



Request for Proposals

by

The North Carolina Appalachian Regional Commission Program

North Carolina Department of Commerce

Proposals due on or before February 12, 2010

Attention: Olivia Collier, ARC Program Manager

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ARC Background

Appalachia, as defined by Congress, is a 200,000-square-mile region with about 23 million people. Following the spine of the Appalachian Mountains, it includes all of West Virginia and parts of twelve other states: Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, Mississippi, New York, North Carolina, Ohio Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia. ARC is a regional economic development agency representing a unique partnership of federal, state and local government. The Commission is composed of the governors of 13 Appalachian states and a federal co-chair, who is appointed by the president. Grassroots participation is provided through multi-count local development districts with boards made up of elected officials, businesspeople, and other local leaders. Each year, Congress appropriates funds that ARC allocates among the Appalachian states. The governors consulting with local development districts, draw up state Appalachian development plans. Once those plans meet final approval, the funds are released to implement ARC projects that are consistent with the state plan. The broad objective of these projects is to provide the basic building blocks that enable Appalachian communities to create opportunities for self-sustaining economic development and improved quality of life.

ARC Strategic Plan

A comprehensive strategic planning process in 2003-2004 involving federal, state, and local officials and citizens resulted in *Moving Appalachia Forward – ARC Strategic Plan 2005-2010* and focused investments in ARC's four general goals:

1. Increase job opportunities and per capita income in Appalachia to reach parity with the nation.
2. Strengthen the capacity of the people of Appalachia to compete in the global economy.
3. Develop and improve Appalachia's infrastructure to make the Region economically competitive.
4. Build the Appalachian Development Highway System to reduce Appalachia's isolation.

Overview of Request for Proposals

The North Carolina ARC Program invites proposals from eligible applicants. Public entities (cities, towns, counties, regions, public service districts) and nonprofit organizations located in the Appalachian Region of North Carolina are eligible for funding. North Carolina has 29 counties which encompass the region that includes the following: Alexander, Alleghany, Ashe, Avery, Buncombe, Burke, Caldwell, Cherokee, Clay, Davie, Forsyth, Graham, Haywood, Henderson, Jackson, McDowell, Macon, Madison, Mitchell, Polk, Rutherford, Stokes, Surry, Swain, Transylvania, Watauga, Wilkes, Yadkin, and Yancey.

Proposals must meet one or more of the ARC Goals defined in the Strategic Plan and one or more of the state strategies:

- Improve educational opportunities and workforce skills.
- Improve infrastructure for community and economic development.
- Increase civic and leadership capacity.
- Increase entrepreneurial opportunities.
- Improve health care resources.

Proposals for the 2010 Federal Fiscal year will be accepted beginning January 4, 2010. Applicants must complete the appropriate application for funding (construction or non-construction). Applications and other resources are available at the following website: www.nccommerce.com/arc

For more information contact, Olivia Collier, ARC Program Manager, 919-733-2853 ext.222.