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RURAL RESEARCH BRIEF



Photo by Shawn Poynter: There is More Work to Be Done

Natural Disasters and Resiliency in Central Appalachia

The Housing Assistance Council

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HAC is a national nonprofit corporation that helps build homes and communities across rural America. For over 50 years, HAC has supported local efforts to improve rural housing conditions.

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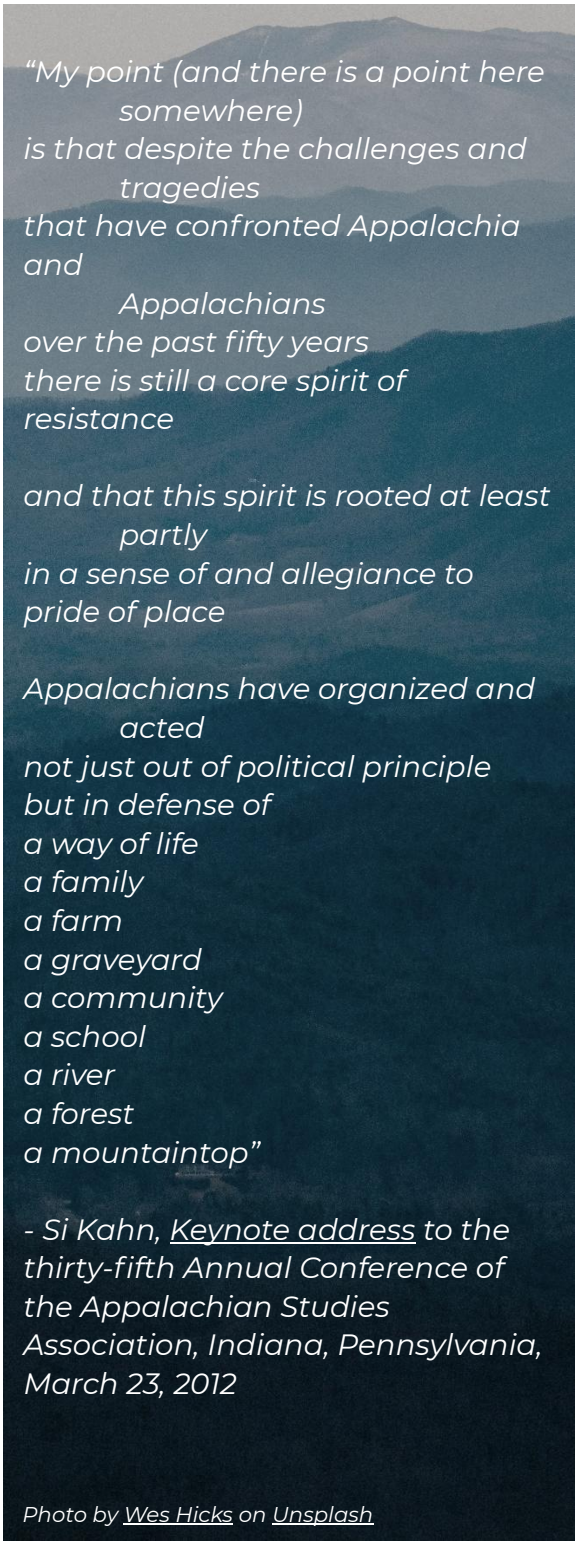
NATURAL DISASTERS AND RESILIENCY IN CENTRAL APPALACHIA

Frequent natural disasters are increasingly threatening rural communities, upsetting essential functions and infrastructure, affecting rural health, and compromising communities' safety and livelihoods.[1] Severe weather events, particularly flooding and hurricanes, have especially affected Central Appalachia in recent years. The historic 2022 Kentucky floods, Hurricane Helene, and ongoing flooding in 2025 demonstrate the region's vulnerability to increasingly erratic and intense weather patterns. The legacy of coal mining throughout many parts of Appalachia and the ecological damage left in its wake can exacerbate flooding risks and limit opportunities for sustainable redevelopment. In addition to threatening Appalachian lives, these disasters have adversely affected the region's housing stock and exacerbate socioeconomic vulnerabilities—the homes of thousands of Central Appalachians have been damaged or destroyed.[2]

As the impacts of flooding and extreme weather continue to mount, recovery becomes increasingly difficult, especially when affordable housing, infrastructure, and resources remain limited and losses to existing housing stock occur more often. Despite these challenges, local nonprofits and community networks continue to adapt and respond, providing critically needed housing support and services on the ground all the while developing innovative housing initiatives that increase the region's resiliency to future natural disasters. These ongoing efforts reflect a deep and enduring spirit of resilience in Central Appalachia born out of the legacy of historic social movements and sustained by ongoing efforts to better Appalachian lives. With that said, Central Appalachia cannot recover alone. Continued federal investment in the region is critical to increase the region's long-term resiliency.

Today, resiliency is a vital and relevant topic in rural research as regions like Central Appalachia grapple with increasingly severe natural disasters.[3] This report leverages secondary data from journal articles, reports, and analyses from relevant sources investigating the region's resilience, recovery efforts, the effects of natural disasters on the region, and their intersection with ongoing challenges. Data gathered from reports prepared by the Federation of Appalachian Housing Enterprises (Fahe) and the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) were particularly helpful in the preparation of this report. Specifically, a 2023 report on housing needs and trends in Central Appalachia and Appalachian Alabama conducted by The Virginia Center for Housing Research at Virginia Tech (VCHR)[4] and the 2018-2022 ARC Chartbook, which assimilates data from the 2018-2022 American Community Survey (ACS), informed much of this brief's analysis.[5]

RESILIENCE IS NOT NEW TO CENTRAL APPALACHIA



"My point (and there is a point here somewhere)
is that despite the challenges and tragedies
that have confronted Appalachia and Appalachians
over the past fifty years
there is still a core spirit of resistance

and that this spirit is rooted at least partly
in a sense of and allegiance to pride of place

Appalachians have organized and acted
not just out of political principle
but in defense of
a way of life
a family
a farm
a graveyard
a community
a school
a river
a forest
a mountaintop"

- Si Kahn, Keynote address to the thirty-fifth Annual Conference of the Appalachian Studies Association, Indiana, Pennsylvania, March 23, 2012

Photo by Wes Hicks on Unsplash

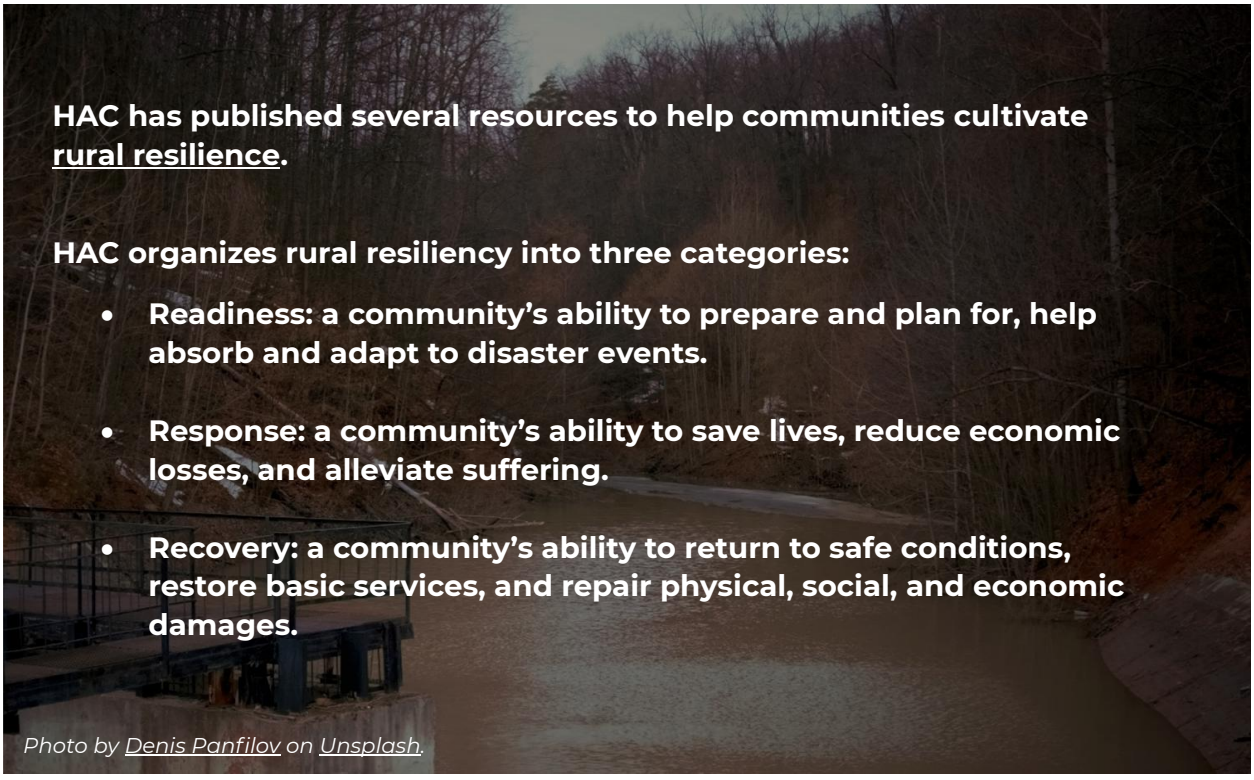
Central Appalachia is a region shaped by pressure, persistence, and possibility. Stretching across multiple states, its identity has long been influenced by natural resources, extractive industries, and communities that have continuously fought for autonomy and prosperity. Central Appalachia has played a pivotal role in the broader Appalachia region's history as a site of acute challenges, opportunities, and resilience. Migration, extraction, and economic exploitation have shaped the region over time, the tremors of which can still be felt today. Corporate interests in Central Appalachia's vast natural resources, enabled by industrialization and development, have created considerable issues for local communities from severe environmental disturbances to the dearth of public lands.[6] Natural disasters only exacerbate these challenges, most acutely affecting rural and low-income communities.[7]

As the United States developed and industrialized, so too did its appetite for resources. As early as the 19th century, America cast its gaze towards Central Appalachia due to the region's abundant hardwood forests and coal and mineral deposits. In the 1800s, lumber became increasingly important for the development of homes, buildings, bridges, and more. Northern timber companies, who had exhausted forests surrounding the Great Lakes, purchased large affordable tracts of land, taking advantage of a people who are yet unfamiliar with timber and mineral rights and deeds.[8]

Rich deposits of coal combined with increased access to rural areas due to rail and road development in the 19th century transformed Appalachia into America's energy backbone, with coal production concentrated in Central Appalachia.[9] Fueled by the labor of everyday Appalachians, the region became increasingly economically dependent on the coal industry.[10] Though coal mining has steadily declined

and is not a significant source of employment today, coal has indelibly shaped the region, both culturally and physically.[11] From the downing of timber hillsides to the removal of mountaintops, extractive interests in the region have had devastating effects on the land. Despite the job opportunities felling timber and mining coal once provided, clear-cutting of forests and mountaintop removal has contributed to soil erosion, landslides, flooding, and deforestation.[12] This makes many Appalachian communities particularly vulnerable to natural disasters and limits the stock of public land for redevelopment, stymying recovery efforts when disaster strikes.[13]

Due to Appalachia's intrinsic and historic resiliency, communities continue to organize, respond, and reconfigure today in the face of evolving and emergent crises. In addition to persistent issues like outmigration, limited economic mobility, and a lack of affordable housing, Central Appalachia also faces severe weather events affecting more and more communities year after year.[14] Appalachian networks and nonprofits are responding to these natural disasters accordingly, working to advance the region's resiliency to such events through land remediation, innovative housing solutions, and resource networks. However, recent funding cuts threaten the sustainability of existing initiatives.[15] Continued federal investment in the region is crucial to sustain present and future efforts.



HAC has published several resources to help communities cultivate rural resilience.

HAC organizes rural resiliency into three categories:

- **Readiness: a community's ability to prepare and plan for, help absorb and adapt to disaster events.**
- **Response: a community's ability to save lives, reduce economic losses, and alleviate suffering.**
- **Recovery: a community's ability to return to safe conditions, restore basic services, and repair physical, social, and economic damages.**

Photo by Denis Panfilov on Unsplash.

INCREASINGLY FREQUENT NATURAL DISASTERS THREATEN COMMUNITIES ACROSS CENTRAL APPALACHIA

While natural disasters are not new to the region, Central Appalachia has been especially hit hard by flooding events in recent years. In the aftermath of the 2022 eastern Kentucky floods, 13 counties experienced damage so severe they were declared federal disaster areas.[16] These communities, classified as economically distressed by the ARC prior to the flood[17], include rural areas with limited public and private infrastructure for recovery efforts.[18] When the floodwaters receded, dozens died, and hundreds were evacuated from distressed counties. As global temperatures rise, the chance of renewed flooding rises along with it, placing Central Appalachian communities at ever-increasing risk.[19]

For rural communities with higher poverty rates, recovery from these and similar natural disasters is especially difficult and expensive. The cost of flood insurance is prohibitive for many households and must be purchased in addition to homeowners' and renters' insurance. An estimated 95 percent of homeowners affected by the 2022 Kentucky floods did not have flood insurance.[20] For rural communities, a lack of existing infrastructure and investment impedes comprehensive recovery efforts.[21] It is estimated that the cost to replace destroyed homes and homes with major damage in the Kentucky counties affected, including relocating homes to less flood-prone areas, would be nearly 1 billion dollars.[22]

In 2024, Hurricane Helene pummeled Southern and Central Appalachia, leading to additional rainfall and flooding. As tropical moisture from the storm system made contact with Appalachia's mountainous terrain in North Carolina, Tennessee, West Virginia, and Virginia, unique storm conditions and local weather characteristics combined with devastating effects. Heavy rainfall blanketed the region in waves over a condensed period of time—four days—leading to severe flooding.[23] The flow rate of the Nolichucky River for example, located in Eastern Tennessee, surged to 84,000 cubic feet per second, twice that of Niagara Falls.[24] Across North Carolina and Tennessee, the flooding broke catastrophic and historic records and claimed 200 lives, with tens of thousands also displaced.[25]

In the wake of this disaster, the North Carolina Office of State Budget and Management estimates infrastructure damage and needs totaling $59.6 billion, with $15.4 billion allocated for housing assistance and recovery alone.[26] Approximately 126,000 homes are estimated to have been damaged by the floods.[27] Renewed flooding hit Central Appalachia again in February of 2025, further decimating homes and infrastructure, including major highways, electric lines, and businesses, as well

as claiming more lives.[28] For some families it was the third time in just four years that their homes were affected.



Photo of a North Carolinian community after Hurricane Helene. Courtesy of CGTN.

The growing frequency and severity of natural disasters in Central Appalachia underscores the region's increasing vulnerability to such events. These events not only endanger lives and livelihoods, but also deepen pre-existing social and economic inequalities, particularly in rural and low-income communities. As the impacts of continued flooding and extreme weather compound, recovery becomes increasingly difficult—especially when affordable housing, infrastructure, and insurance options remain limited and losses to existing housing stock occur more often. For families who have endured multiple disasters within a short cycle of time, the psychological and financial toll is immense. Without continued regional and federal investment in disaster preparedness and resiliency efforts across Central Appalachia, as well as land reclamation, and equitable housing policy, the region will remain trapped in a feedback loop of crisis and recovery. The historic 2022 Kentucky floods, Hurricane Helene, and ongoing flooding in 2025 demonstrate the immense toll natural disasters are taking on the region.

RESOURCE EXTRACTION MAKES CENTRAL APPALACHIA ESPECIALLY VULNERABLE TO NATURAL DISASTERS

Once powered predominantly by the coal industry, Central Appalachia has experienced seismic shifts in its economic and ecological foundations. As coal production has declined—especially sharply in Central Appalachia—communities have been forced to grapple with widespread job loss and reduced economic opportunities. Compared to its heyday employing hundreds of thousands, the coal industry today only employs 28,000 people, accounting for less than 1 percent of the labor force.[29] Though coal mining production has decreased in the last century, surface mining and the ecological damage left in its wake exacerbate the effects of flooding in certain states.[30]

Surface mining dramatically alters the landscape, changing the land both above and below the surface, including the removal of entire mountaintops.[31] Such land modification has significant ecological consequences, including water degradation, chemical runoff, heightened water toxicity, deforestation, and habitat loss.[32] Due to deforestation and mountaintop removal, mined surfaces have little vegetation and low water retention to stymie floodwaters, enabling water to rapidly spread across barren grounds and into residential areas often built in lower flat lands. This affects 5,900 square kilometers of land in Central Appalachia, or roughly 7 percent of the region, concentrated in eastern Kentucky, southern West Virginia, southwestern Virginia, and eastern Tennessee.[33]



Aerial view of a surface mine above Pigeon Creek. Photo credit: Jack Spadaro, courtesy of Inside Climate News.

The footprint of mineral extraction reduces the capacity of the land to retain water and accelerates runoff during inclement weather events.[34] Due to the historical prevalence of surface mining in Central Appalachia, this puts communities in the region at particularly high risks of flood-related deaths and injuries, as well as loss of property and housing. During the 2022 Kentucky floods, Troublesome Creek, a tributary of the North Fork Kentucky River, reported a disproportionately high number of deaths after the floods. The creek also contained the largest proportion of area affected by surface mining of the watersheds analyzed by the Geological Society of America after the disaster.[35]

Additionally, much of the land in coal-producing states like West Virginia has remained in the hands of a few corporate landowners, which has limited the stock of private land available for housing development and stalled land remediation efforts as the negative effects of surface mining have become more apparent.[36] This remains true for much of the region today. As communities attempt to recover, affordable housing developments are obstructed by corporate landownership, even when mines or other mineral sites are inactive.[37] In the interim, existing housing developments are often located beside rivers and streams which are easier to build along. However, today these increasingly coincide with flood zones as a consequence.[38]

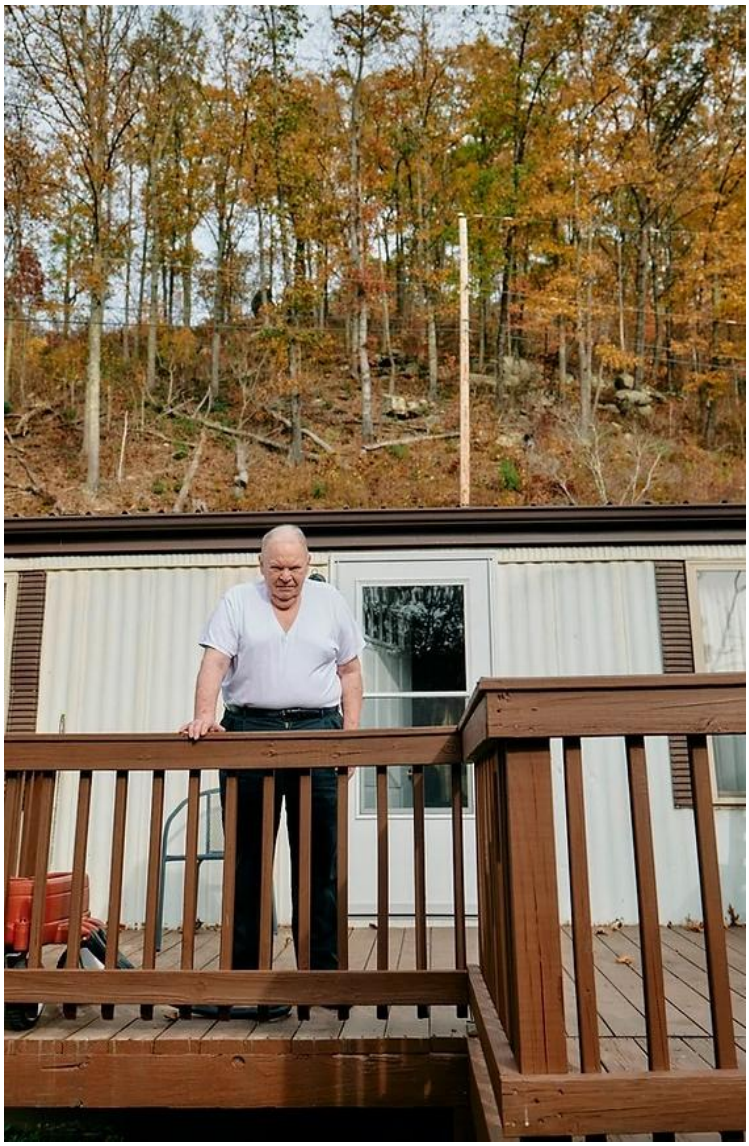
RECENT FLOODING DESTROYED VALUABLE HOUSING STOCK

The effects of natural disasters on the region's housing stock are particularly catastrophic; thousands of Central Appalachians' homes have been damaged or destroyed. While data is still being gathered post-Hurricane Helene, in the 13 eastern Kentucky counties affected by the 2022 floods, close to 9,000 homes were damaged in its wake. According to FEMA, more than 5,127 of these units were classified in the "major damage" or "destroyed" categories.[39] Manufactured homes, which are common in the region and a valuable housing resource, were a notable share of the damaged properties, accounting for 39 percent or 3,449 units.[40]

Manufactured housing is abundant in the Central Appalachian region but this type of housing is particularly susceptible to flood damage.[41] In many rural areas of the region, manufactured homes make up more than 20 percent of the housing stock.[42] Despite being an important housing option for many rural Appalachians, the number of available manufactured homes have declined.[43] More affordable housing options are needed in Central Appalachia to replace the decline in manufactured

homes. For existing manufactured homeowners, improvements and modifications to their homes are necessary to make them more resilient to natural disasters.

Natural disasters also affect the region's housing tenure. Renters and homeowners alike face precarious conditions after severe weather events—recent flooding has left many renters and homeowners suddenly homeless with no affordable housing to turn to.[44] Low-income communities, who have fewer resources to recover from these events, are also at an increased risk of homelessness after natural disasters. Sixty percent of the households impacted by the 2022 Kentucky floods were low-income.[45] Following significant flooding events in the region, Fahe, a network of over 50 community-based nonprofits located across the Appalachian region, expect to see increases in the level of homelessness, overcrowding, and housing unaffordability as more data becomes available.[46]



An Eastern Kentucky resident outside his home in Hazard, KY while it undergoes repairs by the Housing Development Alliance. Photo by Shawn Poynter: There is More Work to Be Done.

Additionally, while household data is collected in Central Appalachia, it doesn't tell the full story of individuals' circumstances as they recover from these events. Fahe members have remarked that tabulations often leave out community members living in RVs or experiencing homelessness already.[47] This suggests that the actual proportion of individuals experiencing homelessness following the recent natural disasters may be significantly higher than current estimates.

In addition to threatening Appalachian lives and housing stock, these events exacerbate socioeconomic disparities, worsening affordable housing shortages, out-migration trends, and increasing local unemployment rates.[48] In Central Appalachia vulnerable populations are especially at risk following natural disasters. Of the nearly 22,000 affected by the historic 2022 floods in Kentucky, 44 percent were children or

seniors.[49] Compared to the nation as a whole, Central Appalachia has larger vulnerable populations in terms of age, poverty, health, and healthcare access.[50]

THOUGH HOUSING STOCK HAS IMPROVED, CENTRAL APPALACHIA NEEDS MORE AFFORDABLE RESILIENT HOUSING OPTIONS FOR RECOVERING COMMUNITIES

The housing landscape in Central Appalachia is strained. Despite the need for more affordable housing in the wake of natural disasters that have rocked the region and depleted housing stock, since 2013, the number of available housing units hasn't increased significantly in the region.[51] In those counties where there are slight gains, metropolitan areas had higher rates of gain than rural areas, and in Kentucky and Virginia housing stock declined.[52] Kentucky and Virginia have the highest percentage of rural communities in the Central Appalachian region and are some of the communities most acutely affected by flooding.[53] In rural areas, rents are typically low, but employment opportunities are also few and far between, and income tends to be lower as well which makes it harder for rural communities to recover after natural disasters due to limited economic resources.[54]

In Central Appalachia, high vacancy rates and a lack of affordable housing units pose challenges to rural communities despite generally high home ownership rates. Central Appalachia fares better than the nation in terms of homeownership, with estimates varying from 70.4–73.4 percent in the region compared to 64.8 percent nationally.[55] However, high homeownership doesn't necessarily equal prosperity. High homeownership may be due to low levels of economic and residential mobility, especially considering the region's low-income, disabled, and aging populations, which are disproportionately located in rural areas. Despite a need for housing in Central Appalachia, in most of the region, 10–20 percent of the housing stock isn't occupied. Of the 132 low occupancy counties in the broader Appalachian region, 114 were located outside of metropolitan areas, in counties adjacent to metropolitan areas and rural counties.[56] Rural areas tend to have a greater share of low occupancy units and vacant units.[57] Whereas the share of owner-occupied housing units rose in Appalachia, aligned to the nationwide rate, one third of the 113 counties that saw declines were in rural areas.[58]

In rural areas of Central Appalachia, as well as the entire subregion, a lack of affordable housing is an acute issue. Rural communities in particular face high rates of housing cost-burden and rental instability. Homeowners and renters in large swaths of rural eastern Kentucky spend more than 30 percent of their income on housing, making them cost burdened. As a consequence, needed home repairs and

maintenance that would help mitigate potential damage from severe weather events are often put on the backburner due to having less discretionary income.[59] Central Appalachia also has a dearth of rental housing, and since 2014, the share of rental units has decreased across the region.[60] Affordable housing for renters is especially precarious, with Fahe members reporting several instances where once affordable housing stock has been lost as owners and landlords raise rents.[61] In 2023, The Virginia Center for Housing Research at Virginia Tech and West Virginia University Extension conducted a study on housing needs and trends in Central Appalachia and Appalachian Alabama. Within their study area, nearly half of all rental households in Central Appalachia and Appalachian Alabama were cost burdened and rates of cost burden among renters in each state were more than double the rates among homeowners.[62] These households also tend to be low-income or extremely low-income according to HUD Area Median Family Income data.[63]



Homes on a hill in a downtown Hazard neighborhood. Photo by Shawn Poynter: There is More Work to Be Done.

Racial, rural, and low-income disparities also define the housing market in Central Appalachia. These groups therefore are particularly at risk following severe weather events that damage or destroy existing housing stock. In the region, Black and Hispanic communities make up a disproportionate share of cost-burdened households.[64] Additionally, white homeownership rates are far higher than those of

communities of color. In Tennessee in particular, there is an over 30 percent disparity rate in homeownership when comparing Black and white homeowners, and for Hispanic families that disparity is even higher at 35 percent.[65] Those who are cost burdened or lack equal opportunity to homeownership have less resources to recover after severe flooding events—renters do not qualify for FEMA home repair assistance and even homeowners who qualify do not necessarily have access to safe temporary housing in the interim after a flood.[66]

Increased housing competitiveness in the region suggests a strengthening housing market, but low-income communities face increased challenges finding affordable housing as a result. Strengthening markets also makes the development of affordable housing units more difficult. While Central Appalachia shows some signs of an improving housing market, such as moderate increases in ownership and investment, these gains may be short-lived without sustained intervention. Additionally, data collected during this timeframe was potentially cushioned by federal relief and state assistance that has since expired. Such context suggests that what positive gains have been made in the region's housing market may have been temporary. Only continual data monitoring will tell the full story over the next several years.

CENTRAL APPALACHIANS ARE RESPONDING TO THESE CHALLENGES IN INNOVATIVE WAYS, WORKING TO INCREASE THE REGION'S RESILIENCY

Though Central Appalachia is a place of concentrated challenges it is also a region rich in human and community capital. Despite ever present difficulties related to resources and capacity, rural-based organizations, networks, nonprofits, and community and economic development organizations are providing critical infrastructures of support that further regional resiliency efforts. Fahe's network of over 50 community-based nonprofits located across the Appalachian region demonstrates the broad collection of interconnected organizations working to increase the resiliency of Appalachian communities. Fahe brings together affordable housing organizations, community housing developers, housing authorities, and other agencies committed to increasing investment and expanding capacity throughout the Appalachian region.[67]

Collectively, Fahe organizations serve over 120,000 people combining loan services and advocacy work with a particular commitment to rural communities. Many Fahe members initiate affordable housing developments, aid communities in general housing and critically needed disaster repairs and assist local residents with affordable housing financing regularly and following extreme weather events.[68] For

example, Fahe members HOMES, Inc. and Housing Development Alliance support eastern Kentucky communities – who have been especially effected by recent flooding events – by building new affordable homes, assisting with home and flood repairs and disaster recovery efforts, and aiding families in finding affordable housing finance solutions. In addition to these localized services, Fahe has developed a regional flood response resource center that communities affected by flooding events can access as they continue recovery efforts.[69]



HOPE Building program participants work with Housing Development Alliance employee on construction of a new home in Viper, KY. Photo by Shawn Poynter: There is More Work to Be Done.

Dozens of other organizations are also at work across Appalachia, providing important touchpoints and connections for revitalization and resiliency efforts, and enabling the distribution of vital resources.[70] Recently, a coalition of organizations, including the Appalachian Citizens' Law Center, the National Wildlife Federation, and ReImagine Appalachia worked together to develop the Appalachian Flood Policy Platform published in 2024, in response to the devastating 2022 Kentucky floods. This comprehensive four pillar flood resiliency roadmap outlines policy recommendations and priorities to address these issues across the region.[71]

Community-based nonprofits are also investing in revitalization and resiliency efforts on the ground, leading the way in innovative housing responses to extreme weather events affecting the region. Today, these organizations are involved in a housing development project to relocate families affected by the 2022 Kentucky floods to

new homes on high ground, repurposing mountaintop land stripped for coal mining and transforming it into more resilient housing.[72] This $800 million plan coordinated by state officials reclaims otherwise desolate landscapes to combat Kentucky's housing shortage inflamed by recent natural disasters, with 600 homes planned across multiple sites. Homes installed will also include solar panels to mitigate high energy costs in the region for new residents. Federal investment is critical to this project, providing $9 out of every $10 the state plans to invest in high ground housing.[73]

CONTINUED INVESTMENT AND ATTENTION IS VITAL FOR A MORE RESILIENT APPALACHIA

ARC funnels vital federal resources to Appalachian communities and organizations as they undergo similar work to become more economically and environmentally resilient places. Since 1965, ARC has invested over $6 billion in more than 34,000 economic development projects across Appalachia.[74] More recently, in 2024 ARC committed $68.2 million to 65 projects, impacting 188 counties in 10 Appalachian states through their Partnerships for Opportunity and Workforce and Economic Revitalization (POWER) Initiative.[75] This initiative directs federal resources to economic diversification and revitalization projects in Appalachian communities affected by the downturn of the coal industry, an industry that contributes to some of the region's vulnerability to natural disasters today.[76] ARC also produces vital research, evaluations, maps, and data of the region which are necessary to assess evolving needs and develop responsive resiliency plans. While disparities still exist in the region, counties within ARC's coverage have historically seen larger gains in per capita income growth compared to counties outside their coverage, demonstrating the positive impact of federal investment in the region.[77]

Collaborative state, regional, and federal efforts across Appalachia showcase the potential of Appalachian initiatives to drive innovative, place-based solutions to ongoing housing challenges, especially as the region combats worsening housing conditions due to recurring natural disasters. However, such projects also highlight the necessity of regional and federal investment to sustain these efforts. While ARC utilizes congressionally appropriated funds[78] many ongoing resiliency projects in Appalachia also leverage federal funding from entities such as the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), and United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).[79] The continuation of this funding and the sustainability and stability of these organizations is critical to the region as it recovers from severe flooding that has negatively impacted thousands of households and compounded already difficult

economic and housing conditions especially for rural and low-income Central Appalachian communities.

Resources from FEMA, USDA, and HUD are essential to maintain the positive changes recent investments have catalyzed. Collectively, an ecosystem of support that combines public, private and grassroots resources enables Appalachian communities to recover from flooding and other natural disaster-related events. These resources not only empower these efforts but also spur additional private investment in ongoing initiatives across the region.[80] As such, federal and regional funding resources play a critical role in helping the region develop more resilient communities for Central Appalachians to live, work, and thrive in.



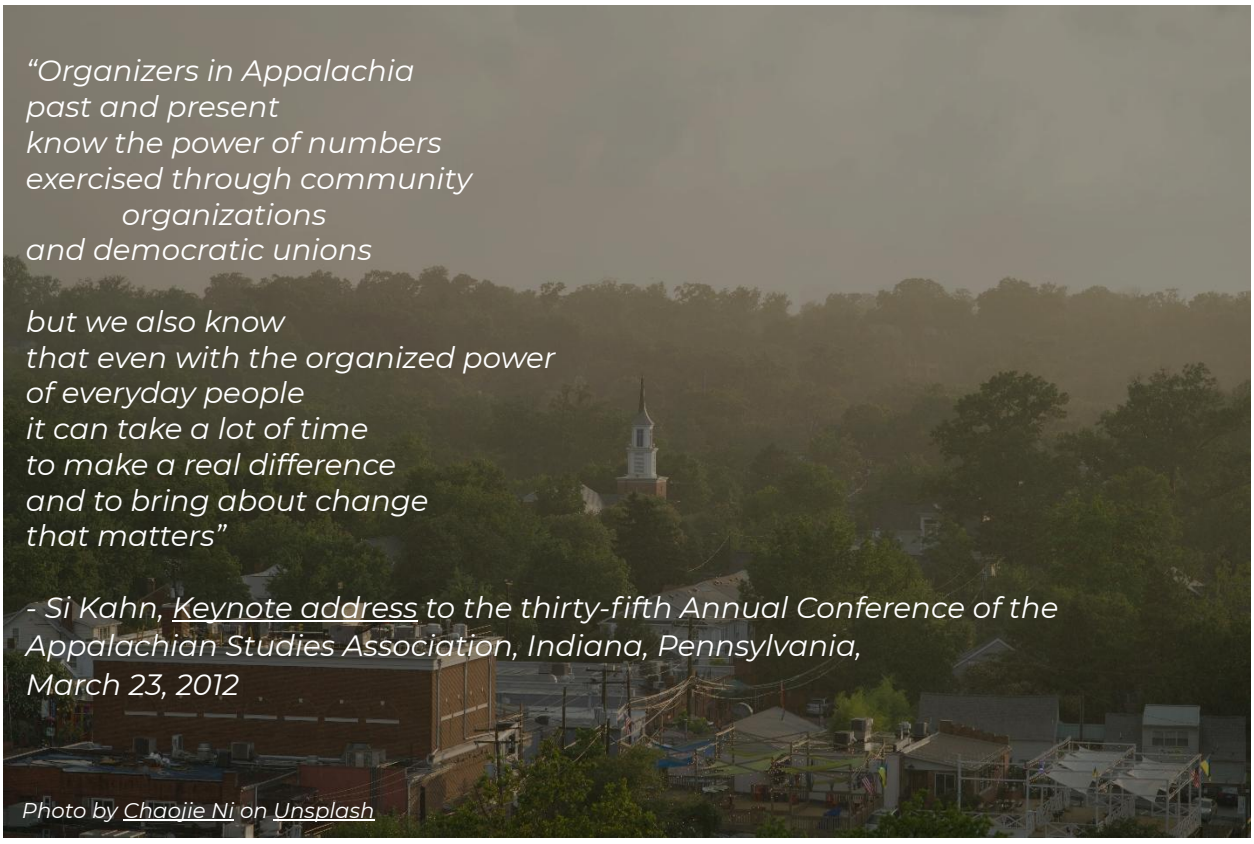
A finished HOPE Building program home sits on a reclaimed strip mining site in Emmalena, KY. Photo by Shawn Poynter: There is More Work to Be Done.

Central Appalachia is a region defined by its rich history, enduring spirit, and evolving challenges. Shaped by pressures manmade and natural, and sustained by centuries of human resilience, it remains a place where its socioeconomic and environmental past continue to influence its present. Though the coal industry once dominated the landscape and economy, its decline has exposed longstanding structural vulnerabilities, contributed to environmental degradation, and worsened the effects of flooding in much of the region. Though communities are already organizing and combatting these circumstances head-on, resiliency and recovery

requires more than local ingenuity; it demands sustained, strategic investment at the state, regional, and federal levels.

The information presented in this report suggests a clear need for targeted policies that expand affordable housing, respond to the needs of rural and disaster-affected populations, and continue investment in climate resiliency efforts. Without meaningful and long-term support, the region risks remaining in a reactive cycle of recovery after disasters, rather than moving toward a future of prosperity.

Central Appalachia's greatest asset lies above ground—in the enduring will of Appalachians to build a future for themselves. Ultimately, the path forward for Central Appalachia hinges on honoring this legacy of persistence and resilience while investing in the systems, infrastructure, and opportunities that can carry Central Appalachian communities forward. Though this region has long struggled, Central Appalachia continues to demonstrate a strong will to persevere. But they cannot go at it alone.



NOTES

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