

A: Funds must be sustainable and cannot be used for influencing a specific project or cause.

Q: Could a grant be used to collateralize/co-collateralize loans and bonds?

A: No, not through the Appalachian Community Grant program.

Other Funding Sources

Q: Could a TAP grant that's already committed be included as an additional funding source?

A: Yes

Q: Can these grant funds be the matching funds for a US Department of Transportation RAISE project?

A: Match is not required, but partnerships and other sources of funding will strengthen applications. Applicants will need to reach out to the Ohio Department of Transportation for feedback on qualifying match for their program.

Q: Can we leverage AMLER funds with this?

A: Yes

Q: If real estate is purchased or donated before the grant period begins, can that still be used as leverage for the grant?

A: Yes.

Q: Is the purchase of a historical downtown building and repurposing for a fire training facility eligible?

A: Yes.

Q: Are sidewalks to make a village compliant with ADA eligible?

A: Yes, as part of a larger project.

Partners

Q: Will we need support from local government authorities in each county in which we engage planning?

A: Yes, projects should include and engage local governments where project activities take place.

Q: Is there a requirement for the local government applicant to competitive bid to select partner(s) for the application?

A: Projects must meet federal procurement guidelines for activities, but project partnerships do not need to be bid.

Q: In an application from a nonprofit, in which one of the proposed activities is site selection across the region, would the requirement for local government support be met by a letter of support from the local government entity where the nonprofit is headquartered or each site (county) across the region.

A: Support must come from all project entities where proposed activities take place.

Q: Are partnerships with state agencies required?

A: No

Q: How does an organization be a part of the assistance that is provided to the region? Not as an applicant.

A: Organizations can partner with lead applicants as a resource on projects. Organizations that offer planning services can complete the planning RFP available on Development's webpage.

Q: Are 'partners' referring to other counties, municipalities, etc. or can 'partners' be private enterprises that help accomplish a Lead Applicant's development goal?

A: Partners can be other local units of government, public or private entities that support and strengthen the goal of the project.

Q: Does demonstrated past partnership with ODNR improve scoring for a new phase of a project in this application?

A: Yes

Q: Can partnerships with lead eligible applicants include a for-profit entity?

A: Yes

Q: To what extent can private companies advocate and educate eligible institutions about this grant program? Who should the grant candidate questions be directed to?

A: Private partnerships with Eligible Lead Applicants are encouraged. Private entities can reach out to eligible communities they wish to work with.

Q: What would happen to school-based health center funding if part of a development grant then the school district decides they do not want to partner with the awardee?

A: Educational institutions must have local community and government support for projects.

Q: Is consulting with planning firms that may compete for the planning phase prohibited before the application is submitted?

A: No

Application

Q: Will there be a different application for the technical assistance funds?

A: Yes, there will be a separate applications for the Technical Assistance grant and the Development grant.

Q: Do projects need to be shovel ready when making application?

A: Development grant projects must be shovel-ready within 90 of receiving funds. Technical Assistance grants do not.

Q: When is the Round 2 Development Grant deadline?

A: The Round 2 Appalachian Development Grant deadline is currently scheduled for December 2023.

Q: Does a proposal need to include each one of the funding priorities?

A: This is allowable but not required. Multiple funding priorities will strengthen your application.

Q: Assuming there is no project, partnership or areas of overlap, can one county submit multiple applications?

A: Yes, however projects cannot be phased.

Q: Can organizations apply for Technical Assistance and Development grants in the same round?

A: Yes, but not for the same project.

Q: Do Technical Assistance Grants and the Development Grant have to be related to one goal or could be two different goals?

A: Projects can be multiple goals. A project that receives an Appalachian Technical Assistance Grant is not expected to be exactly the same when applying for an Appalachian Development Grant.

Q: If a property needs to be purchased for a project, would the real estate process be considered "shovel ready"?

A: No

Q: Can the same organization submit an implementation grant in the first round and also have other project pieces in the planning grant?

A: The same organization can submit multiple applications for An Appalachian Technical Assistance and/or Appalachian Development grants, however projects cannot be phased between application rounds.

Q: If a Development grant application is submitted in round 1 and is not funded, can that project apply in future rounds?

A: Yes

Q: Can a community include multiple activities under one project application umbrella?

A: Yes, communities are encouraged to include multiple activities in one application.

Q: Is it being suggested to aggregate multiple mostly seemingly unrelated projects to hit all three areas from a single lead applicant? or should the project submitted be a cohesive project?

A: Both applications are eligible. We encourage you to look at the scoring rubric to guide your decision making for an application.

Q: Can cities to have a joint application to address regional infrastructure but have their own components in their cities as well? Would they include everything into that one proposal?

A: Yes.

Q: Can applications include multiple activities in the same county under one project application or should they be separate project applications?

A: Multiple activities can be included in one application.

Q: Do all the county projects in a planning/tech assistance grant have to be related?

A: No.

Q: Will the technical assistance application be easy enough that a community can apply on their own or will they need to hire outside help to complete it?

A: Applications were designed with community use in mind, but applicants can use the LDD's as resource. Applications are now available for viewing/submitting.

Q: Is there a limit of the number of applications from each county (Round 1 specifically)?

A: No, but applicants are encouraged to partner.

Q: How closely linked must the projects combined within an application be to be eligible vs when they would need to be separated?

A: A collection of projects is eligible. Activities don't have to directly be related but must be transformational in scope as a whole.

Q: If an application has 8-10 projects included in it, will the lead applicant determine how funds are split? Same for TA grants?

A: Applications should outline activity costs and recipients. Subrecipient agreements are required for Appalachian Development Grants.

Q: For the submission of the grant, do we need to provide actual vendor quotes for work that we will be requesting or are engineer estimates enough?

A: No, but estimates must be evidence-based. However, your discovered cost should be included in the budget narrative.

Q: Regarding the sustainability report - what form would this report need to be in; is this requesting a 20-year proforma?

A: A proforma is not required, but report would need to demonstrate 20-year sustainability.

Scoring

Q: Would a project score better if planning was paid for with a federal grant?

A: Partnering with a federal entity would benefit a project score.

Q: Looking at the scoring matrix there is a premium placed upon communities using a ODOT procured planner. Will these procured planners be available for the first round of development applications? If not, will an exception be made for these applications?

A: No, Round 1 Appalachian Development Grant applications must have established plans and be shovel-ready within 90 days of receiving funds.

Q: Are applicants required to use an ODOD procured planner in order to receive full points?

A: To receive full points, yes. Please see page 3 of the Appalachian Development Grant [scoring rubric](#).

Q: Are grants for either or all three of the components (workforce, healthcare, infrastructure)?

A: Projects can be one, two, or all three components. Please see scoring rubric.

Q: If an application is not scored well early on, can it be remediated and resubmitted, and will scoring occur continuously, or is it one shot only?

A: Scoring will only occur once per round, but feedback may be provided to the Eligible Lead Applicant that may in a future submission if funding is available.

Q: Would a project that focuses on downtown revitalization score higher than a project that incorporates a trail?

A: Both activities fall under the same priority component. Meeting rubric criteria would determine score.

Q: Would a recreational bike trail located within one county alone be competitive?

A: Please see scoring rubric.

Q: Will there be an example narrative application that will use the rubric for a better idea of how scoring will work in relation to the application?

A: No, applicants can utilize resources from LDDs and ODOD procured planners to assist with narrative development.

Q: For evidence-based components, would creative placemaking or social determinants of health qualify as evidence or is more specific research needed?

A: Social determinants of health would be considered supportive evidence.

Q: How do community planners effect the round 1 scores if they aren't available until round 2?

A: Community planners do not impact scores. Community planners will be available to assist with planning for Round 2 Appalachian Development Grant applications.

Q: If a county making application to either T/A or Development is an ARC Transitional County, is not wholly designated as either "distressed" or an "area of persistent

poverty," but does contain one or more census tracts that are designated as such - how would the application be scored for this criteria?

A: Designations are county-wide, not census tracts.

Award Process

Q: Is this a reimbursement grant?

A: Not necessarily.

Q: Will projects be partially funded, or only all or nothing?

A: All eligible activities within an approved project will be funded in full pending available funding.

Compliance

Q: Is there a specific project delivery system required? Single Prime, Multi-prime, CMR.etc?

A: No

Q: Does state prevailing wage or federal prevailing wage apply to budgets?

A: ARPA guidelines, available on [the resources page](#), provide additional details on this.

Q: For pre-engineering, will we be required to go through the RFQ process?

A: If not utilizing ODOD procured planners, yes.