The goal of the WORC grants is to create economic prosperity and gainful employment opportunities for eligible residents in impacted ARC and DRA regions, enabling them to remain and thrive in these communities.

The project: The New Futures grant funds enhance specific, local, welding skill needs for two high-growth local employers, and offer wage training support for these employers through the initial phases to implement new, customized, and lengthy in-house training required before those workers are able to be fully productive. The commitment of both employers to hire workers (with benefits) before beginning the training illustrates their commitment both to their workers and to the community; the grant’s support of wage training helps close the gaps between the partners’ other investments (expanding the workspace and adding equipment) and helps close remaining gaps between our partners’ plans and lasting jobs for a high-need region of Appalachia.