

# Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) FY 2023 Update



Region III Planning and Development Council  
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Serving Boone, Clay, Kanawha & Putnam Counties

June 2023



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## I. Introduction and Purpose

This document represents the FY 2023 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Annual Update for Boone, Clay, Kanawha and Putnam Counties of the Regional Intergovernmental Council (RIC).

The report describes economic development activities and proposed projects within the 4-county region. Our local governments and development agencies were asked to submit their projects for the CEDS process. Our CEDS Committee then convened to review and prioritize the projects.

It should be noted and recognized that since the inception of the CEDS for Boone, Clay, Kanawha and Putnam counties, millions of dollars have been invested in economic development projects that are listed and tracked through this CEDS report.

The CEDS process is long and involved, seeking time and effort from many individuals and organizations throughout the community. The CEDS for the Boone, Clay, Kanawha and Putnam counties is successful due to collaboration and outreach.

This report is a compilation of efforts by staff and volunteers to critique all economic development activities within the region.

The FY 2022 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) went before the RIC Board for approval on June 8, 2023.

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## Within the Regional Council

<i>COMMUNITY</i>	<i>REPRESENTATIVE</i>
Boone County Commission	Brett Kuhn, Commissioner
Clay County Commission	Connie Kinder, Commissioner
Kanawha County Commission	W. Kent Carper, Commissioner
Putnam County Commission	Andy Skidmore, Commissioner
Town of Bancroft	Jami Echols Hayes, Mayor
Town of Belle	David Fletcher, Mayor
Town of Buffalo	Conrad Cain, Mayor
Town of Cedar Grove	James B. Hudnall, Mayor
City of Charleston	Amy Shuler Goodwin, Mayor
Town of Chesapeake	Paul Bradshaw, Mayor
Town of Clay	Josh Shamblin, Mayor
Town of Clendenin	Kay Summers, Mayor
Town of Danville	Mark McClure, Mayor
City of Dunbar	Scott E. Elliott, Mayor
Town of East Bank	Charles A. Blair, II, Mayor
Town of Eleanor	Cam Clendenin, Mayor
Town of Glasgow	Donald Fannin, Mayor
Town of Handley	Essie Ford, Jr., Mayor
City of Hurricane	Scott Edwards, Mayor
City of Madison	James "Buddy" Hudson, Mayor
City of Marmet	David T. Fontalbert, Jr., Mayor
City of Nitro	Dave Casebolt, Mayor
Town of Poca	William Jones, Mayor
Town of Pratt	Ramon A. Williams, Mayor
City of St. Albans	Scott James, Mayor
City of South Charleston	Frank Mullens, Mayor
Town of Sylvester	Harvey Ferrell, Mayor
Town of Whitesville	Fred V. Harless, Jr., Mayor
Town of Winfield	Randy Barrett, Mayor
Boone County Citizens Representative	Kris Mitchell
Clay County Citizens Representative	Barry McCune
Kanawha County Citizens Representative	Beth Thompson
Putnam County Citizens Representative	Mark A. Stolle, Jr.
City of Charleston Citizens Representative	Andy Backus
RIC Minority Representative	Oree Banks
RIC Minority Representative	Coston Davis, Jr.
Private Sector Representative (Education)	Russell Saunders, BridgeValley CTC
Private Sector Representative	Joy Underwood, Coal River Inn
Private Sector Representative	S.K. Miller, Verizon Mid-Atlantic, Retired
Private Sector Representative	Clark McCoy, WV Regional Technology Park
Private Sector Representative (Chamber of Commerce)	Andrew Dunlap, Charleston Area Alliance
Private Sector Representative (WVDOH)	Brian Carr, WV Division of Highways
Private Sector Representative (KVRTA)	Curt Zickafoose, KVRTA
Private Sector Representative	Charles Mays, Faith Based – Community Service
Private Sector Representative	Anne Cavalier, Ed.D. Cavalier Business Development
Private Sector Representative (Education)	Ericke S. Cage, J.D., LL.M. West Virginia State Univ.
Private Sector Representative (Labor)	Eric Sharp, Labor Employees Cooperative Trust
Private Sector Representative	Kenneth Kinder, E.L. Robinson Engineering



**RIC Staff**

**Interim Executive Director / Project Administrator**

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**Executive Assistant**

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**Finance Manager**

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**Finance Assistant/Project Administrator**

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**Project Coordinator**

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**Senior Transportation Planner**

Samuel Richardson

**Transportation Planner**

Jake Smith



**RIC Officers**

**Chair**

David Fletcher  
Mayor, Town of Belle

**First Vice-Chair**

David Casebolt  
Mayor, City of Nitro

**Second Vice-Chair**

S.K. Miller  
Private Sector Representative

**Third Vice-Chair**

Kris Mitchell  
Boone County Citizen Representative

**Treasurer**

Coston Davis, Jr.  
Minority Group Representative

**Secretary**

Connie Kinder  
Commissioner, Clay County Commission



## II. Summary Background



## A. Activities

Water and Sewer infrastructure, broadband infrastructure, and technology remain very important to our region. Region III serves Boone, Clay, Kanawha and Putnam counties and continues to provide technical assistance, project development and project administration to each county. Water and sewer infrastructure development is vital as these services are needed to enhance our region's economic opportunities. During 2022, RIC administered many infrastructure, community and economic development projects, including:

- Boone County PSD Mountaineer Drive Waterline Extension
- Boone County PSD Boone Memorial Sewer Extension
- Town of Clay Water Storage Project
- Town of Clay Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation
- TechConnectWV NextUp Project
- Region III Hazard Mitigation Plan
- West Dunbar PSD Sewer Line Rehabilitation
- Kanawha PSD Lens Creek Phase II Sewer Extension
- Putnam County Jim Ridge Phase II Waterline Extension
- Clay County Broadband Design Grant
- Kanawha County RDA Standard/Paint Creek Waterline Extension
- Putnam PSD Sewer Extension to Martin Peterbilt with US EDA funding
- Putnam PSD Water treatment improvement Project with US EDA funding
- Yeager Airport for its improvements to support Marshall University Flight School

RIC also assisted in the development of additional infrastructure, community and economic development projects, including:

- Putnam County Jim Ridge Phase II Waterline Extension
- Town of Cedar Grove Line Rehabilitation Project
- Clay County PSD Big Otter/Nebo/Walker Road Waterline Project
- Boone County PSD Wastewater Treatment Expansion
- Boone County PSD Wastewater Line and Pump Station Rehabilitation Project
- Boone County PSD Rock Creek Development Infrastructure Projects
- Boone County PSD Foster Phase 1A Sewer line Extension
- HUD Disaster Recovery projects for Clay and Kanawha Counties
- Boone County Foster Phase I Sewer Line Extension
- TechConnectWV – TKWKS Project
- TechConnectWV – SBA PATH Project
- Kanawha County RDA Olcott Waterline Extension
- Kanawha County RDA Leatherwood Waterline Extension
- Kanawha County RDA Crestwood Drive Waterline Extension
- Upper Kanawha Valley Economic Development Corporation Financial Records Maintenance





## B. In the Regional Economy

The Regional Intergovernmental Council (RIC) serves local governments within the four-county region of Boone, Clay, Kanawha and Putnam counties. One of 11 Regional Planning and Development Councils located within the state of West Virginia and designated as Region III, RIC provides an array of services which support economic development, planning and inter-governmental cooperation. Region III features a mix of high-tech manufacturing and value-laden businesses as well as rich, mining-based working lands.

Region III, along with the rest of the State of West Virginia, has experienced the negative impact of the once thriving coal industry. Despite the difficult and extenuating circumstances, economic activity continues to develop in the region as described in the following components of this report.



The interstate highway system that serves Region III includes I-64, I-77 and I-79. This interstate system has largely been responsible for Region III's growth as a major distribution center. The river, rail, air, and highway network has been a stimulus to all sectors of the economy and allows Region III ease of trade with all other areas in the nation. Appalachian Corridor G connects southern West Virginia (Boone-Logan) with the Interstates in Charleston.

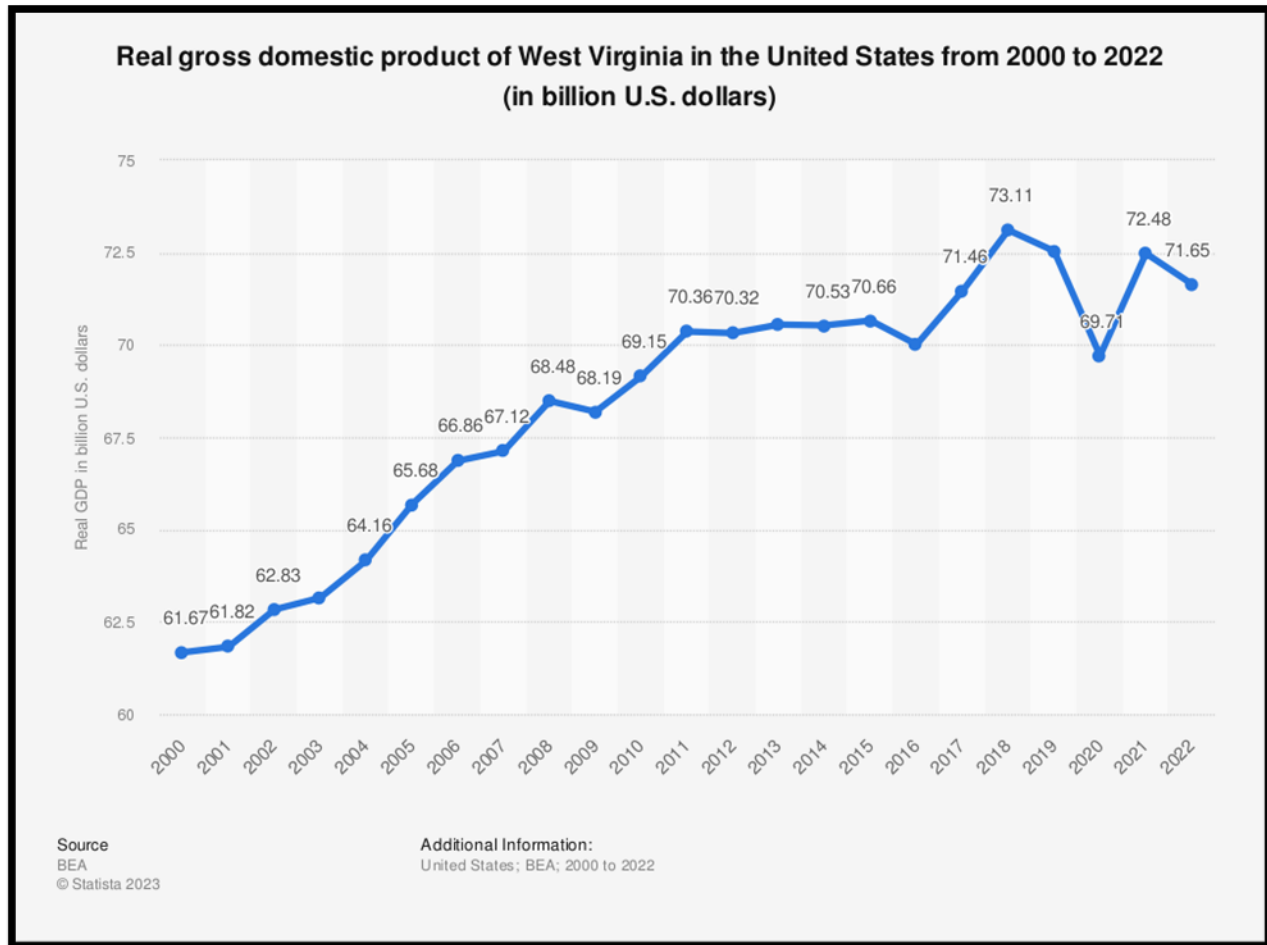


Table obtained from Statista - Source: US Bureau of Economic Analysis

### U.S. real GDP of West Virginia 2000-2022

In 2022, the real gross domestic product (GDP) of West Virginia was 71.65 billion U.S. dollars. This is a decrease from the previous year, when the state's real GDP stood at 72.48 billion U.S. dollars.

*Above description obtained from Statista, published on 4/5/2023*

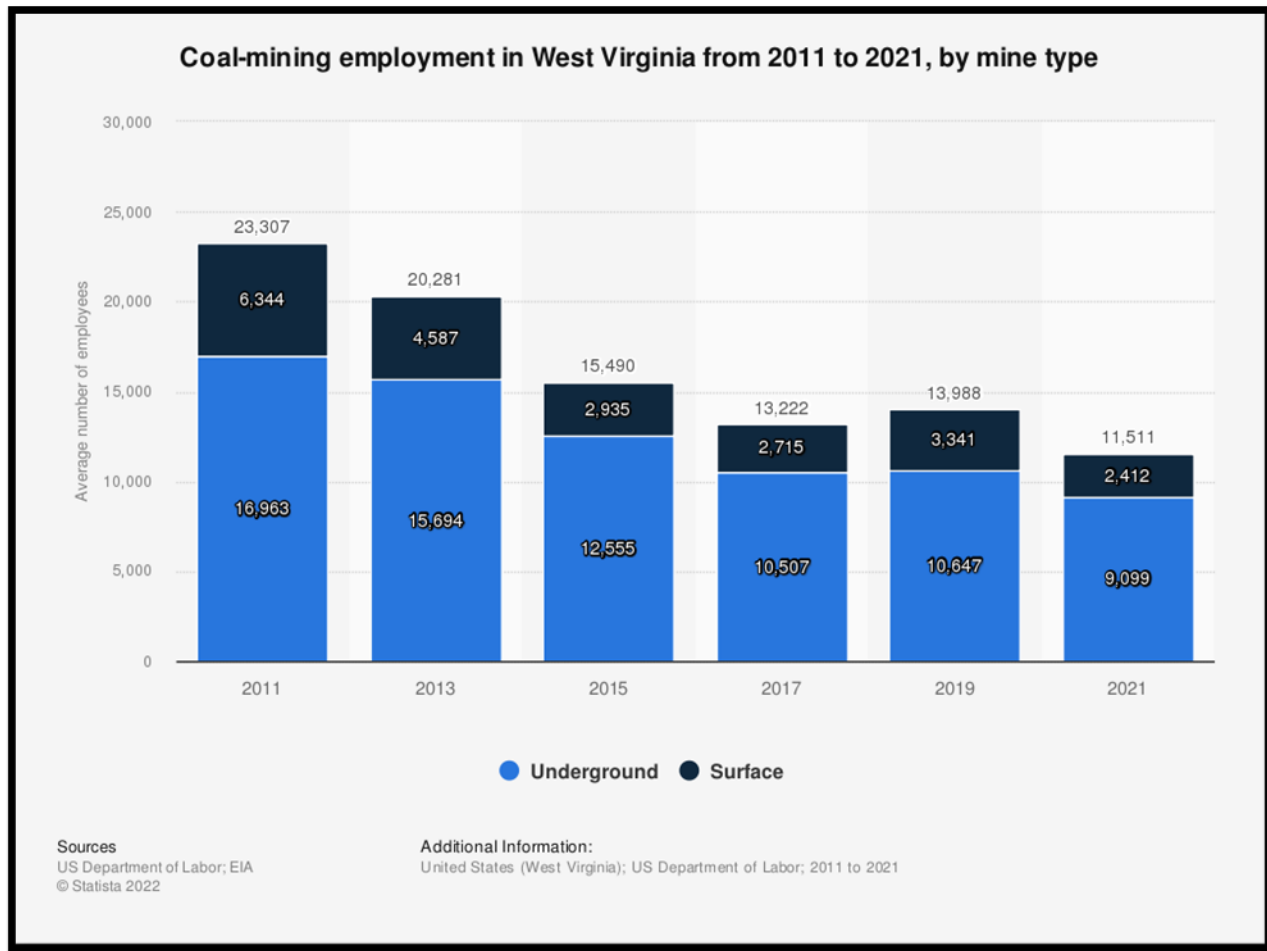


Table obtained from Statista - Source: US Department of Labor, EIA

### Coal-mining employment in West Virginia 2011-2021

In 2021, 11,511 people were working in West Virginia's coal industry in total. Of that number, around 79 percent of the employees worked in underground coal mines.

### Coal-mining in West Virginia

Coal-mining in West Virginia totaled 13,962 jobs in 2018, with 10,767 jobs located in underground mines and 3,195 jobs dedicated to surface mines. In 2020, two out of ten leading underground coal mines by production are in West Virginia. In the Appalachian region, where West Virginia is located, there were nearly 34,000 coal mining jobs in 2020, down from nearly 30,620 in 2018.

### West Virginia’s standing as a U.S. coal producer

In 2009, coal was extracted from 51 different coal seams in the state, and there are 65 seams located in the region that are considered economically viable. While West Virginia is not the first



largest producer of coal in the United States, it nevertheless remains one of the largest producers in the United States, only surpassed by Wyoming. In 2020, Wyoming produced 218.6 million short tons of coal, and West Virginia produced some 67.3 million short tons. Despite being one of the largest producers in the United States, coal consumption is greater in many other U.S. states than in West Virginia.

*Above description obtained from Statista and published by M. Garside on 12/15/2022*

## West Virginia State Energy Profile Quick Facts



- In 2020, West Virginia ranked fourth among the states in total energy production, accounting for 5% of the nation's total.
- In 2021, West Virginia was the second-largest coal producer in the nation, after Wyoming, and accounted for 14% of U.S. total coal production. West Virginia also had 12% of recoverable coal reserves at producing mines, the third-largest reserve base in the nation, after Wyoming and Illinois.
- In 2021, coal-fired electric power plants accounted for 91% of West Virginia's total electricity net generation. Renewable energy resources—primarily hydroelectric power and wind energy—contributed 5% and natural gas provided more than 4%.
- In 2021, West Virginia was fourth in the nation in natural gas marketed production. The state produced nearly 2.8 trillion cubic feet of natural gas, about 10 times more than in 2010, and 95% of it was from shale gas wells.
- West Virginians typically use about half of the electricity generated in the state. As a result, West Virginia is a net supplier of electricity to the regional grid and is among the top states in interstate transfers of electricity. In 2021, only four other states sent more of their electricity generation out of state.



*Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration Last Updated: December 15, 2022*



According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, West Virginia was the second-largest coal producer in the nation in 2021. Though, the declining coal production has hurt the economy in West Virginia. However, the region continues to find ways to diversify the economy and spur economic growth.



## **POWER (Partnerships for Opportunity and Workforce and Economic Revitalization)**

The POWER is a congressionally funded initiative that is comprised of multiple agencies and makes federal resources available to help communities and regions that have been affected by job losses in coal mining, coal power plant operations, and coal-related supply chain industries due to the changing economics of America's energy production. Federal resources are obtained to help these affected areas to promote economic re-growth, enhance diversity, and accentuate alternative job training in hopes of developing opportunities for reemployment.

As stated on the Appalachian Regional Commission websites: Since 2015, ARC has invested nearly \$368.1 million in 449 projects touching 360 counties across Appalachia through the POWER Initiative. Together, these investments are projected to create or retain more than 40,000 jobs, leverage more than \$1.57 billion in additional private investments into Appalachia's economy and prepare over 100,000 workers and students for opportunities in entrepreneurship, broadband development, tourism, and other industry sectors.

## **2022 POWER GRANT AWARD SUMMARIES INFLUENCING REGION III:**

### **Project Title: High-technology Advanced Manufacturing Initiative (HAMI)**

**Grantee: West Virginia Regional Technology Park Corporation**

**Award Amount: \$886,762**

**Announcement Date: March 2022**

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$886,762 to the West Virginia Regional Technology Park Corporation in South Charleston, West Virginia, for the High-technology Advanced Manufacturing Initiative (HAMI). In partnership with the Robert C. Byrd Institute (RCBI) of Marshall University, the project will provide hands-on training in the form of customized on the job training for incumbent workers; fast-track, short-term customizable training and traditional academic courses (1- and 2-year program options) for under and unemployed individuals; and single topic course offerings for incumbent, underemployed, and unemployed individuals. Training will guide participants to manufacturing career opportunities and includes industry-recognized credentials, formal skill set certificates, a one-year Certificate of Applied Science degree, and an Associate of Applied Science degree. The project will serve six counties in central West Virginia that have been adversely affected by the loss of jobs in coal mining or coal-supply chain industries. The project will work closely with local economic development organizations, such as the Charleston Area Alliance and local manufacturing industry partners. Over the first two years, the project team expects to serve 33 students and 195 workers, as well as improve 15 local businesses.





**Project Title: Creating Regional Outdoor Recreation Economy**

**Grantee: Kanawha County Commission**

**Award Amount: \$675,210**

**Announcement Date: March 2022**

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$675,210 to the Kanawha County Commission in Charleston, West Virginia, for the Creating Regional Outdoor Recreation Economy project. Following an outdoor-recreation-based economic development strategy for the Upper Kanawha Valley (Kanawha and Fayette counties) that was completed in January 2021, the project will focus on the development of the hiking and water trails, trailheads, camping locations and other lodging, and welcome centers, which link the anchor attractions and communities together. This is coupled with the delivery of business support services to expand and create new businesses in coal-impacted communities that support an outdoor recreation economy. With the support of the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation, the project is expected to create 60 jobs, serve 11 communities, and produce 10 specialized development plans.

**Project Title: Generation WV's High POWER Impact Project**

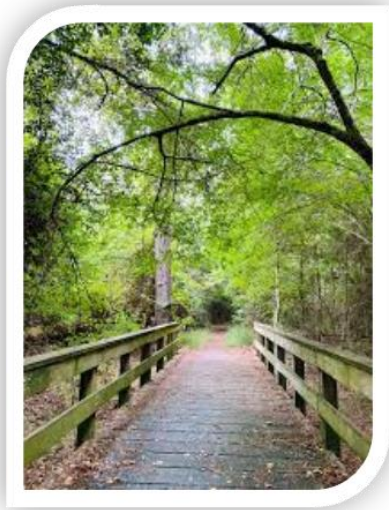
**Grantee: Generation WV**

**Award Amount: \$523,253**

**Appalachian Regional Commission, March 2022 Page 9**

**Announcement Date: March 2022**

Project Summary: ARC grant of \$523,253 to Generation West Virginia (GWV) in Charleston, West Virginia, for the Generation WV High POWER Impact Project. The project will expand and enhance GWV's successful Impact Fellowship to help employers recruit and retain next generation leaders and rebuild coal-impacted economies across West Virginia. This fills the gap in programming for early-career leadership programs in the state by providing "matchmaking" services to quality employers and jobseekers via the new GWV Career Connector as well as professional development programming with the Impact Fellowship. The project aims to retain young talent in West Virginia. Over the three-year grant period, the project anticipates serving 90 early-career workers in the fellowship program, improving 60 local businesses, and leveraging approximately \$7,800,000 in private investment from host employers. Generation WV will be supported by multiple partners, including the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation, the West Virginia Development Office, and the Just Transition Fund.



## Transportation Alternatives Grants

The Transportation Alternative grants are administered by the West Virginia Department of Transportation and funded by the Federal Highway Administration. The grants help towns and cities improve their network of recreational trails, biking/walking paths, sidewalks, and more, by either building from scratch or enhancing what they already have through various types of projects.

### TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVE GRANT AWARDS INFLUENCING REGION III:

#### TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROJECTS:

##### BOONE COUNTY

**City of Madison - \$806,215.00**

Construction: Madison Riverside Drive Sidewalk Improvements

##### KANAWHA COUNTY

**City of Nitro - \$100,000.00**

Construction: Nitro Second Avenue Streetscape

##### PUTNAM COUNTY

**Town of Poca - \$325,000.00**

Design and Construction: Poca Laurel Avenue Sidewalk Extension

#### RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM PROJECTS:

##### KANAWHA COUNTY

**Kanawha State Forest - \$125,000.00**

Design and Construction: Kanawha State Forest Johnson and Logtown Hollow Trail Repair

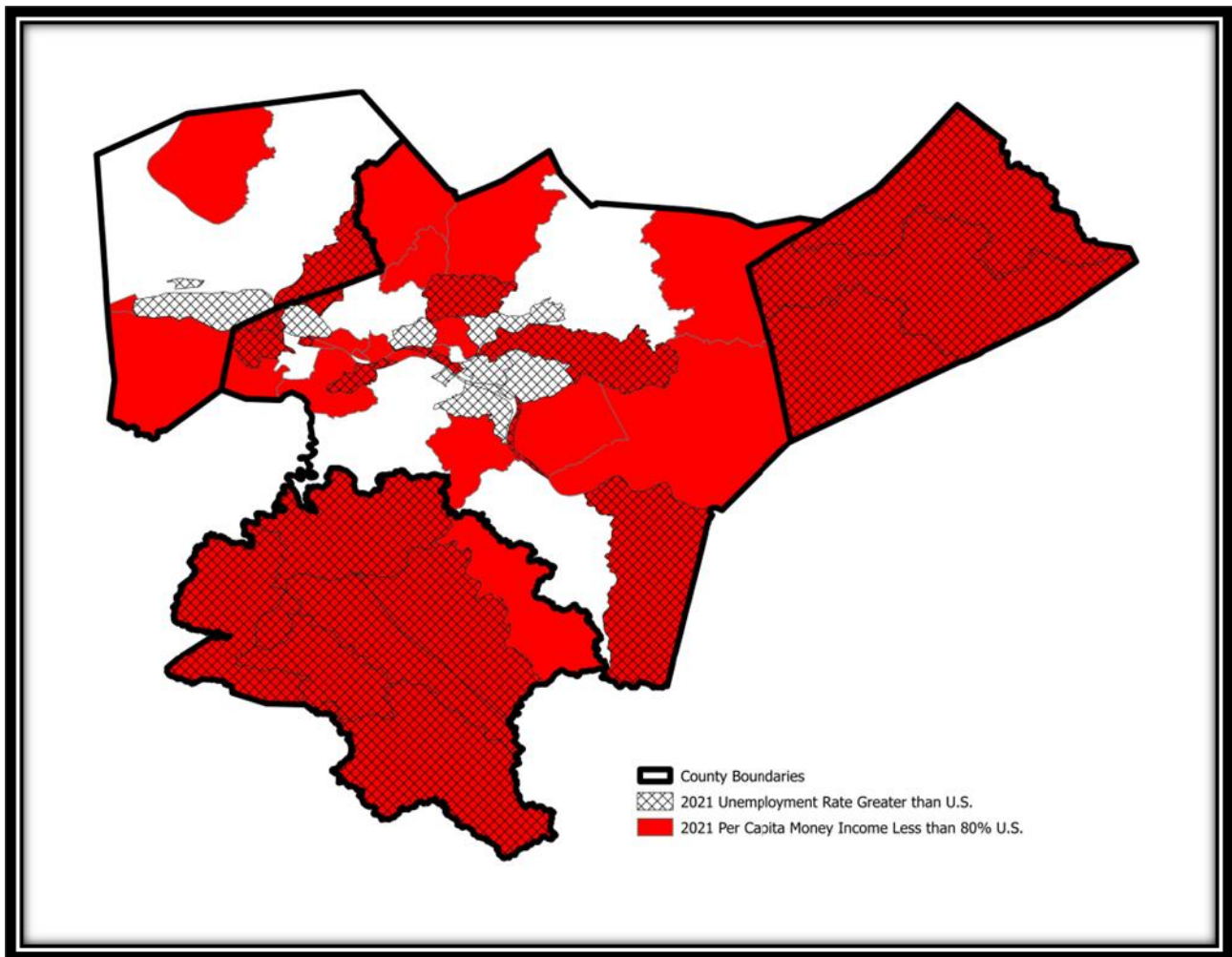
##### PUTNAM COUNTY

**City of Hurricane - \$185,000.00**

Design and Construction: Hurricane Meeks Mountain Trails



## Map of Distressed Census Tracts in WV Region III







## Learning, Innovation, Food & Technology Center - LIFT Center

Development is under way for the Learning, Innovation, Food & Technology Center, also known as the LIFT Center. The LIFT Center will be located on the East End of Charleston at the current site of Kanawha Manufacturing. The LIFT Center will reuse existing manufacturing space by converting the location into a facility used to develop alternative / renewable energy, workforce training, and a commercial food hub. This initiative is being led by the City of Charleston and the Charleston Area Alliance, in partnership with Marshall University, Coalfield Development Corporation and Advantage Valley. The LIFT Center also includes private investments by Parthian Battery Solutions, BETA Air, Dickinson Renewables and Edelen Renewables.

The LIFT Center will include the new Marshall Green Battery Institute which will provide research and

development on electric batteries for clean vehicles, zero-emissions airplanes, and renewable energy storage. The LIFT Center will research and develop green technology, as well as provide job training. The LIFT Center will also house a Coalfield Development job training center and Refresh Appalachia.



Governor Justice Presenting \$2 Million for the LIFT Center. Pictured above is Nicole Christian, David Ferretti, Governor Jim Justice, Drew Dunlap, Adam Krason



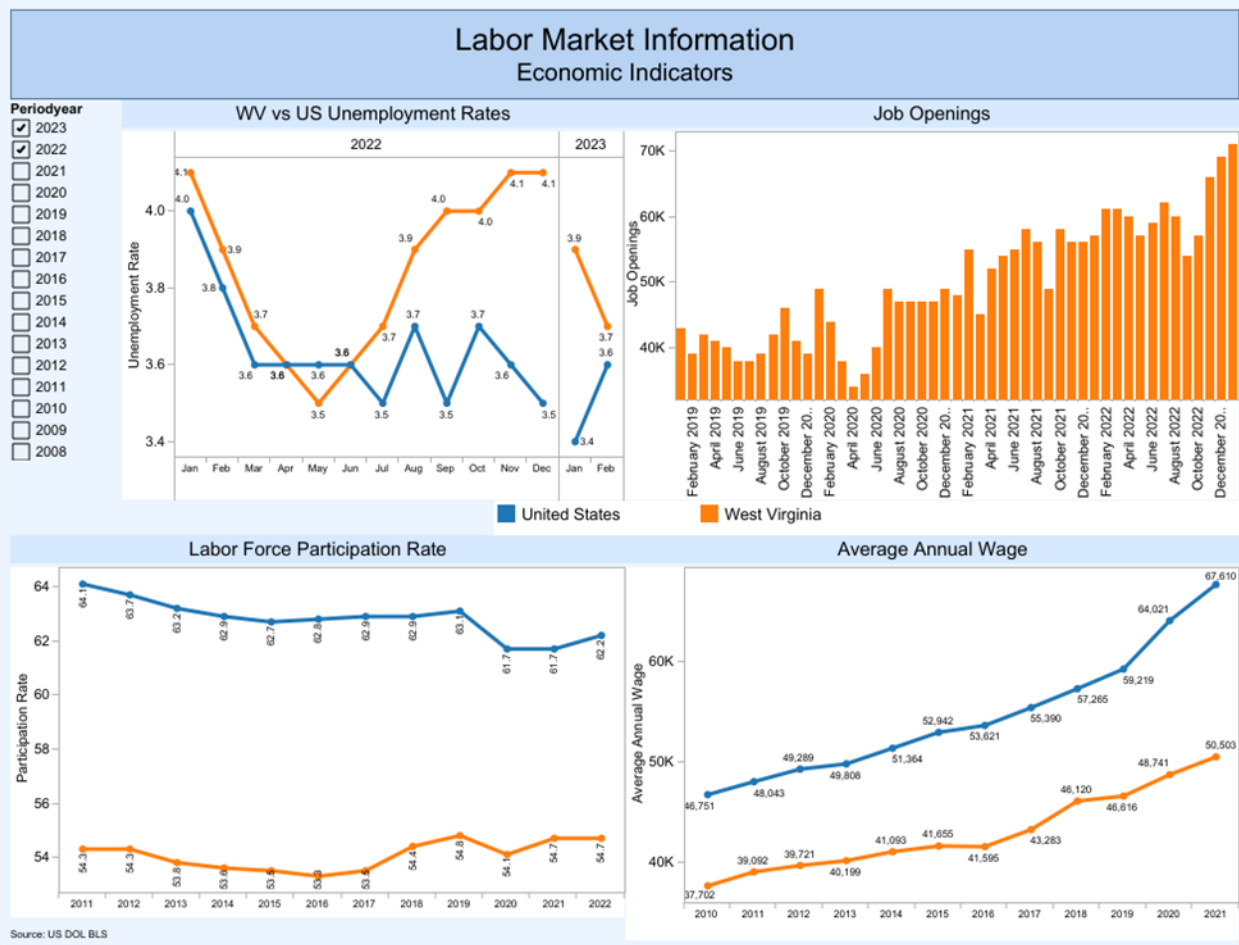
### C. Labor Force Demographics

The table below displays the amounts of civilian labor force, total employment, total unemployment, and percentages of unemployment rates for each of the four counties in Region III. As of February 2023, the State of West Virginia had an unemployment rate of 3.7 % compared to the national unemployment rate of 3.5%.

## Civilian Labor Force

	Civilian Labor Force		Total Employment		Total Unemployment		Unemployment Rate	
	Mar 2022	Mar 2023	Mar 2022	Mar 2023	Mar 2022	Mar 2023	Mar 2022	Mar 2023
	<b>Boone</b>	7,190	<b>6,900</b>	6,840	<b>6,650</b>	350	<b>250</b>	4.9%
<b>Clay</b>	3,020	<b>2,900</b>	2,820	<b>2,730</b>	200	<b>170</b>	6.5%	<b>5.8%</b>
<b>Kanawha</b>	80,980	<b>78,310</b>	77,800	<b>75,680</b>	3,180	<b>2,630</b>	3.9%	<b>3.4%</b>
<b>Putnam</b>	26,860	<b>26,950</b>	25,980	<b>26,150</b>	880	<b>800</b>	3.3%	<b>3.0%</b>

*Information in table obtained from WorkForce West Virginia.*



*Information in charts obtained from WorkForce West Virginia.*



## D. Assessment of Progress in FY 2023

This section of the report captures details and descriptions of activities within each of the region's four counties.



## BOONE COUNTY



Boone County Courthouse





Boone County was formed in 1847 from portions of Kanawha, Cabell, and Logan Counties. The County was named after Daniel Boone, a noted hunter and explorer, who made his home in the Great Kanawha Valley from 1788 to 1795. Located in southwestern West Virginia, Boone County borders Kanawha, Lincoln, Logan, Wyoming and Raleigh Counties. Madison is the county seat, with three other municipalities of Danville, Whitesville and Sylvester, nearby. The Madison/Danville area of Boone County is approximately 37 miles south of Charleston. The county area is 503 square miles and lies in the Appalachian Plateau. Most of the area is divided by streams and water courses, which give the region the appearance of an endless formation of hills and contrasting valleys.

## Distance to Major Cities from Madison, West Virginia

Atlanta.....	517 miles
Chicago.....	512 miles
Cincinnati.....	222 miles
Cleveland.....	281 miles
Columbus.....	241 miles
Lexington.....	181 miles
New York.....	560 miles
Pittsburgh.....	257 miles
Washington, DC.....	391 miles

## TRANSPORTATION

### Highways

One U.S. highway and two state highways serve Boone County. Providing service to Madison and Danville is U. S. 119 (Corridor G) which connects with Charleston, West Virginia and the State of Pennsylvania to the northeast; and with Logan and Williamson, West Virginia and the State of Kentucky to the south.

### Public Transportation

Tri-River Transit in Hamlin, Lincoln County, provides limited local transit service in Boone County, with weekday trips to Southridge in Kanawha County. Other routes include Clothier to Madison and Wharton to Madison.

The Boone County Community Organization provides various transportation services for senior services.

### Rail Service

The CSX system supplies freight service to the communities in Boone County.

### Air Service

The nearest commercial airport is West Virginia International Yeager Airport in Charleston, located 35 miles from Madison, the county seat of Boone County.



# FY 2023 CEDS Update

## UTILITIES

### Water

Boone County PSD supplies water to Madison and Danville and the major portion of Boone County. Much of the water is supplied by West Virginia American Water Company through public-private partnership.

### Electric

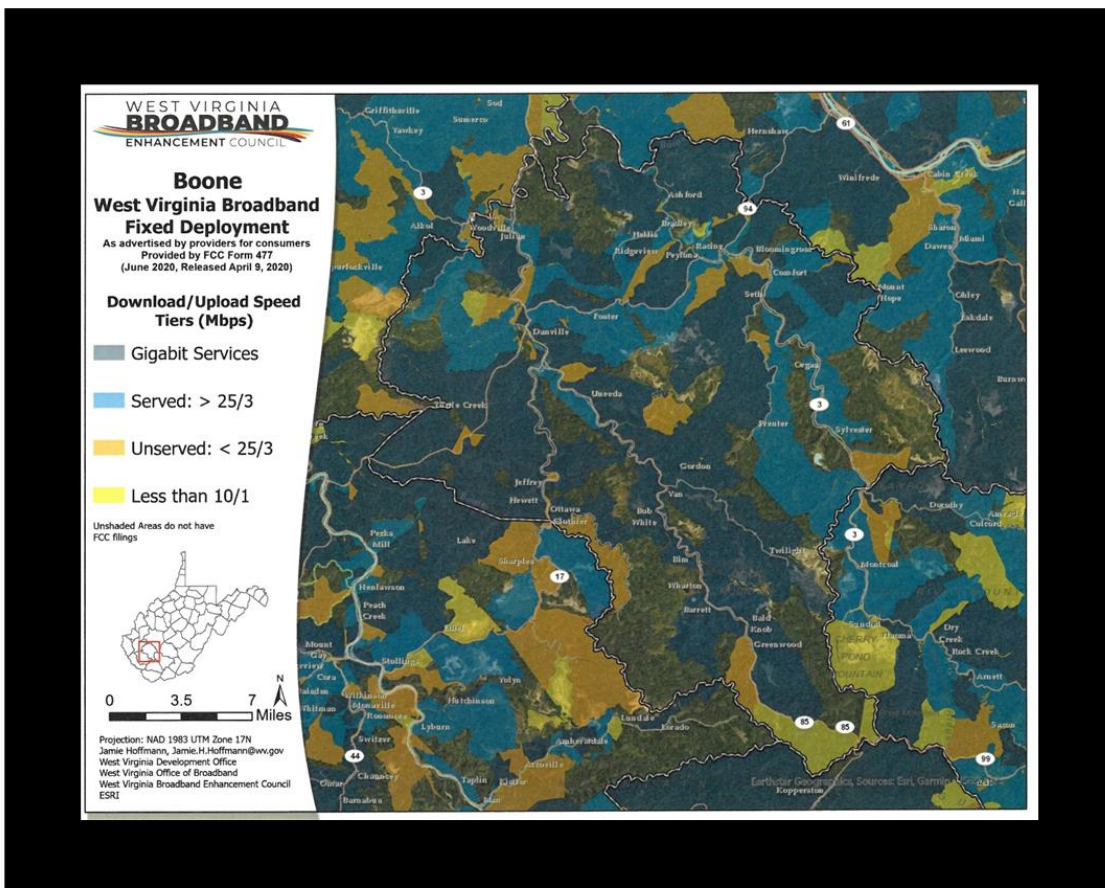
American Electric Power (AEP) provides electric power throughout Boone County.

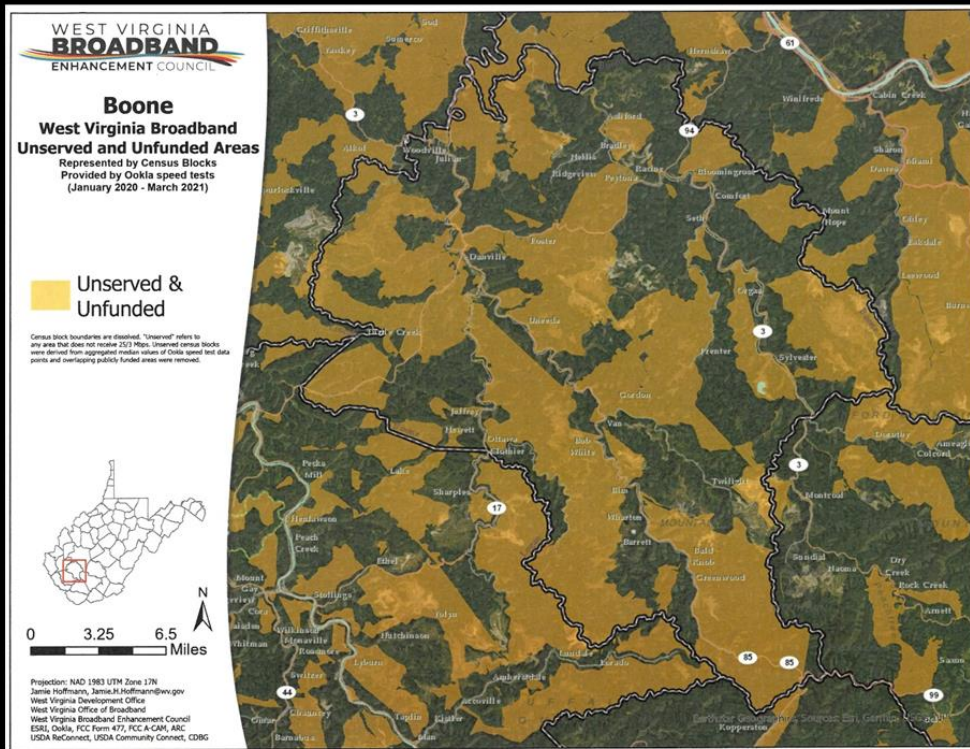
### Gas and Other

Natural gas is supplied by Ashford Gas, Southern Public Service Company, Pennzoil and Hope Natural Gas, Inc. Coal, fuel oil and propane are readily available from local suppliers.

### Broadband

Mapping of Broadband Fixed Development Download/Upload Speed and Unserved/Unfunded Areas in Boone County, provided by the West Virginia Broadband Enhancement Council.





The following “Quality of Life” facts exist in Boone County:

- Low crime rate
- County-wide 911 service and ambulance service
- 8 fully equipped volunteer fire departments
- Two National Blue-Ribbon Schools
- Three WV Schools of Excellence
- Hatfield-McCoy Trail Visitors’ Center
- Fully staffed hospital in Madison
- Nursing and Rehabilitation Center
- Housing Complexes for Seniors and the Elderly
- Public libraries in Madison, Whitesville, Wharton and Racine
- Public Transportation
- 8 Community and Recreational Centers
- Waterways Park
- County and Municipal Parks and Pools
- Fishing and Hunting Facilities





- National Mine Disasters Memorial
- National Historic District at Nellis
- Coal Heritage Museum in Madison
- County Courthouse on National Register of Historic Places
- Annual Festivals in Madison, Danville, Whitesville & Sylvester
- Miles of beautiful, scenic trails for outdoor, recreational use
- Four-lane Highway Access
- Thirty-minute drive to State Capitol
- Rail and Motor Carrier Freight Service
- 3-Mile Walking Trail in Madison to promote wellness

## Economy

Boone County, an area that in the past relied and thrived primarily on coal production continues to look for new ways to revive their economy. The county is diversifying with job opportunities being created outside of the coal industry. Appalachian Corridor G, which runs through Boone County, promotes residential and commercial development. Tourism also brings business opportunities to Boone County, the county's 70-mile section of the Hatfield-McCoy Recreation Trails offer outdoor recreational opportunities to off-road enthusiasts, including ATV riders and motorcyclists. Hundreds of kayak and canoe enthusiasts also tour the Walhonde Water Trail each year, which is recognized nationally as a premier water trail with several access points located in Boone County.

Despite these initiatives, the economy is still dependent on the coal industry and continues to work to identify new opportunities for economic growth. The unemployment rate has decreased from 4.9% in March 2022 to 3.6% in March 2023.

## Horse Creek Cabins



Horse Creek Cabins, which opened for business in June 2022, is located at 6069 Horse Creek Road in Spurlockville. The cabins are only a few minutes from the Hatfield & McCoy Ivy Branch Trail and the SEVA project (former Hobet Mine site). They are set in a peaceful rural setting with abundant wildlife and offer modern amenities with a beautiful wood design. Horse Creek Cabins boasts outside patio dining, plenty of room for parking and the ability to ride your side by side directly to the trails.



## Boone County United States Census Bureau QuickFacts

Boone County - People Quick Facts	Boone County	West Virginia	United States
Population estimates July 1, 2022	20,968	-	-
Population, 2021 estimate	21,367	-	-
Population, 2020 (April 1) estimates base	21,807	-	-
Population, percent change - April 1, 2020 to July 1, 2022	-3.8%	-1.0%	0.6%
Population, Census, April 1, 2020	21,809	1,793,716	331,449,281
Population, Census, April 1, 2010	24,629	1,852,994	308,745,538
High school graduate or higher, percent of persons age 25+, 2017-2021	84.1%	88.1%	88.9%
Bachelor's degree or higher, percent of persons age 25+, 2017-2021	11.3%	21.8%	33.7%
Veterans, 2017-2021	1,339	-	-
Mean travel time to work (minutes), workers age 16+, 2017-2021	31.7	26.0	26.8
Housing units, July 1, 2021	10,152	-	-
Owner-occupied housing unit rate, 2016-2020	78.2%	73.9%	64.6%
Median value of owner-occupied housing units, 2017-2021	\$80,100	\$128,800	\$244,900
Households, 2017-2021	78,21	-	-
Persons per household, 2017-2021	2.81	2.47	2.60
Per capita income in past 12 months (2021 dollars), 2017-2021	\$23,630	\$28,761	\$37,638
Median household income, (2021 dollars) 2017-2021	\$50,598	\$50,884	\$69,021
Persons in poverty, percent	24.7%	16.8%	11.6%
Households with a computer, 2017-2021	88.2%	87.6%	93.1%
Households with broadband Internet subscription 2017-2021	83.1%	80.8	87.0%
Persons without health insurance, under age 65 years	8.3%	7.6%	9.8%
Persons with a disability, under age 65 years	18.8%	14.1%	8.7%
In civilian labor force, total, percent of population age 16 years +, 2017-2021	42.1%	53.2%	63.1%
Total employer establishments, 2020	230	-	-
Population per square mile, 2020	43.5	74.6	93.8
Population per square mile, 2010	49.1	77.1	87.4

Source: United States Census Bureau



## Top Ten Employers in Boone County

1. Boone County Board of Education
2. Blackhawk Mining, LLC
3. Boone Memorial Hospital, Inc.
4. Loved Ones in Home Care, LLC
5. Hillcrest Health Care Center, LLC
6. Pro Careers, Inc.
7. Kroger
8. Little General Store, Inc.
9. Panhandle Support Services, Inc.
10. Boone County Commission

Source: Workforce WV, March 2022



## CLAY COUNTY



Clay County Courthouse



Clay County was formed in 1858 from parts of Braxton, Kanawha and Nicholas counties. Named in honor of Henry Clay, a Kentucky statesman, Clay County is located in central West Virginia. The county area is 346.61 square miles, and the 2021 census estimate shows a population of 7,892. Most of the county has an elevation of 1,000 feet or greater above sea level. The county seat is the Town of Clay, located 42 miles from Charleston, West Virginia.

## Distance to Major Cities from Clay

Atlanta.....	511 miles
Chicago.....	589 miles
Cincinnati.....	301 miles
Cleveland.....	294 miles
Columbus.....	205 miles
Lexington.....	222 miles
New York.....	509 miles
Pittsburgh.....	204 miles
Washington, DC.....	336 miles

## TRANSPORTATION

### Highways

Clay County is served by I-79, which provides service from Charleston, West Virginia to Erie, Pennsylvania and State Routes 36, 16 and 4.

### Public Transportation

Clay County Development Corporation provides specialized transportation services primarily for the elderly in Clay County.

### Rail Service

Clay County currently has no operating rail lines.

### Bus Service

No public bus service is available.

### Air Service

Service to Clay County is provided by West Virginia International Yeager Airport, located about 46 miles from the Town of Clay.

## UTILITIES

### Water

Water is provided by The Town of Clay, Clay County Public Service District, Clay-Roane Public Service District, and Queen Shoals Public Service District.





# FY 2023 CEDS Update

## Electric

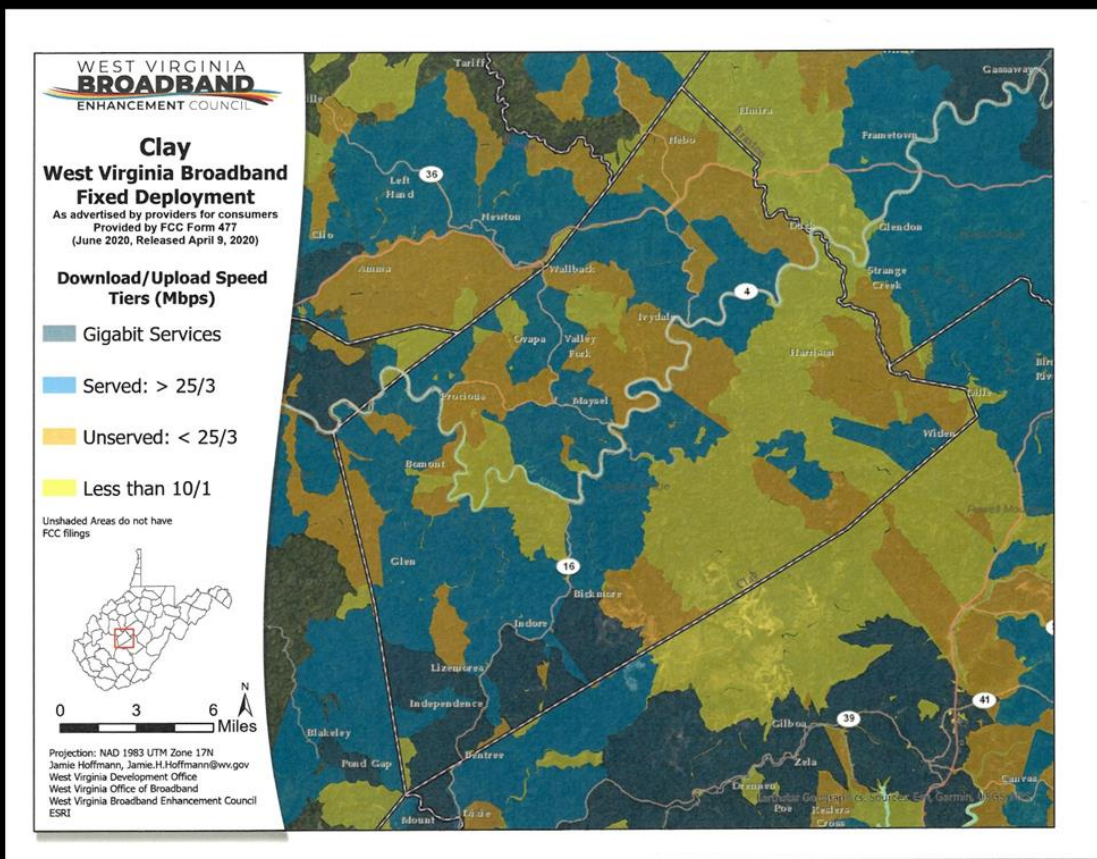
Elk Power, American Electric Power (AEP) and Allegheny Power provide electrical power to the area.

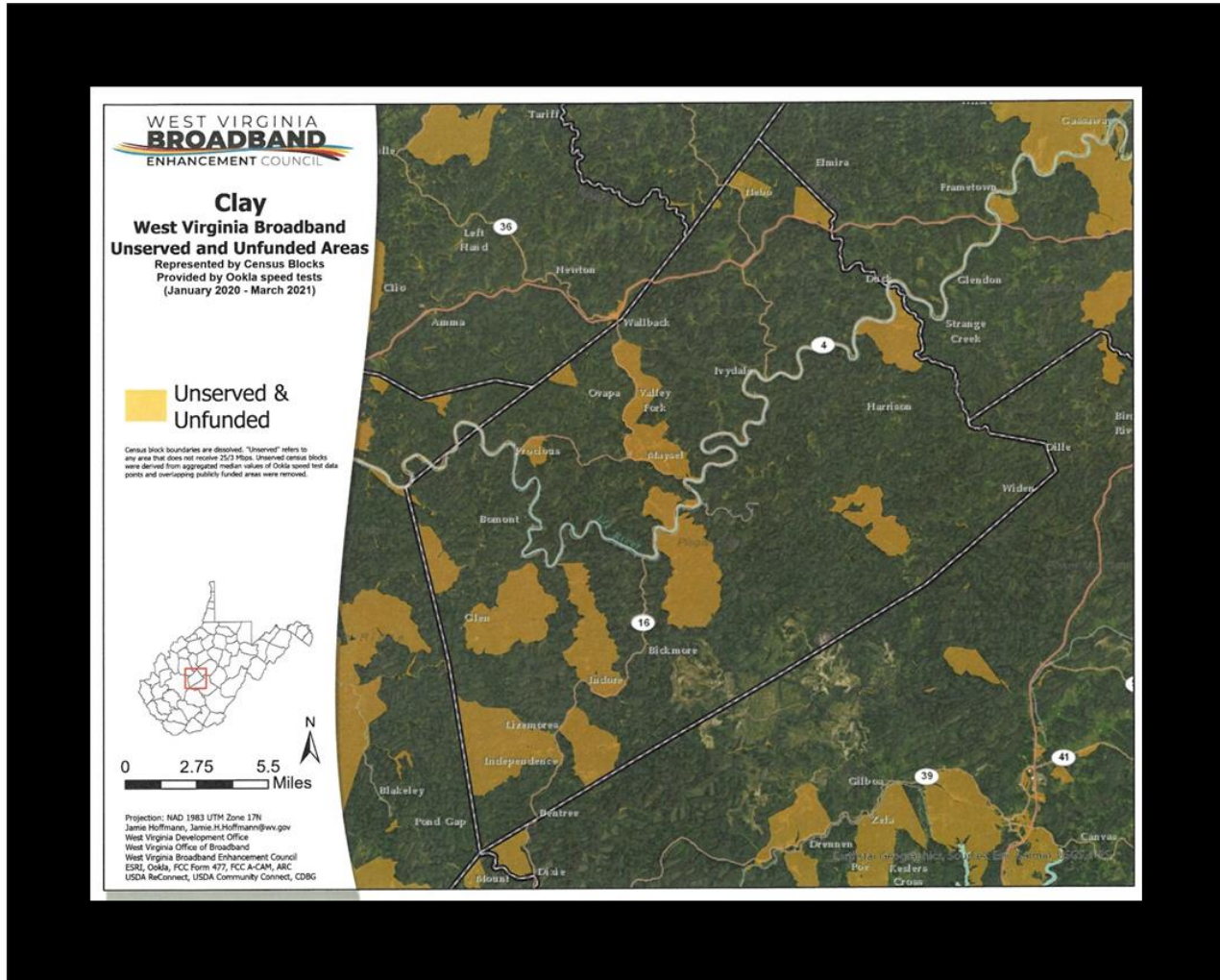
## Gas and Other

Mountaineer Gas is the major provider.

## Broadband

Mapping of Broadband Fixed Development Download/Upload Speed and Unserved/Unfunded Areas in Clay County, provided by the West Virginia Broadband Enhancement Council.





The following “Quality of Life” facts exist in Clay County:

- Two county-wide ambulance services
- Fully equipped volunteer fire department
- One national Blue-Ribbon school
- Public Library
- Primary Health Care Center
- Nursing and Rehabilitation Center
- Clay County Wellness Center
- Annually held events include the Golden Delicious Apple Festival, the July 4<sup>th</sup> celebration, and Agricultural Fair.
- County and Municipal Park and Pool
- Fishing, swimming and canoeing is available on the Elk River
- J. G. Bradley Campground
- Buffalo and Gauley Creek Scenic Railroad



- Buffalo Creek Recreational Trail
- Within 1 hour of State Capitol

## Economy

Clay County is the poorest county within Region III. Clay County has been designated by the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) as “distressed”. The unemployment rate remains high in Clay County. Economic challenges include its relative inaccessibility, absence of developable land and a lack of broadband internet service. The Clay County Board of Education is the top employer in the county.

Clay County is included in a federally designated Enterprise Community, named the Central Appalachia Empowerment Zone of West Virginia (CAEZ), and as such, is entitled to increased state and federal grant assistance. In the application for funding as a Rural Empowerment Zone, the following five areas of need are highlighted: 1) Economic Development; 2) Education; 3) Housing; 4) Health and 5) Emergency Services.

As a result of CAEZ, the following improvements in the education system have occurred: pre-school programs have been placed at elementary schools and the implementation of programs such as work training education at Clay County High School. Additional improvements are expected in the future.

## Reclaimed Fola Surface Mine Site Turned into Military Training Location



The Civil-Military Institute (CMI2) has turned Fola, a reclaimed surface mine site not far from Clay into what is said to become a top training facility in the United States for military and civilian entities. The reclaimed site includes 13,000 acres of challenging topography and soldiers are using 5,000 of

those acres for training exercises. In the coming years there will be many military exercises as the training area grows. The Dirt Days (Driving Innovation in Realistic Training) is one example of the training exercises that take place at the site. Dirt Days is a joint effort between CMI2, the Department of Defense, research universities and non-traditional technology firms, that draws top-trained soldiers in the U.S. Army.

The location of the training grounds will provide Clay County with employment opportunities and promote business growth. There is also hope that the individuals who train at the site will see the rugged beauty that Clay County and West Virginia has to offer, and they will return with their families to the different tourist locations in the area.





## Clay County United States Census Bureau QuickFacts

Clay County - People Quick Facts	Clay County	West Virginia	United States
Population estimate, July 1, 2022	7,814	-	-
Population, 2021 estimate	7,895	-	-
Population, percent change - April 1, 2021 to July 1, 2022	-2.9%	-1.0%	0.6%
Population, Census, April 1, 2020	8,051	1,793,716	331,449,281
Population, 2010	9,386	1,852,994	308,745,538
High school graduate or higher, percent of persons age 25+, 2017-2021	80.1%	88.1%	88.9%
Bachelor's degree or higher, percent of persons age 25+, 2017-2021	12.0%	21.8%	33.7%
Veterans, 2017-2021	475	-	-
Mean travel time to work (minutes), workers age 16+, 2017-2021	38.0	26.0	26.8
Housing units, July 1, 2021	3,944	-	-
Owner-occupied housing rate, 2017-2021	82.3%	73.9%	64.6%
Median value of owner-occupied housing units, 201-2021	\$87,700	\$128,800	\$244,900
Households, 2017-2021	2,896	-	-
Persons per household, 2017-2021	2.80	2.47	2.60
Per capita income in past 12 months (in 2020 dollars), 2017-2021	\$19,149	\$28,761	\$37,638
Median household income, (in 2021 dollars), 2017-2021	\$37,197	\$50,884	\$69,021
Persons in poverty, percent	22.3%	16.8%	11.6%
Households with a computer, 2017-2021	80.1%	87.6%	93.1%
Households with broadband Internet subscription 2017-2021	78.7%	80.8	87.0%
Persons without health insurance, under age 65 years	9.0%	7.6%	9.8%
Persons with a disability, under age 65 years	22.4%	14.1%	8.7%
In civilian labor force, total, percent of population age 16 years +, 2017-2021	39.5%	53.2%	63.1%
Total employer establishments, 2020	70	-	-
Population per square mile, 2020	23.5	74.6	93.8
Population per square mile, 2010	27.5	77.1	87.4

Source: United States Census Bureau



## Top 10 Employers in Clay County

1. Clay County Board of Education
2. Clay Health Center, LLC
3. Clay Senior and Community Services
4. Consol Mining Company, LLC
5. Community Care of West Virginia, LLC
6. West Virginia Department of Highways
7. Clay County Commission
8. Employers' Innovative Network, LLC
9. Clay County Services Unlimited, Inc.
10. C. S. Masonry, LLC

Source: Workforce WV, March 2022



## KANAWHA COUNTY



**Kanawha County Courthouse**



Kanawha County combines the scenic beauty of the Appalachian Mountains with the developmental potential provided by a major river system and mild climate. It is the largest county in the region with a population of 175,515 as of July 2022. The Kanawha River Valley provides much of the flat land used for development in the area. In addition, the Elk River and Coal River serve Kanawha County. In Charleston, the Kanawha River lies at 600 feet above sea level. Kanawha County is 913 square miles in size. The area’s geographical location and surrounding mountains insulate it from tornadoes and hurricanes.

## Distance to Major Cities from Charleston

Atlanta.....	504 miles
Chicago.....	541 miles
Cincinnati.....	200 miles
Cleveland.....	252 miles
Columbus.....	167 miles
Lexington.....	178 miles
New York.....	530 miles
Pittsburgh.....	227 miles
Washington, DC.....	361 miles

## Transportation

### Highways

Three major interstates serve the Kanawha Valley: I-64, I-79, and I-77.

### **Completed or Planned Highway Improvements:**

➤ **WV 601 (Jefferson Road) Improvements in South Charleston:** Construction of the project is in progress. Once complete, the project will promote economic vitality and improve access to surrounding businesses, attractions, employment centers, and public places of interest. Construction of the project is expected to be completed over four phases.

- Widen to five lanes between Kanawha Turnpike and Corridor G
- Construct a connector road from RHL Blvd. at Trace Fork Shopping Center to Jefferson Road.
- Construct a flyover bridge over CSX mainline tracks and Kanawha Turnpike.

Funding Source: FHWA and WVDOT

- Construct a roundabout at the intersection of Kanawha Turnpike and WV 601 (Jefferson Road)
- Cost: \$60 million

➤ **Nitro-St. Albans I-64 Improvement Project:** The I-64 Improvement Project, currently in the construction phase, is a multi-year project that will widen I-64 from the US 35/I-64 Interchange to just



east of the Nitro Interchange. The project will increase traffic volume capacity, enhance safety, and support ongoing economic growth.

Funding Source: FHWA and WVDOT  
Cost: \$245 million

- **US 60 Improvements in Kanawha County:** Widening to a four-lane divided facility from Admiral TJ Lopez Bridge (Chelyan Bridge) to CR 81 (Kelly's Creek Road).

Funding Source: FHWA and WVDOT  
Cost: \$31.3 million

## Public Transportation

The Kanawha Valley Regional Transportation Authority (KVRTA) serves Kanawha County and portions of Fayette and Putnam Counties. KVRTA operates a network of 20 fixed routes oriented around the commercial center of Charleston. Except for four holidays, service is provided seven days a week. The earliest routes begin at 4:25am and service continues until 12:55am the next day. Complementary paratransit service, known as Kanawha Alternative Transit (KAT), operates during the same days and hours.

## Rail Service

Rail freight service is supplied by CSX, on the southern side of the Kanawha River, and Norfolk-Southern on the northern side of Kanawha River.

Train service is available by Amtrak. The Charleston, WV Amtrak station sits on the south bank of the Kanawha River, opposite downtown Charleston.

## Air Service

West Virginia International Yeager Airport in Charleston offers competitive airfares to destinations throughout the world and nonstop flights to six major cities. The airport is a short drive from downtown Charleston and only a few minutes from the intersection of three major interstates. West Virginia International Yeager Airport serves as a U.S. Customs Port of Entry and has 4 major airlines: American Airlines, United Airlines, Delta Airlines, and Breeze.

## UTILITIES

### Water

West Virginia American Water provides water throughout most of Kanawha County. There are also a number of municipal providers and Public Service Districts.

### Electric

American Electric Power (AEP) provides electrical power throughout Kanawha County.





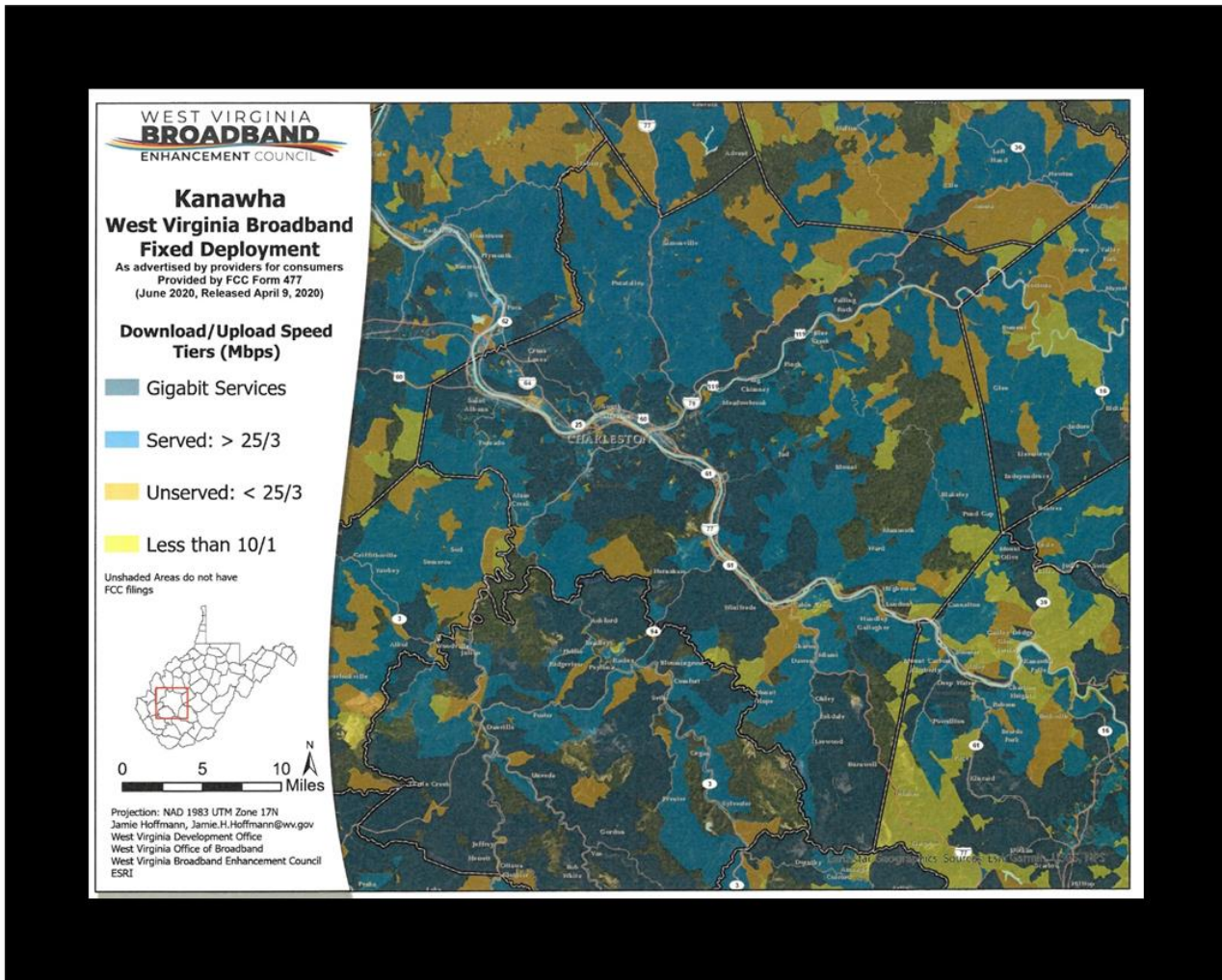
# FY 2023 CEDS Update

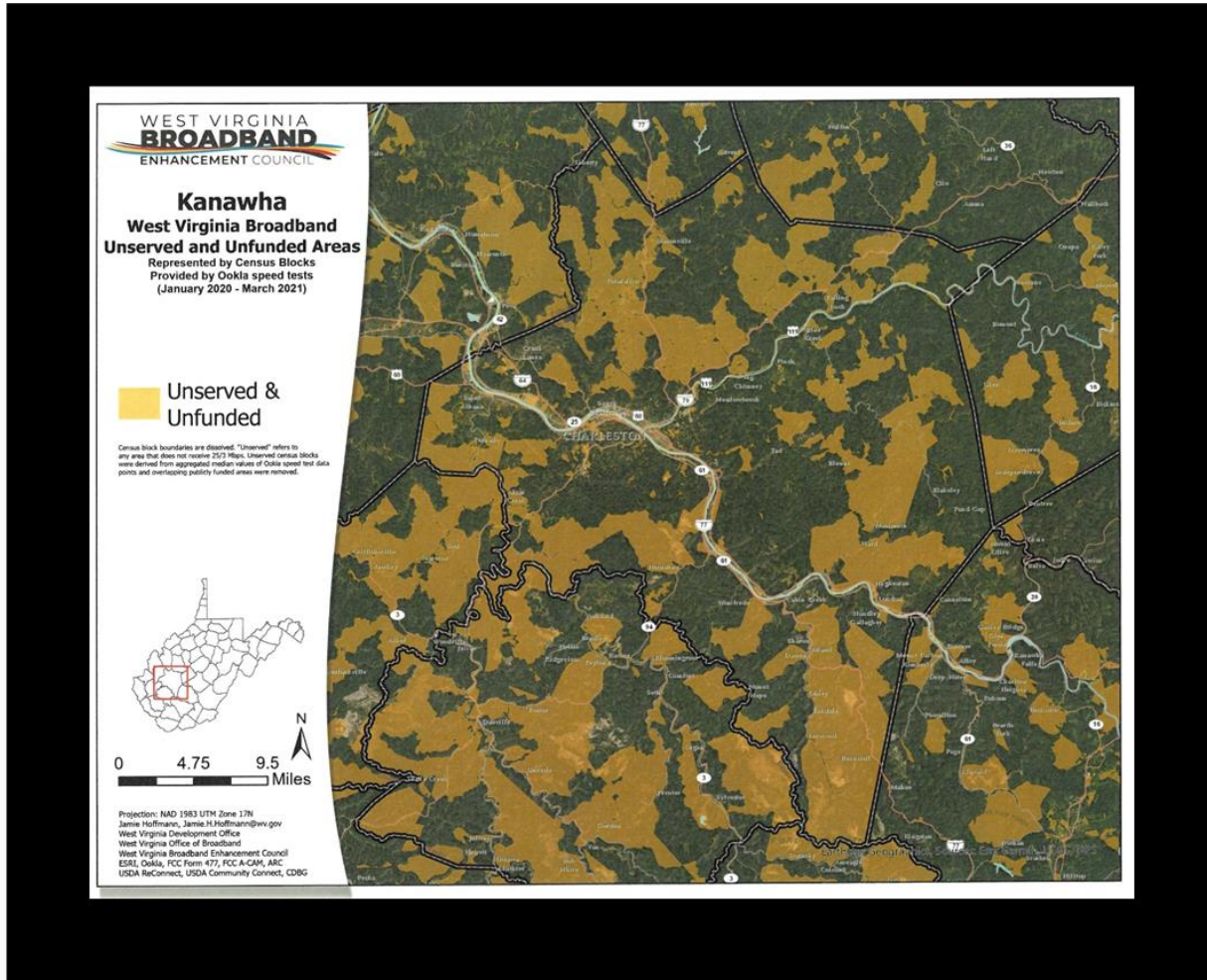
## Gas and Other

Natural gas is supplied by Mountaineer Gas. Coal, fuel oil and propane are readily available from local suppliers.

## Broadband

Mapping of Broadband Fixed Development Download/Upload Speed and Unserved/Unfunded Areas in Kanawha County, provided by the West Virginia Broadband Enhancement Council.



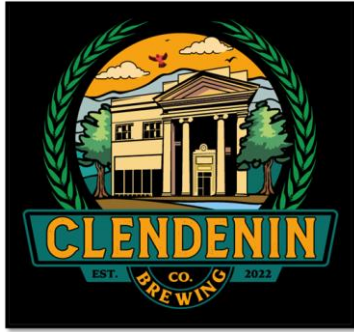


## Economy

Population has shrunk in the Kanawha Valley for nearly 30 years. In the 1960 census, Charleston had 86,000 in population and Kanawha County 253,000. Today, the capital city is slipping below 48,000 and the county below 176,000. The reason for Kanawha Valley’s decreasing numbers is due to loss of jobs. Chemical plants automated, glass plants closed, and coal mining jobs saw a steady decline. However, there are successes in the county, South Charleston’s Gestamp provides over 400 good paying jobs and the South Charleston Technology Park and Mid-Atlantic Technology Research, and Innovation Center have been successful. In addition, more new companies are starting to move to Kanawha County.

Major industries in Kanawha County include healthcare, government, chemicals and manufacturing. There are 4,571 businesses in Kanawha County, representing more employment opportunities than any county in the West Virginia.

There are fourteen (14) municipalities in Kanawha County: They are: Belle, Cedar Grove, Charleston, Chesapeake, Clendenin, Dunbar, East Bank, Glasgow, Handley, Marmet, Nitro, Pratt, St. Albans and South Charleston.



### Clendenin Brewery Company

Clendenin Brewery Company, owned by Matt and Nikki Holbert, opened in June 2022. The brewery is located on the main floor of the former Farmers & Citizens State Bank in downtown Clendenin. They produce high quality craft beer that is available in their taproom, they also offer wholesale distribution in the Kanawha Valley and central West Virginia. The taproom has an adjoining brewery space that allows patrons to see the brewer crafting the different beers. The brewery has a food menu that consists of smoked BBQ chicken and

BBQ Pork, in addition to other items. Axe throwing, shuffleboard and board games are available at the brewery. Additionally, bingo is offered every Thursday with free prizes. There are also four rooms above the brewery that are available on Air B&B.

### Kanawha County United States Census Bureau QuickFacts

Kanawha County - People Quick Facts	Kanawha County	West Virginia	United States
Population estimate, July 1, 2022	175,515	-	-
Population Estimate base, April 1, 2021	180,744	-	-
Population, percent change – April 1, 2021 to July 1, 2022	-2.9%	-1.0%	0.6%
Population Census April 1, 2020	180,745	1,793,716	331,449,281
Population, Census, April 1, 2010	193,063	1,852,994	308,745,538
High school graduate or higher, percent of persons age 25+, 2017-2021	90.3%	88.1%	88.9%
Bachelor's degree or higher, percent of persons age 25+, 2017-2021	27.4%	21.8%	33.7%
Veterans, 2017-2021	10,932	-	-
Mean travel time to work (minutes), workers age 16+, 2017-2021	21.6	26.0	26.8
Households, 2017-2021	786,919	-	-
Persons per household, 2017-2021	2.33	2.47	2.60
Housing units, July 1, 2021	90,398	-	-
Owner-occupied housing unit rate, 2017-2021	69.9%	73.9%	64.6%
Median value of owner-occupied housing unit rate, 2017-2021	\$118,200	\$128,800	\$244,900
Per capita income in past 12 months (2021 dollars), 2017-2021	\$31,894	\$28,761	\$37,638
Median household income, (in 2021 dollars) 2017-2021	\$50,574	\$50,884	\$69,021
Persons in poverty, percent	15.9%	16.8%	11.6%
Households with a computer, 2017-2021	89.5%	87.6%	93.1%
Households with broadband Internet subscription 2017-2021	83.5%	80.8	87.0%
Persons without health insurance, under age 65 years	7.9%	7.6%	9.8%
Persons with a disability, under age 65 years	13.7%	14.1%	8.7%
In civilian labor force, total, percent of population age 16 years +, 2017-2021	55.3%	53.2%	63.1%
Total employer establishments, 2020	4,571	-	-
Population per square mile, 2020	200.5	74.6	93.8
Population per square mile, 2010	214.1	77.1	87.4

Source: United States Census Bureau





## **Top 10 Employers in Kanawha County**

1. CAMC Health System
2. Kanawha County Board of Education
3. WV Department of Health and Human Resources
4. Thomas Health System, Inc.
5. Walmart
6. West Virginia Department of Highways
7. West Virginia Department of Corrections
8. United States Postal Service
9. Kroger
10. City of Charleston

Source: Workforce WV, March 2022



## PUTNAM COUNTY



**Putnam County Courthouse**



Putnam County lies within the Allegheny Plateau. The Kanawha River Valley bisects Putnam County from southeast to northwest and provides much of the flat land used for development in the area. Putnam County is located between West Virginia’s two largest cities – Charleston and Huntington. There are six (6) municipalities in Putnam County, they are listed as follows: Bancroft, Buffalo, Eleanor, Hurricane, Poca and Winfield. Also, a portion of Nitro is located in Putnam County.

## Distance to Major Cities from Winfield

Atlanta.....	534 miles
Chicago.....	469 miles
Cincinnati.....	180 miles
Cleveland.....	275 miles
Columbus.....	200 miles
Lexington.....	170 miles
New York.....	570 miles
Pittsburgh.....	257 miles
Washington, DC.....	365 miles

## TRANSPORTATION

### Highways

Putnam County is served by Interstate 64, which provides service from St. Louis, Missouri to Richmond, Virginia by US Routes 35 and 60 & WV Routes 34 and 62.

### **Completed or Planned Highway Improvements:**

- **US 35 between WV 869 and Mason Co 40:** This project paved the new 14.60-mile corridor along with the construction of an interchange at WV 869.

Funding Source: FHWA and WVDOT  
 Cost: \$58 million

- **I-64 between Scott Depot Exit and Nitro Exit:** The project, currently in the construction phase, is a multi-year project that will widen I-64 from the US 35/I-64 Interchange to just east of the Nitro Interchange. The project will improve traffic volume capacity, enhance safety, and support continued economic growth in the area.

Funding Source: FHWA and WVDOT  
 Cost: \$245 million

- **Culloden Interchange:**

- New Entrance/Exit Ramp along Interstate 64
- Located primarily in Cabell County, but connector roads and ramps will be in Putnam County.

### Public Transportation



Public transportation services are provided by the Kanawha Valley Regional Transportation Authority (KVRTA) throughout a small portion of Putnam County through Nitro Marketplace. Taxi service is available through Teays Valley Taxi.

### Rail Service

Freight service is provided by CSX and Northern Southern. Amtrak service traverses Putnam County, but the nearest stations are in Huntington and Charleston.

### Air Service

Air service in Putnam County is provided by West Virginia International Yeager Airport, located in Charleston.

## UTILITIES

### Water

Water is provided to Putnam County residents by West Virginia American Water, Putnam Public Service District and the City of Hurricane.

### Electric

American Electric Power (AEP) provides electricity throughout Putnam County.

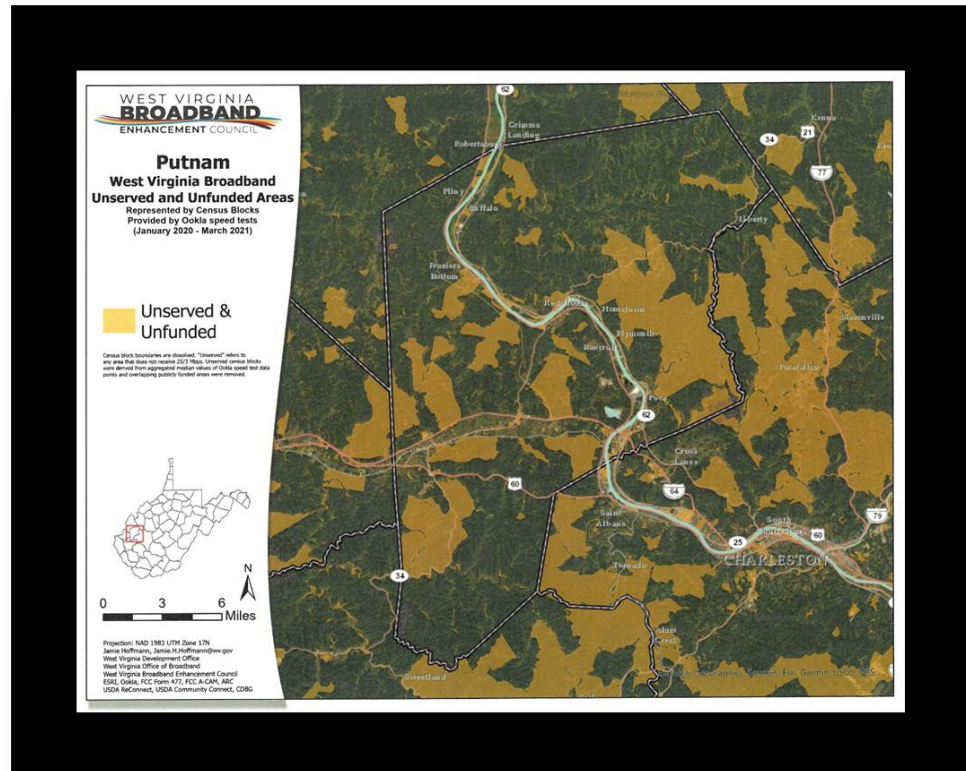
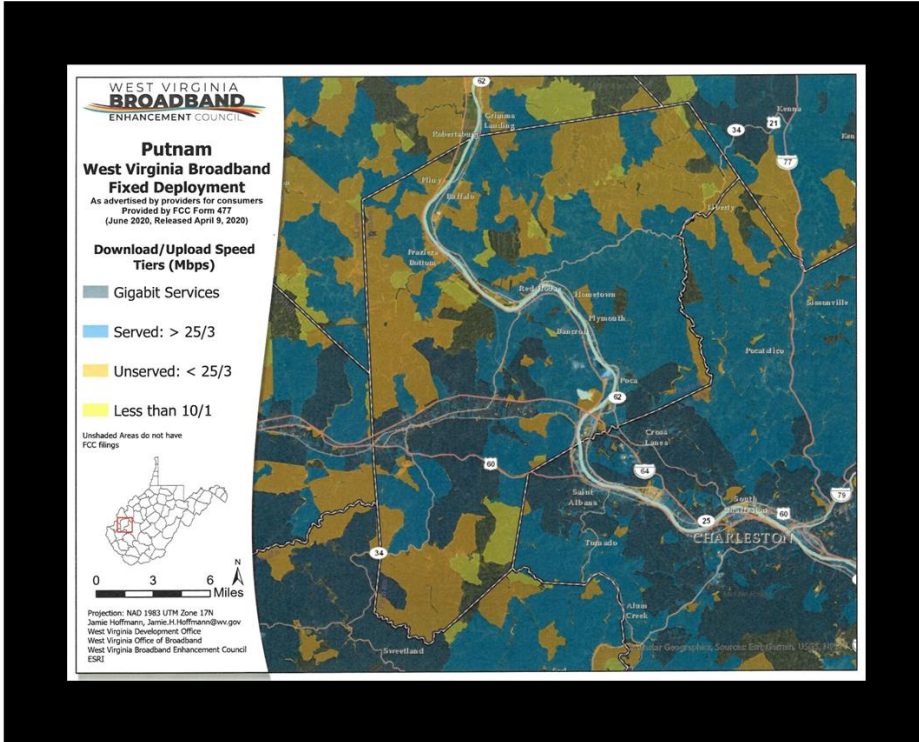
### Gas and Other

Natural gas is provided by Mountaineer Gas.

### Broadband

Mapping of Broadband Fixed Development Download/Upload Speed and Unserved/Unfunded Areas in Putnam County, provided by the West Virginia Broadband Enhancement Council.

*\* See Maps on following page*







## Economy

Putnam County is the fastest economically growing county in the region, with an economy that has continued to flourish during the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. In the past year, numerous businesses have expanded throughout the county including business at multiple industrial parks. New developments and residential subdivisions are also continuing to be built. Putnam County has the advantage of being located between Charleston and Huntington and connected by interstate highway to both cities. The county is endowed with a relatively large amount of flat developable land, both in the Teays Valley area and in the Kanawha River Valley. The widening of U.S. 35 from I-64 to Buffalo (including a new I-64 interchange) has boosted economic development potential.

Teays Valley is mostly a mix of residential, retail and service development. Additional industrial, retail and service establishments can be found in the following industrial and business parks:

Eleanor Industrial Park, Eleanor  
HUB Industrial Park, Nitro  
Putnam Business Park, Fraziers Bottom

Par Industrial Park, Nitro  
Rock Branch Industrial Park, Poca  
Teays Valley Industrial Park, Scott Depot



## The Looking Glass Boutique

The Looking Glass Boutique, located at 2887 Charleston Road in Poca held their grand opening on April 15, 2023. The boutique carries women's clothing, shoes, handbags, and accessories. They also offer bath and body products and now carry Sonoma Lavender Company. The Looking Glass Boutique is the go-to location to find an outfit for any occasion as well as the perfect gift for someone special.





## Putnam County United States Census Bureau QuickFacts

Putnam County - People Quick Facts	Putnam County	West Virginia	United States
Population estimate, July 1, 2022	57,015	-	-
Population estimate base, April 1, 2021	57,355	-	-
Population, percent change - April 1, 2021 to July 1, 2022	-0.7%	-1.0%	0.6%
Population, Census, April 1, 2020	57,440	1,793,716	331,449,281
Population, Census, April 1, 2010	55,486	1,852,994	308,745,538
High school graduate or higher, percent of persons age 25+, 2017-2021	92.5%	88.1%	88.9%
Bachelor's degree or higher, percent of persons age 25+, 2017-2021	26.7%	21.8%	33.7%
Veterans, 2017-2021	3,523	-	-
Mean travel time to work (minutes), workers age 16+, 2017-2021	28	26.0	26.8
Households, 2017-2021	22,075	-	-
Persons per household, 2017-2021	2.59	2.47	2.60
Housing units, July 1, 2021	24,865	-	-
Owner-occupied housing unit rate, 2017-2021	82.2%	73.9%	64.6%
Median value of owner-occupied housing unit rate, 2017-2021	\$176,300	\$128,800	\$244,900
Per capita income in past 12 months (2021 dollars), 2017-2021	\$34,832	\$28,761	\$37,638
Median household income, (in 2021 dollars) 2017-2021	\$68,740	\$50,884	\$69,021
Persons in poverty, percent	10.1%	16.8%	11.6%
Households with a computer, 2017-2021	90.7%	87.6%	93.1%
Households with broadband Internet subscription 2017-2021	82.7%	80.8	87.0%
Persons without health insurance, under age 65 years	6.5%	7.6%	9.8%
Persons with a disability, under age 65 years	6.6%	14.1%	8.7%
In civilian labor force, total, percent of population age 16 years +, 2017-2021	58.9%	53.2%	63.1%
Total employer establishments, 2020	1,192	-	-
Population per square mile, 2020	166.2	74.6	93.8
Population per square mile, 2010	160.5	77.1	87.4

Source: United States Census Bureau



## Top 10 Employers in Putnam County

1. Toyota Motor Manufacturing, WV, Inc.
2. Putnam County Board of Education
3. Coast Personnel Services
4. CAMC Health System
5. Apex Pipeline Services, Inc.
6. Walmart
7. Triton Construction, Inc.
8. Appalachian Power Company
9. Nitro Construction Services, Inc.
10. Diamond Electric Manufacturing Corp.

Source: Workforce WV, March 2022



## E. Regional Intergovernmental Council (RIC) Progress Report

### Local Technical Assistance

The Council's staff was involved in various stages of projects, including.

- Provided grant administration to twelve or more local governments having HUD, EPA, USDA, US Army Corps of Engineer 571 and 340 programs and ARC grants, as well as State agency grants. This is an important service offered by RIC to keep local governments in compliance with federal regulations and audits.
- Disseminated information on State and Federal development programs to all local governments in the RIC region. Worked with local officials in developing projects.
- Served on various committees and boards, including the Putnam County Transportation Committee, Clay County Broadband Committee, CCR Regional Broadband Committee, the Greater Kanawha Valley Foundation Economic Development Committee, the Kanawha Coal Reliant Communities Group, the Community Reinvestment Act Committee, the WV Association of Regional Planning and Development Councils, and the WV Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations.
- Assisted communities and others by providing GIS mapping and other technical services. Provided information regarding various government programs and advised communities in dealing with various technical and administrative issues.
- Assisted the Town of Smithers, the Town of Glasgow, Town of Clay and the Clay County Commission by providing technical assistance to develop outdoor recreation projects to be considered for Department of Interior Land and Water Conservation Grants.
- Provided census and other data to local governments, communities, and others.
- Assisted local water providers in development source-water assessment and protection plans.
- Assisted communities in Boone and Clay counties with initiating Broadband Cooperatives and applying for needed funding.

### Community and Economic Development

- RIC administered a number of infrastructure projects, including: Boone County PSD Sewer Project; Boone County Prenter II waterline Extension; Boone County Right Fork Waterline Extension, Clay County Pack Fork and Independence Road Waterline Extension Project; Clay County Big Otter/Nebo/Walker Road Waterline Extension, Clay-Roane PSD Waterline Extension Project; and Belle Sewer Rehabilitation Project.



- RIC is assisting in the development of additional infrastructure projects, including Nitro Regional Wastewater Treatment Improvements; the Boone County/Madison Sewer Rehabilitation Project; the Kanawha PSD Sewer Extension Project, the Elk Valley PSD Sewer Extension Project, the Clay County PSD Big Otter Nebo Walker Road Waterline Extension, Town of Clay Water Tank Replacement, Town of Clay Wastewater Improvements and Cedar Grove Sewer Project. RIC also assisted with funding requests for many other projects, some of which are pending.
- RIC also continues to administer a U.S. EDA planning grant to TechConnect WV.
- RIC prepared three (3) newsletters and one Annual Report.
- Attended the WV Association of Regional Planning and Development Councils Annual Conference.
- Assisted Central Appalachia Empowerment Zone in developing an application for a technology center broadband grant from ARC.
- Completed nine HUD Community Development and Appalachian Regional Commission Applications.
- Participated in numerous trainings on the POWER+ Program and the Broadband Infrastructure Program through the WV Broadband Committee.
- Assisted TechConnect WV with an EDA economic adjustment application for their new TKWKS WV project.

## **Private Development**

- Completed and submitted annual CEDS Update.
- Provided information on Region III to consultants, market analysts and private businesses to promote economic development.
- Assisted the WV Tech Park with developing Build Back Better EDA application for a new area of development.
- Assisted the State with broadband development efforts, including reviewing applications for technical assistance grants and preparing a regional broadband strategic plan.
- Assisting the Putnam Public Service District to upgrade their force Main Lines and Pump Station to accommodate new development of a large commercial user.
- Assisting the Putnam Public Service District to upgrade their water treatment plant to provide all business and residences in their system. The District is operating on approximately 70% capacity.
- Assisting in the development of a waterline to the Rock Creek Development Park (formerly the Hobet Complex) in Boone County to foster business expansion and creation in the Boone County Region.



## Transportation Planning

### Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP)

The current Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) was updated and developed for Kanawha and Putnam counties. The MTP was adopted by the RIC Policy Board in September 2021. This multimodal plan was updated to reflect existing and planned infrastructure and investments of the region's transportation network. The MTP identifies multimodal deficiencies and opportunities for the region's transportation network including highway, public transit, bicycle and pedestrian facilities.

The RIC MTP is updated on a four-year cycle. The *2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan* was adopted by the RIC Policy board on September 9, 2021.

### Transit Planning

RIC continues to assist the region's largest public transportation provider, the Kanawha Valley Regional Transportation Authority (KVRTA), and all organizations that provide paratransit services. RIC continues to conduct the intergovernmental review process for the Section 5310 grant program on an annual basis. RIC coordinates with KVRTA in the development process of transit performance and transit safety targets to increase safety and transit infrastructure conditions as part of the Transportation Performance Management (TPM) initiative.

### Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

RIC transportation planning staff developed the FY 2022-2025 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) during FY 2021. The FY 2022-2025 TIP was adopted by the RIC Policy Board on December 9, 2021. Throughout 2022, the RIC transportation planning staff presented proposed transportation project revision requests and amendments for the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to the RIC Policy Board for consideration and approval on a quarterly basis.

### Census Management Planning

During 2022, RIC continued to maintain its census library of printed and digital data materials. RIC transportation planning staff responded to census requests from member municipalities, agencies, and the public as new data from the 2020 Census was released. RIC transportation planning staff assisted with census mapping requests from member municipalities and the public.

### Hazard Mitigation Planning

During 2022, RIC administered and facilitated the five-year update to the Region Hazard Mitigation Plan which encompasses all hazards impacting Boone, Clay, Kanawha and Putnam counties. Hazard Mitigation Plans increase education about natural and manmade disasters and identify current and future risks and implementation projects focused on the most vulnerable populations to improve resiliency, hazard prevention, and disaster mitigation for communities in Region 3. An approved hazard mitigation plan is required to be adopted by participating municipalities and counties to be eligible to receive federal disaster assistance, creating the necessity that all municipalities and counties in the region pass a formal resolution adopting the hazard mitigation plan. The update to the Region 3 Hazard Mitigation Plan is complete and was granted Approvable Pending Adoption (APA) status by the Federal Emergency Management Agency





(FEMA) Region 3 in 2022.

## **Transportation Databases/Geographic Information (GIS)**

RIC transportation planning staff continued to expand capabilities and increase mapping and data services utilizing Geographic Information System (GIS) technology in 2022 through the acquisition of additional GIS data, software, and training. RIC continues to utilize GIS-based software and technology in most of its transportation planning endeavors. GIS software and technology enables the RIC transportation planning staff to provide mapping and data analysis for transportation planning initiatives and RIC Community Development projects, in addition to other projects for regional agencies and stakeholders.

## **Bicycle and Pedestrian Initiatives**

RIC transportation planning staff continues bicycle and pedestrian planning initiatives through the continuation of the RIC Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC). The committee meets on a quarterly basis to further the development and implementation of non-motorized transportation improvements throughout Kanawha and Putnam counties. RIC continues its Americans with Disabilities (ADA) Technical Assistance Program to promote education and provide technical assistance for member municipalities in developing self-evaluations and ADA transition plans.

## **RIC Title VI Plan**

The RIC Title VI Plan for transportation planning was first adopted by the RIC Policy Board in June 2016 and requires the RIC transportation planning program and activities must comply with the requirements of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as well as subsequent acts and executive orders which fall under the umbrella of Title VI. During 2022, RIC transportation planning staff developed and completed an update to the Title VI Plan. The plan provides specific guidelines for RIC to comply with the requirements of Title VI. The goal of the plan is to ensure transportation planning activities which utilize federal funding do not discriminate against any person or group of people on the basis of race, religion, sex, national origin, ethnicity, age, disability, political affiliation, color, marital status, sexual orientation, economic status, or any other characteristic protected by federal law. The RIC Title VI Plan for transportation planning is reviewed annually by the Transportation Technical Advisory Committee (TTAC) during the years between plan updates. The update to the Title VI Plan was adopted by the RIC Policy Board in 2022.

## **RIC Public Participation Plan**

The RIC Public Participation Plan for transportation planning was updated and adopted by the RIC Policy Board in 2022. The plan details the strategies, techniques, and activities used to inform, engage, and involve the public through the metropolitan transportation planning process for the purpose of improving and maximizing public involvement. The plan also includes current and future strategies, techniques, and activities used to promote public participation through various planning initiatives and programs of the RIC. Additionally, the Public Participation Plan outlines goals and objectives to ensure meaningful and comprehensive public participation in metropolitan transportation planning activities.

A significant area of importance in the plan is the ongoing focus of addressing equity and ensure inclusiveness in public outreach efforts for underserved communities, minority populations, low-income populations, persons of limited English proficiency (LEP), low-literacy persons, and persons with



disabilities. The RIC Public Participation Plan for transportation planning is reviewed annually by the Transportation Technical Advisory Committee (TTAC) during the years between plan updates. During 2022, RIC transportation planning staff developed and completed an update of the plan. The update to the Public Participation Plan was adopted by the RIC Policy Board in 2022.

## **RIC Congestion Management Plan**

In 2016, RIC transportation planning staff began developing a Congestion Management Plan (CMP) and process for the RIC transportation planning area. The CMP was the first of its kind and is a requirement for MPOs that have planning jurisdiction within a Transportation Management Area (TMA). The plan identifies highway segments which regularly experience above average travel times. Actual vehicle travel time data for the region were used to identify these segments. Public input was also solicited for determining high-congestion areas. Short-term and long-term solutions were developed for the purpose of alleviating traffic congestion on identified high-congestion segments.

Originating as a suggestion from the Congestion Management Plan (CMP), the development of an initial System Performance Report for the RIC transportation planning area began in 2018 and was completed in 2019. The report reflects the integration of national performance goals from the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act—reaffirmed by the current federal transportation legislation, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). The RIC System Performance Report is updated on an annual basis and is utilized in assessing the efficiency of the transportation network in the RIC transportation planning area of Kanawha and Putnam counties.

MPOs are required to coordinate with State DOTs and public transit providers to integrate performance-based transportation planning as set forth by the USDOT Transportation Performance Management (TPM) initiative.

The RIC System Performance Report details performance measures and performance targets adopted by the state of West Virginia, RIC, and the Kanawha Valley Regional Transportation Authority (KVRTA) for the purposes of documenting performance and tracking progress, supporting data-driven processes for transportation investments and planning efforts. The RIC transportation planning staff completed an update to the System Performance Report in 2021. An update to the System Performance Report was initiated in 2022.



### III. SWOT Analysis

**SWOT Analysis at a Glance from the FY 2023 CEDS Committee**

<p><b>Strengths</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Transportation Access</li> <li>2. Abundant Workforce</li> <li>3. Diversity of Industry and Business</li> <li>4. Natural Resources</li> <li>5. Education</li> <li>6. WV Regional Technology Park</li> <li>7. Workforce Opportunity</li> </ol>	<p><b>Opportunities</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Bank Loans and Grants for Businesses</li> <li>2. Out of Country or State Investors</li> <li>3. Re-employment of Idle Workforce</li> <li>4. Shale Gas Industry</li> <li>5. Health Care</li> <li>6. Startup Businesses in Technology</li> <li>7. Entrepreneurial Development</li> <li>8. Remote Work</li> <li>9. Leveraging Tourism</li> <li>10. Former Mine Sites</li> </ol>
<p><b>Weaknesses</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Lack of Developable Building Sites</li> <li>2. Layoff of Workers</li> <li>3. Lack of Infrastructure</li> <li>4. Lack of Trained Workers</li> </ol>	<p><b>Threats</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Local Businesses Shutting Down</li> <li>2. Workforce Readiness</li> <li>3. Lack of Capital</li> <li>4. Opioid Epidemic</li> <li>5. Threat of Vacancy</li> </ol>

A detailed SWOT Analysis is included in the FY 2019 – 2023 CEDS



## **IV. Strategic Direction / Action Plan**



A. 2023 CEDS Goals, Objectives, and Development Strategies

<b>Goal</b>	
<b>To achieve a diversified, balanced economy for the Region.</b>	
<b>Objective</b>	<b>Strategy</b>
<b>Economic Development Objectives and Strategies</b>	
<p>Maintain a strong industrial base with construction of new industrial parks and expansion of existing industrial parks.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with economic development agencies, workforce investment boards, vocational schools and community colleges to develop and advertise training programs for area residents.</li> <li>• Cooperate with local agencies in developing industrial sites.</li> <li>• Support manpower training programs for a skilled labor force.</li> <li>• Disseminate information on market conditions and federal assistance programs to local governments and business associations.</li> <li>• Assist in identifying potential industrial sites in the region.</li> <li>• Promote continued development and expansion of the WV Regional Technology Park.</li> <li>• Develop water, sewer, transportation and broadband infrastructure in preferred development areas.</li> </ul>
<p>Promote entrepreneurship, innovation and small business growth in the region.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assist small business incubators and local non-profit economic development programs to expand local businesses.</li> </ul>
<p>Support the expansion of tourism and convention business.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with state and local trail and tourism groups to promote attractions of Region III.</li> <li>• Support travel-related projects being planned for the region.</li> <li>• Promote fairs, festivals and other events within the region.</li> <li>• Establish, cultivate and grow new local attractions into a tourism destination.</li> <li>• Promote river adventures on the Kanawha, Elk and Coal Rivers.</li> </ul>





<p>Support local downtown revitalization plans and community services for economic growth.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide technical assistance to municipalities wishing to upgrade their structures and services.</li> <li>• Support the development of services and facilities necessary for long-term growth.</li> <li>• Assist communities in applying for USDOT Transportation grants for downtown streetscape projects.</li> </ul>
<p>Promote new and diversified technological training to assist emerging markets and processes in the region.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide technology-based opportunities in software and network security.</li> <li>• Develop workforce training programs for 21<sup>st</sup> Century requirements.</li> </ul>
<p>Identify grants and other revenue streams as related to RIC's overall purpose, particularly those related to community and economic development.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seek grants of various sources and contents to assist in attaining identified goals and objectives.</li> <li>• Seek outside partners who may have the same or varied interests.</li> </ul>
<p><b>International Economic Development Objectives and Strategies</b></p>	
<p>Promote international trade development by increasing awareness of trade resources and information available at the local, state and federal level to help WV companies take advantage of the overseas demand for U.S. products and services. Promote Foreign Direct Investment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide startup support and consultative services in the areas of business and marketing plans, management, international finance, global market entry and growth strategies, research and analysis, product design and development plans.</li> <li>• Support technical assistance projects that provide knowledge of customers, products, and competitors to better capture and maintain global market share.</li> <li>• Fund incubators to commercialize regional development, patents and inventions into innovative products.</li> <li>• Partner with U. S. Commercial Service and WV Office of Economic Development to provide Technical Assistance to local governments and economic development authorities.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Infrastructure Objectives and Strategies</b></p>	
<p>Support the region's infrastructure development.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support and coordinate water, sewer, transportation and broadband infrastructure in the four-county region.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Workforce Development Objectives and Strategies</b></p>	



<p>Support the region’s energy and chemical industries.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote clean coal technology.</li> <li>• Support construction of an ethane “cracker” in the region.</li> <li>• Provide end use economic opportunities for mountain top removal lands.</li> <li>• Promote the use of natural gas as a motor vehicle fuel.</li> </ul>
<p>Assist communities to attract major employers and/or training institutes and career colleges where regions have experienced the long-term impact of the downturn in coal/energy, are experiencing sudden and severe closures of major employers, and/or are experiencing the closure of community schools leading to the occurrence or planned occurrence of the loss of the highest salaried jobs in the area.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To assist in the attraction of new, diverse companies, and/or the reuse of higher educational facilities for new training programs to better attract new employers, to provide training to at-risk students/trainees, more relevant apprenticeships or OJTs training programs for those newly attracted companies.</li> <li>• Identify facility uses and likely occupants.</li> <li>• Building a resilient workforce that can better shift between jobs or industries when their core employment is threatened through job-driven skills strategies and support organizations.</li> </ul>
<p>Recommend, wherever feasible, the hiring of apprentices to assist in the building of a labor ready workforce and providing accessible services to those with disabilities including those with barriers to employment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To provide goals to hire apprentices and develop a training regimen to increase their ability to become a journeyed craftsman.</li> <li>• Work with labor unions and WV Rehabilitation Services.</li> <li>• To set goals that provide employment to qualified persons that might have disabilities.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Safety and Resilience Objectives and Strategies</b></p>	
<p>Assist communities and regions which have suffered losses in coal mining and related manufacturing and power plant employment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide assistance to development, economic diversity, and community impact in affected communities.</li> <li>• Workforce development and economic resilience in coal-dependent communities.</li> </ul>
<p>Identify Hazard Mitigation procedures and goals as they relate to economic development.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review procedures and plans that might benefit business expansion or retention.</li> <li>• Work with communities and businesses to develop cooperation on mitigation planning.</li> </ul>
<p>Assist major employers, colleges and</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To assist business and government in time of natural</li> </ul>



universities thru difficult economic and tenuous times.	disaster by developing processes and procedures that relate to their concerns.
Build economic resilience in times of major business and social disruptions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Employing safe development practices in business districts and surrounding communities.</li> <li>• Adapting business retention and expansion programs (e.g., economic gardening or other enterprise supports) to assist firms with economic recovery post-disruption.</li> </ul>

\* 2023 CEDS Goals, Objectives, and Development Strategies were approved by the CEDS Committee on April 25, 2023

## B. Regional and County Priority Project Listing

### Description of Programs, Project Selection and the Prioritization Process

The project package, a central listing of economic development projects, is a culmination of outreach efforts throughout the year. RIC has determined all projects to be classified as short-term, but in many cases, with long-term economic impact.

The process to assure the package includes all projects is as follows:

- Review of the previous year’s project package
- Correspondence to all RIC members specifically requesting information regarding projects in their communities.
- Outreach to local economic development organizations
- CEDS committee input and meeting.

**\* Project Listing begins on the following page**



## 2023 Regional and County Project List

<b>Water Projects:</b>				
ID NO.	Project Name	County	Sponsor	Project Cost
1	<b>Right Fork Waterline Extension</b>	Boone	Boone County PSD	\$800,000
	To provide water service to approximately 10 residents in Boone County from the end of the Morrisvale Cameo waterline extension to the county line.			
2	<b>Prenter Phase II Waterline Extension</b>	Boone	Boone County PSD	\$2,150,000
	To provide potable water to the residents of Prenter proper, approximately 50 families, which currently have untested well water and mining has changed the water table.			
3	<b>Harrison Widen Waterline Extension</b>	Clay	Clay County PSD	\$7,000,000
	To provide water service to approximately 100 residences from Triplett Ridge to Nicholas County.			
4	<b>Clay County PSD Big Otter Nebo Waterline</b>	Clay	Clay County PSD	\$5,300,000
	To provide potable water to the 100 households near Interstate 79. This project has been developed for over 20 years with the inability of the Town of Clay to supply the necessary capacity of water to the residents. The Town of Clay completed their new plant in 2013 which doubled their volume and storage. The treatment plant can only be successful if additional customers are added in the near future.			
5	<b>Moorefield (Ossie Road) Waterline Extension</b>	Clay	Clay County PSD	\$1,500,000
	This is an additional waterline extension in the northern part of Clay County that will be served by the new Town of Clay treatment facility and the expanded storage and pressure of the Clay County interconnection project.			
6	<b>Clay Roane PSD Elkhurst Waterline Extension</b>	Clay	Clay Roane PSD	\$4,000,000
	To provide potable water along the Elk River from the current Clay Roane plant to the new Hartland Bridge (Route 16) This project serves many residences and camps on both sides of the Elk River and opens valuable land development for economic development.			
7	<b>Town of Clay Water Tank Replacement</b>	Clay	Town of Clay	\$975,000
	To replace two tanks, one of which was built in the late 1960's and is failing.			
8	<b>Leatherwood Waterline Extension</b>	Kanawha	Kanawha County Commission	\$2,547,000
	To provide potable water to the residences of Leatherwood Road near Clendenin by a public-private partnership with West Virginia American Water Company.			
9	<b>Olcott Waterline Extension</b>	Kanawha	Kanawha County Commission	\$7,000,000
	To provide potable water to the Olcott area to provide water service to approximately 175 residences.			
10	<b>Mahon/Paint Creek Waterline Extension</b>	Kanawha	Kanawha County Commission	\$4,100,000



	To provide potable water to the Mahon/Paint Creek area where pre-1977 mining has affected the quality and quantity of wells in the area. This project is being reviewed by the WV DEP AML for funding. This project will also serve the rest stop on the WV Turnpike.			
11	Fisher Ridge Waterline Extension	Putnam	Putnam County Commission	\$2,000,000
	To provide potable water service to the 28 residents of Fisher Ridge Putnam County.			
12	Phase II Jim Bee Ridge Waterline Extension	Putnam	Putnam County Commission	\$2,300,000
	To provide potable water service to the residents of the Phase II area of Jim Bee Ridge to the Jackson County line in Putnam County.			
<b>SEWER PROJECTS:</b>				
13	WWTP Upgrade and Line Rehabilitation	Boone	Boone County PSD	\$4,300,000
	To upgrade the wastewater treatment plant in Danville and rehabilitate the lines in West Madison for increased inflow and infiltration.			
14	Town of Glasgow WWTP Upgrade	Kanawha	Town of Glasgow	\$500,000
	To upgrade the wastewater treatment plant in Glasgow by adding a clear well and an additional pump and housing to the system.			
15	Foster Phase 1 Sanitary Sewer Extension	Boone	Boone County PSD	\$5,000,000
	To provide sanitary sewer to Route 3, Rock Creek, for the 68 residents to the Southern Community and Technical Collage.			
16	Foster Phase 2 Sanitary Sewer Extension	Boone	Boone County PSD	\$5,500,000
	To provide sanitary sewer to Route 3, Rock Creek, from Southern Community and Technical College to the mouth of Foster Hollow serving approximately 75 customers.			
17	Foster Phase 3 Sanitary Sewer Extension	Boone	Boone County PSD	\$6,500,000
	To provide sanitary sewer to Route 3, Rock Creek, from the mouth of Foster Hollow along the route serving approximately 100 customers.			
18	Boone Raleigh PSD Wastewater Treatment Plant and Line Improvements	Boone	Boone Raleigh PSD	\$5,000,000
	To upgrade the treatment plant, lift stations and lines within the system.			
19	Eden's Fork Sewer Line Extension	Kanawha	Kanawha County Commission	\$875,000
	To construct a line extension that serves between 10 and 20 residences with sewer service to be connected to the Charleston Sanitary Board collection system.			
20	Greater St. Albans Phase III Sewer Extension	Kanawha	Greater St. Albans PSD	\$16,000,000



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	To construct the sewer line extension that connects Brown's Creek, Vorpe Road and areas toward Tornado which would connect to the main GSAPSD line and be treated by the City of St. Albans WWTP.			
21	<b>Sissonville PSD Various Sewer Line Extension</b>	Kanawha	Sissonville PSD	\$8,178,006
	To provide sewer line extensions and upgrades throughout the system to be treated at the SPSD WWTP.			
22	<b>Greater St. Albans Phase IV Sewer Extension</b>	Kanawha	Greater St. Albans PSD	\$8,000,000
	To provide sanitary sewer service to the community of Tornado, and areas along Smith Creek in the Tornado area.			
23	<b>City of Nitro Blake's Creek Sewer Extension</b>	Kanawha	City of Nitro	\$3,468,000
	To provide sewer service to the unserved residences in the Blake's Creek and Ridenour Lake area of Nitro.			
24	<b>City of Nitro Pocatalico River Sewer Extension</b>	Putnam	City of Nitro	\$1,500,000
	To provide sewer service to the unserved residences in the Pocatalico River area of Nitro.			
25	<b>Putnam PSD Hollywood Dr Sewer Extension</b>	Putnam	Putnam PSD	\$3,000,000
	To provide sewer service to the residents of Hollywood Drive in Putnam County.			
26	<b>Putnam PSD Frasier's Bottom Sewer Extension</b>	Putnam	Putnam PSD	\$3,000,000
	To provide sewer service to the unserved areas of Fraziers Bottom.			
27	<b>Putnam PSD Upgrade of North Putnam Plant</b>	Putnam	Putnam PSD	\$2,150,000
	To upgrade the North Putnam WWTP.			
28	<b>Lens Creek Sewer Extension Phase I</b>	Kanawha	Kanawha PSD	\$7,875,000
	To provide service to approximately 220 residences along Route 94 (Lens Creek Road) from Marmet to the Boone County Line, to be transported through Chesapeake to the Chelyan facility.			
29	<b>Town of Clay Sanitary Sewer Improvements</b>	Clay	Town of Clay	To be determined
	To rehabilitate the wastewater treatment plant that is failing.			
30	<b>Lens Creek Sewer Extension Phase II</b>	Kanawha	Kanawha PSD	\$4,700,000
	To provide service to approximately 230 residences along Route 94 (Lens Creek Road) from Marmet to the Boone County Line, to be collected at the Marmet WWTP.			
31	<b>Winfield Treatment Plant Replacement</b>	Putnam	Town of Winfield	\$8,000,000
	To replace an outdated lagoon treatment system with a state-of-the-art plant to serve the growing population of Winfield and the surrounding areas.			
32	<b>Rock Creek Industrial Park Sewer Extension</b>	Boone	Boone County PSD	Unknown
	To provide sanitary sewer to the Rock Creek Industrial Park, formerly Hobet Surface Mine.			
33	<b>Upper Witcher Creek Sewer Extension</b>	Kanawha	Kanawha PSD	\$2,100,000
	To provide sewer service to approximately 120 residents along Upper Witcher Creek Road, to be served by the Kanawha PSD Wastewater Treatment Plant in Chelyan.			



34 New	<b>Boone County Boone Memorial Hospital</b>	Boone	Boone Co PSD	\$722,000
	To provide sewer service to the new Hospital Annex (Former Magic Mart in Danville).			
<b>Community Facilities:</b>				
35	<b>Marmet Sidewalk Project</b>	Kanawha	Town of Marmet	\$301,000
	To provide sidewalks and sidewalk upgrades throughout Marmet.			
36	<b>Clay Streetscape Project</b>	Clay	Town of Clay	\$200,000
	To add to the streetscape design in the Town of Clay by increasing the design and implementation of the current streetscape.			
37	<b>Clay Fire Station Rehabilitation</b>	Clay	Clay County Comm	\$241,000
	To purchase and build a new fire station in Clay.			
38	<b>St. Albans Spot Slum and Blight</b>	Kanawha	City of St. Albans	\$150,000
	To promote certain buildings to be demolished in the community and new uses for the vacant land be identified.			
39	<b>Street Paving on Second Avenue</b>	Kanawha	City of Nitro	\$78,000
	To provide funds to repave Second Avenue in the City of Nitro.			
40	<b>Orchard Manor Bridge Replacement</b>	Kanawha	City of Charleston	\$600,000
	To replace the bridge to a low housing area in the City of Charleston.			
41	<b>South Hills Streetscape</b>	Kanawha	City of Charleston	\$750,000
	To add charm and flair to the business district along Bridge Road, an eclectic area of the city.			
42	<b>CASE Project for Arts and Science Center</b>	Kanawha	City of Charleston	Unknown
	To update the streetscape at the Clay Center at Leon Sullivan Way.			
43	<b>Capitol Street Streetscape</b>	Kanawha	City of Charleston	\$80,000
	To update the streetscape in the heart of Charleston.			
44	<b>Sidewalk and Street Paving Project</b>	Kanawha	City of Dunbar	\$398,614
	To provide funding for street paving and sidewalk repair to the main thoroughfares of the City.			
45	<b>10th Street Streetscape</b>	Kanawha	City of Dunbar	\$252,153
	To provide a streetscape to the entrance of the City of Dunbar from South Charleston via the Dunbar Toll Bridge.			
46	<b>Safe Route to Schools - Sidewalk Project</b>	Kanawha	City of Dunbar	\$130,000
	To provide sidewalks as part of the safe route to schools Department of Transportation grant program.			
47	<b>Handicapped Accessibility - City Hall</b>	Putnam	Town of Eleanor	\$16,000
	To provide access to the Historic Red House building that is also the seat of government for the Town of Eleanor.			
48	<b>Community Center on Morris Drive</b>	Kanawha	City of Montgomery	\$4,000,000



	To construct a Community Center along Morris Drive in Kanawha County for the residents of the area.			
	<b>Handicapped Access and Elevator - City Hall</b>	Kanawha	Town of Clendenin	\$84,000
49	To construct an elevator to the town council chambers on the second floor of Town Hall. The stairs are very steep.			
<b>Economic Development Initiatives:</b>				
	<b>West Virginia Regional Technology Park</b>	Kanawha	WV HEPC	To Be Determined
50	To promote continued development and utilization of the WVRTP as a research and business park. Currently the Park is home to two community colleges, Matric Research Facility, TechConnectWV, Chemical Alliance Zone and a number of private companies.			
	<b>Shell Building at Putnam County Park</b>	Putnam	PCDA	\$2,000,000
51	To develop a spec building that will serve either for rental or sale to increase jobs and increase the vitality of the local economy.			
	<b>ChemCeption Business Incubator</b>	Kanawha	WV HEPC	To Be Determined
52	To define an Incubator specifically designed for the chemical industry that will foster new concepts in the chemical Industry.			
	<b>Smith Street and Leon Sullivan Way Streetscape</b>	Kanawha	WV DOT	\$4,000,000
53	This streetscape is a welcome entrances to the East End neighborhood which is home to the City's Historical District.			
	<b>Clay County Industrial Park</b>	Clay	CAEZ	\$5,000,000
54	To develop a commercial / industrial park and spec building that will serve either for rental or sale to increase jobs and increase the vitality of the local economy. Clay County has lost much of its tax base and ancillary businesses because of the closure of Fola (Consolidation) Coal. The area needs to see a revitalization of their job base to sustain their economy.			
	<b>Inland River Port at Eleanor, WV</b>	Putnam	PCDA	\$4,000,000
55	To develop a public river port near the Winfield lock and dam system. This port would move and store products from the Ohio and Kanawha rivers to the new U. S. Route 35 which begins in Teays Valley and continues northwesterly into Central and Northwestern Ohio. It would also connect to Interstate 64 and I-77/79 to access most of the northeast.			
	<b>Kanawha County Industrial Park</b>	Kanawha	CAA	To Be Determined
56	To determine a location and develop an industrial park. The Land Task Force has identified a few possible sites and are evaluating the scope and cost of site development.			
	<b>Recreating the Local Economy of The Upper Kanawha Valley through Recreation</b>	Kanawha Fayette	Kanawha County Commission	To Be Determined
57	This project would expand recreation from Charleston to the New River Gorge connecting the Mammoth Preserve, the Elk River Trail State Park, the Kanawha State Forest and the Hatfield's and McCoy's Trail Organization with Hiking, biking motorized travel, water travel and all forms of outdoor recreation.			
58	<b>Charleston Riverfront Development</b>	Kanawha	Charleston	\$20,000,000



	Promote the Kanawha Boulevard area as a premier location for a riverscape area for businesses to locate. This will consist of residential, retail and commercial locations along the Kanawha Boulevard from Magic Island to the Kanawha City Bridge.			
	<b>Improvements to US 60 in Kanawha County</b>	Kanawha	WV DOT	\$31,300,000
59	This project would widen to a four-lane divided facility from the Admiral TJ Lopez Bridge (Chelyan Bridge) to CR 81 (Kellys Creek Road). This widening of US Route 60 would enhance the ability for business to grow and prosper in the Upper Kanawha Valley, an area affected by the loss of coal and coal-related employment.			
	<b>Third Street Underpass Improvements in St. Albans</b>	Kanawha	St Albans	\$9,600,000
60	To widen the existing railroad underpass to three lanes and improve vertical clearance. This will open the City of St Albans to a free-flowing access to the main section of the city. There are many commercial and retail sites available for expansion in the city core.			
	<b>West Washington Streetscape</b>	Kanawha	WV DOT	\$5,000,000
61	To provide a gateway entrance that will assist in the appeal of the West Side and help the West Side Main Street Association attract new businesses and assist current companies to expand. This complex street scape should be separated into six phases and would provide construction jobs and attract investment.			
	<b>Coal Related Job Retraining</b>	All	Workforce	To Be Determined
62	To develop retraining or assist new businesses that will diversify the coal related economy.			
	<b>Water and Sewer Projects to Industrial/Commercial Parks</b>	All	Any Utility	To Be Determined
63	Any project that will assist commercial or industrial businesses compete in the local, regional and global markets.			
	<b>Rock Creek Development Park</b>	Boone	Unknown	\$100,000,000
64	To develop the Hobet surface mine to a residential, commercial and industrial facility that would be self-contained in Southern West Virginia. Thousands of acres of developable land waiting for visions.			
	<b>Central West Virginia Trails Group</b>	Clay, Roane, Braxton	CAEZ	\$500,000
65	To develop a walking, riding and biking trail network much like the successful Hatfield and McCoy trail system.			
	<b>Upper Kanawha Valley Gateway Project</b>	Kanawha, Fayette, and Clay	Region 3, Region 4	\$500,000
66	To develop a Gateway Project from the Upper Kanawha Valley to the natural beauty to the New River Gorge in Fayette County.			
	<b>City Center Business Improvement District</b>	Kanawha	Charleston	\$14,000,000
67	To redevelop the area around Slack Plaza			
	<b>Coal River Park</b>	Kanawha	City of St Albans	\$1,700,000
68	To develop a community park along the Coal River near the mouth of the Kanawha			



	Capitol Sports Center	Kanawha	Kanawha County and the City of Charleston	\$80,000,000
69	To develop a Sports Complex in the Charleston Town Center Parking garages to bring sports rouremants to the area			
<b>Economic Development Planning Initiatives:</b>				
70	Charleston Master Plan and Economic Analysis	Kanawha	City of Charleston	\$500,000
71	Central West Virginia Trails Group	Clay	Clay Co. Comm	\$100,000
721	Hobet Properties	Boone	BCEDA	\$200,000
73	Nitro Brownfields Redevelopment Assessment	Putnam	PCDA	\$200,000
74	Putnam County Strategic Plan and Economic Analysis	Putnam	PCDA	\$150,000
75	Upper Kanawha County Engineering Design for Trails	Kanawha	Kanawha County	\$1,000,000
<b>Broadband Projects:</b>				
76	Clay County Broadband Implementation Grant	Clay	County Commission	\$1,815,000
77	Clay County Broadband Design Grant	Clay	Clay County	\$150,000
78	Boone County Rock Creek Broadband Connectivity	Boone	Boone County Development Authority	\$1,800,000
79	Upper Kanawha County Connectivity Project	Kanawha	Kanawha County	To Be Determined
80	Whiteville Connectivity Project	Boone	Town of Whitesville	\$30,000
<b>Storm Sewer Projects:</b>				
	Town of Buffalo Storm Sewer Project Along Timms Street	Putnam	Town of Buffalo	\$800,000
81	To provide storm sewers to 25 families along Timms Street and adjoining streets.			
	Madison Storm Drainage Project	Boone	City of Madison	\$500,000
82	To provide storm drainage to areas that flood in high rainfall.			
	Storm Sewer Project Along Railroad	Kanawha	Town of Chesapeake	\$250,000
83	To provide storm drainage to areas that flood in high rainfall.			
84	Boundary Street Storm Sewer	Kanawha	City of Nitro	\$250,000



# FY 2023 CEDS Update



	To provide storm drainage to areas that flood in high rainfall.			
85	<b>85th and 98th Street Storm Sewers</b>	Kanawha	Town of Marmet	\$641,000
	To provide storm drainage to areas that flood in high rainfall.			
86	<b>Chesterfield Avenue Storm Sewer</b>	Kanawha	City of Charleston	\$300,000
	To provide storm drainage to areas that flood in high rainfall.			
87	<b>Mountain Road Drainage Project</b>	Kanawha	City of Charleston	\$128,000
	To provide storm drainage to areas that flood in high rainfall.			
88	<b>North Charleston Storm Sewer Project</b>	Kanawha	City of Charleston	\$98,000
	To provide storm drainage to areas that flood in high rainfall.			
89	<b>Garrison Avenue Flood Drainage</b>	Kanawha	City of Charleston	Unknown
	To provide storm drainage to areas that flood in high rainfall.			
90	<b>Parson's Court/5th Avenue Flood Drainage</b>	Kanawha	Charleston	\$50,000
	To provide storm drainage to areas that flood in high rainfall.			
91	<b>Municipal Storm Sewers</b>	Kanawha	Town of Glasgow	\$550,000
	To provide storm drainage to areas that flood in high rainfall.			
92	<b>Teays Valley Storm Water Improvements</b>	Putnam	Putnam County Planning	\$18,000,000
	To provide storm drainage to areas that flood in high rainfall.			
93	<b>Winfield Stormwater Improvements</b>	Putnam	Town of Winfield	\$2,000,000
	To provide storm drainage to areas that flood in high rainfall.			
94	<b>Millard and Linda Avenue Storm Sewers</b>	Putnam	City of Hurricane	\$115,000
	To provide storm drainage to areas that flood in high rainfall.			
95	<b>Eleanor Storm Sewers</b>	Putnam	Town of Eleanor	\$500,000
	To provide storm drainage to areas that flood in high rainfall.			
96	<b>Buffalo Phase II Storm Sewer Project</b>	Putnam	Town of Buffalo	\$496,300
	To provide storm drainage to areas that flood in high rainfall.			
97	<b>Long-term Stormwater Control - MS4</b>	Kanawha	City of St Albans	\$500,000
	To provide a plan to alleviate storm drainage in all areas of the City of St. Albans.			
98	<b>Flood Control Along Curtiss, Monmouth, Walnut and Kanawha Terrace</b>	Kanawha	City of St Albans	\$7,000,000
	To provide storm drainage to areas that flood in high rainfall.			



	<b>Rand Storm Sewer Project</b>	Kanawha	Kanawha County	\$13,000,000
99	To provide storm drainage to areas that flood in high rainfall. WV DOH providing study.			
<b>Recreation Projects:</b>				
	<b>Improvements to Community Pool</b>	Clay	Clay County Commission	\$100,000
100	To upgrade the Clay County Pool and bathrooms.			
	<b>Livestock and Multi-use Pavilion</b>	Clay	Clay County Commission	\$355,000
101	To build a multipurpose build that will house all facets of the park.			
	<b>Pool Filtration Replacement System</b>	Kanawha	Town of Glasgow	\$38,600
102	To replace the filtration system at the community pool.			
	<b>Community Center</b>	Kanawha	St Albans	\$1,500,000
103	To build a community center for the youth of the City of St Albans.			
	<b>Riverfront Park, Boat Ramp and Picnic Shelter</b>	Kanawha	Town of Cedar Grove	\$210,000
104	To develop a boat ramp and picnic area near the community park and playground in Cedar Grove.			
	<b>Playground Equipment</b>	Putnam	Town of Poca	\$13,446
105	To provide playground equipment to various park areas.			
	<b>Establish a Groundwork Trust</b>	Kanawha	City of Charleston	\$175,000
106	Establish funding for a Groundwork Trust for the City of Charleston.			
	<b>Gateway Greenspace</b>	Kanawha	City of Charleston	\$1,727,000
107	Any project that will assist commercial or industrial businesses compete in the local, regional and global markets.			
	<b>Putnam County Parks Playground Equipment</b>	Putnam	Putnam County Parks	\$110,000
108	To add playground equipment to various parks in Putnam County.			
	<b>South Hurricane Recreation Area</b>	Putnam	City of Hurricane	\$325,000
109	To add to the park system for the City of Hurricane.			
	<b>Wetlands Park near Putnam Industrial Park</b>	Putnam	Putnam County Development Authority	\$500,000
110	To add a wetlands park at the Putnam Industrial Park in Fraziers Bottom.			
	<b>Walking Path and Bridge Wellness Trail</b>	Boone	Town of Danville & Madison	\$875,000
111	To construct a bridge and extend a walking trail to connect to the current Madison Wellness Trail.			
112	<b>Marina along Kanawha River</b>	Kanawha	City of	\$4,000,000



			Montgomery	
	To develop a marina along the Kanawha River for the Upper Kanawha Valley.			
	Riverscape Park and Boat Launch	Kanawha	City of South Charleston	\$6,000,000
113	To provide a boat launch and park under the 1-64 Bridge in South Charleston.			
	Sylvester Pavilion Park	Boone	Sylvester	\$200,000
114	To make improvements to the Sylvester Park, previously the Sylvester Elementary site.			
	Madison Trailhead and Canoe Livery	Boone	Madison	\$100,000
115	To provide a canoe launch and trailhead at the former Haddad Swimming Pool.			
	Splash Park at Waterways	Boone	Boone County Comm	\$120,000
116	To provide a splash park at waterways for the residents.			
<b>Demolition Projects:</b>				
	Demolition of Dilapidated Buildings	Kanawha	Kanawha County	\$250,000
117	Remove building that have become unlivable			
	Demolition Project of Buildings	Kanawha	Town of Marmet	\$250,000
118	Demolish houses and businesses in Marmet			
<b>Historic Preservation Projects:</b>				
	Restoration of City Hall	Kanawha	City of Charleston	\$100,000
119	Restoration of City Hall.			
	Buffalo Academy Rehabilitation	Putnam	Town of Buffalo	\$100,000
120	To rehabilitate the Buffalo Academy which is on the National Register of Historic Places.			
<b>Housing Projects:</b>				
	Elderly and Handicapped Housing Units	Kanawha	City of St Albans	\$2,000,000
121	To provide additional units for the elderly and handicapped residents of St Albans.			
<b>Planning Projects:</b>				
	City-Wide Storm Drainage Improvement Study	Kanawha	City of St Albans	\$44,000
122	To conduct a city-wide storm drainage improvement study for the City of St Albans.			



123	Comprehensive Storm Water Evaluation	Kanawha	City of Charleston	\$700,000
	Any project that will assist commercial or industrial businesses compete in the local, regional and global markets.			
124	Unification of 3 East End Plans - GIS Project	Kanawha	City of Charleston	\$60,000
	Any project that will assist commercial or industrial businesses compete in the local, regional and global markets.			
125	CSO and Asset Management Plan of Town Sewer	Kanawha	Town of Cedar Grove	\$100,000
	To provide a CSO and Asset Management Plan for Cedar Grove to develop plans for a sanitary sewer upgrade.			
126	Buffalo Region Zoning Ordinance Study	Putnam	Putnam County Planning	\$50,000
	Identify zoning ordinances and study their effects on the region.			
127	Buffalo Region Drainage Improvement Study	Putnam	Putnam County Planning	\$50,000
	Conduct a study of the drainage improvement for the Town of Buffalo.			
128	Putnam County Recreational Trails Master Plan	Putnam	Putnam County Parks	\$50,000

<b>Note: Acronyms</b>	
Boone Community Economic Development Authority	BCCEDA
Charleston Area Alliance	CAA
Central Appalachia Enterprise Zone	CAEZ
Putnam County Development Authority	PCDA
WV Department of Transportation	WV DOT
WV Higher Education Policy Commission	WV HEPC
Upper Kanawha Valley Enterprise Community	UKVEC



C. 2023 CEDS Advisory Committee

FY 2023 CEDS Advisory Committee

Tim Hanna, Putnam County Commission

Kris Mitchell, Boone County Development Authority

Morganne Tenney, Putnam County Development Authority

Rick Atkinson, City of South Charleston

Kim Reed, Nitro Development Authority

Susan Salisbury, Charleston Area Alliance

S.K. Miller, Verizon Mid- Atlantic, Retired

Connie Kinder, Clay County Commission

Clark McCoy, West Virginia Regional Technical Park Corporation

Mark Sankoff, Potesta Engineering

Barry McCune, Clay County Bank

Andrew Backus, City of Charleston

Matt Sutton, City of Charleston

Lee Roberts, City of St. Albans

James Owrey, Mountaineer Gas Company





## Regional Intergovernmental Council FY 2023 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Committee Meeting

April 25, 2023  
2:00 p.m.

### MINUTES

#### Attending:

Rick Atkinson, City of South Charleston  
Mark Sankoff, Potesta Engineering  
Lee Roberts, City of St. Albans  
Bruce Mullins, Regional Intergovernmental Council  
Tim Hanna, Putnam County Commission  
Joanna Keller, Regional Intergovernmental Council  
James Owery, Mountaineer Gas Company  
Terry Martin, Regional Intergovernmental Council  
Clark McCoy, West Virginia Regional Technology Park Corporation  
Matt Sutton, City of Charleston  
Kris Mitchell, Boone County Development Authority  
Susan Salisbury, Charleston Area Alliance  
Morganne Tenney, Putnam County Development Authority

The meeting was held at the Regional Intergovernmental Council conference room with a virtual option through Zoom. Terry Martin of the Regional Intergovernmental Council staff called the meeting to order. The CEDS Advisory Committee members introduced themselves.

#### **I. Committee Update to and Goals, Objectives & Development Strategies**

Terry Martin referred the committee members to the proposed Goals, Objectives & Development Strategies. The committee reviewed and discussed the CEDS Goals, Objectives & Development Strategies. A detailed document of suggestions from the Charleston Area Alliance was provided by Susan Salisbury. The suggestions were discussed in detail and the group collectively agreed to accept the recommended changes provided by the Charleston Area Alliance. Kris Mitchell did request that in the recommended changes under the Objective to Support the expansion of tourism and convention business that CVB be expanded because not every county / municipality in our region has a CVB.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY RICK ATKINSON TO ADOPT THE RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO THE GOALS, OBJECTIVES & DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES THAT WAS PRESENTED BY THE CHARLESTON AREA ALLIANCE. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY KRIS MITCHELL AND WAS CARRIED.**



## II. Committee Update to SWOT Analysis

Terry Martin referred the committee members to the proposed SWOT Analysis which was distributed to the committee members by mail and email. He asked if there were comments, suggestions, additions, or changes. The committee reviewed and discussed the SWOT Analysis. The following suggestions were made:

- Under **Strengths** remove item #2. Abundant Workforce and replace with Workforce Opportunities
- Under **Opportunities** add Entrepreneurial Development & Remote Work
- Under **Threat** add Vacancy of Commercial Space
- Under **Weakness** add lack of broadband internet access
- Under **Weakness** add lack of trained workforce
- Under **Opportunities** add leveraging tourism
- Under **Opportunities** add former mine sites

## III. Review of Current Proposed Regional & Community Priority Project Listing

Terry Martin referred the committee members to the proposed Regional & Community Priority Project Listing which was distributed to the committee members by mail and email. He asked if there were comments, suggestions, additions, or changes. The following suggestions were made:

### To be removed

- Remove #51 Martin Peterbilt Park
- Remove #52 WV 601 Jefferson Road Improvements
- Remove #57 Inland River Port at Eleanor
- Remove #60 Dinner Theater and Shopping in St. Albans (possibly change to town redevelopment)
- Remove #63 WV Sports Hall of Fame
- Remove #71 Advantage Site Identification Project
- Remove #73 REV-UP Ventures

### To be updated

- #50 WV Regional Tech Park correct to read one community college
- #53 add in phase two development grading
- #61 Update name to Capitol Connector, Magic Island to 35<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge, project cost 20 million
- Check on #66 Projects for WV Biosciences Association
- #69 change Hobet to Rock Creek Development Park
- Check on #70 Central West Virginia Trails Group

### To be added

- City Center Business Improvement District, about redevelopment of the area around Slack Plaza, project cost around 14 million – added by Susan Salisbury
- Coal River Park, project cost 1.7 million – City of St. Albans
- Capitol Sports Center, project cost 80 million – City of Charleston / Kanawha County Commission
- Lift Center, project cost 16 million



## **Add to Economic Development Planning Initiatives Section**

- Design Engineering Upper Kanawha County - hiking, biking, and water trails

## **IV. Acceptance of Projects**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY LEE ROBERTS TO ACCEPT THE DISCUSSED UPDATES AND CHANGES TO THE LIST OF PROJECTS. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY SUSAN SALISBURY AND WAS CARRIED.**

## **V. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 3:18 p.m.



## VI. Economic Resilience

It is becoming increasingly apparent that the Regional Intergovernmental Council, a four-county planning and development council, consider economic prosperity is linked to an area's ability to prevent, withstand and quickly recover from major disruptions to its economic base. Establishing economic resilience in a local or regional economy requires the ability to anticipate risk, evaluate how that risk can impact key economic assets, and build a responsive capacity. Often, the shocks/disruptions to the economic base of an area or region are manifested in these ways:

- Downturns or other significant events in the coal industry which impact demand for locally produced goods and consumer spending.
- Downturns in coal related industries constitute a critical component of the region's economic activity.
- Other external shocks such as the June 23, 2016 flood that decimated Clendenin and Clay County areas and the COVID – 19 Pandemic that has caused economic disruptions and instability not only in our region, state and country but also throughout the entire world.

This is no more apparent than the downturn in the coal industry in our region and the COVID-19 Pandemic. The Regional Intergovernmental Councils Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy begins to build the capacity for economic resilience. The members of this committee often become the focal point for post-incident coordination, information dissemination, responding to external inquiries, and the lead grant administrator for local, state and federally funded recovery initiatives.

In building economic resilience, it is critical that this organization consider its role in the pre-incident and post-incident environment to include proactive and responsive initiatives.



## VII. Evaluation Framework

### Performance Measures and Outcomes

The completion of the CEDS is an important achievement for Region III because it allows our staff to evaluate the success of projects and provides the Council with a way to determine priorities and goals for the future. The Regional Intergovernmental Council evaluates the success of the CEDS with the following measurements:

1. **Number of Applications Completed** - this measurement shows the continued need of Region III's services and the projects and priorities that our local communities are wanting to complete.
2. **Number of Projects Administered by Staff** - this measurement shows the need for Region III's services in providing project administration in completing the region's priorities.
3. **Number of New Customers Served with Infrastructure (water, sewer, broadband)** - This measurement reflects the number of new customers receiving water and sewer. These types of services continue to rank close to the top priorities our region identifies annually.
4. **Amount of New Jobs Created as a Result of the CEDS** - this measurement illustrates the number of new jobs created with the assistance of the Regional Intergovernmental Council.
5. **Amount of Private Sector Investment** - this measurement shows the amount of private sector dollars invested in this region as a result of the CEDS.





## VIII. Appendix

### Sources:

Appalachian Regional Commission  
Charleston Gazette-Mail  
Coal Valley News  
Herald-Dispatch  
Montgomery Herald  
Boone County Development Authority  
Putnam County Development Authority  
TechConnectWV  
Clay County Free Press  
Workforce WV  
West Virginia Division of Culture and History  
WV Metro News  
Statista  
STATS America  
United States Census Bureau  
United States Energy Information Administration  
West Virginia Department of Transportation  
West Virginia Division of Natural Resources  
West Virginia Secretary of State Business Statistics Database  
West Virginia Broadband Enhancement Council

