

Community Economic Development Grants Supporting Energy Communities



Office of Community Services, Administration for Children and Families

Community Economic Development in Energy Communities

Aligned with President Biden's [Executive Order 14008: Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad](#), the Community Economic Development (CED) program is supporting efforts to empower workers by revitalizing energy communities. As energy communities face changing economies, the CED program will continue to support the creation and expansion of business and employment to replace employment lost in fossil fuel industries in these hard-hit communities.

The FY 2021 CED funding opportunity supported job creation in energy communities by awarding bonus points to applications that proposed projects located in and serving coal, oil, and gas, and/or power plant communities. For FY 2022, there will be a separate funding opportunity dedicated to projects serving these communities.

CED Program Overview

Authorized by Section 680 of the Community Services Block Grant Act (P.L. 105-285), the CED program is one of seven programs within the Office of Community Services (OCS) focused on reducing poverty, and it is the only federal program that primarily focuses on creating jobs for individuals with low income in communities with high unemployment and poverty rates. Each year, CED discretionary grants are awarded to nonprofit community development corporations in disinvested communities for purposes of creating new jobs for individuals with low income.

CED projects utilize multiple strategies such as providing start-up capital, loans, equity investments, and funding for construction. Projects create and expand businesses that include, but are not limited to:

- Restaurants and commercial kitchens
- Distribution, shopping, and child care centers
- Agricultural and environmental initiatives

75 percent of the jobs created through projects funded by CED must be filled by individuals with low income.

Jobs created through the CED program are intended to be **high quality jobs** that provide living wages, paid leave, fringe benefits, opportunities for career growth, and/or predictable and flexible scheduling practices to allow individuals to achieve economic self-sufficiency.

In addition to creating these new jobs, all funded grantees **connect employees to critical wraparound support services**, such as financial literacy assistance, child care services, transportation, substance use disorder treatment, and English language education, to remove barriers to employment and allow individuals to maintain long-term employment. [Learn more about the CED program.](#)

CED Program Impact in Energy Communities

As of October 2021, there are **14 active CED projects serving coal, oil, and gas, and/or power plant communities**, including 6 new projects that received awards in late September. These grants, **totaling over \$10M**, are in coal-dependent areas, fossil energy job regions, or are designed to support social and economic recovery in communities that have experienced employment loss and/or economic dislocation events because of declines in the fossil fuel industry.

These projects will **create or expand 21 businesses** to facilitate economic recovery in coal, oil, and gas, and/or power plant communities. They will also **create over 525 new jobs** with 407 jobs for individuals with low income. Additionally, **\$33M from additional sources** will be invested back into these communities, due to the CED investment.

Active projects funded prior to FY 2021 have already created or expanded **8 businesses**, created **445 jobs**, 390 for individuals with low income, and invested nearly **\$5M of additional funds** back into communities.

Impact in Action

Hear from energy community residents on how CED funding addressed their needs as their communities changed after the loss of the coal mining industries.

- [Building Opportunity in Kentucky's Appalachia](#)
- [Bringing Manufacturing Jobs to Kentucky](#)



New CED Grants Serving Energy Communities *(Funded in FY 2021)*

Here are summaries of new CED projects funded in FY 2021 that will create employment opportunities in energy communities that have been significantly impacted by the decline in the coal mining and fossil fuel industries. For more information about each project, including business and employment opportunities to be created, follow the links below.

[Coalfield Development Corporation](#) will support the construction of the Highwall project, developing lodging accommodations, meeting venues, recreation amenities, and hospitality facilities on a former coal mine site in Mingo County, West Virginia.

32 jobs will be created

[Fayette County Community Action Agency, Inc.](#) will expand the Republic Food Enterprise Center, stimulating agricultural production and the distribution of locally grown produce and products, in Fayette County, Pennsylvania.

32 jobs will be created

[Gulf Coast Housing Partnership, Inc.](#) will construct the Pearl Community Health Clinic, a new community health center to be built on the site of a dilapidated former hotel on a key commercial corridor, in Jackson, Mississippi.

28 jobs will be created

[Kentucky Highlands Community Development Corporation](#) will make a loan to Bear Precision Coatings, LLC to launch a new manufacturing business in the automotive industry in Jackson County, Kentucky.

55 jobs will be created

[People Incorporated of Virginia](#) will provide a loan to Polycap, LLC, a plastics manufacturing business to meet the increased demand for plastic caps, closures, and personal protective equipment in Lebanon, Virginia.

31 jobs will be created

[Workforce Inc., dba RecycleForce](#), will expand its recycling business by securing and processing larger e-waste projects, predominantly from retail returns, consumer recalls, and corporate and medical e-waste, in Indianapolis, Indiana.

32 jobs will be created

Ongoing CED Grants Serving Energy Communities *(Funded between FY 2018 – FY 2020)*

Here are summaries of ongoing CED projects that are creating employment opportunities in energy communities by investing in and supporting local businesses. For more information about each project, follow the links below.

[Coalfield Development Corporation](#) is expanding its custom t-shirt manufacturing business, SustainU, in Huntington, West Virginia.

40 jobs will be created

[Gulf Coast Housing Partnership](#) is providing a loan to the Odyssey House Louisiana, a nonprofit behavioral health care provider focused on addiction recovery and substance abuse treatment in New Orleans, Louisiana.

32 jobs will be created

[Kentucky Highlands Community Development Corporation](#) is providing a loan to Outdoor Venture Corporation to support a 10-year subcontract with Fibrotex USA to produce camouflage netting for U.S. troops in Whitley and McCreary Counties, Kentucky.

40 jobs will be created

[Kentucky Highlands Community Development Corporation](#) is providing a low-interest loan to Horizon Home Health Care, LLC, an adult care company, to provide health care services in London, Kentucky.

40 jobs will be created

[Rural Enterprises of Oklahoma, Inc.](#) is expanding and renovating an existing 10,000 square foot LEED-certified facility to accommodate new staff for OmniCare365, an outsourcing services company, in Durant, Oklahoma.

70 jobs will be created

[South Central Industries, Inc.](#) is constructing a new warehouse facility to expand its janitorial, office, household, and food service supplies fulfillment and delivery services in Shawnee, Oklahoma.

32 jobs will be created

[Southeast Kentucky Economic Development Corporation](#) is creating a revolving loan fund to help Logan Corporation and other local businesses expand manufacturing operations in Somerset, Kentucky.

25 jobs will be created

[Southeast Kentucky Economic Development Corporation](#) is creating a revolving loan fund to help Goose Creek Candles, LLC and other local businesses expand to meet growing demand in Casey County, Kentucky.

40 jobs will be created

