



Appalachian Regional Commission
1666 Connecticut Ave NW, Suite 700
Washington, DC 20009

To whom it may concern:

Please accept this letter of support for the Developing a Technology-Focused Entrepreneurial Ecosystem in Eastern Kentucky ARC POWER grant by Shaping Our Appalachian Region, Inc. (SOAR).

Paintsville Independent Schools has a long and storied history of visionary and innovative leadership. We have created programs and collaborations before many thought it was possible. We are doing that again through the creation of the Paintsville Independent Economic Development Center. This center will be a facility utilized by both K-12 students and local and regional adults through our community partnerships. Career training and industry certification opportunities will be provided, as will community makerspace. A recent community survey revealed that healthcare and entrepreneurship were the top two needs in this area. We have partnered with Appalachian Regional Healthcare to address the needs in the healthcare industry. The partnership with SOAR is an integral piece of the entrepreneurial career pathway. Our vision for our community is to create a space where individuals can design and develop entrepreneurial enterprises and eventually operate them locally. We realize that pathways are essential, but we also know that students can find and create their own path through entrepreneurship. Because of that, we not only support SOAR's application, but are also working closely with them to provide the following:

- A dedicated space of 2500 square feet for SOAR to carry out its support of entrepreneurs in our school district and across the region. The space is valued at \$40,000 annually.
- In addition to our space, our district will provide space for SOAR to conduct community meetings and workshops related to the proposed grant programming.

We are thrilled to participate in this collaboration and provide opportunities for our students and people across Kentucky's Appalachian region.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Gibson".

David Gibson
Superintendent
Paintsville Independent Schools



Partnership with

SOAR

220 Main Street
Paintsville, KY 41240

June 19, 2024

Colby Hall
Executive Director
Shaping Our Appalachian Region

Dear Colby:

Paintsville Independent Schools is pleased to provide office space for SOAR's ARC POWER team as needed. We have very much enjoyed working alongside you since the formation of our partnership.

We requests the honor of continuing as an "official" SOAR partner with the value of our services. This partnership will no doubt lead to a long and storied relationship between our two entities sharing a common interest to elevate the status of our service region and its people.

With this letter, please review the attached value of services page we respectfully submit.

Sincerely,

**Paintsville Independent Schools &
Shaping Our Appalachian Region, Partnership**

Official Partnership Value of Services Rendered

Office Space for SOAR ARC POWER Team

**TOTAL value of in-kind services from July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024
\$26,000**