

Community Investment Strategy for Forward Martin County				2026-2029	
WHERE WE ARE		WHAT WE DO		WHERE WE WANT TO BE	
	Forward Martin County believes that Eastern Kentucky and Appalachia are incredible and beautiful places to live, raise a family, work, and serve the community. We believe there is tremendous opportunity here for the current generation and for those who will follow. The formation of this board is centered around investing in the next generation and looking toward the future of our region. That vision will remain the driving force behind our work and growth. This board will focus on: - Upskilling and developing the region's youth and workforce - Creating leadership and training opportunities - Supporting local economic development authorities and initiatives - Promoting the region and its communities - Encouraging downtown and county beautification efforts			We want to eliminate the idea that people must leave the region to chase their dreams. Our hope is to instill the belief that goals, ambitions, success, and purpose can all be achieved right here at home. We aim to help build a sustainable community where people are empowered to lead, grow, and invest back into the places they love. Through strong stewardship, meaningful partnerships, and long-term vision, we want to ensure resources and opportunities are managed well for both the current generation and those still to come.	
				North Star	
				Create Lasting Impact Benefit All People Implement Strategic Partnerships Foster Community Pride	
				Strategy Upskilling and developing the region's youth and workforce By investing in education, mentorship, workforce readiness, and career development opportunities that prepare the next generation for long-term success. Creating leadership and training opportunities Through programs, partnerships, and experiences that help develop strong leaders who are committed to serving and strengthening their communities. Supporting local economic development authorities and initiatives By collaborating with local leaders, organizations, and businesses to encourage economic growth, job creation, and long-term sustainability across the region. Promoting the region and its communities By highlighting the strengths, culture, people, and opportunities that make Eastern Kentucky and Appalachia a special place to live, work, and visit. Encouraging downtown and county beautification efforts Through projects and partnerships that enhance community spaces, preserve local	Indicators of Success Over the next 3 years - Grow the organization's endowment to include support from at least 50 contributors who believe in the future of Eastern Kentucky and Appalachia. - Host an annual cornerstone event that brings leaders, organizations, and partners into the community to establish relationships and collaborate around our shared goals for the region. - Host an annual workforce development and training event focused on equipping students, young professionals, and community members with practical skills, leadership development, and career opportunities. - Partner with colleges and students to help formalize leadership, workforce, and career development opportunities that prepare young people for their future careers while encouraging them to remain invested in the region. - Work alongside Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG), local businesses, and economic development authorities to create meaningful pathways for workforce

	At the heart of this organization is a deep love for the people of this region. We believe in Appalachia, we believe in its communities, and most importantly, we believe in its people. We know meaningful change and lasting impact can happen when people are empowered, invested in, and given opportunities to lead and grow.		pride, and create welcoming environments for residents and visitors alike.		development, mentorship, leadership growth, and regional economic impact. • Support at least one annual community project focused on beautification, revitalization, or addressing a meaningful local need within Martin County and the surrounding region. • Develop partnerships with local tourism organizations and boards to help promote the region, increase visitation, and highlight the culture, beauty, and opportunities found throughout Eastern Kentucky and Appalachia.
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