

August 2023

Rural Areas

Providing workforce services to rural areas is challenging due to long distances and, in many cases, a lack of infrastructure like broadband. Broadband access continues to top the rural issues in new programs and resources. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development Innovation Center provides [Broadband Resources for Rural America](#) to ensure access to the digital superhighway powering businesses and education systems.

This month, we are highlighting successful practices, programs, and services in rural areas. Visit us weekly in August for new highlights in the [WorkforceGPS Featured Content section](#), and be sure to visit our related WorkforceGPS communities like [H-1B Rural Healthcare Grant Program](#), [Agricultural Connection](#), and [National Dislocated Worker Grants](#).

Funding Opportunity: Rural Energy for America Program



From the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), don't miss this funding opportunity: [Rural Energy for America Program: Renewable Energy Systems & Energy Efficiency Improvement Guaranteed Loans & Grants](#). This program provides guaranteed loan financing and grant funding to agricultural

producers and rural small businesses for renewable energy systems or to make energy efficiency improvements.

The next application window closes on September 30, 2023. Visit the related page on [grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) for details.

Renewed Focus on Supporting Rural America



The Biden administration demonstrated a renewed focus on ensuring funding opportunities benefit rural America with [its launch](#) of the [Rural Partners Network \(RPN\)](#) last year. This effort emphasizes a whole-of-government approach to partnering with rural places for economic opportunity. Find your local RPN staff in [this directory](#).

Also delivering federal resources to assist the nation's rural communities is the [Interagency Working Group on Coal and Power Plant Communities and Economic Revitalization](#), which takes a place-based approach to economic revitalization in energy communities, targeting engagement and investment in the most hard-hit areas.

For more rural-focused resources, visit the items in the Featured Content section below.

Workforce Opportunity for Rural Communities Initiative



The **Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC)** has launched the Workforce Opportunity for Rural Communities (WORC) initiative. Managed by the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL), this initiative provides enhanced training and support activities to dislocated workers, new entrants in the workforce, incumbent workers, and individuals affected by substance use disorder (SUD) returning to work in the Appalachian, Delta, and Northern Border regions. For more information on this grant opportunity, visit **[WORC](#)**.

FEATURED CONTENT



JULY 25, 2023

The Appalachian Regional Commission and the Appalachian Regional Initiative for Stronger Economies



JULY 31, 2023

Entrepreneurial Ecosystems in Appalachia



AUGUST 12, 2021

Rural Apprenticeships for Young People Challenges and Strategies for Success



AUGUST 16, 2021

The Role of the Workforce System in Addressing the Opioid Crisis: A Resource Guide



JULY 17, 2023

Micro-credentials for Social Mobility in Rural Postsecondary Communities: A Landscape Report



JULY 31, 2023

Rural Prosperity Through the Arts & Creative Sector

UPCOMING PUBLIC EVENTS



AUGUST 03, 2023

REO-GPMS Training Part 1: Introduction and User Onboarding



AUGUST 10, 2023

REO-GPMS Training Part 2: Participant Enrollment and Services Delivered



AUGUST 15, 2023

Modernizing Business Services for Today's Employer

AUGUST 16, 2023

On-the-Job Training: A Different View



AUGUST 23, 2023

Strengthening Community Colleges Training Grants, Round Three Performance Reporting Orientation 3.0



AUGUST 28, 2023

Tribal Consultation Unemployment Compensation Program Confidentiality Request for Information

RECENT PUBLIC EVENTS

JULY 18, 2023

Producing and Using Cost-Benefit Analyses for RESEA Evaluations

JULY 14, 2023

Comprehensive American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) UIPL Webinar 1

JULY 13, 2023

Overview of Training and Employment Guidance Letter (TEGL) 21-22

JULY 11, 2023

H-1B Rural Healthcare Mid-Grant Performance Review

JULY 06, 2023

U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) Nursing Expansion Grantee Orientation

JUNE 27, 2023

Effective Strategies for Retention & Completion Joint Webinar - Part 2

JUNE 23, 2023

JUNE 22, 2023

**Demystifying Disaster Recovery DWG
Applications: Part 2 - Budget,
Enrollment, and Expenditure Plans**

JUNE 22, 2023

**Not Just Smoke and Mirrors: Economic
Development Strategic Partnerships**

**Strengthening Community Colleges
Training Grants, Round Three
Performance Reporting Orientation 1.0**

JUNE 21, 2023

**Demystifying Disaster Recovery DWG
Applications: Part 1 - Policy and Program
Design**

Thank You!

Sincerely,

- The WorkforceGPS Team
Helping You Navigate to Success Today

U.S. Department of Labor
Employment & Training Administration