

BEVERLY EAVES PERDUE
GOVERNOR



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May 11, 2009
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**Gov. Perdue Recommends 16 Western N.C. Community, Regional
Projects to Receive Funding from Appalachian Regional Commission**

RALEIGH – Gov. Bev Perdue today announced 16 community and regional Western North Carolina projects she will recommend to receive a total of \$4 million from the Appalachian Regional Commission. She made the announcement in Brevard at Transylvania Vocational Services Inc., a company participating in one of the projects.

“These 16 community and regional projects represent Western North Carolina’s creativity and innovation,” said Gov. Perdue. “They will bring needed jobs, education and training programs, housing and infrastructure improvements to this part of our state.”

ARC was created by the Congress in 1965 to improve the lives of the people in Appalachia. Federal funding is allocated to the 13 states that make up the Appalachian region. North Carolina counties eligible to receive funding are 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.

Gov. Perdue also emphasized the importance of public and private partnerships and the participation in these projects of local leaders, community colleges, public and private universities, the N.C. Department of Commerce, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and foundations such as Golden LEAF, Kate B. Reynolds and Z. Smith Reynolds in these projects.

Funding proposals for projects were submitted and reviewed by the North Carolina ARC Office and project partners to ensure they are consistent with ARC’s goals. The Commission will make

the final decision on the projects to receive funding; those that are successful will be announced later this year.

Projects from the following community applicants will be recommended:

- Clay County — regional water system with Towns County, Ga.
- Cherokee County — sewer system improvements
- Graham County — wastewater treatment plant replacement
- Town of Mars Hill (Madison County) — water system improvements
- Town of North Wilkesboro (Wilkes County) — industrial access road
- Town of Rosman (Transylvania County) — wastewater system improvements
- Town of West Jefferson (Ashe County) — water line extension
- Wilkes County — water and sewer improvements

Projects from the following regional applicants will be recommended:

- AdvantageWest — create a green economy asset map by compiling the region’s “green” assets, including companies and natural resources; all 29 ARC counties.
- Angel Medical Center Inc. — using high-tech digital technology, provide 6,000 women with access to mammography and track data for further study; Clay, Cherokee, Graham, Jackson, Macon and Swain.
- Appalachian State, UNC Asheville and Western Carolina University — continue network that encourages high school students to further their education; provide additional training for teachers; all 29 ARC counties.
- Marketing Association for Rehabilitation Centers (MARC) — retain and create new jobs for people with disabilities; Ashe, Caldwell, Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Haywood, Henderson, Jackson, Macon, Madison, McDowell, Mitchell, Polk, Swain, Transylvania, Watauga and Yancey counties.
- Mayland Community College — expand allied health program and facilities; Avery, Mitchell and Yancey counties.
- Natural Capital Investment Fund Inc. — provide start-up funding for alternative energy companies; all 29 ARC counties.
- N.C. Department of Commerce — provide community planning assistance.
- Western North Carolina Communities Inc. — build a central livestock auction/sales center.

For more information about North Carolina’s ARC office, click this [link](#). For more detailed information about the projects, contact please contact Olivia Collier, NC ARC Program Manager, at (919) 733-2850 or ocollier@nccommerce.com.