



West Virginia Community Assistance Profile
FEMA Region 3
May 2024

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PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide the State of West Virginia (WV), local partners, and Interagency Recovery Coordination (IRC) cadre staff, particularly those supporting the Community Assistance (CA) Recovery Support Function (RSF)¹ who are assisting long-term recovery planning, an overview of West Virginia's community conditions, programs, and resources. This profile is intended to provide information on West Virginia's background and recovery capacity. It was compiled from publicly available literature and data, demographic, geographic, economic, political, and legislative overviews.

Development of the West Virginia CA Profile addresses the following [2022-2026 FEMA Strategic Plan](#) goals and objectives:

- **Objective 1.3:** Achieve equitable outcomes for those we serve – Information in the CA Profiles include sociodemographic and social vulnerability data that provides the foundation for informed decision-making to ensure equitable recovery outcomes.
- **Objective 3.2:** Posture FEMA to meet current and emergent threats – Information in the CA Profiles provides FEMA staff a primer on current conditions and capacity to identify potential areas for recovery support.
- **Objective 3.3:** Unify coordination and delivery of federal assistance – Information in the CA Profiles includes information about DC programs and resources that can be used on long-term recovery, as well as information about programs and resources from various federal agencies.

Information provided in this document will allow recovery personnel to conduct a Community Issue Analysis² using this information more rapidly along with initial disaster impact information. The deployed CA RSF Field Coordinator should use this information and early impact information to initiate coordination but work with partners and field staff to update for subsequent Community Conditions Assessments (CCAs)/Community Analysis Tool (CAT), which help to identify communities of interest³ for CA initiatives and activities.

The document is intended to be read on a device with an internet connection so that references and links imbedded in the document are active. Some of the documents noted in the text may be stored on FEMA servers. Information in this document is also included in the FEMA Region 3 Analytical Profiles, which have been developed collectively by the Region's divisions and are updated on at least an annual basis, if not more frequent. You may request access to those documents, as well as the WV Analytical Profile, from the Region 3 IRC and/or CA staff (fema-r3-irc@fema.dhs.gov).

¹ The CA RSF (formerly Community Planning and Capacity Building (CPCB) RSF) is one of six RSFs identified in the [National Disaster Recovery Framework \(NDRF\)](#). The NDRF enables effective recovery support to disaster-impacted states, tribes, territorial and local jurisdictions. It provides a flexible structure that enables disaster recovery managers to operate in a unified and collaborative manner. The NDRF focuses on how best to restore, redevelop, and revitalize the health, social, economic, natural and environmental fabric of the community and build a more resilient nation. The six RSFs provide a structure to facilitate problem solving, improve access to resources, and foster coordination among state and federal agencies, tribes, territories, nongovernmental partners, and stakeholders.

² Per the IRC Process Expectations, The Community Issue Analysis, led by the CA RSF with support from the FDRO, combines data from the RSF engagement assessment, response operational reporting, preliminary damage assessments, and pre-disaster state and community profiles from steady state regional IRC personnel to inform areas that may require additional focus. This step serves to identify communities for focus and lays the groundwork for place-based community assistance.

³ Communities of Interest are those identified as having high impacts from the disaster/event and low capacity, based on several data variables, such as sociodemographic and economic data, Individual Assistance data, and information about communities' budgets, planning capacity, etc.

I. COMMUNITY PROFILE

TABLE 1: WEST VIRGINIA AT-A-GLANCE

Population (2020): 1,793,716	Population per square mile (2020): 74.6	State Capitol: Charleston
Total Housing Units (2020): 855,635	Total Households (2018-2020): 736,341	Median Household Income (2018-2020): \$55,329
Without Health Coverage (2022): 5.9%	High School Graduates (2022): 88.4%	Bachelor's Degree or Higher (2018-2022): 24.8%
No. of Counties: 55	No. of School Districts: 55	Congressional Districts: 2
Total Employer Establishments (2021): 35,316	Labor Force Participation (2018-2022): 53.1%	Households with Broadband Internet (2018-2022): 82.7%

A. PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

1) WEST VIRGINIA GEOGRAPHIC SNAPSHOT

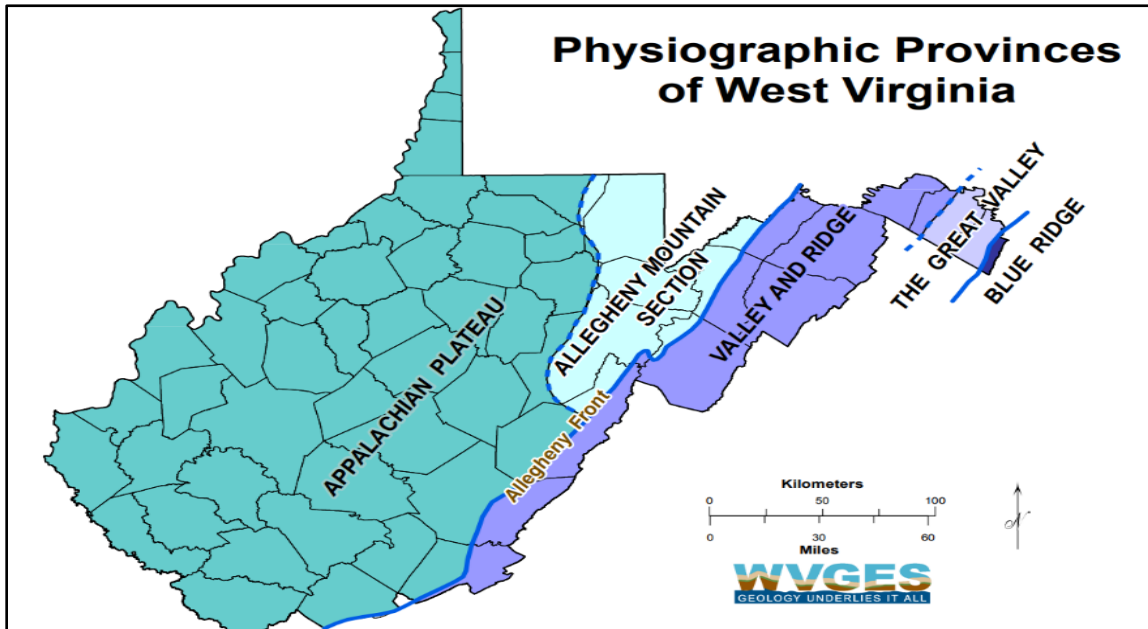
TABLE 2: WEST VIRGINIA LAND AND WATER AREA FROM WV CENSUS PROFILE

Land	24,034.8 square miles
Water	188.9 square miles
TOTAL AREA	24,227.7 square miles
Highest Point	Spruce Knob - 4,861 feet
Lowest Point	Potomac River – 240 feet
Mean Elevation	1,654 feet
Forested Land area	78.5 percent
National Ranking by Area	41st

Located in the center of the Appalachian Mountain region, West Virginia's boundaries follow the region's mountain ridges, valleys, and rivers, giving the state an unusual outline that includes two panhandles. Although it is one of the 10 smallest states in total area, West Virginia stretches from the Ohio River, where the state's northern panhandle is wedged between Pennsylvania and Ohio, to a point almost 240 miles away on the state's southern border with Virginia.

West Virginia is bordered by Kentucky, Maryland, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Virginia, and includes 55 counties and 233 incorporated municipalities. West Virginia is within 500 miles of more than 84 million people, or more than 25 percent of the U.S. population.

The State's mean elevation is 1,654 ft (458 m), higher than any other state east of the Mississippi River. West Virginia's highest point is Spruce Knob, which is 4,862 ft (1,483 m) above sea level; its lowest is the Potomac River near Harpers Ferry, elevation 240 ft (73 m).



Source: [West Virginia Geological and Economic Survey \(WVGES\)](#)

FIGURE 1: WV PHYSIOGRAPHIC PROVINCES

West Virginia's boundary is about 1,170 miles long, with 52 percent marked by rivers and streams, 31 percent by watershed divides and crest lines, and 17 percent defined by latitude and longitude.

The state's most observable features are the Northern and Eastern panhandles. The Eastern Panhandle is comprised of eight counties and extends for about 100 miles and borders Virginia and Maryland. West Virginia's Northern Panhandle extends for about 65 miles and is comprised of four counties. It is bordered by Ohio and Pennsylvania. [e-WV | The Boundary of West Virginia \(wvencyclopedia.org\)](#)

The mountainous topography of West Virginia contributes greatly to the hazards threatening the state. It is said that in West Virginia, there is the stream, railroad, roadway, and town all competing for space in narrow valleys. Given the topography and frequent heavy rains, flooding is the most frequent and devastating disaster threatening West Virginia.

Physiographic Provinces

Most of West Virginia is part of the Appalachian Plateau region, where much of the state's natural gas, coal, and crude oil reserves are found. Rivers that cross the Appalachian Plateau have hydroelectric power potential, while the narrow, wind-swept mountain ridges that run northeast to southwest in the eastern regions of West Virginia have the state's best wind resources.

Almost four-fifths of the state is covered by forests, providing West Virginia with abundant biomass potential as well. According to West Virginia Encyclopedia, the state ranks third in the nation as the most forested state behind Maine and New Hampshire.

West Virginia has two major [physiographic provinces](#), the **Appalachian (Allegheny) Plateau** and the **Valley and Ridge**, along with a very small portion of a third province, the Blue Ridge Physiographic Province. Most of West Virginia is a dissected, generally westward-dipping plateau called the **Appalachian Plateau Physiographic Province**.

Appalachian Plateau

The Allegheny (or Appalachian) Plateau covers five-sixths of the state. The area was once relatively level but has been cut down by erosion over millions of years, creating flat-topped highlands and several deep and windy river gorges, most notably the New River, one of the oldest rivers in the nation. Rivers in this region flow westward to the Ohio River: the New River joins with the Kanawha to form the state's most important waterway.

The western two-thirds of the state and is characterized by relatively flat-lying to gently folded rocks containing extractable coal and petroleum. The eastern third of the state consists of folded and faulted rocks with no minable coal and little extractable petroleum. The eastern boundary of the Appalachian Plateau, the **Allegheny Structural Front**, is a prominent geological feature trending northeast to southwest across the state. [WVGES:WV Geology \(wvnet.edu\)](#)

Valley and Ridge System

Most of the rivers in this area are small and swift and flow northward into the watershed of the Potomac River, which forms the state's northern boundary with Maryland. A few of the rivers in this region flow south and east into the James River valley of Virginia. West Virginia's highest peaks are in this region, including Spruce Knob.

2) WATERSHED MANAGEMENT

West Virginia has more than 9,000 streams covering 32,000 stream miles. West Virginia has 32 watersheds divided according to hydrologic unit codes (HUC) that contribute to the Chesapeake Bay and the Gulf of Mexico. The waters west of the eastern continental divide flow into the Ohio River, which joins the Mississippi River at Cairo, IL. The Mississippi River flows into the Gulf of Mexico at New Orleans, LA. The eastern continental divide dictates the flow of five eastern rivers toward the Potomac River, which flows into the Chesapeake Bay southeast of Washington DC. A few streams in the southeastern corner of the state flow towards the James River, which also is in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

Watersheds are geographic areas through which water flows across the land and drains into a common body of water. Much of the water comes from rainfall and stormwater runoff, but natural springs also contribute to watershed flows.

The quality and quantity of stormwater is affected by all the alterations to the land: mining, agriculture, roadways, urban development, and the activities of people living and working in the watershed. Watershed management practices could reduce the severity of flooding events.

TABLE 3: WEST VIRGINIA STREAM MILES AND DRAINAGE AREAS

Watershed	Stream Miles (mi.)	Drainage Area (sq. mi.)	Watershed	Stream Miles (mi.)	Drainage Area (sq. mi.)
Upper Ohio North	246	126	James River	217	71
Upper Ohio South	1,234	561	Upper New River	2,000	800
Middle Ohio North	2,283	953	Greenbrier River	3,509	1,646
Middle Ohio South	1,803	705	Lower New River	1,612	691
Little Kanawha River	5,425	2,309	Gauley River	3,063	1,419
Tygart Valley River	3,226	3,226	Upper Kanawha River	1,244	519
West Fork River	1,888	880	Elk River	3,213	1,532
Monongahela River	867	456	Lower Kanawha River	1,965	924
Cheat River	2,538	1,324	Coal River	2,232	892
Dunkard Creek	246	109	Upper Guyandotte River	2,200	940
Youghiogheny River	127	72	Lower Guyandotte River	1,796	740
South Branch of the Potomac	3,476	1,480	Tug Fork	2,249	935
North Branch of the Potomac	1,173	1,343	Big Sandy River	201	74
Cacapon River Watershed	1,971	840	Lower Ohio River	546	221
Potomac Direct Drains	1,085	593	Twelvepole Creek	1,139	442
Shenandoah Hardy	47	17	TOTAL	54,961	26,943
Shenandoah Jefferson	140	103			

¹ Source: WVDEFIGURE

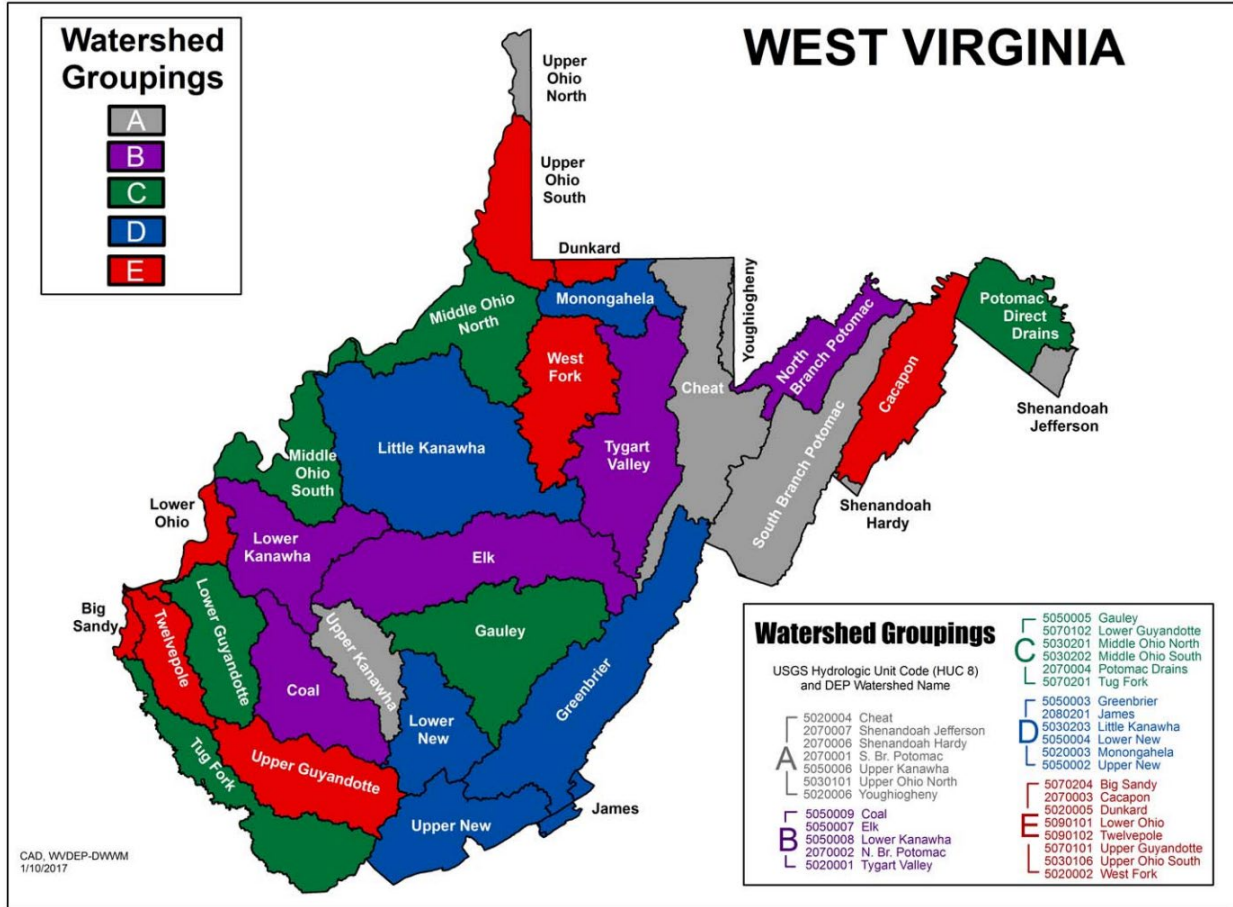


FIGURE 2: WV WATERSHEDS

The purpose of watershed-based planning is to define the problems, resources, costs, and course of action necessary to maintain watersheds in full compliance with water quality standards and to mitigate the severity of flooding events.

All West Virginia watersheds, through coordination with the WV Department of Environmental Protection (WVDEP), have Watershed based plans in place, which can be found on the WVDEP's website at:

<http://www.dep.wv.gov/WWE/Programs/nonptsources/WBP/Pages/WPs.aspx> [Watershed Management \(wv.gov\)](http://www.dep.wv.gov/WWE/Programs/nonptsources/WBP/Pages/WPs.aspx)

Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL)

On December 29, 2010, the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) established the Chesapeake Bay TMDL. The TMDL is a historic and comprehensive "pollution diet" to restore clean water in the Chesapeake Bay and the region's streams, creeks, and rivers. The TMDL is designed to ensure that all pollution control measures needed to fully restore the Bay and its

tidal rivers are in place by 2025. EPA expects practices in place by 2017 to meet 60 percent of the necessary reductions.



FIGURE 3: CHESAPEAKE BAY TMDL STATES

The Chesapeake Bay TMDL establishes allocations for sources and source sectors in each of the Bay jurisdictions. The TMDL allocations were set to meet applicable Bay water quality standards and were informed by the Bay jurisdictions' Watershed Implementation Plans (WIPs). The WIPs are the roadmap for how the Bay jurisdictions, in partnership with federal and local governments, will achieve the Chesapeake Bay TMDL allocations. There are three phases of WIPs developed by the Bay jurisdictions. Phase I and Phase II WIPs were developed and submitted to the EPA in 2010 and 2012, respectively. Both Phase I and Phase II WIPs describe actions and controls to be implemented by 2017 and 2025 to achieve applicable water quality standards. The Phase II WIPs build on the initial Phase I WIPs by providing more specific local actions. Phase III WIPs developed by jurisdictions based on a midpoint assessment of progress and scientific analyses provide information on actions the Bay jurisdictions intend to implement between 2018 and 2025 to meet the Bay restoration goals.

In West Virginia, the Department of Environmental Protection is responsible for the development of the WIPs and ensuring the state remains on track to meet the pollution reduction targets.

B. SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT

1. DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

West Virginia's demographics are a major factor in the risk posed by natural hazards.

Between the 2010 and 2020 Census, the state's population fell by 3.2 percent, or by 59,000 people, the highest percentage rate in the nation. During the same period, the nation's population grew by 7.4 percent. The state's 2020 population was 1,793,716 compared to the nation's 331.4 million.

The state's population is clustered in three areas: the Charleston metropolitan area; the Eastern Panhandle, an outgrowth of the Washington, DC, metropolitan area; and Morgantown, where West Virginia University is located.

The rise of mechanization in West Virginia's coal mines in the mid-20th Century and the downward trend in manufacturing started an exodus from the state as residents left to pursue their economic fortunes. In the early 1990s, Interstate 77, which connects Cleveland, Ohio, to Charlotte, N.C., was referred to as the "Hilly Billy Highway," because it led to more prosperous places.

Coupled with outmigration, the number of deaths exceed the number of live births in West Virginia. Deaths outpaced births for 21 years, between 1997 and 2020.

The state Department of Health and Human Resources' Office of Vital Statistics information shows that in the 36 years between 1984 and 2020, the state recorded negative population growth in 21 of them. [2020Vital.pdf](#)

The population decline cost the state a congressional seat in the 2022 election, the second loss since the early 1990s. West Virginia University's Bureau of Business and Economic Research, College of Business and Economics projects the state's population will continue to decline through 2040.

Following a decade of losing an average of over 8,200 residents a year (a cumulative loss of 4.5 percent of the total 2012 population), West Virginia's population losses are expected to slow over the next five years. Overall, we expect a cumulative 1.7 percent population loss from 2023 through 2028. This continued (albeit slower) population loss is primarily driven by a continuation of the natural population loss - a situation in which deaths exceed births - that has been observed in the state for several years now.

Unfortunately, the underlying structural economic and demographic trends that have prevailed in West Virginia in recent decades will be difficult to overcome as the forecast progresses. As such, the state is expected to further age, as the only age group with growing numbers is those aged 65 and older, as illustrated. The "under age 25" segment of the population is expected to suffer the highest rate of population loss.

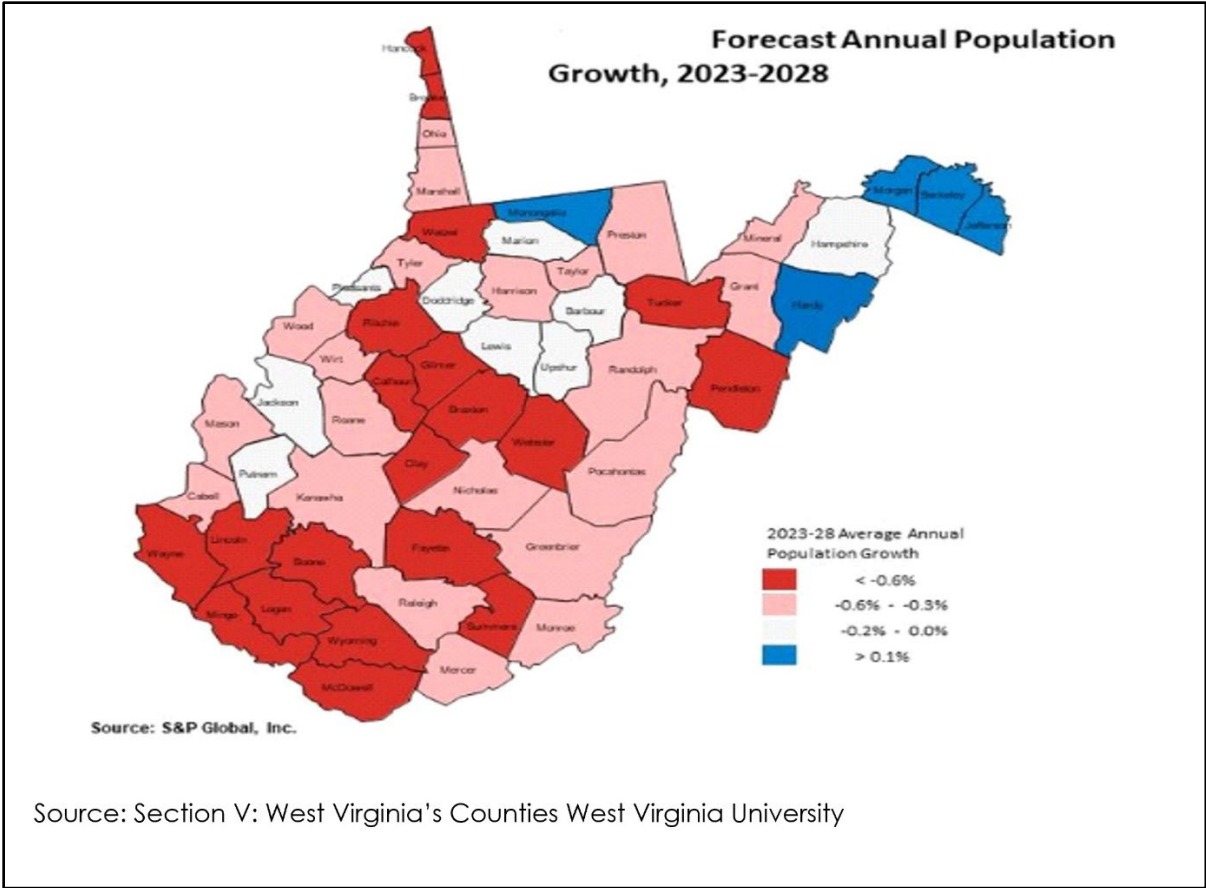


FIGURE 4: POPULATION FORECAST

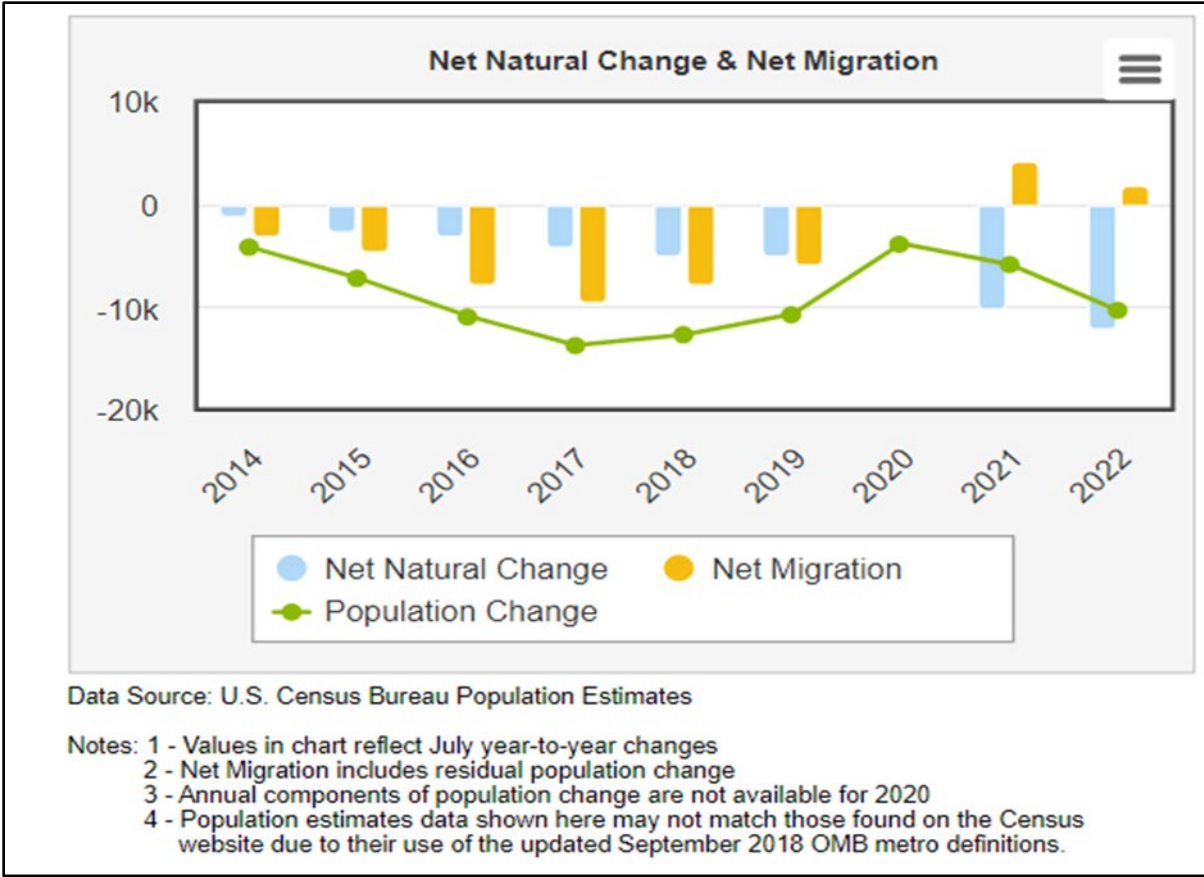


FIGURE 5: WV MIGRATION AND NATURAL CHANGE

West Virginia is one of the older states in the nation with a median age of 42.9 years, compared to the nation's median age of 39 years, according to Census Age and Sex Composition: 2020 brief.

TABLE 4: AGE CHANGE, CENSUS 2010-2020

	% Change 2010-2020 WV	% Change 2010-2020 US
Aged 65 to 84 years	25.8 %	42.2 %
Aged 85 to 99 years	5.4 %	15 %
Aged 100 years and over	33.3 %	50.2 %
All Ages	-3.2 %	7.4 %

In addition to growing older, the number of women continued to outpace the men. The following table reflects the changes between the 2010 and 2020 Census and tracks with the state's general population loss:

TABLE 5: POPULATION BY SEX, CENSUS 2010-2020

Year	Male	Female	Sex Ratio
2010	913,586	939,408	97.3
2020	888,898	904,818	98.2

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

The Census Bureau provides annual estimated demographic updates. The following table reflects the Bureau's latest estimates for the state. The figures also compare West Virginia against the nation.

TABLE 6: WEST VIRGINIA CENSUS DEMOGRAPHIC SNAPSHOT, 2023

Population	West Virginia	United States
Population Estimates, July 1, 2023, (V2023)	1,770,071	334,914,895
Population estimates base, April 1, 2023, (V2022)	1,774,035	333,271,411
Population, percent change - April 1, 2020 (estimates base) to July 1, 2023, (V2023)	-1.3%	1.0%
Population, Census, April 1, 2020	1,793,716	331,449,281
Population, Census, April 1, 2010	1,852,994	308,745,538
Age and Sex	West Virginia	United States
Persons under 5 years, percent	5.0%	5.6%
Persons under 18 years, percent	19.8%	21.7%
Persons 65 years and over, percent	21.2%	17.3%
Female persons, percent	50.1%	50.4%
Race and Hispanic Origin	West Virginia	United States
White alone, percent	92.8%	75.5%
Black or African American alone, percent(a)	3.7%	13.6%
American Indian and Alaska Native alone, percent(a)	0.3%	1.3%
Asian alone, percent(a)	0.9%	6.3%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone, percent(a)	<u>1</u>	0.3%
Two or More Races, percent	2.2%	3.0%

Hispanic or Latino, percent(b)	2.1%	19.1%
White alone, not Hispanic or Latino, percent	91.2%	58.9%
Population Characteristics	West Virginia	United States
Veterans, 2018-2022	114,894	17,038,807
Foreign born persons, percent, 2018-2022	1.6%	13.7%
Housing	West Virginia	United States
Housing units, July 1, 2022, (V2022)	861,633	143,786,655
Owner-occupied housing unit rate, 2018-2022	72.4%	64.8%
Median value of owner-occupied housing units, 2018-2022	\$145,800	\$281,900
Median selected monthly owner costs - with a mortgage, 2018-2022	\$1,180	\$1,828
Median selected monthly owner costs - without a mortgage, 2018-2022	\$371	\$584
Median gross rent, 2018-2022	\$831	\$1,268
Building permits, 2022	3,406	1,665,088
Families & Living Arrangements	West Virginia	United States
Households, 2018-2022	716,040	125,736,353
Persons per household, 2018-2022	2.43	2.57
Living in same house 1 year ago, percent of persons age 1 year+, 2018-2022	88.9%	86.9%
Language other than English spoken at home, percent of persons age 5 years+, 2018-2022	2.5%	21.7%
Computer and Internet Use	West Virginia	United States
Households with a computer, percent, 2018-2022	88.8%	94%
Households with a broadband Internet subscription, percent, 2018-2022	82.7%	88.3%
Education	West Virginia	United States
High school graduate or higher, percent of persons age 25 years+, 2018-2022	88.4%	89.1%
Bachelor's degree or higher, percent of persons age 25 years+, 2018-2022	22.7%	34.3%
Health	West Virginia	United States


With a disability, under age 65 years, percent, 2018-2022	13.8%	8.9%
Persons without health insurance, under age 65 years, percent	7.4%	9.3%
Economy	West Virginia	United States
In civilian labor force, total, percent of population age 16 years+, 2018-2022	53.1%	63%
In civilian labor force, female, percent of population age 16 years+, 2018-2022	49.3%	58.5%
Total accommodation and food services sales, 2017 (\$1,000)(c)	4,069,148	938,237,077
Total health care and social assistance receipts/revenue, 2017 (\$1,000)(c)	15,236,903	2,527,903,275
Total transportation and warehousing receipts/revenue, 2017 (\$1,000)(c)	3,068,787	895,225,411
Total retail sales, 2017 (\$1,000)(c)	23,057,778	4,949,601,481
Total retail sales per capita, 2017(c)	\$12,678	\$15,224
Transportation	West Virginia	United States
Mean travel time to work (minutes), workers age 16 years+, 2018-2022	26.3	26.7
Income & Poverty	West Virginia	United States
Median household income (in 2022 dollars), 2018-2022	\$55,217	\$75,149
Per capita income in past 12 months (in 2022 dollars), 2018-2022	\$31,462	\$41,261
Persons in poverty, percent	17.9%	11.5%
Businesses	West Virginia	United States
Total employer establishments, 2021	35,316	8,148,606
Total employment, 2021	519,122	128,346,299
Total annual payroll, 2021 (\$1,000)	24,261,040	8,278,573,947
Total employment, percent change, 2020-2021	-4.2%	-4.3%
Total nonemployer establishments, 2020	85,091	27,151,987
All employer firms, Reference year 2017	24,430	5,744,643
Men-owned employer firms, Reference year 2017	14,791	3,480,438

Women-owned employer firms, Reference year 2017	3,728	1,134,549
Minority-owned employer firms, Reference year 2017	1,116	1,014,958
Nonminority-owned employer firms, Reference year 2017	20,383	4,371,152
Veteran-owned employer firms, Reference year 2017	1,872	351,237
Nonveteran-owned employer firms, Reference year 2017	19,020	4,968,606

[About datasets used in this table](#)

Value Notes

Methodology differences may exist between data sources, and so estimates from different sources are not comparable.

Some estimates presented here come from sample data, and thus have sampling errors that may render some apparent differences between geographies statistically indistinguishable. Click the Quick Info  icon to the left of each row in TABLE view to learn about sampling error.

The vintage year (e.g., V2023) refers to the final year of the series (2020 thru 2023). Different vintage years of estimates are not comparable.

In Vintage 2022, as a result of the formal request from the state, Connecticut transitioned from eight counties to nine planning regions. For more details, please see the Vintage 2022 release notes available here: [Release Notes](#).

Users should exercise caution when comparing 2018-2022 ACS 5-year estimates to other ACS estimates. For more information, please visit the [2022 5-year ACS Comparison Guidance](#) page.

Fact Notes

(a)Includes persons reporting only one race.

(b)Hispanics may be of any race, so also are included in applicable race categories.

(c)Economic Census - Puerto Rico data are not comparable to U.S. Economic Census data

Value Flags

.Either no or too few sample observations were available to compute an estimate, or a ratio of medians cannot be calculated because one or both of the median estimates falls in the lowest or upper interval of an open-ended distribution.

Fewer than 25 firms

Suppressed to avoid disclosure of confidential information.

Data for this geographic area cannot be displayed because the number of sample cases is too small.

Footnoted on this item in place of data.

Not applicable

Suppressed; does not meet publication standards.

Not available

Value greater than zero but less than half unit of measure shown.

QuickFacts data are derived from: Population Estimates, American Community Survey, Census of Population and Housing, Current Population Survey, Small Area Health Insurance Estimates, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates, State and County Housing Unit Estimates, County Business Patterns, Nonemployer Statistics, Economic Census, Survey of Business Owners, Building Permits.

2) SOCIAL VULNERABILITY

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, social vulnerability refers to the potential negative effects on communities caused by external stresses on human health. Such stresses include natural or human-caused disasters, or disease outbreaks. Reducing social vulnerability can decrease both human suffering and economic loss.

The Social Vulnerability Index (SoVI®) measures the social vulnerability of U.S. counties to environmental hazards. The index synthesizes 29 socioeconomic variables and is a valuable tool for policy makers and practitioners. It graphically illustrates the geographic variation in social vulnerability. It shows where there is uneven capacity for preparedness and response and where resources might be used most effectively to reduce the pre-existing vulnerability. SoVI® also is useful as an indicator in determining the differential recovery from disasters.

SoVI® was developed by the [Hazards and Vulnerability Research Institute](#) at the University of South Carolina. The Hazards and Vulnerability Research Institute (HVRI) is an interdisciplinary research and graduate and undergraduate training center focused on the development of theory, data, metrics, methods, applications, and spatial analytical models for understanding the newly emergent field of hazard vulnerability science.

In addition to basic research, HVRI facilitates local, state, and federal government efforts to improve emergency preparedness, planning, and response and disaster resilience through its outreach activities. These activities include providing technical assistance to and translational products for the practitioner community as well as training emergency managers in GIS applications. Partnerships with federal, state, and local emergency managers are an important component of the Institute's purpose and mission.

The Institute had developed Baseline Resilience Indicators for Communities (BRIC) that looks at six broad categories of community disaster resilience: social, economic, community capital, institutional, infrastructural, and environmental at the county level. Used as an initial baseline for monitoring existing attributes of resilience to natural hazards, BRIC can be used to compare Every community must prepare for and respond to hazardous events, whether a natural disaster like a tornado or disease outbreak, or a human-made event such as a harmful chemical spill. Several factors, including poverty, lack of access to transportation, and crowded housing may weaken a community's ability to prevent human suffering and financial loss in a disaster.

The U.S Census Bureau's latest community resilience estimates for equity estimates 23.5 percent of West Virginia's 1,792,967 residents is vulnerable. This is higher than the national estimate of 20.6 percent. [Community resilience estimates for equity profiles \(census.gov\)](#)

Additional Social Vulnerability Statistics For West Virginia Include:

- 82.7 percent have an internet broadband subscription, which is lower than the national estimate of 88.3 percent.
- 8.2 percent do not have a vehicle available, compared to national estimate of 8.3 percent.
- 0.4 percent live in housing where there are 1.51 occupants per room, which is lower than the national estimate of 1.1 percent.

- 0.7 percent speaks English “very well,” which is lower than the national estimate of 8.2 percent.
- 16.8 percent live below poverty, which is higher than the nation estimate of 12.5 percent.
- 6.4 percent do not have health insurance, which is lower than the national estimate of 8.7 percent.
- 46.3 percent are employed full-time, year-round, which is lower than the national estimate of 51.9 percent.
- 88.4 percent are high school graduates, which is lower than the national estimate of 89.1 percent.
- 8 percent are civilian veterans, which is higher than the national estimate of 6.6 percent.
- 19.1 percent live with a disability, which is higher than the national estimate of 12.9 percent.
- 4 percent are female householder with no spouse present, family household, which 0.2 percent lower than national estimate.
- 1.1 percent are male householder with no spouse present, family household, which was 0.1 percent higher than national estimate.

Census Community Resilience Estimates 2024

Figures 5-9 show the state's 2020 SVI for Overall SVI, Socioeconomics Status, Housing and Transportation, Racial and Ethnic Minority, and Household Characteristics.

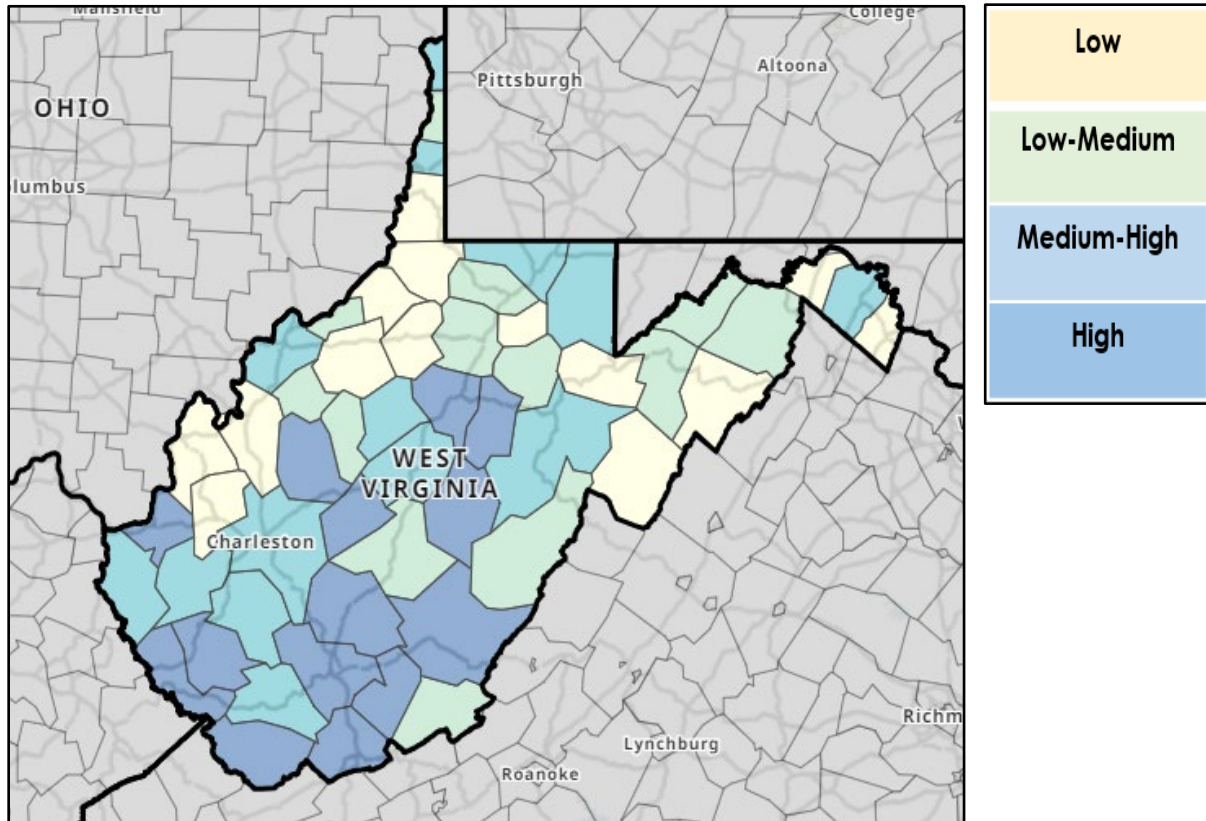


FIGURE 6: OVERALL SOCIAL VULNERABILITY INDEX, 2020

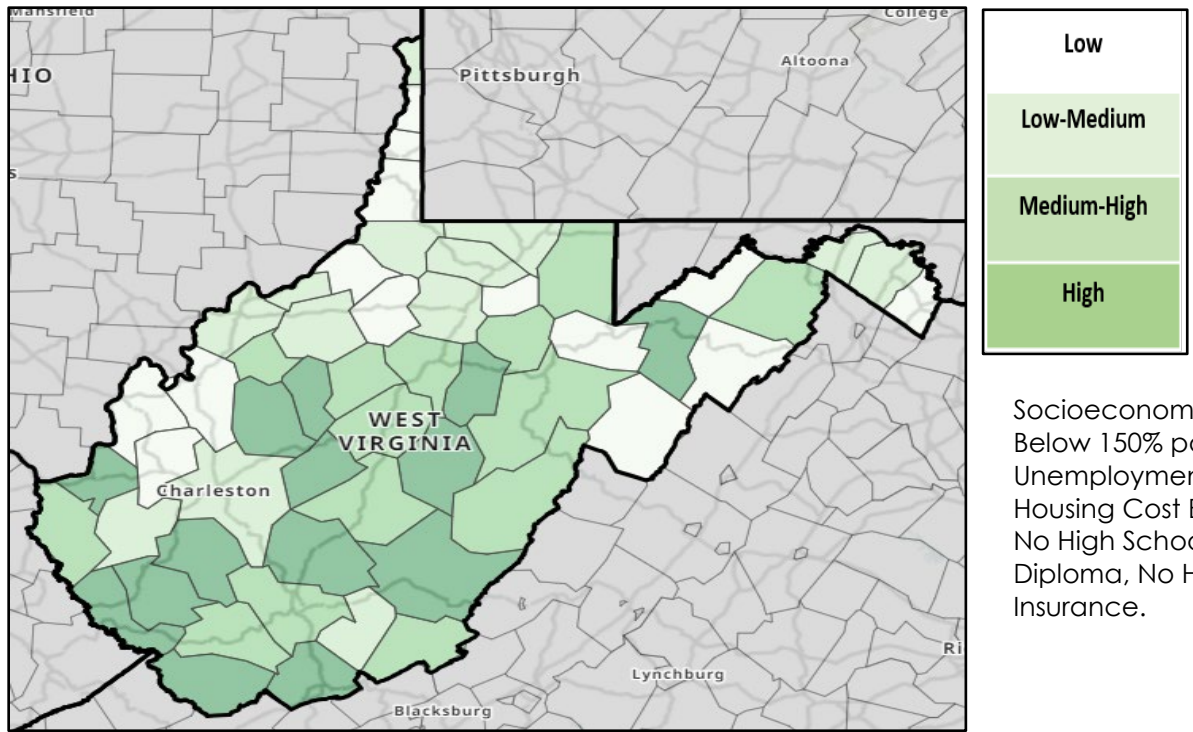


FIGURE 7: SOCIOECONOMIC STATUS

Socioeconomic Status:
 Below 150% poverty,
 Unemployment,
 Housing Cost Burden,
 No High School
 Diploma, No Health
 Insurance.

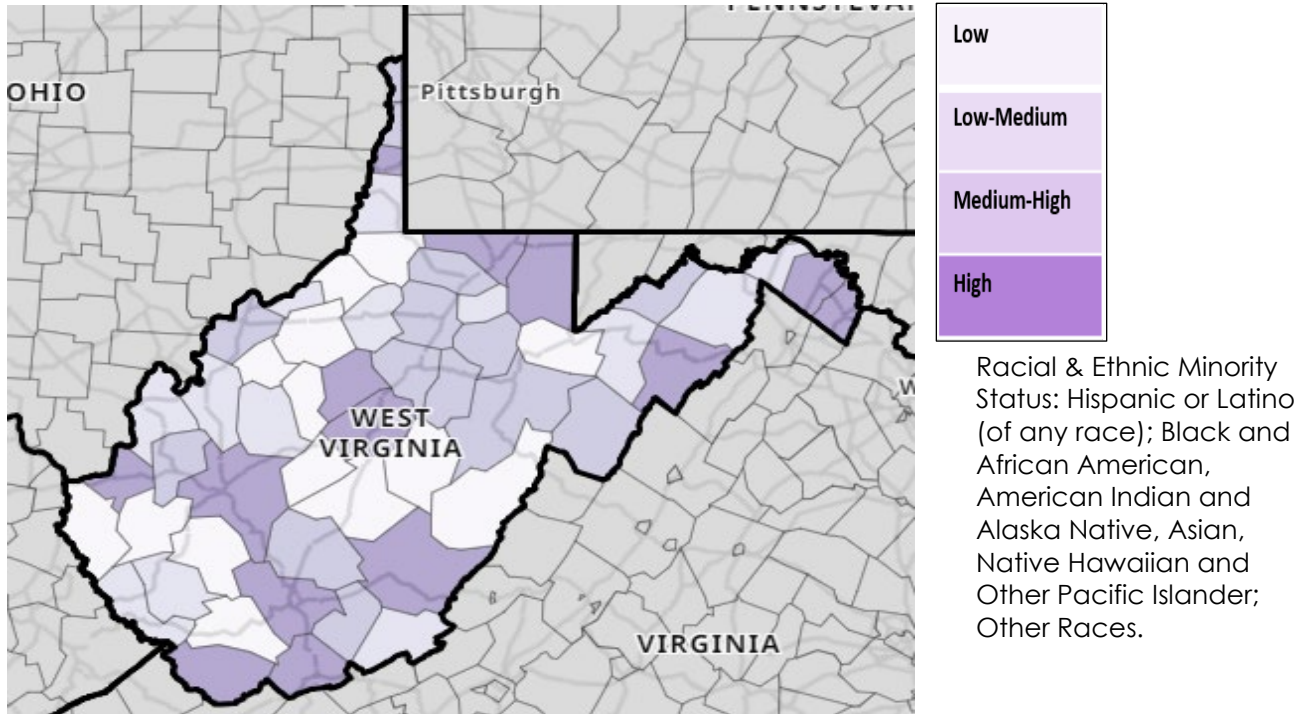


FIGURE 9: RACIAL AND ETHNIC MINORITY

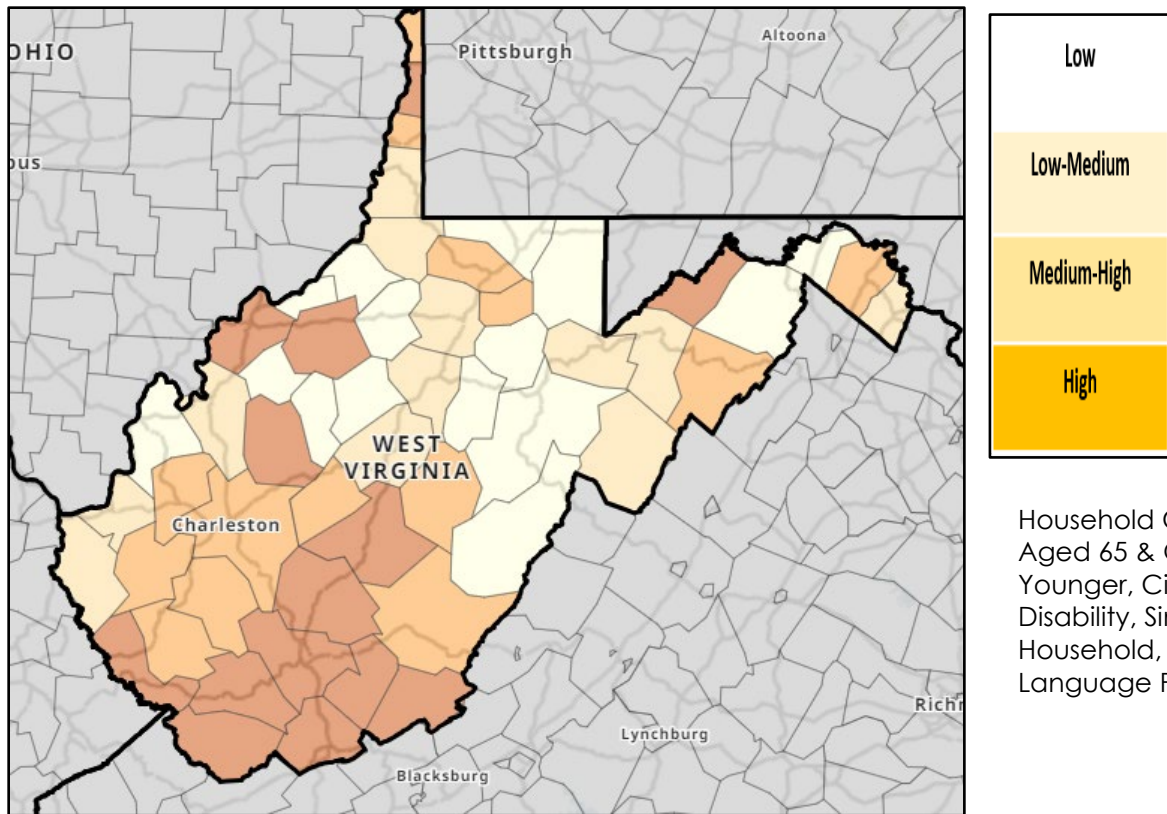


FIGURE 10: HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

Household Characteristics:
Aged 65 & Older, Aged 17 &
Younger, Civilian with a
Disability, Single Parent
Household, English
Language Proficiency.

3) ACCESS AND FUNCTIONAL NEEDS

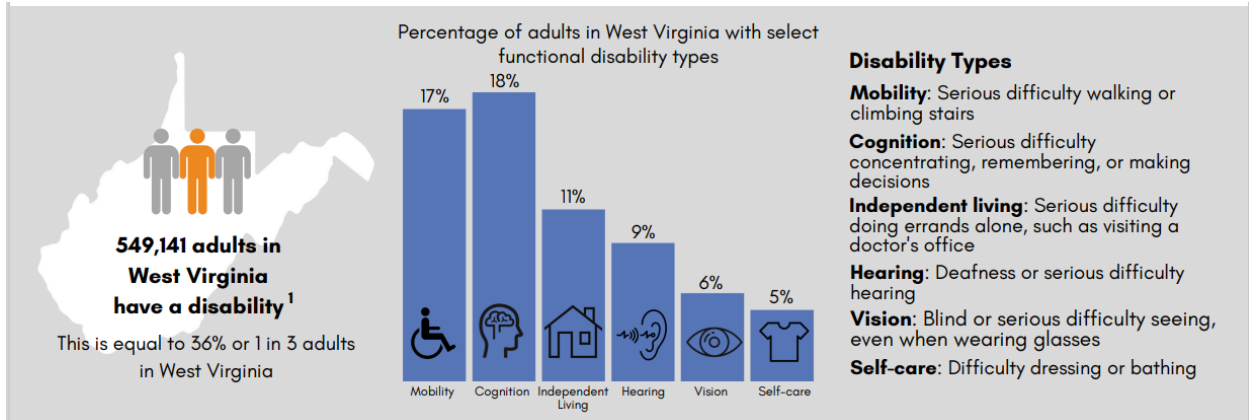
Health

The [West Virginia Health and Social Survey](#) examined the state's general health, including physical and emotional pain. The 2020 Community Dynamics findings show:

- 40 percent of respondents reported being in fair or poor health.
- 60 percent reported being in good or excellent health.
- Respondents living in households earning \$50,000 a year or less generally reported poor health compared to those earning more than \$50,000.
- Lower backpain and joint pain lasting more than one day was reported by 60 percent of the respondents.
- More than 25 percent of the respondents reported being seriously depressed in the past 30 days.

The survey noted that “many residents of West Virginia struggle with general health concerns.”

The survey was mailed to 5,000 residents and was based on 1,900 responses (38.1 percent.)



Source: [2023 WV Disability and Health State Profile \(cdc.gov\)](https://www.cdc.gov/data/state-profiles/wv-disability-and-health-state-profile)

FIGURE 11: PERCENTAGE OF WEST VIRGINIANS WITH DISABILITIES

Access to affordable, accessible, and integrated housing has been identified as one of the primary barriers faced by persons with disabilities in West Virginia. Although West Virginia has the highest national rate of homeownership, much of the housing is in substandard condition. The lack of appropriate housing in the State has become a major difficulty to successfully moving someone from an institution to their home or other community living option.

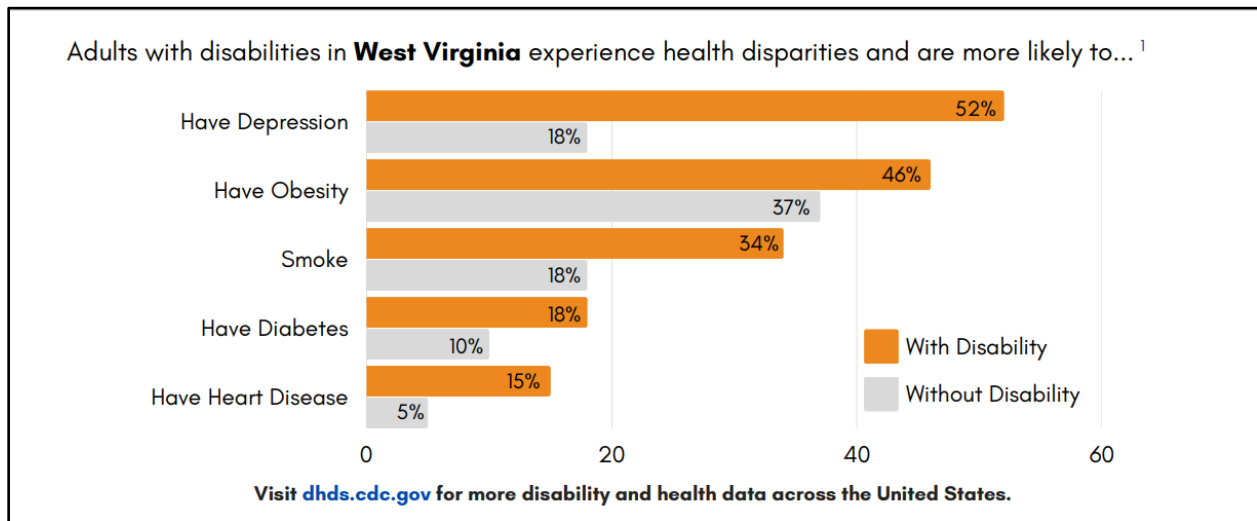


FIGURE 12: HEALTH DISPARITIES

C. BUILT ENVIRONMENT

This section presents information on West Virginia's built environment, including land use, infrastructure, economic information, and housing.

1. LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT

West Virginia land use regulations are inconsistent and vary across the state. Some communities have comprehensive plans without zoning in place, others have zoning without comprehensive plans. Some have neither. Existing and planned land use patterns greatly influence a community's hazard vulnerability.

Land uses are often considered as having a certain "intensity," which refers to the impact a use has on surrounding uses or infrastructure via nuisance issues like noise or odor, or other issues like traffic generation or size of structures needed. Consequently, future land use decisions should be directed toward creating a more disaster-resistant environment.

Changes in urban land cover should be included in long-term comprehensive plans. Most changes in West Virginia have occurred in urban and agricultural areas. According to West Virginia's [2022 Census of Agriculture](#) the number of acres devoted to farming fell by more than 3 percent between 2017 and 2022, 3,662,178 to 3,549,104. The state's historically large agriculture counties all lost farmland. Berkeley and Jefferson counties in West Virginia's Eastern Panhandle lost a combined 16,770 acres as growth from the influence of the Washington, D.C.-metro area has resulted in the growth of industrial, commercial, and residential development.

West Virginia State Building Code

Building codes are a set of technical rules and standards for building construction, renovation, and safety. If a community decides to adopt the WVSBC, the community must adopt it in one of the following manners: 1) adopt all parts of the WVSBC, which consists of 11 different codes; 2) adopt only the International Property Maintenance Code (IPMC) without adopting the rest of the WVSBC; or 3) adopt all of the WVSBC except the International Property Maintenance Code.

The WVSBC was enacted in 1989 and became effective in 1990. All building or housing codes that were in effect prior to the creation of the WVSBC are no longer valid in West Virginia. Local governments are not required to enforce the WVSBC. However, no other code provisions pertaining to building construction, repair, or maintenance may be enforced in West Virginia. Prior to the enactment of the WVSBC, multiple regional building and housing codes were used, creating confusion as to which standards applied in different jurisdictions.

The State Fire Commission administers the state building code under West Virginia Code §29-3-5b. The State Fire Commission is tasked with establishing rules and "standards considered necessary for the safeguarding of life and property and to ensure compliance with the minimum standards of safe construction of all structures erected and renovated throughout the state."

State codes that address planning and zoning, and regional planning councils include:

- State Code Chapter 8A of the WV State Code, relating to Planning and Zoning (the replacement for Chapter 8, Article 24)
- State Code Chapter 8, Article 25 – Chapter 8, Article 25 of the WV State Code, relating to Regional Planning Councils

In addition to fire, wind and load bearing standards, the International Building Code (IBC), and the WVSBC, incorporates many aspects of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) regulations. By doing so, the IBC aligns NFIP requirements and building code into local laws.

While these regulations do not satisfactorily meet the requirements of the NFIP or qualify the jurisdiction for participation, these regulations do provide communities that have adopted the WVSBBC with some level of flood protection.

Land Use Planning and Advocacy

While many planning and zoning issues are addressed in [West Virginia Code | §8A \(wvlegislature.gov\)](#), many areas of the State lack the expertise to implement the Land Use Planning law. To address this need, the [West Virginia University College of Law, Land Use and Sustainable Development Law Clinic \(Land Use Clinic\)](#), provides legal and land use planning services to local governments, landowners, and non-profit organizations to develop land conservation strategies and practices. Its target audience includes community leaders, citizen planners, planning commissioners, board of zoning appeals members, local government officials, members of environmental groups, and developers.

West Virginia Land Stewardship

In 2013, the Legislature passed the [West Virginia Land Stewardship Corporation](#) law, which was the first state-wide land use planning effort. The law created the [West Virginia Land Stewardship Corporation \(WVLSC\)](#), a collaborative effort among the public, private, and nonprofit sectors to provide West Virginia and its citizens a statewide, nonpartisan community and economic development non-profit corporation. The WVLSC is designed to foster redevelopment of underperforming real estate by operating as a 'one stop shop' for idled and underutilized commercial, industrial, and mining properties. Specifically, the Act created 3 new programs in West Virginia: the Voluntary Land Stewardship Program, the State Certified Sites Program, and the Voluntary Land Bank Program. The WVLSC is also authorized to establish a voluntary state Land Bank Program. Under this program, the WVLSC may acquire properties, hold title, and prepare them for future use.

West Virginia Brownfields

[West Virginia Brownfields Assistance Centers](#) were established in 2005 at Marshall and West Virginia Universities to promote economic development and environmental and public health protection through innovative redevelopment of brownfield. The center has worked on more than 250 brownfields projects since 2006.

West Virginia Historic Properties

West Virginia is rich with historic properties of significant architectural and cultural value. Given the importance of historic properties, regulations exist to help protect them, and incentives are available to help fund their restoration.⁴

The [State Historic Preservation Office \(SHPO\) - West Virginia Department of Arts, Culture & History : West Virginia Department of Arts, Culture & History \(wvculture.org\)](#) reviews impacts to historic properties prior to any undertaking "permitted, funded, licensed or otherwise assisted, in whole or in part, by the state." Adverse effects on historic properties include 1) "physical destruction, damage, or alteration of all or part of the property"; 2) "isolation of the property from or alteration of the character of the property's setting when that character contributes to the property's qualification for the State or National Register"; 3) "introduction of a significant change to visual, audible, or atmospheric elements that are out of character with the property or alter its setting"; 4) "neglect of a property resulting in its deterioration or destruction"; and 5) "transfer, lease, or sale of the property without protective restrictions." If the relevant state agency and the Division of Culture and History find that there will be an adverse effect on a

⁴ <http://wvleap.wvu.edu/special-considerations/historic-properties>

historic property, they are required to seek ways to avoid or reduce the effects. Like the federal process, a Memorandum of Agreement may be developed to describe measures that the agency will take to avoid adverse effects.

Certified Local Governments/Historic Landmark Commissions

Established by local ordinance or order of the county commission, historic landmark commissions give residents and officials authority to act upon the community's preservation concerns. The commissions are best able to understand the unique factors threatening the town's character and potential with unplanned development or neglect.

Recognizing the essential importance of preservation at the local level, the federal government amended the National Historic Preservation Act in 1980 to include the Certified Local Government (CLG) program. A CLG is an integration of local governments and historic preservation. A CLG provides for adequate public participation in local historic preservation programs including the process of nominating properties to the National Register of Historic Places. A CLG must also satisfactorily perform the responsibilities delegated to it under this law.

The design of this program is to give national recognition to local preservation commissions and empower communities in their preservation efforts. The amended act charges each state historic preservation office to administer the CLG program and reserve 10 percent of federal allocations for grants available to participating local governments. Completed grants funded a variety of preservation activities, including architectural and archaeological surveys, National Register nominations, educational brochures, walking tours, guidelines for design review and feasibility studies of historic structures.

Many communities in West Virginia have created historic landmark commissions (HLCs). HLCs must hold public meetings to establish local historic landmarks. Prior to designating a property as historic, the commission must develop a report on the historical, cultural, and architectural significance of each proposed building, structure, site, and district based on specific standards. If designated by local ordinance, an HLC may also have the authority to review building design and issue Certificates of Appropriateness for properties designated as historic landmarks. If a property is designated a historic landmark, a Certificate of Appropriateness may be required prior to any alteration of a designated structure or earthwork, including restoration, demolition, and excavation.

Working outside the scope of the Certificate of Appropriateness can cost a landowner up to 10 percent of the total cost of the project in fines or \$500, whichever is greater. Over 60 HLCs have been established in West Virginia, although only about 4 have design review authority.

"Historic," as defined by Historic Landmark Commissions, can be found in the West Virginia Code § 8-26A-6. [Certified Local Governments/Historic Landmark Commissions - West Virginia Department of Arts, Culture & History: West Virginia Department of Arts, Culture & History \(wvculture.org\)](#)

Floodplain Management Ordinances

Provisions for development within the regulated floodplain have typically been addressed by stand-alone ordinances adopted for voluntary participation in the National Flood Insurance

Program (NFIP). Revised floodplain ordinance provisions were recently incorporated into comprehensive zoning ordinances when localities adopt, revise, or re-codify zoning ordinances.

West Virginia's Emergency Management Division's (WVEMD) [Floodplain Management Section](#) has made significant strides in assisting communities' adoption of floodplain management ordinances and encouraging them to adopt more stringent ordinances. WVEMD supports communities in floodplain management through the provision of model floodplain management regulations. As of November 2023, there were 278 communities that participate in the NFIP, the majority of these adopted the State model floodplain ordinance, which exceeds the minimum requirements laid out by the NFIP. For example, the West Virginia model floodplain ordinance includes 2 feet of freeboard as an additional measure of flood protection. Most communities who have adopted this model ordinance have done so without modification.

During the 2024 legislative session, the West Virginia Legislature passed Senate Bill 171, which prohibited counties and cities from passing ordinances that limited or prevented a landowner's complete use of natural resources or real property for farm or agricultural operations outside of municipalities or urban areas. The West Virginia Emergency Management Division has expressed concern that the new law will threaten the state's NFIP eligibility by allowing unregulated development in flood plains.

The agency also supports community participation in the [NFIP's Community Rating System \(CRS\)](#). CRS is a voluntary incentive program that encourages community floodplain activities that exceed the minimum NFIP floodplain management regulations. As of November 2023, West Virginia had 5 communities (Buckhannon, Charleston, Martinsburg, Parsons, and Philippi) and 8 counties (Berkeley, Fayette, Greenbrier, Hampshire, Jefferson, Kanawha, Morgan, and Putnam) that have qualified for CRS benefits, which includes lower flood insurance premium rates.

Model Recovery Ordinances

The [American Planning Association's Model Recovery Ordinance](#) outlines a foundation for local strategic action by which a community can organize to efficiently manage short- and long-term recovery either in advance of or after a disaster. The purpose of the model recovery ordinance is to provide legal authority for actions commonly found useful in expediting recovery, together with emergency powers protecting public health and safety and fostering desired beneficial long-term recovery outcomes. While no West Virginia governing entity has adopted the model recovery ordinance to date, it is strongly encouraged that they do so.

Comprehensive Plans in West Virginia

The West Virginia University Land Use and Sustainable Development Law Clinic has compiled a partial list of city, town, and county comprehensive plans. Geographical areas with comprehensive plans in West Virginia can be found at this link: [West Virginia Comprehensive Plans | Land Use and Sustainable Development 2021 | West Virginia University \(wvu.edu\)](#)

2) HOUSING

Due to the region's economy, topography, and population, much of the rural areas of West Virginia have historically experienced difficulties providing/maintaining an adequate supply of modern, quality, affordable housing for very low- to moderate-income households. In addition,

it has been a challenge for the region to attract developers given the relatively low population densities, topography, and lack of incentives to develop smaller properties.

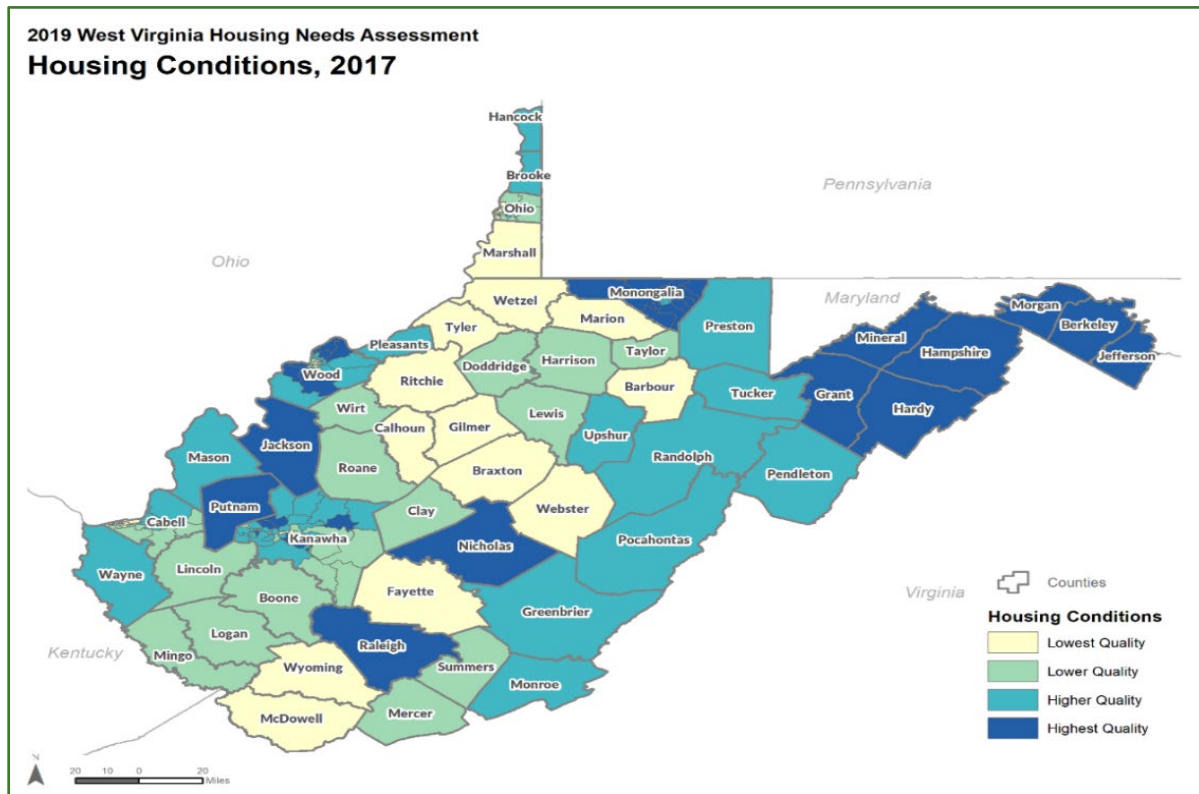
The West Virginia Housing Development Fund's [Statewide Housing Needs Assessment](#) reviewed current and anticipated house needs in all 55 counties. Housing opportunities were greatest where residents had "K-12 school proficiency, labor force engagement, access to jobs, and environmental air qualify." Such areas were scattered across the state.

The review projected housing needs out to 2024.

The counties with the highest quality housing stock were Jefferson, Berkeley, and Putnam counties. The three counties have led the state in population growth since the late 1980s. Putnam has grown due to in-migration from neighboring counties. Berkeley and Jefferson have benefited from the Washington, D.C. metro area.

The map below shows the three counties were among those with the highest housing quality.

Areas with the least housing opportunities, and lowest housing quality, were in the state's southwestern counties, mid-Ohio Valley, and central West Virginia.



Source: Statewide Housing Needs Assessment

FIGURE 13: HOUSING CONDITIONS

General Housing Conditions

- According to the 2022 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-year estimate, the median home value in West Virginia was \$145,800.
- Of the 55 counties, only 19 counties had median home values higher than the state median. Jefferson (\$255,800), Berkeley (\$193,700), Morgan (\$167,100), Monongalia (\$145,400) and Putnam (\$135,200) counties had the highest home values in the state. Conversely, McDowell (\$32,800), Webster (\$58,500), Wyoming (\$59,300), Wirt (\$61,800) and Mingo (\$63,900) counties had the lowest median home values, according to the [National Association of REALTORS](#)
- The percentage of owner-occupied housing in West Virginia was 74.2 percent, versus the national rate of 64.8 percent, according to the Census 2018-2022 Census Quick Facts.

Housing Unmet Needs

Generally speaking, the price of housing in West Virginia can be considered low by national standards; however, housing affordability depends on other factors to determine if it is affordable. Incomes must be high enough for residents to purchase or rent housing, while other household expenses must not be too high.

For housing to be affordable, as defined by US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), a household cannot spend more than 30 percent of gross income on housing expenses. Also, unmet need is the proportion of households that is both affordable and available. Another factor is the number of additional housing needed in a particular geographic area.

This problem affects both renters and homeowners.

The Housing Development Fund's needs assessment showed more affordable rental housing is needed for residents in all income tiers.

"Changing the number of units in the housing stock is a slow process; it takes time to plan, fund, and build developments. Having insight into potential changes in income, tenure and elderly status demographics is useful for planning purposes," the Housing Development Fund's report noted.

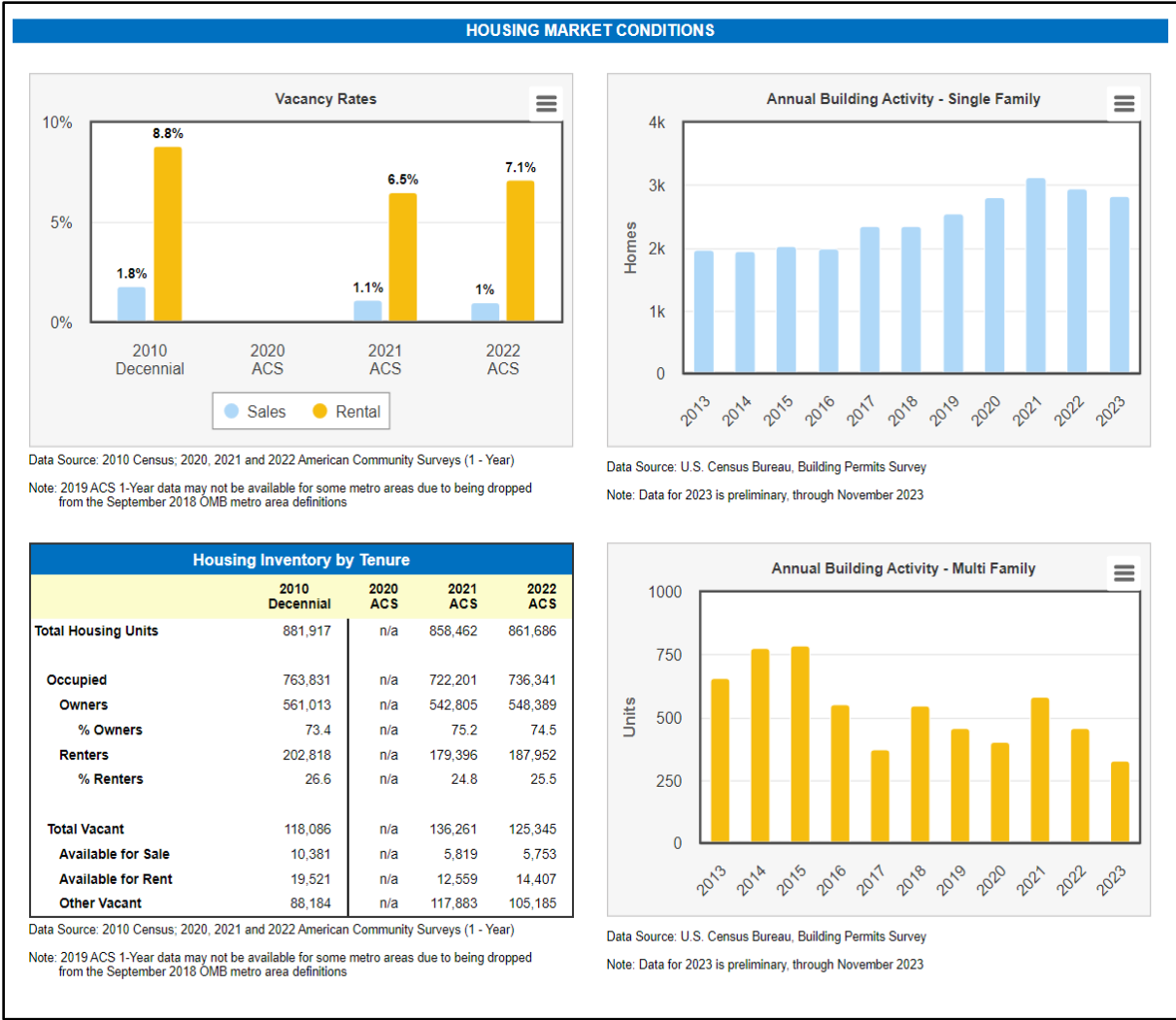


FIGURE 14: WV HOUSING MARKET CONDITIONS

Common Housing Problems

According to the [State of West Virginia Consolidated 2015-2019 Action Plan](#), a U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) prerequisite for receiving Community Development Block Grants (CDBGs), cost burden (where residents pay more than 30 percent of their annual income on housing costs) is the most common housing problem in the State.

Substandard housing, severe overcrowding, and zero/negative income represent a less significant problem. Substandard condition is defined as housing that does not meet local building, fire, health, and safety codes.

Individuals with an imminent risk of residing in shelters or becoming homeless typically have a combination of financial factors including lack of a living wage job; rent consuming more than 30 percent of their income; and high childcare, medical, or transportation costs.

The National Low Income Housing Coalition's 2023 [Out of Reach](#) report ranked West Virginia 50th in affordability. The report noted a person would need to earn at least \$16.64 an hour to afford a two-bedroom home. To meet the 30 percent threshold, the report noted a household would need to earn \$2,884 a month to afford the fair market rent (FMR) rate of \$865 per month.

West Virginia is one of the most rural states in the nation, with an estimated 55 percent of its population living outside of urban areas. Residents living outside of the Metropolitan Statistical Areas experiences the highest concentration of aging homes and of housing units that lack indoor plumbing.

These areas are also less likely to have access to public water and sewer, telecommunications, and other critical community services, such as health care and transportation. Housing rehabilitation poses a significant problem since many of the State's housing units were built before 1978 and may contain lead paint. The median age of residential structures in West Virginia is 44 years, according to the Housing Development Fund.

State Agency Support Roles to Housing

The State is responsible for the provision of financial assistance the [HUD CDBG Entitlement Program](#). The financial assistance under this program is available in all 55 counties. [HUD's HOME Program](#), which provides grants to state and local governments to create affordable housing for low-income households, does not provide financial assistance to the counties of: Brooke, Berkeley, Cabell, Hancock, Jefferson, Morgan, Kanawha, Ohio, Wayne, or Wood. Each of these counties is a member of one of the five HOME Consortia and receives direct allocation of HOME funds for HUD.⁵

Below is a summary of the primary West Virginia State Agencies that support 3 central housing issues: community and economic development, low-income housing, and homelessness.

Community and Economic Development

The West Virginia Development Office (WVDO) is the State's community and economic development agency. The agency administers the State's HUD-CDBG Program. WVDO provides technical assistance, funding, and coordination links to local governments, regional planning and development councils, state infrastructure agencies, and economic development agencies regarding economic development and infrastructure matters.

Low-income Housing

The West Virginia Housing Development Fund (WVHDF), the State's housing finance agency, administers the HUD-CDBG HOME program (a federal block grant program which supports low-income households) in West Virginia. WVHDF provides technical assistance, funding, and coordination links to local governments, non-profit organizations and public housing agencies concerning the development of affordable housing and related matters. The agency puts a special emphasis on Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO) development and encourages partnerships and collaborations in the work that is done. The Public Housing Authorities (PHA) are components in the statewide system for delivery of affordable housing. While neither the State, nor its housing agencies, have direct oversight for local PHA

organizations, many of the West Virginia housing agencies partner with these entities through a grantee or project sponsor relationship to complete local projects or activities.

Homelessness

The [West Virginia Office of Community Advancement and Development](#) administers HUD's [Emergency Solutions Grant \(ESG\)](#) and [Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS \(HOPWA\)](#) programs. The agency provides technical assistance, funding, and coordination links to local governments, non-profits organizations, and state health and human service agencies concerning human service matters, including social services and anti-poverty.

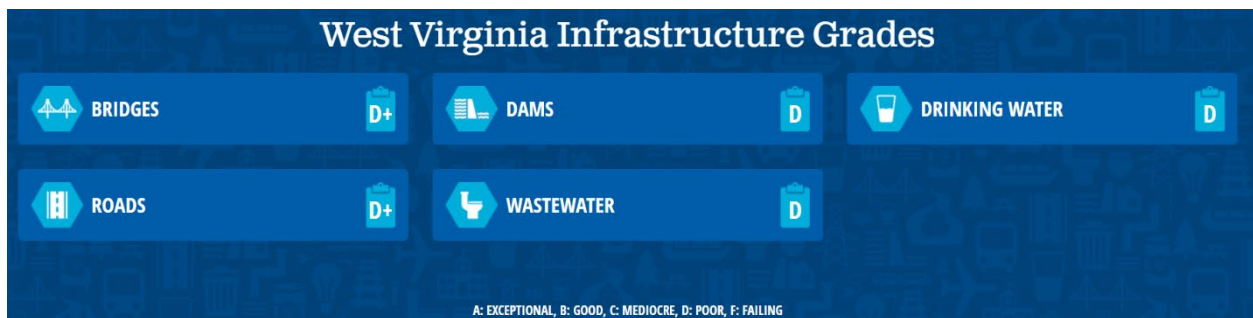
One of the barriers the State faces with providing services to those who are homeless or at risk for becoming homeless is in the rural areas of the State where services are limited and other barriers such as transportation and lack of access to community services is challenging.

In its January 2024 annual report to the President, the US Interagency Council on Homelessness reported that lack of housing supply and slow wage growth contributed to homelessness.

West Virginia had an estimated 1,416 homeless residents, according to information reported by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development's [2023 Continuum of Care](#) homeless population report.

3) INFRASTRUCTURE

West Virginia 2021 Infrastructure Report



Source: [West Virginia 2021 Infrastructure Report](#)

FIGURE 15: WEST VIRGINIA INFRASTRUCTURE SCORE CARD

Key Infrastructure Facts

Every 4 years, America's civil engineers provide a comprehensive assessment of the nation's major infrastructure categories. The snapshot of West Virginia's infrastructure information is provided from the 2020 West Virginia State Report Card and highlighted below:

- 55 percent of roads are in poor or fair condition.
- 37 miles of levees protect 41,511 residents.
- 417 high hazard dams
- \$3.3 billion total wastewater need

- 14 Superfund sites
- 7,314 bridges, 20.4 percent of which were structurally deficient in 2021.
- 3.3 million passenger trips across 20 systems in 2021
- \$1.4 billion total drinking water need
- \$18.8 million in 2022 airport improvement grants across 7 major airports

Energy

Quick Facts:

- In 2021, West Virginia ranked fifth among the states in total energy production, accounting for 6 percent of the nation's total.
- In 2022, West Virginia was the second-largest coal producer in the nation, after Wyoming, and accounted for 14 percent of U.S. total coal production. West Virginia also had 15 percent of recoverable coal reserves at producing mines, the third-largest state reserve base in the nation, after Wyoming and Illinois.
- In 2022, coal-fired electric power plants accounted for 89 percent of West Virginia's total electricity net generation. Renewable energy resources—primarily hydroelectric power and wind energy—contributed 7 percent and natural gas provided about 4 percent.
- In 2022, West Virginia was fourth in the nation in natural gas marketed production. The state produced a record 2.9 trillion cubic feet of natural gas, more than 5 times greater than in 2012, and about 95 percent of it was from shale gas wells.
- West Virginians used about three-fifths of the electricity generated in the state in 2022. As a result, West Virginia was a net supplier of electricity to the regional grid and was among the top states in interstate transfers of electricity. Only four other states sent more of their electricity generation out of state.

Natural Gas

West Virginia is the nation's fourth-largest producer of marketed natural gas. The state is within the Marcellus shale productive region, one of the largest natural gas-producing areas in the United States.

About three-fifths of West Virginia's energy production comes from the state's natural gas production. Because of increases in natural gas and natural gas liquids production from the Marcellus and Utica shales in northern West Virginia, natural gas surpassed coal for the first time in 2019 to become the largest contributor to the state's energy production.

West Virginia had about 39 trillion cubic feet of shale gas reserves at the end of 2021, the third-highest reserves among the states and 10 percent of the nation's total shale gas reserves. Production from the Marcellus and Utica-point pleasant shale formations accounts for about 95 percent of West Virginia's natural gas production.

In 2014, the state's total natural gas production exceeded 1 trillion cubic feet for the first time, and in 2019, the energy value of West Virginia's natural gas production surpassed that of the state's coal production for the first time.

In 2022, West Virginia's total annual gross withdrawals of natural gas reached a record 2.9 trillion cubic feet.

Almost all of the state's natural gas production that is not from shale formations comes from conventional natural gas wells. West Virginia also has natural gas reserves and production from coalbeds, which accounted for 0.2 percent of the state's total natural gas production in 2022. Crude oil wells in west Virginia produce a small amount of natural gas as well.

Coal

Coal was discovered in West Virginia in the early 1700s, but large-scale mining did not begin until the mid-1800s. Today, coal remains a major contributor to the state's economy. West Virginia is the nation's second-largest coal producer, after Wyoming. The West Virginia Office of Energy reports that although coal underlies 53 of the state's 55 counties, only 43 counties have economically recoverable reserves.

West Virginia leads the nation in bituminous coal production. In 2022, West Virginia produced for 31 percent of the nation's bituminous coal production, according to U.S. Energy Information Administration records. Bituminous coal, the most abundant type of coal in the U.S., is used to generate electricity and is an important fuel and raw material for making coking coal for the iron and steel industry.

With the rise of alternative energy sources, and actions to reduce coal as a source for electric energy, the number of tons mined fell from 100,308,370 in 2019 to 95,579,077, based on records kept by the [West Virginia Office of Miners' Health Safety and Training](#).

Renewable Energy

In 2022, about 7 percent of the state's total net energy generation came from renewable resources, nearly all of it from wind energy and hydropower. Wind-powered generation in West Virginia reached an all-time high of about 2 million megawatt hours in 2022, accounting for almost 4 percent of the state's generation. Most of West Virginia's wind energy potential and all its wind turbines are on the narrow ridges in the mountainous eastern third of the state. West Virginia's first utility-scale wind farm came online in 2002 with 66 megawatts of generating capacity, and its largest, the 164-megawatt mount storm wind farm, began operating in 2008. By the end of 2023, the state had almost 860 megawatts of wind capacity, and 99 megawatts are scheduled to come online in early 2024.

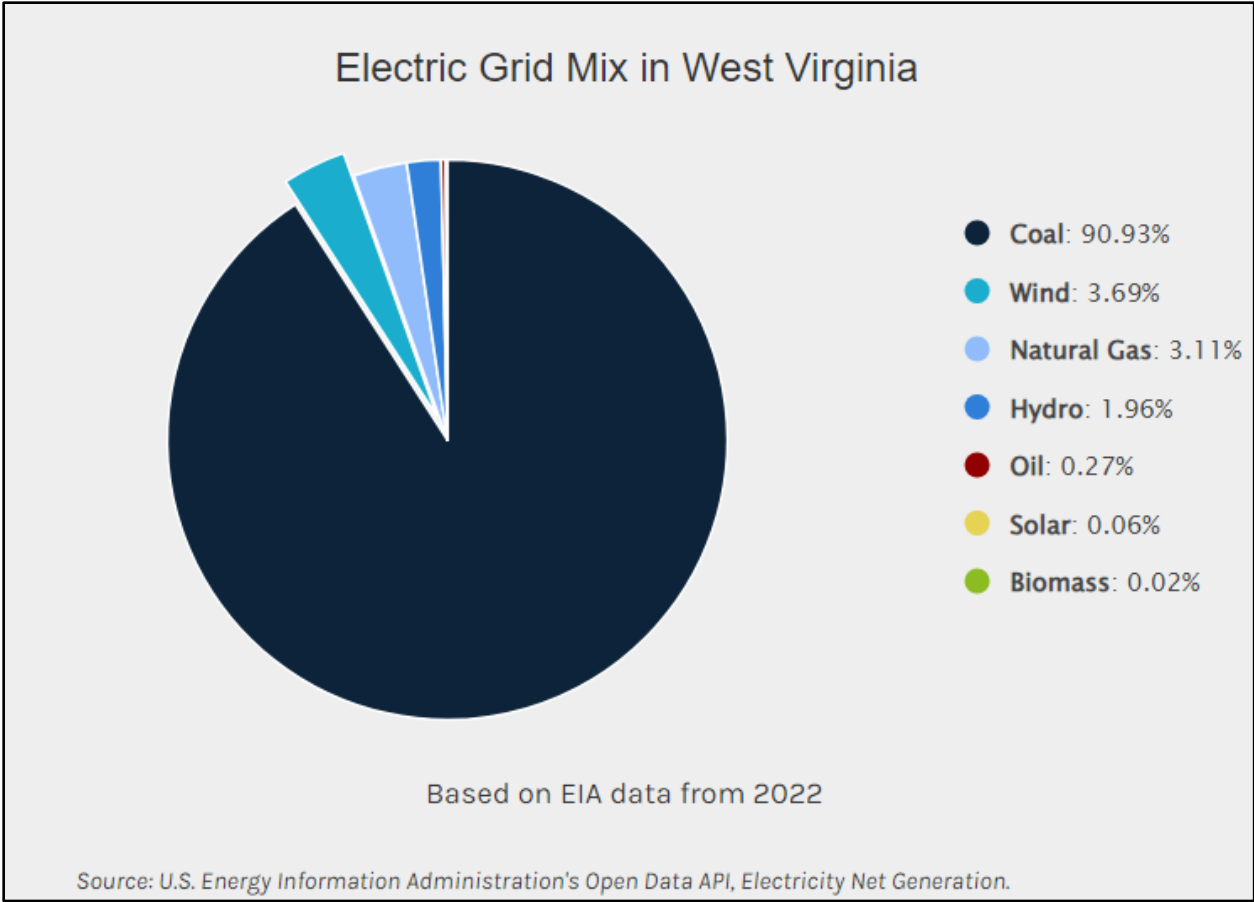


FIGURE 16: WV ENERGY GRID MIX

In 2022, hydroelectric power supplied about 2 percent of the West Virginia's total electricity net generation. Hydropower has long been used in West Virginia, first to power grist and sawmills and later to generate electricity. The oldest hydroelectric power plant still in service in West Virginia began operating in 1909. The largest of the state's dozen hydroelectric facilities are a 97-megawatt power plant built in the mid-1930s, and the newest, with a capacity of 44 megawatts, began operating in 2016.

Solar energy and biomass contribute small amounts to West Virginia's in-state electricity supply. West Virginia does not have any large, utility-scale (1 megawatt or larger) solar power facilities, although a 90-megawatt solar farm is scheduled to come online in early 2024. Small-scale, customer-sited solar power installations (less than 1 megawatt), such as rooftop panels, contribute minor but increasing amounts of in-state generation.

Biomass fuels even smaller amounts of West Virginia's net generation, all of it from a 3-megawatt landfill gas facility in Beckley.

West Virginia adopted a renewable portfolio standard (rps) in 2009 that required investor-owned electric utilities and retail suppliers with more than 30,000 customers to obtain 25 percent of their

electricity from eligible alternative and renewable energy resources by 2025. However, in 2015, West Virginia became the first state in the nation to repeal the requirement.

The state allows net metering for systems that generate electricity using renewable energy. Eligible net metering system capacity limits are 50 kilowatts for residential customers, 1 megawatt for commercial customers, and 2 megawatts for industrial customers.

Telecommunications

A lack of broadband availability and adequate speeds continues to plague rural areas in West Virginia. The most common challenges include geography, population density, and the interest in and willingness of providers to make initial capital expenditures.

[West Virginia Department of Economic Development Office of Broadband](#) was created in 2021 within the state Department of Economic Development to work with the 13-member Broadband Enhancement Council to develop and expand broadband in the state.

The West Virginia Broadband Enhancement Council has created a broadband availability map so residents can view [broadband availability](#).

Transportation

TABLE 7: TRANSPORTATION QUICK FACTS

38,843 miles of public roads (2022)	68.7% of roadways in good condition 31.3% in poor (2020)	7,323 bridges (2023)
15.8% of bridges in good condition (2023)	69.5% of bridges in fair condition (2023)	15.2% of bridges in poor condition (2023)
2,123 miles of freight railroad line (2021)	680 miles of waterway (2018)	7 public use airports (2024)

Source: [State Transportation by the Numbers](#) | Bureau of Transportation Statistics ([bts.gov](#))

Highways, Roads, and Bridges

In West Virginia, unlike the majority of states, state government rather than county or local government, has ownership and responsibility for virtually all public highways. Only three other states, Delaware, North Carolina, and Virginia, have similar roadway ownership and maintenance responsibilities.

In West Virginia, the WV Division of Highways has statutory responsibility for nearly all roads (i.e., 34,598 miles, or 89% of the certified mileage, which excludes 1,324 miles of roadways classified as Primitive), all maintenance, improvements, and construction initiatives on the 24,484 miles of Non-FA-Eligible roadways are funded with 100% State revenues.

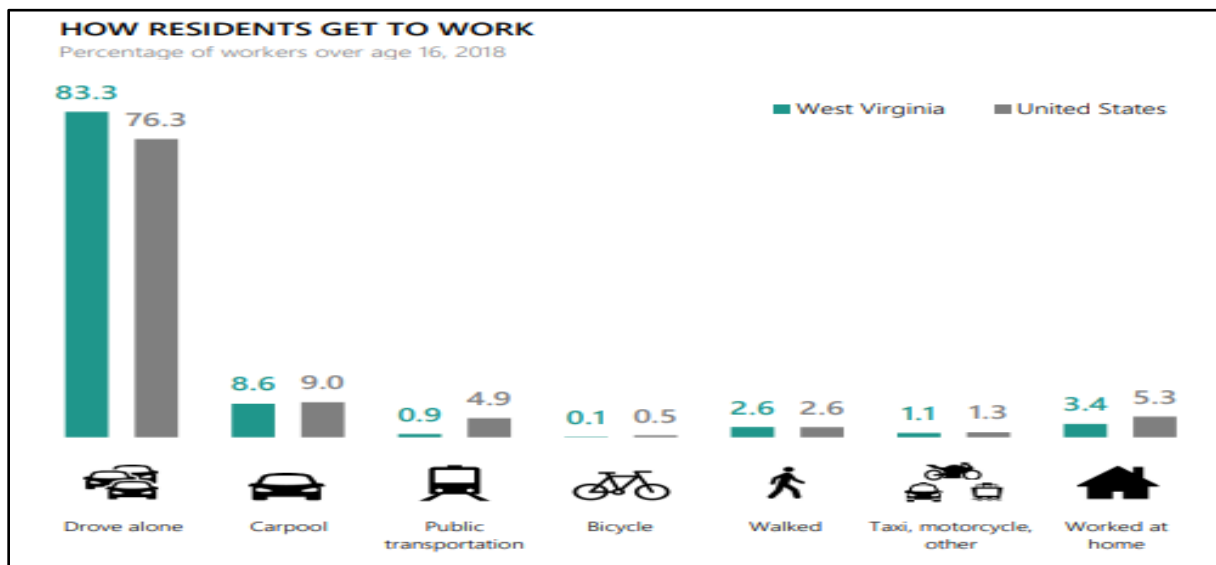
Under this operation and maintenance structure, West Virginia's Division of Highways maintains the nation's sixth-largest state-maintained highway network.

The six-year [2020-2025 State Transportation Improvement Plan](#) includes a variety of projects including roadway, bridge, bicycle, pedestrian, safety and public transportation (transit) projects. While the primary concern of this document is federally funded projects, Regionally Significant State funded projects are also listed.

Many of the roads that are maintained by the West Virginia Department of Transportation (WV DOT) are not eligible for federal aid. The federal government has sole responsibility for only 860 miles of public highways within the state, which entail U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and National Park Service (NPS) facilities.

Throughout the State, only 27% (10,477 miles) of West Virginia's certified public highway mileage (38,854 miles) are traditionally eligible for federal aid. The remaining 73% (28,377 miles) must be funded entirely by the governmental entity having jurisdiction over those highways.

The demographics of West Virginia result in high roadway mileage per capita, low travel miles, low vehicle registrations, and thus limited funds available for highway construction and maintenance. The situation is aggravated by the relatively high construction and maintenance costs per mile due to the terrain and rural nature of the state. The dispersed population, the rural nature, and the centralized control of highways do provide some opportunity for improvements in the highway system operation and management efficiency via facilitation of highway planning and project coordination.



Source: [WV Department of Transportation](#)

FIGURE 17: HOW WEST VIRGINIANS GET TO WORK

Bureau of Transportation/West Virginia

The West Virginia Department of Transportation (WVDOT) is a decentralized agency consisting of a Central Office (along with Aeronautics Commission; Public Port Authority; Parkways Authority; Divisions of Highways, Motor Vehicles, Public Transit) in Charleston, and the State Rail Authority located in Moorefield.

West Virginia spends 100 percent of its fuel tax revenues on state highways. The dedicated sources of revenue for West Virginia highway construction and maintenance include fuel taxes, vehicle licensing and registration fees, and other similar user fees. West Virginia has 3 primary tax sources of highway revenues in addition to the various registration fees. The first is the Gasoline Tax, which is a tax that is imposed on distributors, dealers, users, etc., based on the volume of gasoline used in the state. The second is the Wholesale Tax (a consumer's sales tax), which is a tax that is imposed at the wholesale level. Finally, the Privilege Tax is a tax imposed upon certification of the title of the motor vehicle. The state also collects miscellaneous revenue for highway use.

Railways

West Virginia's railroads helped to develop the state's coal industry and fostered the establishment of great industrial centers, especially in the Kanawha Valley and Northern Panhandle. They also connected West Virginians with the world.

Freight Rail System

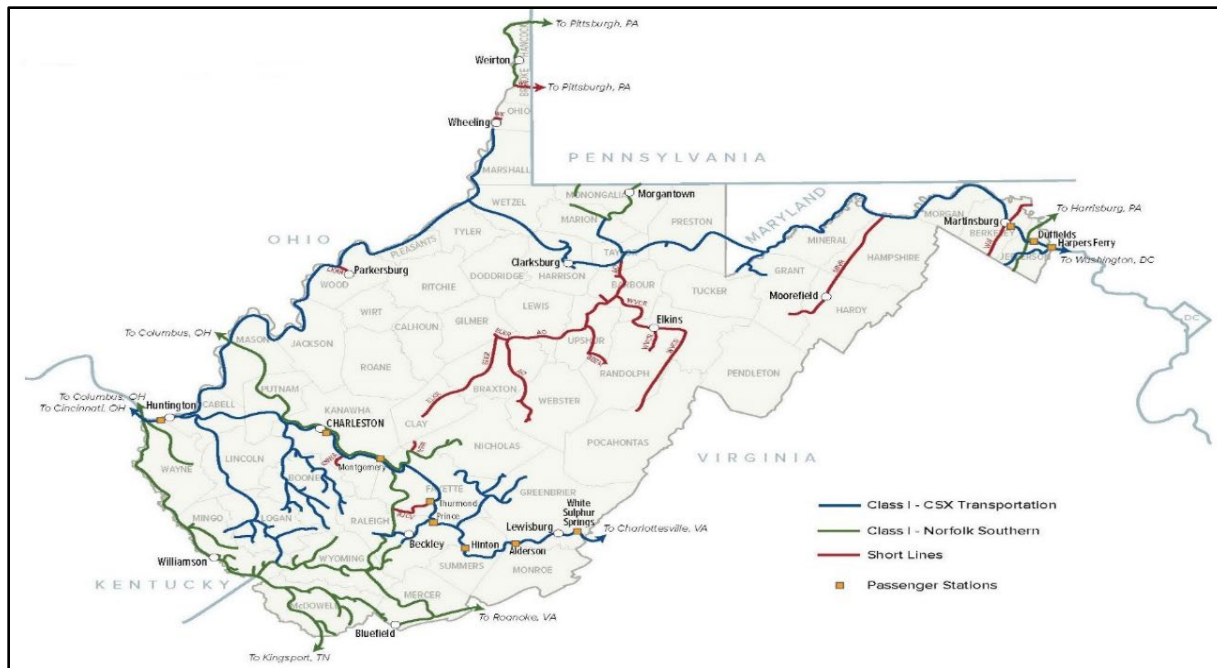
West Virginia's freight railroads carry more than 164 million tons of freight, or more than 1 million rail cars, of various commodities which originated or terminated within the state. Coal makes up 63 percent of these total rail carloads. Total rail freight tonnage in the State has decreased since 2000; primarily due to reduced coal demand and movements throughout the State; and is projected to decrease through 2040.

The West Virginia current rail system is comprised of 2 Class I railroads and 11 short line or regional railroads. The system contains 2,401 route miles of track. Freight railroads are defined and classified by the federal Surface Transportation Board (STB):

Class I Railroads are defined as having more than \$379 million of annual carrier operating revenue. They primarily operate long-haul service over high-density intercity traffic lanes.

CSX Transportation is West Virginia's largest carrier with 1,113 route miles of track. Norfolk Southern is next in size with 801 route miles of track. Short lines and regional roads make up the remaining 487 route miles of track. Some of the state's short line railroads are privately owned, while others fall under the jurisdiction of West Virginia State Rail Authority.

Class II, or Regional, Railroads operate over at least 350 miles of track and/or have revenue of between \$40 million and the Class I threshold. West Virginia has 10 such lines.



Source: [WV State Rail Plan 2020](#)

FIGURE 18: RAILROAD CORRIDORS IN WEST VIRGINIA

Class III, or Short Line, Railroads operate over fewer than 350 miles of track and have annual revenue of less than \$40 million per year. West Virginia has two such lines.

Rail activity in West Virginia impacts an estimated 25,000 jobs across the state. In addition to the jobs directly related to the provision of freight and passenger rail services, a large majority of the jobs are related to rail users who move goods via the rail system. The total number of jobs which are directly or tangentially affected by rail represent 3 percent of the total jobs in the state, while \$1.7 billion earned by these employees represents 4.2 percent of total wage and salary income.

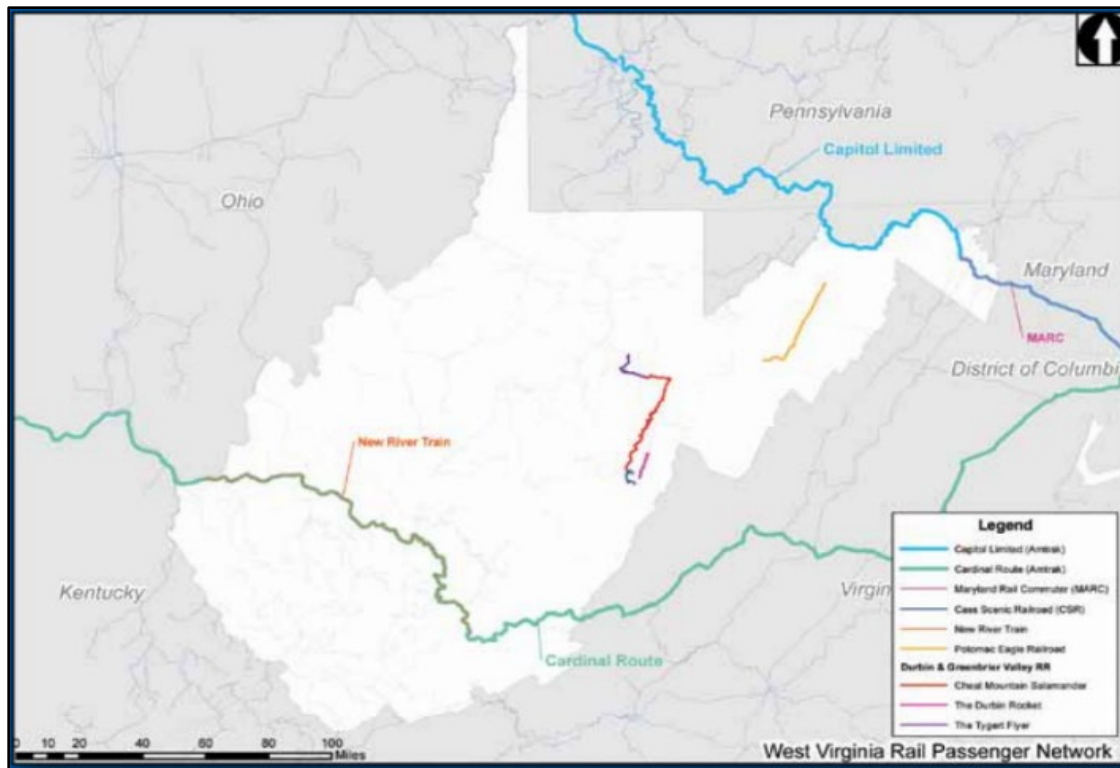
Passenger Rail System

West Virginia's passenger rail network includes intercity passenger service provided by Amtrak, commuter rail service in the eastern panhandle provided by Marc, and several tourist passenger trains.

Amtrak operates two long distance intercity rail passenger routes through West Virginia, the *Capitol Limited* and *Cardinal*, which operate between Washington, DC, and Chicago. The *Capitol Limited* provides one daily round trip, stopping at the Harper's Ferry and Martinsburg stations. The *Cardinal* operates three round trips per week, serving 10 station locations within West Virginia.

A total of 33,887 passengers utilized these Amtrak services at West Virginia stations in FY2022.⁶

⁶ Amtrak FY22 Fact Sheet - State of West Virginia



Source: WV State Rail Plan 2020

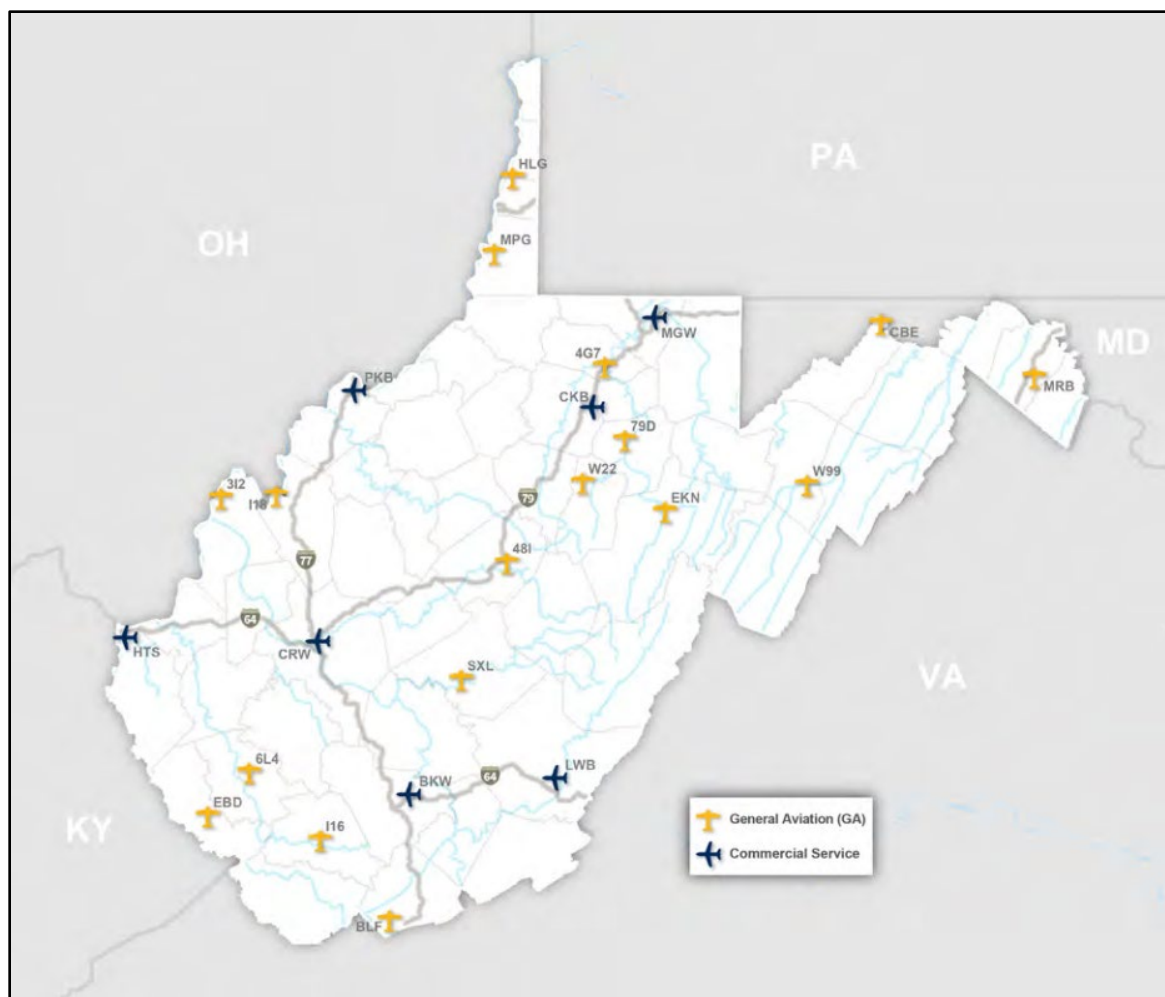
FIGURE 19: WEST VIRGINIA PASSENGER/TOURISM RAIL SYSTEM

Airports

West Virginia's airport system comprises 24 publicly owned, public-use airports that serve numerous communities throughout West Virginia and in bordering states. All 24 airports are included in the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA's) National Plan of Integrated Airport Systems (NPIAS), signaling their importance to the national aviation network.

The [state Aeronautics Commission's Aviation Economic Impact Study](#), released in 2020, reports that the 24 publicly owned, public-use airports generated 10,729 jobs with an overall \$816.5 million contribution to the state's economy. The public airports are governed by locally appointed airport authorities.

Charleston International Yeager Airport is the state's busiest commercial airport. According to the Federal Aviation Agency, 164,240 boarded scheduled and unscheduled flights at the airport in calendar year 2022.



Source: [State Aeronautics Commission's Aviation Economic Impact Study](#)

FIGURE 20: WEST VIRGINIA AIRPORTS

4) ECONOMY

General Economic Characteristics

The West Virginia University John Chambers College of Business and Economics prepares economic outlook reports for West Virginia on an annual basis.⁷ The West Virginia economic forecast for 2023-2028 calls for slow output growth and a roughly stable level of employment.

While the state is likely to face some major economic development challenges over the long term, it has also enjoyed some important economic development announcements and initiatives in recent years and has strong potential in some areas.

Highlights contained in the [West Virginia Economic Outlook 2023-2028](#) are:

- Despite being the shortest official recession on record, employment fell by around 100,000 in the Spring of 2020. While employment returned at a healthy pace through mid-2022, growth has been much weaker as only about 6,000 jobs have been added

⁷ [Economic Outlook Reports | John Chambers College of Business and Economics | West Virginia University \(wvu.edu\)](#)

since mid-2022. The state remains around 16,000 jobs – or 2.2 percent – below its January 2020 level.

- Private-sector employment has recovered at a stronger pace over the past three years or so. When focusing on private-sector employment specifically, the state stands only around 4,000 jobs – or 0.8 percent – below its January 2020 level.
- The state's unemployment rate surged to nearly 16 percent in the Spring of 2020 but has declined significantly since then. The jobless rate reached an all-time low of roughly 3.5 percent during the middle of 2022 and has generally remained at that level.
- Only 55 percent of West Virginia's adult population is either working or looking for work. Though an improvement from recent years, this remains the lowest rate of labor force participation among all 50 states and represents a key hurdle to economic prosperity.
- Per capita personal income (PCPI) in West Virginia ranks 49th highest among the 50 states, surpassing only Mississippi. PCPI in West Virginia stands at 76 percent of the national average. Movement in PCPI has largely been on par with the nation since around 2016, implying that the state has neither gained nor lost ground compared to the nation.
- West Virginia's real GDP fell by around 3 percent in 2020, and has failed to bounce back since, growing only 1.3 percent and 0.4 percent over the past two years. Overall, the state has lagged the nation in output growth every year since 2011. Output in the state's energy sector has grown by around 22 percent cumulatively over the past five years or so. Output in the rest of the state economy – outside of energy – has not increased at all over that period.
- The energy sector is an important driver of economic activity in the state. Coal output plunged to its lowest levels in decades during 2020, falling to roughly 60 million short tons. Production has rebounded over the past three years, however, and should average in the mid-80-million-ton range during the near term, in part due to global export demand.
- Natural gas production has consistently increased at a healthy pace for a decade now, and that growth is expected to continue over the forecast period. The state recently became the nation's fourth-leading producer of natural gas. However, downstream manufacturing activity in the Appalachian Basin will be essential to supporting growth and broadening prosperity related to West Virginia's natural gas industry over the long term.

Highlights related to West Virginia's economic outlook are as follows:

- Employment in West Virginia is expected to remain essentially flat through 2028. This lags the nation, which is expected to add jobs at an average annual rate of 0.3 percent over the forecast period. The major driver of this slow growth is the sharp rise in interest rates that the nation has experienced over the past one to two years.
- Several recent economic development announcements that are not incorporated into this forecast do offer hope for added strength in a few regions of the state. The strongest examples of recent positive developments are the addition of an estimated 800 jobs associated with Nucor in Mason County, the addition of 750 jobs associated with FORM

Energy in the state's Northern Panhandle, and the addition of an estimated 3,000 permanent jobs associated with the development of a hydrogen hub in the state.

- The state's unemployment rate is expected to increase over the next couple of years, reaching five percent or so by late-2025. This increase will largely be driven by entry into the labor force.
- Real per capita personal income is expected to grow 1.6 percent annually through 2028. Transfer payments are expected to register the fastest growth over the next five years. However, the degree to which the state is increasing its reliance on transfer payments is slowing compared to recent years.

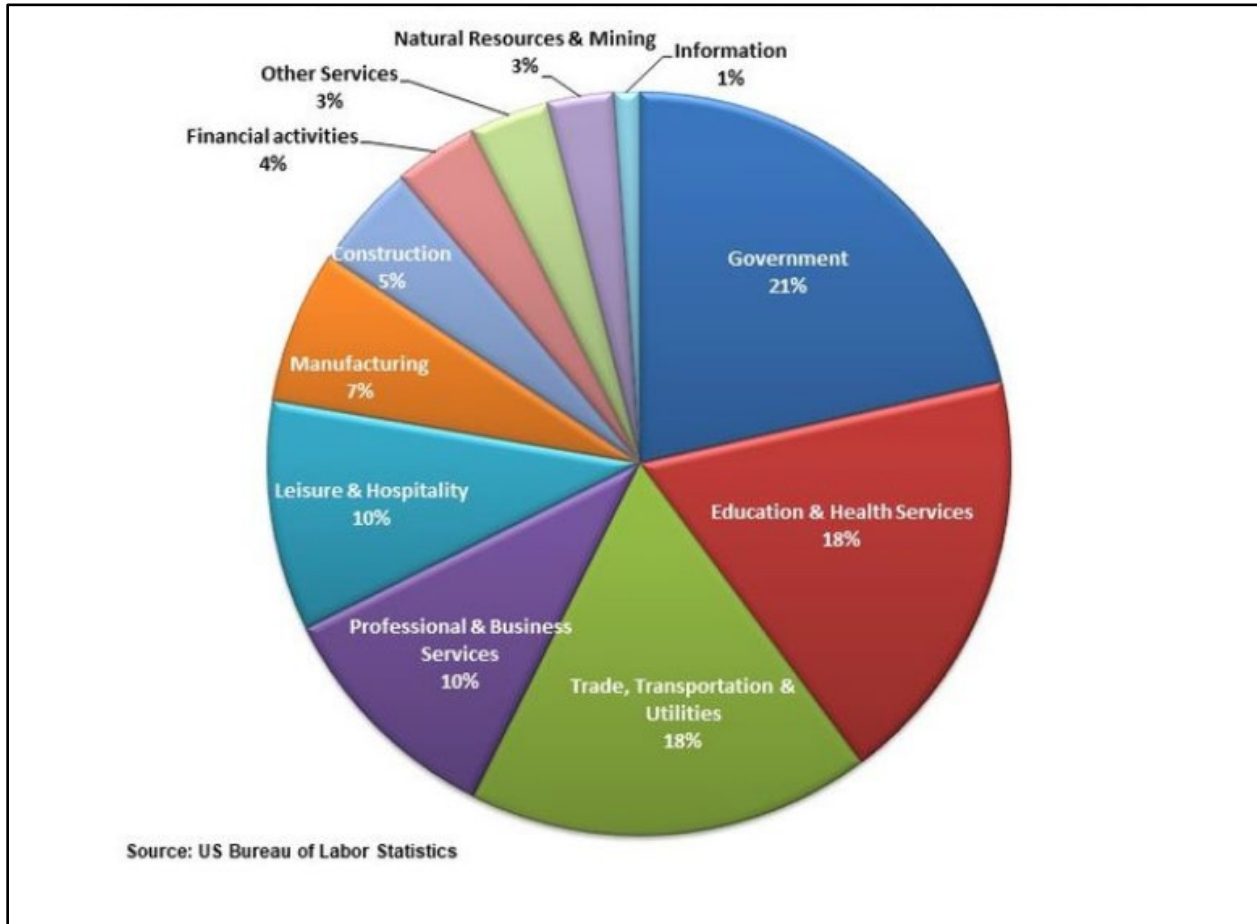


FIGURE 21: WEST VIRGINIA EMPLOYMENT DISTRIBUTION BY SECTOR, 2022

The Mountain State's underlying demographics remain a major limiting factor to growth moving forward:

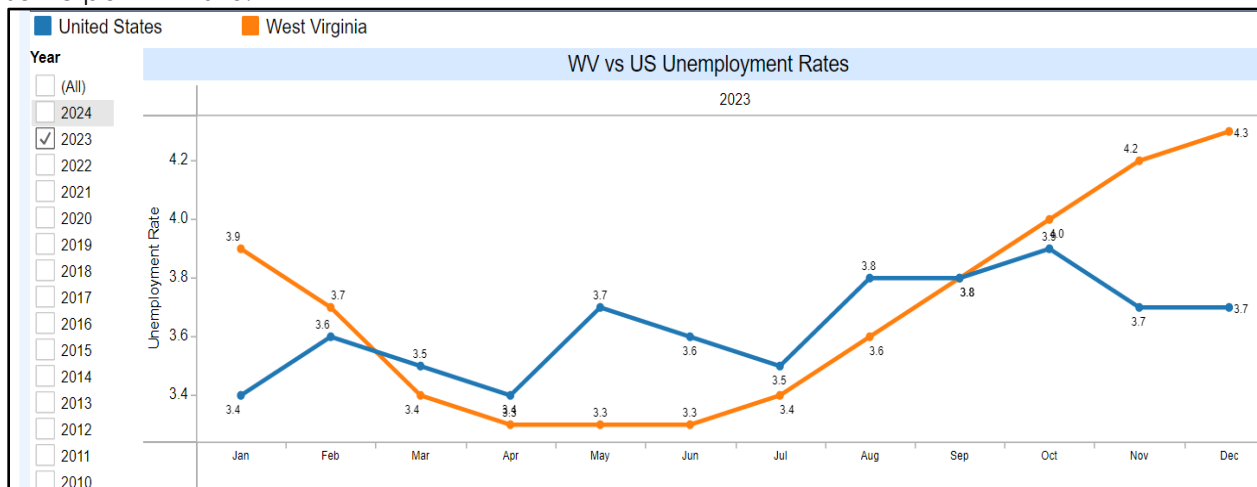
- West Virginia's population has declined by approximately 75,000 residents – or 4.5 percent - since 2012. Population losses are expected to be smaller in magnitude going forward.
- West Virginia's age distribution ensures that the natural population decline will continue in the coming years. Positive shocks to the economy are essential to encourage immigration and reduce the severity of natural population decline.
- Economic development strategies should focus on ways to improve health outcomes, lower drug abuse, and advance educational and vocational training outcomes in the state to make West Virginia's workforce more attractive to potential businesses.

Economic performance is expected to remain extremely variable across West Virginia's counties:

- The state's top 10 employment growth counties added 14,420 jobs over the years 2012-2022, while the remaining 45 counties lost 58,180 jobs collectively. Important successes in certain areas of the state are often obscured in aggregate data by losses or stagnation across a large swath of the state.
- Sixteen counties are expected to add jobs in the coming five years, while expectations for the other counties range from stagnation to employment losses. The highest rates of job growth tend to be in the northern counties.
- While the state overall is expected to lose population in coming years, a handful of counties are expected to add residents during the outlook period. Population gains will occur in North-Central West Virginia and the Eastern Panhandle.

Unemployment

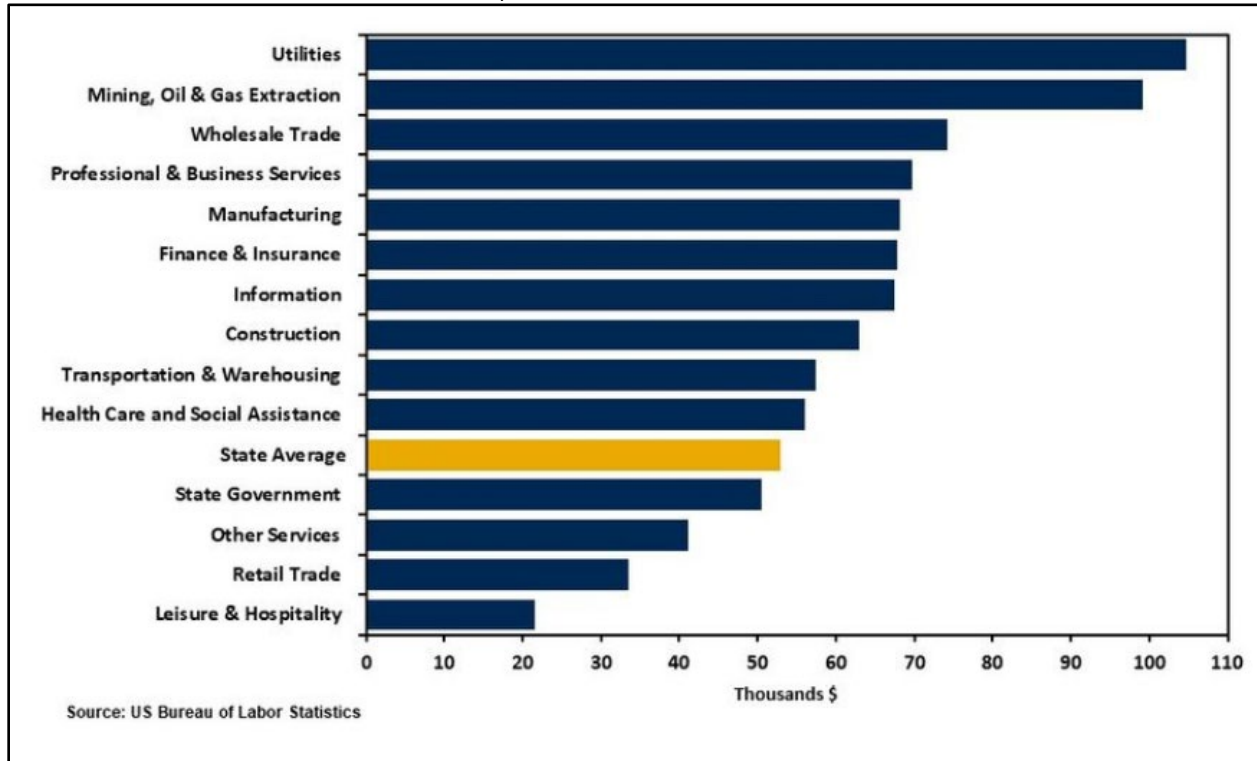
After standing below four percent for most of 2022 and 2023, the forecast calls for West Virginia's jobless rate to rise over the next couple of years or so, returning to the low-5-percent range by some point in 2025.



Source: [WorkForce West Virginia LMI](#)

FIGURE 22: WEST VIRGINIA VS. UNITED STATES UNEMPLOYMENT RATES

Much of this upward movement in the unemployment rate will come from individuals re-entering the labor force, due to factors such as 'un-retiring' individuals or higher starting wages incentivizing discouraged workers back into the workforce to compete for open jobs. At the same time, the jobless rate could rise more significantly over the next year or two if the national interest rate increases discussed above ultimately exert more downward pressure on the national and state economies than expected.



Source: [WorkForce West Virginia LMI](#)

FIGURE 23: AVERAGE ANNUAL SALARY BY SECTOR, 2022

Income

Personal income is expected to grow at an average annual rate of just over 1.6 percent over the forecast period, after accounting for inflation. The fastest growing component of personal income in the forecast period is transfer payments, stemming from programs such as Social Security or unemployment insurance. This pattern does imply that West Virginia is becoming more reliant on transfer payments over time as a share of total income in the state. However, the degree to which growth in transfer payments is expected to surpass other components of income – such as labor income or investment income – is significantly lower than has been in the case in recent years. Overall, transfer payments are expected to make up 30.4 percent of total income by 2028, which will likely place West Virginia highest among the states in terms of reliance on transfer income.

The government sector is the largest employer in West Virginia, accounting for about 20 percent of all jobs in the State. Further, total state and local government spending in the State is

equivalent to around 20 percent of West Virginia's total personal income, and the US federal government transfers a significant amount of income into the state. Taken together, government has a significant economic influence in the state.

Total state and local government spending in West Virginia equals nearly 21 percent of state personal income, compared to the US average of just under 23 percent; indeed, only eight states have larger governments by this metric.

TABLE 8: TOP 25 HIGHEST RANKING EMPLOYERS IN WEST VIRGINIA, 2022

Rank	West Virginia Employer	Rank	West Virginia Employer
1	WVU Medicine	14	Frontier West Virginia, Inc.
2	Wal-Mart Associates, Inc.	15	Murray American Energy, Inc.
3	Charleston Area Medical Center, Inc.	16	Pilgrim's Pride Corporation of WV, Inc.
4	Kroger	17	Thomas Health System
5	Mylan Pharmaceuticals, Inc.	18	FirstEnergy Corp
6	Lowe's Home Centers, Inc.	19	Rite Aid of West Virginia, Inc.
7	St. Mary's Medical Center Inc.	20	Monongalia General Hospital
8	Cabell Huntington Hospital, Inc.	21	PNGI Charles Town Gaming, LLC.
9	Wheeling Hospital, Inc.	22	Macy's Corporate Services, Inc.
10	Res-Care, Inc.	23	Dolgencorp, LLC (Dollar General Stores)
11	West Virginia's Choice, Inc.	24	Little General Store, Inc.
12	American Electric Power	25	Blackhawk Mining
13	Mentor Management, Inc.		

Source: [Workforce West Virginia](#)

Tax Structure

West Virginia generates the bulk of its tax revenue by levying a personal income tax, a general sales tax, and select sales taxes (otherwise known as excise taxes). The State derives its constitutional authority to tax from Article X of the State Constitution.⁸

Strong revenue growth over the past couple years resulted in the implementation of a significant personal income tax cut effective in 2023.

Effective January 1, 2023, personal income tax rates were reduced by 21.25 percent to the lowest tax rates in place since the current income tax was first implemented in 1961. The new Law also created future property tax credits beginning in 2024 against the personal income tax equal to the amount of local property taxes paid on qualified motor vehicles, qualified residential property owned by certain disabled veterans and up to 50 percent of the amount of qualified business tangible personal property taxes paid by qualified small businesses. The 21.25 percent income tax rate reduction was projected to reduce Fiscal Year 2024 revenue collections by roughly \$700 million and Fiscal Year 2025 revenue collections by roughly \$610

⁸ https://ballotpedia.org/Article_X,_West_Virginia_Constitution

million. The higher cost in Fiscal Year 2024 was due to an implementation delay associated with legislation enacted in March 2023 that became effective as of January 1, 2023. The projected first full-year cost of the additional property tax credits was close to \$200 million spread out between Fiscal Year 2025 and Fiscal Year 2026.

The new law also contained a mechanism for possible future additional personal income tax rate reductions beginning as early as 2025. Future tax rate reductions of no more than 10 percent would be tied to the difference between actual General Revenue Fund collections minus severance tax collections and calculated inflation-adjusted General Revenue Fund collections minus severance tax collections. The initial calculation would be based on actual Fiscal Year 2024 revenues versus inflation adjusted pre-Covid Fiscal Year 2019 revenues. Any positive difference above inflation would equate to the dollar value of a future automatic tax cut.

States levy taxes to help fund the variety of services provided by state governments. Tax collections comprise approximately 40 percent of the States' total revenues. The rest comes from non-tax sources, such as intergovernmental aid (e.g., federal funds), lottery revenues and fees. The primary types of taxes levied by state governments include personal income tax (for the 2015 tax year ranged from 3.0 percent to 6.5 percent), general sales tax (6 percent statewide), excise (or selective sales paid by the producer or seller of an item) taxes and corporate income tax (6.5 percent).

Traditionally, property taxes comprise the lion's share of local government revenues. States, on the other hand, generate very little revenue from property taxes. Property tax rates can vary substantially from locality to locality within a state. Figure 15, below, provides the mean amount of property taxes paid, as well as property tax as a mean percentage of home value, for West Virginia and neighboring states for 2012. In terms of mean property taxes paid, West Virginia ranked lowest when compared to neighboring states.

TABLE 9: GENERAL REVENUE COLLECTIONS FOR WV AND SURROUNDING STATES/COMMONWEALTHS

General Fund Revenue Sources, 2021						
State/ Commonwealth	Sales Tax	Personal Income Tax	Corporate Income Tax	Gaming/ Lottery	Other Taxes and Fees	Total
Kentucky	\$4,561	\$5,144	\$883	\$289	\$1,950	\$12,827
Maryland	\$4,988	\$11,705	\$1,462	\$632	\$2044	\$20,831
Ohio	\$12,191	\$10,201	\$1,667	\$0	\$2,760	\$26,819
Pennsylvania	\$12,835	\$16,283	\$4,424	\$242	\$6,608	\$40,392
Virginia	\$4,166	\$17,304	\$1,516	\$0	\$1,893	\$24,879
West Virginia	\$1,537	\$2,254	\$320	\$76	\$801	\$4,988

Source: National Association of State Budget Officers: State Expenditure Report Fiscal 2020-2022

Business Taxes

According to information gathered from WV Department of Commerce, the State currently levies 2 primary business taxes: the corporation net income tax and the business franchise tax. Certain other taxes are levied upon specialized industries. For example, severance tax is imposed on the production of natural resources. The business and occupation tax are a privilege tax imposed on public utilities, electric power generators, and natural gas storage operators.

Corporation and Business Taxes

The corporation net income tax is imposed annually at a rate of 6.5 percent of federal taxable income allocated and apportioned to West Virginia. The tax base is the net worth of the corporation or partnership as determined for federal income tax purposes. The business and occupation tax are an annual privilege tax levied on public utilities, electric power generators and natural gas storage operators.

Severance Taxes

Severance taxes are levied on the production of natural resources including ordinary processing commonly employed by the industry to obtain a salable natural resource product. The oil and gas production privilege will end at the well-mouth; the timber production privilege ends once the tree is severed, de-limbed, and topped; the limestone or sandstone production privilege ends immediately after severance from the earth; and the coal production privilege includes certain coal processing activities.

The regular severance tax rate on most natural resources is generally 5 percent. The regular timber tax rate is 1.22 percent with a provision that this tax is suspended until the date when the additional timber severance tax expires. Coal production is also subject to certain other fees and may be subject to special severance tax rates.

While not every county in West Virginia produces coal, all counties receive a severance tax paid by the coal industry. This additional tax on coal is collected by the State Tax Commissioner and transferred into a special fund within the State Treasurer's Office. 75 percent of the net proceeds is distributed to coal-producing counties. The remaining 25 percent of the net proceeds are distributed to all counties and municipalities of the state, based on population.⁹

Consumers' Sales and Service Tax (CSST) and Use Tax

West Virginia has a 6 percent consumers' sales and service tax and a use tax. Sales of goods and service to a manufacturer for direct use in manufacturing are exempt from CSST (for in-state purchases) and from the use tax (for out-of-state purchases). Certain municipalities may impose an additional local sales tax at a rate not to exceed 1 percent.

Business Registration Tax

The rate of this one-time registration fee is \$30 for each location in which business activity is conducted. Businesses generating annual gross income of less than \$4,000 are exempt from payment but still must file to obtain initial registration certificate.

Personal Income Tax

A graduated scale of rates is applied to taxable income of all residents, individuals, estates, and trusts and on the West Virginia income of nonresidents. The starting point for computation of the tax is federal adjusted gross income. Individuals are allowed a \$2,000 personal exemption for each personal exemption claimed on the federal return.

Individuals older than 65 are allowed an additional \$8,000 income deduction. Tax rates range from 3 percent on the first \$10,000 of taxable income to 6.5 percent on income exceeding \$60,000.

Property Taxes

In West Virginia, ad valorem property taxes are local taxes. The assessed value of non-utility property is set by locally elected county officials. Utility and industrial property is valued by a State board or agency. Guidelines are provided by the State to achieve equal, and uniform assessed values for property throughout the State. Public utility property taxes are collected by the State and remitted to county sheriffs for distribution to local levying bodies. County sheriffs collect all other property taxes. Property is generally taxed on 60 percent of its appraised value.

Tax Increment Financing

On November 5, 2002, the people of West Virginia ratified Amendment One to the West Virginia Constitution allowing the use of tax increment financing (TIF) secured by property taxes to fund economic development and job creation in the state. This amendment is implemented by the West Virginia Tax Increment Financing Act (W. Va. Code § 7-11B-1 *et seq.*), which was passed by the West Virginia State Legislature during the 2002 legislative session.

Tax increment financing captures the projected increase in property tax revenue gained by developing a discrete geographic area and uses that increase to assist in paying for the project. This funding makes it possible to go forward with projects that otherwise would not be built.

Tax increment financing can be used by West Virginia counties and Class I and Class II municipalities to help fund their own development projects or projects brought to them by

⁹ <http://www.wvtreasury.com/Banking-Services/Revenue-Distributions/Coal-Severance-Tax>

private developers or other private or government entities. The entire document can be accessed at <http://www.revenue.wv.gov/Documents/tifhandbook.pdf>

II. GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS AND AUTHORITIES

A. STATE GOVERNMENT

West Virginia's government was created because of the Civil War. The western counties of Virginia organized the new state with the adoption of its first constitution in 1863, and later that year, West Virginia became the 35th state of the United States. The new state suffered from instability until its [present constitution](#) was adopted in 1872, resolving disagreements between the formerly Confederate east and south and the Unionist north.

The state's government structure is characterized by Southern-style rural county organizations with three-member boards of commissioners and powerful sheriffs, rather than the township-village format of New England and the Mid-Atlantic seaboard states.

The [executive](#) power is shared by the governor and five elected state officials (the secretary of state, auditor, treasurer, commissioner of agriculture, and attorney general) who serve four-year terms and are often reelected.

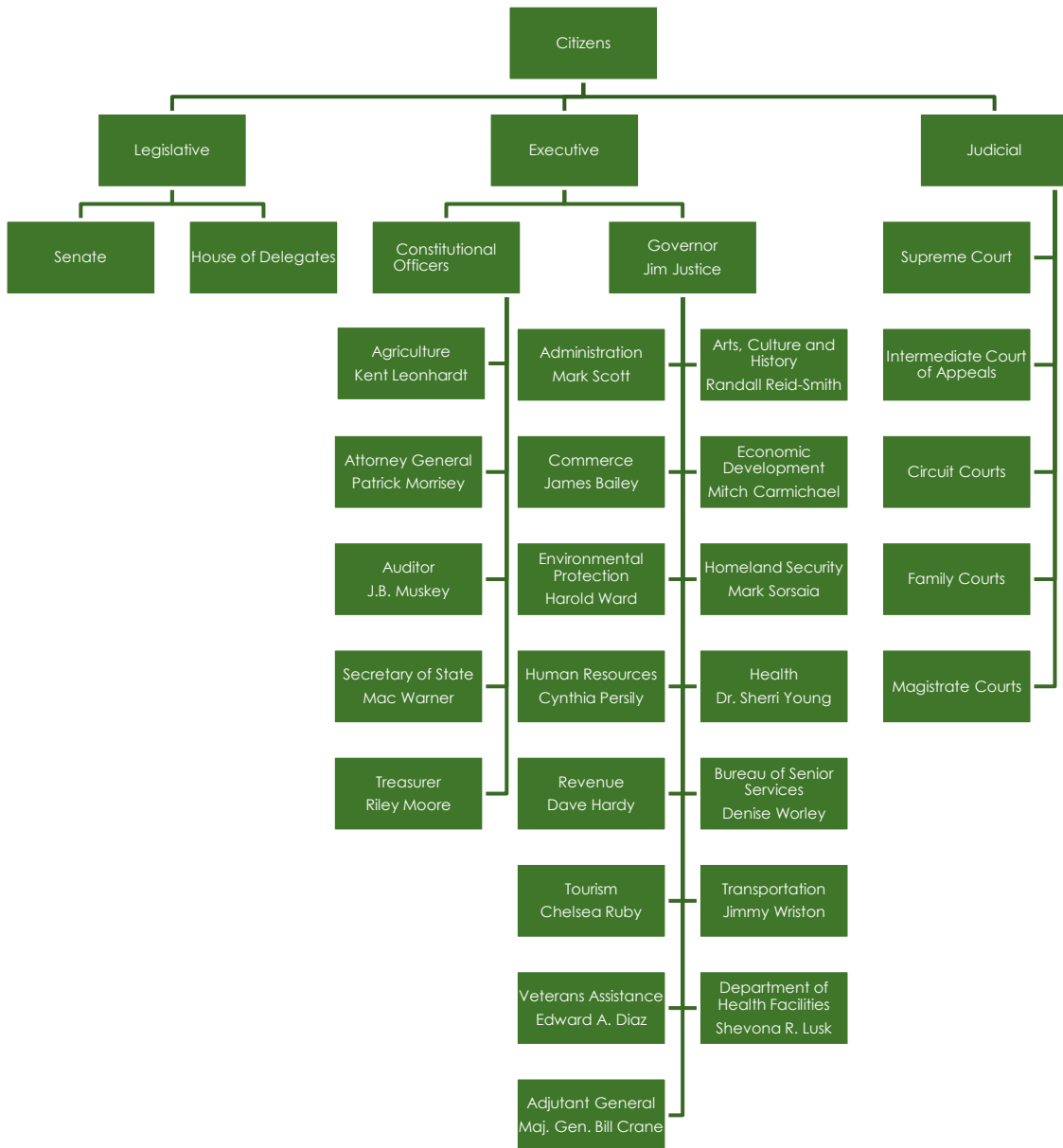


FIGURE 24: WEST VIRGINIA ORGANIZATIONAL CHART, MARCH 2024

1) WEST VIRGINIA EXECUTIVE BRANCH

Governor James C. Justice, II



Justice, II is the 36th and current Governor of West Virginia since January of 2017. He was elected to a second consecutive four-year-term in 2020. His term ends in 2024.

The Governor is the highest elected official in West Virginia and serves as the chief executive officer of the executive branch. The position is popularly elected every 4 years by a plurality.

In 1970, West Virginia voters ratified a constitutional amendment that allows a governor to serve two consecutive terms. West Virginia is a primary state, holding the primary election in May, late in the presidential campaign cycle.

Lieutenant Governor (Senate President) Craig P. Blair



While the West Virginia Constitution does not create nor mention the title of lieutenant governor, West Virginia Code 6A-1-4 creates this designation for the Senate President. The legislation was passed to clarify that the Senate President is first in the line of succession to the Governor's office.

Senator Craig P. Blair was elected to the West Virginia House of Delegates 2002-2008 and elected to the state Senate 2012-2020. As a Senator, he served as chair, Committee on Finance; Vice Chair, Committee on Education; Majority Whip; Chair, Committee on Government Organization.

2) WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

West Virginia's 134-member Legislature is a part-time Legislature, meaning it meets 60-days a year. Lawmakers may be called back to Charleston to conduct special sessions if required. During non-legislative days, legislators live in their communities across the state working in a myriad of occupations.

The state's Legislature is a Bicameral Legislature, meaning it consists of two bodies: the 34-member State Senate and the 100-member House of Delegates.

Each Senator and Delegate live and represent voters in specific areas called districts. The districts are based on population and are subject to change if census figures show an increase or decrease in a district's population. In West Virginia there are 17 senatorial districts and 100 delegate districts.

West Virginia State Senate

The Senate is comprised of 34 members - 3 Democrats and 31 Republicans representing 17 senatorial districts. Senators serve four-year terms with half of those seats up for election every two years. wvlegislature.gov/Senate1/roster.cfm

Senate Leadership:

President of the Senate and WV Lt. Governor: [Craig P. Blair](#)

President Pro Tempore: [Donna J. Boley](#)

Majority Leader: [Tom Takubo](#)

Majority Whip: [Ryan Weld](#)

Minority Leader: [Mike Woelfel](#)

Minority Whip: [Robert H. Plymale](#)

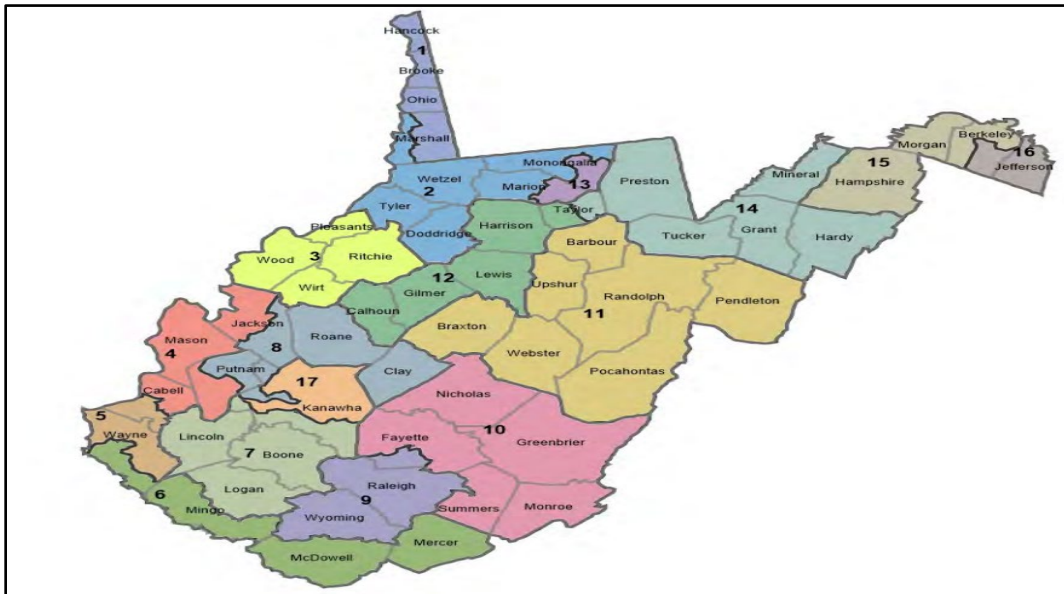


FIGURE 25: WV SENATE DISTRICT MAP

West Virginia House of Delegates

The House of Delegates is composed of 100 members, 11 Democrats and 89 Republicans, from [100 delegate districts](#) throughout the state. Delegates serve two-year terms with members up for election every two years. wvlegislature.gov/House/roster.cfm

House of Delegates Leadership:

Speaker of the House: [Roger Hanshaw](#)

Majority Leader: [Eric L. Householder](#)

Majority Whip: [Marty Gearheart](#)

Speaker Pro Tempore: [Paul Espinosa](#)

Deputy Speaker: [Matthew Rohrbach](#)

Assistant Majority Leaders: [Laura Kimble](#), [John Paul Hott](#), [Dean Jeffries](#)

Deputy Majority Whips: [Jonathan Pinson](#), [Chris Pritt](#),

Assistant Majority Whips: [Walter Hall](#), [Scot Heckert](#), [Michael Hite](#), [Patrick Lucas](#), [Carl Martin](#), [Jordan Maynor](#), [Andy Shamblin](#), [George Street](#), [Adam Vance](#)

Minority Leader: [Sean Hornbuckle](#)

Minority Whip: [Shawn Fluharty](#)

Minority Leader Pro Tempore: [Kayla Young](#)

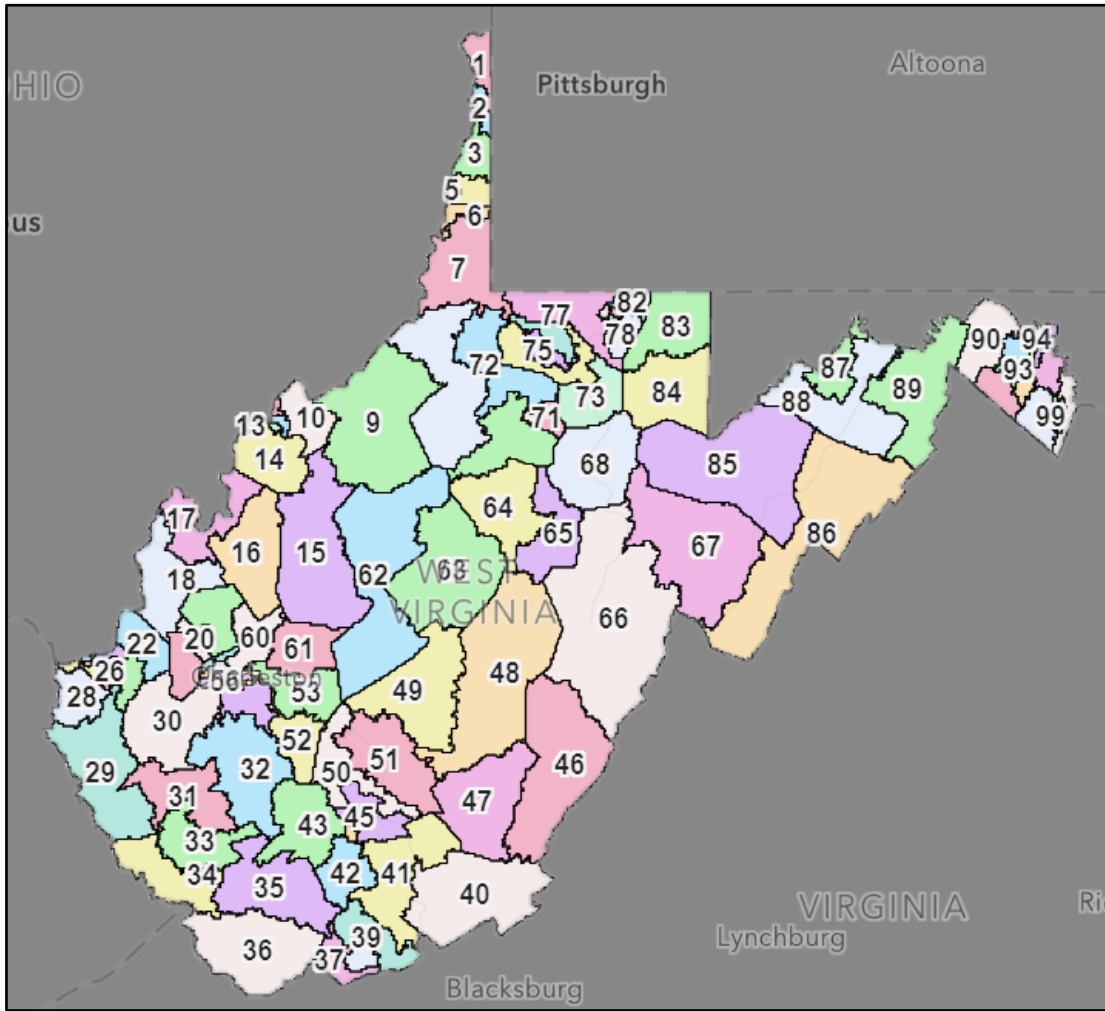
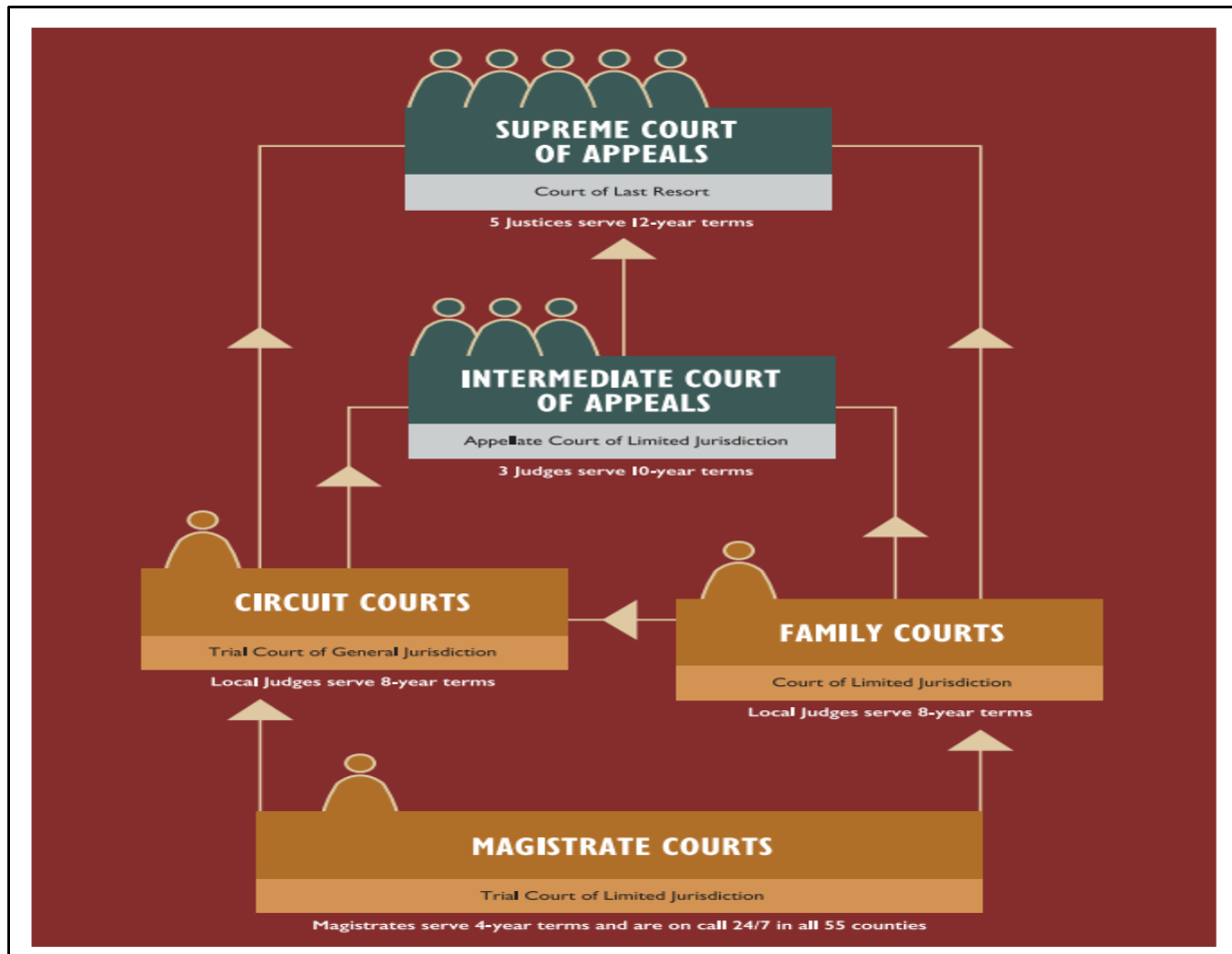


FIGURE 26: WV HOUSE OF DELEGATES DISTRICT MAP

West Virginia became a state on June 20, 1863. The present West Virginia Constitution was ratified in 1872. In 1880, the West Virginia Legislature rewrote the entire judicial article, which the voters adopted.

On November 5, 1974, state voters ratified the Judicial Reorganization Amendment, which became effective on January 1, 1976. This amendment ended the justice of the peace system and established a unified court system, uniting all state courts (except municipal courts) into a single system supervised and administered by the Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia. The amendment organized the judiciary into three levels: the Supreme Court, circuit courts, and magistrate courts. In November 2000, the voters passed a constitutional amendment to allow the legislature to create separate family courts, which began operating on January 1, 2002. In 2021, the legislature established an Intermediate Court of Appeals of West Virginia (ICA), which began operating on July 1, 2022.



Source: [West Virginia Brochure \(courtswv.gov\)](http://courtswv.gov)¹

FIGURE 28: JUDICIAL SYSTEM ORGANIZATION

In 2010, the Supreme Court fundamentally changed the Rules of Appellate Procedure by providing an appeal of right instead of an appeal by permission. The revised rules provide an effective method of full review and decision on the merits in all properly prepared and filed appeals. In 2022, the Supreme Court revised its rules to include the ICA.

The Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia is the state's highest court and the court of last resort. The five Supreme Court Justices hear appeals from circuit courts in criminal matters, juvenile proceedings, child abuse and neglect proceedings, and extraordinary writ cases including habeas corpus, and domestic violence. The justices also have original jurisdiction in extraordinary writ proceedings involving habeas corpus, mandamus, quo warranto, prohibition, and certiorari. They interpret the laws and Constitutions of West Virginia and the United States. The Supreme Court also hears appeals from the Intermediate Court of Appeals of West Virginia (ICA).

Arguments before the Supreme Court are typically presented by attorneys. Unlike trials in lower courts, there are no witnesses, juries, or testimony. Opinions by the Supreme Court can be appealed only to the Supreme Court of the United States, which may or may not agree to consider an appeal.

There are two terms of the Supreme Court each year. The first term begins on the second Tuesday in January. The second term begins on the first Wednesday in September. The period between terms is called "sine die," which is Latin for "without day." When the Supreme Court is in session, the justices hear cases and deliver decisions and opinions. At other times, the justices consider emergency business that comes before the court.

In addition to its judicial functions, the Supreme Court has administrative and regulatory responsibilities. The court has adopted a Code of Judicial Conduct, Rules for Admission to the Practice of Law, Rules of Professional Conduct, Rules of Judicial Disciplinary Procedure, and Rules of Lawyer Disciplinary Procedure. The Supreme Court sits in the capital city of Charleston but may preside in other locations.

The five justices are elected in nonpartisan elections to 12-year terms. Justices must have been lawyers for at least 10 years. The court chooses its chief justice, and the person selected serves a one-year term as chief. The governor appoints justices to fill vacancies. Some appointees may remain in office until the unexpired term ends while others must run for election to complete the full term, depending on how much time is left on the term at the time of appointment.

Following American custom since the 1800s, the justices wear black robes. As is customary in American courts, the justices are seated by seniority on the bench. The chief justice occupies the center chair. The senior justice sits to the right of the chief justice, the second senior to the chief justice's left, and so on, alternating right and left by seniority.

The Intermediate Court of Appeals of West Virginia (ICA)

The ICA opened on July 1, 2022. Its purpose is to hear appeals from circuit courts in civil cases; cases concerning guardianship or conservatorship; appeals from family courts, except for appeals from domestic violence proceedings, which go through circuit court; appeals from state agencies or administrative law judges; and appeals from workers' compensation decisions or orders.

The ICA issues a written decision on the merits in each case properly filed and within its jurisdiction. A written opinion, order, or decision of the ICA is binding precedent for the decisions of all circuit courts, family courts, magistrate courts, and agencies unless the opinion, order, or decision is overruled or modified by the Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia. The ICA has the discretion to determine which cases require oral argument.

The three ICA judges serve 10-year, staggered terms. Judges must be a member of the West Virginia Bar for 10 years and a resident of West Virginia for five years before election or appointment. The initial judges were appointed by the governor and confirmed by the West Virginia Senate. To remain in office, they must run in nonpartisan elections; the first judge runs in 2024, the second in 2026, and the third in 2028. Vacancies are filled by appointment. Some appointees may remain in office until the unexpired term ends while some must run for election to complete the full term, depending on how much time is left on the term at the time of appointment.

Circuit Courts

Circuit courts are West Virginia's only general jurisdiction trial courts of record. Circuit courts have jurisdiction over all civil cases involving a certain amount of money; all civil cases in equity; proceedings in habeas corpus, mandamus, quo warranto, prohibition, and certiorari; all felonies; and certain misdemeanors. The circuit courts receive appeals from magistrate courts, municipal courts, and from family court decisions in domestic violence proceedings.

Circuit courts also receive recommended orders from judicial officers who hear mental hygiene and juvenile matters. Appeals from 6 circuit courts in criminal, juvenile, abuse and neglect, and domestic violence cases go to the Supreme Court, while appeals from circuit courts in civil cases go to the Intermediate Court of Appeals of West Virginia (ICA).

West Virginia's 55 counties are divided into 31 circuits with 75 circuit judges. Although some counties are combined into a judicial circuit, each county has a courthouse where a circuit judge presides.

Circuit judges are elected in nonpartisan elections to eight-year terms. Judges must be a member of the West Virginia Bar for five years. The governor appoints circuit judges to fill vacancies. Some appointees may remain in office until the unexpired term ends while some must run for election to complete the full term, depending on how much time is left on the term at the time of appointment.

Family Courts

Family court judges hear cases involving divorce, annulment, separate maintenance, paternity, grandparent visitation, name change, infant guardianship, child custody, domestic violence, and issues involving allocation of parental responsibility and family support proceedings, except that incidental to child abuse and neglect proceedings.

There are 47 family court judges who serve in 27 family court circuits. Family court judges are elected in nonpartisan elections for eight-year terms. The governor appoints family court judges to fill vacancies. Some appointees may remain in office until the unexpired term ends while some must run for election to complete the full term, depending on how much time is left on the term at the time of appointment.

Mental Health System

Circuit courts have jurisdiction over matters related to involuntary hospitalization, guardianship, and conservatorship, and often handle these matters through the appointment of mental hygiene commissioners. Mental hygiene commissioners are independent practicing lawyers who are appointed to conduct hearings in these matters. There is at least one mental hygiene commissioner in each of West Virginia's 31 circuits.

Magistrate Courts

There are 160 magistrates in West Virginia. The number of magistrates in each county is determined by the West Virginia Legislature; each county has at least two and counties with more people have more magistrates. Magistrates issue arrest and search warrants, conduct preliminary hearings in felony cases, and hold trials in misdemeanor cases and civil cases with \$10,000 or less in dispute. Magistrates also issue emergency domestic violence protective orders. There is always a magistrate on duty or on call in every county. Magistrates do not have to be lawyers, but some are. They serve four-year terms.

Municipal Courts

Municipal courts are not part of the unified judicial system as defined by Article VIII of the West Virginia Constitution. They are administered locally, and their jurisdiction is limited to cases involving local ordinance violations.

Clerks

Clerks work at all levels of the court system. They keep court records, call juries, and help the public. Each county has an appointed magistrate clerk and an elected circuit clerk, and they have deputies who work for them. Clerks must have a high school education and be organized. The Supreme Court Clerk of Court, who is also the clerk of the Intermediate Court of Appeals, must be an attorney.

Administrative Office

The Administrative Office of the Courts has about 160 people who provide human resources, technical, and administrative support to the entire court system. The Administrative Director serves as the administrative officer for the state judiciary.

B. LOCAL GOVERNMENT

1) COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM

West Virginia has 55 county boards of education. Local board members are elected in non-partisan elections and govern each district. The boards may levy ad valorem taxes and issue bonds.

The county unit plan for school systems, adopted in 1933, was among the most sweeping education reforms in West Virginia's history. Previously, schools had been run by city and magisterial district boards, a system that provided local autonomy but was often marred by inefficiency, corruption, and nepotism.

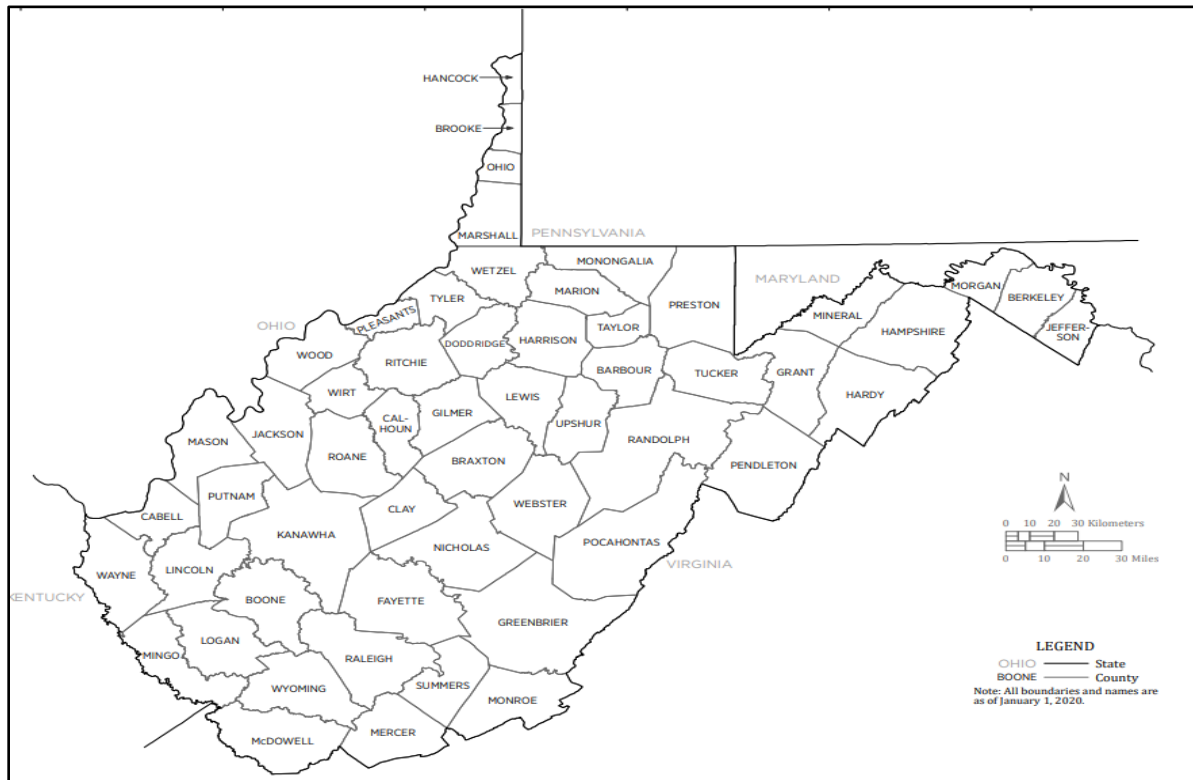
The [Great Depression](#) forced changes. The reduction in property tax provided by the [Tax Limitation Amendment](#), approved in 1932, diminished the amount of money available to local districts, which had previously provided nearly 95 percent of the cost of education. The state had to assume greater responsibility for public education.

Various plans were proposed, but the county unit plan supported by Governor-elect [Herman Guy Kump](#) was chosen, becoming effective May 22, 1933. The plan was a compromise between local autonomy and state control. It abolished 398 local school districts, including 54 independent ones, replacing them with today's 55 county districts, one for each county of the state.

Each district is governed by a five-member county school board, elected in non-partisan elections during the state's May primary elections.

In the 2023-24 school year, there are 245,047 students enrolled in 730 public schools in 55 school districts in West Virginia. More than 14,386 additional children attend 134 private schools. From 2011-12 to 2023-24, West Virginia's public-school enrollment decreased by 11 percent, the largest drop in the nation.

2) COUNTY GOVERNMENT



Source: [West Virginia - GARM \(2020 Census\)](#)

FIGURE 29: WV 55 COUNTIES

West Virginia's 55 counties do not possess inherent rights of self-government. Each county is under the State's control and their authority to perform even local functions is spelled out in the state's Constitution and by legislative enactments. In addition to members of the county commission, the elective officials are sheriff, assessor, prosecuting attorney, surveyor, county clerk and circuit clerk.

The state's current form of county government dates to the Judicial Amendment of 1880. The amendment called for a three-member elective body to oversee a county's fiscal matters. The amendment removed most of the county commissioners' judicial functions except in cases such as settlement of accounts and appointment of guardians and committees.

Today, 54 of the 55 counties have three-member county commissions. Jefferson County, in the state's Eastern Panhandle, has a five-member commission.

3) MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT

There are 232 cities in West Virginia. Most of the municipalities are small, incorporated communities, with Charleston, Huntington, Parkersburg, Martinsburg, and Morgantown the largest cities. In 2007, the Legislature created the Municipal Home Rule Pilot program that allowed for limited home rule authority.

Unincorporated municipalities are governed by state law outlining the cities' structure, while cities with more than 2,000 inhabitants operate under charters spelling out their form of government (mayor-council, commission type, or council-manager) and their powers. West Virginia Code 8-3-2 allows 5 different forms of local government by which cities can operate under.

Mayor-Council Plan

Under this plan, city council members and the mayor are elected by the people. The mayor and council both serve as the governing body and the administrative authority.

Strong-Mayor Plan

The mayor and council are elected by the people. The council is the governing body, while the mayor is the administrative authority. Other offices and employees are appointed by the mayor and may be subject to the approval of council.

Commission Government

A 5-member commission is elected at large by the people. Each commissioner is responsible for a different aspect of city government, including public affairs, finance, public safety, public works, and streets. Commissioners elect a mayor from among their membership and are the governing body and administrative authority.

Manager Plan

Council members are elected either at large or from geographical districts. The council elects a mayor from among its membership, and the mayor serves as the presiding officer of council. The council is also the governing body and appoints a city manager who is the administrative authority. The city manager tends to the affairs of the city under the supervision of the council

and is responsible for appointing or employing all subordinates who are directly responsible to the council.

Manager-Mayor Plan

This is very similar to the Manager Plan, but with one key difference. Like the manager plan, council members are elected either at large or from geographical districts. However, the mayor is also elected by the people and serves as the presiding officer of the council. The council is the governing body and appoints a city manager who is the administrative authority. The city manager tends to the affairs of the city under the council's supervision and is responsible for appointing or employing all subordinates who answer directly to the council.

Municipal Classifications

West Virginia Code §8-1-3 classifies municipal corporations. All municipal corporations are hereby classified by population into four classes: Class I - Municipal corporations with a population more than 50,000; Class II - Municipal corporations with populations more than 10,000 but less than 50,000; Class III - Municipal corporations with a population more than 2,000 but less than 10,000; and Class IV - Municipal corporations with a population of 2,000 or less.

Transition from one class to another occurs automatically when the population qualification has been met, effective as of the effective date of the decennial census.

Home Rule Government

“Home rule” refers to a state constitutional provision or legislative action that provides a city or county government with a greater measure of self-government. Home rule involves two components: (1) the power of local government to manage “local” affairs; and (2) the ability of local government to avoid interference from the state. West Virginia's home rule pilot program is not a traditional form of home rule because local proposals must still be approved by the state.¹⁰

As of December 2023, 55 municipalities had taken advantage of the home rule law.

In 2007, the West Virginia Legislature passed Senate Bill 747 that established the Municipal Home Rule Pilot Program. This legislation gave municipalities the opportunity to participate in a pilot program designed to clarify and increase the powers of municipal self-governance, also known as home rule. By authorizing the pilot program, the West Virginia Legislature created an opportunity to evaluate the viability of allowing all municipalities to have broad-based state home rule. The intent of the Legislature in enacting this pilot program is to establish a framework for municipalities within which new ideas can be explored and, if feasible, implemented on a statewide basis.

In November 2012, the Legislative Auditor's Performance Evaluation & Research Division presented a special report to the Legislature finding “The Municipal Home Rule Pilot Program Has Been Effective in Improving Local Governance and Broad-Based Home Rule and Should Be Extended Statewide.” The complete report may be reviewed at: [The West Virginia Municipal Home Rule Program](#)

TABLE 10: WV'S HOME RULE CITIES

City	City Size	County
------	-----------	--------

Alderson	Class IV	Greenbrier
Ansted	Class IV	Fayette
Auburn	Class IV	Ritchie
Barboursville	Class III	Cabell
Beckley	Class II	Raleigh
Bluefield	Class III	Mercer
Bridgeport	Class III	Harrison
Buckhannon	Class III	Upshur
Chapmanville	Class IV	Logan
Charles Town	Class III	Jefferson
Charleston	Class I	Kanawha
Chester	Class III	Hancock
Clarksburg	Class II	Harrison
Dunbar	Class III	Kanawha
Elkins	Class III	Randolph
Fayetteville	Class III	Fayette
Follansbee	Class III	Brooke
Grafton	Class III	Taylor
Harpers Ferry	Class IV	Jefferson
Hinton	Class III	Summers
Huntington	Class II	Cabell
Hurricane	Class III	Putnam
Lewisburg	Class III	Greenbrier
Logan	Class III	Logan
Man	Class III	Logan
Mannington	Class III	Marion
Martinsburg	Class II	Berkley
Milton	Class III	Cabell
Montgomery	Class IV	Fayette
Morgantown	Class II	Monongalia

New Cumberland	Class IV	Hancock
New Martinsville	Class III	Marshall
Nitro	Class III	Kanawha/Putnam
Nutter Fort	Class IV	Harrison
Oak Hill	Class III	Fayette
Parkersburg	Class II	Wood
Princeton	Class III	Mercer
Ranson	Class III	Jefferson
Ravenswood	Class III	Jackson
Reedsville	Class IV	Preston
Ripley	Class III	Jackson
Romney	Class III	Hampshire
Shepherdstown	Class IV	Jefferson
Shinnston	Class III	Harrison
Sophia	Class IV	Raleigh
South Charleston	Class II	Kanawha
Spencer	Class III	Roane
St. Albans	Class II	Kanawha
Summersville	Class III	Nicholas
Vienna	Class II	Wood
Wardensville	Class IV	Hardy
Weirton	Class II	Brooke/Hancock
Weston	Class III	Lewis
Westover	Class III	Monongalia
Wheeling	Class II	Ohio

4) SUBORDINATE AGENCIES AND AREAS

Shown below are various governmental designations in West Virginia that have certain characteristics of governmental units but that are classified in census statistics as subordinate agencies of the state or local governments and are not counted as separate governments.

Special Government Districts, Boards, and Authorities

West Virginia statutes authorize the creation of a variety of special districts or authorities that are counted as governmental subdivisions.

Boards, commissions, task forces, advisory boards, councils, and other terms are used in the names of two types of governing or advisory groups. Boards which have governing authority, including the authority to make rules which have the force of law, are created by the Legislature. Boards which are created to serve in an advisory or study capacity may be created by either the Legislature or by the Governor through an executive order, and a few boards have been created by other means, such as by the courts.

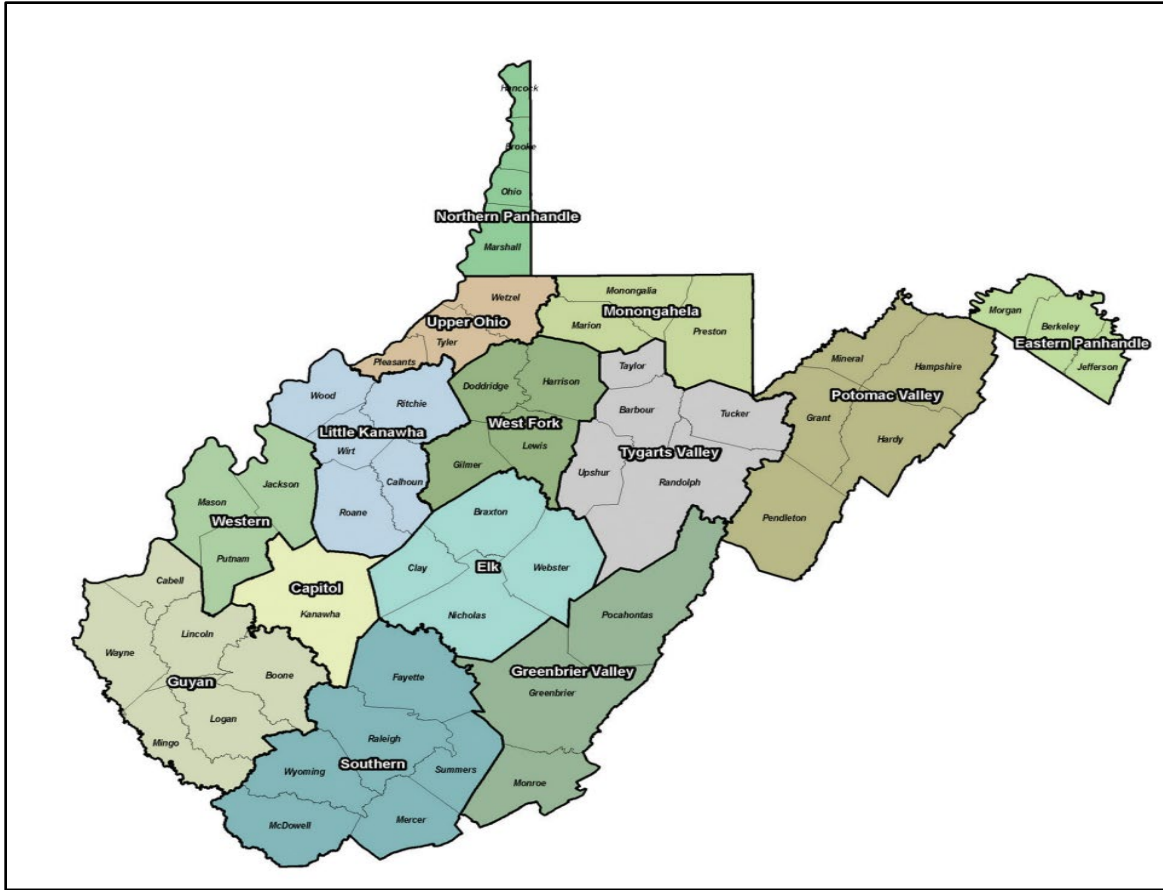
Airport Authorities

West Virginia Code Chapter 8, Article 29A authorizes counties to establish airport authorities. A five-member board appointed by the county commission oversees airport operations and has the authority to fix and collect service charges and issue revenue bonds. West Virginia has 24 publicly owned airports.

Conservation Districts

West Virginia's 14 conservation districts were created during the 1940s by local referendum. Each district is overseen by conservation district supervisors who are elected in non-partisan elections and serve four-year terms. The districts, working with the State Conservation Committee and the West Virginia Conservation Agency, implement locally led practices to conserve the state's soil resources and reduce water pollution caused by sediment. Additional information on about each conservation district can be found at the [West Virginia Conservation Agency](#)

In addition, watershed improvement districts may be formed as sub-districts of a conservation district upon petition and after hearing. The supervisors of the overlying conservation district govern the watershed improvement district. A watershed improvement district is not counted as a separate government.



Source: [West Virginia Conservation Agency](#)

FIGURE 30: WV'S 14 CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Hatfield-McCoy Regional Recreation Authority

The authority is a public-private partnership that was created to manage more than 1 million acres of private land for public use and recreation. Since its creation more than 20 years ago, the trail system has expanded to more than 1,000 miles of managed ATV trails across the southern West Virginia counties of Boone, Kanawha, Lincoln, Logan, McDowell, Mercer, Mingo, Wayne, and Wyoming. It is governed by a board appointed by each participating county. The authority may fix and collect fees and may issue revenue bonds.

WV Association of Housing Agencies

West Virginia Code Chapter 16 authorizes the formation of city, county, and regional housing authorities. There are 35 in West Virginia with the authority to issue bonds and fix and collect rents and charges. Housing authorities may undertake redevelopment activities as well as provide assisted housing.

West Virginia Public Libraries

West Virginia Code Chapter 10 authorizes the creation of libraries, their financing, and the appointment of boards to oversee their operations. Public libraries are financed either through excess levies or from state general tax revenues. Local or regional library boards have no less than five members, nor more than 10. Board appointments are made by a county commission, county board of education, a municipality, or a combination of the three. Local libraries are assisted by the WV Library Commission, whose mission is to “ensure public libraries remain on the cutting edge of information services today and into the future.”

Public Service Districts

West Virginia's 117 Public Service Districts provide water, sewerage or stormwater service, gas distribution service, or any combination thereof. The districts may be established by the county commission after public hearing, local referendum upon voter demand, and approval of the public service commission. A board of three or more members governs each district; each participating municipal government appoints one or more members according to population. If fewer than three members represent participating governments, the county commission appoints additional members so that the total number of district board members will be three or more. The district may fix and collect charges and issue revenue bonds.

WV Association of Solid Waste Districts

There are 50 county solid waste authorities, and one regional authority. A board of directors appointed by various state and local officials governs each authority. The authorities may fix rentals and charges for their services and issue revenue bonds. Counties not participating in a regional solid waste authority have county solid waste authorities created by a January 1, 1989, law. These authorities are not counted as separate governments.

Urban Mass Transportation Authorities

The 16 authorities provide and operate transit systems with a city, county or multi-county areas. Transportation authorities may be created by ordinance of one or more county or municipal governing bodies. A board appointed by the governing bodies of the constituent governments governs each authority. The authority may impose charges for services and issue revenue bonds.

Urban Renewal Authorities

These authorities may be created by the governing body of a municipality or a county. A board of commissioners administers each authority; its members are appointed by the mayor with the consent of the municipal governing body (in the case of a city urban renewal authority) or by the county commission (in the case of a county urban renewal authority). There are six urban renewal authorities located in Charleston, Clarksburg, Fayette County, Huntington, Parkersburg, and Wellsburg. Regional urban renewal authorities may be created by two or more municipalities or counties. Municipal or county governments within the area of operation of an authority may levy taxes or issue bonds to obtain funds for redevelopment purposes. The authority board may fix and collect rentals and issue revenue bonds. Plans require the approval of the creating governments. These authorities also may be called slum clearance authorities.

West Virginia Hospital Finance Authority

The Legislature created the WV Hospital Finance Authority to This authority was created by act of the legislature to finance hospital facilities. The seven-member board is composed of five members appointed by the Governor, plus the state treasurer and the director of the state department of health. The authority may fix and collect fees and issue revenue bonds.

West Virginia Housing Development Fund

This agency was created to provide mortgage credit for low and moderate-income housing. The 11-member board consists of seven members appointed by the Governor, plus the attorney general, the commissioner of agriculture, the state treasurer, and the Governor. The fund may fix and collect fees in connection with its loans and issue revenue bonds.

West Virginia Parkways Authority

Created by Legislature in 1989 to replace the former Turnpike Commission, the authority is charged with operating and maintaining West Virginia's 88-mile turnpike. The board includes six appointed members plus the state secretary of transportation. The authority may fix and collect tolls, fees, and rents and may issue revenue bonds.

WV School Building Authority

The School Building Authority was created in 1989 to address the educational planning and school construction needs of the state in an efficient and economical manner. The Legislature also created a state funding mechanism that would assist local boards of education in the construction and renovation of new and existing facilities.

Educational Service Cooperatives

Educational Service Cooperatives were created in 2017 to replace Regional Education Service Agencies. The eight ESC regions shifted control of a variety of education services to county school superintendents and boards of education. Services provided include adult education, school bus driver certification, professional development, Medicaid reimbursement, substitute teaching and 21st Century Learning Centers.

III. HAZARDS, RISKS AND DISASTER HISTORY

A. HIGH-PRIORITY HAZARDS AND RISKS

Historically, West Virginia has experienced emergencies such as floods, tropical storms, tornados, winter storms, hazardous materials incidents, power failures, resource shortages, droughts, forest fires, and environmental contamination. Such hazards are ever-increasing due to factors such as urban development, industrial expansion, traffic congestion, and widespread use and transport of hazardous materials.

Other less frequent, but still potentially dangerous, natural, or technological hazards include landslide, coal mine emergencies, earthquake (fault zone mapping is managed the US Geologic Survey), agricultural incidents, subsidence, civil disorder, pandemics, major transportation accidents, and/or the breakdown of the energy or information technology

infrastructure. More than 30 percent of the federally declared disasters include landslide as part of the disaster declaration; it is frequently included as a part of disaster declarations for flooding events. High rainfall events that cause damaging floods are also likely to cause damages from landslides.

Critical Infrastructure/Key Resources (CI/KR) issues are monitored on an ongoing basis by dedicated program staff within the WV Intelligence Fusion Center (WVIFC) and within the WV Army National Guard (WVNG).

Additionally, West Virginia has 4 counties within 50 miles of Emergency Planning Zone (EPZ) of the Beaver Valley Power Station in Shippingport, PA. The state's Radiological Emergency Preparedness (REP) Program within the West Virginia Emergency Management Division (WVEMD) manages all planning related to this hazard.

More information about the natural and human-caused history potential impacts for West Virginia can be found in the West Virginia Emergency Operations Plan.

B. Hazard Mitigation Planning Snapshot

A FEMA-approved hazard state, local, and multi-jurisdictional mitigation plan is a condition for receiving certain types of non-emergency disaster assistance, including funding for mitigation projects.

During August 2004, the first West Virginia Standard State Mitigation Plan was approved by FEMA Region III. The first plan focused on the creation of plans for localities. The 2004 plan was developed under the authority of the West Virginia Office of Emergency Services (WVOES), now known as West Virginia Emergency Management Division (WVEMD), and the Governor as established in West Virginia Code §15- 5-1, et seq. and Executive Order No. 18-03.

1. WEST VIRGINIA STATEWIDE HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

Reducing risks associated with hazards requires an integrated and collaborative approach that emphasizes building community resilience through federal, state, and local cooperation. Hazard mitigation is the sustained effort to reduce loss of life and property by lessening or eliminating the impacts of natural and human-caused emergencies and disasters.

It requires an understanding of all risks and investment in long-term community well-being through the implementation of short-term and long-term strategies before the next disaster (FEMA 2022).

The purpose of hazard mitigation planning is to identify and assess hazards that impact the state, develop a strategy to reduce losses from those hazards, and establish a coordinated process to implement the strategy.

The West Virginia Statewide Standard Hazard Mitigation Plan provides statewide guidance to reduce loss and prevent injury from natural hazards. It reflects an amalgamation of goals, objectives, and strategies developed by the West Virginia Emergency Management Division (WVEMD), with input from the general citizenry and representatives from all levels of government.

The 2023 West Virginia Hazard Mitigation Plan (wv.gov) represents the fourth update. The five-year Plan will expire in October 2028.

TABLE 11: HAZARDS IDENTIFIED IN THE 2023 HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

Dam Failure	Flood	Pandemic	Subsidence
Drought	Hazardous Materials	Radiological Incidents	Utility Failure
Earthquake	Landslide	Radon Exposure	Wildfire
Extreme Temperatures	Levee failure	Severe Storms	Winter Weather

The plan lists four mitigation goals with multiple objectives for each. The four goals are:

Goal 1: Reduce or eliminate the impact of hazards on infrastructure throughout the state.

Goal 2: Align and integrate programs related to reducing long-term vulnerability to hazards.

Goal 3: Provide consistent, continual education of the whole community on reducing long-term vulnerability through the State of West Virginia.

Goal 4: Enhance and support mitigation programs and activities at the local (regional and county) level to reduce long-term vulnerability with minimal negative impacts to community development efforts.

2) MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLANS

In support of the initiative for local plan updates, the DHSEM and the 11 Planning Development Councils (PDCs) received a 2007 Flood Mitigation Act (FMA) grant and a 2008 Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) Grant. The PDCs were engaged to regionalize all local plans. By the time of the 2013 State of West Virginia Standard All-Hazards Mitigation Plan update, all 11 PDCs had regionalized plans, while Jefferson County maintained responsibility for its own mitigation plan. The remaining regional plans were updated with 7 percent Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) funds according to State priorities.

The PDCs are not required to develop separate hazard mitigation plans for their regions, as they do not have the enforcement authority of the cities, counties, and incorporated towns. However, it is the intent of West Virginia to combine as many of the mitigation plans as possible into regional, multi-jurisdictional plans using the PDCs as the planning agency for these efforts.

The most significant hazards identified in the local hazard mitigation plans were flood, winter weather, and wind - the same "high" hazards that are identified in the updated statewide analysis.

The status of the regional hazard mitigation plans, as of March 2024, is shown in Table 14.

TABLE 12: REGIONAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLANS

RPDC	Plan Status	Expiration Date
1	Active	08/09/2027
2	Expired	04/25/2023
3	Active	10/19/2027
4	Active	09/06/2027
5	Active	01/11/2028
6	Expired	04/29/2023
7	Expired	07/04/2023
8	Expired	10/09/2023
9	Active	01/31/2027
10	Active	11/2/2027
11	Expired	01/31/2023
Jefferson County	Active	01/14/2024

C. WEST VIRGINIA FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT SNAPSHOT

Unique West Virginia Floodplain Management Statistics

West Virginia communities typically rely on stand-alone ordinances for NFIP adoption. Revised floodplain ordinance provisions were recently incorporated into comprehensive zoning ordinances when West Virginia's 278 communities participate in the NFIP.

West Virginia requires all local floodplain managers within the state to annually complete 6 hours of training in floodplain management and to maintain good standing with DHSEM. Failure to meet this requirement results in suspension of the floodplain manager from their responsibilities until the training requirement is met.

The table below shows West Virginia's 13 CRS communities and the rating class.

CRS is a voluntary incentive program that recognizes and encourages community floodplain management practices that exceed the minimum requirements of the [National Flood Insurance Program \(NFIP\)](#).

The program uses a class-rating system similar to fire insurance rating to determine flood insurance premium reductions for residents. CRS Classes are rated from 9 to 1, with 9 have the

lowest discount and 1 the highest. Each CRS class improvement produces a 5 percent greater discount on premiums.

In CRS communities, flood insurance premium rates are discounted to reflect the reduced flood risk resulting from the community's efforts that address program goals to reduce and avoid flood damage to insurable property, strengthen and support the insurance aspects of the National Flood Insurance Program, and foster comprehensive floodplain management.

TABLE 13: CRS COMMUNITIES AND RATING CLASS

Community Rating System Communities	Class
Berkeley County	7
City of Buckhannon	8
City of Charleston	9
Fayette County	9
Greenbrier County	9
Hampshire County	8
Jefferson County	7
Kanawha County	9
City of Martinsburg	8
Morgan County	9
City of Parsons	8
City of Philippi	8
Putnam County	9

The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) is managed by the FEMA and is delivered to the public through a network of more than 50 insurance companies. The NFIP provides flood insurance to property owners, renters, and businesses, and having this coverage helps them recover faster when floodwaters recede. The NFIP works with communities required to adopt and enforce floodplain management regulations that help mitigate flooding effects.

In West Virginia, there are 19,946 flood insurance policies in the state's 55 counties with a value of more than \$1.79 billion.

For NFIP policy information please refer to: <https://www.fema.gov/policy-claim-statistics-flood-insurance/fiscal-year-statistics-state-maps>

For list of communities participating in the NFIP, please refer to the Community Status Book found at: <https://www.fema.gov/national-flood-insurance-program-community-status-book>

West Virginia Flood Tool

GIS funding from FEMA led to a comprehensive map modernization program that continued through 2008. The program then transitioned into the Risk Mapping Assessment and Planning program (Risk MAP). The West Virginia Floodplain Management Program (FMP) partnered with West Virginia University to develop a system to enable easier access to current flood maps online. The project worked to overcome the limited number of flood studies in West Virginia through implementation of the State's Map Modernization Business Plan.

This tool incorporates data such as: Hazus risk assessment outputs, NFIP flood maps, locations of mitigated structures, etc., which required digitization of revised FIRMs. It is currently maintained by the West Virginia GIS Technical Center (WVGISTC), housed in the Department of Geology and Geography at West Virginia University.

The WVGISTC supports digital data conversion, data development, and coordination with Federal geospatial data initiatives, statewide mapping programs, and local (county, municipal) data producers. The center collaborates with the Statewide Addressing and Mapping Board, U.S. Geological Survey, and other partners to create high-resolution digital maps for West Virginia.

D. MAJOR DISASTER DECLARATION 1953-PRESENT

West Virginia has received 78 Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) disaster declarations since May 2, 1953.

Of these, 33 involved floods, and 26 involved severe storm incidents. Many other disasters and emergencies have also occurred within this time frame. All have resulted in a hefty cost to West Virginia's people, environment, property, and economy, and the pace and magnitude of disasters is expected to increase due to the changing nature of hazard events.

Incidents can occur any month of the year, but based on historical data, the months of March, May, and August have recorded the highest number of incidents in West Virginia since 1954. The following charts show the types of disasters West Virginians have experienced during the past decades.

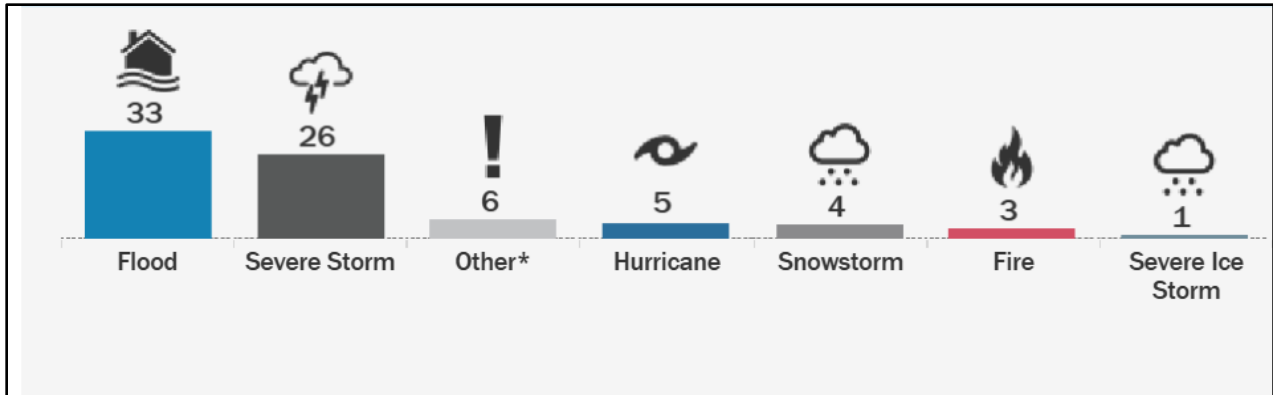
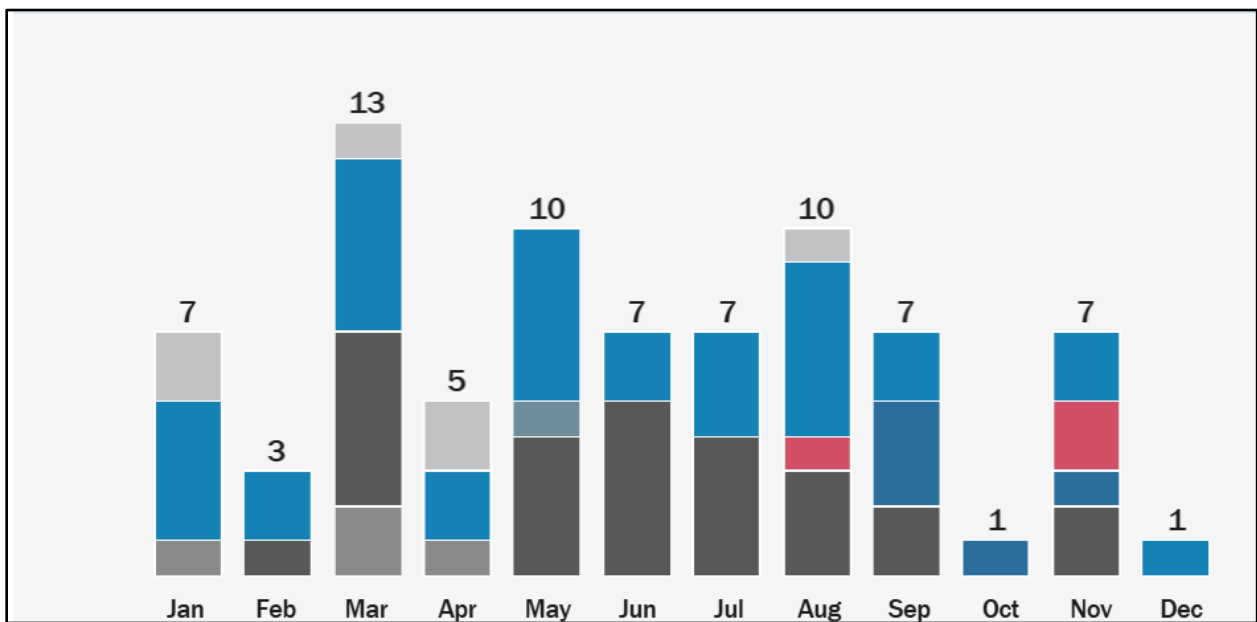


FIGURE 31: NUMBER OF DECLARED EVENTS IN WV SINCE 1953



Source: [Disaster Declarations for States and Counties | FEMA.gov](https://www.fema.gov/disaster-declarations-for-states-and-counties)

FIGURE 32: INCIDENT CATEGORY BY MONTH

Disaster Declarations by year and type 2009-Present

Table 16 lists Presidentially declared disasters in West Virginia based on year, counties involved, and type of incident that occurred.

TABLE 14: WV DISASTER DECLARATIONS, 2009-JANUARY 2024

Disaster Number	Year	Incident Period	Counties	Declaration Date	Incident Description
4756	2023	Aug 28-30, 2023	Boone, Calhoun, Clay, Harrison, Kanawha	Jan. 30, 2024	Storms, Flooding, Landslides, and Mudslides
4679	2022	Aug 14-15, 2022	Fayette	Nov 28, 2022	Storms, Flooding, Landslides, and Mudslides
4678	2022	July 12-13	McDowell	Nov 28, 2022	Storms, Flooding, Landslides, and Mudslides
4605	2021	Feb 27-March 4	Boone, Cabell, Kanawha, Lincoln, Logan, Mingo, Wayne	May 20, 2021	Storms and Flooding
4603	2021	Feb 10-16	Cabell, Lincoln, Mason, Putnam, Wayne	May 13, 2021	Winter Storms
4517	2020-2023	Jan 2020 – May 2023	Statewide	Apr 3, 2020	covid-19 pandemic
4455	2019	Jun 29-30	Grant, Pendleton, Preston, Randolph, Tucker	Aug 3, 2019	Storms, Flooding, Landslides, and Mudslides
4378	2018	May 28-jUN 3	Grant, Hampshire, Hardy, Jefferson, Mineral, Morgan, Pendleton	July 12, 2018	Storms, Flooding, Landslides, and Mudslides

4359	2018	Feb. 14-20	Brooke, Cabell, Calhoun, Doddridge, Hancock, Harrison, Lincoln, Logan Marshall, Mason Monongalia, Ohio, Pleasants, Preston, Ritchie, Taylor, Tyler, Wayne, Wetzel, Wirt, wood	Apr. 17, 2018	Storms, Flooding, Landslides, and Mudslides
4331	2017	July 28-29	Doddridge, Harrison, Marion, Marshall, Monongalia, Ohio, Preston Randolph, Taylor, Tucker, Tyler, Wetzel	Aug 18, 2017	Storms, Flooding, Landslides, and Mudslides
4273	2016	Jun 22 – Jun 29	Braxton, Clay, Fayette, Lewis, Lincoln, Gilmer, Greenbrier, Jackson, Kanawha, Monroe, Nicholas, Pocahontas, Randolph, Roane, Summers,	Jun 25, 2016	Severe Storms, Flooding, Landslides, and Mudslides

			Upshur, Wayne		
4236	2015	Jul 10 – Jul 14	Braxton, Clay, Jackson, Lincoln, Logan, Nicholas, Roane, Webster, Wood	Aug 7, 2015	Severe Storms, Straight-line Winds, Flooding, Landslides, and Mudslides
4221	2015	Apr 13 – Apr 15	Cabell, Calhoun, Greenbrier, Jackson, Pleasants, Roane, Summers, Wirt	May 21, 2015	Severe Storms, Flooding, Landslides, and Mudslides
4220	2015	Apr 8 – Apr 11	Braxton, Brooke, Doddridge, Gilmer, Jackson, Lewis, Marshall, Ohio, Pleasants, Ritchie, Tyler, Wetzel	May 18, 2015	Severe Storms, Flooding, Landslides, and Mudslides
4219	2015	Apr 3 – Apr 5	Boone, Cabell, Lincoln, Logan, Mingo, Wayne	May 14, 2015	Severe Storms, Flooding, Landslides, and Mudslides
4210	2015	Mar 3 – Mar 15	Barbour, Boone, Braxton, Cabell, Doddridge, Fayette, Gilmer, Harrison,	Mar 31, 2015	Severe Winter Storm, Flooding, Landslides, and Mudslides

			Jackson, Kanawha, Lewis, Lincoln, Logan, Marshall, McDowell, Mercer, Mingo Monongalia, Putnam, Raleigh, Ritchie, Roane, Summers, Tucker, Tyler, Wayne, Webster, Wirt, wood, Wyoming		
4132	2013	Jun 13 - Jun 13	Mason, Roane	Jul 26, 2013	Severe Storms and Flooding
4093	2012	Oct 29 - Nov 8	Barbour, Boone, Braxton, Clay, Fayette, Kanawha, Lewis, Nicholas, Pendleton, Pocahontas, Preston, Raleigh, Randolph, Taylor, Tucker, Upshur, Webster, Wyoming	Nov 27, 2012	Hurricane Sandy
4071	2012	Jun 29 - Jul 8	Barbour, Berkeley, Boone, Braxton, Cabell,	Jul 23, 2012	Severe Storms and Straight-Line Winds

			Calhoun, Clay, Doddridge, Fayette, Gilmer, Grant, Greenbrier, Hardy, Harrison, Jackson, Jefferson, Kanawha, Lewis, Lincoln, Logan, Marshall, Mason, McDowell, Mercer, Mingo, Monroe, Nicholas, Pendleton, Pleasants, Pocahontas, Preston, Putnam, Randolph, Ritchie, Roane, Summers, Taylor, Tucker, Tyler, Upshur, Wayne, Webster, Wetzel, Wirt, Wood, Wyoming		
4061	2012	Mar 15 - Mar 31	Lincoln, Logan, Mingo	Mar 22, 2012	Severe Storms, Flooding, Mudslides, and Landslides
4059	2012	Feb 2 - Mar 4	Doddridge, Harrison, Lincoln,	Mar 16, 2012	Severe Storms, Tornadoes, Flooding, Mudslides, and Landslides

			Marion, Mingo, Monongalia, Preston, Ritchie, Roane, Taylor, Wayne		
1918	2010	Jun 12 - Jun 29	Lewis, Logan, McDowell, Mingo, Wyoming	Jun 24, 2010	Severe Storms, Flooding, Mudslides, and Landslides
1903	2010	Feb 5 - Feb 11	Berkeley, Brooke, Doddridge, Grant, Hampshire, Hancock, Hardy, Jefferson, Marion, Marshall, Mineral, Monongalia, morgan, Ohio, Pocahontas, Preston, Ritchie, tucker, Tyler, Wetzel	Apr 23, 2010	Severe Winter Storms and Snowstorms
1893	2010	Mar 12 - Apr 9	Fayette, Greenbrier, Kanawha, mercer, Raleigh, summers	Mar 29, 2010	Severe Storms, Flooding, Mudslides, and Landslides
1881	2009	Dec 18 - DEC 20	Boone, Calhoun, Clay, Fayette, Greenbrier, Jefferson,	Mar 2, 2010	Severe Winter Storm and Snowstorm

			Kanawha, McDowell, Mercer, Mingo, Nicholas, Pendleton, Pocahontas, Raleigh, Randolph, Ritchie, Roane, Wyoming		
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National Disaster Recovery Framework Activations

FEMA DR-4273-WV

From June 22-29, 2016, severe storms, flooding, mudslides, and landslides, generated by a slow-moving series of storms, brought widespread damage and destruction to West Virginia. Thousands of homes, hundreds of businesses, and significant infrastructure, including 5 schools, were severely damaged or destroyed.

On June 23, Governor Earl Ray Tomblin declared a State of Emergency. On June 24, the Governor requested a Major Disaster declaration which the President approved on June 25. Following a series of amendments, a total of 12 counties were designated for FEMA's Individual Assistance (IA) and Public Assistance (PA) programs, with another 6 designated for PA only. The declaration also made FEMA Hazard Mitigation Program funding available statewide.

Rural communities, many already losing population and in economic decline, were the hardest hit. Mountainous terrain (in narrow valleys) confines much of the affected areas' residential and commercial development. This geographic constraint places much of the population within floodplains, exacerbating damage from such severe weather events.

Due to the severity and magnitude of the disaster, FEMA Region 3 Regional Administrator and the Federal Coordinating Officer assigned to West Virginia, requested a National Disaster Recovery Support (NDRS) Advance Evaluation Team (AET) to determine whether the state would require enhanced recovery coordination. The AET recommended activation of a Federal Disaster Recovery Coordinator (FDRC) and 3 Recovery Support Functions (RSFs): Community Assistance (formerly Community Planning and Capacity Building (CPCB)), Economic, and Housing.

FEMA deployed staff from the NDRS cadre, an External Affairs Advisor, and a Mitigation Advisor which, along with the RSF Field Coordinators, constituted the Interagency Recovery Coordination (IRC) group.

To lead the state's recovery, Governor Tomblin named West Virginia National Guard (WVNG) General James Hoyer, the Adjutant General of the West Virginia National Guard, as the West Virginia Chief Recovery Officer on July 13. West Virginia Department of Commerce (WVDOC)

Secretary Keith Burdette was named the West Virginia State Disaster Recovery Officer (SDRO) at the same time.

The 3 activated RSFs conducted an in-depth technical review as reported in a Mission Scoping Assessment (MSA). Substantive data was gathered, analyzed, and evaluated, applying recovery core capability specific expertise to identify recovery needs and issues, as well as recovery related impacts in which State and local capabilities, and/or capacity, may be exceeded. Areas and communities requiring enhanced federal recovery support are also identified in this report, along with perceived gaps in resources available to meet recovery needs.

In mid-August the MSA, developed by the IRC group, identified impacts of the disaster which helped to determine gaps in the State's capacity to recover. The RSFs identified the following major issues for West Virginia's long-term recovery from the disaster:

1. Community Planning/Capacity Building Recovery Support Function

- Local Recovery Capacity Exceeded
- State Recovery Capacity Strained
- Recover Planning Challenges

2. Economic Recovery Support Function

- Pre-Existing Economic Conditions Exacerbated by Flood
- Impacted Businesses and Capital Needs
- Impact to Tourism and Regional Brands
- Business Recovery and Preparedness
- Agriculture Losses
- Impact to Infrastructure

3. Housing Recovery Support Function

- Increased Financial Burden of Homeownership
- Habitable and Environmentally Healthy Housing
- Including resilience in rebuilding
- Prevalence of blight in communities

Cross-cutting Recovery Issues

Housing, Economic, and Community Assistance disaster recovery issues often overlap. Below are brief descriptions of these cross-cutting issues:

Central West Virginia has been hit by a sharp downturn in revenues from coal severance taxes, unemployment, and multiple flooding disasters. The coal industry is experiencing a significant downturn. Unemployment is up not only in the extractive industries, but also in the once supportive construction, transportation, and utility sectors. Lack of local jobs has led to a net out migration and a negative natural change due to the depressed economy. These factors are negatively affecting the quality and availability of affordable housing.

Flooding, mudslides, and landslides may have also compromised individual, private waste disposal systems. Fecal coliform levels in many West Virginia watershed are elevated (e.g., Elk, Guyandotte, Cherry, Greenbrier, and Gauley). The source of much of this pollution can be attributed to human waste, but flooding debris is more visible and of significant concern to the public's perception. Tailored, individual watershed strategies for this work may be appropriate.

Coal companies not only closed their doors but are also selling off their inventory. With less physical assets on the premises, county governments have less assets to tax. While county and other local government may have the administrative capacity to address disaster situations, there may not be any funds available to pay up-front costs and hire additional staff to handle specific disaster recovery tasks.

Housing disaster recovery must have a strong mitigation component to break the cycle of disaster disruptions. Recovery of impacted housing throughout the valley communities involves three inter-related resiliency issues; strong private water crossings, septic systems, and elevated, flood-resistant residences. Rapid flood surges can and often will cause severe disruptions to rural communities throughout the mountain valleys of West Virginia. Flood waters are not the only issue – landslides and mud slips have ruined many homes and disrupted travel and access into and out of these rural communities.

Since 2009, counties designated for the June 2016 flooding disaster have been part of up to 6 disaster declarations. Without another option to rebuild better and more resiliently, it is uncertain how long these rural communities can remain viable. Housing designers and community advocates should combine their collective, creative expertise to develop better rebuilding options.

Finally, survivor populations are much more likely to represent underserved populations than the balance of the state. Housing assistance applicants tend to live in housing of lesser value, have lower median incomes and are older than state norms.

Lack of Broadband Access

The lack of broadband access across the state makes flood recovery more difficult in economically depressed areas. These local communities are struggling financially due to losses in basic sector employment, shrinking populations, and recurring damages due to flooding and dwindling customer bases. Without state-of-the-art businesses tools (such as broadband access) communities are unable to attract new web-dependent businesses and residents who demand these services and are therefore placed in a non-competitive disadvantaged position being financially incapable of a robust recovery.

As issues were surveyed across the impacted area in the wake of the flooding, it became apparent that a barrier to community recovery is the lack of broadband internet service in the state. Broadband access is considered vital to businesses and governments who rely on it for communication and data transmission. Broadband is also essential for effective and efficient management of hospitals, schools, banking, and emergency services. Perhaps most importantly, given hardships in the job market and the need to retrain workers displaced by the downturn in the coal industry, broadband is essential to making online higher education accessible to rural communities.

Severely flood-damaged schools

Approximately 33 schools were damaged by the flood event. Damages varied from impacts to playgrounds, security systems and heating and cooling systems to complete loss. In cases where schools were not repaired in time for the beginning of the new school year, students were relocated to neighboring school systems or housed in temporary, modular classrooms.

While most of the schools are currently in operation, several schools were damaged such that they were unable to open in time for the 2016-2017 school year. These include Summersville Middle, Richwood Middle, and Richwood High. The most severely damaged schools face significant challenges.

Under the NFIP, any building which is damaged more than 50 percent must be brought up to applicable standards and codes during repair. While FEMA has the authority to assist with repairs to schools through the PA grant program, this is a cost shared program. In economically depressed communities, it is difficult to raise the funds necessary to support local cost shares for these projects. Funds may be available through West Virginia's Rainy-Day fund, but this source of funding is not robust.

Additionally, a review of the damages to schools reveals several vulnerabilities associated with the school system and their infrastructure. Among these are a lack of flood risk management measures and lack of emergency backup power.

Hazard Mitigation Priorities – Mitigation Reconstruction

When prioritizing the use of the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) funds allocated to West Virginia following the declaration from FEMA-4273-DR-WV, the State has decided to utilize Mitigation Reconstruction as their highest priority. This effort entails the demolition of a substantially damaged or destroyed home. The intent is to maintain the community's identity, integrity and keep its residents in their respective community because when properties are acquired there are loss to communities, tax base and there is no further development on acquired properties.

Under the Mitigation Reconstruction Program, the structure is elevated on the same footprint where the building was either partial or demolished. The new reconstructed building is designed to meet established code compliance and hazard resistant standards for wind, floods, and seismic events. The scope of work for a mitigation reconstruction project includes activity such as the pre-construction phase, site preparation, foundation construction, structural shell construction and interior finishes. Mitigation Reconstruction compliant activities includes supporting the envelope of the building to meet program requirements which will result in obtaining certificate of occupancy and reduced flood insurance premium for the life of the structure.

IV. STATE-LEVEL AGENCIES, RESOURCES, PLANS

A. STATE-LEVEL RECOVERY STRUCTURE

1) WEST VIRGINIA STATE RESILIENCY OFFICE

On April 28, 2017, the West Virginia Legislature passed House Bill 2935 creating the State Resiliency Office (SRO). In 2020, Senate Bill 586 was passed to update state code and place the SRO in the Governor's Office.

In 2023, the Legislature updated the SRO with SB677 to clarify the roles and responsibilities of the State Resiliency Officer and the State Resiliency Office. The office will serve as the recipient of disaster recovery and resiliency funds, excluding federal Stafford Act funds, and the coordinating agency of recovery and resiliency efforts, including matching funds for other disaster recovery programs, excluding those funds and efforts un the direct control the State Resiliency Officer pursuant to WV Code Sections 29-31-3, 29-31-6, 29-31-7, and 29-31-8.

The State Resiliency Officer is chair of the State Resiliency Office Board. Other board members include:

- The Secretary of the Department of Commerce
- The Director of the Division of Natural Resources
- The Secretary of the Department of Environmental Protection
- The Executive Director of the West Virginia Conservation Agency
- The President of the West Virginia Emergency Management Council
- The Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Resources
- The Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security
- The Secretary of Transportation
- The Adjutant General of the West Virginia National Guard
- The Director of the Emergency Management Division
- Two nonvoting members of the West Virginia Senate
- Two nonvoting members of the West Virginia House of Delegates
- The State Resiliency Officer

Authority of the State Resiliency Officer¹¹

The State Resiliency Office will coordinate the state's disaster recovery and resiliency missions and the State Resiliency Officer serves as the primary representative of the Governor in these matters.

The State Resiliency Officer shall, upon the order and direction of the Governor, act on behalf of the Governor in the event of the proclamation of the existence of a state of emergency or state of preparedness due to a natural hazards event or upon a Presidential declaration of a major disaster under Section 406 of the Stafford Act. The State Resiliency Officer will assist and advise the Governor on all disaster recovery and resiliency issues and serve as a liaison between the

¹¹ https://www.wvlegislature.gov/Bill_Text_HTML/2023_SESSIONS/RS/bills/sb677%20sub1%20enr.pdf

Governor's office, and all other parties, whether state, federal, public, or private to further the purposes of this article. The State Resiliency Officer will:

1. Serve as coordinator of all economic and community resiliency planning and implementation efforts, including, but not limited to, flood protection programs and activities in the state.
2. Develop a new state Flood Resiliency Plan due to the Board no later than June 30, 2024.
3. Coordinate an annual review of the state Flood Resiliency Plan and update the plan no less than biennially, with updates due to the board no later than June 30 in even numbered years.
4. Recommend legislation to reduce or mitigate flood damage.
5. Report to the Joint Legislative Committee on Flooding at least quarterly.
6. Catalog, maintain, and monitor a listing of current and proposed capital expenditures to reduce or mitigate flood damage and other hazards, and other useful and desirable resiliency efforts.
7. Coordinate planning of flood projects with federal agencies.
8. Improve professional management of floodplains.
9. Provide education and outreach on flooding issues to the citizens of this state.
10. Establish a single website integrating all agency flood information.
11. Monitor federal funds and initiatives that become available for disaster recovery and economic and community resiliency or other flood or hazard mitigation and to direct expenditure on behalf of the Governor.
12. Pursue additional funds and resources to assist not only with long-term recovery efforts but also long-term community and statewide resiliency efforts.
13. Coordinate, integrate, and expand planning efforts in the state for hazard mitigation, long-term disaster recovery, and economic diversification.
14. Coordinate long-term disaster recovery efforts in response to disasters as they occur; and
15. Establish and facilitate regular communication between federal, state, local, and private sector agencies, and organizations to further economic and disaster resilience.
16. Receive resources, monetary or otherwise, from any other governmental entity and disburse those resources to effectuate the purposes of this article.
17. Execute cooperative agreements, where appropriate, between the State Resiliency Office and the federal and/or state governments.
18. Contract, where appropriate, on behalf of the State Resiliency Office, with the federal government, its instrumentalities and agencies, any state, territory or the District of Columbia, and its agencies and instrumentalities, municipalities, foreign governments, public bodies, private corporations, partnerships, associations, and individuals.
19. Use funds administered by the State Resiliency Office for the maintenance, construction, or reconstruction of capital repair and replacement items as necessary to effectuate the purposes of this article.

20. Accept and use funds from the federal government, its instrumentalities and agencies, any state, territory or the District of Columbia, and its agencies and instrumentalities, municipalities, foreign governments, public bodies, private corporations, partnerships, associations, and individuals for the purposes of disaster recovery, hazard mitigation, flood mitigation, flood prevention, and disaster response programs.
21. Hire necessary employees at an appropriate salary equivalent to a competitive wage rate.
22. Enroll appropriate employees in PERS, PEIA, and workers' compensation and unemployment programs, or their equivalents: Provided, That the State Resiliency Office, through the receipt of federal and/or state funds, pays the required employer contributions.
23. Develop a human resources division that will administer and manage its employees and receive state matching funds as necessary to ensure maximum federal funds are secured.
24. Have the ability to secure all other bonding, insurance, or other liability protections necessary for its employees to fulfill their duties and responsibilities.
25. Have the ability to draw upon other departments, divisions, agencies, and all other subdivisions of the state for research and input in fulfilling the requirements of this article, and its requests are to have priority over other such requests.
26. Participate in the interdepartmental transfer of permanent state employees, as if he or she were a department secretary, under the provisions of §5F-2-7 of this code.
27. Notwithstanding any other provision of this code to the contrary, acquire legal services that are necessary, including representation of the board, its employees, and officers before any court or administrative body from the office of the Attorney General, who shall provide such legal assistance and representation,
28. Take all other actions necessary and proper to effectuate the purposes of this article.

The office shall have any other additional authority, duties, and responsibilities as prescribed by the Governor to effectuate the purposes of this article. Due to the at-will employment relationship with the office, its employees may not avail themselves of the state grievance procedure as set forth in §6C-2-1 et seq. of this code.

B. STATE AGENCY RECOVERY RESOURCES

1) STATE GOVERNMENT RESOURCES

Below is an inventory of State agencies that provide Community Assistance-relevant resources and support. This is not an exhaustive inventory and is subject to change as executive and legislative priorities change.

Department of Administration

The mission of the Department of Administration is to operate a cost-efficient, customer-oriented service department whose actions are transparent to taxpayers resulting in innovative solutions and quality results for a government that effectively serves West Virginia.

The department is responsible for oversight of all internal business functions of state government that operate within the following divisions and agencies:

- **Aviation Division** - The purpose of the Aviation Division is to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of state government by providing safe, professional, and secure on-demand air transportation to the Governor and state government agencies.
- **Board of Risk and Insurance Management (BRIM)** - BRIM's mission is to secure reasonably broad protection against loss, damage, or liability to state property, activities, and responsibilities by proper, adequate, and affordable insurance coverage by the introduction and employment of sound and accepted principles of insurance, methods of protection, and principles of loss control and risk
- **Consolidated Public Retirement Board (CPRB)** - To serve those who serve West Virginia by administering ten governmental pension plans to ensure members receive accurate and timely benefits earned for their public service. To be a trusted leader in pension administration and provide public employees with the security and information they need to empower them for a productive tomorrow.
- **Ethics Commission** - To maintain confidence in the integrity and impartiality of the governmental process in the state of West Virginia and its political subdivisions and to aid public officials and public employees in the exercise of their official duties and employment. The Commission also interprets the Open Governmental Meetings Act.
- **Finance Division** - The Finance Division provides financial management, accounting, and payroll services to the agencies of the Department of Administration as well as several State Boards and Commissions. In addition, the Division is responsible for the issuance of the state's Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR), Statewide Cost Allocation Plan (SWCAP), and Single Audit. The Finance Division also maintains the statewide vendor file, including preparation of IRS forms W-9 and 1099.
- **Fleet Management Division** - The mission of the Fleet Management Division (FMD) is to provide safe, efficient, and reliable fleet services in the most cost-effective manner possible. The FMD assists state spending units by providing exceptional fleet service and by promoting teamwork to accomplish the state's strategic goals and objectives.
- **General Services Division** - The General Services Division (GSD) provides grounds and facilities management, engineering, custodial and maintenance services to maintain a safe and comfortable work environment for the West Virginia Capitol Campus and all buildings owned and operated by the Department of Administration.
- **Office of Equal Opportunity (OEO)** - The mission of the West Virginia Office of Equal Opportunity is to address and resolve equal employment issues in state agencies and institutions of higher education; to prevent unlawful harassment and discrimination through up-to-date training; to host an annual training conference for the agency and higher education EEO counselors, coordinators, and human resources personnel; and to advise the Office of the Governor, state agencies, and state employees on current ADA and EEO laws and procedures.
- **Office of Technology (OT)** - The West Virginia Office of Technology (WVOT) provides leadership and oversight in driving West Virginia's technology strategy, while providing essential enterprise

technology services to over 23,000 state employees across state and local government, leveraging a special revenue, chargeback funding model.

- **Division of Personnel (DOP)** - The Division of Personnel (DOP) was created in 1989 by the Legislature to provide leadership in human resources management for state government. The Division's services touch all aspects of employment from application and hiring through separation or retirement.

- **Prosecuting Attorneys Institute** - The Prosecuting Attorneys Institute provides special prosecutors where elected prosecutors are unable to serve; provides training, service, support and resources to the prosecutors and staffs to improve the quality of all prosecution throughout the state; educates law enforcement regarding the constantly changing face of the law; and expands the public's knowledge of the criminal justice system.

- **Public Defender Services** - The agency is responsible for maintaining a system by which legal counsel is provided to indigent defendants in criminal and related proceedings, thus fulfilling the State of West Virginia's constitutional obligation under the Sixth and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution and Section 14 of Article III of the West Virginia Constitution. The agency is also responsible for the compensation of legal services provided to children and indigent parents in child abuse and neglect proceedings.

- **Public Employees Grievance Board** - The Public Employees Grievance Board provides a fair, consistent, and expedited administrative process for resolving employment related disputes between employers and employees of the Executive Branch, Public Institutions of Higher Education, County Health Departments, and County Boards of Education, covering more than 74,000 employees. The Board is responsible for administering the grievance procedure and has jurisdiction regarding procedural matters at all levels of the grievance procedure.

- **Public Employees Insurance Agency (PEIA)** - The Mission of the Public Employees Insurance Agency (PEIA) is to administer affordable insurance programs and services that protect, promote, and benefit the health and well-being of our members. PEIA provides benefits to 230,000 members in the following categories: county boards of education, higher education, state agencies, local governments, retirees, and surviving dependents.

- **Purchasing Division** - The mission of the Purchasing Division is to provide prudent and fair spending practices in procuring quality goods and services at the lowest cost to state taxpayers by maximizing efficiencies and offering guidance to our customers.

- **Real Estate Division** - The Real Estate Division (RED) provides a unified and fully integrated, professional real estate service. It has the following responsibilities: manage leases for state-owned and leased buildings; negotiate and renegotiate leases on behalf of agencies in role of lessee, and as lessor in owned buildings; develop co-location and relocation plans for agencies; space programming and planning in facilities; project and construction management; and establish uniform and cost-effective guidelines for real estate practices.

Boards and Commissions under the Department of Administration's authority:

- **Design-Build Board** - The Design-Build Procurement Act was enacted to allow publicly funded projects to utilize the design-build delivery model of construction.

Governor's Committee for the Purchase of Commodities and Services from the Handicapped - Furthering the state's policy of encouraging disabled persons to achieve maximum personal independence by engaging in productive activities. Providing state agencies, institutions, and political subdivisions with a method to purchase commodities and services offered for sale by nonprofit workshops outside of the usual purchasing process.

Furthering the state's policy of encouraging disabled persons to achieve maximum personal independence by engaging in productive activities. Providing state agencies, institutions, and political subdivisions with a method to purchase commodities and services offered for sale by nonprofit workshops outside of the usual purchasing process.

Governor's Mansion Advisory Committee - The Governor's Mansion Advisory Committee makes recommendations to the Governor for maintaining, preserving, and replenishing all articles of furniture, fixtures, decorative objects, linens, silver, china, crystal, and objects of art used or displayed in the state rooms of the Governor's mansion.

West Virginia Department of Arts, Culture & History

The mission of the West Virginia Department of Arts, Culture and History is to identify, preserve, protect, promote, and present the ideas, arts, and artifacts of West Virginia's heritage, building pride in our past accomplishments and confidence in our future. Agencies within the Department are:

Arts – Its mission is to work with the citizens of the Mountain State to help provide a thriving environment for creative expression and appreciation for the arts.

Historic Preservation - The mission of the Historic Preservation Office is to encourage, inform, support, and participate in the efforts of the people of West Virginia to identify, recognize, preserve, and protect West Virginia's prehistoric and historic structures, objects, and sites.

Archives and History – The Archives and History website is the premier on-line resource for primary and secondary source documents, photographs, and databases; lists collections and other materials available in the State Archives; and provides research guides and assistance for genealogists.

Museums - The museum section oversees and operates four historic sites and museums: The West Virginia State Museum, Camp Washington-Carver, Grave Creek Mound Archaeological Complex, and West Virginia Independence Hall.

And several boards and commissions:

The Archives and History Commission is a citizen advisory board to the Department with its members appointed by the governor.

Commission on the Arts is another advisory board to the Department with gubernatorial appointments to advise on distributing grants, approving rules, and advising on appointments of agency directors.

Capitol Building Commission reviews and approves all plans involving changes to the grounds and buildings located on the state Capitol campus.

Records Management and Preservation Board was created to establish a system to preserve and manage county government records.

West Virginia Conservation Agency

The West Virginia Conservation Agency's mission is to conserve the state's soil, land, and water resources by working with the state's 14 conservation districts to implement best management practices. During declared emergency events, the WVCA works with federal, state, and local agencies to ensure the state's waterways are free of debris and other obstructions that impede water flow and present additional flood hazards.

West Virginia Department of Agriculture

The WVDA's mission is to protect plant, animal, and human health and the and the state's food supply through a variety of scientific and regulatory programs. WVDA staff work to provide vision, strategic planning, and emergency response for agricultural and other civil emergencies, as well as to promote food safety and protect consumers through educational and regulatory programs. Ultimately the WVDA's goal is to foster economic growth by promoting West Virginia agriculture and agribusinesses throughout the state and abroad.

WV Department of Environmental Protection (WVDEP)

The West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection is the state's leading, air, waste, water, coal, and natural gas regulatory agency. The DEP was created in the in the early 1990s by consolidating separate state agencies into one environment enforcement program.

The divisions within the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection have programs geared toward protecting, preserving, and restoring our state's resources.

From our air monitoring and abandoned mine lands programs to brownfield redevelopment and nonpoint source programs, the WVDEP works with citizens, businesses and other state and federal agencies to promote a healthy environment.

Quick Links to DEP Programs:

- [Division of Air Quality](#)
- [Division of Land Restoration](#)
- [Office of Abandoned Mine Lands and Reclamation](#)
- [Office of Environmental Remediation](#)
- [Office of Special Reclamation](#)
- [Water and Waste Programs](#)

West Virginia Department of Commerce

The West Virginia Department of Commerce's mission is to promote and preserve the well-being of the citizens of West Virginia by providing a cooperative, interagency system that stimulates diverse economic growth, encourages the appropriate use of our state's abundant natural resources, improves the safety and productivity of our workforce, and promotes the beauty and desirability of our state as a world-class tourism destination.

The Department of Commerce currently includes the following agencies:

- [Division of Forestry](#)
- [Division of Labor](#)
- [Division of Natural Resources](#)
- [Geological & Economic Survey](#)
- [Office of Miners' Health, Safety and Training](#)

Department of Economic Development

The Department of Economic Development is the state's lead development office operating six divisions:

- Small Business Development Center – The Center works with small businesses and entrepreneurs.
- Community Advancement and Development – Works to support communities through economic development, disaster preparedness and recovery, and non-profit efforts.
- Office of Energy – Seeks to increase energy efficiency.
- International Development – Seeks to expand the state's international trade with offices located in Japan and Switzerland.
- Business and Industrial Development – Seeks to help business expand, relocate, or grow business opportunities.
- Broadband Enhancement Council – Improve and expand broadband access in the state.

WorkForce WV

- [The Division of Rehabilitation Services](#)

WV Emergency Management Division (WVEMD)

The mission of the West Virginia Emergency Management Division (WVEMD) is to ensure the protection of life and property by providing coordination, guidance, support, and assistance to local emergency managers and first responders. Pursuant to West Virginia State Code and the West Virginia Emergency Operations Plan, the agency manages disaster preparedness, mitigation, and response and recovery efforts throughout the state by coordinating with all responsible government agencies. In the event of a federally declared disaster, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) works closely with the division to administer assistance programs.

The division contains multiple branches that work seamlessly to achieve WVEMD's overall mission. During activation, WVEMD coordinates resources and support as requested by local emergency management agencies who administer direct assistance to citizens.

Programs and Resources:

- [WV Flood Tool](#) (includes best available flood data, map views, data layers, etc.)
- [WV Floodplain Management in WV – Quick Guide](#)

WV Department of Health and Human Resources

On January 1, 2024, the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources (DHHR) was officially reorganized into three separate departments:

- Department of Health
- Department of Health Facilities
- Department of Human Services

West Virginia Jobs Investment Trust

West Virginia Jobs Investment Trust (JIT) is a public venture capital fund created to develop, promote, and expand West Virginia's economy by making investment funds available to eligible businesses, thus stimulating economic growth, and providing or retaining jobs within the State.

WV Department of Revenue

The Department of Revenue is comprised of 10 agencies including Alcohol Beverage Control Administration, West Virginia Division of Financial Institutions, West Virginia State Budget Office, West Virginia Lottery Commission, Municipal Bond Commission, West Virginia Office of Tax Appeals, West Virginia Racing Commission, West Virginia State Tax Department, West Virginia Insurance Commissioner's Office, and State Athletic Commission.

West Virginia Bureau of Senior Services

The agency's mission is to be West Virginia's premier advocate for the provision of in-home and community-based services for the state's seniors and others served by our programs. To be a faithful steward of the federal and state monies entrusted to our care for the provision of services throughout West Virginia.

WV Department of Transportation (WVDOT)

The West Virginia Department of Transportation (WVDOT) is comprised of more than 6,000 men and women who work in the Division of Highways; Division of Motor Vehicles; Division of Public Transit; the Public Port Authority; the Parkways, Economic Development and Tourism Authority (W.V. Turnpike); the State Rail Authority; and the Aeronautics Commission. WVDOT's mission is to create and maintain for the people of West Virginia, the United States, and the world a multi-modal and inter-modal transportation system that supports the safe, effective, and efficient movement of people, information and goods that enhances the opportunity for people and communities to enjoy environmentally sensitive and economically sound development.

West Virginia Tourism

The agency is charged with promoting West Virginia's myriad of tourism opportunities.

2) QUASI- AND OTHER-GOVERNMENTAL RESOURCES

Below is an inventory of currently identified quasi and non-governmental sources that provide CA-relevant resources and support. This is in no way an exhaustive inventory – merely a list of currently identified sources. This section of the document will be subject to change with future updates.

Appalachian Regional Commission

The Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) is a regional economic development agency that represents a partnership of federal, state, and local government. As defined in ARC's authorizing legislation, the Appalachian Region is a 205,000-square-mile region that follows the spine of the Appalachian Mountains from southern New York to northern Mississippi. It includes all of West Virginia and parts of 12 other states: Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, Mississippi, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia. 42 percent of the Region's population is rural, compared with 20 percent of the national population.

Appalachia Envisioned: ARC's 2022-2026 Strategic Plan - Appalachian Regional Commission:

The Strategic Plan was developed following a year-long assessment of socioeconomic trends in Appalachia and a review of past ARC investments completed for the report ***Appalachia Envisioned: A New Era of Opportunity***

The Region includes 420 counties in 13 states. It extends more than 1,000 miles, from southern New York to northeastern Mississippi, and is home to more than 25 million people.

Established by an act of Congress in 1965, ARC is composed of the governors of the 13 Appalachian states and a federal co-chair, who is appointed by the President. Local participation is provided through multi-county local development districts.

ARC invests in activities that address the 5 goals identified in the Commission's strategic plan:

Goal 1: Economic Opportunities: Invest in entrepreneurial and business development strategies that strengthen Appalachia's economy.

Goal 2: Ready Workforce: Increase the education, knowledge, skills, and health of residents to work and succeed in Appalachia.

Goal 3: Critical Infrastructure: Invest in critical infrastructure—especially broadband; transportation, including the Appalachian Development Highway System; and water/wastewater systems.

Goal 4: Natural and Cultural Assets: Strengthen Appalachia's community and economic development potential by leveraging the Region's natural and cultural heritage assets.

Goal 5: Leadership and Community Capacity: Build the capacity and skills of current and next-generation leaders and organizations to innovate, collaborate, and advance community and economic development.

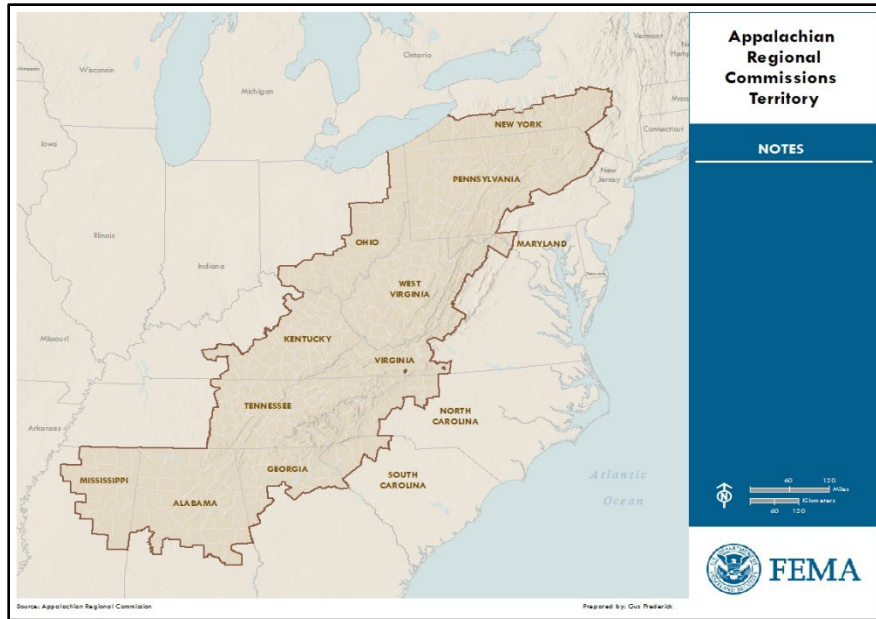


FIGURE 33: APPALACHIAN REGIONAL COMMISSION TERRITORY

Each year ARC provides funding for several hundred projects in the Appalachian Region in a wide range of program areas:

- asset-based development;
- community infrastructure;
- education and training;
- energy;
- entrepreneurship and business development;
- export and trade development;
- health;
- leadership development and capacity building;
- telecommunications;
- tourism development; and
- transportation and highways.

These projects create thousands of new jobs; improve local water and sewer systems; increase school readiness; expand access to health care; assist local communities with strategic planning; and provide technical and managerial assistance to emerging businesses. Special resources are targeted to the most economically distressed counties.

ARC also works to strengthen and diversify the Appalachian economy through the Appalachian Regional Development Initiative (ARDI). The ARDI is a partnership between ARC and ten federal agencies that aims to conduct local outreach to facilitate community participation in federal programs, and to collaborate with regional stakeholders to make strategic and cost-effective investments in Appalachia.

The Appalachian Regional Commission awards grants and contracts from funds appropriated to the Commission annually by Congress. Program grants are awarded to state and local agencies and governmental entities (such as economic development authorities), local governing boards (such as county councils), and nonprofit organizations (such as schools and organizations that

build low-cost housing). Contracts are awarded for research on topics that directly impact economic development in the Appalachian Region.

ARC Programs and Resources:

- **Information Age Appalachia Program** funds broadband access to the rural Appalachia area, focusing on access to infrastructure, education, training and workforce development, E-commerce, and tech-sector employment.
- **Community Infrastructure** focuses primarily on the provision of water and wastewater services to support business and community development projects, and to alleviate public and environmental health hazards.
- **Entrepreneurship and Business Development** supports a variety of activities to promote entrepreneurship and business development in the Appalachian Region. These activities help diversify the Region's economic base, develop and market strategic assets, increase the competitiveness of existing businesses, foster the development and use of innovative technologies, and enhance entrepreneurial activity.
- **Grant Programs** awarded to states, public bodies, and private nonprofits for projects that create opportunities for self-sustaining economic development and improve quality of life for the people of Appalachia. ARC has four different types of Grants that fund environmental protection related activities: regional development grants, area development grants, local development district assistance grants, and research, technical assistance, and demonstration project grants. Grants for physical basic infrastructure including water and sewer facilities that enhance economic development opportunities or address serious health issues for residential customers.
- **Research, maps, and data:** ARC compiles data, creates maps, and conducts research and evaluations on key economic, demographic, and quality of life factors that affect the current and future development prospects of the Appalachian Region.

American Institute of Architects West Virginia (AIA-WV)

AIA-WV represents nearly 300 American Institute of Architects members - registered architects, intern-architects, associate, and affiliate members - working in West Virginia. Through its continuing education system, AIA is committed to the lifelong learning of its members to improve society through a dedication to design excellence and a concern for the quality of human life.

Preservation Alliance of West Virginia (PAWV)

PAWV is a statewide, non-profit presence that promotes historic preservation with periodic newsletters, web site, technical assistance and advocacy, and annual conferences.

West Virginia Community Development Hub (The WV Hub)

The WV Hub is a statewide, non-profit organization that helps communities come together to set goals for their future and connects them to the rich network of resources they need to meet those goals. Network resources include:

- Convening community conversations
- Training community leaders
- Recruiting volunteers

- Building infrastructure
- Reclaiming abandoned buildings
- Sustaining healthy food production
- Teaching political action
- Developing small businesses
- Adopting healthy lifestyles
- Finding funding for projects

U.S. Green Building Council West Virginia (USGBC WV)

USGBC WV is the West Virginia chapter of the USGBC, which has a mission to transform how buildings and communities are designed, built, and operated to create thriving, healthy, equitable, and resilient places that advance human and environmental wellbeing. USGBC WV is committed to improving the quality of life for West Virginians by transforming the way the built environment is designed, constructed, and maintained, resulting in buildings and communities that are environmentally, socially, and economically prosperous.

West Virginia Chapter of the American Planning Association (APAWV)

APAWV is the West Virginia state chapter of the American Planning Association (APA). The organization is comprised of professional and citizen planners who work to support responsible planning throughout the state. Membership is open to professional planners employed in planning or a related field, lay planners who serve on planning commissions or boards of zoning appeals, student members who are enrolled in a course of study in planning or a related field, and citizens interested in planning for their communities.

West Virginia Brownfield Assistance Centers (WV BAC)

WV BAC was created by the West Virginia Legislature to empower communities to plan and implement brownfield redevelopment projects. The two Centers promote economic development and environmental and public health protection through innovative redevelopment of brownfield sites. The Centers also promote and coordinate the development of brownfield property by providing training and technical assistance, facilitating site preparation efforts, engaging community involvement, as well as by helping communities with grant writing and leveraging project funding.

West Virginia Floodplain Management Association (WVFMA)

WV FMA is the State chapter of the Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM). It is an organization dedicated to mitigating the losses, costs and human suffering caused by flooding, and promoting the protection and natural beneficial functions of floodplains.

County Commissioner's Association of West Virginia (CCA WV)

CCA WV is the statewide association of county commissioners with the purpose of promoting the interest and general welfare of local county government through a variety of communication tools; to represent county government before the West Virginia Legislature, administrative agencies, and the federal government; to educate the public about the value and need for county programs and services; and to facilitate the exchange of problems, ideas, and solutions among county officials.

WV Association of Counties (WVACO)

WVACO represents West Virginia's elected county officials, the constitutional offices of county commissioners, county clerks, circuit clerks, sheriffs, assessors, and prosecuting attorneys.

WV Association of Housing Agencies (WVAHA)

WVAHA fosters, supports, and promotes the efforts of Public Housing Agencies and affordable housing organizations in the furthering of affordable housing and community redevelopment in West Virginia through the exchange of ideas, the promotion of inter-agency cooperation, affordable housing legislative and policy development, and education and training.

WV Economic Development Authority (WV EDA)

The purpose of the WV EDA is to promote economic growth and development by assisting existing industries and encouraging new businesses to locate in their area. Local economic development groups offer local government, private and not-for-profit sectors, and local communities the opportunity to work together to improve the local economy by focusing on enhancing competitiveness, increasing sustainable growth, and ensuring that growth is inclusive. For a complete list of statewide EDAs, visit: [Department of Commerce](#)

WV Housing Development Fund (WVHDF)

The WV HDF is a public body corporate and governmental instrumentality of the State of West Virginia established to increase the supply of residential housing for persons and families of low- and moderate-income, and to provide construction and permanent mortgage financing to public and private sponsors of such housing.

WV Small Business Development Centers (WV SBDCs)

SBDCs aid small businesses and aspiring entrepreneurs throughout the United States and its territories. SBDCs help entrepreneurs realize the dream of business ownership and help existing businesses remain competitive in a complex, ever-changing global marketplace. SBDCs are hosted by leading universities and state economic development agencies and funded in part through a partnership with SBA. WWSBDC serves businesses with fewer than 500 employees, including new ventures, growing companies, and mature businesses.

West Virginians for Better Transit (WVBT)

WVBT is a statewide coalition of businesses, trade associations, chambers of commerce, convention & visitors bureaus, community groups, local leaders, educators, and many others. These groups have joined together to express concerns about West Virginia's transportation crisis and to call on state leaders to develop long-term solutions.

West Virginia Faith-Based Organizations

West Virginia is committed to creating communities where individuals, families, schools, faith-based organizations, coalitions, and workplaces plan collaboratively and take action to promote good emotional health and reduce the likelihood of mental illness and substance abuse.

West Virginia Land Stewardship Corporation (WVLS)

The WVLS is a collaborative effort among the public, private, and nonprofit sectors to provide West Virginia and its citizens a statewide, nonpartisan community and economic development non-profit corporation partnered with the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection. The WVLS was created by state legislation in 2013 to promote productive reuse of underutilized commercial, industrial, and mining properties.

West Virginia Municipal League (WVML)

The West Virginia Municipal League is a statewide, nonprofit, nonpartisan association of cities, towns and villages established in 1968 to assist local governments and advance the interests of the citizens who reside within. The League achieves this directive through legislative advocacy, research, education, and other services for municipal elected officials. The membership includes all 232 municipalities' population in the state. The central purpose of the League is to advance the interests and welfare of the people residing in the municipalities of our state. By cooperating through the League, cities benefit from research programs and a united legislative voice that would be impossible to maintain individually.

West Virginia Silver Jackets

The WV SJ Chapter includes WV DHSEM, USACE, FEMA, USGS, NRCS, NWS, WV DEP, WV DOT, and WVFMA. The Charter was signed in June of 2013. More information about the Silver Jackets Flood Risk Program can be found later in this document in Section V. B. Federal Agency Recovery Resources (page 80).

West Virginia Infrastructure & Jobs Development Council (WV IJDC)

The WV IJDC is a funding clearinghouse for water and wastewater projects.

- **Infrastructure and Jobs Development Council Grant and Loan Programs and Economic Bond Program** was created to be West Virginia's funding clearinghouse for water and wastewater projects. The Economic Infrastructure Bond Fund is a loan program to encourage economic development throughout the state. Funding per project is limited to a maximum of \$3 million.

WV Public Broadcasting (WVPB)

WVPB is governed by the Educational Broadcasting Authority of West Virginia, whose members are appointed by the Governor. Two nonprofit organizations raise money on behalf of WVPB: The Friends of West Virginia Public Broadcasting and the West Virginia Broadcasting Foundation. WVPB is a resource for education, news and public affairs, emergency services and economic development.

Regional Planning and Development Councils

There are 11 RPDCs covering West Virginia, each with its own multiple county service area. The Legislature created the RPDCs in 1971 to provide programs for the comprehensive development of their service area. Such planning includes, but is not limited to, infrastructure development, economic development, education, community development, health care improvement, resource development, intergovernmental coordination, social enrichment, transportation

enhancement, and environment protection. Inclusive and integral to the Council's comprehensive planning is the goal of ensuring that the region's public Services and facilities are maintained at acceptable levels toward the aim of promoting general health, safety, economic prosperity, and welfare of all its citizens.

The RPDCs focus on expansion and improvement of water and sewer facilities, infrastructure, transportation, employment, industry, small business development, housing, health care, education, and recreation. By coordinating closely with various affiliates in their respective regions, the RPDCs promote stability, growth, and progress in West Virginia, especially assisting local jurisdictions too small to maintain staff for grant writing and planning.

RPDCs offer local jurisdictions innovative solutions to growth-related problems by identifying and prioritizing goals; creating proactive strategies to realize these objectives; applying for funding packages; soliciting engineers, architects, attorneys, bond counsel, accountants, and other consultants, as needed, for each endeavor; and administering the projects to ensure funding is properly managed and all program guidelines are followed.

To accomplish these tasks, the RPDCs provide a multitude of services, varied by Council, including grant writing, labor compliance, workforce development, intergovernmental reviews, census report updates, public and governmental engagement strategies, environmental reviews,

TABLE 15: WV REGIONAL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COUNCILS WITH ASSOCIATED COUNTIES

Regional Planning and Development Council	Counties	
<u>Region I PDC</u>	McDowell County	Mercer County
	Monroe County	Raleigh County
	Summers County	Wyoming County
<u>Region II PDC</u>	Cabell County	Lincoln County
	Logan County	Mingo County
	Mason County	Wayne County
<u>Region III (BCKP Regional Intergovernmental Council)</u>	Boone County	Clay County
	Kanawha County	Putnam County
<u>Region IV PDC</u>	Fayette County	Greenbrier County
	Nicholas County	Pocahontas
	Webster County	
<u>Region V PDC (Mid-Ohio Valley)</u>	Calhoun County	Jackson County
	Pleasants County	Ritchie County
	Roane County	Tyler County
	Wirt County	Wood County

<u>Region VI PDC</u>	Doddridge County	Harrison County
	Marion County	Monongalia County
	Preston County	Taylor County
<u>Region VII PDC</u>	Barbour County	Braxton County
	Gilmer County	Lewis County
	Randolph County	Tucker County
	Upshur County	
<u>Region VIII PDC</u>	Grant County	Hampshire County
	Hardy County	Mineral County
	Pendleton County	
<u>Region IX PDC</u>	Berkeley County	Morgan County
	Jefferson County	
<u>Region X PDC (Bel-O-Mar)</u>	Marshall County	Ohio County
	Wetzel County	
<u>Region XI PDC</u>	Brooke County	Hancock County

financial administration, drawdowns, account maintenance, income surveys, mapping capabilities, aging services and programs, revolving loan funds that assist new and expanding businesses, and a wealth of programmatic knowledge.

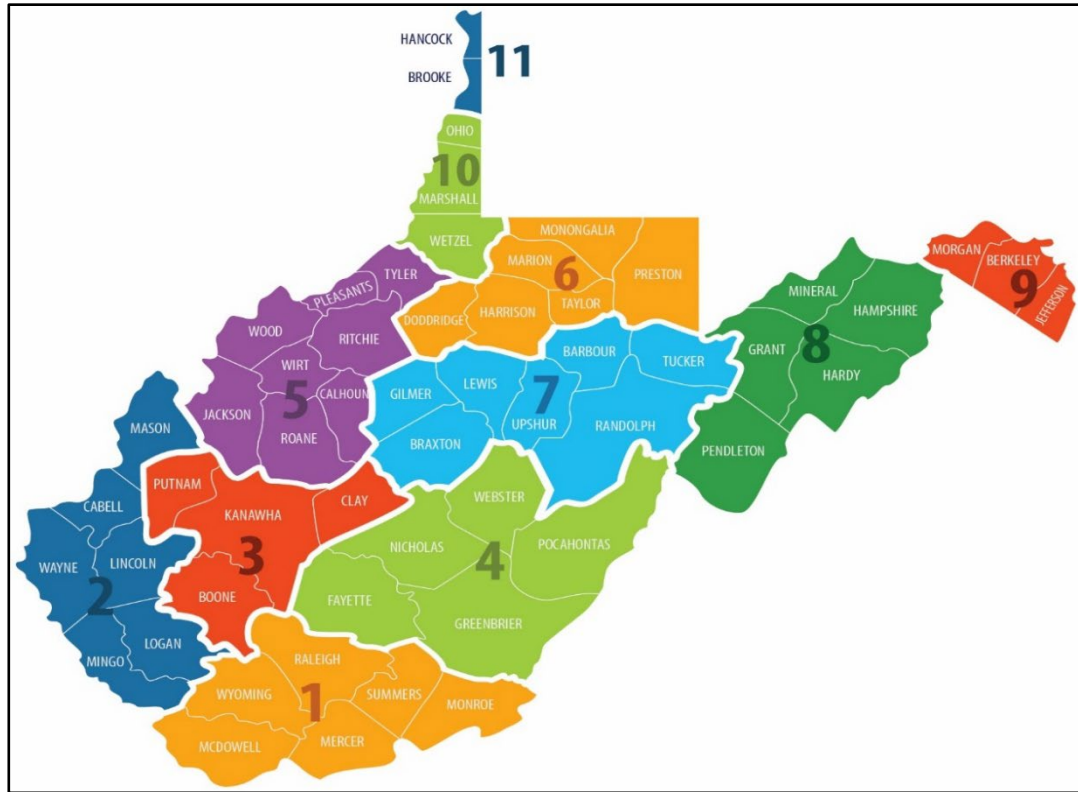


FIGURE 34: WEST VIRGINIA REGIONAL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COUNCILS

TABLE 16: RPDC CONTACTS (AS OF 12/2023)

Regional Council	Telephone Number	Web Address
Region 1	(304) 431-7225	www.regiononepdc.org
Region 2	(304) 529-3357	www.region2pdc.org
Region 3 (RIC)	(304) 744-4258	www.wvregion3.org
Region 4	(304) 872-4970	www.reg4wv.org
Region 5 (Mid-Ohio Valley)	(304) 422-4993	www.movrc.org
Region 6	(304) 366-5693	www.regionvi.com
Region 7	(304) 472-6564	www.regionvii.com
Region 8	(304) 257-2448	www.regioneight.org
Region 9	(304) 263-1743	www.region9wv.com
Region 10	(304) 242-1800	www.belmar.org

(Bel-O-Mar)		
Region 11 (BHJ-MPC)	(304) 797-9666	www.bhjmpc.org

SCORE West Virginia

SCORE West Virginia is a group of experienced business professionals who provide guidance to those desiring to start up a new small business or to assist existing small businesses in improving their profitability. SCORE West Virginia mentors are comprised of active and retired businessmen and women who provide clients with free and confidential business counseling. Counseling can be conducted at the client's place of business, at our chapter headquarters, by telephone or via email.

3) VOLUNTARY ORGANIZATIONS ACTIVE IN DISASTER RESOURCES

Below is an inventory of currently identified State voluntary organization resources that provide CA-relevant resources and support. This is in no way an exhaustive inventory – merely a list of currently identified sources. This section of the document will be subject to change with future updates to this plan.

WV Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (WV VOAD)

The West Virginia VOAD is the state chapter of the National VOAD. The WV VOAD consists of organizations active in disaster response throughout the state of West Virginia. The VOADs role is to bring organizations together and enable them to understand each other and work together during times of disaster preparedness, response, relief, and recovery.

A list WV VOADs members can be found at the following link:

<https://wvvoad.communityos.org/cms/membership>

As a result of the June 23rd flooding event, several West Virginia counties have established a local LTRG. LTRGs assist local communities to provide help to flood survivors. WV VOAD is a proud supporter of the 7 current LTRG's and currently serves as the State Long Term Recovery Council. The local LTRG's which are listed below:

- [Clay County](#)
- [Fayette County](#)
- [Greenbrier County](#)
- [Kanawha County](#)
- [Nicholas County](#)
- Monroe County
- [Roane County](#)
- Pocahontas County
- [Summers County](#)
- Webster County

4) UNIVERSITY AND ACADEMIA RESOURCES

Below is an inventory of currently identified state university and academia sources that provide CA-relevant resources and support. This is in no way an exhaustive inventory – merely a list of currently identified sources. This section of the document will be subject to change with future updates to this plan. Additional information is contained in Annex 2 of this document.

West Virginia University Extension

Drawing on the strengths of WVU's many academic disciplines, extension educators target communities' social, economic, environmental, and technical problems. Some extension educators work out of buildings on WVU's traditional campuses, but many Extension personnel work out of offices in WVU Extension's county settings, such as those generally located in or near each county's governmental seat.

Programs and Resources:

- [Agriculture & Natural Resources](#)
- [Community, Economic, & Workforce Development](#)
- [Families & Health](#)

West Virginia State University (WVSU) Extension Services

Part of WVSU's [Gus R. Douglass Land-Grant Institute](#), West Virginia State University Extension Service is the primary outreach arm of WVSU and part of the land-grant mission of teaching, research and extension. Their efforts focus on Community and Agricultural Resource Development and Resilient Youth and Families.

Programs and Resources:

- Agriculture & Natural Resources
- Community, Economic, & Workforce Development
- Families & Health

West Virginia University GIS Technical Centers (WVGISTC)

The State GIS Technical Center was established under Executive Order No. 4-93 in November 1993, which specified that the Technical Center should provide technical support services to support the development and operation of GIS in West Virginia. Some primary resources and technical support the Center include:

- Cataloging and distribution of GIS data and information free-of-charge through the internet
- Coordinating acquisition of new data additions to the West Virginia Spatial Data Infrastructure
- Assisting with strategic planning, development, and implementation of statewide mapping guidelines
- Providing advisory services and training programs in the field of GIS

- Conduct research and provide education towards improvement of geographic information technologies.

West Virginia University College of Law - Land Use and Sustainable Development Law Clinic (the Land Use Clinic)

The Land Use Clinic provides legal services to local governments, landowners, and non-profit organizations to develop land conservation strategies and practices. The Land Use Clinic aims to identify and conserve sensitive land; support local land use decision-makers; address wastewater issues, provide educational opportunities for law students. The school works with communities to support several relevant planning efforts, such as land use and comprehensive planning, education, and outreach.

West Virginia University, Davis College, School of Design and Community Development

This program focuses on environmental design and planning. The school works with communities to support several relevant planning and infrastructure projects, such as stormwater management.

West Virginia University College of Business and Economics - Bureau of Business and Economic Research (BBER)

BBER research is disseminated through policy reports and briefs, through large public forums, and through traditional academic outlets. The BBER's research and education/outreach efforts to public- and private-sector leaders are typically sponsored by various government and private-sector organizations.

5) PRIVATE FUNDING SOURCES AND PHILANTHROPY RESOURCES

Below is an inventory of currently identified state philanthropy and private funding sources that provide resources and support. This is in no way an exhaustive inventory – merely a list of currently identified sources. This section of the document will be subject to change with future updates to this plan.

Philanthropy West Virginia

As West Virginia's leading voice and premier resource for philanthropy, Philanthropy West Virginia is committed to helping its members fulfill their charitable goals. It does so by providing opportunities for trustees and staff to network, build skills, enhance knowledge, and demonstrate leadership. Philanthropy WV is the forum for funders to exchange information, discuss common interests, learn about relevant issues, hone their grantmaking skills and establish networks of important relationships across the state. Through its programs and services, Philanthropy WV helps funders become more efficient, effective grant makers.

Benedum Foundation

In keeping with the wishes of Michael and Sarah Benedum, the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation is a regional philanthropy focusing on West Virginia and Southwestern Pennsylvania.

The Grantsmanship Center – West Virginia Resources

- A list of top giving foundations in West Virginia can be found at this link: [Top Giving Foundations: WV \(tgci.com\)](#)
- A list of Community Foundations in West Virginia can be found at this link: [Community Foundations: WV \(tgci.com\)](#)
- A list of Corporate Giving Programs in West Virginia can be found at this link: [Corporate Giving Programs: WV \(tgci.com\)](#)

C. STATE PLANS

Below is an inventory of currently identified State Plans that provide useful Community Assistance-relevant context and information. This is in no way an exhaustive inventory – merely a list of currently identified sources. This section of the document will be subject to change with future updates to this plan.

Comprehensive Economic Development Plans (CEDs)

Each of the 11 West Virginia Planning Development Councils (PDCs) prepares and/or updates an annual Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) for submission to the Governor. In addition to that submission, it is also distributed to the Council members, the Appalachian Regional Commission, the Economic Development Administration, and the West Virginia Development Office. This document identifies the goals and objectives of the development program as well as the action plan to execute them, a description of the resources in each Region, and an outline of the standards for evaluation of the program's achievements.

TABLE 17: WV COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES (CEDs)

CEDs by Planning Development Council	Comprehensive Economic Development Plan link
Region I PDC	Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy 2021 Annual Update
Region II PDC	Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy 2020-2024
Region III (BCKP Regional Intergovernmental Council)	Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy FY2023 Update
Region IV PDC	Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy 2020 Update
Region V PDC (Mid-Ohio Valley)	Comprehensive Economic Development Plan
Region VI PDC	Line of Sight Comprehensive Economic Development Plan 2022-2026
Region VII PDC	Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy 2021-2025

Region VIII PDC	<u>FY 2022 Regional Development Plan Update</u>
Region IX (Eastern Panhandle Region)	<u>Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy 2019</u>
Region X PDC (Bel-O-Mar)	<u>2019-2023 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy</u>
Region XI PDC	<u>FY 2020 - 2025 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy</u>

From Liability to Viability: A Legal Toolkit to Address Neglected Properties in West Virginia

WVU Law Clinic's West Virginia Legal Education to Address Abandoned and Neglected Properties (WV LEAP)'s Legal Toolkit consists of four parts:

Part 1) describes steps for laying a foundation that can enable communities to strategize and act. Part 2) discusses fundamental tools, tried and true strategies that have worked well for the communities that have implemented them. Part 3) identifies additional tools that may be necessary if fundamental tools prove inadequate. Part 4) elaborates on approaches to addressing neglected properties referred to as land banks. Finally, the toolkit summarizes three issues that deserve special consideration: historic properties, contaminated properties, and considerations when communities are enrolled in the Municipal Home Rule Pilot Program.

West Virginia Hazard Mitigation Plan (2023)

West Virginia is vulnerable to a range of natural and non-natural hazards that have impacted and will continue to impact its people, property, environment, infrastructure, and economy. The state has received 77 Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) disaster declarations since 1954. Of these, 32 involved floods, and 31 involved severe storm incidents. Many other disasters and emergencies have also occurred withing this time frame. All have resulted in a hefty cost to West Virginia's people, environment, property, economy, and the pace and magnitude of disasters I expected to increase due to the changing nature of hazard events.

It is the intent of West Virginia to combine as many of the mitigation plans as possible into regional, multi-jurisdictional plans using the Regional Planning Development Councils as the planning agency for these efforts. All 11 RPDCs have five-year regionalized plans, while Jefferson County maintains responsibility for its own mitigation plan.

TABLE 18: WV HAZARD MITIGATION PLANS BY RPDC

Regional Planning Development Council	Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan links
Region I PDC	Hazard Mitigation Plan July 2022
Region II PDC	Hazard Mitigation Plan 2017
Region III (BCKP Regional Intergovernmental Council)	
Region IV PDC	Hazard Mitigation Plan Update 2022
Region V PDC (Mid-Ohio Valley)	
Region VI PDC	Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan Update 2018
Region VII PDC	Hazard Mitigation Plan Update 2017
Region VIII PDC	
Region IX (Eastern Panhandle Region)	Berkeley Morgan Hazard Mitigation Plan Update 2022
Region X PDC (Bel-O-Mar)	Hazard Mitigation Plan 2022 Update
Region XI PDC	Hazard Mitigation Plan 2017 Update
Jefferson County (stand-alone)	Jefferson County Hazard Mitigation Plan 2018

West Virginia Broadband Strategic Plan (2014)

West Virginia's Broadband Strategic Plan focuses on four main areas for improvement – 1) Strategic Direction Objectives, 2) Education and Demand Promotion, 3) Infrastructure Development, and 4) Economic Development.

Broadband Equity Access and Deployment (BEAD) Five-Year Action Plan 2023

West Virginia's Broadband Equity Access and Deployment (BEAD) Five-Year Action Plan has been approved by the National Telecommunications Information Administration (NTIA). This Five-Year Action Plan prepares West Virginia to invest a \$1.2 billion allocation from the NTIA BEAD program.

West Virginia Economic Outlook 2023-2028

The West Virginia University Bureau of Business and Economic Research is considered the standard for forecasting the state's economic climate. Information contained in the five-year plan is used and sponsored by public, private and non-profit organizations.

WV Emergency Operations Plan

The 2018 Basic Plan uses a “whole of community” approach to incident management. It describes the concepts and structures of response and recovery operations, identifies agencies and coordinating Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) and Private Sector Stakeholders (PSSs) with primary and support emergency management functions, and defines emergency preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation responsibilities of local jurisdictions.

West Virginia Statewide Flood Protection Plan

The West Virginia Conservation Agency (WVCA) coordinated a statewide flood protection planning effort with the USACE. The Plan addresses six specific goals: reducing loss of lives due to flooding, reducing private and public property damages due to flooding, developing technical and administrative tools to manage flood loss reduction and floodplain management, promoting technical and legislative tools that will reduce excessive runoff from land-conversion activities, reducing personal and economic loss due to flooding while supporting State economic growth, and protecting the State’s waterways and floodplain environments.

Statewide Housing Needs Assessment 2019

A comprehensive review of the current and anticipated housing needs of all 55 counties. Each county was analyzed and evaluated to determine demographic trends, economic and housing market performance, household income projections and anticipated market demand.

West Virginia State Rail Plan (2020)

The West Virginia State Rail Plan examines the state’s ability to leverage rail transportation as a catalyst for growth and further investment. This Plan provides a look at West Virginia’s railroads today and recommends phased infrastructure, policy and operational changes for continued investment that will benefit West Virginia’s economy and its people for generations to come.

IV. Federal and National-Level Agencies and Resources

A. FEMA REGION 3 NATIONAL DISASTER RECOVERY FRAMEWORK (NRDF) COORDINATING AGENCIES

Community Assistance Recovery Support Function

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
Philadelphia Region 3 Office
615 Chestnut Street
One Independence Mall, Sixth Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19106-4404

Economic Recovery Support Function

US Department of Commerce – Economic Development Administration (EDA)
Philadelphia Regional Office

900 Market Street, Room 602
Philadelphia, PA 19107
Tracey Rowan, Economic Development Specialist
Email: trowan@eda.gov

Health and Social Services Recovery Support Function

US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)
The Public Ledger Building
150 South Independence Mall West – Suite 436
Philadelphia, PA 19106-3499
Stephen Formanski, Psy.D, Health and Social Services RSF Recovery Coordinator
Email: Stephen.Formanski@hhs.gov

Housing Recovery Support Function

US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
Philadelphia Region 3 Office
Wanamaker Building
100 Penn Square East
Philadelphia, PA 19107
Brandon Porinchak, HUD National Disaster Coordinator
Email: brandon.r.porinchak@hud.gov
Julie Alston, West Virginia Field Office Director
Email: julie.a.alston@hud.gov

Infrastructure Systems Recovery Support Function

US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), North Atlantic Division
Colton Bowles, IS-RSF Program Manager
Email: colton.b.bowles@usace.army.mil

Natural and Cultural Resources Recovery Support Function

US Department of Interior (DOI)
Philadelphia Region
Custom House, Room 244
200 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106
John Nelson, Natural and Cultural RSF Liaison
Email: john_nelson@ios.doi.gov

Other Federal Agency Leads

US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
Philadelphia Region 3 Office
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103
Michael Towle, Chief, Preparedness and Response Branch
Email: towle.michael@epa.gov

B. FEDERAL AGENCY RECOVERY RESOURCES

Below is an inventory of currently identified federal agencies that provide community assistance-relevant resources and support. This is not an exhaustive list and is subject to change with future updates to this plan.

Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS)

Invests in thousands of nonprofit and faith-based groups that are making a difference across the country through AmeriCorps, Senior Corps, the Social Innovation Fund, and the Volunteer Generation Fund Programs

Programs and Resources:

- **AmeriCorps Seniors** connects today's adults, age 55 and older, with the people and organizations that need them most. We help them become mentors, coaches, or companions to people in need, or contribute their job skills and expertise to community projects and organizations.
- **AmeriCorps Vista** designed to build the capacity of an organization and enhance its ability to serve the community. VISTAs can provide hands on support to fill capacity gaps within organizations. In the past VISTAs have also supported Local Disaster Recovery Manager (LDRM) functions including grants development, outreach, and management of recovery projects.

General Services Administration (GSA)

Federal Acquisition Institute (FAI) offers a range of training programs including but not limited to Small Business Innovation Research Programs, Price Analysis, how to integrate green into acquisition, and others. [Find and Register for Courses | FAI.GOV](#)

US Department of Commerce (DOC) – Economic Development Administration (EDA)

Guided by the basic principle that sustainable economic development should be locally driven, EDA works directly with communities and regions to help them build the capacity for economic development based on local business conditions and needs. EDA's grant investments in planning, technical assistance, and infrastructure construction are designed to leverage existing regional assets to support the implementation of economic development strategies that make it easier for businesses to start and grow.

Programs and Resources:

- **Planning | U.S. Economic Development Administration (eda.gov)** assists eligible recipients in developing economic development plans and studies designed to build capacity and guide the economic prosperity and resiliency of an area or region. To see a full list of economic development programs, go to <https://eda.gov/funding-opportunities/>
- **EDA Programs:** EDA has a host of programs to assist communities such as:
 - **Public Works | U.S. Economic Development Administration (eda.gov):** Empowers distressed communities to revitalize, expand, and upgrade their physical infrastructure to attract new industry, encourage business expansion, diversify

local economies, and generate or retain long-term, private sector jobs and investment.

- **Economic Adjustment Assistance Programs:** Assists state and local interests in designing and implementing strategies to adjust or bring about change to an economy. Under Economic Adjustment, EDA administers its Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) Program, which supplies small businesses and entrepreneurs with the gap financing needed to start or expand their business.

US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Programs and Resources:

- **Brownfields Program** provides grants and technical assistance to communities, states, tribes, and others to assess, safely clean up and sustainably reuse contaminated properties.
- **Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF)** is a federal-state partnership that provides low-cost financing to communities for a wide range of water quality infrastructure projects, including municipal wastewater facilities, nonpoint source pollution control, decentralized wastewater treatment systems, stormwater runoff mitigation, green infrastructure, estuary protection, and water reuse.
- **College/Underserved Community Partnership Program (CUPP)** enlists colleges and universities to assist underserved communities through student internships, practicums, and capstone projects. Communities receive vital assistance and services on a voluntary basis and at no cost. Students gain practical experience in developing solutions to enhance the quality of life for communities.
- **Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF)** is a federal-state partnership that provides financial assistance to help water systems and states to achieve the health protection objectives of the Safe Drinking Water Act.
- **Healthy Places for Healthy People** engages with community leaders and health care partners to create walkable, healthy, economically vibrant downtowns and neighborhoods that can improve health, protect the environment, and support economic growth.
- **Healthy Watersheds Consortium Grants (HWCG)** is a program to accelerate the strategic protection of healthy, freshwater ecosystems and their watersheds. This grant is typically given to watershed action projects, building watershed protection capacity, or advancing the state of practice. This grant can be directed towards development of funding mechanisms, plans, or strategies to implement large scale watershed protection. It can also support innovative or catalytic projects that accelerate funding for or implementation of watershed protection efforts.
- **Local Foods, Local Places** is a planning assistance program helps cities and towns across the country engage with stakeholders to develop local food systems, preserve open space and farmland, revitalize Main Streets and downtowns, boost economic opportunities for farmers and businesses, and improve access to local and healthy foods, especially among disadvantaged populations.

- **National Interagency Working Group (IWG) for Environmental Justice** is considered a part of the IWG's overall outreach efforts to reach underserved communities.
- **Office of Community Revitalization's Building Blocks for Sustainable Communities** program works with local communities across the United States, including tribes and territories, to develop smart growth solutions and strategies in ways that benefit human health and the environment. The program uses an inclusive and locally led process that strengthens local capacity, facilitates partnerships, and creates a path forward to achieve community-identified goals.
- **Water Infrastructure and Resiliency Finance Center (WIRFC)** provides financing information to help local decision makers make informed decisions for drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater infrastructure to protect human health and the environment.

US Department of Energy (DOE)

National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL)

National laboratory of the US Department of Energy, NREL advances the science and engineering of energy efficiency, sustainable transportation, and renewable power technologies and provides the knowledge to integrate and optimize energy systems.

US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

HUD works to strengthen the housing market to bolster the economy and protect consumers; meet the need for quality affordable rental homes; utilize housing as a platform for improving quality of life; build inclusive and sustainable communities free from discrimination and transform the way HUD does business.

Programs and Resources:

- **Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG)** includes annual grants to qualified cities and counties to provide housing, expand economic opportunities and carry out a wide range of community development activities, including the construction and upgrade of public utilities such as water and sewer facilities. It should be noted that HUD funding only targets areas and populations which fall within certain economic criteria (poverty, minorities).
- **CDBG Entitlement Program** provides financial support, however, it has been consistently used in the State for water projects only and is not expected to be diverted to any housing needs for the current disaster.
- **Community Development Block Grants – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Program** provides grants to help cities, counties, and states recover from presidentially declared disasters, especially in low-income areas, subject to availability of supplemental appropriations. In response to presidentially declared disasters, Congress may appropriate additional funding for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program as Disaster Recovery grants to rebuild the affected areas and provide crucial seed money to start the recovery process. Since CDBG Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) assistance may fund a broad range of recovery activities, HUD can help communities and neighborhoods that otherwise might not recover due to limited resources.

- **Rural Capacity Building for Community Development and Affordable Housing Program** enhances the capacity and ability of local governments, Indian tribes, housing development organizations, rural Community Development Corporations (CDCs), and rural Community Housing Development Organizations (CHDOs), to carry out community development and affordable housing activities that benefit low- and moderate-income families and persons in rural areas.
- **Sustainable Communities Regional Planning (SCRIP) Grant Program:** supports locally led collaborative efforts that bring together diverse interests from the many municipalities in a region to determine how best to target housing, economic and workforce development, and infrastructure investments to create more jobs and regional economic activity. The Program places a priority on investing in partnerships, including nontraditional partnerships (e.g., arts and culture, recreation, public health, food systems, regional planning agencies and public education entities) that translate the **Six Livability Principles** into strategies that direct long-term development and reinvestment, demonstrate a commitment to addressing issues of regional significance, use data to set and monitor progress toward performance goals, and engage stakeholders and residents in meaningful decision-making roles. The SCRIP program is a key initiative of the Partnership for Sustainable Communities, in which HUD works with the US Department of Transportation (DOT) and the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to coordinate and leverage programs and investments.
- **Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP)** provides emergency assistance to stabilize communities with high rates of abandoned and foreclosed homes, and to assist households whose annual incomes are up to 120 percent of the area median income (AMI).
- **PD&R Disaster Recovery Toolkit:** HUD's Office of Policy Development and Research's list of relevant resources, reports, guides, and ordinances to aid in the disaster recovery process.
- **Sustainable Communities Initiative (SCI) Resource Library:** resource library includes tools, reports, fact sheets, and case studies developed by SCI grantees, HUD, and its capacity building partners.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

Programs and Resources:

- **Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA)** aims to balance competing land and water issues through state and territorial coastal management programs, the reserves serve as field laboratories that provide a greater understanding of estuaries and how humans impact them. The CZMA outlines three national programs.
 - National Coastal Zone Management Program
 - National Estuarine Research Reserve System
 - Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program [NOAA Office for Coastal Management | About the Office](#)

- **Regional Coastal Resilience Grants** helps coastal communities improve their ability to prepare for and recover from a variety of coastal threats, including hurricanes, tsunamis, and sea-level rise. Eligible recipients include state and local agencies and non-profits, and eligible activities include proactive community planning initiatives.
- **Sea Grant Program** (through state universities): integrates research and outreach to practically apply research discoveries in a real-world context. The program both works to implement national priorities at the local level, while also identifying citizen's need to inform state and national research agendas. The Sea Grant Programs are integrated within university-based institutions to bring together scientists, engineers, educators, students, and outreach experts.
- Data – <https://coast.noaa.gov/digitalcoast/data/home.html>
- Training – <https://coast.noaa.gov/digitalcoast/training/home.html>
- Tools – <https://coast.noaa.gov/digitalcoast/tools/>

US Department of Transportation

Programs and Resources:

Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)

The FHWA stated mission is to “continually improve the quality of our Nation’s highway system and its intermodal connections” The Federal-Aid Highway Program provides highway construction grants to States and directs federal highway construction appropriations. It ensures that the construction and maintenance of highways built with federal aid comply with existing regulations and directives. These regulations provide for the protection of roadway embankments and bridge structures located in floodplains. The Federal Lands Highway Program provides access to and within National Forests, National Parks, Indian Lands, and other public lands by administering the Federal Lands Highway, Emergency Relief and Defense Access Roads Program, performing transportation planning, and conducting engineering studies. The FHA is concerned with stream channel changes (rural areas) and detention facilities (urban areas) affecting highway routes. The design of bridge projects may involve reshaping channels for short distances upstream and downstream.

The agency is involved with debris erosion control during the construction stage as well as channel cleaning as part of project maintenance schedules. FHA provides funds to aid in the cost of maintaining traffic and rebuilding flood-damaged highway facilities on the federal aid system when such work is beyond the financial capability of the owner of the highway. FHA assists in the surveying of roadway damage in flood-stricken areas.

US Department of Labor (DOL)

To foster, promote, and develop the welfare of the wage earners, job seekers, and retirees of the United States; improve working conditions; advance opportunities for profitable employment; and assure work-related benefits and rights.

Programs and Resources:

- **Worker Education and Training** provides programs for building the skills and competencies of American workers essential to ensuring the competitiveness of business

in the global economy. The public workforce system recognizes that training for individuals must align with the needs of business and industry. There are several ways that the public workforce system supports this need for training.

US Small Business Administration (SBA)

Created to aid, counsel, assist and protect the interests of small business concerns, to preserve free competitive enterprise and to maintain and strengthen the overall economy of our nation.

Programs and Resources:

- **US Small Business Administration-Business Assistance Programs** offers programs to aid, counsel, and assist small businesses, preserve free competitive enterprise, and maintain and strengthen the overall economy through technical assistance and loans.
- **Small Business Development Centers** provide expert guidance to help small businesses succeed. They provide services and assistance throughout the development process including concept, startup, and growth.

US Department of Treasury (TREAS)

Promotes economic growth through policies to support job creation, investment, and economic stability.

Programs and Resources:

- **The Community Development Financial Institutions Fund (CDFI Fund)** offers tailored resources and innovative programs that invest federal dollars alongside private sector capital, the CDFI Fund serves mission-driven financial institutions that take a market-based approach to supporting economically disadvantaged communities. These mission-driven organizations are encouraged to apply for CDFI Certification and participate in CDFI Fund programs that inject new sources of capital into neighborhoods that lack access to financing.

US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)

Works to strengthen our Nation's security by building and maintaining America's infrastructure and providing military facilities where our service members train, work and live.

Programs and Resources:

Civil Works Program encompasses a range of resource development activities for navigation, flood reduction, major drainage, shore and beach restoration and protection, flood protection, related hydroelectric power development, water supply, water quality control, fish and wildlife conservation and enhancement, outdoor recreation, and environmental quality.

- **State Planning Assistance:** Under section 22 of the Water Resources Development Act, USACE can aid states, local governments, non-federal entities, and eligible Native American Indian tribes in the form of technical assistance to help them with their comprehensive plans for development, utilization, and conservation of water and related land resources. Efforts under this program are cost shared on a 50 percent federal and 50 percent non-Federal basis. The Study sponsor has the option of providing in-kind services for its share of the study cost.

- **Environmental Infrastructure Section 340:** Design and construction assistance to non-Federal interests, including nonprofit entities, for carrying out water related environmental infrastructure and resource protection and development projects in southern WV, including projects for wastewater treatment and related facilities; water supply, storage, treatment, and distribution facilities; surface water resource protection and development, and environmental restoration. These projects are cost shared with a non-Federal sponsor and funded 75 percent Federal and 25 percent non-Federal.
- **Flood Risk Management Program** works across the agency to focus the policies, programs, and expertise of USACE toward reducing overall flood risk.
- **Floodplain Management Services Section 206** provides a full range of technical services and planning guidance that is needed to support effective flood plain management, funding must be requested and is provided to state, regional, and local governments.
- **Silver Jackets:** a partnership between Federal and State agencies who work together to leverage resources and funding. The Silver Jackets program goals are to facilitate strategic life-cycle flood risk reduction, create or supplement continuous mechanisms to collaboratively solve state-prioritized issues and implement or recommend those solutions. Leverage and optimize resources, improve, and increase flood risk communication and present a unified interagency message, and establish close relationships to facilitate integrated post-disaster recovery solution.

U.S. Department of Agriculture

USDA – National Resources Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS)

The Natural Resources Conservation Service offers technical assistance in the conservation, development, and productive use of soil and water resources. Relevant programs include Emergency Watershed Protection, Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Program, Watershed Rehabilitation Information, and the Wetlands Reserve Program. NRCS activities in Delaware include watershed protection, flood protection, conservation technical assistance, and soil surveys. The Emergency Watershed Protection program can be used to fund the purchase of floodplain easements. Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Program can fund flood hazard analyses, watershed planning, and other forms of floodplain management assistance.

Programs and Resources:

- **Emergency Watershed Protection Program** provides funding and technical assistance to conserve natural resources; this is an emergency recovery program. Removes debris from streams, road culverts, and bridges, reshapes, and protects eroded banks, repairs damaged drainage facilities, etc.

USDA – Rural Development (USDA-RD)

Committed to helping improve the economy and quality of life in rural America. Rural Development promotes economic development by supporting loans to businesses through banks, credit unions and community-managed lending pools. Offers technical assistance and

information to help agricultural producers and cooperatives get started and improve the effectiveness of their operations.

Programs and Resources:

- **Rural Utilities Service – Water and Waste Disposal Systems Loans for Rural Communities:** administers programs that provide much-needed infrastructure or infrastructure improvements to rural communities. These include water and waste treatment, electric power, and telecommunication services.
- **Farm Bill Broadband Loans & Loan Guarantees:** provides funds for the costs of construction, improvement, or acquisition of facilities and equipment needed to provide service at the broadband lending speed for eligible rural areas.
- **Telecommunications Infrastructure Loans & Loan Guarantees:** provides financing for the construction, maintenance, improvement, and expansion of telephone service and broadband access in rural areas.
- **Community Connect Grants:** helps fund broadband deployment in rural communities where it is not yet economically viable for private sector providers to deliver service. Funds can be used for construction, acquisition, or leasing of facilities used to deploy broadband service, the cost of providing broadband service free of charge to the critical community facilities for two years, and some of the grant may be used for improvement, expansion, construction, or acquisition of a community center that provides online access to the public.
- **Rural Development Water and Environmental Programs:** provides funding for the construction of water and waste facilities in rural communities with populations of 10,000 or less. WEP also provides funding to organizations that provide technical assistance and training to rural communities in relation to their water and waste activities. Multiple financial assistance programs and grants available. Public entities, nonprofit organizations, and recognized Tribes may qualify for assistance.
- **Rural Development-Rural Community Development Initiative Grants:** provides funding to help non-profit housing and community development organizations support housing, community facilities, and community and economic development projects in rural areas.
- **Rural Business Development Grants:** assists the startup or expansion of small and emerging private businesses and/or non-profits in rural communities.
- **Rural Micro-entrepreneur Assistance Program:** establishes revolving funds to target assistance to small rural enterprises. Provides loans, technical, and capacity- building assistance to businesses with 10 or fewer employees and sole proprietorships.

US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)

Relevant grants include the National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program; Habitat Conservation Planning Assistance; Habitat Conservation Planning Land Acquisition; Recovery Land Acquisition; and the Landowner Incentive Program.

C. NON-GOVERNMENTAL (NGO) AND PRIVATE-SECTOR RECOVERY RESOURCES

Below is an inventory of currently identified NGO and private-sector sources that provide community assistance-relevant resources and support. This section of the document is subject to change with future updates to this plan.

American Institute of Architects (AIA)

The AIA is a professional organization of architects that advocate for the value of architecture, promote diversity in design, in the profession and in the workplace, and collaborate with innovative partners to create and offer new resources to help our members work smarter and better.

Programs and Resources:

- **Resilience** As the effects of climate change become more tangible and urgent, resilient design becomes crucial for establishing secure, healthy, sustainable communities.
- Disaster Assistance Program (aia.org) trains architects to help communities mitigate, prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters, aligning their disaster-response processes, protocols, and training with federal frameworks.
- Resilience Building Coalition Preparing to Thrive reviews work by the Resilience Building Coalition putting the Statement into action. It outlines a series of concrete steps Coalition members have taken in the areas of research, education, advocacy, disaster response, and planning, and highlights key milestones such as White House and federal agency engagement.

American Planning Association (APA) is a professional organization that provides leadership in the development of vital communities by advocating excellence in planning, promoting education and citizen empowerment, and providing our members with the tools and support necessary to meet the challenges of growth and change.

The **American Planning Association's Model Recovery Ordinance** outlines a foundation for local strategic action by which a community can organize to efficiently manage short- and long-term recovery either in advance of or after a disaster. The purpose of the Model Recovery Ordinance is to provide legal authority for actions commonly found useful in expediting recovery, together with emergency powers protecting public health and safety and fostering desired beneficial long-term recovery outcomes.

Programs and Resources:

- **Hazard Mitigation and Disaster Recovery (HMDR) Division:** Formed in 2015, the HMDR Division promotes the integration of hazard mitigation and disaster recovery with mainstream planning such as community comprehensive plans, development strategies and growth management.
- **Equity Resources:** is a collection of resources that provide a framework for smart, inclusive growth.
- **Planning for Post-Disaster Recovery: Next Generation:** This guidebook provides practical guidance to local planners on how to plan for all types of natural disasters and illustrated the benefits of plans through case studies.

- **Community Planning Assistance Teams:** tailored specifically to a community's needs. Members offer their time and expertise to people and places where additional resources are needed. This program is supported through donations.

Educational Partnerships for Innovation in Communities – Network (EPIC-N):

EPIC-N is a university community partnership that helps connect community needs with universities.

International Economic Development Council (IEDC): non-profit, non-partisan membership organization serving economic developers that promote economic well-being and quality of life for their communities, by creating, retaining, and expanding jobs that facilitate growth, enhance wealth, and provide a stable tax base.

Programs and Resources:

- **Restore Your Economy:** a one-stop shop of disaster preparedness, post-disaster economic recovery, and economic resilience resources, tools, event announcements, as well as opportunities to connect with peers through social media groups.

SmartGrowth America – Governor’s Institute on Community Design: offers workshops designed to: provide state leaders with practical, action-oriented strategies to create vibrant, economically competitive communities; highlight the connections between economic development, transportation, land use, housing, energy and the environment; bring together a broad range of decision-makers and create the basis for coordinated action among state agencies; and encourage increased cooperation between state and local governments.

Urban Land Institute (ULI): a non-profit research and education organization that provides leadership in responsible use of land and creating sustainable communities. Through its programs, ULI works with its members and conducts research to identify land use and urban development challenges.

- **Advisory Services Programs:** work with local governments, private developers, communities, community development corporations, and others to address real-estate and land use issues faced by communities. This form of technical assistance brings experts together to discuss recovery issues. These experts can provide fresh insights and discuss solutions to real estate and land-use challenges.

ANNEX 1: ACRONYM LIST

ACS	American Community Survey	PA	Public Assistance
AET	Advanced Evaluation Team	PAWV	Preservation Alliance of WV
AIA	The American Institute of Architects	PCPI	Per Capita Personal Income
APA	American Planning Association	PDM	Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program
APAWV	American Planning Association West Virginia	PHA	Public Housing Authority
ARC	American Red Cross	POWER	Partners for Opportunity and Workforce and Economic Revitalization
ARC	Appalachian Regional Commission	Risk MAP	Risk Mapping, Assessment, and Planning
ARDI	Appalachian Regional Development Initiative	RPDC	Regional Planning and Development Council
ASCE	American Society of Certified Engineers	RSF	Recovery Support Function
ASFPM	Association of State Floodplain Managers	RSS	Recovery Support Strategy
BBER	Bureau of Business and Economic Research	SBA	Small Business Administration
CCAWV	County Commissioners Association of WV	SBDC	Small Business Development Centers
CDBG-DR	Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Relief	SDRC	State Disaster Recovery Coordinator
CDFI	Community Development Finance Institution	SHMO	State Hazard Mitigation Officer
CEDS	Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies	SNAP	Supplement Nutrition Assistance Program
CHDO	Community Housing Development Organization	SoVI	Social Vulnerability Index

CIKR	Critical Infrastructure Key Resources	SRO	State Recovery Office
CNCS	Corporation for National and Community Services	TIF	Tax-Increment Financing
CPCB	Community Planning and Capacity Building	TREAS	US Department of Treasury
CSST	Consumers' Sales and Service Tax	URA	Urban Renewal Authority
DOC	US Department of Commerce	USACE	US Army Corps of Engineers
DOE	US Department of Energy	USGBC WV	US Green Building Council WV
DOE - NREL	US DOE – National Renewable Energy Labs	USDA	US Department of Agriculture
DOI	US Department of the Interior	USDA NRCS	USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service
DOL	US Department of Labor	USDA RD	USDA Rural Development
DOT	US Department of Transportation	VOAD	Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters
EDA	Economic Development Administration	WVACO	WV Association of County Officials
EDD	Economic Development District	WVAHA	WV Association of Housing Agencies
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency	WVBAC	WV Brownfields Assistance Center
FBO	Faith-Based Organization	WVBEC	WV Broadband Enhancement Council
FCC	Federal Communications Commission	WVBDC	WV Broadband Deployment Council
FDRC	Federal Disaster Recovery Coordinator	WVBMP	WV Broadband Mapping Program
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency	WVBT	West Virginians for Better Transit
FMA	Flood Mitigation Act	WVDA	WV Department of Agriculture

FMA	Floodplain Management Association	WVDEP	WV Department of Environmental Protection
HHS	US Department of Health and Human Services	WVEMD	WV Department of Homeland Security Emergency Management
HLC	Historic Landmark Commission	WVDOC	WV Department of Commerce
HMGP	Hazard Mitigation Grant Program	WVDOH	WV Department of Highways
HUC	Hydrologic Unit Code	WVDOT	WV Department of Transportation
HUD	US Department of Housing and Urban Development	WVEDA	WV Economic Development Authority
HUD - CDBG	HUD – Community Development Block Grant	WVFMA	WV Floodplain Management Association
HUD - ESG	HUD – Emergency Solutions Grant	WVFMP	WV Floodplain Management Program
HUD - HOPWA	HUD – Housing Opportunities for Persons with Aids	WVGES	WV Geological and Economic Survey
HUD NDRC	HUD – National Disaster Resiliency Competition	WVGISTC	WV GIS Technical Center
HVRI	Hazards and Vulnerability Research Institute	WVHA	WV Housing Authority
IA	Individual Assistance	WVHDF	WV Housing Development Fund
IBC	International Building Code	WVHPO	WV Historic Preservation Office
ICoE-VaRM	International Centre of Excellence in Vulnerability and Resilience Metrics	WVIFC	WV Intelligence Fusion Center
IPMC	International Property Maintenance Code	WVIJDC	WV Infrastructure and Jobs Development Council
IEDC	International Economic Development Council	WVLSC	WV Land Stewardship Corporation
IRC	Interagency Recovery Coordination	WVML	WV Municipal League

ITA	International Trade Administration	WVNG	WV Army National Guard
MSA	Mission Scoping Assessment	WVOEO	WV Office of Economic Opportunity
MRLC	Multi-Resolution Land Characteristics Consortium	WVOES	WV Office of Emergency Services
NDRF	National Disaster Recovery Framework	WVPB	WV Public Broadcasting
NDRS	National Disaster Recovery Support	WVPETA	WV Parkways, Economic Development, and Tourism Authority
NFIP	National Flood Insurance Program	WVSBC	WV State Building Codes
NFIP CRS	National Flood Insurance Program Community Rating System	WVSBCD	WV Small Business Development Council
NGO	Nongovernmental Organization	WVSHMO	WV State Hazard Mitigation Officer
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Agency	WVSJ	WV Silver Jackets
NRCS	National Resources Conservation Service	WVSU	WV State University
NTIA	National Telecommunications Information Administration	WVU	WV University

ANNEX 2: WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITIES WITH COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE-RELEVANT PROGRAMS

West Virginia has an abundance of academic programs that specialize in CPCB-relevant studies such as: public policy, public administration, community and regional planning, land-use and environmental studies, and social work. In addition to academic programs, the state also includes university research arms, land grant institutions, research centers, and data centers.

Below is a list of West Virginia colleges and universities and the programs they offer relevant to the Community Assistance Recovery Support Function. These universities may be called upon to assist overwhelmed and understaffed communities with disaster recovery planning support through mechanisms such as capstone projects, internship programs, professional development, and volunteer work. These skill sets/resources include research, writing, GIS mapping, data analysis, technical assistance, and outreach.

This is not a comprehensive list and is subject to change as more programs are identified.

For an inventory of colleges, universities and institutions offering emergency management courses, visit the FEMA Emergency Management Institute site at:

<https://training.fema.gov/hiedu/collegelist/>

Programs	Program Description	Website
Bethany College - 31 E Campus Drive, Bethany, WV 26032-3002		
B.S. or B.A. Environmental Science (interdisciplinary studies)	The degree is possible through the Interdisciplinary Studies Department	Interdisciplinary Studies - Bethany College (bethanywv.edu)
Davis and Elkins College - 100 Campus Drive, Elkins, WV 26241		
B.S. Environmental Science	The Environmental Science Program offers an interdisciplinary course of study, which stresses an understanding of environmental problems and issues.	Environmental Science - Davis & Elkins College (dewv.edu)
B.S. Sustainability Resource Management	The Sustainable Resource Management degree offers an interdisciplinary program of study which stresses sustainable management of renewable and non-renewable natural resources.	Sustainable Resource Management - Davis & Elkins College (dewv.edu)
Glenville State College - 200 High Street, Glenville, WV 26351		

<p>B.S. Natural Resource Management</p>	<p>Provides students with the knowledge, analytical and practical skills, and decision-making competencies to protect and effectively use our renewable resources. Students receive instruction on ecosystem function, environmental assessment, geospatial analysis, and management.</p>	<p>Land Resources Glenville State University</p>
<p>Marshall University - One John Marshall Drive, Huntington, WV 25755</p>		
<p>B.A. Economics</p>	<p>Gives students an opportunity to develop their ability to analyze economic problems and issues (e.g., unemployment, inflation, economic growth and development, government taxation and spending policies, environmental degradation and protection, the distribution of income and wealth, international trading, and financial arrangements).</p>	<p>Economics, B.A. < Marshall University</p>
<p>B.S. Environmental Science</p>	<p>Environmental Science merges concepts in geology, ecology, biology, chemistry, and physics to provide students with a strong science foundation which forms the basis of understanding of environmental issues.</p>	<p>Environmental Science - Natural Resources & the Environment (marshall.edu)</p>
<p>Public Administration, M.P.A.</p>	<p>The MPA will provide graduate training in academic, research and service to prepare students for leadership positions in public service, both in the non-profit and public sectors</p>	<p>MPA Program – Master of Public Administration (marshall.edu)</p>
<p>Potomac State College - 101 Fort Avenue, Keyser, WV 26726</p>		

<p>Associate of Arts Degree in Agriculture and Extension Education</p>	<p>The agricultural and extension education major is designed to prepare students for agricultural teaching, extension, and environmental technology employment positions. The curriculum provides flexibility in emphasizing teacher preparation, environmental technology or communications and leadership.</p>	<p>Agricultural and Extension Education WVU Potomac State College Academics West Virginia University</p>
<p>Shepherd University - 301 North King Street, Shepherdstown, WV 25443</p>		
<p>B.S. Economics</p>	<p>Courses in economics and finance develop the student's analytical, critical thinking, problem solving, research, and writing skills while helping the student understand household behavior, business firms, markets, banking, fiscal matters, and the global economy.</p>	<p>Program: Economics, B.S. - Shepherd University - Acalog ACMSTTM</p>
<p>B.S. Environmental Studies Environmental Sustainability</p>	<p>Environmental studies are an interdisciplinary endeavor concerned with studying the interactions between us and our environment. This includes both natural and human-made aspects of our environment.</p>	<p>Shepherd University Eps</p>
<p>University of Charleston - 2300 MacCorkle Ave SE, Charleston, WV 25304</p>		
<p>B.S. Organizational Leadership</p>	<p>This is a degree program specifically designed for working adults. Entrance requires 40 semester credit hours. Each 16-week semester is divided into 2 eight-week session where students will take 2 courses per 8 weeks.</p>	<p>Organizational Leadership - University of Charleston (ucwv.edu)</p>

West Liberty University - 208 University Drive, West Liberty, WV 26074		
B.S. Geography & Planning	This major prepares students for jobs relating to land use and economic development, urban and regional planning, and positions in local government and organizations.	Geography and Planning - Humanities and Social Sciences (westliberty.edu)
West Virginia State University - Multiple Campuses		
B. A. Economics	Economics is the study of how the economy works using descriptions, called models, of how individuals and organizations may make decisions to achieve their goals. Economic models are used to make predictions or forecasts.	West Virginia State University - Economics (wvstateu.edu)
B.S. Political Science Concentration in Policy & Public Administration	Our program complements WVSU's institutional Mission and Vision Statements: "...to meet the economic development needs of the region through innovative teaching and applied research."	West Virginia State University - Political Science (wvstateu.edu)
West Virginia University, Morgantown, and Extended Campus Sites: Beckley, Charleston, Keyser, Martinsburg, and Wheeling		
B.S. Social Work M.S.W Social Work MSW/MPA Dual	The School of Social Work is nationally recognized in rural social work practice and nonprofit management	General Information School of Social Work West Virginia University (wvu.edu)
West Virginia University - Davis College of Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Design Morgantown, WV		
Agribusiness Management & Rural Development	The Agribusiness Management Program focuses on agribusiness and business development in nonmetropolitan regions	Agribusiness Management Division of Resource Economics and Management v2 West Virginia University (wvu.edu)

<p>Landscape Architecture BLA, BSLA MLA, MSLA</p>	<p>The MLA focuses on environmental design and planning. The curriculum is flexible for students who may want to develop specialized knowledge in areas such as environmental restoration, community design, or environmental resource analysis methods.</p>	<p>Landscape Architecture School of Design and Community Development West Virginia University (wvu.edu)</p>
<p>Environmental and Community Planning</p>	<p>This program is aimed at enabling students to create functional and sustainable spaces where people live, work and play.</p>	<p>Environmental and Community Planning School of Design and Community Development West Virginia University (wvu.edu)</p>
<p>West Virginia Wesleyan College - 59 College Avenue, Buckhannon, WV 26201</p>		
<p>B.S. Economics</p>	<p>Our Vision for Wesleyan's School of Business is an engaged community of learners, committed to developing business and civic leaders who will make a positive contribution locally and globally.</p>	<p>Business - West Virginia Wesleyan College (www.wvc.edu)</p>
<p>B.S. Environmental Science B.A. Environmental Science</p>	<p>The primary goals of this program are to provide students with first-hand experience in the field of environmental science as well as an in-depth understanding of local and global environmental issues.</p>	<p>Biology & Environmental Science - West Virginia Wesleyan College (www.wvc.edu)</p>

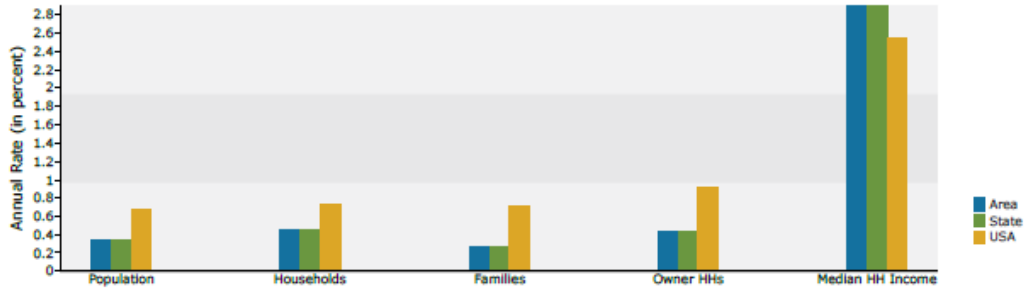
ANNEX 3: ESRI COMMUNITY ANALYST PROFILE, 2020 CENSUS



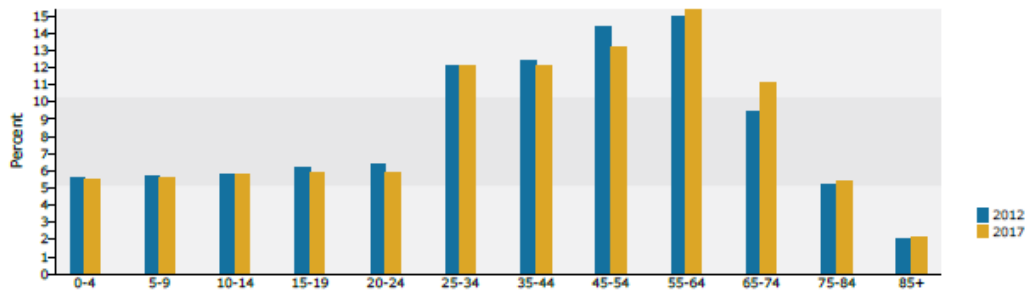
Demographic and Income Profile

West Virginia
 West Virginia (54)
 Geography: State

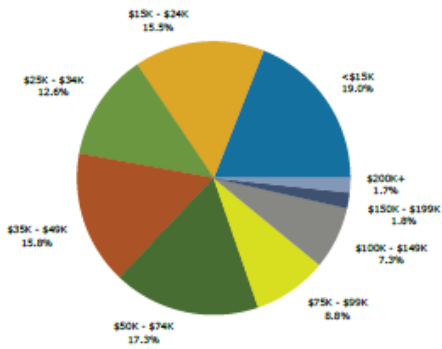
Trends 2012-2017



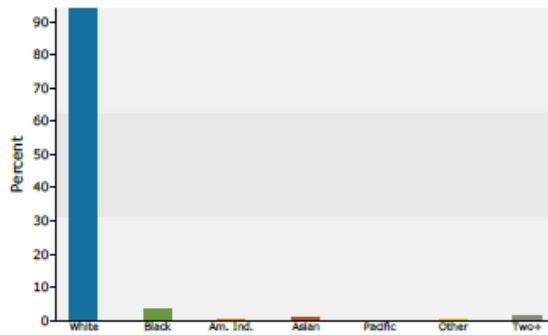
Population by Age



2012 Household Income



2012 Population by Race



2012 Percent Hispanic Origin: 1.3%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2010 Summary File 1. Esri forecasts for 2012 and 2017.

May 08, 2013

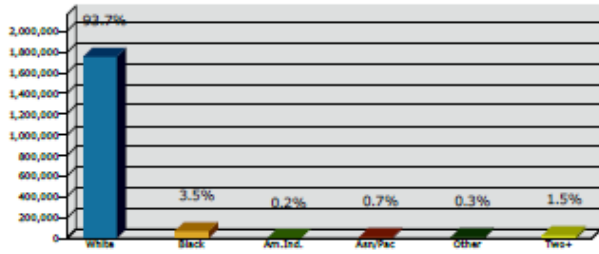
Made with Esri Community Analyst



Graphic Profile

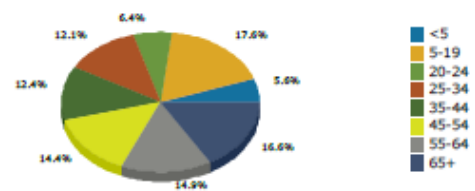
West Virginia
 West Virginia (54)
 Geography: State

2012 Population by Race

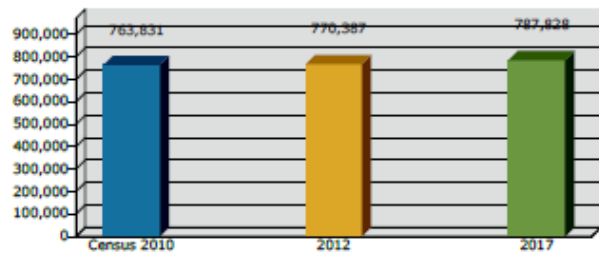


2012 Percent Hispanic Origin: 1.3%

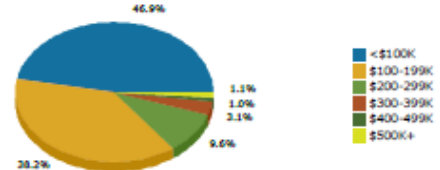
2012 Population by Age



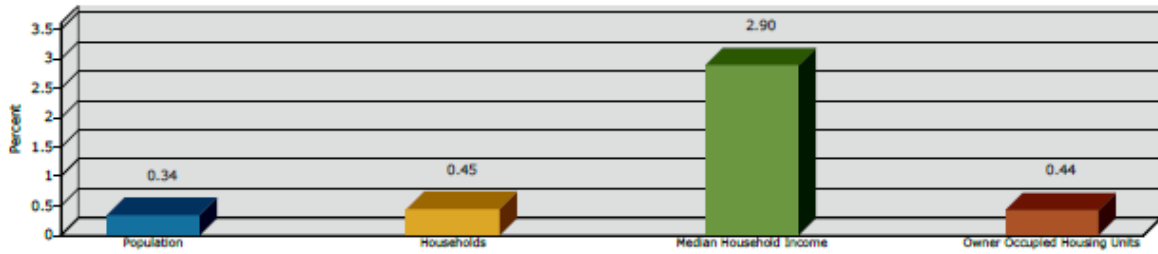
Households



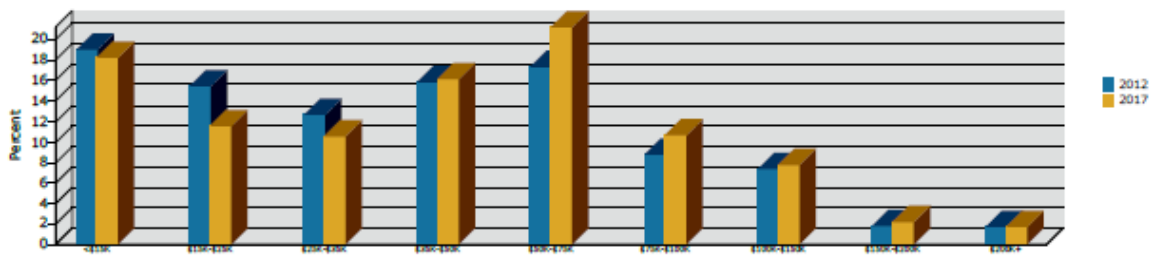
2012 Home Value



2012-2017 Annual Growth Rate



Household Income



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2010 Summary File 1. Esri forecasts for 2012 and 2017.

May 08, 2013

Made with Esri Community Analyst