

Press Release

Tuesday, June 9, 2026



Westmoreland-Fayette Workforce Investment Board Receives \$1.5 million from Appalachian Regional Commission's POWER Initiative

The Regional Healthcare Employment Ecosystem (RHEE) Collaborative will expand healthcare workforce pathways across coal-impacted communities in Pennsylvania, addressing urgent labor shortages while strengthening regional economic resilience for coal communities in 14 counties in Pennsylvania.

June 9, 2026 — The Westmoreland-Fayette Workforce Investment Board was awarded \$1.5 million by the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) for its new project, the Regional Healthcare Employment Ecosystem (RHEE) Collaborative. This award is made available through ARC's POWER (Partnerships for Opportunity and Workforce and Economic Revitalization) Initiative, which directs federal resources to help Appalachian coal communities expand economic opportunities by creating high-quality, in-demand jobs in multiple industries, attracting new sources of private investment, and providing comprehensive workforce services and skills training.

The Westmoreland-Fayette Workforce Investment Board, along with its partners, Tri-County Workforce Investment Board, Southwest Corner Workforce Development Board, and Southern Alleghenies Workforce Development Board, will work with healthcare employers, workforce boards, community and education partners, and the broader workforce system to align programs with industry needs, expand training opportunities, and connect residents to healthcare and other in-demand career pathways.

"RHEE is designed to meet residents where they are and connect them to career pathways that match employer demand," said Janet Ward, Executive Director of the Westmoreland-Fayette Workforce Investment Board. "This project is driven by both helping people identify career opportunities and connecting them to the training and support they need through our local workforce system."



Learn more at www.arc.gov/POWER.

About the Westmoreland-Fayette Workforce Investment Board

The Westmoreland-Fayette Workforce Investment Board (WFWIB) is a non-profit entity consisting of appointees from the business, education, and labor sectors of Westmoreland-Fayette counties. The board is empowered to lead workforce development activities in Fayette and Westmoreland counties. The WFWIB is funded by the Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA), which provides funding to federal workforce programs and local Workforce Development Boards. The WFWIB oversees the three PA CareerLink® centers that are located in Westmoreland and Fayette Counties: PA CareerLink® Westmoreland County at Youngwood, PA CareerLink® Fayette County, and PA CareerLink® Alle-Kiski. For more information about the Westmoreland-Fayette Workforce Investment Board, please visit www.WestFayWIB.org.

The Westmoreland-Fayette Workforce Investment Board is an equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.

For federal funding information, visit www.westfaywib.org/resources/.

About the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC)

The Appalachian Regional Commission is an economic development entity of the federal government and 13 state governments focusing on 423 counties across the Appalachian Region. ARC's mission is to invest and partner to strengthen economic development in Appalachia to help the region reach its full economic potential.

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