

Contact:

Deb Markley, Co-Founder and Managing Director

deb@e2mail.org

(919) 932-7762

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Center wins ARC POWER grant

Last week the White House and the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) announced more recipients of this year's round of funding as part of the POWER Initiative to assist communities negatively impacted by changes in the coal and coal-fired power industries. The [Center for Rural Entrepreneurship](#) is pleased to announce its proposal received \$1,747,806 to build and strengthen the community-based entrepreneurial ecosystem in an 18-county region covering southeastern Ohio, southern West Virginia and southeastern Kentucky. The Center, along with regional partners [Rural Action](#), [West Virginia Hub](#) and [Foundation for Appalachian Kentucky](#) will be working to build strong entrepreneurial communities in these counties as a foundation for the economic transition.

Deborah Markley, Managing Director of the Center, said of the award, "We are excited about the opportunity to work with these rooted community development organizations and to bring our tools and resources to Appalachian communities. We are also looking forward to working with other POWER grant recipients in these sub-regions that are focused on strengthening entrepreneurs and economic outcomes for the region." The focus of this work will be to help communities identify their entrepreneurial talent and work to connect entrepreneurs to the support services and resources they need to start and grow their businesses. The Center's role will be to work with and support our community development organization partners as they engage communities in becoming more entrepreneurial.

The details of this award and all of the other POWER 2016 recipients can be found in the [White House Fact Sheet](#).

The **Center for Rural Entrepreneurship** helps communities throughout the U.S. and Canada build a prosperous future by supporting business, social and civic entrepreneurs. We work in partnership with communities to provide research-based, asset-focused, comprehensive and customized economic development strategies emphasizing entrepreneurship. The Center is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

For more information about the Center, call (402) 323-7336 or visit

<http://www.energizingentrepreneurs.org>. For interviews, please email Deb Markley at deb@e2mail.org or call (919) 932-7762.