



APPALACHIAN REGIONAL COMMISSION

Pre-application

The following information is to assist applicants in understanding the Appalachian Regional Commission's and the State of Georgia's investment goals. Please read carefully before completing the pre-application.

Georgia and the Appalachian Regional Commission

As a member state of the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC), Georgia participates in providing technical assistance and area development funding to its 37 counties spanning the northern third of the state.

ARC's Strategic Plan 2022-2026: Georgia supports projects that help the region reach its economic and community development goals:

Goal 1: Building Appalachian Businesses

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

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.

Goal 3: Building Appalachia's Infrastructure

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

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.

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.

Georgia's Investment Goals

Georgia's ARC Investment Priorities for Fiscal Year 2022

In order to maximize the benefit of ARC funds across its 37-county region, Georgia will focus funding on projects that address the following identified needs for Fiscal Year 2022: "COVID has added an exclamation point to everything" – Eva Kennedy, Director, Planning and Government Services, NEGA Regional Commission

- **Downtown Development:** ARC Goals One (Economic Opportunities), Three (Critical Infrastructure) and Four (Natural and Cultural Assets) all support this regional priority. As Georgia's small businesses and rural communities work to strengthen their economic resilience in 2022 and beyond, ARC funds can assist by supporting projects that create and retain jobs, strengthen existing businesses, help create new businesses, improve the quality of life in communities, and reimagine how businesses will be successful in a post-COVID Appalachian downtown.
- New, Improved or Enhanced Infrastructure: ARC Goal Three (Critical Infrastructure) supports this ongoing priority for Appalachian Georgia. Many rural governments are continuing to attract new industry and business locations and many others are working to create the necessary capacity to support new development. ARC funds can assist with necessary infrastructure improvements to continue to strengthen and grow our economy.
- Creating Resilient Communities: ARC Goal Five (Leadership and Community Capacity) support this priority. Both the Appalachian Regional Commission and the Georgia Department of Community Affairs continue to prioritize projects that are part of larger plans, either of local governments or authorities. Several of Georgia's ARC counties have invested in long-range planning activities, many with ARC's investment. Georgia will continue to invest ARC funds in support of planning activities at a local and regional level.
- Regrowth of the Tourism Economy: ARC Goals One (Economic Opportunities) and Four (Natural and Cultural Resources) support this ongoing priority for the region. Much of North Georgia is federally or state protected land and is a constant attraction for myriad outdoor activities. While Georgia has seen an upswing in vacation rentals in the Appalachian region, many of the tourist-related businesses and attractions continue to suffer economic losses. Projects that support existing tourism-related business, allow the public and private sectors to maximize the benefit from their unique assets, attract new visitors and create or retain jobs are important to Georgia's ARC region.
- Workforce Development: ARC Goal Two (Ready Workforce) supports this priority. Across the 37-county region, Georgia's manufacturers and businesses are seeking employees to fill existing vacancies. Projects that help citizens increase or enhance their skills, provide apprenticeships that benefit both employers and employees, or provide support to employees to remain employed are beneficial as we recover from the long-term effects of COVID.

While deployment of broadband to under-and-unserved areas of Georgia remains a highest priority statewide and across the ARC region, Georgia DCA will temporarily minimize its use of ARC funds to assist with that effort in light of new federal and state-dedicated funds for the specific purpose of increasing broadband coverage.

Georgia ARC Program Policies

The Department of Community Affairs seeks to address the goals of the Appalachian Regional Commission, the State of Georgia, and the communities we aim to serve in a responsible and fair manner. Accordingly, our program adheres to the following policy guidelines:

- Maximum ARC investment amount is \$600,000. The maximum may be waived by the Governor at his discretion.
- Priority is given to projects that are "ready-to-go," meaning that projects should secure
 other necessary funding before submitting a full application. Other considerations for
 full applications may include environmental concerns and permitting.
- Eligible applicants include:
 - Local governments
 - o Development Authorities
 - o Non-profit organizations (must provide adequate certification of status)
 - o Educational institutions
 - o Public healthcare institutions
 - Public-private partnerships are eligible, but applicant must be a public or nonprofit entity

Construction Projects

- In the case of tourism-related construction projects, credible forecasts for increased commercial activity must be included.
- DCA or the Georgia Environmental Finance Authority will serve as the Registered State
 Basic Agency for the administration of construction projects. (GEFA will administer
 water/sewer projects and DCA all others that qualify as construction). DCA may grant an
 exception to this policy only in the case where another federal agency (USDA, EDA or
 others) participating in the project is willing to administer ARC funds.
- Projects must obtain all reviews and approvals pertaining to federal financing PRIOR to construction start dates. These include, but are not limited to:
 - o Environmental assessments
 - Wage and labor rate approvals
 - o Procurement approvals
 - o Contractor approvals
 - Organizations seeking ARC funding for construction projects should be aware of time constraints associated with federal financing. All activities associated with construction projects must adhere strictly to these requirements.

Non-construction or Operating Projects

- ARC funding is limited to start-up costs and two years of operation costs MAXIMUM.
- No project is guaranteed more than one year of support.
- Projects requesting start-up funds should identify sources of funding to continue the project upon cessation of ARC investment, or indicate a plan for cultivating future funding.
- In most cases, operating proposals should indicate an 18-month initial start-up phase.
 New projects generally meet unexpected delays, and this 18-month window can help alleviate the need to extend a project to meet its initial objectives.
- Any project seeking continuation funding (second or third year) should contact
 Georgia's ARC office at least one month prior to the pre-application deadline to discuss
 additional funding. These projects must provide evidence of satisfactory performance in
 meeting first-year objectives in order to be considered for any additional funding.
- ARC will serve as the administering agency for all non-construction projects.

Georgia Appalachian Regional Commission Pre-application for Project Funds

Please be advised that completion of this pre-application does not constitute submission of a complete ARC application and is not a commitment to fund or a notification of grant award, or notification that any proposed activities are eligible for financing through ARC. Within seven business days of receipt of this application, DCA will issue a finding as follows:

- PROCEED. The described project meets the goals of ARC and the State of Georgia.
 Complete a full ARC application for consideration within the current ARC funding cycle
- NEEDS MORE INFORMATION. Based on the description provided, DCA staff are unable to
 determine the project's ability to meet ARC and Georgia goals. DCA will provide additional
 technical assistance, upon request, to enhance this project's ability to meet these goals.
 Consider applying for funding in a future ARC funding cycle.
- NO. This project does not meet the goals of ARC and/or Georgia and is not an appropriate fit for ARC investment.

As you know, each application must stand on its own merit and obtain sufficient points under the formal review process to be funded. Since the competitiveness of your project is unknown at this time, any group that secures financing and moves ahead with any portion of the project should do so under the full realization that funding is not guaranteed until a grant award and contract has been executed by DCA.

Certification:

I, the undersigned authorized representative of the applicant, acknowledge that this document is a pre-application for funding and that further documentation is necessary should this pre-application be invited to submit a full application. I acknowledge that this document is not a guarantee of funding through Georgia's Appalachian Regional Commission program.

Signature of Authorized Representative: _	8. Au	llum	
Name and Title: <u>Andrew Parker, City Adm</u>	inistrator / City	of Dalton	
Date: 06/27/7025			

^{**} Incomplete applications will not be reviewed for funding **

PROJECT TYPE: (Check one)
Construction _X
Non-construction
AMOUNT OF ARC FUNDS REQUESTED:
County in which project is located: Whitfield
ARC County Designation/Match Rate (check one)
Distressed
At-Risk
TransitionalX
Competitive
Projects serving multiple counties must contact DCA to determine match rate.
PROJECT TITLE: City of Dalton East Morris Street Streetscaping Improvements

APPLICANT INFORMATION:

Legal name: City of Dalton

Address: 300 W Waugh Street

City: Dalton

ZIP Code: 30722

Telephone: <u>706-278-9500</u>

Email: aparker@daltonga.gov

ADDITIONAL CONTACT INFORMATION

This information should indicate an individual with knowledge of the application to whom DCA staff may direct questions about the application.

Name: Kisha Moore

Telephone: <u>706-295-6485</u> Email: <u>kmoore@nwgrc.org</u> **PROJECT DETAIL:** Describe your project, including all partners and private investment. Provide a clear overview of the entire project and a general description of who will benefit.

Please indicate the following (five page limit):

- 1. A general overview of the need for the project, including brief description of community conditions, who this project will benefit; and the requested amount of ARC investment.
- 2. Which ARC goal(s) this project will meet and advance
- 3. How this project will further Georgia's investment goals for the ARC region
- 4. Where the project will take place
- 5. When the project will be implemented and how long it will take (beginning and ending dates)
- 6. How ARC funds will be managed and by whom

The City of Dalton is requesting \$2,000,000 in ARC funds to complete phase I of the East Morris Corridor Project. The Phase I scope includes engineering for the entire corridor, as well as installing 5,000 linear feet of sidewalk to connect with downtown. The City of Dalton will provide \$2,000,000 SPLOST in matching funds. Currently, this area has substantial retail and residential inventory, but the plan is to make Dalton more walkable. Some pedestrian infrastructure exists, however, these Phase I upgrades will enhance overall walkability in Dalton, and will specifically address this area's high foot traffic.

The City of Dalton is located in Whitfield County in Northwest Georgia. It is bordered by Walker and Catoosa Counties on the West, Gordon County (South), Murray County (East) and the State of Tennessee on the North. According to Stats America, Whitfield County had a year population of 105,070, an unemployment rate of 3.20 %, and a median household income of \$60,285. Its poverty rate is 12.9 %.

- 2 & 3) This Project aligns with ARC's Investment Goal 3: Building Appalachia's Infrastructure to "Ensure the availability of quality, affordable basic infrastructure to meet the needs of the residents and business of Appalachia." (Goal 3: Objective 3.1)
- 4) The project will take place in the City of Dalton. The project will serve the City of Dalton and Whitfield County.
- 5) The project will begin upon approval of funding assistance. The City of Dalton will follow federal rules to procure an engineer and contractor to complete the project.
- 6) The City of Dalton will be responsible for overseeing the project and for administering ARC funds.

PROJECT BENEFITS: Describe the expected outputs and outcomes for this project, along with other project benefits likely to result from the project (e.g., positive impact on

future economic development activity in the area). Describe how this project will help move the community/region towards economic success? See <u>Guide to ARC</u>

<u>Performance Measures</u> for assistance identifying outputs and outcomes. (Two page limit)

Benefits: Benefits of the project include the expansion of sidewalk network into a heavily foot trafficked corridor. Improving pedestrian safety and access along a growing business and residential corridor.

Outputs: Outputs include approximately 5,000 linear feet of sidewalk being constructed.

Outcomes: Outcomes include one community improved through increased walkability, ADA compliancy and connectivity to the city of Dalton. Also 200+ households, and 95 businesses benefiting.

BUDGET NARRATIVE: Provide a detailed budget narrative that list the sources of ARC funds and all non-ARC matching funds. (Two page limit) Include:

- 1. What activities ARC funding will cover
- 2. The amount of financing necessary to fund the entire project
- 3. The amount of private investment
- 4. The amount of additional public investment
- 5. If in-kind funds are proposed, please describe the activities dedicated to the project
- 6. Who will manage ARC funds

Narrative:

ARC funds will be used to fund Phase I of the East Morris Corridor Project. This phase includes all engineering and the construction of 5,000 linear feet of sidewalk to connect the East Morris Corridor with downtown Dalton.

With the construction of this 5,000 linear feet sidewalk, the City of Dalton will provide connectivity to its downtown, and increase accessibility in the area. In turn, this will spur downtown development in the East Morris Corridor and draw more residents and visitors.

The City of Dalton is requesting \$2,000,000 in funding from ARC and will provide \$2,000,000 as a match. No in-kind funds are proposed for this project. The City of Dalton staff will manage the grant and ARC funds, and has the capacity to undertake the project.

BUDGET: Include all funding amounts and sources. Please complete all appropriate columns and specify whether funds are approved (available immediately) or pending (application in progress or under review.)

TYPE	Source	Planning/ Operations	Construction/ Renovation	Equipment	Total	% of Total	Status of Funds
Local:	City of Dalton			\$2,000,000		50%	Allocated
In-kind:							
Federal:	ARC			\$2,000,000		50%	Pending
Other:							
TOTAL				\$4,000,000			

I, the undersigned representative of the applicant, do attest that to the best of my knowledge, the information contained herein is true and correct. I understand that funding through the Appalachian Regional Commission is contingent in part upon compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), among other laws and regulations, and that failure to comply with federal regulations will result in ineligibility for funding through Georgia's ARC program.

Signature: Anglillum	
Name: Andrew Parker	
Title: City Administrator, City of Dalton	

06/27/2025