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Federal Regional Commissions and Authorities: Structural Features and Function

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Federal Regional Commissions and Authorities: Structural Features and Function

SUMMARY

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Julie M. Lawhorn
Analyst in Economic Development Policy

This report describes the structure, activities, legislative history, and funding history of the seven federal regional commissions and authorities:

- the Appalachian Regional Commission;
- the Delta Regional Authority;
- the Denali Commission;
- the Northern Border Regional Commission;
- the Northern Great Plains Regional Authority;
- the Southeast Crescent Regional Commission; and the
- Southwest Border Regional Commission.

All seven regional commissions and authorities are modeled after the Appalachian Regional Commission structure, which is composed of a federal co-chair appointed by the President with the advice and consent of the Senate, and the member state governors, of which one is appointed the state co-chair. This structure is broadly replicated in the other commissions and authorities, albeit with notable variations and exceptions to local contexts. In addition, the service areas for all of the federal regional commissions and authorities are defined in statute and thus can only be amended or modified through congressional action. While the service areas for the federal regional commissions and authorities have shifted over time, those jurisdictions have not changed radically in their respective service lives.

Of the seven federal regional commissions and authorities, four could be considered active: the Appalachian Regional Commission; the Delta Regional Authority; the Denali Commission; and the Northern Border Regional Commission. In December 2021, the U.S. Senate confirmed the first federal co-chairperson for the Southeast Crescent Regional Commission, thereby allowing it to convene and begin other activities.

The four currently active regional commissions and authority received $15 million to $195 million in annual appropriations in FY2022 for their various activities. Each of the four functioning regional commissions and authority engage in economic development to varying extents, and address multiple programmatic activities in their respective service areas. These activities may include, but are not limited, to basic infrastructure; energy; ecology/environment and natural resources; workforce/labor; and business development.

Though they are federally chartered, receive congressional appropriations for their administration and activities, and include an appointed federal representative in their respective leadership structures (the federal co-chair and his/her alternate, as applicable), the federal regional commissions and authorities are quasi-governmental partnerships between the federal government and the constituent state(s) of a given authority or commission. This partnership structure, which also typically includes substantial input and efforts at the sub-state level, represents a unique federal approach to economic development and a potentially flexible mechanism for coordinating strategic economic development goals and aligning them with local, state, and multi-state/regional priorities and contexts.

Congress has expressed interest in the federal regional commissions and authorities pursuant to its appropriations and oversight authority, as well as its interest in facilitating economic development programming. Given relevant congressional interest, the federal regional commissions and authorities provide a model of functioning economic development approaches that are place-based, intergovernmental, and multifaceted in their programmatic orientation (e.g., infrastructure, energy, environment/ecology, workforce, business development).

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Introduction

Congress authorized seven federal regional commissions and authorities to address instances of major economic distress in certain defined socio-economic regions (**Table A-1**):

- the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC);
- the Delta Regional Authority (DRA);
- the Denali Commission;
- the Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC);
- the Northern Great Plains Regional Authority (NGPRA);
- the Southeast Crescent Regional Commission (SCRC); and
- the Southwest Border Regional Commission (SBRC).

Four of the seven entities are currently active and receive regular annual appropriations: ARC, DRA, the Denali Commission, and the NBRC. The SCRC has received regular annual appropriations since FY2010, but lacked a Senate-confirmed federal co-chair until December 2021. All but one (Alaska's Denali Commission) serve multi-state regions (**Figure B-1**).

The federal regional commissions are functioning examples of place-based and intergovernmental approaches to economic development, which receive regular congressional interest.[1] The federal regional commissions and authorities integrate federal and state economic development priorities alongside regional and local considerations (**Figure A-1**). As federally chartered agencies created by acts of Congress, the federal regional commissions and authorities depend on congressional appropriations for their activities and administration, and are subject to congressional oversight.

The first such federal regional commission, the Appalachian Regional Commission, was founded in 1965. The other commissions and authorities may have roots in the intervening decades, but were not founded until 1998 (Denali), 2000 (Delta Regional Authority), and 2002 (the Northern Great Plains Regional Authority). The most recent commissions—Northern Border Regional Commission, Southeast Crescent Regional Commission, and Southwest Border Regional Commission—were authorized in 2008.

Certain strategic emphases and programs have evolved over time in each of the functioning federal regional commissions and authorities. However, their overarching missions to address economic distress have not changed, and their associated activities have broadly remained consistent to those goals as funding has allowed. In practice, the functioning federal regional commissions and authorities engage in their respective economic development efforts through multiple program areas, which may include, but are not limited to basic infrastructure; energy; ecology/environment and natural resources; workforce/labor; and business development. This report describes the structure, activities, legislative history, and funding history of seven federally chartered regional commissions and authorities.

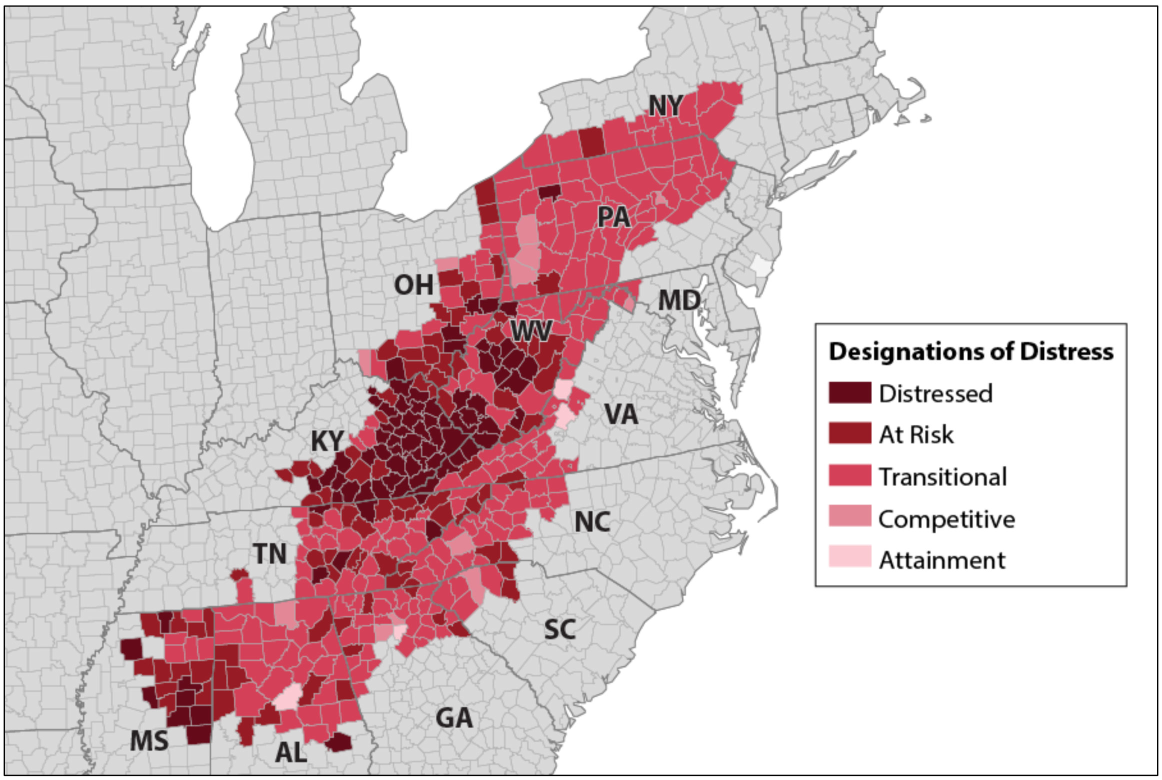
[1] See, for example, recent congressional interest and legislative action on Opportunity Zones (CRS Report R45152, *Tax Incentives for Opportunity Zones*, by Sean Lowry and Donald J. Marples) and New Market Tax Credits (CRS Report RL34402, *New Markets Tax Credit: An Introduction*, by Donald J. Marples and Sean Lowry), and previous federal and congressional action on "Promise Zones" (U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, *Promise Zones Overview*, https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/promise-zones/promise-zones-overview/); as well as various legislation relating to the federal regional commissions and authorities themselves.

Appalachian Regional Commission

The Appalachian Regional Commission was established in 1965 to address economic distress in the Appalachian region.[2] The ARC's jurisdiction spans 423 counties in Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, Mississippi, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia (**Figure 1**). The ARC was originally created to address severe economic disparities between Appalachia and that of the broader United States; recently, its mission has grown to include regional competitiveness in a global economic environment.

Figure 1. Map of the Appalachian Regional Commission

ARC service area, by designations of county distress, FY2022



Source: Compiled by CRS using data from the Appalachian Regional Commission and Esri Data and Maps 2019.

Notes: West Virginia is the only state with all counties within the ARC's jurisdiction.

Structure and Activities

Commission Structure

According to the authorizing legislation, the Appalachian Regional Development Act of 1965, as amended,[3] the ARC is a federally chartered, regional economic development entity led by a

[2] 40 U.S.C. §§14101-14704.

[3] P.L. 89-4.

federal co-chair, whose term is open-ended, and the 13 participating state governors, of which one serves as the state co-chair for a term of "at least one year."[4] The federal co-chair is appointed by the President with the advice and consent of the Senate. The authorizing act also allows for the appointment of federal and state alternates to the commission. The ARC is a federal-state partnership, with administrative costs shared equally by the federal government and member states, while economic development activities are funded by congressional appropriations.

Regional Development Plan

According to authorizing legislation and the ARC code,[5] the ARC's programs abide by a Regional Development Plan (RDP), which includes documents prepared by the states and the commission. The RDP is comprised of the ARC's strategic plan, its bylaws, member state development plans, each participating state's annual strategy statement, the commission's annual program budget, and the commission's internal implementation and performance management guidelines.

The RDP integrates local, state, and federal economic development priorities into a common regional agenda. Through state plans and annual work statements, states establish goals, priorities, and agendas for fulfilling them. State planning typically includes consulting with local development districts (LDDs), which are multicounty organizations that are associated with and financially supported by the ARC and advise on local priorities.[6]

There are 74 ARC-associated LDDs. They may be conduits for funding for other eligible organizations, and may also themselves be ARC grantees.[7] State and local governments, governmental entities, and nonprofit organizations are eligible for ARC investments, including both federal- and state-designated tribal entities. Notably, state-designated tribal entities that are not federally recognized (or "lack federal recognition") are nevertheless eligible to receive ARC funding. This is rare, as usually federal funding requires federal recognition.[8]

ARC's strategic plan is a five-year document, reviewed annually, and revised as necessary. The current strategic plan, adopted in October 2021,[9] prioritizes five investment goals:

1. entrepreneurial and business development;
2. workforce development;
3. infrastructure development;
4. natural and cultural assets; and
5. leadership and community capacity.

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[4] Appalachian Regional Commission, *ARC Code*, 2020, https://www.arc.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/ARC-Code.pdf.

[5] Ibid.

[6] LDDs are not exclusive to the ARC. The DRA and NBRC also make use of them, and other inactive commissions and authorities are authorized to organize and/or support them. Designated LDDs may also be organized as Economic Development Administration (EDA)-designated economic development districts (EDDs), which serve a similar purpose. They may also be co-located with Small Business Administration-affiliated small business development centers (SBDCs).

[7] Appalachian Regional Commission, *Local Development Districts*, https://www.arc.gov/local-development-districts/.

[8] See U.S. Government Accountability Office, *Indian Issues: Federal Funding for Non-Federally Recognized Tribes*, 12-348, April 2012, https://www.gao.gov/assets/600/590102.pdf.

[9] Appalachian Regional Commission, *Appalachia Envisioned: A New Era of Opportunity, Strategic Plan FY 2022-2026*, https://www.arc.gov/strategicplan/.

While most funds are used for economic development grants, approximately $50 million is reserved for the Partnerships for Opportunity and Workforce and Economic Revitalization (POWER) Initiative.[10] The POWER Initiative began in 2015 to provide economic development funding for addressing economic and labor dislocations caused by energy transition principally in coal communities in the Appalachian region.[11]

Distressed Counties

The ARC is statutorily obligated to designate counties according to levels of economic distress.[12] Distress designations influence funding priority and determine grant match requirements. Using an index-based classification system, the ARC compares each county within its jurisdiction with national averages based on three economic indicators:[13] (1) three-year average unemployment rates; (2) per capita market income; and (3) poverty rates. These factors are calculated into a composite index value for each county, which are ranked and sorted into designated distress levels.[14] Each distress level corresponds to a given county's ranking relative to that of the United States as a whole. These designations are defined as follows by the ARC, starting from "worst" distress:[15]

- *distressed* counties, or those with values in the "worst" 10% of U.S. counties;
- *at-risk*, which rank between worst 10% and 25%;
- *transitional*, which rank between worst 25% and best 25%;
- *competitive*, which rank between "best" 25% and best 10%; and
- *attainment*, or those which rank in the best 10%.

The designated level of distress is statutorily tied to allowable funding levels by the ARC (funding allowance), the balance of which must be met through grant matches from other funding sources (including potentially other federal funds) unless a waiver or special dispensation is permitted: distressed (80% funding allowance, 20% grant match); at-risk (70%); transitional (50%); competitive (30%); and attainment (0% funding allowance). Exceptions can be made to grant match thresholds. Attainment counties may be able to receive funding for projects where sub-county areas are considered to be at higher levels of distress, and/or in those cases where the inclusion of an attainment county in a multi-county project would benefit one or more non-attainment counties or areas. In addition, special allowances may reduce or discharge matches, and match requirements may be met with other federal funds.

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[10] Appalachian Regional Commission, *Partnerships for Opportunity and Workforce and Economic Revitalization (POWER) Initiative*, https://www.arc.gov/funding/POWER.asp.

[11] The White House, Office of the Press Secretary, *FACT SHEET: The Partnerships for Opportunity and Workforce and Economic Revitalization (POWER) Initiative*, March 27, 2015, https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/the-press-office/2015/03/27/fact-sheet-partnerships-opportunity-and-workforce-and-economic-revitaliz.

[12] 42 U.S.C. §14526.

[13] Appalachian Regional Commission, *County Economic Status and Distressed Areas in Appalachia*, https://www.arc.gov/appalachian_region/CountyEconomicStatusandDistressedAreasinAppalachia.asp.

[14] Appalachian Regional Commission, *Data Reports: County Economic Status, Fiscal Year 2020*, https://www.arc.gov/reports/custom_report.asp?REPORT_ID=76.

[15] Appalachian Regional Commission, *Distressed Designation and County Economic Status Classification System, FY 2007–FY 2020*, https://www.arc.gov/research/SourceandMethodologyCountyEconomicStatusFY2007FY2020.asp.

Legislative History

Council of Appalachian Governors

In 1960,[16] the Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia governors formed the Council of Appalachian Governors to highlight Appalachia's extended economic distress and to press for increased federal involvement. In 1963, President John F. Kennedy formed the President's Appalachian Regional Commission (PARC) and charged it with developing an economic development program for the region. PARC's report, issued in 1964,[17] called for the creation of an independent agency to coordinate federal and state efforts to address infrastructure, natural resources, and human capital issues in the region. The PARC also included some Ohio counties as part of the Appalachian region.

Appalachian Regional Development Act

In 1965, President Lyndon Johnson signed the Appalachian Regional Development Act,[18] which created the ARC to address the PARC's recommendations, and added counties in New York and Mississippi. The ARC was directed to administer or assist in the following initiatives:

- The creation of the Appalachian Development Highway System;
- Establishing "Demonstration Health Facilities" to fund health infrastructure;
- Land stabilization, conservation, and erosion control programs;
- Timber development organizations, for purposes of forest management;
- Mining area restoration, for rehabilitating and/or revitalizing mining sites;
- A water resources survey;
- Vocational education programs; and
- Sewage treatment infrastructure.

Major Amendments to the ARC Before 2021

Appalachian Regional Development Act Amendments of 1975

In 1975, the ARC's authorizing legislation was amended to require that state governors themselves serve as the state representatives on the commission, overriding original statutory language in which governors were permitted to appoint designated representatives.[19] The amendments also included provisions to expand public participation in ARC plans and programs. They also required states to consult with local development districts and local governments and authorized federal grants to the ARC to assist states in enhancing state development planning.

[16] Appalachian Regional Commission, *ARC History*, https://www.arc.gov/about/ARCHistory.asp.

[17] Appalachian Regional Commission, *Appalachia: A Report by the President's Appalachian Regional Commission, 1964*, April 1964, https://www.arc.gov/about/ARCAppalachiaAReportbythePresidentsAppalachianRegionalCommission1964.asp.

[18] P.L. 89-4.

[19] P.L. 94-188.

Appalachian Regional Development Reform Act of 1998

Legislative reforms in 1998 introduced county-level designations of distress.[20] The legislation organized county-level distress into three bands, from "worst" to "best": distressed counties; competitive counties; and attainment counties. The act imposed limitations on funding for economically strong counties: (1) "competitive," which could only accept ARC funding for 30% of project costs (with the 70% balance being subject to grant match requirements); and (2) "attainment," which were generally ineligible for funding, except through waivers or exceptions.

In addition, the act withdrew the ARC's legislative mandate for certain programs, including the land stabilization, conservation, and erosion control program; the timber development program; the mining area restoration program; the water resource development and utilization survey; the Appalachian airport safety improvements program (a program added in 1971); the sewage treatment works program; and amendments to the Housing Act of 1954 from the original 1965 act.

Appalachian Regional Development Act Amendments of 2002

Legislation in 2002 expanded the ARC's ability to support LDDs, introduced an emphasis on ecological issues, and provided for a greater coordinating role by the ARC in federal economic development activities.[21] The amendments also provided new stipulations for the ARC's grant making, limiting the organization to funding 50% of project costs or 80% in designated distressed counties. The amendments also expanded the ARC's efforts in human capital development projects, such as through various vocational, entrepreneurial, and skill training initiatives.

The Appalachian Regional Development Act Amendments of 2008

The Appalachian Regional Development Act Amendments of 2008 made adjustments to the ARC's grant authorities and extended its geographic reach. The amendments included

1. various limitations on project funding amounts and commission contributions;
2. the establishment of an economic and energy development initiative;
3. the expansion of county designations to include an "at-risk" designation; and
4. the expansion of the number of counties under the ARC's jurisdiction.[22]

The 2008 amendments introduced funding limitations for ARC grant activities as a whole, as well as to specific programs. According to the 2008 legislation, "the amount of the grant shall not exceed 50 percent of administrative expenses." However, at the ARC's discretion, an LDD that included a "distressed" county in its service area could provide for 75% of administrative expenses of a relevant project, or 70% for "at-risk" counties. Eligible activities could only be funded by the ARC at a maximum of 50% of the project cost,[23] or 80% for distressed counties and 70% for "at-risk" counties. The act introduced special project categories, including

- demonstration health projects;
- assistance for proposed low- and middle-income housing projects;

[20] P.L. 105-393.

[21] P.L. 107-149.

[22] P.L. 110-371.

[23] Where allowable, non-appropriated funds—such as those from states or localities—or even other non-ARC federal funds may be used to fund the balance of the project costs.

- the telecommunications and technology initiative;
- the entrepreneurship initiative; and
- the regional skills partnership.

Finally, the "economic and energy development initiative" provided for the ARC to fund activities supporting energy efficiency and renewable technologies. The legislation expanded distress designations to include an "at-risk" category, or counties "most at risk of becoming economically distressed." This raised the number of distress levels to five.[24] The legislation also expanded ARC's service area. Ten counties in four states were added to the ARC.

Infrastructure, Investment, and Jobs Act (P.L. 117-58)

The Infrastructure, Investment, and Jobs Act (IIJA), enacted in November 2021, extended the ARC's authorization and provided funding for it through FY2026.

Division A of the IIJA authorized appropriations at $200 million a year for each fiscal year through FY2026. Within those overall authorized appropriations, the act specifically authorizes the ARC to use $20 million annually for expansion of high-speed broadband activities (an increase from $10 million annually) and directed ARC to allocate $5 million annually for newly authorized Appalachian Regional Energy Hub activities. The act addressed the ARC's broadband authorization, and outlined additional aspects of the agency's broadband and regional energy hub initiatives. The act also required congressional notification for grants over $50,000.[25] Additionally, three counties in two states were added to the ARC, which represents the most recent expansion to the ARC's region.[26] Division J of the IIJA appropriated $1 billion for the period FY2022-FY2026, which is discussed below.

Funding History

The ARC is a federal-state partnership, with administrative costs shared equally by the federal government and states, while economic development activities are federally funded. The ARC is also the highest-funded of the federal regional commissions and authorities. Its funding (**Table 1**) increased 147% from approximately $73 million in FY2008 to $195 million in FY2022. As noted above, Division A of the IIJA authorized appropriations of $200 million for the ARC for each of FY2022 through FY2026, and Division J appropriated the authorized level of funding.[27] The $1 billion appropriation in Division J is made available in equal $200 million shares across each of the five fiscal years, and each tranche remains available until it is expended.

The ARC's funding growth is attributable to incremental increases in appropriations along with an approximately $50 million increase in annual appropriated funds in FY2016 set aside to support the POWER Initiative.[28] The POWER Initiative was part of a wider federal effort under

[24] The five designations of distress are: distressed, at-risk, transitional, competitive, and attainment. The "transitional" designation is not defined in statute, unlike the other four categories, but it is utilized as part of the five-level distress criteria nonetheless.

[25] Division A, Sec. 11506 of P.L. 117-58.

[26] Union County, SC; Catawba County, NC; and Cleveland County, NC, were added to the ARC region (Division A, Sec. 11506(a) of P.L. 117-58).

[27] P.L. 117-58, Division J, Title III. The IIJA also provided $1.25 billion over five years (FY2022-FY2026) for the Appalachian Development Highway System (ADHS) through the Federal Highway Administration (P.L. 117-58, Division J, Title VIII).

[28] P.L. 114-113.

the Obama Administration to support coal communities affected by the decline of the coal industry.[29] The FY2018 White House budget proposed to shutter the ARC as well as the other federal regional commissions and authorities.[30] Congress did not adopt these provisions from the President's budget, and continued to fund the ARC and other commissions.

Table 1. ARC: Authorized and Appropriated Funding, FY2010-FY2022

$ in millions

	FY10	FY11	FY12	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22[a]
Appropriated Funding	76.0	68.4	68.3	68.3	80.3	90.0	146.0	152.0	155.0	165.0	175.0	180.0	395.0
Authorized Funding	105.0	108.0	110.0	110.0	110.0	110.0	110.0	110.0	110.0	110.0	110.0	110.0	200.0

Sources: Authorized funding amounts compiled by CRS using data from P.L. 110-234, P.L. 113-79, P.L. 115-334, and P.L. 116-159. Appropriated funding amounts compiled by CRS using data from: P.L. 111-85; P.L. 112-10; P.L. 112-74; P.L. 113-6; P.L. 113-76; P.L. 113-235; P.L. 114-113; P.L. 115-31; P.L. 115-141; P.L. 115-244; P.L. 116-94; P.L. 116-260; P.L. 117-58; and P.L. 117-103.

Note: For an expanded historical and comparative view of appropriations, see **Table C-1**.

a. FY2022 includes $195 million provided through annual appropriations (P.L. 117-103). FY2022 appropriated funding amounts include $200 million from Division J, Title III of the Infrastructure, Investment, and Jobs Act (IIJA, P.L. 117-58). The IIJA provided $200 million for the ARC in each fiscal year from FY2022 through FY2026. FY2022 amounts do not include appropriations in Division A of P.L. 117-58 pertaining to the Appalachian Development Highway System.

Delta Regional Authority

The Delta Regional Authority was established in 2000 to address economic distress in the Mississippi River Delta region.[31] The DRA aims to "improve regional economic opportunity by helping to create jobs, build communities, and improve the lives of the 10 million people"[32] in 252 designated counties and parishes in Alabama, Arkansas, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, and Tennessee (**Figure 2**).

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[29] For more information on the POWER Initiative, see CRS Report R46015, *The POWER Initiative: Energy Transition as Economic Development*, by Julie M. Lawhorn.

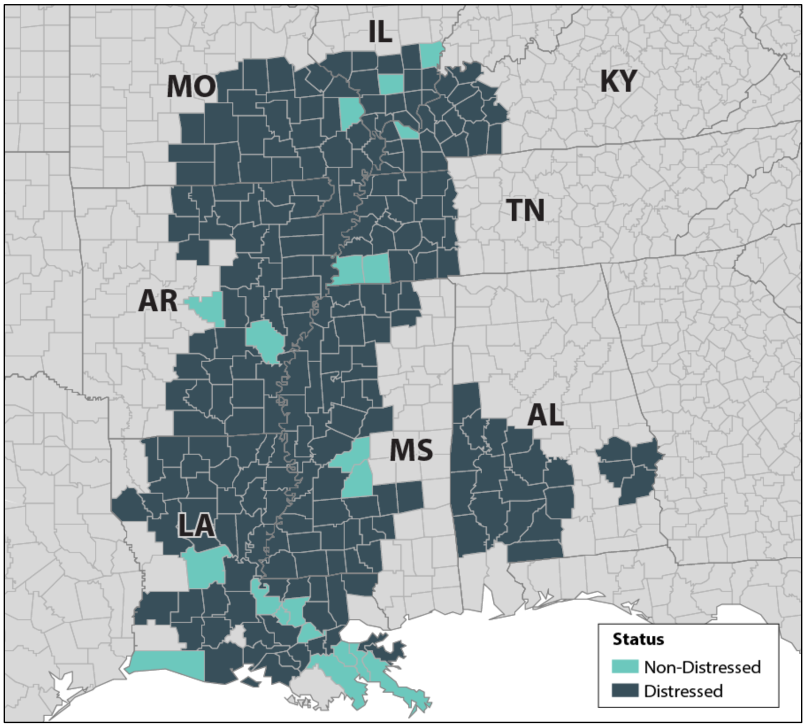
[30] Office of Management and Budget, *Budget of the United States Government, Fiscal Year 2018*, Washington, DC, May 23, 2017, https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/BUDGET-2018-BUD/pdf/BUDGET-2018-BUD.pdf.

[31] P.L. 106-554.

[32] Delta Regional Authority, *About the Delta Regional Authority*, https://dra.gov/about-dra/about-delta-regional-authority/.

Figure 2. Map of the Delta Regional Authority

DRA service area, by designations of county distress, FY2021



Source: Compiled by CRS using data from the Delta Regional Authority and Esri Data and Maps 2019.

Overview of Structure and Activities

Authority Structure

Like the ARC, the DRA is a federal-state partnership that shares administrative expenses equally, while activities are federally funded. The DRA consists of a federal co-chair appointed by the President with the advice and consent of the Senate, and the eight state governors, of which one is state co-chair. The governors are permitted to appoint a designee to represent the state, who also generally serves as the state alternate.[33]

Entities that are eligible to apply for DRA funding include

1. state and local governments (state agencies, cities and counties/parishes);
2. public bodies; and
3. nonprofit entities.

These entities must apply for projects that operate in or are serving residents and communities within the 252 counties/parishes of the DRA's jurisdiction. Unlike the other federal regional commissions and authorities, the DRA's service area is defined not in any one piece of legislation but through multiple legislative developments (see "Legislative History"). In addition, there appears to be a mechanism for adding counties/parishes to the Authority administratively based on bill text in the California Desert Protection Act of 1994 from the 103rd Congress (P.L. 103-

[33] 7 U.S.C. §2009aa.

433), which incorporated H.R. 4043, the Lower Mississippi Delta Initiatives Act of 1994 as Title XI of the bill.[34]

DRA Strategic Planning

Funding determinations are assessed according to the DRA's authorizing statute, its strategic plan, state priorities, and distress designation.[35] The DRA strategic plan articulates the authority's high-level economic development priorities. The current strategic plan—*Moving the Delta Forward*, *Delta Regional Development Plan III*—was released in April 2016.[36]

The strategic plan lists three primary goals:

1. workforce competitiveness, to "advance the productivity and economic competitiveness of the Delta workforce";
2. strengthened infrastructure, to "strengthen the Delta's physical, digital, and capital connections to the global economy"; and
3. increased community capacity, to "facilitate local capacity building within Delta communities, organizations, businesses, and individuals."

State development plans are required by statute every five years to coincide with the strategic plan, and reflect the economic development goals and priorities of member states and LDDs.[37] The DRA funds projects through 44 LDDs,[38] which are multicounty economic development organizations financially supported by the DRA and advise on local priorities. LDDs "provide technical assistance, application support and review, and other services" to the DRA and entities applying for funding. LDDs receive administrative fees paid from awarded DRA funds, which are calculated as 5% of the first $100,000 of an award, and 1% for all dollars above that amount.

Distress Designations

The DRA determines a county or parish as distressed on an annual basis through the following criteria:

1. an unemployment rate of 1% higher than the national average for the most recent 24-month period; and
2. a per capita income of 80% or less than the national per capita income.[39]

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[34] Of the 252 counties reported by the DRA to fall within its service area, 219 were incorporated through P.L. 100-460. Another 20 counties in Alabama were included in P.L. 106-554 (16 counties) and P.L. 107-171 (four counties). P.L. 110-234 added 10 Louisiana parishes and two Mississippi counties. By this count, one county appears to have been included administratively.

[35] Delta Regional Authority, *Eligibility & Funding Priorities*, https://dra.gov/funding-programs-states-economic-development/states-economic-development-assistance-program/eligibility-funding-priorities/.

[36] Delta Regional Authority, *Moving the Delta Forward, Delta Regional Development Plan III*, April 2016, https://dra.gov/images/uploads/content_files/DRA_RDP3-FINAL_APRIL2016.pdf.

[37] Delta Regional Authority, *Strategic Economic Development Plans: State Strategic Economic Development Plans*, 2016, https://dra.gov/funding-programs/strategic-economic-development-plans-by-state/.

[38] The DRA lists 44 LDDs in good standing on its website, but notes in the *2018 States' Economic Development Assistance Program (SEDAP) Manual* that the DRA works with 45 LDDs. Delta Regional Authority, *Local Development Districts*, https://dra.gov/funding-programs/local-development-districts/.

[39] Delta Regional Authority, *Distressed Counties and Parishes*, https://dra.gov/funding-programs/states-economic-development-assistance-program/distressed-counties-and-parishes/.

The DRA designates counties as either distressed or not, and distressed counties received priority funding from DRA grant making activities. By statute, the DRA directs at least 75% of funds to distressed counties; half of those funds must target transportation and basic infrastructure. As of FY2018, 234 of the DRA's 252 counties are considered distressed.

States' Economic Development Assistance Program

The principal investment tool used by the DRA is the States' Economic Development Assistance Program (SEDAP), which "provides direct investment into community-based and regional projects that address the DRA's congressionally mandated four funding priorities."[40]

The DRA's four funding priorities are

1. basic public infrastructure;
2. transportation infrastructure;
3. workforce development; and
4. business development (emphasizing entrepreneurship).

The DRA's SEDAP funding is made available to each state according to a four-factor, formula-derived allocation that balances geographic breadth, population size, and economic distress (**Table 2**).[41]

The factors and their respective weights are calculated as follows:

- Equity Factor (equal funding among eight states), 50%;
- Distressed Population (DRA counties/parishes), 20%;
- Distressed County Area (DRA counties/parishes), 20%; and
- Population Factor (DRA counties/parishes), 10%.

Table 2. DRA Allocations by State, FY2021

by order of funding allocation

	Share of Funding	Funding Allocation
Louisiana	20.16%	$2,994,043.31
Mississippi	15.42%	$2,290,216.42
Arkansas	14.62%	$2,170,906.27
Missouri	11.39%	$1,691,142.97
Tennessee	10.91%	$1,619,788.58
Alabama	10.28%	$1,526,997.65
Kentucky	9.10%	$1,351,133.61
Illinois	8.11%	$1,203,694.19
Total	**100.00%**	**$14,847,923.00**

Source: Data tabulated by CRS from the DRA website.

[40] Delta Regional Authority, *States' Economic Development Assistance Program (SEDAP)*, https://dra.gov/funding-programs-states-economic-development/states-economic-development-assistance-program/.

[41] Delta Regional Authority, *State Funding Allocations*, 2021, https://dra.gov/funding-programs-states-economic-development/state-funding-allocations/.

DRA investments are awarded from state allocations. SEDAP applications are accepted through LDDs, and projects are sorted into tiers of priority. While all projects must be associated with one of the DRA's four funding priorities, additional prioritization determines the rank order of awards, which include county-level distress designations; adherence to at least one of the federal priority eligibility criteria (see below); adherence to at least one of the DRA Regional Development Plan goals (from the strategic plan); and adherence to at least one of the state's DRA priorities.[42]

The federal priority eligibility criteria are as follows:

- Regional impact
- Multiple funding partners
- Emergency funding need
- Registered apprenticeship
- Infrastructure
- Merging and consolidating public utilities
- Broadband infrastructure
- Water or wastewater rate study (i.e., projects with accredited rate study)

The DRA is also mandated to expend 50% of its appropriated SEDAP dollars on basic public and transportation infrastructure projects, which lend additional weight to this particular criterion.[43]

Legislative History

In 1988, the Rural Development, Agriculture, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for FY1989 (P.L. 100-460) appropriated $2 million and included language that authorized the creation of the Lower Mississippi Delta Development Commission. The LMDDC was a DRA predecessor tasked with studying economic issues in the Delta and developing a 10-year economic development plan. The LMDDC consisted of two commissioners appointed by the President as well as the governors of Arkansas, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, and Tennessee. The commission was chaired by then-Governor William J. Clinton of Arkansas, and the LMDDC released interim and final reports before completing its mandate in 1990. Later, in the White House, the Clinton Administration continued to show interest in an expanded federal role in Mississippi Delta regional economic development.

Notably, P.L. 100-460's $2 million in appropriations were made available to "carry out H.R. 5378 and S. 2836, the Lower Mississippi Delta Development Act, as introduced in the House of Representatives on September 26, 1988, and in the Senate on September 27, 1988." Using this language, those previously un-enacted bills were "incorporated by reference" and enacted. P.L. 100-460 also provided a definition of the Lower Mississippi Delta region through the incorporation of H.R. 5378 and S. 2836.

Key Legislative Activity

- In 1994, Congress enacted the Lower Mississippi Delta Region Heritage Study Act, which built on the LMDDC's recommendations. In particular, the 1994 act

[42] Delta Regional Authority, *Eligibility & Funding Priorities*, 2021, https://dra.gov/funding-programs-states-economic-development/states-economic-development-assistance-program/eligibility-funding-priorities/.

[43] Delta Regional Authority, *SEDAP Administrative Program Manual: FY2021*, 2021, https://dra.gov/images/uploads/content_files/SEDAP-Manual-2021.pdf.

saw the Department of the Interior conduct a study on key regional cultural, natural, and heritage sites and locations in the Mississippi Delta region.

- In 1999, the Delta Regional Authority Act of 1999 was introduced in the House (H.R. 2911) and Senate (S. 1622) to establish the DRA by amending the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act. Neither bill was enacted, but they established the structure and mission later incorporated into the DRA.[44]

106th Congress

- In 2000, the Consolidated Appropriations Act for FY2001 (P.L. 106-554) included language authorizing the creation of the DRA based on the seven participating states of the LMDDC, with the addition of Alabama and 16 of its counties.

107th Congress

- The Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002, or 2002 farm bill (P.L. 107-171), amended voting procedures for DRA states, provided new funds for Delta regional projects, and added four additional Alabama counties to the DRA—Butler, Conecuh, Escambia, and Monroe Counties.

110th Congress

- The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008, or 2008 farm bill (P.L. 110-234) reauthorized the DRA from FY2008 through FY2012 and expanded it to include Beauregard, Bienville, Cameron, Claiborne, DeSoto, Jefferson Davis, Red River, St. Mary, Vermillion, and Webster Parishes in Louisiana; and Jasper and Smith Counties in Mississippi.

113th Congress

- The Agricultural Act of 2014, or 2014 farm bill (P.L. 113-79) reauthorized the DRA through FY2018.

115th Congress

- The Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018, or 2018 farm bill (P.L. 115-334), reauthorized the DRA from FY2019 to FY2023,[45] and emphasized Alabama's position as a "full member" of the DRA.

Funding History

Under "farm bill" legislation, the DRA has consistently received funding authorizations of $30 million annually since it was first authorized.[46] However, appropriations have fluctuated over the years. Although the DRA was appropriated $20 million in the same legislation authorizing its

[44] The two bills contained the general basic authority, structure, geography, and mission that was carried over into the DRA's authorizing legislation.

[45] See CRS In Focus IF11126, *2018 Farm Bill Primer: Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018*, by Renée Johnson and Jim Monke.

[46] 7 U.S.C. §2009aa–12.

creation,[47] that amount was halved in 2002,[48] and continued a downward trend through its funding nadir of $5 million in FY2004. However, funding had increased by FY2006 to $12 million. Since FY2008, DRA's annual appropriations have increased from almost $12 million to the current level of $30.1 million in FY2022 (excluding appropriations provided by the IIJA). The IIJA provided the DRA with an increase in appropriations that was five times its annual appropriation in FY2021 (**Table 3**).

Table 3. DRA: Authorized and Appropriated Funding, FY2010-FY2022

$ in millions

	FY10	FY11	FY12	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22[a]
Appropriated Funding	13.00	11.70	11.68	11.68	12.00	12.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	30.00	30.00	180.10
Authorized Funding	30.00	30.00	30.00	30.00	30.00	30.00	30.00	30.00	30.00	30.00	30.00	30.00	30.00

Sources: Appropriated funding amounts compiled by CRS using data from the following: P.L. 111-85; P.L. 112-10; P.L. 112-74; P.L. 113-6; P.L. 113-76; P.L. 113-235; P.L. 114-113; P.L. 115-31; P.L. 115-141; P.L. 115-244; P.L. 116-94; P.L. 116-260; P.L. 117-58; and P.L. 117-103.

Note: For an expanded historical and comparative view of appropriations, see **Table C-1**.

a. FY2022 includes $30.1 million provided through annual appropriations (P.L. 117-103). FY2022 appropriated funding amounts also include $150 million from the Infrastructure, Investment, and Jobs Act (IIJA, P.L. 117-58).

Denali Commission

The Denali Commission was established in 1998 to support rural economic development in Alaska.[49] It is "designed to provide critical utilities, infrastructure, and economic support throughout Alaska." The Denali Commission is unique as a single-state commission, and in its reliance on federal funding for both administration and activities.

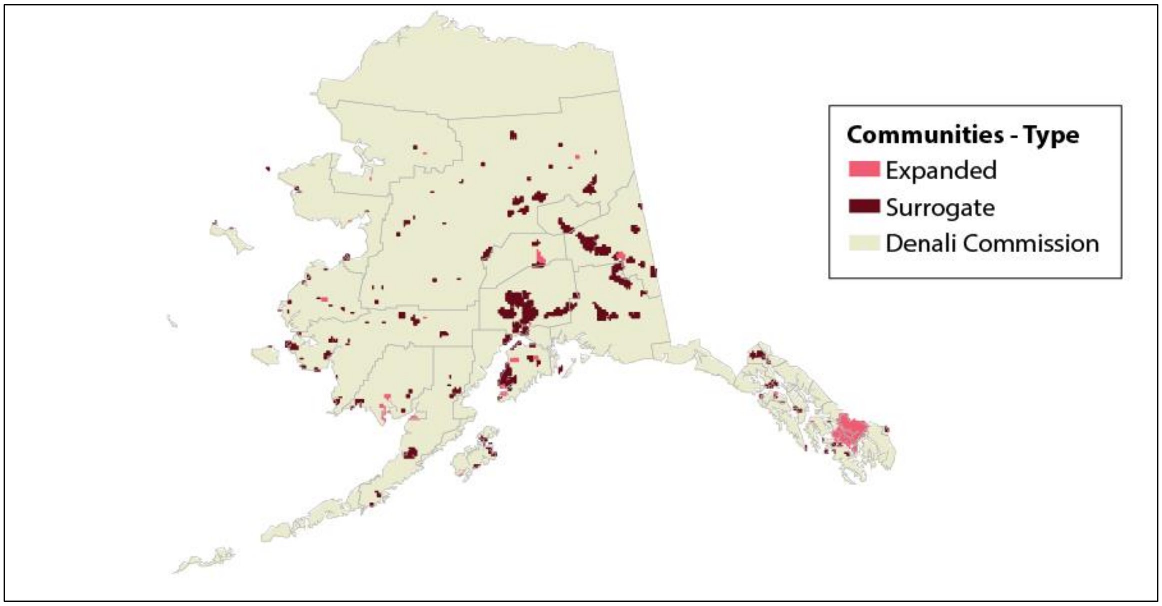
[47] P.L. 106-554.

[48] P.L. 107-66.

[49] P.L. 105-277.

Figure 3. Map of the Denali Commission

service area by expanded and surrogate standards of distress, 2020



Source: Compiled by CRS using data from the Denali Commission and Esri Data and Maps 2019.

Overview of Structure and Activities

The commission's statutory mission includes providing workforce and other economic development assistance to distressed rural regions in Alaska. However, the commission no longer engages in substantial activities in general economic development or transportation, which were once core elements of the Denali Commission's activities. Its recent activities are principally limited to coastal infrastructure protection and energy infrastructure and fuel storage projects.

Commission Structure

The Denali Commission's structure is unique as the only commission with a single-state mandate. The commission is comprised of seven members (or a designated nominee), including the federal co-chair, appointed by the U.S. Secretary of Commerce; the Alaska governor, who is state co-chair (or his/her designated representative); the University of Alaska president; the Alaska Municipal League president; the Alaska Federation of Natives president; the Alaska State AFL-CIO president; and the Associated General Contractors of Alaska president.[50]

These structural novelties offer a different model compared to the organization typified by the ARC and broadly adopted by the other functioning federal regional commissions and authorities. For example, the federal co-chair's appointment by the Secretary of Commerce, and not the President with Senate confirmation, allows for a potentially more expeditious appointment of a federal co-chair.

The Denali Commission is required by law to create an annual work plan, which solicits project proposals, guides activities, and informs a five-year strategic plan.[51] The work plan is reviewed by the federal co-chair, the Secretary of Commerce, and the Office of Management and Budget,

[50] P.L. 105-277.

[51] Denali Commission, *Work Plans*, https://www.denali.gov/work-plans/.

and is subject to a public comment period. The current FY2018-FY2022 strategic plan, released in October 2017, lists four strategic goals and objectives: (1) facilities management; (2) infrastructure protection from ecological change; (3) energy, including storage, production, heating, and electricity; and (4) innovation and collaboration. The commission's recent activities largely focus on energy and infrastructure protection.[52]

Distressed Areas

The Denali Commission's authorizing statute obligates the commission to address economic distress in rural areas of Alaska.[53] As of 2018, the commission utilizes two overlapping standards to assess distress: a "surrogate standard," adopted by the commission in 2000, and an "expanded standard." These standards are applied to rural communities in Alaska and assessed by the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development (DOL&WD), Research and Analysis Section. DOL&WD uses the most current population, employment, and earnings data available to identify Alaska communities and Census Designated Places considered "distressed."

Appeals can be made to community distress determinations, but only through a demonstration that DOL&WD data or analysis was erroneous, invalid, or outdated. New information "must come from a verifiable source, and be robust and representative of the entire community and/or population." Appeals are accepted and adjudicated only for the same reporting year in question.

Recent Activities

The Denali Commission's scope is more constrained compared to the other federal regional commissions and authorities. The organization reports that due to funding constraints,[54] the commission reduced its involvement in what might be considered traditional economic development and, instead, focused on rural fuel and energy infrastructure and coastal protection efforts.[55]

Since the Denali Commission's founding, bulk fuel safety and security, energy reliability and security, transportation system improvements, and health care projects have commanded the vast majority of Commission projects.[56] Of these, only energy reliability and security and bulk fuel safety and security projects remain active and are still funded. Village infrastructure protection—a program launched in 2015 to address community infrastructure threatened by erosion, flooding and permafrost degradation—is a program that is relatively new and still being funded.[57] By contrast, most "traditional" economic development programs are no longer being funded, including in housing, workforce development, and general economic development activities.[58]

[52] Denali Commission, *Denali Commission Strategic Plan: FY2018-2022*, October 4, 2017, https://www.denali.gov/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Denali_Commission_FY2018_-_2022_Strategic_Plan_-_Final_Executed_document_-_10-4-17.pdf.

[53] P.L. 105-277.

[54] Denali Commission, *Other Programs*, https://www.denali.gov/programs/other-programs/ (accessed April 23, 2021).

[55] Denali Commission, *Denali Commission Strategic Plan: FY2018-2022*, October 4, 2017, https://www.denali.gov/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Denali_Commission_FY2018_-_2022_Strategic_Plan_-_Final_Executed_document_-_10-4-17.pdf.

[56] Denali Commission, *Denali Commission Investment Summary*, May 2017, https://www.denali.gov/programs/.

[57] Denali Commission, *Village Infrastructure Protection*, https://www.denali.gov/programs/village-infrastructure-protection/.

[58] Denali Commission, *Denali Commission Investment Summary*, May 2017, https://www.denali.gov/programs/.

Legislative History

106th Congress

- In 1999, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2000 (P.L. 106-113) authorized the commission to enter into contracts and cooperative agreements, award grants, and make payments "necessary to carry out the purposes of the commission." The act also established the federal co-chair's compensation schedule, prohibited using more than 5% of appropriated funds for administrative expenses, and established "demonstration health projects" as authorized activities and authorized the Department of Health and Human Services to make grants to the commission to that effect.

108th Congress

- The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2004 (P.L. 108-199) created an Economic Development Committee within the commission chaired by the Alaska Federation of Natives president, and included the Alaska Commissioner of Community and Economic Affairs, a representative of the Alaska Bankers Association, the chairman of the Alaska Permanent Fund, a representative from the Alaska Chamber of Commerce, and representatives from each region.

109th Congress

- In 2005, the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users, or SAFETEA-LU (P.L. 109-59), established the Denali Access System Program among the commission's authorized activities. The program was part of its surface transportation efforts, which were active from 2005 through 2009.[59]

112th Congress

- 2012's Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act, or MAP-21 (P.L. 112-141), authorized the commission to accept funds from federal agencies, allowed it to accept gifts or donations of "service, property, or money" on behalf of the U.S. government, and included guidance regarding gifts.

114th Congress

- In 2016, the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act, or the WIIN Act (P.L. 114-322), reauthorized the Denali Commission through FY2021, and established a four-year term for the federal co-chair (with allowances for reappointment), but provided that other members were appointed for life. The act also allowed for the Secretary of Commerce to appoint an interim federal co-chair, and included clarifying language on the nonfederal status of commission staff and ethical issues regarding conflicts of interest and disclosure.

[59] U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, *Fact Sheet on Highway Provisions: Denali Access System Program*, https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/safetealu/factsheets/denali.htm.

117th Congress

- Division A of the Infrastructure, Investment, and Jobs Act (IIJA, (P.L. 117-58) extends funding authorization for five years to carry out the Denali Access System Program.[60] The act also allows the Denali Commission to consider funding from another federal agency as no longer subject to requirements previously attached to those funds, including any regulatory actions by the transferring agency.[61]

Funding History

Under its authorizing statute, the Denali Commission received funding authorizations for $20 million for FY1999,[62] and "such sums as necessary" (SSAN) for FY2000 through FY2003. Legislation passed in 2003 extended the commission's SSAN funding authorization through 2008.[63] Its authorization lapsed after 2008; reauthorizing legislation was introduced in 2007,[64] but was not enacted. The commission continued to receive annual appropriations for FY2009 and several years thereafter.[65] In 2016, legislation was enacted reauthorizing the Denali Commission through FY2021 with a $15 million annual funding authorization. The IIJA provided the Denali Commission with an increase in appropriations that was five times its most recent annual appropriation (**Table 4**).[66]

Table 4. Denali Commission: Authorized and Appropriated Funding, FY2010-FY2022

$ in millions

	FY10	FY11	FY12	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22[a]
Appropriated Funding	11.97	10.7	10.68	10.68	10.00	10.00	11.00	15.00	30.00	15.00	15.00	15.00	90.1
Authorized Funding	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00	—

Sources: Appropriated funding amounts compiled by CRS using data from the following: P.L. 111-85; P.L. 112-10; P.L. 112-74; P.L. 113-6; P.L. 113-76; P.L. 113-235; P.L. 114-113; P.L. 115-31; P.L. 115-141; P.L. 115-244; P.L. 116-94; P.L. 116-260; P.L. 117-58; and P.L. 117-103.

Note: For an expanded historical and comparative view of appropriations, see **Table C-1**.

a. FY2022 amounts include $15.1 million provided through annual appropriations (P.L. 117-103). FY2022 appropriated funding amounts include $75 million from Division J, Title III of the Infrastructure, Investment, and Jobs Act (IIJA, P.L. 117-58). Amounts do not include appropriations in Division A of P.L. 117-58 pertaining to the Denali Access System Program.

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60 The IIJA authorized $20 million to be appropriated for each of FY2022 through FY2026 to carry out the Denali Access System Program (Division A, Sec. 11507(a) of P.L. 117-58).

61 Division A, Sec. 11507(b) of P.L. 117-58.

62 P.L. 105-277.

63 P.L. 108-7, §504.

64 S. 1368, 110th Cong. (2007).

65 P.L. 111-8.

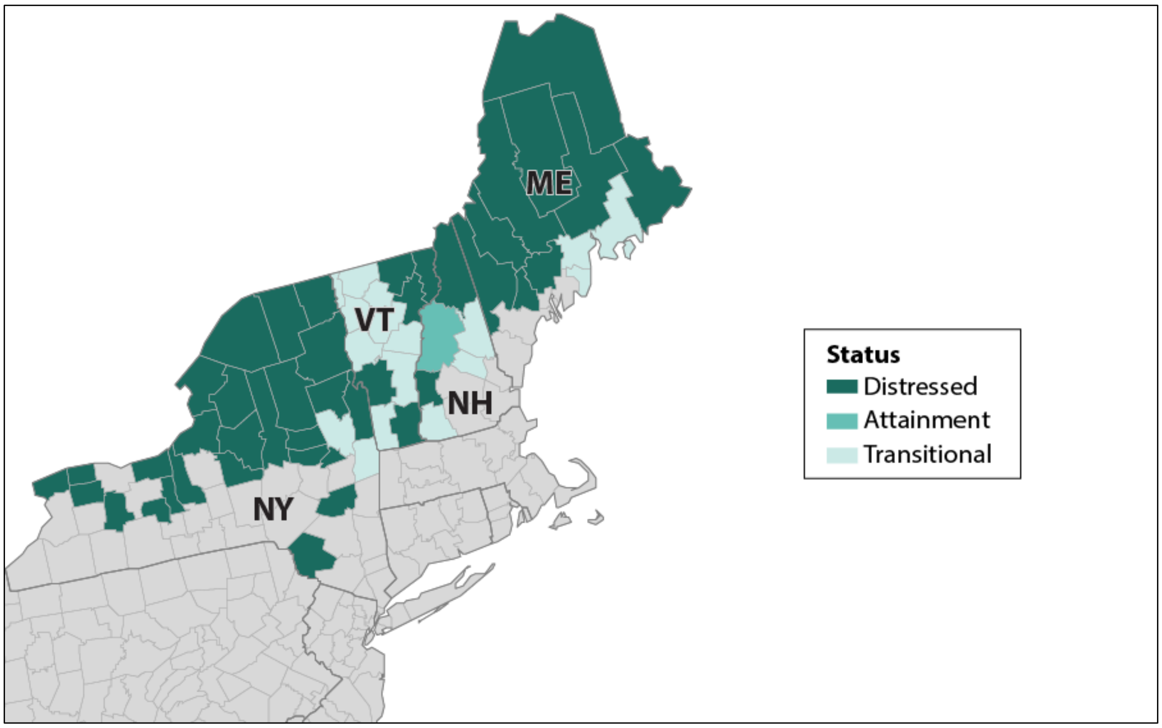
66 P.L. 114-322.

Northern Border Regional Commission

The Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC) was created by the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008, otherwise known as the 2008 farm bill.[67] The act also created the Southeast Crescent Regional Commission (SCRC) and the Southwest Border Regional Commission (SBRC). All three commissions share common authorizing language modeled after the ARC.

The NBRC is the only one of the three new commissions that has been both reauthorized and received progressively increasing annual appropriations since it was established in 2008. The NBRC was founded to alleviate economic distress in the northern border areas of Maine, New Hampshire, New York, and, as of 2018, the entire state of Vermont (**Figure 4**).

Figure 4. Map of the Northern Border Regional Commission



Source: Compiled by CRS using data from the NBRC and Esri Data and Maps 2019.

Notes: Vermont is the only state with all counties within the NBRC's jurisdiction.

The stated mission of the NBRC is "to catalyze regional, collaborative, and transformative community economic development approaches that alleviate economic distress and position the region for economic growth."[68] Eligible counties within the NBRC's jurisdiction may receive funding "for community and economic development" projects pursuant to regional, state, and local planning and priorities (**Table D-4**).

Overview of Structure and Activities

The NBRC is led by a federal co-chair, appointed by the President with the advice and consent of the Senate, and four state governors, of which one is appointed state co-chair. There is no term

[67] P.L. 110-234.

[68] Northern Border Regional Commission, *About the NBRC*, http://www.nbrc.gov/content/about.

limit for the federal co-chair. The state co-chair is limited to two consecutive terms, but may not serve a term of less than one year. Each of the four governors may appoint an alternate; each state also designates an NBRC program manager to handle the day-to-day operations of coordinating, reviewing, and recommending economic development projects to the full membership.[69]

While program funding depends on congressional appropriations, administrative costs are shared equally between the federal government and the four states of the NBRC. Through commission votes, applications are ranked by priority, and are approved in that order as grant funds allow.

Program Areas

All projects are required to address at least one of the NBRC's four authorized program areas and its five-year strategic plan. The NBRC's four program areas are:

- state economic and infrastructure development (SEID);
- the regional forest economy partnership;
- local development districts; and
- comprehensive planning for states.[70]

State Economic and Infrastructure Development (SEID)

The NBRC's SEID investment program is the chief mechanism for investing in economic development programs in the participating states. The SEID program prioritizes projects focusing on infrastructure, telecommunications, energy costs, business development, entrepreneurship, workforce development, leadership, and regional strategic planning.[71] The SEID program provides approximately $4.6 million to each state for such activities.[72] Eligible applicants include public bodies, 501(c) organizations, Native American tribes, and the four state governments. SEID projects may require matching funds of up to 50% depending on the level of distress.

Regional Forest Economy Partnership (RFEP)

The RFEP is an NBRC program to address economic distress caused by the decline of the regional forest products industry.[73] The program provides funding to rural communities for "economic diversity, independence, and innovation." The NBRC received $3 million in FY2018 and $4 million FY2019 to address the decline in the forest-based economies in the NBRC region.[74] In FY2020, FY2021, and FY2022, $4 million was made available for the program each year.[75]

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69 Northern Border Regional Commission, *About the NBRC*, http://www.nbrc.gov/content/about.

70 Northern Border Regional Commission, *Program Areas*, https://www.nbrc.gov/content/program-areas.

71 Northern Border Regional Commission, *State Economic & Infrastructure Development Investment Program*, http://www.nbrc.gov/content/economic-infrastructure-development-investments.

72 Northern Border Regional Commission, *FY2021 Annual Report*, https://www.nbrc.gov/userfiles/files/Annual%20Reports/NBRC-2021-Annual-Report_Final-web.pdf.

73 Northern Border Regional Commission, *Regional Forest Economy Partnership*, http://www.nbrc.gov/content/Regional-Forest-Economy-Partnership.

74 Northern Border Regional Commission, *Regional Forest Economy Partnership: Notice of Funding Opportunity*, http://www.nbrc.gov/uploads/RegionalForestEconomyParternship(5).pdf.

75 Northern Border Regional Commission, *Northern Border Regional Commission Announces 2020 Regional Forest Economy Partnership Grant Round*, July 1, 2020, https://www.nbrc.gov/articles/94, and *2021 Regional Forest*

Local Development Districts (LDD)

The NBRC uses 20 multicounty LDDs to advise on local priorities, identify opportunities, conduct outreach, and administer grants, from which the LDDs receive fees. LDDs receive fees according to a graduated schedule tied to total project funds. The rate is 5% for the first $100,000 awarded and 1% in excess of $100,000.[76] Notably, this formula does not apply to Vermont-only projects. Vermont is the only state where grantees are not required to contract with an LDD for the administration of grants, though this requirement may be waived.[77]

Comprehensive Planning

The NBRC may also assist states in developing comprehensive economic and infrastructure development plans for their NBRC counties. These initiatives are undertaken in collaboration with LDDs, localities, institutions of higher education, and other relevant stakeholders.[78]

Strategic Plan

The NBRC's activities are guided by a five-year strategic plan,[79] which is developed through "extensive engagement with NBRC stakeholders" alongside "local, state, and regional economic development strategies already in place." The 2017-2022 strategic plan lists three goals:

1. modernizing infrastructure;
2. creating and sustaining jobs; and
3. anticipating and capitalizing on shifting economic and demographic trends.[80]

The strategic plan also lists five-year performance goals, which are

- 5,000 jobs created or retained;
- 10,000 households and businesses with access to improved infrastructure;
- 1,000 businesses representing 5,000 employees benefit from NBRC investments;
- 7,500 workers provided with skills training;
- 250 communities and 1,000 leaders engaged in regional leadership, learning and/or innovation networks supported by the NBRC; and
- 3:1 NBRC investment leverage.[81]

Economy Partnership Overview, https://www.nbrc.gov/userfiles/files/2021_RFEP_Documents/2021%20RFEP%20Program%20Overview%20FINAL.pdf.

[76] Northern Border Regional Commission, *Local Development Districts*, http://www.nbrc.gov/content/local-development-districts.

[77] Northern Border Regional Commission, *Administration: General Grant Administration*, http://www.nbrc.gov/content/administration.

[78] Northern Border Regional Commission, *Comprehensive Planning Investments for States*, http://www.nbrc.gov/content/planning-for-states.

[79] Northern Border Regional Commission, *2017-2022 Strategic Plan*, Concord, NH, 2017, http://www.nbrc.gov/content/strategic-plan.

[80] Northern Border Regional Commission, *Northern Border Regional Commission: 2017-2022 Strategic Plan*, http://www.nbrc.gov/uploads/004%20RESOURCES/Five%20Yr%20Strat%20Plan/NBRC%20Strategic%20Plan%2C%20Full%20Study.pdf.

[81] Northern Border Regional Commission, *2017-2021 Strategic Plan*, Concord, NH, 2017, p. 6.

The strategic plan also takes stock of various socioeconomic trends in the northern border region, including (1) population shifts; (2) distressed communities; and (3) changing workforce needs.

Economic and Demographic Distress

The NBRC is unique in that it is statutorily obligated to assess distress according to economic as well as demographic factors (**Table D-4**). These designations are made and refined annually. The NBRC defines levels of "distress" for counties that "have high rates of poverty, unemployment, or outmigration" and "are the most severely and persistently economic distressed and underdeveloped."[82] The NBRC is required to allocate 50% of its total appropriations to projects in distressed counties.[83]

The NBRC's county designations are as follows, in descending levels of distress:

- *Distressed* counties (80% maximum funding allowance);
- *Transitional* counties (50%); and
- *Attainment* (0%).

Transitional counties are defined as counties that do not exhibit the same levels of economic and demographic distress as a distressed county, but suffer from "high rates of poverty, unemployment, or outmigration." Attainment counties are not allowed to be funded by the NBRC except for those projects that are located within an "isolated area of distress," or have been granted a waiver.[84]

Distress is calculated in tiers of primary and secondary distress categories and constituent factors:

- Primary Distress Categories
    1. Percent of population below the poverty level
    2. Unemployment rate
    3. Percent change in population
- Secondary Distress Categories
    1. Percent of population below the poverty level
    2. Median household income
    3. Percent of secondary and/or seasonal homes

Each county is assessed by the primary and secondary distress categories and factors and compared to the figures for the United States as a whole. Designations of county distress are made by tallying those factors against the following criteria:

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[82] P.L. 110-234.

[83] Northern Border Regional Commission, NBRC Annual Economic & Demographic Research for Fiscal Year 2021: To Determine Categories of Distress within the NBRC Service Area, Concord, NH, March 2021, https://www.nbrc.gov/userfiles/files/Resource%20Guides/NBRC%20Annual%20Economic%20%26%20Demographic%20Research%20for%20Fiscal%20Year%202021_FINAL.pdf.

[84] Northern Border Regional Commission, NBRC Annual Economic & Demographic Research for Fiscal Year 2021: To Determine Categories of Distress within the NBRC Service Area, Concord, NH, March 2021, https://www.nbrc.gov/userfiles/files/Resource%20Guides/NBRC%20Annual%20Economic%20%26%20Demographic%20Research%20for%20Fiscal%20Year%202021_FINAL.pdf.

- Distressed counties are those with at least three factors from both primary and secondary distress categories and at least one from each category;
- Transitional counties are those with at least one factor from either category; and
- Attainment counties are those which show no measures of distress.

Legislative History

110th Congress

- The NBRC was first proposed in the Northern Border Economic Development Commission Act of 2007 (H.R. 1548), introduced on March 15, 2007. H.R. 1548 proposed the creation of a federally chartered, multi-state economic development organization—modeled after the ARC—covering designated northern border counties in Maine, New Hampshire, New York, and Vermont. The bill would have authorized the appropriation of $40 million per year for FY2008 through FY2012 (H.R. 1548). The bill received regional co-sponsorship from Members of Congress representing areas in the northern border region.[85]
- The NBRC was reintroduced in the Regional Economic and Infrastructure Development Act of 2007 (H.R. 3246), which would have authorized the NBRC, the SCRC, and the SBRC, and reauthorized the DRA and the NGPRA (discussed in the next section) in a combined bill.[86] H.R. 3246 won a broader range of support, which included 18 co-sponsors in addition to the original bill sponsor, and passed the House by a vote of 264-154 on October 4, 2007.
- Upon House passage, H.R. 3246 was referred to the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works. The Senate incorporated authorizations for the establishment of the NBRC, SCRC, and the SBRC in the 2008 farm bill.[87] The 2008 farm bill authorized annual appropriations of $30 million for FY2008 through FY2012 for all three new commissions.

115th Congress

- The only major changes to the NBRC since its creation were made in the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (P.L. 115-334, "2018 farm bill"), which authorized the state capacity building grant program.
- In addition, the 2018 farm bill expanded the NBRC to include the following counties: Belknap and Cheshire counties in New Hampshire; Genesee, Greene, Livingston, Montgomery, Niagara, Oneida, Orleans, Rensselaer, Saratoga, Schenectady, Sullivan, Washington, Warren, Wayne, and Yates counties in New York; and Addison, Bennington, Chittenden, Orange, Rutland, Washington, Windham, and Windsor counties in Vermont, making it the only state entirely within the NBRC.

[85] The bill was introduced by Rep. Hodes, Paul [D-NH-2] and co-sponsored by: Rep. Arcuri, Michael A. [D-NY-24]; Rep. Allen, Thomas H. [D-ME-1]; Rep. McHugh, John M. [R-NY-23]; Rep. Michaud, Michael H. [D-ME-2]; Rep. Shea-Porter, Carol [D-NH-1]; and Rep. Welch, Peter [D-VT-At Large].

[86] The Regional Economic and Infrastructure Development Act of 2007, H.R. 3246.

[87] Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008, P.L. 110-234.

Funding History

Since its creation, the NBRC has received consistent authorizations of appropriations (**Table 5**). The 2008 farm bill authorized the appropriation of $30 million for the NBRC for each of FY2008 through FY2013 (P.L. 110-234); the same in the 2014 farm bill for each of FY2014 through FY2018 (P.L. 113-79); and $33 million for each of FY2019 through FY2023 (P.L. 115-334).

Due to its statutory linkages to the SCRC and SBRC, all three commissions also share common authorizing legislation and identical funding authorizations. Congress has funded the NBRC since FY2010 (**Table 5**). The NBRC's appropriated funding level increased over twentyfold from FY2013 ($1.5 million) through FY2022 ($35 million). In FY2022, the NBRC, like the other commissions, received five times the amount of their FY2021 annual appropriations in the Infrastructure Improvement and Jobs Act (Division J of P.L. 117-58).

Table 5. NBRC Authorized and Appropriated Funding, FY2010-FY2022

$ in millions

	FY10	FY11	FY12	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22[a]
Appropriated Funding	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	5.0	5.0	7.5	10.0	15.0	20.0	25.0	30.0	185.00
Authorized Funding	30.0	30.0	30.0	30.0	30.0	30.0	30.0	30.0	30.0	33.0	33.0	33.0	33.0

Sources: Appropriated funding amounts compiled by CRS using data from the following: P.L. 111-85; P.L. 112-10; P.L. 112-74; P.L. 113-6; P.L. 113-76; P.L. 113-235; P.L. 114-113; P.L. 115-31; P.L. 115-141; P.L. 115-244; P.L. 116-94; P.L. 116-260; P.L. 117-58; and P.L. 117-103.

Note: For an expanded historical and comparative view of appropriations, see **Table C-1**.

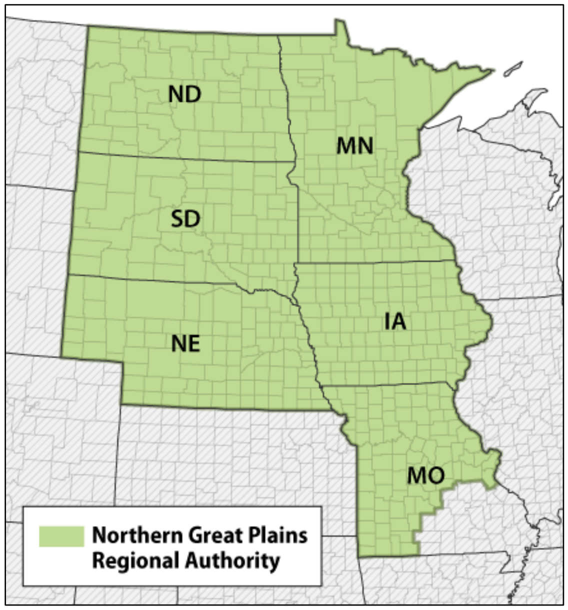
a. FY2022 amounts include $35 million provided through annual appropriations (P.L. 117-103). FY2022 appropriated funding amounts also include $150 million from Division J, Title III of the Infrastructure, Investment, and Jobs Act (IIJA, P.L. 117-58).

Northern Great Plains Regional Authority

The Northern Great Plains Regional Authority was created by the 2002 farm bill.[88] The NGPRA was created to address economic distress in Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri (other than counties included in the Delta Regional Authority), North Dakota, Nebraska, and South Dakota.

[88] P.L. 107-171.

Figure 5. Map of the Northern Great Plains Regional Authority



Source: Compiled by CRS using the NGPRA jurisdiction defined in P.L. 107-171 and Esri Data and Maps 2018.

Notes: Missouri's jurisdiction was defined as those counties not already included in the DRA.

The NGPRA appears to have been briefly active shortly after it was created, when it received its only annual appropriation from Congress. The NGPRA's funding authorization lapsed at the end of FY2018; it was not reauthorized.

Structure and Activities

Authority Structure

The NGPRA featured broad similarities to the basic structure shared among most of the federal regional authorities and commissions, being a federal-state partnership led by a federal co-chair (appointed by the President, with the advice and consent of the Senate) and governors of the participating states, of which one was designated as the state co-chair.

Unique to the NGPRA were certain structural novelties reflective of regional socio-political features. The NGPRA also included a Native American tribal co-chair, who was the chairperson of an Indian tribe in the region (or their designated representative), and appointed by the President, with the advice and consent of the Senate. The tribal co-chair served as the "liaison between the governments of Indian tribes in the region and the [NGPRA]." No term limit is established in statute; the only term-related proscription is that the state co-chair "shall be elected by the state members for a term of not less than 1 year."

Another novel feature among the federal regional commissions and authorities was also the NGPRA's statutory reliance on a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation—Northern Great Plains, Inc.—in furtherance of its mission. While Northern Great Plains, Inc. was statutorily organized to complement the NGPRA's activities, it effectively served as the sole manifestation of the NGPRA concept and rationale while it was active, given that the NGPRA was only once appropriated funds and never appeared to exist as an active organization. The Northern Great

Plains, Inc. was active for several years, and reportedly received external funding,[89] but is currently defunct.

Activities and Administration

Under its authorizing statute,[90] the federal government would initially fund all administrative costs in FY2002, which would decrease to 75% in FY2003, and 50% in FY2004. Also, the NGPRA would have designated levels of county economic distress; 75% of funds were reserved for the most distressed counties in each state, and 50% reserved for transportation, telecommunications, and basic infrastructure improvements. Accordingly, non-distressed communities were eligible to receive no more than 25% of appropriated funds.

The NGPRA was also structured to include a network of designated, multi-county LDDs at the sub-state levels. As with its sister organizations, the LDDs would have served as nodes for project implementation and reporting, and as advisors to their respective states and the NGPRA as a whole.

Legislative History

103rd Congress

- The Northern Great Plains Rural Development Act (P.L. 103-318), which became law in 1994, established the Northern Great Plains Rural Development Commission to study economic conditions and provide economic development planning for the Northern Great Plains region. The commission was comprised of the governors (or designated representative) from the Northern Great Plains states of Iowa, Minnesota, North Dakota, Nebraska, and South Dakota (prior to Missouri's inclusion), along with one member from each of those states appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture.

104th Congress

- The Agricultural, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1995 (P.L. 103-330) provided $1,000,000 to carry out the Northern Great Plains Rural Development Act. The commission produced a 10-year plan to address economic development and distress in the five states. After a legislative extension (P.L. 104-327), the report was submitted in 1997.[91] The Northern Great Plains Initiative for Rural Development (NGPIRD), a nonprofit 501(c)(3), was established to implement the commission's advisories.

107th Congress

- The Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002, or 2002 farm bill (P.L. 107-171), authorized the NGPRA, which superseded the commission. The statute

[89] W.K. Kellogg Foundation, *Grants: Northern Great Plains, Inc.*, https://www.wkkf.org/grants/grant/2007/09/the-meadowlark-project-a-leadership-laboratory-on-the-future-of-the-northern-great-plains-3004879.

[90] P.L. 107-171.

[91] Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis, "Great Plains Commission Completes Work, Looks to Region's Future," Minneapolis, MN, April 1, 1997, https://www.minneapolisfed.org/publications/fedgazette/great-plains-commission-completes-work-looks-to-regions-future.

also created Northern Great Plains, Inc., a 501(c)(3), as a resource for regional issues and international trade, which supplanted the NGPIRD with a broader remit that included research, education, training, and issues of international trade.

110th Congress

- The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008, or 2008 farm bill (P.L. 110-246), extended the NGPRA's authorization through FY2012. The legislation also expanded the authority to include areas of Missouri not covered by the DRA, and provided mechanisms to enable the NGPRA to begin operations even without the Senate confirmation of a federal co-chair, as well as in the absence of a confirmed tribal co-chair.
- The Agricultural Act of 2014, or 2014 farm bill (P.L. 113-79), reauthorized the NGPRA and the DRA, and extended their authorizations from FY2012 to FY2018.

Funding History

The NGPRA was authorized to receive $30 million annually from FY2002 to FY2018. It received appropriations once for $1.5 million in FY2004.[92] Its authorization of appropriations lapsed at the end of FY2018.

Southeast Crescent Regional Commission

The Southeast Crescent Regional Commission (SCRC) was created by the 2008 farm bill,[93] which also created the NBRC and the Southwest Border Regional Commission. All three commissions share common authorizing language modeled after the ARC.

The SCRC received regular appropriations of $250,000 annually from FY2010 through FY2020 but did not form during that time due to the absence of an appointed federal co-chair.[94] On December 8, 2021, the U.S. Senate confirmed the SCRC's first federal co-chairperson, thereby allowing the SCRC to convene and begin other activities.[95]

The SCRC was created to address economic distress in areas of Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, and Florida (**Figure 6**) not served by the ARC or the DRA (**Table D-6**).

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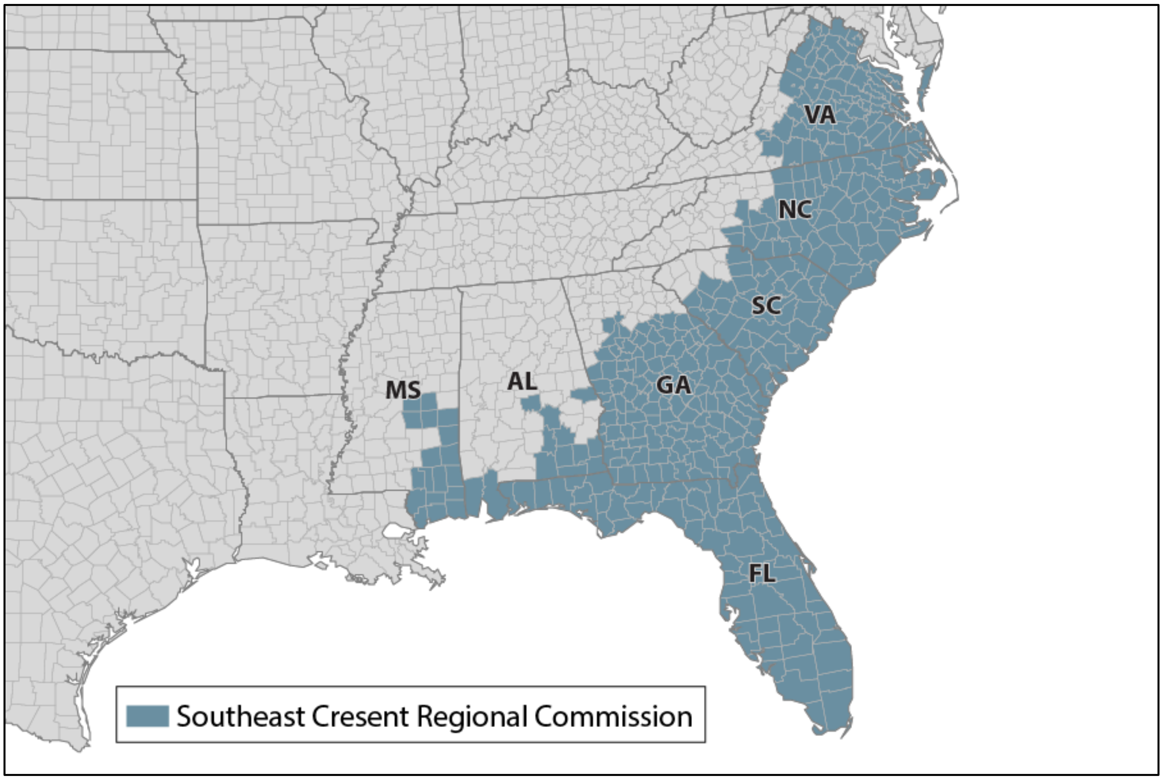
92 P.L. 108-199.

93 P.L. 110-234.

94 For more information, see CRS In Focus IF11744, *Forming a Funded Federal Regional Commission*, by Julie M. Lawhorn.

95 U.S. Congress, Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, *Hearing on the Nominations of Christopher Frey to be Assistant Administrator for Research and Development, at the Environmental Protection Agency and Jennifer Clyburn Reed to be Federal Co-Chair of the Southeast Crescent Regional Commission*, 117th Cong., 1st sess., October 27, 2021, https://www.epw.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/hearings?ID=A654BF51-1207-411A-BD0E-914CCFBDB60B, and Congress.gov, "Nomination: Jennifer Clyburn Reed—Southeast Crescent Regional Commission," PN957, https://www.congress.gov/nomination/117th-congress/957.

Figure 6. Map of the Southeast Crescent Regional Commission



Source: Compiled by CRS using the jurisdiction defined in P.L. 110-234 and Esri Data and Maps 2019.

Notes: The SCRC is statutorily defined as including those counties in the named states that are not already included in the ARC or the DRA. Florida is the only state with all counties defined as being within the SCRC. The Infrastructure, Investment, and Jobs Act (IIJA, P.L. 117-58; enacted November 15, 2021) added three counties that were previously in the SCRC region to the ARC region.

Overview of Structure and Activities

As authorized, the SCRC would share an organizing structure with the NBRC and the Southwest Border Regional Commission, as all three share common statutory authorizing language modeled after the ARC.

As authorized, the SCRC would consist of a federal co-chair, appointed by the President with the advice and consent of the Senate, along with the participating state governors (or their designated representatives), of which one would be named by the state representatives as state co-chair. There is no term limit for the federal co-chair. However, the state co-chair is limited to two consecutive terms, but may not serve a term of less than one year. In December 2021, the U.S. Senate confirmed the first federal co-chair for the SCRC, but it has yet to convene its members or engage in economic development activities in its service area.

Legislative History

The SCRC concept was first introduced by university researchers working on rural development issues in 1990 at Tuskegee University's Annual Professional Agricultural Worker's Conference for 1862 and 1890 Land-Grant Universities.

In 1994, the Southern Rural Development Commission Act was introduced in the House Agricultural Committee, which would provide the statutory basis for a "Southern Black Belt Commission."[96] While the concept was not reintroduced in Congress until the 2000s, various nongovernmental initiatives sustained discussion and interest in the concept in the intervening period. Supportive legislation was reintroduced in 2002, which touched off other accompanying legislative efforts until the SCRC was authorized in 2008.[97]

Funding History

Congress authorized $30 million funding levels for each year from FY2008 to FY2018 and $33 million for each year from FY2019 through FY2023,[98] and appropriated $250,000 in each fiscal year from FY2010 to FY2020. However, for FY2021, Congress provided an annual appropriation of $1 million, which was followed by $5 million in FY2022. Congress also provided $5 million in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (P.L. 117-58, Division J, Title III) in FY2022[99] (**Table 5**). Prior to the confirmation of the federal co-chair in FY2022, the SCRC was unable to form, despite receiving annual appropriations.[100]

Table 6. SCRC Authorized and Appropriated Funding, FY2010-FY2022

$ in millions

	FY10	FY11	FY12	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22[a]
Appropriated Funding	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	1.00	10.00
Authorized Funding	30.00	30.00	30.00	30.00	30.00	30.00	30.00	30.00	30.00	33.00	33.00	33.00	33.00

Sources: Appropriated funding amounts compiled by CRS using data from the following: P.L. 111-85; P.L. 112-10; P.L. 112-74; P.L. 113-6; P.L. 113-76; P.L. 113-235; P.L. 114-113; P.L. 115-31; P.L. 115-141; P.L. 115-244; P.L. 116-94; P.L. 116-260; P.L. 117-58; and P.L. 117-103.

Note: For an expanded historical and comparative view of appropriations, see **Table C-1**.

a. FY2022 appropriated funding amounts include $5 million provided through annual appropriations (P.L. 117-103). FY2022 appropriated funding amounts also include $5 million provided in Division J, Title III of the Infrastructure, Investment, and Jobs Act (IIJA, P.L. 117-58).

Southwest Border Regional Commission

The Southwest Border Regional Commission (SBRC) was created with the enactment of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008, or the 2008 farm bill (P.L. 110-234), which also

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96 H.R. 3901.

97 40 U.S.C. §15731.

98 40 U.S.C. §15751.

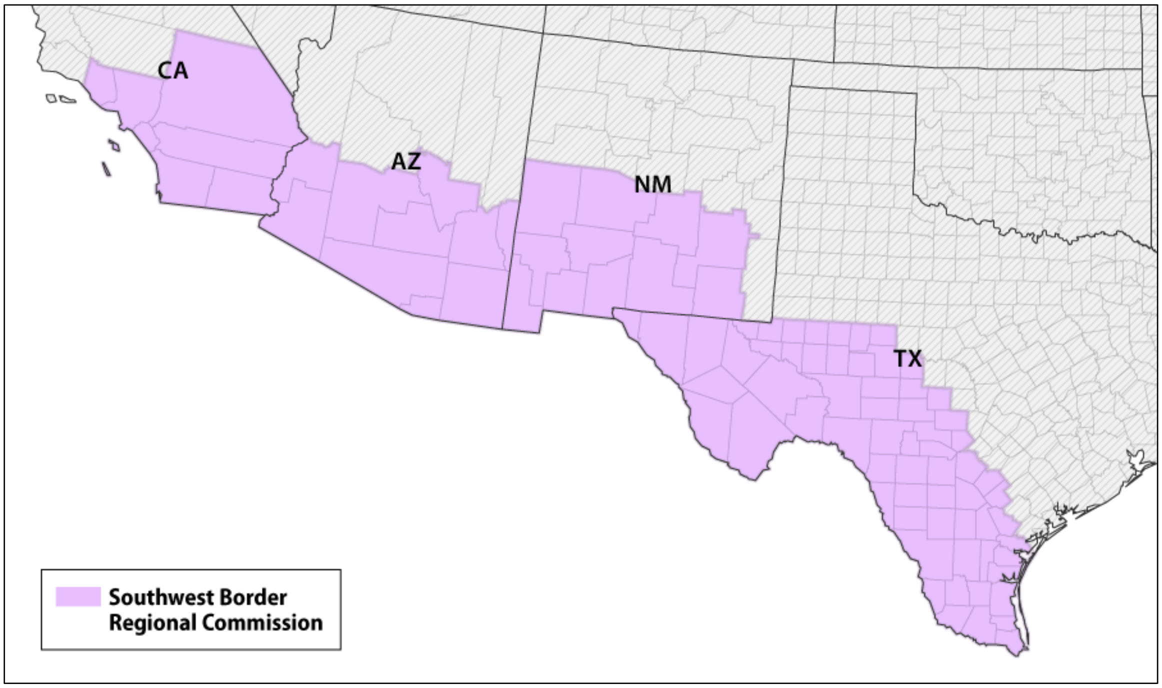
99 P.L. 116-260 and P.L. 117-58.

100 According to statute, a federal co-chair is required for the formation of a commission quorum and making decisions. 40 U.S.C. §15302. Despite receiving regular appropriations since it was authorized in 2008, a review of government budgetary and fiscal sources yields no record of the SCRC receiving, obligating, or spending funds appropriated by Congress. In successive presidential administration budget requests (FY2013, FY2015-FY2017), no funding was requested. In addition, in a review of the relevant SF 133 Reports on Budget Execution and Budgetary Resources, the SCRC is not listed by the Office of Management and Budget in its list of reported agencies, and subsequently offers no relevant funding reports on the SCRC. The SF 133 Report on Budget Execution and Budgetary Resources fulfills the requirement in 31 U.S.C. §§1511-1514 that the President review federal expenditures at least four times a year.

created the NBRC and the SCRC. All three commissions share common statutory authorizing language modeled after the ARC.

The SBRC was created to address economic distress in the southern border regions of Arizona, California, New Mexico, and Texas (**Figure 7**; **Table D-7**). The SBRC does not have a federal co-chair and is not currently active.

Figure 7. Map of the Southwest Border Regional Commission



Source: Compiled by CRS using the jurisdictional data defined in P.L. 110-234 and Esri Data and Maps 2018.

Overview of Structure and Activities

As authorized, the SBRC would share an organizing structure with the NBRC and the SCRC, as all three commissions share common statutory authorizing language modeled after the ARC.

By statute, the SBRC consists of a federal co-chair, appointed by the President with the advice and consent of the Senate, along with the participating state governors (or their designated representatives), of which one would be named by the state representatives as state co-chair. As enacted in statute, there is no term limit for the federal co-chair. However, the state co-chair is limited to two consecutive terms, but may not serve a term of less than one year. However, as no federal co-chair has been appointed since the SCRC was authorized, it is not operational.

Legislative History

The concept of an economic development agency focusing on the southwest border region has existed at least since 1976, though the SBRC was established through more recent efforts.

- Executive Order 13122 in 1999 created the Interagency Task Force on the Economic Development of the Southwest Border,[101] which examined issues of socioeconomic distress and economic development in the southwest border regions and advised on federal efforts to address them.

108th Congress

- In February 2003, a "Southwest Regional Border Authority" was proposed in S. 458. A companion bill, H.R. 1071, was introduced in March 2003. The SBRC was reintroduced in the Regional Economic and Infrastructure Development Act of 2003 (H.R. 3196), which would have authorized the SBRC, the DRA, the NGPRA, and the SCRC.

109th Congress

- In 2006, the proposed Southwest Regional Border Authority Act would have created the "Southwest Regional Border Authority" (H.R. 5742), similar to S. 458 in 2003.

110th Congress

- In 2007, SBRC was reintroduced in the Regional Economic and Infrastructure Development Act of 2007 (H.R. 3246), which would have authorized the SBRC, the SCRC, and the NBRC, and reauthorized the DRA and the NGPRA in a combined bill.
- Upon House passage, the Senate incorporated authorizations for the establishment of the NBRC, SCRC, and SBRC in the 2008 farm bill. The 2008 farm bill authorized annual appropriations of $30 million for FY2008 through FY2012 for all three of the new organizations.

Funding History

Congress authorized annual funding of $30 million for the SBRC from FY2008 to FY2018 and $33 million for each fiscal year from FY2019 through FY2023.[102] For FY2021, Congress provided $250,000 for the SBRC through the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (P.L. 116-260). For FY2022, Congress provided $1.25 million for the SBRC through the IIJA (Division J of P.L. 117-58) and $2.5 million through the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2022 (P.L. 117-103). The IIJA provided the SBRC with an increase in appropriations that was five times the amount of its annual appropriation in FY2021.

The SBRC is not active. Upon the appointment of a federal co-chair, the SBRC could convene and begin the process of activation.[103]

[101] Executive Order 13122, "Interagency Task Force on the Economic Development of the Southern Border," 64 *Federal Register* 29201-29202, May 25, 1999.

[102] 40 U.S.C. §15751.

[103] For more information, see CRS In Focus IF11744, *Forming a Funded Federal Regional Commission*, by Julie M. Lawhorn.

Table 7. SBRC Authorized and Appropriated Funding, FY2010-FY2022

$ in millions

	FY10	FY11	FY12	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22[a]
Appropriated Funding	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.25	3.75
Authorized Funding	30.00	30.00	30.00	30.00	30.00	30.00	30.00	30.00	30.00	33.00	33.00	33.00	33.0

Source: Appropriated funding amounts compiled by CRS using data from P.L. 116-260; P.L. 117-58; and P.L. 117-103.

Note: For an expanded historical and comparative view of appropriations, see **Table C-1**.

a. FY2022 amounts include $2.5 million provided through annual appropriations (P.L. 117-103). FY2022 appropriated funding amounts also include $1.25 million provided by Division J, Title III of the Infrastructure, Investment, and Jobs Act (IIJA, P.L. 117-58).

Concluding Notes

Given their geographic reach, broad activities, and integrated intergovernmental structures, the federal regional commissions and authorities are a significant element of federal economic development efforts. At the same time, as organizations that are largely governed by the respective state-based commissioners, the federal regional commissions and authorities are not typical federal agencies but federally chartered entities that integrate federal funding and direction with state and local economic development priorities.

This structure provides Congress with a flexible platform to support economic development efforts. The intergovernmental structure allows for strategic-level economic development initiatives to be launched at the federal level and implemented across multi-state jurisdictions with extensive state and local input, and more adaptable to regional needs.

The federal regional commissions and authorities reflect an emphasis by the federal government on place-based economic development strategies sensitive to regional and local contexts. However, the geographic specificity and varying functionality of the statutorily authorized federal regional commissions and authorities, both active and inactive, potentially raise questions about the efficacy and equity of federal economic development policies.

Appendix A. Basic Information at a Glance

Table A-1. Federal Regional Commissions and Authorities

$ in millions

	Year Authorized	Number of States	Counties	FY2022 Appropriations (P.L. 117-103)	FY2022 IIJA Appropriations (P.L. 117-58)[a]
ARC	1965	13	423 counties in Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, Mississippi, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and the entire state of West Virginia	$195.00	$1,000.00
DRA	2000	8	252 counties in Alabama, Arkansas, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, and Tennessee	$30.10	$150.00
Denali Commission	1998	1	Entire state of Alaska	$15.10	$75.00
NBRC	2008	4	60 counties in Maine, New Hampshire, New York, and Vermont	$35.00	$150.00
NGPRC	2002	6	86 counties in Missouri and the entire states of Iowa, Minnesota, North Dakota, Nebraska, and South Dakota	N/A	N/A
SCRC	2008	7	Counties in Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia not already served by the ARC or DRA, and the entire state of Florida	$5.00	$5.00
SBRC	2008	4	93 counties in Arizona, California, New Mexico, and Texas	$2.50	$1.25

Sources: Data compiled by CRS from relevant legislation and official sources of various federal regional commissions and authorities. Authorizing statutes include, in order of tabulation: P.L. 89-4; P.L. 106-554; P.L. 105-277; P.L. 110-234; P.L. 107-171; P.L. 110-234; and P.L. 110-234.

Notes: The commissions and authorities in **bold** are considered to be active and functioning.

a. Funding in the IIJA has varying periods of availability. Appropriations for ARC are available through FY2026, with $200 million to be allocated each fiscal year starting in FY2022 through FY2026. Appropriations for the DRA, Denali Commission, NBRC, SCRC, and SBRC are available until expended. Amounts do not include appropriations in Division A of P.L. 117-58 pertaining to the Appalachian Development Highway System and Denali Access System Program.

Figure A-1. Structure and Activities of the Commissions and Authorities

		ARC	DRA	NBRC	NGPRA	Denali	SCRC	SBRC
STRUCTURE	Currently Functioning	◆	◆	◆		◆		
	Local Development Districts	◆	◆	◆			◆	◆
	Multi-State	◆	◆	◆	◆		◆	◆
	Tiers of Designated Distress	◆	◆	◆		◆	◆	◆
	Non-Traditional Representation				◆	◆		
	Allows for Alternates	◆	◆	◆	◆		◆	◆
ACTIVITIES	Basic Infrastructure	◆	◆	◆		◆		
	Workforce Development	◆	◆	◆				
	Energy and Renewables	◆	◆	◆		◆		
	Business Development	◆	◆	◆				
	Transportation	◆	◆	◆		◆		
	Broadband	◆	◆	◆				

Sources: Compiled by CRS with information from the federal regional commissions and authorities.

Notes: For the commissions and authority that are not considered to be functioning, structural characteristics are tabulated according to their statutory design. As noted, the first federal co-chair of the SCRC was confirmed in December 2021. The SCRC has yet to convene and begin operations as of the date of publication.

Contact Information

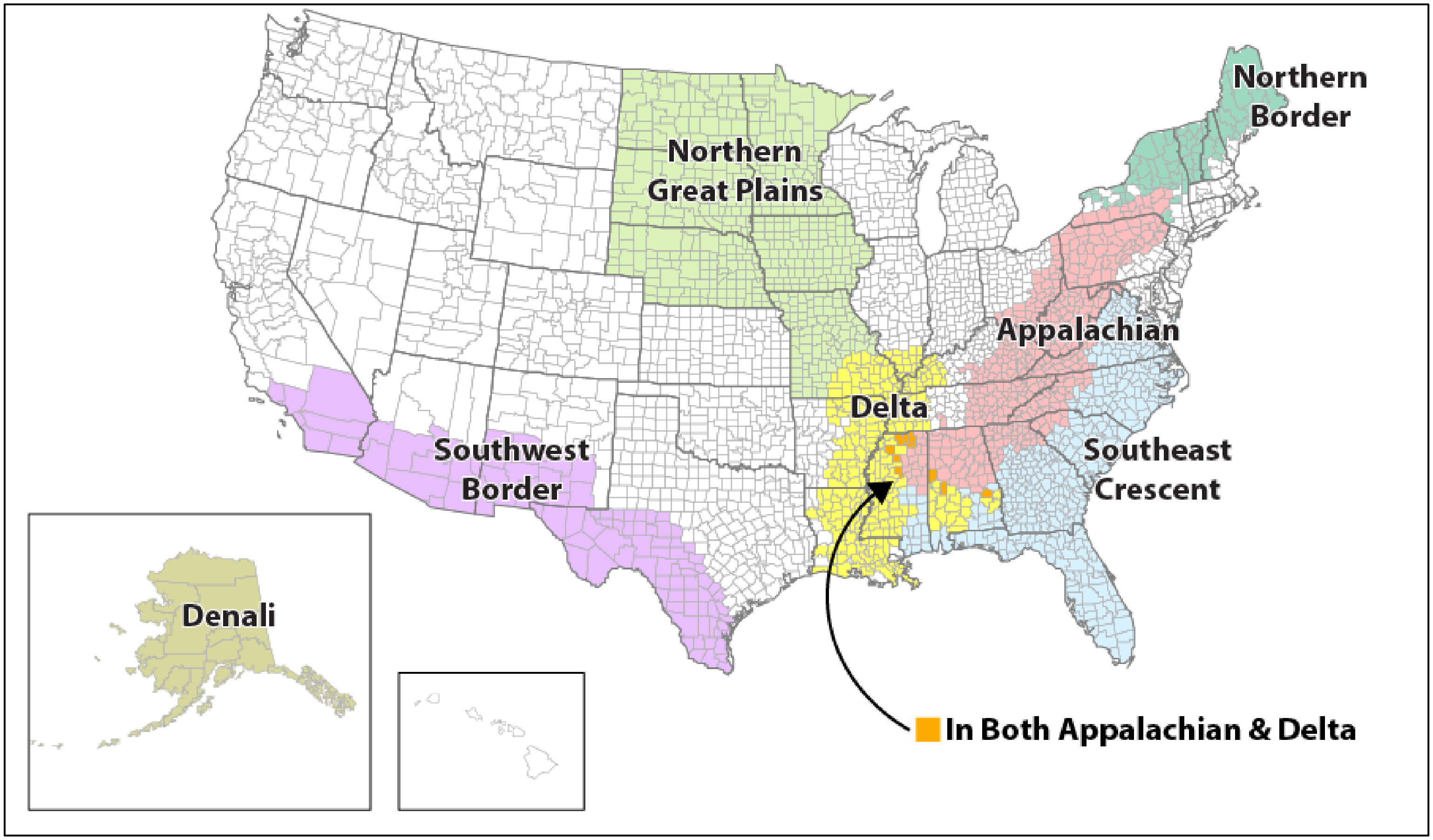
(for active commissions and authorities)

Contact	Address/Phone/Website
Appalachian Regional Commission	1666 Connecticut Avenue, NW Suite 700 Washington, DC 20009-1068 Phone: (202) 884-7700 Website: http://www.arc.gov
Delta Regional Authority	236 Sharkey Avenue Suite 400 Clarksdale, MS 38614 Phone: (662) 624-8600 Website: http://www.dra.gov
Denali Commission	510 L Street Suite 410 Anchorage, AK 99501 Phone: (907) 271-1414 Website: http://www.denali.gov
Northern Border Regional Commission	James Cleveland Federal Building, Suite 1201 53 Pleasant Street Concord, NH 03301 Phone: (603) 369-3001 Website: http://www.NBRC.gov

Appendix B. Map of Federal Regional Commissions and Authorities

Figure B-1. National Map of the Federal Regional Commissions and Authorities

by county



Source: Compiled by CRS using data from the various commissions and authorities and Esri Data and Maps 2019.

Appendix C. Historical Appropriations

Table C-1. Historical Appropriations: Federal Regional Commissions (FY1986-FY2022)

in millions of dollars

Fiscal Year	Legislation	ARC	Denali	DRA	NGPRA	NBRC	SBRC	SCRC
1986	P.L. 99-141	130.00	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
1987	P.L. 99-591	105.00	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
1988	P.L. 100-202	107.00	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
1989	P.L. 100-371	110.70	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
1990	P.L. 101-101	150.00	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
1991	P.L. 101-514	170.00	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
1992	P.L. 102-104	190.00	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
1993	P.L. 102-377	190.00	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
1994	P.L. 103-126	249.00	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
1995	P.L. 103-316	282.00	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
1996	P.L. 104-46	170.00	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
1997	P.L. 104-206	160.00	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
1998	P.L. 105-62	170.00	(Authorized)[a]	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
1999	P.L. 105-245	66.40	20.00	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2000	P.L. 106-60	66.40	20.00	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2001	P.L. 106-377	66.40	30.00	20.00[b]	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2002	P.L. 107-66	71.29	38.00	10.00	(Authorized)[c]	N/A	N/A	N/A
2003	P.L. 108-7	71.29	48.00	8.00	—	N/A	N/A	N/A
2004	P.L. 108-137 / P.L. 108-100[d]	66.00	55.00	5.00	1.50	N/A	N/A	N/A
2005	P.L. 108-447	66.00	67.00	6.05	1.50[e]	N/A	N/A	N/A

Fiscal Year	Legislation	ARC	Denali	DRA	NGPRA	NBRC	SBRC	SCRC
2006	P.L. 109-103	65.47	50.00	12.00	—	N/A	N/A	N/A
2007	P.L. 110-5[f]	65.47	50.00	12.00	—	N/A	N/A	N/A
2008	P.L. 110-161	73.03	21.80	11.69	—	(Authorized)[g]	(Authorized)[g]	(Authorized)[g]
2009	P.L. 111-8	75.00	11.80	13.00	—	—	—	—
2010	P.L. 111-85	76.00	11.97	13.00	—	1.50	—	0.25
2011	P.L. 112-10[h]	68.40	10.70	11.70	—	1.50	—	0.25
2012	P.L. 112-74	68.26	10.68	11.68	—	1.50	—	0.25
2013	P.L. 113-6[i]	68.26	10.68	11.68	—	1.50	—	0.25
2014	P.L. 113-76	80.32	10.00	12.00	—	5.00	—	0.25
2015	P.L. 113-235	90.00	10.00	12.00	—	5.00	—	0.25
2016	P.L. 114-113	146.00	11.00	25.00	—	7.50	—	0.25
2017	P.L. 115-31	152.00	15.00	25.00	—	10.00	—	0.25
2018	P.L. 115-141	155.00	30.00	25.00	—	15.00	—	0.25
2019	P.L. 115-244	165.00	15.00	25.00	—	20.00	—	0.25
2020	P.L. 116-94	175.00	15.00	30.00	—	25.00	—	0.25
2021	P.L. 116-260	180.00	15.00	30.00	—	30.00	0.25	1.00
2022	P.L. 117-103, P.L. 117-58[j, k]	395.00	90.10	180.10	—	185.00	3.75	10.00

Source: Tabulated by CRS from appropriations legislation.

Notes: A dash ("-") indicates that no appropriation was provided. Despite receiving appropriations between FY2010 and FY2020, no federal co-chair had been appointed to lead the SCRC, and it has yet to form.

a. P.L. 105-277.

b. The DRA was authorized in FY2001 (P.L. 106-554) and received its initial appropriations in that same fiscal year (P.L. 106-337).

c. P.L. 107-171.

d. For FY2004, the NGPRA received appropriations in separate legislation from the rest of the federal regional commissions.

e. The NGPRA was appropriated separately from the other federal regional commission, which can be found in Section 759 of the same legislation.

f. FY2007 appropriations were provided to the federal regional commissions under full-year continuing resolution legislation.

g. In FY2008, P.L. 110-234 established the NBRC, the SBRC, and the SCRC.
h. For FY2011, appropriations for the ARC, Denali, and the DRA were appropriated separately from the broader appropriations legislation under a continuing resolution. The NBRC, however, was subject to the continuing resolution.
i. FY2013 appropriations were provided to the federal regional commissions under continuing resolution legislation.
j. FY2022 appropriated funding amounts include funding provided in Division J, Title III of the Infrastructure, Investment, and Jobs Act (IIJA, P.L. 117-58). Amounts do not include appropriations in Division A of P.L. 117-58 pertaining to the Appalachian Development Highway System and Denali Access System Program.
k. Division J, Title III of the IIJA provided $1 billion in appropriations for the ARC, divided into $200 million tranches, one for each fiscal year FY2022-FY2026. Of the regional commissions funded in the IIJA, the ARC was the only one to receive such a structured appropriation: all other commissions received their appropriation solely in FY2022. All IIJA funds remain available until expended.

Appendix D. Service Areas of Federal Regional Commissions and Authorities

Appalachian Regional Commission

Table D-1. ARC Counties by Designated Distress, FY2022

	Attainment	Competitive	Transitional	At-Risk	Distressed
Alabama	Shelby	Madison	Blount, Calhoun, Chambers, Cherokee, Chilton, Clay, Cleburne, Colbert, Coosa, Cullman, Elmore, Etowah, Franklin, Jackson, Jefferson, Lauderdale, Lawrence, Limestone, Marshall, Morgan, St. Clair, Tallapoosa, Tuscaloosa, Walker, Winston	Bibb, DeKalb, Fayette, Hale, Lamar, Marion, Pickens, Randolph, Talladega	Macon
Georgia	Forsyth	Cherokee, Dawson	Banks, Barrow, Bartow, Carroll, Catoosa, Dade, Douglas, Fannin, Floyd, Gilmer, Gordon, Gwinnett, Habersham, Hall, Haralson, Hart, Heard, Jackson, Lumpkin, Madison, Paulding, Pickens, Rabun, Stephens, Union, Walker, White, Whitfield	Chattooga, Elbert, Franklin, Murray, Polk, Towns	
Kentucky			Clark, Garrard, Madison	Boyd, Cumberland, Edmonson, Fleming, Green, Greenup, Hart, Laurel, Lincoln, Monroe, Montgomery, Pulaski	Adair, Bath, Bell, Breathitt, Carter, Casey, Clay, Clinton, Elliott, Estill, Floyd, Harlan, Jackson, Johnson, Knott, Knox, Lawrence, Lee, Leslie, Letcher, Lewis,

	Attainment	Competitive	Transitional	At-Risk	Distressed
					Magoffin, Martin, McCreary, Menifee, Metcalfe, Morgan, Nicholas, Owsley, Perry, Pike, Powell, Robertson, Rockcastle, Rowan, Russell, Wayne, Whitley, Wolfe
Maryland			Allegany, Garrett, Washington		
Mississippi			Alcorn, Itawamba, Lee, Pontotoc, Union	Calhoun, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Lowndes, Marshall, Monroe, Prentiss, Tippah, Tishomingo, Webster, Yalobusha	Benton, Clay, Kemper, Montgomery, Noxubee, Oktibbeha, Panola, Winston
New York			Broome, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Chemung, Chenango, Cortland, Delaware, Otsego, Schoharie, Schuyler, Steuben, Tioga, Tompkins	Allegany	
North Carolina		Buncombe	Alexander, Ashe, Avery, Burke, Caldwell, Catawba,* Davie, Forsyth, Haywood, Henderson, Jackson, McDowell, Macon, Madison, Mitchell, Polk, Stokes, Surry, Swain, Transylvania, Watauga, Wilkes, Yadkin, Yancey	Alleghany, Cherokee, Clay, Cleveland,* Graham, Rutherford	
Ohio		Clermont, Holmes	Belmont, Brown, Carroll, Columbiana, Harrison, Hocking, Mahoning,	Ashtabula, Coshocton, Gallia, Guernsey, Highland, Jackson, Jefferson, Lawrence,	Adams, Athens, Meigs, Monroe, Noble

	Attainment	Competitive	Transitional	At-Risk	Distressed
			Muskingum, Ross, Tuscarawas, Washington	Morgan, Perry, Pike, Scioto, Trumbull, Vinton	
Pennsylvania		Allegheny, Butler, Montour, Washington	Armstrong, Beaver, Bedford, Blair, Bradford, Cambria, Cameron, Carbon, Centre, Clarion, Clearfield, Clinton, Columbia, Crawford, Elk, Erie, Fulton, Greene, Huntingdon, Indiana, Jefferson, Juniata, Lackawanna, Lawrence, Luzerne, Lycoming, McKean, Mercer, Mifflin, Monroe, Northumberland, Perry, Pike, Potter, Schuylkill, Snyder, Somerset, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Tioga, Union, Venango, Warren, Wayne, Westmoreland, Wyoming	Fayette	Forest
South Carolina		Greenville	Anderson, Oconee, Pickens, Spartanburg	Cherokee, Union*	
Tennessee			Anderson, Blount, Bradley, Cannon, Coffee, Cumberland, DeKalb, Franklin, Hamblen, Hamilton, Jefferson, Knox, Lawrence, Loudon, Macon, Marion, McMinn, Overton, Polk, Putnam, Roane, Sevier, Smith, Sullivan, Washington, White	Campbell, Carter, Claiborne, Grainger, Greene, Fentress, Hawkins, Jackson, Johnson, Lewis, Meigs, Monroe, Morgan, Pickett, Rhea, Sequatchie, Unicoi, Union, Van Buren, Warren	Bledsoe, Clay, Cocke, Grundy, Hancock, Scott

	Attainment	Competitive	Transitional	At-Risk	Distressed
Virginia	Bath, Botetourt		Alleghany (+ Covington city), Bland, Carroll (+ Galax city), Craig, Floyd, Giles, Henry (+ Martinsville city), Highland, Montgomery (+ Radford city), Patrick, Pulaski, Rockbridge (+ Buena Vista city + Lexington city), Scott, Smyth, Tazewell, Washington (+ Bristol city), Wythe	Grayson, Russell,	Buchanan, Dickenson, Lee, Wise (+ Norton city)
West Virginia		Jefferson	Berkeley, Brooke, Cabell, Doddridge, Grant, Greenbrier, Hampshire, Hancock, Hardy, Harrison, Jackson, Kanawha, Marion, Marshall, Mineral, Monongalia, Morgan, Ohio, Pendleton, Pleasants, Preston, Putnam, Raleigh, Taylor, Tucker, Wood	Lewis, Fayette, Mason, Mercer, Monroe, Pocahontas, Randolph, Ritchie, Tyler, Upshur, Wayne	Barbour, Boone, Braxton, Calhoun, Clay, Gilmer, Lincoln, Logan, McDowell, Mingo, Nicholas, Roane, Summers, Webster, Wetzel, Wirt, Wyoming

Source: Information compiled by CRS from ARC data.

Note: The Infrastructure, Investment, and Jobs Act (IIJA, P.L. 117-58; enacted November 15, 2021) added three counties that were previously in the SCRC region to the ARC region. The asterisk (*) indicates counties added to the ARC region by the IIJA.

Delta Regional Authority

Table D-2. DRA Counties by State and Distress, FY2021

	Distressed Counties	Non-Distressed Counties
Alabama	Barbour, Bullock, Butler, Choctaw, Clarke, Conecuh, Dallas, Escambia, Greene, Hale, Lowndes, Macon, Marengo, Monroe, Perry, Pickens, Russell, Sumter, Washington, Wilcox	
Arkansas	Ashley, Baxter, Bradley, Calhoun, Chicot, Clay, Cleveland, Craighead, Crittenden, Cross, Dallas, Desha, Drew, Fulton, Grant, Greene, Independence, Izard, Jackson, Jefferson, Lawrence, Lee, Lincoln, Lonoke, Marion, Mississippi, Monroe, Ouachita, Phillips, Poinsett, Prairie, Randolph, Searcy, Sharp, St. Francis, Stone, Union, Van Buren, White, Woodruff	Arkansas, Pulaski
Illinois	Alexander, Franklin, Gallatin, Hamilton, Hardin, Jackson, Johnson, Massac, Perry, Pope, Pulaski, Randolph, Saline, Union	White, Williamson
Kentucky	Ballard,Caldwell, Calloway, Carlisle, Christian, Crittenden, Fulton, Graves, Henderson, Hickman, Hopkins, Livingston, Lyon, McLean, Marshall, Muhlenberg, Todd, Trigg, Union, Webster	McCracken
Louisiana	Acadia, Allen, Assumption, Avoyelles, Beauregard, Bienville, Caldwell, Catahoula, Claiborne, Concordia, De Soto, East Carroll, East Feliciana, Evangeline, Franklin, Grant, Iberia, Iberville, Jackson, Jefferson Davis, La Salle, Lincoln, Livingston, Madison, Morehouse, Natchitoches, Orleans, Ouachita, Red River, Richland, St. Bernard, St. Helena, St. James, St. John the Baptist, St. Landry, St. Martin, St. Mary, Tangipahoa, Tensas, Union, Vermillion, Washington, Webster, West Carroll, West Feliciana, Winn	Ascension, Cameron, East Baton Rouge, Jefferson, Lafourche, Plaquemines, Pointe Coupee, Rapides, St. Charles, West Baton Rouge
Mississippi	Adams, Amite, Attala, Benton, Bolivar, Carroll, Claiborne, Coahoma, Copiah, Covington, De Soto, Franklin, Grenada, Hinds, Holmes, Humphreys, Issaquena, Jasper, Jefferson, Jefferson Davis, Lafayette, Lawrence, Leflore, Lincoln, Marion, Marshall, Montgomery, Panola, Pike, Quitman, Sharkey, Simpson, Smith, Sunflower, Tallahatchie, Tate, Tippah, Tunica, Union, Walthall, Warren, Washington, Wilkinson, Yalobusha, Yazoo	Madison, Rankin

	Distressed Counties	Non-Distressed Counties
Missouri	Bollinger, Butler, Carter, Crawford, Dent, Douglas, Dunklin, Howell, Iron, Madison, Mississippi, New Madrid, Oregon, Ozark, Pemiscot, Perry, Phelps, Reynolds, Ripley, Scott, Shannon, Ste. Genevieve, St. Francois, Stoddard, Texas, Washington, Wayne, Wright	Cape Girardeau
Tennessee	Benton, Carroll, Chester, Crockett, Decatur, Dyer, Gibson, Hardeman, Hardin, Haywood, Henderson, Henry, Lake, Lauderdale, Madison, McNairy, Obion, Tipton, Weakley	Fayette, Shelby

Source: Compiled by CRS from the Delta Regional Authority website.

Denali Commission

Table D-3. Denali Commission Distressed Communities List, 2020

by standard of community distress, in alphabetical order

Surrogate Standard	Akiachak, Akiak, Alakanuk, Alcan Border, Aleneva, Alexander Creek, Allakaket, Ambler, Anchor Point, Angoon, Anvik, Atmautluak, Beaver, Beluga, Big Delta, Birch Creek, Brevig Mission, Cantwell, Central, Chalkyitsik, Chase, Chefornak, Chenega, Chevak, Chickaloon, Chicken, Chignik Lake, Chiniak, Chisana, Chitina, Chuathbaluk, Circle, Coffman Cove, Cohoe, Cooper Landing, Copper Center, Covenant Life, Crooked Creek, Crown Point, Deltana, Diomede, Dot Lake, Dot Lake Village, Dry Creek, Eagle, Eagle Village, Edna Bay, Eek, Eielson Afb, Ekwok, Elfin Cove, Emmonak, Eureka Roadhouse, Excursion Inlet, Ferry, Fort Greely, Fox River, Fritz Creek, Gambell, Game Creek, Glacier View, Goodnews Bay, Grayling, Gustavus, Halibut Cove, Happy Valley, Harding-Birch Lakes, Healy Lake, Holy Cross, Hooper Bay, Hope, Hughes, Huslia, Hyder, Kachemak, Kaltag, Kasigluk, Kenny Lake, Kipnuk, Klukwan, Kodiak Station, Kokhanok, Kongiganak, Kotlik, Koyuk, Koyukuk, Kupreanof, Kwethluk, Kwigillingok, Lake Louise, Lake Minchumina, Lime, Livengood, Lower Kalskag, Lutak, Manley Hot Springs, Marshall, Mccarthy, Mekoryuk, Mentasta Lake, Minto, Mosquito Lake, Mountain Village, Mud Bay, Nabensa, Nanwalek, Napakiak, Naukati Bay, Nelchina, New Stuyahok, Newhalen, Newtok, Nightmute, Nikolaevsk, Nikolai, Ninilchik, Nondalton, Noorvik, Northway, Northway Junction, Northway Village, Nulato, Nunam Iqua, Nunapitchuk, Old Harbor, Ouzinkie, Pelican, Perryville, Petersville, Pilot Station, Pitkas Point, Platinum, Point Baker, Point Mackenzie, Point Possession, Pope-Vannoy Landing, Port Alexander, Port Graham, Port Lions, Port Protection, Portage Creek, Primrose, Quinhagak, Rampart, Red Devil, Ruby, Russian Mission, Salcha, Savoonga, Scammon Bay, Selawik, Seldovia, Shageluk, Shishmaref, Skwentna, Slana, Sleetmute, St. Michael, Stebbins, Stevens Village, Susitna North, Takotna, Tanacross, Tatitlek, Teller, Tenakee Springs, Tetlin, Thorne Bay, Togiak, Toksook Bay, Tonsina, Trapper Creek, Tuluksak, Tuntutuliak, Tununak, Twin Hills, Tyonek, Ugashik, Venetie, Wales, Whale Pass, Whitestone, Willow, Willow Creek, Wiseman
Expanded Standard	Akhiok, Aleknagik, Buckland, Clark's Point, Denali Park, Diamond Ridge, Elim, Fort Yukon, Funny River, Hoonah, Houston, Kake, Kalskag, Kiana, Manokotak, Moose Pass, Seldovia Village, Shungnak, South Naknek, Stony River, St. Mary's, Talkeetna, Tok, Wrangell

Source: Compiled by CRS from the 2020 Distressed Communities Report, Denali Commission.

Northern Border Regional Commission

Table D-4. NBRC Counties by Distress Designation, FY2021

by state in alphabetical order

	Attainment	Transitional	Distressed
Maine		Hancock, Knox, Waldo	Androscoggin, Aroostook, Franklin, Kennebec, Oxford, Penobscot, Piscataquis, Somerset, Washington
New Hampshire	Grafton	Belknap, Carroll, Cheshire	Coos, Sullivan
New York		Rensselaer, Saratoga,	Cayuga, Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Fulton, Genesee, Greene, Hamilton, Herkimer, Jefferson, Lewis, Livingston, Madison, Montgomery, Niagara, Oneida, Orleans, Oswego, St. Lawrence, Schenectady, Seneca, Sullivan, Warren, Washington, Wayne, Yates
Vermont		Addison, Bennington, Chittenden, Franklin, Grand Isle, Lamoille, Orange, Washington, Windsor	Caledonia, Essex, Orleans, Rutland, Windham

Source: Compiled and tabulated by CRS from NBRC data.

Notes: Vermont is the only NBRC state with all counties within the NBRC jurisdiction.

Northern Great Plains Regional Authority

Table D-5. Statutory Jurisdiction of NGPRA

states and counties

	NGPRA Jurisdiction
Iowa	Entire State
Minnesota	Entire State
Missouri (counties)	Adair, Andrew, Atchison, Audrain, Barry, Barton, Bates, Benton, Boone, Buchanan, Caldwell, Callaway, Camden, Carroll, Cass, Cedar, Chariton, Christian, Clark, Clay, Clinton, Cole, Cooper, Dade, Dallas, Daviess, DeKalb, Franklin, Gasconade, Gentry, Greene, Grundy, Harrison, Henry, Hickory, Holt, Howard, Jackson, Jasper, Jefferson, Johnson, Knox, Laclede, Lafayette, Lawrence, Lewis, Lincoln, Linn, Livingston, Macon, Maries, Marion, McDonald, Mercer, Miller, Moniteau, Monroe, Montgomery, Morgan, Newton, Nodaway, Osage, Pettis, Pike, Platte, Polk, Pulaski, Putnam, Ralls, Randolph, Ray, Saline, Schuyler, Scotland, Shelby, St. Charles, St. Clair, St. Louis, St. Louis City, Stone, Sullivan, Taney, Vernon, Warren, Webster, Worth
Nebraska	Entire State
North Dakota	Entire State
South Dakota	Entire State

Source: Tabulated by CRS with information from P.L. 107-171.

Notes: Missouri jurisdiction represents all those counties not currently included in the DRA.

Southeast Crescent Regional Commission

Table D-6. Statutory Jurisdiction of SCRC

states and counties

	SCRC Jurisdiction
Alabama	Autauga, Baldwin, Coffee, Covington, Crenshaw, Dale, Geneva, Henry, Houston, Lee, Mobile, Montgomery County, Pike
Georgia	Appling, Atkinson, Bacon, Baker, Baldwin, Ben Hill, Berrien, Bibb, Bleckley, Brantley, Brooks, Bryan, Bulloch, Burke, Butts, Calhoun, Camden, Candler, Charlton, Chatham, Chattahoochee, Clarke, Clay, Clayton, Clinch, Cobb, Coffee, Colquitt, Columbia, Cook, Coweta, Crawford, Crisp, De Kalb, Decatur, Dodge, Dooly, Dougherty, Early, Echols, Effingham, Emanuel, Evans, Fayette, Fulton, Glascock, Glynn, Grady, Greene, Hancock, Harris, Henry, Houston, Irwin, Jasper, Jeff Davis, Jefferson, Jenkins, Johnson, Jones, Lamar, Lanier, Laurens, Lee, Liberty, Lincoln, Long, Lowndes, Macon, Marion, McDuffie, McIntosh, Meriwether, Miller, Mitchell, Monroe, Montgomery, Morgan, Muscogee, Newton, Oconee, Oglethorpe, Peach, Pierce, Pike, Pulaski, Putnam, Quitman, Randolph, Richmond, Rockdale, Schley, Screven, Seminole, Spalding, Stewart, Sumter, Talbot, Taliaferro, Tattnall, Taylor, Telfair, Terrell, Thomas, Tift, Toombs, Treutlen, Troup, Turner, Twiggs, Upson, Walton, Ware, Warren, Washington, Wayne, Webster, Wheeler, White, Whitfield, Wilcox, Wilkes, Wilkinson, Worth
Florida	Entire state
Mississippi	Clarke, Forrest, George, Greene, Hancock, Harrison, Jackson, Jones, Lamar, Lauderdale, Leake, Neshoba, Newton, Pearl River, Perry, Scott, Stone, Wayne
North Carolina	Alamance, Anson, Beaufort, Bertie, Bladen, Brunswick, Cabarrus, Camden, Carteret, Caswell, Catawba,* Chatham, Chowan, Clay, Cleveland,* Columbus, Craven, Cumberland, Currituck, Dare, Davidson, Duplin, Durham, Edgecombe, Franklin, Gaston, Gates, Granville, Greene, Guilford, Halifax, Harnett, Hertford, Hoke, Hyde, Iredell, Johnston, Jones, Lee, Lenoir, Lincoln, Martin, Mecklenburg, Montgomery, Moore, Nash, New Hanover, Northampton, Onslow, Orange, Pamlico, Pasquotank, Pender, Perquimans, Person, Pitt, Randolph, Richmond, Robeson, Rockingham, Rowan, Rutherford, Sampson, Scotland, Stanly, Tyrrell, Union, Vance, Wake, Warren, Washington, Wayne, Wilson
South Carolina	Abbeville, Aiken, Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, Beaufort, Berkeley, Calhoun, Charleston, Chester, Chesterfield, Clarendon, Colleton, Darlington, Dillon, Dorchester, Edgefield, Fairfield, Florence, Georgetown, Greenwood, Hampton, Horry, Jasper, Kershaw, Lancaster, Laurens, Lee, Lexington, Marion, Marlboro, McCormick, Newberry, Orangeburg, Richland, Saluda, Sumter, Union,* Williamsburg, York
Virginia	Accomack, Albemarle, **Alexandria city**, Amelia, Amherst, Appomattox, Arlington, Augusta, Bedford, Brunswick, Buckingham, Campbell, Caroline, Charles City*, Charlotte, **Charlottesville city**, **Chesapeake city**, Chesterfield, Clarke, **Colonial Heights city**, Culpeper, Cumberland, **Danville city**, Dinwiddie, **Emporia city**, Essex, Fairfax, **Fairfax City**, Falls Church city, Fauquier, Fluvanna, Franklin, **Franklin city**, Frederick, **Fredericksburg city**, Gloucester, Goochland, Greene, Greensville, Halifax, **Hampton city**, Hanover, **Harrisonburg city**, Henrico, **Hopewell city**, Isle Of Wight, James City*, King And Queen, King George, King William, Lancaster, Loudoun, Louisa, Lunenburg, **Lynchburg city**, Madison, **Manassas city**, **Manassas Park city**, Mathews, Mecklenburg, Middlesex, Nelson, New Kent, **Newport News city**, **Norfolk city**, Northampton, Northumberland, Nottoway, Orange, Page, **Petersburg city**, Pittsylvania, **Poquoson city**, **Portsmouth city**, Powhatan, Prince Edward, Prince George, Prince William, Rappahannock, Richmond, **Richmond city**, Roanoke, **Roanoke city**, Rockingham, Shenandoah, **South Boston city**, Southampton, Spotsylvania, Stafford, **Staunton city**, **Suffolk city**, Surry, Sussex, **Virginia Beach city**, Warren, **Waynesboro city**, Westmoreland, **Williamsburg city**, **Winchester city**, York

Source: Tabulated by CRS by cross-referencing relevant state counties against ARC and DRA jurisdictions.
Notes: In Virginia, independent cities (in **bold**) are considered counties for U.S. census purposes and are eligible for independent inclusion. Virginia counties with an asterisk (*) are named as cities, but are actually counties (e.g., James City County). With the exception of Florida, which has no coverage in another federally chartered regional commission or authority, SCRC jurisdiction encompasses all member state counties that are not part of the DRA and/or the ARC (see 40 U.S.C. §15731). The Infrastructure, Investment, and Jobs Act (IIJA, P.L. 117-58; enacted November 15, 2021) added three counties that were previously in the SCRC region to the ARC region. The asterisk (*) indicates counties added to the ARC region by the IIJA.

Southwest Border Regional Commission

Table D-7. Statutory Jurisdiction of SBRC

states and counties

	SBRC Jurisdiction
Arizona	Cochise, Gila, Graham, Greenlee, La Paz, Maricopa, Pima, Pinal, Santa Cruz, Yuma
California	Imperial, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, Ventura
New Mexico	Catron, Chaves, Dona Ana, Eddy, Grant, Hidalgo, Lincoln, Luna, Otero, Sierra, Socorro
Texas	Atascosa, Bandera, Bee, Bexar, Brewster, Brooks, Cameron, Coke, Concho, Crane, Crockett, Culberson, Dimmit, Duval, Ector, Edwards, El Paso, Frio, Gillespie, Glasscock, Hidalgo, Hudspeth, Irion, Jeff Davis, Jim Hogg, Jim Wells, Karnes, Kendall, Kenedy, Kerr, Kimble, Kinney, Kleberg, La Salle, Live Oak, Loving, Mason, Maverick, McMullen, Medina, Menard, Midland, Nueces, Pecos, Presidio, Reagan, Real, Reeves, San Patricio, Shleicher, Sutton, Starr, Sterling, Terrell, Tom Green, Upton, Uvalde, Val Verde, Ward, Webb, Willacy, Wilson, Winkler, Zapata, Zavala

Source: Tabulated by CRS with information from P.L. 110-234.

Author Information

Julie M. Lawhorn
Analyst in Economic Development Policy

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