

Positively UC

A moment to focus on the good our team is doing every day



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UCDD AWARDED \$265K ARISE PLANNING GRANT FOR SUD

The following press release was originally published by the Appalachian Regional Commission.

Today, the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) awarded nearly \$14 million to 43 projects through its Investments Supporting Partnerships In Recovery Ecosystems (INSPIRE) Initiative, which aims to address Appalachia's substance use disorder (SUD) crisis with investments in projects that create or expand services in the recovery ecosystem leading to workforce entry and re-entry.

ARC Federal Co-Chair Gayle Manchin made the award announcement with ARC 2023 States' Co-Chair Governor Andy Beshear of Kentucky, and grantees during a press conference at the Paramount Arts Center in Ashland, Kentucky, in advance of ARC's 2023 Annual Conference.

In addition to the nearly \$14 million INSPIRE award package, Federal Co-Chair Manchin



also announced additional funding for a \$265,607 ARISE planning grant to the Upper Cumberland Development District that will strengthen a network of SUD recovery-to-work efforts across six Appalachian states—Georgia, Kentucky, North Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia.

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SHOUT-OUT: SCSEP PARTICIPANT

The following was received from the Livingston Housing Authority.

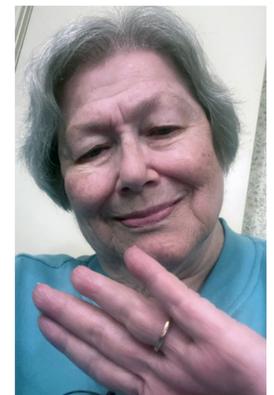
“...I wanted to tell you how pleased I am with the opportunity you and the SCSEP has given Catherine and our senior tenants. I have seen Catherine take advantage of this position and run with it.

“I cannot tell you (in a short note) what a positive impact she and SCSEP has had on our senior tenants in this new role. I just wanted to thank you and the SCSEP program and tell you job well done!...”

Ken Mabery, Livingston Housing Authority
Executive Director

PASSENGER REUNITED WITH MISSING KEEPSAKE

Suzanne Anderson, a White County passenger, lost her grandmother's cherished ring during one of her rides with us. Unsure if it went missing on the van or elsewhere, Suzanne contacted our office for help. Sandra Ashburn, one of our dedicated team members, launched a search mission and successfully found the ring, returning it to Suzanne.



Thank you Sandra and team for making this heartwarming reunion possible!

UCDD AWARDED \$265K ARISE PLANNING GRANT FOR SUD, CONT.

In collaboration with their state partners, the Upper Cumberland Development District will use the ARISE funding to create a multi-state employer toolkit and long-term strategy to engage individuals across Appalachia in SUD recovery into the workforce.

“At ARC, we know that substance use disorder recovery isn’t a singular event, but a continuum. Both workforce training and ending the stigma surrounding substance use disorder are equally important in providing a renewed sense of hope and purpose to Appalachians in recovery,” said ARC Federal Co-Chair Gayle Manchin. “These INSPIRE grantees are doing the important work to remove all barriers to entry when it comes to recovery-to-work projects across the region, ensuring that all Appalachians have a chance at a bright future.”

These INSPIRE awardees will support the SUD recovery ecosystem in 11 Appalachian states by developing and deepening cross-sector recovery-focused partnerships, expanding peer recovery support networks, planning and implementing workforce training programs, strengthening community engagement and wraparound services, and more. Additionally, the projects will bring INSPIRE’s impact to 60 Appalachian counties for the first time, increasing the initiative’s reach to 83% of the region.

[Monday’s] announcement has brought INSPIRE to a grand total of nearly \$42 million invested across 126 projects since the initiative launched in April 2021. Together, the projects will impact 349 Appalachian counties, improve 2,178 businesses and help prepare 9,772 individuals for new opportunities in the workforce.

“In Kentucky and across the Appalachian region, we believe all of our people are entitled to healthy and happy lives,” said ARC 2023 States’ Co-Chair, Kentucky Governor

Andy Beshear.

“We want anyone battling addiction to know they are not alone, and they matter. No matter how long the road to recovery may be, Kentucky and leaders across the ARC region are here to support them.”

INSPIRE was informed by ARC’s Substance Use Disorder Advisory Council, which developed initial recommendations to address the disproportionate impact SUD had on the workforce in Appalachia compared to the rest of the country – a gap that has only widened since the COVID-19 pandemic. According to recently released CDC data featured in ARC’s report, Appalachian Diseases of Despair, overdose-related mortality rates for the region’s 25–54-year-old age group—those in their prime working years—were 72 percent higher in 2021 than for the same age group in the country’s non-Appalachian areas.

To help communities address this outsized impact, the Development District Association of Appalachia produced new INSPIRE-funded resources. The Recovery-to-Work (RTW) Ecosystem Builders Guide is an interactive toolkit for community practitioners interested in coordinating regional stakeholders, engaging employers, and providing support to businesses and workers in SUD recovery. The toolkit provides a step-by-step guide, templates for creating, building, or expanding a SUD ecosystem, and is designed to be a living document that will constantly be added to as new resources and evidence-based practices emerge.

Congratulations to the UCDD team on a job well done!

WHO WE ARE

OUR MISSION

To help the Upper Cumberland region cultivate self-sufficiency and build true wealth through innovation, collaboration, and leadership.

OUR VISION

A region abundant in resources, fostering a productive and vibrant life for the people of the Upper Cumberland.

get  plugged in.

Follow us on social media for the latest updates.



CUMBERLAND CO. UCHRA, EMPOWER UC TEAMS PARTICIPATE IN WE ARE ONE OUTREACH EVENT

According to a post on *We Are One's* Facebook page, through the support of participating churches, nonprofits, and local businesses:

- 4,159 individuals received food
- Food was given to people from 22 counties
- More than 50 zip codes were represented
- More than 7,500 bags of food plus hundreds of boxes of produce were distributed
- More than 150,000 lbs. of food was distributed
- Most food volunteers reported logging more than 20,000 steps carrying groceries



September is Suicide Prevention Month. In Tennessee, the total number of deaths by suicide increased by 13 percent from 2015 to 2019.

One of the most important steps that individuals can take in the fight against suicide is recognizing the signs of crisis and understanding how to intervene.

UCDD staff member Jessica Roberson holds the seat for the Upper Cumberland region of the Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network.

Jessica is also available to provide the Question, Persuade, Refer (QPR) suicide prevention training. She can be reached at jessica.roberson@ucdd.org.

UCDD ATTENDS INAUGURAL BRIGHT START TN SUMMIT

Last week, representatives from UCDD attended the Bright Start TN Align Summit in Nashville. This inaugural event, hosted by Tennesseans for Quality Early Education (TQEE) is the first-of-its-kind event. The summit brought together more than 200 business, nonprofit, civic, and education leaders from communities across the state to learn together and discuss innovative solutions to advance early care and education initiatives in Tennessee.

