



APPALACHIAN REGIONAL COMMISSION
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**press
message**

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WASHINGTON, D.C. -- President Gerald R. Ford has included \$308.2 million in his 1978 Budget request to the Congress for the Appalachian Regional Commission's program.

The Appalachian Budget, which is \$5.2 million over the 1977 appropriation, includes \$205.3 million for highways and \$102.9 for non-highway programs.

Donald W. Whitehead, Federal Cochairman of the Commission, stated that the \$205.3 million requested for the highway program represented an increase of \$20.3 million over the 1977 appropriation. He noted that this increase was partially offset by a decrease in the budget for the non-highway program of \$15.1 million and reflected the relative priority accorded the highway program. The funds available for the non-highway program will, however, represent meaningful amounts to all the Appalachian States and will assist them in funding priority projects for community development, health, vocational education, and other eligible projects.

- Alabama
- Georgia
- Kentucky
- Maryland
- Mississippi
- New York
- North Carolina
- Ohio
- Pennsylvania
- South Carolina
- Tennessee
- Virginia
- West Virginia

Mr. Whitehead noted that President Ford's support of the Commission and the people of the Region it serves had been demonstrated by increases in both the 1977 and 1978 appropriation requests he had sent to the Congress.

The non-highway request of \$102.9 million includes \$95.7 million for the Area Development program and \$7.2 million for support of multi-county development districts and general Commission research and evaluation activities. The area



development program is a continuation of a program initiated in 1975 which provides single allocations to States for several programs previously administered separately, including the health and child development, vocational education and supplemental grants programs. The single allocation approach gives each State the opportunity to plan its investment priorities without rigid categorical restrictions. These 1978 appropriation requests will result in estimated allocations to the Appalachian portions of the various States as follows (millions of dollars):

Alabama	\$16.5	Mississippi	\$15.5	Pennsylvania	\$52.8
Georgia	15.4	New York	23.3	South Carolina	8.3
Kentucky	31.6	North Carolina	13.7	Tennessee	39.5
Maryland	14.9	Ohio	17.2	Virginia	10.7
				West Virginia	42.3

The Appalachian Regional Commission is a Federal-State partnership managed by the governors of 13 Appalachian States and an appointee of the President, the Federal Cochairman, a post Mr. Whitehead has held since 1971. Maryland Governor Marvin Mandel began a year's term as States' Cochairman on January 1. The Commission is charged with responsibility for fostering the economic growth and development of the 13-State Appalachian region. Since 1965, the Commission has administered the largest and most comprehensive regional development program in the United States.