

An aerial photograph of a city, likely St. Louis, Missouri, featuring a river, several bridges, and a mix of urban and green spaces. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent dark blue filter.

JUST
TRANSITION
FUND

FEDERAL ACCESS CENTER

Midwestern Governors Association
June 13, 2023



About the Just Transition Fund

We created the Just Transition Fund, a national philanthropic hybrid, to help communities overcome the economic challenges brought about by the decline of the coal industry.

Experts in the Just Transition Field

- Worked on the ground with coal communities for almost 10 years
- Long track record of helping coal communities access federal funding
- Advocated for the historic federal funding levels we're seeing today, via our National Economic Transition Initiative

What We Do

Access

- **Federal Access Center:** Grants and technical assistance to help communities access federal funds

Advocate

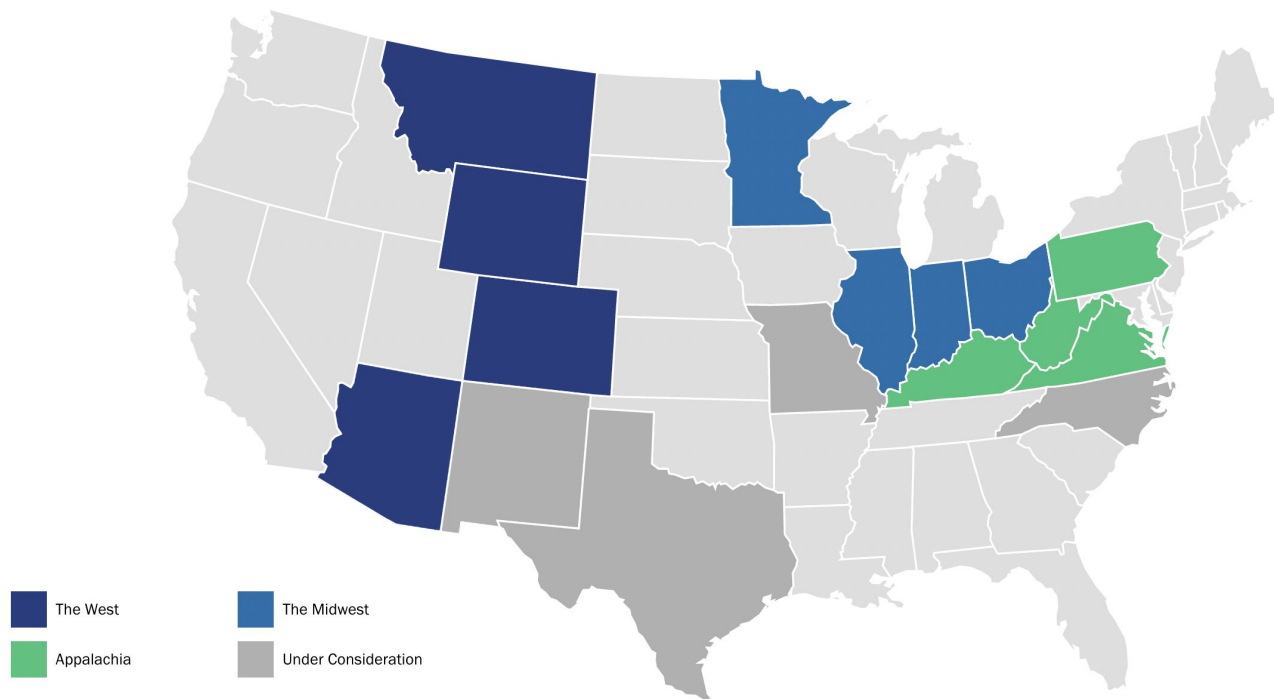
- National Economic Transition Initiative
- State and federal policy grantmaking

Convene

- Annual convenings and peer-to-peer learning exchanges

Who We Serve

We have prioritized these states to date, but we are NOT restricting geographic eligibility for the Federal Access Center. **Organizations supporting economic transition in ANY coal affected community, regardless of state are eligible.**





Community Barriers to Federal Access

The opportunity to leverage federal funding to strengthen local economies has never been greater. But this funding is difficult to access for capacity-constrained organizations and localities. A range of barriers prevent many effective organizations from submitting competitive proposals:

- 1 Navigating over 400 programs spread across more than 10 agencies that support rural economic development
- 2 Stringent eligibility and match requirements
- 3 Complex application processes that often require professional grant writers

Federal Access Center

Our Federal Access Center (FAC) is a **one-stop resource hub** that provides both grants and technical assistance to help coal communities secure public funding for local economic solutions. Examples of successful projects we've supported include:



**Community
Economic
Development**



**Workforce
Development**



**Infrastructure
(Broadband)**

Thrive West Central (Indiana)

Secured \$800k from the EDA to capitalize a small business revolving loan fund

JTF provided matching funds

Rural Action (Ohio)

Secured \$1.5 million from ARC to support youth workforce training in ecological restoration

JTF provided matching funds

Greater Peoria Economic Development Council (Illinois)

Projected to secure \$5 million in broadband funding to connect 2,500 unserved households

JTF provided early-stage capacity building funds and technical assistance

Our Services

Application-Ready Support



Grants of up to \$100,000 to support costs associated with developing federal applications, including grant writers and match.



Technical assistance from experts who can review proposals before submission, provide guidance on program requirements, and more.

Early-Stage Support

Coal Communities Get Ready! Challenge



Grants of up to \$150,000 for early-stage project development, with the long-term goal of accessing federal funds.



Deep technical assistance to help communities get ready to apply for federal funds. Provide specialized technical assistance for CEWD and broadband.

Informing and Coordinating with Federal Agencies



Share lessons learned back with agencies about barriers for communities applying for federal funds.



Work with IWG and their Rapid Response Teams where there is geographic alignment.

How Groups Can Receive Application-Ready Support

Eligibility

- ❑ 501c3 or local government* located in coal-impacted community
- ❑ Economic development, workforce, or broadband infrastructure project
- ❑ Plan to apply for federal funds in the next 6 months

*new this year!

Process

(Rapid-response, rolling-basis, with ability for us to fast track as needed)

- 1 Submit Inquiry**
Fill out 1 minute form with basic project information. Within 2 business days, they get an email to schedule an intro call with Natalie.
- 2 Introductory Call**
We'll schedule a 30-minute call within a few weeks. On this call, we'll determine eligibility to apply for specific JTF services.
- 3 Submit Application**
If eligible to apply, we'll send a 1 page application for a grant, technical assistance, or both.
- 4 Receive Decision**
We'll provide feedback within a few weeks of receiving application.

How Groups Can Receive Early-Stage Support

Eligibility

- ❑ 501c3 or local government* located in coal-impacted community
- ❑ Deeply rooted in coal-affected areas and have demonstrated ability to partner with wide range of transition stakeholders
- ❑ Model projects that are generalizable and replicable
- ❑ Little to no federal grant experience but want to be ready to apply for federal funds in the next year

*new this year!

Coal Communities Get Ready! Challenge

Timeline and Process

- 1 Submit Inquiry by June 30, 2023**
Fill out 1 minute inquiry form with basic information. Within a week, you'll get an email to schedule an intro call with JTF team member.
- 2 Introductory Call**
We'll schedule a 30-minute intro call within a few weeks. On this call, we'll determine eligibility for the Get Ready! Challenge and answer any questions.
- 3 Submit Application by July 31, 2023**
We'll invite applications from eligible organizations. Applications are due 3-4 weeks of receiving the invitation and no later than June 31, 2023.
- 4 Cohort Selection in September**
We will announce 8-10 cohort members in September. Cohort members will be invited and encouraged to attend the JTF Convening in late October.

Current Federal Program Priorities

Community Economic and Workforce Development

- DOE | Energy Improvements in Rural and Remote Areas, Energy Infrastructure Reinvestment Program, Clean Energy Demonstration on Mine Lands
- EDA | Recompete Pilot Program, Economic Adjustment, Tech Hubs
- ARC | ARISE, POWER
- USDA | RISE, Agricultural Innovation Centers, REAP, Regional Food System Partnerships, Rural Utilities Service

Broadband Infrastructure

- BIA | National Tribal Broadband Grant
- FCC | ACP Outreach Program
- NTIA | Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program, BEAD and DEA, Middle Mile
- USDA | ReConnect, Community Connect
- ARC | POWER



Impact to Date

\$393 Million

To date, we've helped communities leverage \$393 million in federal funding.

157x

We've generated a 157x return on investment!





Partnership Opportunities

1

Network Coordination and Convening

We have deep connections with community economic development, workforce, and broadband organizations in coal communities nationally that are ready to help and engage. The JTF has the ability to convene and coordinate both within and across regions, providing opportunities for organizations to learn from like-minded peers.

2

Direct Grants and Technical Assistance

Through the FAC, we can provide grants and technical assistance at different stages of the process to help organizations build capacity, pilot projects, and develop applications for federal funds. Groups can fill out our interest form to get started!

3

Liaison between Federal Agencies and Communities

We have relationships with representatives across a wide range of federal agencies and can both help organizations make connections and share program feedback based on local experience with Agency partners.



Get Started

Is your organization interested in applying for federal funds?

Fill out our 1 minute interest form to schedule an intro call!
We'll put the link in the chat or you can scan this QR code:



justtransitionfund.org/fac-interest-form

Do you know organizations who may be interested in applying for federal funds?

If so, please help us spread the word! PDF one-pager available
at the link below or you can scan this QR code:



justtransitionfund.org/fac-outreach

Contact Information

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