

An aerial photograph of a town, likely in the coalfields region, showing a river with several bridges. The town is densely packed with houses and buildings, surrounded by green trees. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent dark blue filter.

JUST
TRANSITION
FUND

FEDERAL ACCESS CENTER

Helping Coal Communities Overcome Barriers to
Accessing Federal Funding

RuralRISE
January 18, 2024



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.

Leaders 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

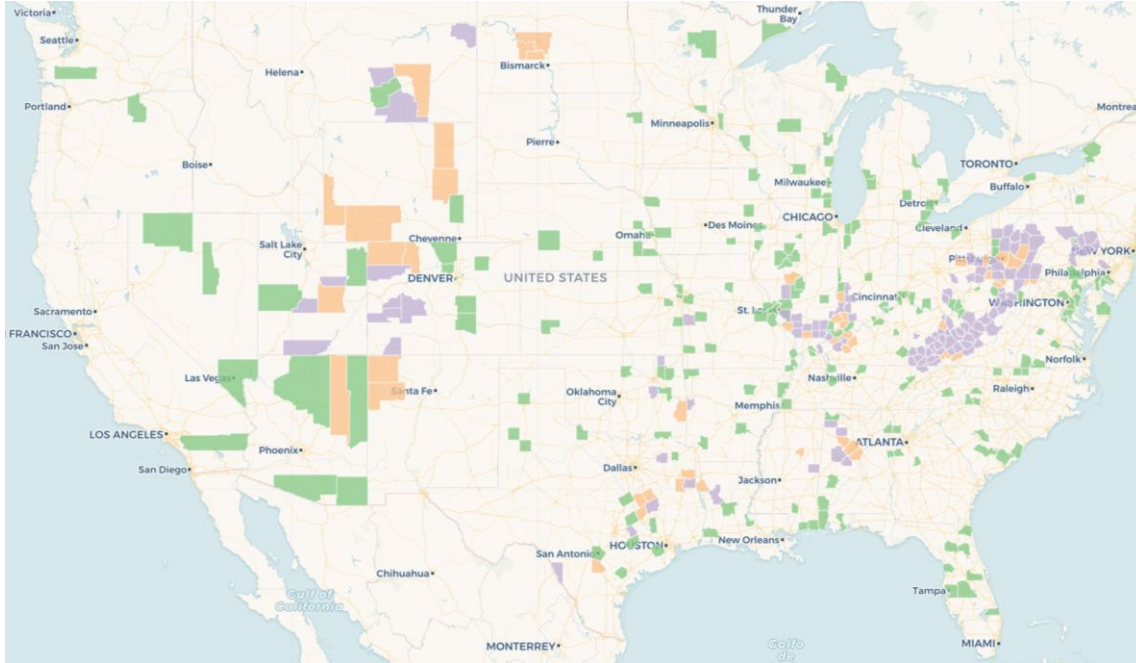
Advocate

- National Economic Transition Initiative
- State and federal policy grantmaking

Convene

- Annual convenings and peer-to-peer learning exchanges

Where We Work



- Rural communities across the country impacted by the decline of the coal industry.
- 372 counties—more than 10 percent of the country—are home to a coal mine, plant, or both.
- We prioritize communities that are hardest hit – places with the most economic distress and that are home to the most marginalized populations.

Framework for Economic Transition

The most sustainable economic development projects build from the assets of a place and are created by local leaders. Communities need the right mix of economic development strategies, workforce programs, and infrastructure investments—which collectively build local capacity to catalyze change. We support:



**Community
Economic
Development**



**Workforce
Development**



**Infrastructure
(Broadband)**

Economic diversification initiatives across a range of sectors, including but not limited to clean energy, sustainable agriculture, remote work, outdoor tourism, manufacturing, and mine land and plant reclamation.

Workforce development programs providing targeted “wraparound” services (such as pay, education, childcare, counseling, etc.) ensure trainees have what they need and can link to in-demand, high-quality jobs.

Broadband infrastructure and affordability initiatives. Broadband access is linked to increased job and population growth, higher rates of new business formation, and lower unemployment.

AUDIENCE Q:

- How many of you are working on finding federal funding for:
 - community or economic development project(s)
 - a workforce project(s)
 - broadband project(s)



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 **one-stop resource hub** that provides grants and technical assistance to help coal communities secure federal funding for **economic development, workforce development, and broadband projects**.

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 is closed for this year but stay tuned for future opportunities!



We will develop **future Early Stage programming** based on the needs we are hearing from communities. If you need support with accessing federal funds, reach out!

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.

AUDIENCE Q:

- Which phase most reflect where you are?
 - we have a project ready to go and are ready to apply for federal funds
 - we have a project ready to go but our organization isn't ready to manage federal funds
 - we are still developing and finalizing a project for potential federal funding in the future



Support Available for Communities

1

Grants

- Up to \$100,000 to fund federal application development costs (grant writing, staff time)
- Up to \$150,000 to fund organizational and project development costs to get ready to apply to federal funds in the future (staff capacity, pilot project funding)
- Up to \$100,000 to support federal grants administration and management costs for NTIA Tribal Connectivity Program grantees (staff capacity, systems)

2

Technical Assistance

- Pro-bono support to identify federal grant programs that are a good fit for your program, review grant application drafts, assist in project, organizational development

3

Grants + Technical Assistance

- A combination of the above based on your needs!

Our Process

Eligibility

- ❑ 501c3 nonprofits, local and Tribal governments, Tribal organizations, any of these entities who are building a public-private partnership
- ❑ Located in coal-impacted community
- ❑ Economic development, workforce, or broadband infrastructure project
- ❑ Plan to apply for federal funds

Process

Rolling-basis, with a 2-3 week turnaround time for the entire process.

- 1 Submit Inquiry**
Fill out 1 minute form with basic project and organizational information.
- 2 Eligibility Check**
If needed, we'll schedule a brief call to learn more and help determine eligibility to apply for specific JTF services.
- 3 Submit Application**
If eligible to apply for Application-Ready support, we'll send a 1 page application for a grant, technical assistance, or both. If eligible for Early Stage support, we'll be in touch with future opportunities.
- 4 Decision**
We'll provide feedback within a few weeks of receiving application.

Open and Upcoming Opportunities

Community Economic and Workforce Development

- EDA | Economic Adjustment Assistance
- DOE | Energy Infrastructure Reinvestment
- EPA | Community Change Grants
- ARC | ARISE, POWER

Broadband Infrastructure

- USDA | ReConnect
- NTIA | BEAD



Resources and Next Steps

- 1** Check county eligibility for your service area.
[See spreadsheet link in chat.](#)
- 2** If your organization is the organization that would be the one applying for federal funding directly, fill out our interest form to get started.
[See link in chat.](#)
- 3** If your organization is NOT the organization that would apply directly, then please share with relevant partners and make sure they're aware of JTF support available.
[See link in the chat for one-pager summarizing our work.](#)

Contact Information

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