

Ohio GOA & ARC State Goals Strategies: 2024-2027



In partnership with the LDDs, the Governor's Office of Appalachia (GOA) has determined strategies to advance regional investment and growth. The Ohio strategies which align with the ARC Goals include the following:

GOA & ARC Goal #1

Building Appalachian Businesses

Strengthen and diversify the region's economy through inclusive economic development strategies and investments in entrepreneurship and business development.

Ohio Strategies

Support projects that improve, diversify, or otherwise increase the competitiveness of Appalachian Ohio's economy.

1. Support projects that drive or advance the economy in Appalachian Ohio.
2. Expand opportunities for the development of advanced manufacturing and technology
3. Foster entrepreneurship through technical assistance, financing, and support networks to enhance small business development and expansion.
4. Support planning activities in communities that focus on future economic development and regional transformation.

GOA & ARC Goal #2

Building Appalachia's Workforce Ecosystem

Expand and strengthen community systems (education, healthcare, housing, childcare, and others) that help Appalachians obtain a job, stay on the job, and advance along a financially sustaining career pathway.

Ohio Strategies

Improve access and expand opportunities in health and education to strengthen and grow the region's workforce.

1. Expand health care access for Ohioans through wellness and prevention programs.
2. Increase the availability of mental health counseling services in rural areas and schools.
3. Invest in the recovery ecosystem to respond to the substance use disorder crisis in and support recovery-to-work programs.
4. Support initiatives focused on improving the region's labor force participation rate. Invest in job training initiatives and enhance partnerships with educational institutions that prepare and bolster Ohio's workforce for the future.
5. Increase the number of students acquiring a college degree, professional certificate, or other credentials.

GOA & ARC Goal #3

Building Appalachia's Infrastructure

Ensure that the residents and businesses of Appalachia have access to reliable, affordable, resilient, and energy efficient utilities and infrastructure in order to successfully live and work in the Region.

Ohio Strategies

Reinforce and develop the region's infrastructure to maintain existing systems and incentivize economic growth.

1. Support and assist communities in rural Appalachian Ohio as they work to establish, maintain, and extend critical water and sewer infrastructure systems to serve Ohio businesses and residents.
2. Expand access to broadband for underserved Ohioans in partnership with BroadbandOhio.
3. Work with electric co-operatives and prioritize projects that allow for future potential broadband expansion.
4. Support efforts to improve grid resiliency and explore energy solutions that best serve the region.
5. Support transportation systems, including local access road projects that enable business expansion or improve ease of access for residents.
6. Capitalize on the economic potential of the Appalachian Development Highway System.
7. Support and strengthen existing partnerships between LDDs and resource partners, including state agencies and public research institutions, to provide critical research and information concerning utility deployments and capacities in rural Appalachian Ohio.

GOA & ARC Goal #4

Building Regional Culture and Tourism

Strengthen Appalachia's community and economic development potential by preserving and investing in the region's local, cultural heritage, and natural assets.

Ohio Strategies

Improve the quality of life in Appalachia and capitalize on opportunities provided by natural assets and cultural heritage.

1. Invest in the region's natural assets and cultural heritage including rivers, lakes, parks, forests, historic sites and buildings, and downtown districts.
2. Promote a positive image of Appalachian Ohio through marketing efforts with TourismOhio and other partners.
3. Support regional efforts and organizations focused on outdoor recreation and tourism, including research and analysis of those activities.
4. Expand and promote scenic trails and routes throughout Appalachia in cooperation with Ohio Department of Transportation, Ohio Department of Natural Resources, and other organizations working on similar efforts.

GOA & ARC Goal #5

Building Community Leaders and Capacity

Invest in the capacity of local leaders, organizations, and communities to address local challenges by providing technical assistance and support to access resources, engage partners, identify strategies and tactics, and conduct effective planning and project execution.

Ohio Strategies

Support and encourage capacity building through investments in leadership, technical assistance, planning, and resources.

1. Support educational and recreational opportunities for underserved youth, such as STEM camps or other workshops
2. Encourage cooperation and collaboration among counties and local organizations to help the region advance together by bolstering relationships with these organizations and complementing their ongoing projects.
3. Support leadership development programs at the local, regional, and national levels that connect young leaders with each other and empower them to succeed in their communities.
4. Increase civic engagement through the Local Development Districts and other partnerships.
5. Sponsor planning efforts that help communities develop and implement ideas to improve the region.



Students participating in the ARC STEM Academy at Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Oak Ridge, Tennessee