National Dislocated Worker Grants

WORKFORCE OPPORTUNITY FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES (WORC IV)

<u>Appalachian Regional Commission and Delta Regional Authority (ARC - DRA)</u> <u>Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA-ETA-22-13)</u>

Grant Number: MI-38979-22-60-A-54



Area to be Served: Statewide (all 55 counties)

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NewForce: Level Up Equity and Economic Resilience Project

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 NewForce project proposes to expand equitable access to software development job training program, place unemployed and underemployed West Virginians in high-quality technology jobs, and offer new opportunities to former graduates who seek to "level up" in their careers. The highly successful, tuition-free NewForce job training program will advance GWV's work to improve economic opportunity and address the generational impacts of coal decline in West Virginia communities. The primary components of the Level Up project include: (1) Establishing stipends and conducting targeted recruitment to enhance equitable access to the sixmonth program with a focus on participation from underrepresented groups in technology, (2) Launching a new Level Up alumni advancement program to ensure economic mobility within technology industries, and (3) Conducting a sustainability study to establish new revenue streams to sustain NewForce's impact on economic mobility in the State.

