2017-2018 Impact Report

THE HUB DASHBOARD
Data shown here reflects activities from June 2017 - May 2018

THE HUB’S FOUR APPROACHES TO COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:

1. COMMUNITY COACHING & LOCAL CAPACITY BUILDING
2. CONVENING COMMUNITIES OF INTEREST
3. POLICY SOLUTIONS FOR SYSTEMIC CHANGE
4. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMUNICATIONS

Find us at www.wvhub.org and info@wvhub.org.

Thank you to the Appalachian Regional Commission, BB&T, Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation, Greater Kanawha Valley Foundation, Just Transition Fund, Mary Reynolds Babcock Foundation, One Foundation, US Department of Agriculture, and all of our generous donors.
HUB INITIATIVES POSITIVELY IMPACTED 1 IN 5 WEST VIRGINIANS

**FUNDING LEVERAGED DOUBLES:**
The amount of outside funding leveraged for Hub-related community projects in WV more than doubled this year over last, from $1.1 million to $2.4 million.

**IMPACT POPULATION INCREASES:**
With the addition of our Responsive Community Coaching program to offer services to communities on-demand, our total community impact population increased by 252% over the last reporting period.

**BUSINESSES OPEN:**
Grafton, WV and immediately surrounding areas experienced a surge in entrepreneurial momentum and celebrated the opening of six new businesses, including a yoga studio, coffee shop, and restaurant. Grafton residents have participated in The Hub's Turn This Town Around and Energizing Entrepreneurial Communities programs.

**SOLUTIONS SECURED:**
The Hub, along with partners Huntington Urban Renewal Authority, Northern WV Brownfields Assistance Center, and The Land Use and Sustainable Development Law Clinic at WVU College of Law, completed a research project with the Center for Community Progress (CCP) to discover improvements for West Virginia's cumbersome property tax sale process. This process has caused more than 8,400 properties across WV to go into an un-taxable limbo—in some cases for more than 50 years. A team has formed to carry out recommendations.

**CAPACITY CATAPULTS FORWARD:**
Residents of Turn This Town Around and HubCAP community Whitesville, WV, population 514, earned a $2.25 million Abandoned Mine Lands Grant through the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection to build the first 8 miles of the Clear Fork Rail Trail project.

**POSITIVITY ABOUNDS:**
We delivered the message to the world that good things are happening in West Virginia communities on more than 600,000 occasions.

**DOWNTOWNS BETTER POSITIONED:**
After mobilizing 39 organizers, 38 cities and towns, and providing education to more than 3000 West Virginians, the Abandoned Properties Coalition secured the legislative passage of the State Historic Tax Credit law to increase the amount of tax credits available to developers of historic properties from 10% to 25%.

**ACCOLADES EARNED:**
Two Hub staff members, Executive Director Stephanie Tyree and Director of Community Engagement Amanda Workman, were named to The State Journal's 2018 40 Under 40 class due to their efforts—and successes—in making substantive change for the better in communities across West Virginia.
COMMUNITY COACHING & LOCAL CAPACITY BUILDING

Facilitated leaders in HubCAP communities to begin planning business and real estate development projects; produce community outreach strategies; and host community kickoffs, including in Richwood where 100 people engaged in a discussion of more than 20 positive local initiatives.

Supported efforts resulting in six new businesses opening and more than 25 new partnerships developing in communities participating in the Energizing Entrepreneurial Communities program.

Hosted AmeriCorps VISTA members who recruited more than 600 new volunteers to support community projects.

COMMUNITY COACHING WINS

Residents in Whitesville, WV secured a replacement trash truck, allowing the town to continue earning funds from a critical revenue stream.

Residents in Hinton, WV kicked off a community-wide initiative named Hinton Full Steam Ahead to support local ownership of present and future projects around the area.

Residents in Matewan, WV are working with regional partners to earn a water trail designation for the Tug Fork River, which will result in a boost to the access, quality of recreation, and local economy supporting activity on the river.

Leadership in McDowell County continued to build strong relationships with key regional partners such as The Hatfield-McCoy Trails and WV Department of Agriculture.

ASSOCIATED PROJECTS | GOALS
---|---
HubCAP III | Community capacity building to transform keystone main street vacant buildings
Energizing Entrepreneurial Communities | Building communities that support and attract entrepreneurs
Responsive Community Coaching | Offering community capacity building and leadership development on-demand
McDowell County Coaching | Growing community capacity in one of West Virginia’s most under-resourced areas
AmeriCorps Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA) Program | Sponsoring up to 10 AmeriCorps VISTA members for nonprofit organizations across the state
Built **partnerships between 15 organizations**, including the Appalachian Regional Commission, the Economic Development Administration, the WV Development Office, Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation, Southern Community and Technical College and others to lead a multi-year project to support WV POWER grantees to ensure catalytic impact of federal investment in economic transition activities through technical assistance, networking convening, and individual coaching.

Held two statewide convenings with **150 participants** from current WV POWER grant projects to encourage collaboration, reduce duplication, and build technical assistance services and connections.

Devised a plan, and **secured an $8,500 grant** through the BB&T Foundation, to support conducting the first strategic planning process for the 5-year-old Abandoned Properties Coalition to create a clearly defined vision and mission statement plus coalition structure (implementation to begin 2018).

Educated more than **300 West Virginians** about issues and policies related to the Abandoned Properties Coalition at 6 public events.

Provided individual coaching and support to **21 WV POWER projects**.

Convened **more than 80 leaders of innovative WV-based projects** and organizations to present at New Story 2018.

### ASSOCIATED PROJECTS

| POWER Grantee Coaching Initiative | Supporting the successful implementation of large-scale projects to drive economic development in WV, including skillbuilding and coaching for Economic Development Administration and Appalachian Regional Commission grant recipients |
| Abandoned Properties Coalition | Building a multi-stakeholder coalition to support improvements to ‘bricks-and-mortar’ community infrastructure across WV |
| New Story | Connections and skillbuilding for community members across the state + sharing of innovative stories to shift perspectives on what can be achieved in WV |
Engaged personally **more than 2,000 stakeholders and community members** across associated projects and initiatives

Created and published ten issues of the *Legislative Hubbub* e-newsletter during the state’s 2018 legislative session, featuring 46 educational articles with an **average readership of 1,321 residents and 23 legislators**

**Added financial advising services** to Property Rescue Initiative scope of work

**Developed the first educational poster in the nation** documenting a state’s property tax sale process, enabling stakeholders to better illuminate a cumbersome and complicated, yet highly consequential, policy process for the public

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<th><strong>ASSOCIATED PROJECTS</strong></th>
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<td>Revitalize West Virginia’s Downtowns Coalition</td>
<td>Educating public + passing property redevelopment legislation (Goal achieved!)</td>
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<td>Center for Community Progress Technical Assistance Research</td>
<td>Identifying data on cost of blight to communities and policy strategies to address vacancy and dilapidation (Goal achieved!)</td>
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<td>Property Rescue Initiative</td>
<td>Providing community support to secure demolition loan funding from the WV Housing Development Fund</td>
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<td>Community Policy Education</td>
<td>Offering interactive workshops and training to teach and engage West Virginian residents in the policy and decision-making processes happening at local and state levels</td>
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<td>Legislative Hubbub</td>
<td>Delivering accessible, unbiased updates and education regarding WV’s policymaking process on a weekly basis during the state’s annual 60-day legislative session</td>
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COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMUNICATIONS

Provided **15 trainings** + **in-depth technical assistance** to leaders representing **10 local and statewide communities**

Developed and delivered curriculum for comprehensive communications workshop on goal identification, key message development, and outreach/promotional strategy for community and service groups, including facilitating a feedback process with established West Virginian trainers as well as creating an evergreen handbook for participants to take home

Conducted strategic evaluations of vision and past efforts regarding WV Communications Network, Communications Training + Technical Assistance, New Story event, and web-based positive community news distribution efforts, and began to more effectively deliver services based on lessons learned

Started the social media series **“McDowell Mondays”** to deliver positive insight into everyday happenings in the county in complement to community coaching, boosting morale among residents and shifting perceptions about the county from a statewide perspective

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<td>WV Communications Network</td>
<td>Connecting and providing resources to West Virginians who are invested in creating and documenting positive stories about the state</td>
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<td>Community Development Communications Coaching</td>
<td>Building communications capacity for community development stakeholders</td>
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<td>Hubbub e-newsletter + social media activity</td>
<td>Widely promoting an alternative narrative of always-positive news about communities in West Virginia</td>
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Our Team

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Executive Director

AMANDA WORKMAN
Director of Community Engagement

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