

Accelerate WV - 2024-2026

Transforming Southern WV communities through resilience, revitalization, and readiness planning

ACCELERATE
>>>WV

What is Accelerate WV?

Through September 2026, Accelerate WV will work in 16 selected communities in Southern WV to support local leadership teams as they advance their communities' revitalization goals. Through Accelerate, communities will have access to predevelopment services for sustainable green development projects, entrepreneurial development + training services, brownfields site assessments, and so much more. These resources will be used to help each community create its own economic resilience plan and determine how it can best adapt to a shifting energy economy. Accelerate is a component of the Community + Business Resilience Initiative (CBRI), one of eight projects in the ACT (Appalachian Climate Technology) Now Coalition.



Project Services

Technical Assistance

Predevelopment Services

Entrepreneurial Trainings + Development

Brownfields Site Assessments

Economic Resilience Plan Development

Professional Community Coaching



Important Dates

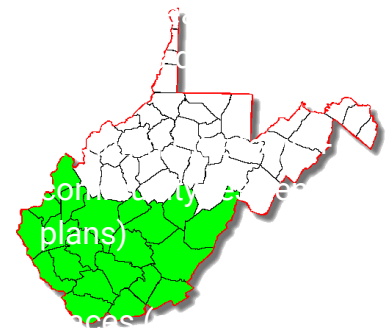
- March 1 - Application launches, Information Session #1
- March 14 - Information Session #2
- April 15 - Applications due
- May-June - Semi-finalists site visits
- June - Final selections announced
- July - Team Introductory Meetings
- October 24-25 - Group Session #1

For questions, contact *Brianna Hickman* at b.hickman@wvhub.org

Who should apply to Accelerate WV?

Eligible applicants include any neighborhood, community, or county located in the 21-county ACT Now Coalition region:

- Boone, Cabell, Clay, Fayette, Greenbrier, Kanawha, Lincoln, Logan, Mason, McDowell, Mercer, Mingo, Monroe, Nicholas, Pocahontas, Putnam, Raleigh, Summers, Wayne, Webster, and Wyoming Counties



Team Composition

Each team will consist of at least 7 core members who are highly motivated to revitalize their community. Members will have experience in various areas of work and technical expertise and will be diverse in age, gender, race, and time spent/lived in the community. All members must be willing to fully participate in trainings and events.

Team member recommendations:

- Local government officials
- EDA/RPDC members
- Locally-based organization members
- Local business owners
- Community volunteers

Accelerate teams will receive:



- Support to develop diverse community teams;
- Program support, resource connections; and project-specific training;
- Professional on-the-ground coaching services;
- Peer learning opportunities with other Accelerate communities;
- And more!

Project Components

Equitable Engagement + Community Placemaking



Through The Hub's community coaching + planning, Accelerate will support local leadership teams in creating multi-layered community-based programs that will engage with all members of a community and engage in economic resilience planning.



Entrepreneurial Services

Advantage Valley, The WV Hive, + AFV Educate will provide enhanced entrepreneurial development, support, and training services to the selected communities. These services will help support new businesses to create new jobs and compete in the diversifying economy.



Site Redevelopment

The Brownfields Assistance Centers will provide direct assessment and analysis services to communities as well as BAD (Blighted, Abandoned, and Dilapidated) Building inventories, site reuse plans, and revitalization + economic development strategies.



Economic Resilience Plans

Communities will develop a strategic plan to transform the community's economy through energy resilience, green business practices + development, and sustainability development. In partnership with the work of the Coalition, these plans will be a part of a robust economic development transformation.