



ARC NEWS ROUNDUP | July 18, 2019 | VOLUME 4, ISSUE 27

ARC SPOTLIGHT



Members of the [ARC Substance Abuse Advisory Council](#) discuss recovery-to-work strategies at their most recent meeting.

New Report Summarizes ARC Recovery-to-Work Listening Sessions

Establishing a Recovery Ecosystem to include multiple sectors and services. Addressing recovery needs and developing recovery communities. Coordinating services to help individuals in recovery navigate needed services. Expanding education skills training opportunities and recovery-friendly workplaces. Sharing effective practices to help communities assess, plan, and develop strategies that promote the recovery ecosystem. These are some of the key themes outlined in a recently released [synopsis report](#) from the six ARC hosted Recovery-to-Work Listening Sessions. At each of the six sessions — held between December, 2018 – April, 2019 in Big Stone Gap, Virginia; Wilkesboro, North Carolina; Muscle Shoals, Alabama; Pineville, Kentucky; Portsmouth, Ohio; and Beckley, West Virginia — ARC leadership discussed substance abuse related workforce issues with representatives from local and state government, treatment and recovery service providers, workforce development entities, employers, law enforcement, and individuals currently in recovery.

Drawing on the Listening Session themes, ARC's [Substance Abuse Advisory Council \(SAAC\)](#) — a 24-member volunteer advisory group of leaders from law enforcement, recovery services, health, economic development, private industry, education, state government, and other sectors representing each of the Region's 13 states — met in Washington, DC this week to continue developing recommendations to anchor ARC's strategy to help address the workforce impacts of Appalachia's substance abuse epidemic. The Council's final recommendations will be formally presented to the Commission in early September. "ARC's continued efforts to study and address the substance abuse crisis in our region are well-reflected by this report and by the continued efforts of the SAAC, which can positively impact Appalachian communities," said ARC Federal Co-Chair Tim Thomas. "I am very pleased with the progress of the Advisory Council, and look forward to reviewing their work alongside the rest of the Commission."



INVESTMENTS IN ACTION



The town of Houston, Mississippi has long been a furniture and upholstery industry center. ARC support will help develop additional warehouse space to attract more of these businesses.

Photo: [Discover Houston Mississippi](#)

Making More Space for Furniture in Houston, Mississippi

The small town of Houston, Mississippi – a county seat for Chickasaw county – sits halfway between Natchez, Mississippi and Nashville, Tennessee along the Natchez Trace Parkway. It is also at the intersection of several other state highways. This makes the community a desirable manufacturing destination. Indeed, the area in and around Houston was known as a furniture and upholstery industry center for decades throughout the 20th century. Although the industry has shrunk since its heyday, several local furniture-related companies remain and are even growing. This creates a demand for additional space for manufacturing and warehousing, which in turn means more job opportunities in a county ARC has designated as [economically at-risk](#). To meet the need, the city of Houston, the [Chickasaw Development Foundation](#) (CDF), and other local partners are giving an abandoned furniture manufacturing campus new life. With ARC support, 70,000 square feet of warehousing space will get a new roof, upgraded plumbing and electrical systems, and other general repairs. Once construction is completed, the City and CDF will be able to meet existing industry demands and incubate fledgling manufacturing businesses. “These improvements will increase the attractiveness of the site for future development and facilitate economic development and private investment,” said Houston Mayor Stacey Parker. Already, several furniture manufacturers and related businesses have pledged to use the space as soon as it is ready.



PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITY

APPALACHIAN REGIONAL COMMISSION

Help Us Prepare Appalachia's Young Entrepreneurs!

ARC is **seeking proposals** from eligible organizations to conceptualize & conduct a **new high-school entrepreneurship summer program in Appalachia.**

LEARN MORE: www.arc.gov

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Join Our Team!

ARC is recruiting for a number positions, including a **Program Analyst [Infrastructure]**, **Program Analyst [Intermodal Transportation]**, and **HR Generalist**.

The [Program Analyst \[Infrastructure\]](#) will manage federal grants and provide technical assistance to communities and potential grant applicants on strategic infrastructure-related investments.

The [Program Analyst \[Intermodal Transportation\]](#) will develop and manage transportation projects linking the Appalachian Region to transportation systems to maximize economic impact.

The [HR Generalist](#) will join a collaborative team responsible for managing employee life cycle actions, including recruitment, processing payroll, and administering benefits.

For more information on this position, visit www.arc.gov/careers.

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APPALACHIA IN THE NEWS

[ARC co-chair tours Communiversities](#), *Starkville Daily News*, Starkville, Mississippi

[Chevron funds area STEM camps to combat summer slide](#), *Herald-Standard*, Uniontown, Pennsylvania

[Simpsonville Arts Center renovation: What to know about remodel of old school building](#), *Greenville News*, Greenville, South Carolina

[Can Hemp Bring Back The Economy In Appalachian Virginia](#), *Roanoke Star*, Roanoke, Virginia

[The best of Appalachia's vibrant food scene](#), *Conde Nast Traveler*

UPCOMING EVENTS

2019 ARRI Conference

Cambridge, Ohio

July 24-25

Appalachia Strong: An ARC Summit

Asheville, North Carolina
September 4-6

2019 National HBCU Week Conference

Washington, D.C.
September 8-10

Alabama-Mississippi Rural Tourism Conference

Natchez, Mississippi
October 21-23

The Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) is an economic development agency of the federal government and 13 state governments focusing on 420 counties across the Appalachian Region. ARC's mission is to innovate, partner, and invest to build community capacity and strengthen economic growth in Appalachia to help the Region achieve socioeconomic parity with the nation.



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