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-----Original Message-----
From: Appalachian Regional Commission <info@arc.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 26, 2020 4:00 PM
To: Sponsor Programs <OSPADMN@auburn.edu>
Subject: ARC IN THE REGION - March 26, 2020

A weekly email from the Appalachian Regional Commission <https://arc.us12.list-manage.com/track/click?u=9bfa82f6fd59f9f14e40259c1&id=c40b35f611&e=aad47dd31f>

View this email online <https://mailchi.mp/arc.gov/march-26-518201?e=aad47dd31f>

ARC NEWS ROUNDUP | March 26, 2020 | VOLUME 5, ISSUE 12

SPOTLIGHT

Map represents the number of COVID-19 cases in the Appalachian region as of March 26, at 1:30 pm (ET).

New Resources Documenting COVID-19 Spread in Appalachia in Relation to Rest of Nation Now Available

Today, the Appalachian Regional Commission announced two new tools documenting the spread of COVID-19 at the regional and county levels. The COVID-10 Cases in Appalachia <https://arc.us12.list-manage.com/track/click?u=9bfa82f6fd59f9f14e40259c1&id=34d29c3668&e=aad47dd31f> map displays the current number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Appalachia and throughout the United States. Higher numbers of cases are marked by larger dots, while smaller numbers of confirmed cases are represented by smaller dots. By clicking on a location, users can see confirmed COVID-19 cases and any related deaths at the county level. This map is automatically updated throughout the day drawing on data collected by the Johns Hopkins University. Due to frequent changes, it is advised that users refresh their browsers often when viewing the map. As of March 26th, at 1:30 pm (ET), there were 1,686 confirmed cases in 208 Appalachian counties.

The second tool, Explore County-level Coronavirus Impact Planning <https://arc.us12.list-manage.com/track/click?u=9bfa82f6fd59f9f14e40259c1&id=c3711d3297&e=aad47dd31f> is a searchable data base offering demographic data snapshots of confirmed COVID-19 cases and deaths in relation to hospital bed counts, population and businesses, and categories of people at risk for COVID-19 in each one of the nation’s counties. By hovering over each statistical icon, users can learn more about the supporting data. COVID-19 related data is updated daily.
APPALACHIAN COMMUNITIES RESPOND TO COVID-19

As the COVID-19 Pandemic continues, communities across Appalachia are banding together to pool resources and ideas for resilience. Here are some inspiring examples:

* LaunchTN, an ARC partner, is providing a variety of resources including state government contacts for health, small business needs, and other support services. Check out their website for more information.

* To help individuals and small-business owners in eastern Kentucky, Shaping Our Appalachian Region (SOAR), another ARC partner, has created thereisafuture.org /covid19 to encourage partners to "be aware not afraid." The site also includes a survey for local businesses and organizations in Eastern Kentucky.

* Non-profit Rural Action and ACEnet are organizing the Athens County Response Fund to provide support to Athens County businesses, employees and organizations in Ohio. The funds are intended to complement the work of other local efforts to ensure all aspects of the outbreak are addressed.

ARC'S COVID-19 UPDATE

ARC is carefully and continually monitoring the COVID-19 situation as it is impacting the Appalachian Region. ARC staff, who are now primarily working from home, are diligently continuing to process and administer grants, new applications, progress reports, and payment requests as they are received.

We are assisting grantees whom are unable to meet project goals or timelines due to the current situation. If you are a current ARC grantee experiencing such challenges, please email your ARC project coordinator and state program manager as soon as possible for help with needed accommodations regarding your project's deliverables, timelines, budget, or other operations. (When emailing, please put your ARC project number in the subject line. This will make responding to your request easier).

To support the health and safety of our partners, grantees, and communities, we have also made the following adjustments:
* We have extended the application deadline for the Appalachian Entrepreneurship Academy <https://arc.us12.list-manage.com/track/click?u=9bfa82f6fd59f9f14e40259c1&id=ab66220ecc5&e=aad47dd31f> to March 31, 2020. Should this program, or the ARC/ORNL Summer STEM <https://arc.us12.list-manage.com/track/click?u=9bfa82f6fd59f9f14e40259c1&id=e9d369980&e=aad47dd31f> program, need to be modified further, an announcement will be made in mid-April.

* We have extended the deadline for POWER <https://arc.us12.list-manage.com/track/click?u=9bfa82f6fd59f9f14e40259c1&id=280a5d1a67&e=aad47dd31f> applications to April 24, 5 pm ET. Additional revisions can also be made to applications already submitted to power.arc.gov <https://arc.us12.list-manage.com/track/click?u=9bfa82f6fd59f9f14e40259c1&id=7f0e85859d&e=aad47dd31f> during this thirty day extension.

* We are convening the Appalachian Leadership Institute <https://arc.us12.list-manage.com/track/click?u=9bfa82f6fd59f9f14e40259c1&id=b2ce1ee35&e=aad47dd31f> virtually through online learning modules in lieu of the upcoming field seminars scheduled for Beckley, West Virginia and Boone, North Carolina.

* We have postponed Envision Appalachia: Community Conversations <https://arc.us12.list-manage.com/track/click?u=9bfa82f6fd59f9f14e40259c1&id=4c27899886&e=aad47dd31f> for ARC’s New Strategic Plan. Our intent is to restart our strategic planning process at a time when we can gather in-person to discuss our Region’s future.

We will be posting any additional ARC operational updates on www.arc.gov <https://arc.us12.list-manage.com/track/click?u=9bfa82f6fd59f9f14e40259c1&id=07ee2626d&e=aad47dd31f> /coronavirus <https://arc.us12.list-manage.com/track/click?u=9bfa82f6fd59f9f14e40259c1&id=268e5cc9cb&e=aad47dd31f>, and in forthcoming issues of In The Region.

This is a challenging time for our communities, our Region, and our country. Please continue to check with state and federal authorities for health-related guidance and information.

**GET COUNTED**

Census data helps communities in Appalachia receive the federal funding needed for adequate infrastructure, schools, and other vital services.

Individuals now have three different ways to respond to the upcoming Census questionnaire: online, by mail, or via telephone. Visit 2020census.gov <https://arc.us12.list-manage.com/track/click?u=9bfa82f6fd59f9f14e40259c1&id=9cc5067c2&e=aad47dd31f> for more information.
APPALACHIA IN THE NEWS

Truist commits $2M to small businesses hurt by pandemic <https://arc.us12.list-manage.com/track/click?u=9bfa82f6fd59f9f14e40259c1&id=4be473f012&e=aad47dd31f>, Virginia Business, Richmond, VA

Plan for ethane ‘cracker’ plant in US takes a step forward <https://arc.us12.list-manage.com/track/click?u=9bfa82f6fd59f9f14e40259c1&id=f5d8e0b012&e=aad47dd31f>, The Associated Press

Coalition Seeks Donations Across Region, Makes First Grant <https://arc.us12.list-manage.com/track/click?u=9bfa82f6fd59f9f14e40259c1&id=1c2afde360&e=aad47dd31f>, WTVQ, Lexington, KY

Local distillery switches production to hand sanitizer <https://arc.us12.list-manage.com/track/click?u=9bfa82f6fd59f9f14e40259c1&id=946b0a537d&e=aad47dd31f>, WSAZ, Huntington, WV

'Liquid gold' from walnut trees brings new attention to Highland County <https://arc.us12.list-manage.com/track/click?u=9bfa82f6fd59f9f14e40259c1&id=1954471c8e&e=aad47dd31f>, The Roanoke Times, Roanoke, VA

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Join Our Team!

ARC is seeking an exceptionally qualified individual to serve as the Executive Director, a non-federal position, located in Washington DC. The Executive Director must possess significant experience in rural economic development and be an inclusive, collaborative, and conciliatory leader.

Applications are due by close of business on Tuesday, March 31st.

Visit arc.gov/careers <https://arc.us12.list-manage.com/track/click?u=9bfa82f6fd59f9f14e40259c1&id=8752e4f6a7&e=aad47dd31f> for more information and please help us spread the word on this exciting opportunity!

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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