

## Description:

The Appalachian Regional Initiative for Stronger Economies (ARISE) is an Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) initiative that aims to drive large-scale, regional economic transformation through multi-state collaborative projects across Appalachia. With the additional funding provided by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) of 2021 (also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law or BIL), ARC launched ARISE to strengthen Appalachian business and industry, and to grow and support the development of new opportunities across multiple states.

ARISE encourages the region's 13 states to think beyond local and state lines and to spearhead initiatives that encourage states to work together as one, united Appalachia to advance ARC's strategic investment priorities.

Land of Sky Regional Council (LOSRC) in conjunction with North Carolina Department of Commerce's Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) office plan to support the delivery of technical assistance services to ARISE applicants, grantees, and partners. Technical assistance services will include development of projects, guidance in writing and submitting successful concept papers and applications, recommendations for coordination and collaboration of relevant partners in North Carolina and other ARC states from project development, submission, and successful completion.

Funding is currently available through the Appalachian Regional Commission via LOSRC to engage consultants (individuals and organizations) to provide support to North Carolina's Appalachian communities, partners, Local Development Districts and others which are eligible for, and intend to engage with, ARC states seeking to apply for ARISE funding. Based upon capacity and experience, consultant services may include:

- Communicate and advocate for ARISE investment opportunities throughout North Carolina's Appalachian region and partnering states.
- Identify both planning and implementation needs.
- Facilitate cooperative efforts with partnering states
- Introductions to state partners to foster collaboration and possible ARISE project development
- Assist in the development of potential projects that effectively utilize ARISE funding resources to address economic development objectives
- Assist in identifying sources of required matching funds
- Provide guidance and assistance to NC applicants and their partnering states to write and submit successful ARISE concept papers and applications for projects that meet state and ARC priorities and include data necessary to justify the funding
- Liaise with North Carolina federal and state leaders that request ARISE Program information.
- Provide grant-writing assistance to applicants invited to submit full applications by ARC.

- Grant administration assistance including performance monitoring and reporting.
- Participate in the planned Central/Southern Appalachia ARISE Summit. This two-day event will bring together LDDs from Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Tennessee to brainstorm, coordinate and develop potential ARISE projects.

Through such efforts, LOSRC and North Carolina's ARC office will continue to enhance opportunities for strong, multi-state projects that build a competitive workforce, foster entrepreneurial activities and business development, develop industry clusters, and enhance access to, and use of, broadband services within North Carolina's Appalachian communities, access to reliable and affordable utilities and infrastructure, preserving and investing in the region's local, cultural heritage, and natural assets and building community leaders and capacity.

**Further Details:** The funding associated with this effort will be utilized for a period of two years beginning January 1, 2025, and ending December 31, 2026. The consultant(s) selected will work in cooperation with, and in addition to, assistance provided by the North Carolina ARC office and the North Carolina Local Development Districts. LOSRC reserves the right to solicit additional consultants during the effective period to meet the needs of the applicants and the Appalachian region.

Based upon project needs and consultant capacity and experience, LOSRC will facilitate introductions to ensure compatibility between potential applicants and appropriate consultant(s). Upon mutual agreement to move forward with technical assistance, LOSRC will allocate consulting hours which may be adjusted as needed. Consultants may also be eligible for reimbursement for non-specific ARISE activities as deemed necessary.

For firms or individuals responding to this request, please provide your quotations by no later than ~~December 15, 2024~~ **December 31, 2024**.

**Submit responses** to Erica Anderson at [erica@landofsky.org](mailto:erica@landofsky.org)

Use '**ARISE TA RFQ Response**' in the Subject line.

## Vendor Information:

Vendor Name:	
Address:	
Contact Person:	
Email:	
Phone:	

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Which of the following services are you proposing to provide:

- ☐ Project Development/Technical Assistance
- ☐ Grant Writing Assistance
- ☐ Project Administration Assistance

Please provide the following information on a separate page (no more than 5 pages)

1. Describe activities to be performed to meet the required consultant services outlined in RFQ
2. Describe areas of expertise specific to ARC's Strategic Investment Priorities

<https://www.arc.gov/investment-priorities/>

3. Describe previous experience with ARC funding/projects, Local Development Districts, projects including multiple stakeholders from various states
4. Provide hourly rate based on the proposed assistance to be provided
  - ☐ Project Development \_\_\_\_\_
  - ☐ Grant Writing \_\_\_\_\_
  - ☐ Project Administration Assistance \_\_\_\_\_

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I, \_\_\_\_\_ certify that the above information is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_