



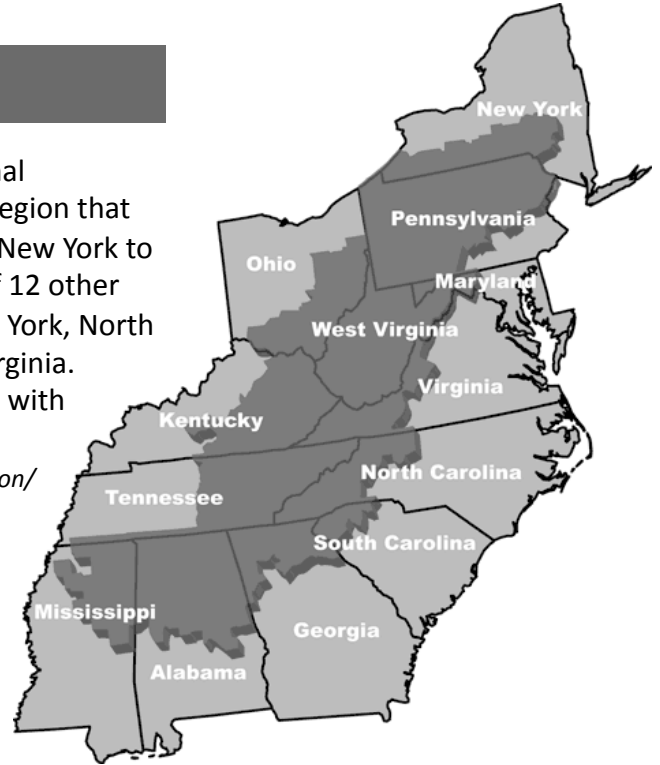
Poverty in Appalachia

Good Works, Inc., A Community of HOPE since 1981

Some of the big picture

“**The Appalachian Region**, as defined in the Appalachian Regional Commission’s authorizing legislation, 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. Forty-two percent of the Region's population is rural, compared with 20 percent of the national population.”

-Appalachian Regional Commission, https://www.arc.gov/appalachian_region/TheAppalachianRegion.asp



32 of Ohio’s 88 counties fall into the Appalachian region, and the six counties in Ohio with the highest poverty rates are all in the Appalachian region of the state (Athens, Scioto, Adams, Jackson, Pike & Meigs).

-2017 Ohio Poverty Report, Ohio Development Services Agency, www.development.ohio.gov/files/research/p7005.pdf



30 percent of Athens County residents live below the poverty line.

-2016 report on the state of Athens County, the Athens Foundation, <http://athensfoundation.org/2016-athens-county-report-published/>

17 percent of Athens County Residents live in **severe poverty**, meaning their income is below 50% of the federal poverty line, compared to 6.5% in the state.

-2017 Ohio Poverty Report, Ohio Development Services Agency

2017 Federal Poverty Guidelines:
Family of 2: \$16,240/year
Family of 3: \$20,420/year
Family of 4: \$24,600/year
Family of 5: \$28,780/year

-Poverty Guidelines, US Dept of Health & Human Services, March 2017, aspe.hhs.gov/poverty-guidelines

One in five people living in Athens County experiences **food insecurity**.

-2016 report on the state of Athens County, the Athens Foundation



President Johnson’s “**War on Poverty**” began in Appalachia over 30 years ago with programs such as food stamps, Medicaid and Medicare. Today, **85% of the most persistently poor counties** in the United States are rural.

-50 Years Into the War on Poverty, Hardship Hits Back, Trip Gabriel, NY Times, April 2014, <https://www.nytimes.com/2014/04/21/us/50-years-into-the-war-on-poverty-hardship-hits-back.html>

Living in an area with widespread poverty affects *access*

Approximately **one tenth the amount of philanthropic money** is available per person to Ohioans living inside the Appalachian region of the state compared to outside the region. (This includes scholarships and grants awarded.)

-Foundation for Appalachian Ohio, appalachianohio.org

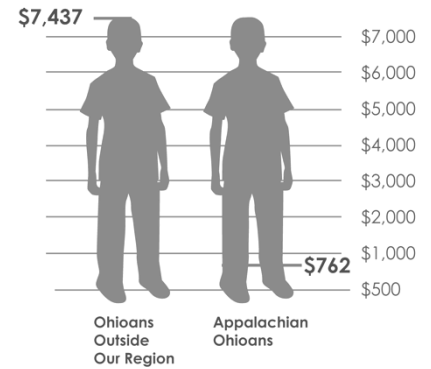


50% of homes in Appalachia do not have broadband internet.

-Report: *In Appalachian Ohio, kids falling farther behind*, Cincinnati Inquirer, May 2016, <https://www.cincinnati.com/story/news/2016/05/04/report-appalachian-ohio-kids-falling-farther-behind/83919504/>

APPALACHIAN OHIO'S PHILANTHROPY GAP

Philanthropic Dollars Per Capita



Source: Foundation Center 2015

"In 2015, 28 Appalachian counties [in Ohio] were formally designated as

- Suffering an acute shortage of **dentists**...
- Twenty-one counties face an acute shortage of primary care **physicians**, and
- 28 counties have an acute shortage of **mental health professionals**."

-*Little Improvement Seen in 15 Years for Children in Ohio's Appalachian Region*, Children's Defense Fund Ohio, May 2016, <http://www.cdfohio.org/newsroom/press-releases/2016/OH-Appalachian-children-crossroads.html>



57.2% of households in Athens County are considered **cost burdened** renter households, meaning they are paying more than 35% of their income on rent.

-*2014 State of Poverty Report*, Ohio Association of Community Action Agencies

Why have Kentucky and West Virginia lost 38,000 coal jobs since 1983? For one, **coal mining has become increasingly automated** in recent decades, particularly as companies have shifted to techniques such as mountaintop-removal mining, which are less labor intensive.

-*Here's why Central Appalachia's coal industry is dying*, Brad Plumer November 4, 2013, Washington Post

For many, Appalachia is synonymous with coal, an industry whose decline has impacted the area for decades



"Coal, gas, and other mining" make up **1.1%** of all employment in Appalachia. Coal mining itself makes up only **0.4%** of all employment in Appalachia.

- *Appalachian Region Industry Report 2014*, Appalachian Regional Commission, arc.org

THE VISION OF GOOD WORKS is to create and sustain a COMMUNITY OF HOPE with and for people who are struggling with poverty and homelessness in rural Appalachia. As a Christian community, we are seeking to grow in our love for God and for our neighbor. We offer contexts through which people in need can experience biblical hospitality, access practical assistance, and share their gifts / abilities with others. In doing so, we facilitate ways for people from all walks of life to build relationships of love and service with their neighbors.

www.good-works.net • 740-594-3339 • P. O. box 4, Athens, OH 45701