AGENDA
VIRGINIA GROWTH AND OPPORTUNITY BOARD
Tuesday, December 9, 2025
1:00 PM – 3:00 PM
Virtual Link
Or dial: +1 434-230-0065, 245677347#

I. OPENING
    a. Call to order   Chair
    b. Roll Call   Cody Anderson
    c. Public Comment   Chair

II. CONSENT AGENDA – *Action Item*   (pg.2)   Chair
    a. September 9, 2025 Meeting Minutes
    b. Board Policy #2: Electronic Participation Policy

III. DEPUTY DIRECTOR'S REPORT   (pg. 13)   Sara Dunnigan
    a. Action Item:
          i. 2025 Regional Economic Growth and Diversification Plan Updates
    b. Application Submission & Evaluation Process
    c. ***Action Items:***
          i. Implementation Applications (5)
          ii. Competitive Applications (4)
    d. Annual Report Highlights

IV. GOVERNANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT   Cliff Fleet

V. REGIONAL COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORT   John King

VI. PROGRAM PERFORMANCE AND EVALUATION COMMITTEE REPORT   Jim Cheng

VII. INFORMATION ITEMS   (pg. 69)   Sara Dunnigan
    a. DHCD Administratively Approved Projects

VIII. ADJOURNMENT   Chair

2026 Meeting Schedule

Tuesday, March 24, 2026
Tuesday, June 9, 2026
Tuesday, September 15, 2026
Tuesday, December 8, 2026
All meetings will be held at 1:00 p.m.

II. CONSENT AGENDA - *Action Items*
   a. September 9, 2025 Meeting Minutes
   b. Board Policy #2: Electronic Participation Policy

VIRGINIA GROWTH AND OPPORTUNITY BOARD MEETING
September 9, 2025
2:15 PM
Reynolds Community College
1651 E Parham Rd.
Richmond, VA. 23228

Members Present	Members Absent
Nancy Howell Agee	Senator Creigh Deeds
Reggie Aggarwal	Fouad Qreitem
Jim Cheng	The Honorable Juan Pablo Segura
The Honorable Steve Cummings	Delegate Luke Torian
Ben J. Davenport, Jr	
Bill Dotson	
Cliff Fleet	
W. Heywood Fralin	
Joel Griffin	
Kenneth Johnson	
Delegate Terry Kilgore	
John King	
Senator L. Louise Lucas	
Delegate Michelle Maldonado	
Senator Ryan McDougle	
Emily O'Quinn	
Jon Peterson	
Thomas Ransom	
Delegate Don Scott	
The Honorable Bryan Slater	

Call to Order

Ms. Nancy Howell Agee, Chair of the Virginia Growth and Opportunity (GO Virginia) Board, called the meeting to order.

	Vice Chair Stottlemyer provided welcoming comments and formally welcomed Secretary of Commerce and Trade Juan Pablo Segura to the Board.
Introduction of New Members	Ms. Agee provided a welcome and introduction to the Board's newest members, Mr. Bill Dotson and Mr. Thomas Ransom.
Roll Call	Mr. Cody Anderson, GO Virginia Program Administrator for the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD), called the roll and stated that a quorum was present.
Public Comment	Ms. Agee opened the floor for public comment.

Ms. Alison Varner-Denbigh, Executive Director of the GO Virginia Region 8 Council, appeared before the Board for comment. Ms. Varner-Denbigh provided comment on behalf of the Harrisonburg–Rockingham Chamber of Commerce, urging the Board to consider investments in childcare workforce projects.

Mr. Anderson noted that staff received one written public comment ahead of the meeting in the form of a letter from William E. Amos, PhD, Chair of the GO Virginia Region 2 Council, Mr. Paul Denham, Vice Chair of GO Virginia Region 2 Council, Lauren T.A. Willis, Chair of GO Virginia Region 3 Council, Tom Frantz, Chair of the GO Virginia Region 5 Council, and Lynn Taylor, Vice Chair of the GO Virginia Region 5 Council. The letter urged the Board to consider investments in childcare workforce projects.

No other members appeared before the Board for public comment. The public comment period was closed.

After the public comment period, Ms. Agee noted that the discussion regarding childcare would be taken up by the Governance and Policy Committee. |
| Election of Officers | Ms. Agee recognized Maggie Beal, Director of the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development, to conduct the election of officers.

Ms. Beal noted that the Board created the Governance and Policy Committee, which acts as the nominating committee for the Board. Ms. Beal recognized Governance and Policy Committee Chair, Emily O'Quinn, to provide the recommended slate of candidates nominated by the Committee. |

Ms. O'Quinn, on behalf of the Committee, nominated Ms. Emily O'Quinn for the position of Chair of the Board, Mr. Jim Cheng for the position of Vice Chair of Program Performance and Evaluation, and Mr. John King for the position of Vice Chair for Regional Councils.

Ms. Beal noted that the floor remained open for member nominations. No other nominations were made, and the floor was closed.

For the position of Chair, the Board elected Ms. Emily O'Quinn.

For the Position of Vice Chair of Program Performance and Evaluation, the Board elected Mr. Jim Cheng.

For the Position of Vice Chair of Regional Councils, the Board elected Mr. John King.

Consent Agenda Ms. O'Quinn noted that the consent agenda, including the June 10, 2025, meeting minutes, the FY25 Region 4 Capacity Building Budget Approval, the 2026 State Board Quarterly Meeting Calendar, the Regional Council Certifications, an Amendment to Board Policy #3, and an Amendment to Board Policy #9, would be voted on as a block.

A motion was made by Mr. Fleet and seconded by Mr. King to approve the consent agenda. The motion passed.

Deputy Director's Report Ms. Sara Dunnigan, Deputy Director of Economic Development and Community Vitality at DHCD, provided a brief overview of the application review process for GO Virginia grant applications.

Ms. Dunnigan presented the Board with 9 Per Capita applications regarding cluster scale-up, startup ecosystems, and workforce development: Hampton Roads Advanced Manufacturing Modernization with Emerging Robotics (HAMMER) Program from Region 5, Project Rise from Region 2, Empowering Founders Through Every Stage from Region 4, Say Yes to LYH Region from Region 2, UWCV Childcare & Workforce Development Project from Region 2, Energy Resilience and sustainability (ERAS) Program from Region 5, FAA Uncrewed Aerial Systems College Initiative and Talent Pipeline from Region 5, Cybersecurity Dual Enrollment Program

from Region 8, and Rockbridge Advanced Manufacturing Workforce Development from Region 8.

Ms. O'Quinn noted that the Board would vote on the proposed projects as a block.

After discussion, a motion was made by Speaker Scott and seconded by Mr. Fleet to approve the projects as recommended by staff. The motion passed.

Ms. Dunnigan provided the Board with an overview of Board Policy #14, the Maximum Regional Per Capita Carryover Allowance. Ms. Dunnigan noted that GO Virginia Region 5 and GO Virginia Region 7 had balances in their per capita allocation in excess of one full year's allocation, and that excess would be swept into the GO Virginia Competitive Fund for all GO Virginia Regions to access.

Governance and Policy Committee Report	Ms. O'Quinn, Chair of the Governance and Policy Committee, provided updates on the July meeting of the Committee.

Ms. O'Quinn reported that the Committee discussed a JLARC recommendation to reduce local match requirements. Ms. O'Quinn noted that the Committee recognized recent legislative changes that eased the burden of local match and therefore chose not to bring a policy recommendation forward to the Board.

Ms. O'Quinn also reported that the Committee discussed a JLARC recommendation to increase the amount of money that each Region may use for planning purposes from $250,000 to 25% of their allocation. Ms. O'Quinn noted that the topic would be discussed further at the next meeting of the Committee.

Ms. O'Quinn noted that the Committee brought forward a recommended change for Board Policy #3, which exempted site planning from the regional planning limits, noting the emerging need for the identification of the next generation of site investments. This change was approved as part of the consent agenda.

Ms. O'Quinn noted that any member interested in serving as the Chair of the Governance and Policy Committee should approach her and that the position would be appointed at the next meeting of the Board.

Regional Councils Committee Report	Ms. O'Quinn recognized Mr. John King to provide a report for the Regional Councils Committee.
	Mr. King reported that the Committee was targeting a meeting date in October to discuss several items, including the Regional Growth and Diversification Plan updates, the recent changes to Board Policy #3 and Board Policy #9, and to discuss Regional Self-Assessment Surveys.
Information Items	Ms. O'Quinn recognized Ms. Dunnigan to provide an overview of the information items. Ms. Dunnigan noted that in the Board Packet, members can find a list of DHCD administratively approved items.
Adjournment	The meeting was adjourned.

Memorandum

TO: Virginia Growth and Opportunity Board

FROM: Sara Dunnigan, Deputy Director, DHCD

RE: Updated Electronic Participation Policy

DATE: 12/9/2025

Background

In the 2024 General Assembly Session, the Code of Virginia was amended to modify FOIA provisions concerning electronic participation policies. Under this change, public bodies are now required to adopt an electronic participation policy annually.

The attached revision to Board Policy #2 incorporates the updated adoption date, with no substantive modifications.

Board Policy #2

TITLE: Electronic Participation in Virginia Growth and Opportunity Board Meetings

EFFECTIVE DATE: ~~09/10/2024~~ 12/9/2025

AUTHORITY: § 2.2-3708.2 of the Code of Virginia

POLICY STATEMENT:

Individual Requests for Remote Participation:

It is the policy of the Virginia Growth and Opportunity Board that individual Board members may participate in meetings of the Board by electronic communication means as permitted by Virginia Code § 2.2-3708.3 of the Code of Virginia. This policy shall apply to the entire membership and without regard to the identity of the member requesting remote participation or the matters that will be considered or voted on at the meeting.

Whenever an individual member wishes to participate from a remote location, the law requires a quorum of the Board to be physically assembled at the primary or central meeting location.

When such individual participation is due to a personal matter, such participation is limited by law to two meetings per calendar year or 50 percent of the meetings held per calendar year rounded up to the next whole number, whichever is greater.

When audio-visual technology is available, a member of the body shall, for purposes of quorum, be considered absent from any portion of the meeting during which visual communication with the member is voluntarily disconnected or otherwise fails or during which audio communication involuntarily fails.

Requests for Individual Remote Participation; Automatic Approval Process:

Requests for remote participation by a member of the Board shall be conveyed to the Chair of the Board.

Individual participation from a remote location shall be approved unless such participation would violate this policy or provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act (§ 2.2-3700 et seq.) of the Code of Virginia. If a member's participation from a remote location is challenged, then the Board shall vote whether to allow such participation.

The request for remote participation shall be recorded in the minutes of the meeting. If the Board votes to disapprove of the member's participation because such participation would violate this policy, such disapproval shall be recorded in the minutes with specificity. The minutes shall include other information as required by §§ 2.2-3707 and 2.2-3708.3.

Eligible Reasons for Individual Remote Participation:

A member of the Board may request remote participation for one of four reasons. These reasons fall into two different categories: personal matters and non-personal matters.

Requesting remote participation due to personal matters:

a) The member is unable to attend the meeting due to a personal matter and identifies with specificity the nature of the personal matter. However, the member may not use remote participation due to personal matters more than two meetings per calendar year or 25 percent of the meetings held per calendar year rounded up to the next whole number, whichever is greater.

Requesting remote participation due to non-personal matters:

b) The member has a temporary or permanent disability or other medical condition that prevents the member's physical attendance. For the purposes of determining whether a quorum is physically assembled, an individual member of the body who is a person with a disability as defined in §51.-40.1 and uses remote participation counts toward the quorum as if the individual was physically present.

c) A medical condition of a member of the member's family requires the member to provide care that prevents the member's physical attendance or the member is a caregiver who must provide care for a person with a disability at the time the public meeting is being held thereby preventing the member's physical attendance. For the purposes of determining whether a quorum is physically assembled, an individual member of the body who is a caregiver for a person with a disability and uses remote participation counts toward the quorum as if the individual was physically present.

d) The member's principal residence is more than 60 miles from the meeting location identified in the required notice for such meeting

The limitation to two meetings per calendar year or 25 percent of the meetings held per calendar year does not apply to non-personal matters as stated above and only applies when the member participates remotely due to a personal matter.

Minutes Requirements

a) If an individual member remotely participates in a meeting, a general description of the remote location must be included in the minutes. The minutes should be described in a similar matter as the following: ["Member" participated from their home in [locality]" or that "[Member] participated from their office in [locality]." The remote location does not need to be open to the public.

b) If a member remotely participates due to a (i) temporary or permanent disability or other medical condition that prevented the member's physical attendance or (ii) family

member's medical condition that required the member to provide care for such family member, thereby preventing the member's physical attendance, that fact must be included in the minutes. While the fact that a disability or medical condition prevents the member's physical attendance must be recorded in the minutes, it is not required to identify the specific disability or medical condition.

c) If a member remotely participates because the member's principal residence is more than 60 miles from the meeting location, the minutes must reflect that fact.

d) If a member remotely participates due to a personal matter, the minutes must include the specific nature of the personal matter cited by the member.

e) As stated above, if remote participation by a member is disapproved because it would violate the participation policy adopted by the Board, such disapproval must be recorded in the minutes with specificity.

All Virtual Public Meetings:

It is the policy of the Virginia Growth and Opportunity Board that the Board may hold all-virtual public meetings pursuant to subsection C of §2.2-3708.3. Such all virtual public meetings are limited by law to two meetings per calendar year or 25 percent of the meetings held per calendar year rounded up to the next whole number, whichever is greater. Additionally, an all-virtual public meeting may not be held consecutively with another all-virtual public meeting.

Statutory Requirements for Conducting an All-Virtual Public Meeting:

a) An indication of whether the meeting will be an in-person or all-virtual public meeting must be included in the required meeting notice along with a statement notifying the public that the method by which the Board chooses to meet shall not be changed unless the Board provides a new meeting notice in accordance with the provisions of §2.2-3707.

b) Public access to the all-virtual public meeting must be provided via electronic communication means.

c) The electronic communication means used must allow the public to hear all members of the public body participating in the all-virtual public meeting and, when audio-visual technology is available, to see the members of the Board as well.

d) A phone number or other live contact information must be provided to alert the Board if the audio or video transmission of the meeting provided by the Board fails, staff must monitor such designated means of communication during the meeting, and the Board must recess until public access is restored if the transmission fails for the public.

e) A copy of the proposed agenda and all agenda packets and, unless exempt, all materials furnished to members of the Board for a meeting must be made available to the public in electronic format at the same time as such materials are provided to members of the Board.

f)   No more than two members of the Board are together in any one remote location unless that remote location is open to the public to physically access it.

g)   If a closed session is held during an all-virtual public meeting, transmission of the meeting to the public must resume before the public body votes to certify the closed meeting as required by subsection D of §2.2-3712.

h)   The Board shall not convene an all virtual public meeting (i) more than two times per calendar year or 25 percent of the meetings held per calendar year rounded up to the next whole number, whichever is greater, or (ii) consecutively with another all-virtual public meeting.

i)   Minutes of all-virtual public meetings held by electronic communication means are taken as required by §2.2-3707 and include the fact that the meeting was held by electronic communication means and the type of electronic communication means by which the meeting was held. If a member's participation from a remote location pursuant to this subsection is disapproved because such participation would violate the policy adopted pursuant to subsection D, such disapproval shall be recorded in the minutes with specificity.

APPROVAL AND REVIEW: This Board policy was reviewed and approved on September 10, 2024. and readopted by the Board on December 9, 2025.

SUPERSESSION: This Board policy amends and replaces Board Policy #2 which was originally adopted on September 13, 2022. None.

DHCD DIRECTOR: Bryan Horn Maggie Beal

III. DEPUTY DIRECTOR'S REPORT
- a. ***Action Item:***
    - i. 2025 Regional Economic Growth and Diversification Plan Updates
- b. Application Submission & Evaluation Process
- c. ***Action Item:***
    - i. Implementation Applications (5)
    - ii. Competitive Applications (4)
- d. Annual Report Highlights

Memorandum

TO:	Virginia Growth and Opportunity Board
FROM:	Sara Dunnigan, Deputy Director
RE:	Regional Growth & Diversification Plan Update
DATE:	December 9, 2025

In 2019, each of the nine regional councils throughout the Commonwealth developed a Growth and Diversification Plan to identify economic opportunities, needs, and challenges. These plans help establish priorities to:

- promote private-sector growth and opportunity in the region
- identify opportunities of economic competitiveness for the region, including gaps in education and skills required to meet existing and prospective employer needs within the region; and
- outline strategies that the collaborating business, education, and government entities in the region will pursue to expand economic opportunity, diversify the economy, and align workforce development activities

Pursuant to § 2.2-2489 of the Code of Virginia, each Regional Council must review its Plan at least every two years while receiving grants from the GO Virginia fund. These biennial reviews take the form of alternating Full Reviews and Interim Reviews, this calendar year requires a Full Review. The goal of a Full Review is to conduct a comprehensive analysis of all aspects of the Plan with an eye toward near-term economic acceleration opportunities as well as investments in longer-term economic growth strategies. The plan should state their commitment to the targeted industries, goals and strategies, and inform how GO Virginia grant funds can support collaborative projects between at least two or more localities within the region. The Growth and Diversification Plan update ensures it is a living document that shapes strong project development and achieve regional economic development goals.

Each of the nine Regional Councils has completed and approved its updated Growth and Diversification Plan. Enclosed with this memo is a matrix summarizing the targeted industry sectors across all regions, along with a one-page overview of each region's updated plan.

DHCD recommends approval of all nine Growth and Diversification Plans.
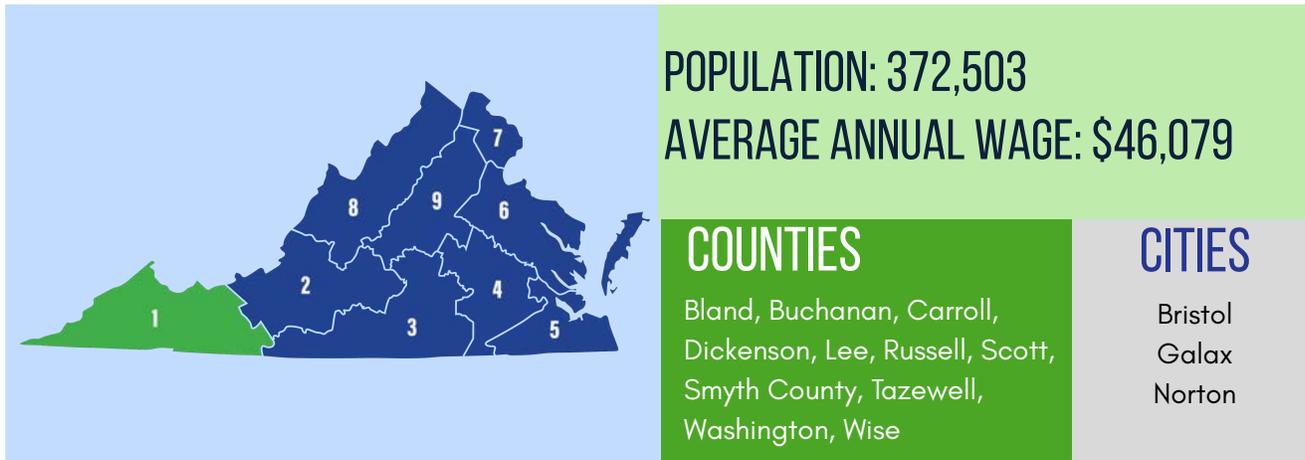
GO Virginia Target Industries Matrix

Industry Sector		Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9
Manufacturing	Advanced Manufacturing	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Manufacturing	Food and Beverage Manufacturing	✓		✓					✓	
Manufacturing	Shipbuilding					✓				
Knowledge Work	Information and Emerging Technologies	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Knowledge Work	Professional and Business Services			✓			✓			✓
Knowledge Work	Life Sciences and Biotechnology		✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Knowledge Work	Aerospace and Unmanned Systems		✓			✓				
Logistics	Logistics and Transportation	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
Agriculture	Agriculture and Aquaculture			✓			✓		✓	
Agriculture	Forestry						✓			
Energy		✓		✓	✓	✓				

GO VIRGINIA REGION 1

2025 Growth & Diversification Overview

POPULATION: 372,503

AVERAGE ANNUAL WAGE: $46,079

COUNTIES

Bland, Buchanan, Carroll, Dickenson, Lee, Russell, Scott, Smyth County, Tazewell, Washington, Wise

CITIES

Bristol
Galax
Norton

TARGET INDUSTRIES

- Logistics, Warehousing, and Transportation
- Advanced Manufacturing
- Food & Beverage Manufacturing
- Energy & Minerals
- Information Technology

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Talent Development

- Align education and training programs with target industry needs, strengthen coordination between providers and employers, and advance TPI-driven advanced manufacturing strategies.
- Strengthen the talent pipeline by connecting individuals to employer-valued credentials and degree programs, while promoting clear career pathways across the region.
- Expand work-based learning experiences, including internships, apprenticeships, on-the-job upskilling, and re-skilling programs.
- Elevate healthcare as a strategic workforce priority to strengthen pipelines in nursing, allied health, behavioral health, and related fields.

Sites & Infrastructure

- Support broadband infrastructure expansion to ensure competitiveness and enable innovation across industrial and technology sites.
- Advance tier rankings for priority sites and maximize the use of VEDP's Site Characterization and VBRSP programs to focus investment on the highest-impact locations.
- Strengthen and utilize RIFAs to develop shared industrial sites that attract target industries and support revenue-sharing.

16

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Entrepreneurship & Innovation

- Advance implementation of Opportunity SWVA as the region's coordinating entity for entrepreneurship. Focus on high-growth company development, ecosystem connectivity, and capital access
- ·Expand innovation and entrepreneurship programming across all levels of the educational infrastructure, including K-12, postsecondary, and workforce development
- ·Support entrepreneurs and existing businesses in target industries through product and market development, access to capital, and mentorship networks

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

Retooling Virginia's Manufacturers for Strategic Industries aims to strengthen Region One manufacturers by helping them build sustainable revenue streams in PPE and essential medical supplies. The project focuses on closing supply gaps and building a resilient, Virginia-based supply network. This network will support faster, more efficient responses to future public health emergencies. The initiative includes targeted training for manufacturers and investments in advanced production technologies. It also incorporates collaboration with public health partners to ensure production aligns with community needs.

Energy Storage & Electrification Manufacturing Jobs is a Region One initiative focused on creating jobs, attracting new investment, and expanding the regional tax base. The project begins with a technical analysis to identify needs, opportunities, and competitiveness of local companies in energy storage and electrification. The second phase centers on stakeholder engagement and strategic planning to develop targeted approaches that support existing firms and attract new ones. The final phase implements these strategies through resources, training, and capacity-building efforts. Overall, the initiative aims to strengthen four key regional companies and position the region for growth in an emerging industry.

REGIONAL CONTACTS

REGIONAL COUNCIL

Pam Collie-Price, Chair
Steve Jones, Vice Chair

SUPPORT ORGANIZATION

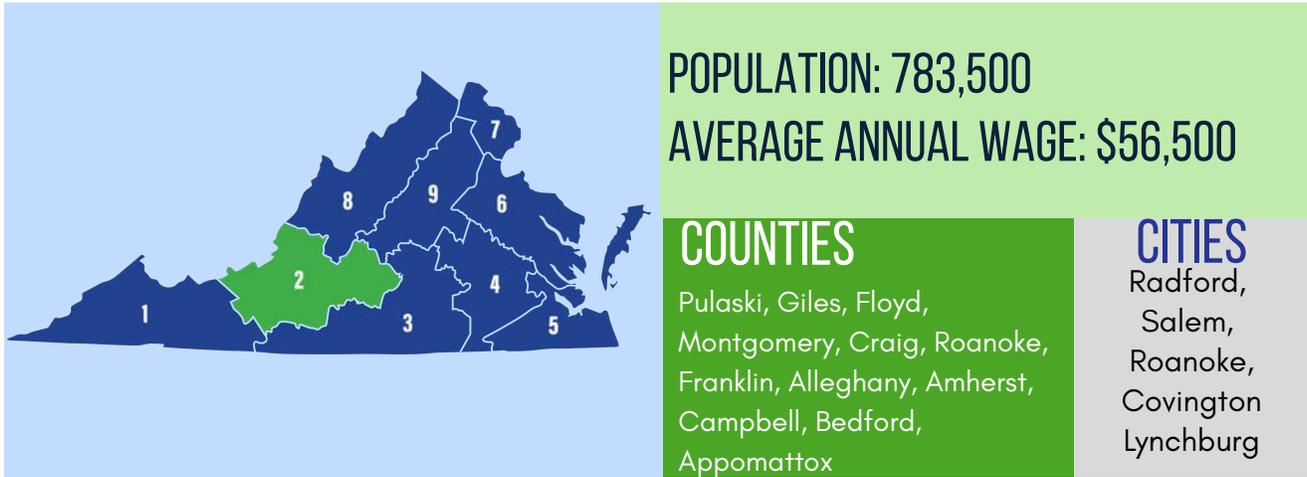·University of Virginia College at Wise
Jennifer Nichols, Executive Director:
jdr9f@uvawise.edu

POPULATION: 783,500

AVERAGE ANNUAL WAGE: $56,500

COUNTIES
Pulaski, Giles, Floyd, Montgomery, Craig, Roanoke, Franklin, Alleghany, Amherst, Campbell, Bedford, Appomattox

CITIES
Radford, Salem, Roanoke, Covington Lynchburg

TARGET INDUSTRIES

Life Science and Biotechnology

Advanced Manufacturing

Aerospace & Unmanned System

Information & Emerging Technology

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

- Develop and implement strategies to attract private and alternative investment to accelerate research and startup growth.
- Expand access to affordable lab and production space by identifying, activating, and subsidizing unused or underutilized facilities.
- Advance the region's nuclear and energy cluster through sector-specific training, additional business-ready sites, and stronger lab-to-market and entrepreneurial support.
- Increase the number of developable industrial sites through targeted site readiness planning, grading, and infrastructure improvements.
- Refurbish underutilized facilities to create additional lab, testing, and scalable manufacturing space.
- Expand paid internships, work-based learning, mentorship, and apprenticeship opportunities across priority industries.
- Strengthen infrastructure and workforce capabilities in AI, robotics, autonomy, and quantum technologies.
- Improve technology transfer and accelerate the adoption of emerging technologies such as AI, machine learning, AR/VR, robotics, data analytics, and existing university intellectual property.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

·**Project VITAL** establishes new research cores, expands workforce development programs, and creates a collaborative network connecting Region 2 life science partners with industry partners across the Commonwealth. The Roanoke Blacksburg Innovation Alliance (RBIA), an organization focused on growing the region's technology and biotechnology sectors, will collaborate with Virginia Tech and Carilion Clinic to lead the Region 2 effort. Project VITAL will direct $4.9 million to strengthen the region's position at the forefront of fields such as medical devices, oncology, therapeutic research, and neurotechnology. Project VITAL aims to create 1,315 jobs over five years and lead to a total economic impact of $40.8 million.

REGIONAL CONTACTS

REGIONAL COUNCIL

Paul Denham, Chair
Richmond Vincent, Vice Chair

SUPPORT ORGANIZATION
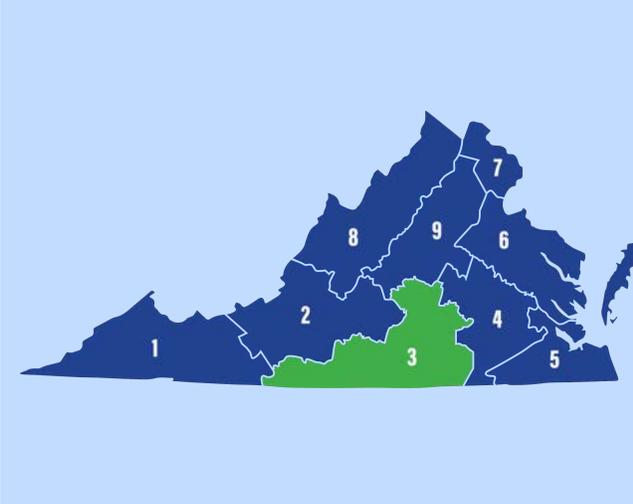
Virginia Tech Center for Economic and Community Engagement
John Provo, Executive Director

VIRGINIA INITIATIVE FOR
GROWTH & OPPORTUNITY
IN EACH REGION

POPULATION: 360,654

AVERAGE ANNUAL WAGE: $47,232

COUNTIES
Amelia, Brunswick, Buckingham, Charlotte, Cumberland, Halifax, Henry, Lunenburg, Mecklenburg, Nottoway, Patrick, Pittsylvania, and Prince Edward
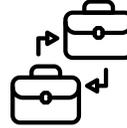
CITIES
Dansville
Martinsville

TARGET INDUSTRIES

Advanced Manufacturing

Logistics, Warehousing, and Transportation

Business Services

Energy

Information & Emerging Technology

Agriculture, Controlled Environment Agriculture

Food Manufacturing

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Talent Development
- Advance and sustain a K–14 career pathways program—anchored by GO TEC—through effective implementation and continuous EDO-led awareness and promotion to businesses.
- Pilot a high-quality apprenticeship model for one of Region 3's target sectors.

Sites & Infrastructure
- Support the development of strategies and plans to sustain a regional approach to site development.
- Increase the number of Business-Ready Sites to Tier ratings 3, 4, and 5.
- Increase the marketability of unique properties in the Region.
- Increase the number, success rate, and profitability of Virginia's CEA-related entrepreneurs, small businesses, and on-farm revenue-generating enterprises.

2025 Growth & Diversification Overview

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

·Entrepreneurship & Innovation
- Position the translational research capabilities and reputation of the VT/IALR CEA Innovation Center to enhance and increase its support of existing and emerging CEA businesses and reach a complementary portfolio of companies across their supply chains.
- Monitor and advance the implementation of the SOVA Rise Collaborative.
- ·Identify and support efforts to grow emerging business sectors.
- Support the growth and sustainability of the entrepreneurial hubs in Region 3

- Cultivate a pipeline of skilled individuals in CEA through comprehensive talent development programs that would include CEA-relevant credentials.
- Increase enrollment in K-12, community college, undergraduate, and graduate-level students in CEA-related programs supplemented by internships, curricular instruction, career awareness, and relevant work-based learning experiences.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

RISE Collaborative connects makers, entrepreneurs, and innovators across Southern Virginia to strengthen the region's entrepreneurship and innovation ecosystem. Through programs, events, and an online platform, participants gain peer support, access to resource partners, training, and targeted networking opportunities. Established in 2021, RISE was designed to help build a more inclusive and dynamic regional economy. Its mission focuses on expanding equity and access for individuals underserved due to geography and underrepresented by race, gender, religion, or other factors. Region 3's entrepreneurial investments have already led to the creation of two Innovation Hubs that provide sub-regional access to advanced equipment.

REGIONAL CONTACTS

REGIONAL COUNCIL
Lauren Willis, *Chair*
Randy Lail, Vice *Chair*

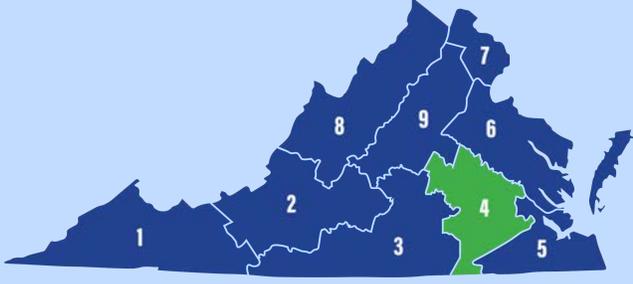### SUPPORT ORGANIZATION
Southside Planning District Commission
Bryan David, Program Director

POPULATION: 1,360,104

AVERAGE ANNUAL WAGE: $69,400

COUNTIES

Charles City, Chesterfield, Dinwiddie, Goochland, Greensville, Hanover, Henrico, New Kent, Powhatan, Prince George, Surry, Sussex

CITIES

Emporia
Hopewell
Petersburg
Richmond

TARGET INDUSTRIES

Advanced Manufacturing

Information & Emerging Technology

Logistics and Transportation

Energy

Life Science and Biotechnology

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Talent Development
- Implement Talent Pathways Initiative Plan for Information Technology and Advanced Pharmaceutical Manufacturing

Sites & Infrastructure
- Expand the portfolio of Business Ready Sites within the Crater Planning District Commission footprint

Cluster Scale Up
- Pursue projects to grow the region's newly prioritized industry cluster around energy and meet workforce needs in the cluster
- Successfully integrate to AI transformation, complete and integrate landscape assessment

Entrepreneurship & Innovation
- Support entrepreneurship initiatives, particularly those which expand the footprint of areas served to include more rural areas

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

The Rowanty Technical Center received GO Virginia funding to launch an Advanced Manufacturing and Robotics program serving Dinwiddie, Prince George, and Sussex counties. Graduates will earn multiple industry-recognized credentials, including Workforce Readiness, Forklift, OSHA-10, and Smarta Automation certifications. The program will initially serve high school students, with plans to expand to adult learners and incorporate work-based learning opportunities such as internships. It also strengthens the regional talent pipeline by aligning with GO TEC programming at the middle school level and dual-enrollment and postsecondary pathways offered through Brightpoint Community College.

REGIONAL CONTACTS

REGIONAL COUNCIL

Todd Haymore Chair

Moses Foster, Vice Chair

SUPPORT ORGANIZATION

GROW Capital Jobs
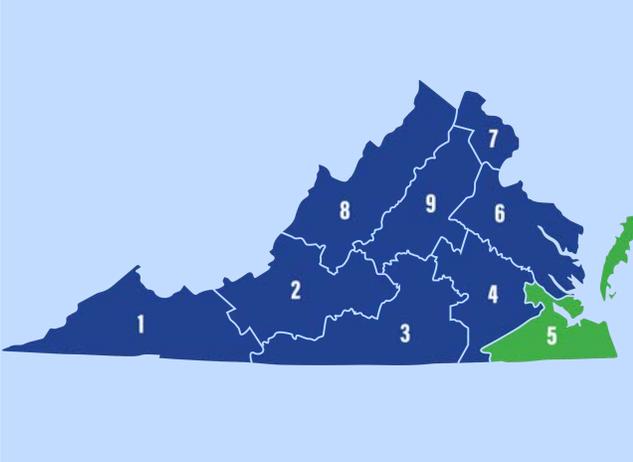
Wilson Flohr, President and CEO

POPULATION: 1,756,911

AVERAGE ANNUAL WAGE: ·$61,575

COUNTIES

Accomack, Isle of Wight, James City, Northampton, Southampton County, York

CITIES

Franklin
Newport News
Norfolk
Poquoson
Portsmith
Suffolk
Virginia Beach
Williamsburg

TARGET INDUSTRIES

Energy

Shipbuilding

Water Technologies

Advanced Manufacturing

Information & Emerging Technology

Logistics and Transportation

Aerospace & Unmanned System

Life Science and Biotechnology

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

·Workforce/Talent Development:
- Close workforce gaps in key industry clusters through aligned training programs, strategic talent importation, expanded re-skilling efforts, and increased retention of local graduates and transitioning military personnel.

Site Development and Infrastructure:
- Ensure Region 5 has a competitive portfolio of Tier 4 and 5 business-ready sites to attract and accommodate high-value projects in target clusters.

Cluster Scale-Up:
- Invest in physical and digital infrastructure that enables growth in federal-aligned, tech-enabled, and energy-intensive sectors.

·Workforce/Talent Development:
- Advance a scalable innovation ecosystem that accelerates commercialization and business growth while aligning with regional branding, talent attraction, and priority projects in the Hampton Roads Regional Investment Playbook and Start in Hampton Roads initiative.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

The Hampton Roads Workforce Council (HRWC) led the **Region 5 Talent Pathways Initiative** to define talent pathways for the region's targeted industries. The Regional Council selected HRWC to serve as the coordinating entity due to its strong record of integrating workforce programs and providing regional leadership. Using a demand-driven methodology, HRWC convened an employer collaborative to validate labor market data and talent needs. This approach ensured that workforce strategies were built around real-time employer input and regional economic priorities. The resulting plan provides tailored pathways for the two targeted industry clusters identified for Region 5.

T**he Hampton Roads Regional Investment Playbook** is assessing growth opportunities across several of the region's targeted industry sectors. Building on the earlier phase that identified priority areas for study, this phase will conduct a deeper analysis to determine the most promising opportunities for regional investment. The effort is developing seven to ten initiatives to strengthen targeted industries and outline potential funding structures to support implementation. While Hampton Roads has traditionally focused on end-product assembly, the analysis highlights opportunities for the region to expand its role in earlier stages of innovation and research.

REGIONAL CONTACTS

REGIONAL COUNCIL
Thomas Frantz, *Chair*
Lynn Taylor, Vice Chair

SUPPORT ORGANIZATION
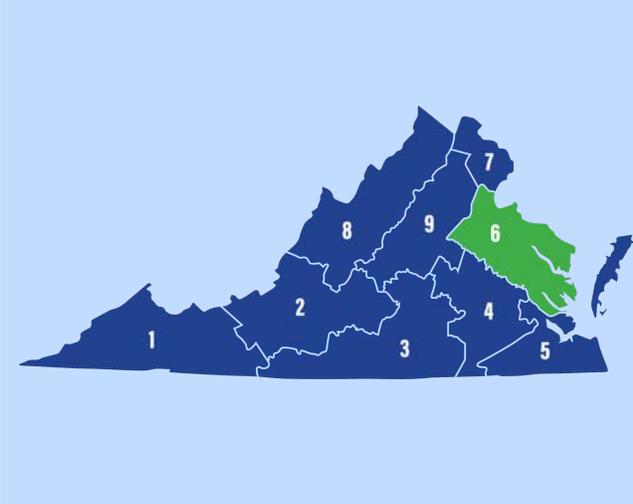Hampton Roads Executive Roundtable
Nancy Grden, Executive Director

2025 Growth & Diversification Overview

POPULATION: ·553,219

AVERAGE ANNUAL WAGE: ·$59,452

COUNTIES

Caroline, Essex, Gloucester, King and Queen, King George, King William, Lancaster, Mathews, Middlesex, Northumberland, Richmond, Spotsylvania, Stafford, and Westmoreland

CITIES

Fredericksburg

TARGET INDUSTRIES

- Advanced Manufacturing
- Information & Emerging Technology
- Forestry & Wood Products
- Logistics and Transportation
- Agriculture & Aquaculture
- Professional & Business Services

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Talent Development
- Align workforce training program to targeted sectors.
- Align training efforts across the region (e.g. Rappahannock Community College Training Center).
- Address regional disparities in education and labor force participation.

Entrepreneurship & Innovation
- Expand innovation and tech entrepreneurship, including the Potomac Tech Bridge.
- Support minority-owned and rural startups by increasing access to capital.
- Support startups in marine tech, water management, and environmental services.

Sites and Infrastructure
- Conduct site readiness evaluations and identify sites for specific industry targets.
- Establish regional authorities (e.g. Fredericksburg RIFA).
- Align site development with priority industry clusters.

Cluster Scale Up
- Support business expansion in priority traded sectors.
- Invest in supply chain and innovation capacity.

The **Coastal Resilience and Adaptation Economy** statewide competitive project, in partnership with GO Virginia Region 5, made significant impacts in creating a coastal resilience economy in the Middle Peninsula and Hampton Roads Regions. Final metrics from the full grant period included 110 jobs created, 4 businesses expanded, and 224 businesses served through the business accelerator with RISE Resilience Innovations and the Coastal Virginia Adaptation & Resilience Consortium through ODU. Outside of GO Virginia metrics, the program also attracted and retained 37 companies in Region 5 and 6 as well as retained 53 jobs.

The Stafford County Public School's **Innovation Pathways Project,** which will close out in FY26, saw significant increases in participation from students and teachers in the region who sought to gain CompTIA certifications and training in Cybersecurity. To date, the project has trained 831 teachers and students and awarded 104 credentials.

REGIONAL CONTACTS

REGIONAL COUNCIL
·John Anzivino, *Chair*
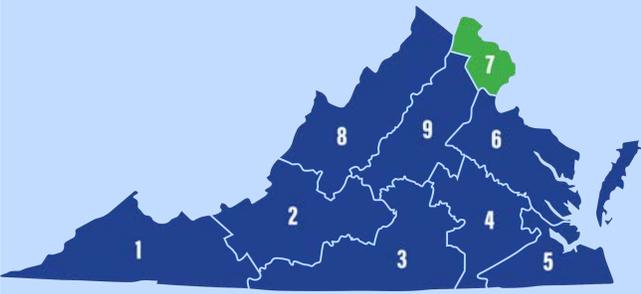Jeff Szyperski, Vice Chair

SUPPORT ORGANIZATION

George Washington Regional Commission
Sarah Oldaker, Economic Development Program Director

VIRGINIA INITIATIVE FOR
GROWTH & OPPORTUNITY
IN EACH REGION

POPULATION: 2,600,000
AVERAGE ANNUAL WAGE: $99,354

COUNTIES

Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun, Prince William County

CITIES

Alexandria
Fairfax
Falls Church
Manassas
Manassas Park

TARGET INDUSTRIES

Information & Emerging Technology

Life Science and Biotechnology

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Cluster Scale Up

- Leverage federal and defense technology strengths to expand into commercial and dual-use markets.
- Build a leading global hub for IT-driven life sciences with bioinformatics, computational biology, and digital health.
- Support the growth of robotics, unmanned systems, and other advanced hardware applications, leveraging synergies with artificial intelligence and related fields to enhance regional competitiveness.
- Foster stronger regional coordination among Northern Virginia's local jurisdictions and across the Greater Washington metro to align strategic priorities and build complementary strengths in next-generation technologies.

Entrepreneurship & Innovation

- Advance energy innovation through research and development in alternative energy technologies to address digital infrastructure requirements and constraints.
- Accelerate product-based innovation to drive scalable growth to complement the region's strong services base.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Workforce Development
- Create targeted pathways for public sector employees and veterans to transition into private sector roles in the region's key industries.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHT

The **Northern Virginia Bio Science Center** is a 30,000-square-foot BSL-2 wet lab facility that opened in 2022 to address the region's shortage of specialized lab space. Developed by Holladay Properties in partnership with Prince William County, it provides state-of-the-art laboratories for companies graduating from the Prince William Science Accelerator and other expanding biotech firms. The project has retained forty jobs and created sixty new life-science positions, with additional growth emerging in bioinformatics and data analytics. By offering scalable lab space locally, the center has reduced the loss of companies to Maryland and strengthened Northern Virginia's competitiveness as a biotech hub. It also established partnerships with George Mason University and statewide initiatives such as VA Bio Connect while achieving federal BSL-2 certification and advanced safety standards.

REGIONAL CONTACTS

REGIONAL COUNCIL
·Sumeet Shrivastava, *Chair*
Paul Liberty, Vice Chair

SUPPORT ORGANIZATION

Northern Virginia Regional Commission
Lisa Shaprio, GO Virginia Region 7 Lead Project Director

GO VIRGINIA REGION 8

2025 Growth & Diversification Overview

POPULATION: 556,612

AVERAGE ANNUAL WAGE: ·$55,013

COUNTIES
Clarke, Frederick, Warren, Shenandoah, Page, Rockingham, Augusta, Rockbridge, Highland, Bath

CITIES
Lexington
Buena Vista
Staunton
Waynesboro
Harrisonburg
Winchester

TARGET INDUSTRIES

Logistics, Warehousing, & Transportation

Advanced Manufacturing

Agriculture & Aquaculture

Information Technology

Life Science and Biotechnology

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Workforce Development
- Increase Skills Availability
- Align Career Pathways with Employer Needs
- Strengthen Regional Talent Retention
- Increase Talent Attraction

Entrepreneurship & Innovation
- Increase Access to Capital
- Support Student Entrepreneurship
- Encourage Development of Technology, Innovation, and Start-Up Hubs
- Support Business-to-Business Ecosystem Building

Sites & Infrastructure
- Increase Readiness of High-Priority Sites
- Continue to Explore Opportunities for Mega-Site Development

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Cluster Scale Up
- Support Expanding R&D Efforts in Cluster-Relevant Areas
- Encourage Sector Partnerships

PROJECT HIGHLIGHT

Laurel Ridge Community College partnered with the National Coalition of Certification Centers (NC3) to launch a new **Mechatronics program,** completing fully equipped Level 1 and Level 2 training labs through GO Virginia support. The initiative introduced six new industry-aligned certifications, including Product ID Fundamentals, Applied Fluid Power, Mechanical Systems, PLC, Robotics, and Industry 4.0. These offerings provide hands-on technical training to meet employer demand in advanced manufacturing and automation. To date, the program has served 110 businesses and contributed to the creation of 50 new jobs, strengthening the region's skilled workforce pipeline.

REGIONAL CONTACTS

REGIONAL COUNCIL

Dr. Yolanda Shields, *Chair*
Janet Clarke, Vice Chair

SUPPORT ORGANIZATION

·Northern Shenandoah Valley Regional Commission
Alison Varner-Denbigh, GO Virginia Region 8 Executive Director

GO VIRGINIA

VIRGINIA INITIATIVE FOR
GROWTH & OPPORTUNITY
IN EACH REGION
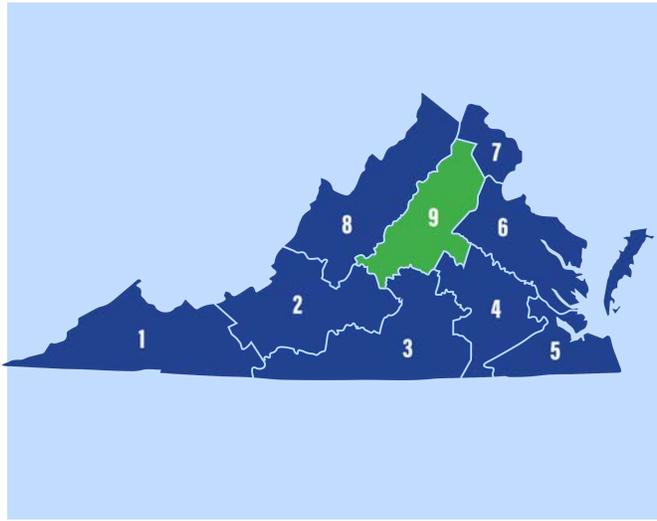
POPULATION: 556,612
AVERAGE ANNUAL WAGE: ·$64,692

COUNTIES
Albemarle, Culpeper, Fauquier, Fluvanna, Greene, Louisa, Madison, Nelson, Orange, Rappahannock

CITIES
Charlottesville

TARGET INDUSTRIES

Food & Beverage Manufacturing

Advanced Manufacturing

Information Technology

Life Science and Biotechnology

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Workforce Development
- ·Implement talent pathway strategies spanning from middle school career awareness to senior-level employment opportunities

Entrepreneurship & Innovation
- ·Widen founder education about capital sources and connect more capital

Sites & Infrastructure
- ·Create a regional site development plan for target sectors, identify potential sites in the region for these sectors, and advance development of these sites
- Assess benefits of collaboration on site development, such as Regional Industrial Facility Authority (RIFA) development opportunities

Cluster Scale Up
- Promote the creation or expansion of sector-specific industry support organizations or peer groups for target sectors

PROJECT HIGHLIGHT

A recently approved planning grant, **Innovation Corridor Strategic Roadmap**, will take a deeper dive into established and emerging industries to identify areas where the region has a global strategic advantage and that represent new growth opportunities. Specifically, the domains of life sciences/biotech and digital/IT (data science, AI, autonomy, advanced materials, cybersecurity, etc.) with commercial and national security applications, or the "Core Areas" will be analyzed for growth opportunity.

REGIONAL CONTACTS

REGIONAL COUNCIL

Rob Archer, Chair

Roque Castro, Vice Chair

SUPPORT ORGANIZATION

Central Virginia Partnership for Economic Development

Shannon Holland, Director, GO Virginia Region 9

Implementation Applications

Entrepreneurship & Innovation

Implementation Application

Project RISE

Region: 2
Applicant(s): Virginia Tech Corporate Research Center
Participating Localities: Botetourt County (in-kind and advisory), Pulaski County (in-kind and advisory), City of Roanoke (in-kind and advisory), Roanoke County (advisory), and Montgomery County (cash and advisory)

Investment Strategy: Entrepreneurship and Innovation
Targeted Industries: Aerospace and Autonomous Systems; Advanced Manufacturing; and Information and Emerging Technologies
Type of Project: Per-Capita Implementation

Project Goal(s): Support existing businesses, cultivate new startups, increase job creation, and boost patent activity for university-based ventures in the Roanoke and New River Valley, complementing ongoing regional investments.

Project Description: Project RISE aims to develop the start-up ecosystem of the Roanoke and New River Valley regions. Based out of Virginia Tech's Corporate Research Center, Project RISE will expand the offerings of the Entrepreneurship Resource Center (ERC) through three primary activities:

1. Deploying technical commercialization assistance to move promising technologies to market.
2. Establishing an entrepreneurial mentorship and development hub activated through regular programming within the ERC.
3. Providing access to on-call experts and AI, digital, and cloud-based tools to support entrepreneurs.

Ultimately, this is designed to develop a stronger start-up ecosystem for early-stage and pre-seed stage start-ups in the region.

Project RISE

Project Budget:

Type of Funds	Totals	
GO Virginia Request	$	648,000
Matching Funds	$	633,555
Local Match	$	89,892
Additional Leverage	$	2,300,000
Total Project Budget	$	3,581,555

GO Virginia funds will be used for technical assistance, contract services, training, and outreach. Match for this project is being applied to construction ($375,500 cash match), and lease ($168,663 in-kind match).

Products:
- Mentorship and Development Hub
- AI, Digital, and Cloud-Based Custom Tools

Outcomes
- 35 Jobs Created
- 10 New Businesses Created
- 40 Businesses Served
- 40 New Mentors Providing Assistance
- 20 Patents Filed
- 10 Patents Awarded

Workgroup Discussion:
- Application demonstration integration and alignment wotj otjer ecosystem partners and activities.
- Mentor recruitment and partnering process is well defined and sets the project up for success.
- Clear effort from the applicant to both harness the innovations coming out of Virginia Tech while also making sure that interested potential entrepreneurs from other four-year institutions and community colleges.

Project RISE

Workgroup Recommendation:

Based on the workgroup discussion and application review, this application is recommended for approval.

Application Review Checklist	
Economic Impact	
Metrics and Outcomes Program Aligned and Defined	YES
Positive Return on Investment (3 or 5 years)	YES
Regional Cooperation	
Meaningful Local Participation	YES
Regional Plan Alignment (G&D, REI, or TPPI)	YES
Demonstrates Regional Coordination	YES
Project Readiness	
Defined Timeline and Milestones	YES
Budget Complete and Match Verified	YES
Sustainability	
Clear and Executable Plan	YES
Evidence of Sustained Demand for Project	YES

Implementation Applications

Talent Development

Implementation Application

HOMEWorks Initiative

Region: 1

Applicant(s): Appalachian Highlands Housing Partnership

Participating Localities: Russell County (in-kind), Washington County (advisory), Grayson County (advisory), Smyth County (advisory)

Investment Strategy: Talent Development

Targeted Industries: Advanced Manufacturing

Type of Project: Per-Capita Implementation

Project Goal(s): To develop a regional training asset that will significantly advance the growth of the advanced manufacturing sector, specifically as it relates to modular construction.

Project Description: The applicant proposes establishing a workforce development facility focused on skilled trades training within the modular construction manufacturing sector. The facility will partner with three Southwest Virginia community colleges to create a coordinated pathway for students to earn industry-recognized credentials and gain hands-on experience. This initiative will introduce the NCCER Modular Housing credential—currently unavailable in Southwest Virginia—and will prepare participants for careers in modular housing construction as well as related industries, including utility and data center support.

The HOMEWorks training center project coincides with the development of a larger, $18 million modular housing manufacturing facility that will be co-located with the training facility. This facility will allow students to transition from classroom learning to work-based learning and will offer on-site apprenticeships and internships.

Project Budget:

Type of Funds	Totals
GO Virginia Request	$ 748,425
Matching Funds	$ 580,400
Local Match	$ 144,000
Additional Leverage	$ 364,070
Total Project Budget	$ 1,692,895

HOMEWorks Initiative

GO Virginia funds will be used for equipment, curriculum development, and post-award grant administration by the Regional Support Organization. Match for this project is being applied to equipment ($436,400 cash match) and a lay-down yard for training and production storage ($144,000 in-kind match).

Products:
- 30,000 sq ft training facility

Outcomes:
- 160 people trained
- 145 job placements
- 81 jobs created
- 5 businesses served
- 50 new interns placed
- 20 new apprenticeships created
- 5 new programs implemented
- 140 credentials awarded
- 75 students completing dual enrollment programs

Workgroup Discussion:
- Commitment from education partners on the dual enrollment activities is not demonstrated in the application.
- Sustained industry demand not well defined
- The application does not clearly outline how the project will be sequenced across multiple funding sources, creating uncertainty around timing and implementation.

HOMEWorks Initiative

Workgroup Recommendation:

Based on the workgroup discussion and application review, this application is recommended for deferral.

Application Review Checklist	
Economic Impact	
Metrics and Outcomes Program Aligned and Defined	YES
Positive Return on Investment (3 or 5 years)	YES
Regional Cooperation	
Meaningful Local Participation	YES
Regional Plan Alignment (G&D, REI, or TPPI)	YES
Demonstrates Regional Coordination	UNDETERMINED
Project Readiness	
Defined Timeline and Milestones	UNDETERMINED
Budget Complete and Match Verified	YES
Sustainability	
Clear and Executable Plan	YES
Evidence of Sustained Demand for Project	UNDETERMINED

Implementation Application

Danville Aviation Training Facility

Region(s): 3
Applicant(s): City of Danville
Participating Localities: City of Danville (cash match) and Southern Virginia Regional Alliance on behalf of their member localities, City of Danville, Mecklenburg County, Halifax County, and Pittsylvania County (advisory).

Targeted Industries: Transportation and Logistics

Investment Strategy: Talent Development
Type of Project: Per Capita Implementation

Project Goal(s): To expand the pool of qualified workers in the aviation sectors within Region 3.

Project Description: Through partnerships with Danville Community College (DCC), Averett University, Danville City Public Schools (DCPS), the City of Danville seeks funding to support the installation of data network infrastructure within a newly constructed Aviation Training Facility at Danville Regional Airport. A vacant parcel located at the Danville Regional Airport will allow the construction of a 13,244 square foot building to support facility requirements for DCC's new Aviation Maintenance Technology program that will be linked to DCPS Aviation Science Pathways program and Averett University's Aeronautics program.

The data network installation will involve retrofitting the aviation training facility building and adjacent 3,900 square foot hangar for the installation of data network equipment to support training and educational activities. A portion of the facility (36%) will be used as a shared space including classroom space, restrooms, a student lounge, and a breakroom; 37% of the facility will be dedicated to Averett University's Aeronautics program, and the remaining 27% will be dedicated to DCC's Aviation Maintenance Technology program.

Central to the facility's approach is an emphasis on dual enrollment pathways. This initiative will also allow high school students, enrolled in DCPS, to take college level aviation science courses, earning credits toward advanced certifications and degrees.

Danville Aviation Training Facility

Project Description:

Type of Funds	Totals
GO Virginia Request	$ 92,000
Matching Funds	$ 46,000
Local Match	$ 18,400
Additional Leverage	$ 8,041,928
Total Project Budget	$ 8,179,928

GO Virginia funds will be used to outfit the Aviation Training facility and adjacent hanger with data network infrastructure and other equipment needs. Matching funds will be used for construction of the facility ($46,000 cash contribution via EDA grant and the City of Danville).

Project Impact/Outcomes:
- 75 people trained
- 50 credentials awarded
- 1 new program implemented

Workgroup Discussion:
- Strong regional partnerships between DCC, Averett University, Danville Public Schools.
- Opportunity to scale the supply chain in transportation and logistics and the adjacent advanced manufacturing industry clusters.
- Application demonstrates unmeet industry demand in and out of the region

Danville Aviation Training Facility

Workgroup Recommendation:

Based on workgroup discussion and application review, this application is recommended for approval.

Application Review Checklist	
Economic Impact	
Metrics and Outcomes Program Aligned and Defined	YES
Positive Return on Investment (3 or 5 years)	NO
Regional Collaboration	
Meaningful Local Participation	YES
Regional Plan Alignment (G&D, REI, or TPPI)	YES
Demonstrates Regional Coordination	YES
Project Readiness	
Defined Timeline and Milestones	YES
Budget Complete and Match Verified	YES
Sustainability	
Clear and Executable Plan	YES
Evidence of Sustained Demand for Project	YES

Implementation Application

Expanding the GO TEC Career Pathways in Region 9

Region: 9

Applicant(s): Albemarle County Public Schools

Participating Localities: Albemarle County Public Schools (cash and in-kind match), Greene County Public Schools (cash and in-kind match), City of Charlottesville Public Schools (cash and in-kind match)

Targeted Industries: Advanced Manufacturing, Information Technology, Bioscience, Logistics

Investment Strategy: Talent Development

Type of Project: Per Capita Implementation

Project Goal(s): To expand the pool of qualified workers by increasing career exploration opportunities in targeted industries in GO Virginia Region 9 by creating Career Connection labs and teacher training as a part of the GO TEC initiative.

Project Description: Albemarle County Public Schools seeks funding to establish the first GO TEC Career Connection Labs in GO Virginia Region 9. This project would add new career connection labs in all of the middle schools in Albemarle County, Greene County, and the City of Charlottesville. Modules included in the project include: IT Coding & Networking, Automation & Robotics, Precision Machining, Electrical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Manufacturing Engineering, Metrology, BioTechnologies, and Welding. The applicant is partnering with local employers to offer facility tours and deepen students' career exposure.

The proposed modules align with Region 9's five target industry sectors—Biomedical & Biotechnology, Financial & Business Services, Food & Beverage Manufacturing, IT & Communications, and Light Manufacturing. Each module introduces students to career pathways tied to local employer needs, such as biotech lab skills, financial analytics, food production processes, IT systems, and advanced manufacturing.

Expanding the GO TEC Career Pathways in Region 9

Project Budget:

Type of Funds	Totals
GO Virginia Request	$ 1,016,000
Matching Funds	$ 767,210
Local Match	$ 767,210
Additional Leverage	$ 0
Total Project Budget	$ 1,783,210

GO Virginia funds will be used for equipment for career connections labs. Matching Funds will be used for consumable supply costs, coordination fees, and salaries and fringe for teachers. Of the $767,210 in total match, $58,500 is cash match and $708,710 is in-kind match.

Project Impact/Outcomes:
- 3,126 people trained
- 7 new programs implemented

Workgroup Discussion:
- Strong partnerships with industry in targeted sectors to align career exposure
- Strong connections to high school career and technical education and community college/four year higher-education in the region
- Strong "whole of school division" approach from the three partnering localities

Expanding the GO TEC Career Pathways in Region 9

Workgroup Recommendation:

Based on the workgroup discussion and application review, this application is recommended for approval.

Application Review Checklist	
Economic Impact	
Metrics and Outcomes Program Aligned and Defined	YES
Positive Return on Investment (3 or 5 years)	NO
Regional Collaboration	
Meaningful Local Participation	YES
Regional Plan Alignment (G&D, REI, or TPI)	YES
Demonstrates Regional Coordination	YES
Project Readiness	
Defined Timeline and Milestones	YES
Budget Complete and Match Verified	YES
Sustainability	
Clear and Executable Plan	YES
Evidence of Sustained Demand for Project	YES

Implementation Applications

Cluster Scale Up

Implementation Application

Hampton Roads Mobility Innovation Center

Region: 5

Applicant(s): Newport News Economic Development Authority

Participating Localities: City of Newport News (in-kind), City of Hampton (in-kind)

Investment Strategy: Cluster Scale Up

Targeted Industries: Uncrewed Systems and Aerospace, Information and Emerging Technologies

Type of Project: Per-Capita Implementation

Project Goal(s): To expand the pool of qualified workers in unmanned systems in Region 5.

Project Description: The applicant proposes two key activities as part of the project:

1. Infrastructure Development
   a. Establishment of an FAA-compliant Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) mobility test range at the adjacent Newport News Park Radio Control Club (NNPRCC) Flying Field flight facility within the Newport News-Williamsburg Airport (PHF) airspace.
   b. Deployment of a portable and fixed Counter-Unmanned Aerial Systems (C-UAS) system for real-time threat detection and mitigation.
2. Workforce Development
   a. Expand certified training programs in UAS, C-UAS, cybersecurity, and aviation technologies with Old Dominion University (ODU), Christopher Newport University (CNU), and the eAviation & Drone Academy (eADA).
   b. Provide job placement, apprenticeships, and career pathways aligned with employer demand.

Hampton Roads Mobility Innovation Center

Project Budget:

Type of Funds	Totals
GO Virginia Request	$ 3,061,400
Matching Funds	$ 1,530,988
Local Match	$ 336,428
Additional Leverage	$ 0
Total Project Budget	$ 4,592,388

GO Virginia funds will be used for grant administration by the applicant, outreach, and contract services. Match for this project is being applied to administration, outreach, salaries, planning/assessment, equipment, telecommunications, hardware/software, and market and feasibility studies.

Outcomes:
- 540 people trained
- 230 job placements
- 5 businesses served
- 6 new interns placed
- 1 apprenticeship created
- 4 new programs implemented
- 125 credentials awarded
- 40 students completing dual enrollment

Workgroup Discussion:
- This project includes a wide array of equipment purchases and infrastructure improvements, however, it is unclear how these investments are contributing to the committed outcomes of the project.
- Undefined how project alignment with VIPC/DOA Advanced Air mobility and Unmanned Systems Test Site Program

Hampton Roads Mobility Innovation Center

Workgroup Recommendation:

Based on the workgroup discussion and application review, this application is recommended for deferral.

Application Review Checklist	
Economic Impact	
Metrics and Outcomes Program Aligned and Defined	UNDETERMINED
Positive Return on Investment (3 or 5 years)	YES
Regional Cooperation	
Meaningful Local Participation	YES
Regional Plan Alignment (G&D, REI, or TPPI)	YES
Demonstrates Regional Coordination	YES
Project Readiness	
Defined Timeline and Milestones	YES
Budget Complete and Match Verified	UNDETERMINED
Sustainability	
Clear and Executable Plan	UNDETERMINED
Evidence of Sustained Demand for Project	YES

Competitive Applications

Cluster Scale Up

Statewide Competitive Planning Application

Blue Ridge Innovation Corridor Vision 2050

Regions: 3 (Lead Region) and 2
Applicant(s): Blue Ridge Innovation Corridor
Participating Localities: Franklin County (In-Kind), Botetourt County (In-Kind), Montgomery County (Cash), Henry County (In-Kind), City of Martinsville (In-Kind), City of Danville (Cash), and Pittsylvania County (Cash)

Investment Strategy: Cluster Scale Up
Targeted Industries: Advanced Manufacturing, Life Sciences and Biotechnology, IT and Emerging Technology
Type of Project: Statewide Competitive Planning

Project Goal(s): To develop a megaregional playbook to guide the BRIC region in terms of economic development and governance.

Project Description: The Blue Ridge Innovation Corridor (BRIC)'s Vision 2050 is meant to serve as a guiding study to inform superregional strategy to promote the economic growth and vitality of the region. The study will contain strategic guidance on 7 topics:

1. Advanced Manufacturing Sector Strategy: How to scale the cluster and ecosystem.
2. Life Sciences and Biotechnology Sector Strategy: How to position BRIC as a biotech hub.
3. IT and Emerging Technology Sector Strategy: How to utilize existing assets to develop regional competitiveness.
4. Infrastructure Investment Strategy: Prioritizing a set of infrastructure investments within the megaregion to promote target cluster growth.
5. Funding Roadmap Strategy: A strategic initiative to identify the world of funding opportunities for potential priorities.
6. Connectivity Strategy: A framework to unify Virginia Tech, IALR, the Roanoke Biotech cluster, and Danville-Martinsville's advanced manufacturing sector.
7. Governance Model: To structure the work and development of BRIC.

Blue Ridge Innovation Corridor Vision 2050

Project Budget:

Type of Funds	Totals
GO Virginia Request	$ 250,000
Matching Funds	$ 125,000
Local Match	$ 25,000
Additional Leverage	$ -
Total Project Budget	$ 375,000

GO Virginia funds will be used for contract services, training, outreach, and grant administration. Match for this project is being applied to contract services. ($5,000 in-kind match and $120,000 cash match).

Products:

- Advanced Manufacturing Sector Strategy
- Life Sciences and Biotechnology Sector Strategy
- IT and Emerging Technology Sector Strategy
- Infrastructure Investment Strategy
- Funding Roadmap Strategy
- Connectivity Strategy
- Governance Model

Workgroup Discussion:

- Very strong regional involvement and support for project activities, especially from the region's private sector.
- Applicant already has in place a clear strategy to categorize and prioritize resulting project ideas for implementation.
- Strong case for non-duplicity with regards to other major economic road mapping initiatives in the region, including the AM2 Tech Hub roadmap.

Blue Ridge Innovation Corridor Vision 2050

Staff Recommendation:

Based on the workgroup discussion and application review, this application is recommended for approval.

Application Review Checklist	
Economic Impact	
Metrics and Outcomes Program Aligned and Defined	YES
Positive Return on Investment (3 or 5 years)	N/A
Regional Cooperation	
Meaningful Local Participation	YES
Regional Plan Alignment (G&D, REI, or TPPI)	YES
Demonstrates Regional Coordination	YES
Project Readiness	
Defined Timeline and Milestones	YES
Budget Complete and Match Verified	YES
Sustainability	
Clear and Executable Plan	YES
Evidence of Sustained Demand for Project	N/A

Competitive Applications

Workforce Development

Competitive Implementation Application

Industrial Skills Trades Regional Expansion

Region(s): 3

Applicant(s): Patrick & Henry Community College (P&HCC)

Participating Localities: Virginia's Heartland Regional Economic Development Alliance on behalf of the Counties of Amelia, Buckingham, Charlotte, Cumberland, Lunenburg, Nottoway, and Prince Edward (advisory);Martinsville/Henry County Economic Development Corporation (advisory); and Southern Virginia Regional Alliance on behalf of the Counties of Halifax, Mecklenburg, Patrick, Pittsylvania, and the City of Danville (advisory).

Targeted Industries: Advanced Manufacturing

Investment Strategy: Talent Development

Type of Project: Competitive Implementation

Project Goal(s): To expand the pool of qualified workers in industrial skills trade professions within Region 3.

Project Description: Through partnerships with Danville Community College (DCC) and Southside Virginia Community College (SVCC), the proposed expansion program will provide training offerings in industrial skills trades professions to include electrical, carpentry, HVAC, plumbing, and industrial maintenance. Major activities include:

1. Acquisition of industry-standard training equipment;
2. Alignment of curricula with national credentialing frameworks including the National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER), National Coalition of Certified Centers (NC3) and Greenlee;
3. The launch of mobile training units to serve rural and underserved areas;
4. Additional instructor support to meet rising enrollment demand; and
5. Paid work experiences.

The mobile training unit will also extend workforce development correctional facilities across Southern Virginia, providing credentialed instruction in electrical trades and plumbing to

Industrial Skills Trades Regional Expansion

incarcerated individuals across Southern Virginia, providing credentialed instruction in electrical trades and plumbing to incarcerated individuals preparing reentry into the workforce.

Graduates completing training and earning industry recognized certifications will either be directly employed by traded sector firms in advanced manufacturing and related industries or by specialty contractors performing electrical, HVAC, mechanical, industrial maintenance, or construction services under contract to those firms

The planned program expansions include the following curricula:
- SVCC will expand current offerings by adding NCCER plumbing program.
- P&HCC training expansions include in Advanced Carpentry, HVAC Levels 3 &4, Plumbing Levels 2, 3, & 4, Heavy Equipment Operator Levels 2, 3, & 4, and Electrical Level 2, 3, & 4 – all NCCER.
- DCC will expand industrial maintenance offerings by acquiring the following training systems:
  - Fundamental level – Fundamentals of Sensor of Technology, Fundamentals of Electricity (AC and DC), Fundamentals of Mechanical Systems, Fundamentals of PLC (Allen-Bradley and Siemens), Fundamental of Fluid Power – Pneumatics and Hydraulics, Fundamentals of Robotics, and Industry 4.0 Certified Associate – Fundamentals
  - Applied Level – Applied Fluid Power, Applied PLC – Allen-Bradley and Siemens, Applied Mechanical Systems, Applied Industrial Motor Controls, Applied Robotics, and Industry 4.0 Certified Technician - Applied

Project Budget

Type of Funds	Totals
GO Virginia Request	$ 1,346,786
Matching Funds	$ 673,393
Local Match	$ 0
Additional Leverage	$ 2,340,857
Total Project Budget	$ 4,361,036

GO Virginia funds will be used for salaries, equipment, supplies, fees and licenses, paid work experiences. Matching funds will be used for CTE programming ($150,000 cash contribution via Perkins Grants), paid workplace experience ($72,627 cash contribution via WIOA funding), and equipment ($450,766 cash contribution).

Industrial Skills Trades Regional Expansion

A local match waiver of $134,679 is being requested. Based on the board approved criteria this meets the standard for fiscal distress defined by the Commission on Local Government (CLG).

Previous Grant Performance: P&HCC previously received a GO Virginia implementation grant in 2023 (P&HCC – Expanding GO TEC Pathways) which focused on increasing dual enrollment opportunities in welding in partnership with school division of Henry County and the City of Martinsville. Achieved outcomes came in slightly below what was committed: 24 students trained (27 committed) and 41 credentials awarded (48 committed).

Products:
- Fully equipped labs at the three community colleges
- One mobile training unit operated by SVCC

Project Impact/Outcomes:
- 360 people trained
- 270 job placements
- 3,021 credentials awarded
- 20 new internships created

Workgroup Discussion:
- Opportunity to fill a regional demand to further develop the supply chain in the advanced manufacturing industry cluster.
- Regional collaboration with strong partnerships between all three community colleges in the region.
- Well positioned to help fill the demand from recent large industry location announcements and the continued expansions of data centers within the region.

Industrial Skills Trades Regional Expansion

Workgroup Recommendation:

Based on workgroup discussion and application review, this application is recommended for approval.

Application Review Checklist	
Economic Impact	
Metrics and Outcomes Program Aligned and Defined	YES
Positive Return on Investment (3 or 5 years)	YES
Regional Collaboration	
Meaningful Local Participation	YES
Regional Plan Alignment (G&D, REI, or TPPI)	YES
Demonstrates Regional Coordination	YES
Project Readiness	
Defined Timeline and Milestones	YES
Budget Complete and Match Verified	YES
Sustainability	
Clear and Executable Plan	YES
Evidence of Sustained Demand for Project	YES

Competitive Implementation Application

AI Mobile Unit for Workforce & Education

Region(s): 6 (lead region) and 9
Applicant(s): The Cyber Bytes Foundation
Participating Localities: Fauquier County (advisory board), King George County (advisory board), Nelson County (in-kind match), Orange County (cash and in-kind match), Rappahannock County (in-kind match), Spotsylvania County (in-kind match), and Stafford County (in-kind match).

Targeted Industries: Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services; IT/Data Centers & Communications
Investment Strategy: Talent Development
Type of Project: Implementation

Project Goal(s): Directly connect high school students and educators with local industry demand or credential-to-career pipelines in the identified targeted industry clusters.

Project Description: The proposed initiative is designed to expand access to AI literacy, ethics, and certification training across high schools, workforce centers, community colleges, and businesses. At the core of the curriculum are two CompTIA certifications: CompTIA AI Essentials and the new CompTIA AI Prompting. These industry recognized credentials validate essentials skills in data analytics, responsible AI use, and real world AI application development. The AI Mobile Unit's instructional content is built around CompTIA's AI+ competencies, ensuring that learners gain the foundational knowledge required to understand, apply, and ethically manage AI tools and systems.

80 mobile AI workshops will be delivered across schools, workforce centers, and rural communities in Regions 6 and 9 through two mobile AI units. Each workshop will serve 20-30 participants at a time, ensuring a focused, hands-on learning environment and individualized support from instructors. Each session will utilize CompTIA and AI.edu based curriculum, providing participants with applied training in artificial intelligence fundamentals, ethics, data literacy, and responsible AI use. Workshops – lasting approximately 4 to 5 hours – will be conducted using the hardware and technology installed on the AI Mobile Unit, including laptops, AI software, and secure connectivity.

AI Mobile Unit for Workforce & Education

Type of Funds	Totals
GO Virginia Request	$ 1,317,887
Matching Funds	$ 665,641
Local Match	$ 40,985
Additional Leverage	$ 40,800
Total Project Budget	$ 2,024,328

GO Virginia funds will be used for salaries/fringe, travel, equipment, supplies, contract services, rent/lease, fees and licenses, 10% indirect rate, and support organization grant administration costs. Matching funds will be used for salaries/fringe ($379,134.62 in-kind contribution), hardware/software ($215,000 cash and in-kind contribution), supplies ($15,596 cash contribution), rent/lease ($6,910 in-kind contribution), and fees and licenses ($49,000 cash and in-kind contribution).

A local match waiver of $92,142.78 is being requested.

Outcomes:
- 2080 people trained (includes 80 teachers)
- 20 businesses served
- 280 credentials awarded (includes 80 teachers)
- 1 new program implemented

Workgroup Discussion:
- VDOE has issued a Request for Information (RFI) to support the design of a statewide AI literacy program for educators. Until the RFI is completed, there is potential for the grant request to overlap with emerging state-led efforts.
- Enrollment, sustainability strategy, and pathway to employment for student is not fully defined.
- No documented industry demand for certifications per VOEE data sources.

AI Mobile Unit for Workforce & Education

Workgroup Recommendation:

Based on workgroup discussion and application review, this application is recommended for deferral.

Application Review Checklist	
Economic Impact	
Metrics and Outcomes Program Aligned and Defined	YES
Positive Return on Investment (3 or 5 years)	YES
Regional Collaboration	
Meaningful Local Participation	YES
Regional Plan Alignment (G&D, REI, or TPPI)	YES
Demonstrates Regional Coordination	YES
Project Readiness	
Defined Timeline and Milestones	YES
Budget Complete and Match Verified	UNDETERMINED
Sustainability	
Clear and Executable Plan	UNDETERMINED
Evidence of Sustained Demand for Project	UNDETERMINED

Competitive Applications

Entrepreneurship & Innovation

Competitive Implementation Application

Small Business Opportunity Center Expansion

Region: 4 (lead), 5, 6, 7

Applicant: Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU)

Participating Localities: Henrico County (cash), Chesterfield County (cash), City of Richmond (in-kind), Prince George County (in-kind), Charles City County (in-kind), City of Alexandria (in-kind), Fairfax County (in-kind), Arlington County (in-kind), Stafford County (in-kind), City of Fredericksburg (in-kind), City of Portsmouth (in-kind), City of Norfolk (in-kind)

Targeted Industries: Manufacturing and Advanced Manufacturing; Information and Emerging Technologies; Health/Bioscience/Life Science; Professional and Business Services
Investment Strategy: Entrepreneurship & Innovation
Type of Project: Implementation

Project Goal(s): To grow and expand entrepreneurship activity among under-resourced populations in GO Virginia Regions 4, 5, 6, and 7 in the Manufacturing and Advanced Manufacturing; Information and Emerging Technologies; Health/Bioscience/Life Science; and Professional and Business Service industry sectors.

Project Description: The project team requests funding to expand services offered by the Small Business Opportunity Center at VCU to GO Virginia Region 5, 6, and 7. To do so, they will partner with universities and entrepreneur support organizations in the Richmond area (Virginia State University and the Metropolitan Business League), the Hampton Roads area (Norfolk State University and Black Brand), the Fredericksburg area (the Virginia Small Business Development Center (SBDC) at the University of Mary Washington and the Virginia Black Chamber of Commerce) and the Northern Virginia area (George Mason's Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship and the Northern Virginia Black Chamber) to deliver four main parts of programming:

- A traded sector business commercialization bootcamp, with industry specific training programs, and partnerships with sector specific subject matter experts
- Traded sector SBDC consultations

Small Business Opportunity Center Expansion

- Creation of a business license navigator specific to licensing requirements at the local level
- An intraregional business resource directory

VCU plans to deliver a series of events and conferences that will reach entrepreneurs throughout the service area. This includes expanded programming for rural communities, with eight events focused exclusively on rural entrepreneurship.

Project Budget:

Type of Funds	Totals
GO Virginia Request	$ 1,225,000
Matching Funds	$ 613,000
Local Match	$ 148,000
Additional Leverage	$ 1,470,000
Total Project Budget	$ 3,308,000

GO Virginia funds will be used for:
- Support Organization grant management
- Contract service costs for subcontracting with ESOs in the regions to conduct outreach to potential entrepreneurs and assist with programming
- Event costs for putting on entrepreneurship conferences within the regions and for the service area as a whole
- Equipment costs for training materials
- Contract service costs for developing asset maps for each region and conducting rural outreach
- Training costs associated with the entrepreneurship programming
- Salaries and fringe for VCU staff working on the project
- Travel to regional programming
- Fiscal management for the subgrantee
- Fees and licenses for training used
- Outreach costs for establishing a directory of small businesses and establishing a municipal business license directory

Small Business Opportunity Center Expansion

Matching funds will be used for:

- Training costs associated with the programming (cash)
- In-kind salaries from locality to support the project and serve on an advisory board
- In-kind provision of training
- Waived indirect costs

Of the $613,000 in matching funds, $363,000 is in-kind match and $250,000 is cash match.

Previous Grant Performance:

Virginia Commonwealth University completed two planning grants in 2021. One of these was focused on Pharmaceutical and Chemical Engineering Commercialization, and the other focused on workforce development in technology.

The project describes itself as a continuation of work funded in 2021 through the Virginia State University (VSU) Minority Small Business Launch Center. The project lead on that project is now at VCU and is the project lead on this application. The VSU project exceeded its committed outcomes over the project period. The applicant team has stated that since the project lead left VSU, the university has worked with a community group on programming and plans to hire a replacement for her former position.

Project Impact/Outcomes:

Outcomes

- 230 jobs created
- 165 existing business expanded
- 195 new businesses created
- 500 businesses served
- $80,000 in total funds raised by businesses served

Deliverables:

- Creation of a state business licenses navigator website
- An intraregional asset map of entrepreneurship resources
- An on-demand training academy for minority entrepreneurs

Small Business Opportunity Center Expansion

Workgroup Discussion:
- Focus on utilizing trusted partners in region to deliver new programming
- Past success in smaller GO Virginia project from project lead
- Potential to reach under-resourced entrepreneurs that have historically been underserved by traditional Entrepreneur Support Organizations

Workgroup Recommendation:

Based on the workgroup discussion and application review, this application is recommended for approval.

Application Review Checklist	
Economic Impact	
Metrics and Outcomes Program Aligned and Defined	YES
Positive Return on Investment (3 or 5 years)	YES
Regional Cooperation	
Meaningful Local Participation	YES
Regional Plan Alignment (G&D, REI, or TPPI)	YES
Demonstrates Regional Coordination	YES
Project Readiness	
Defined Timeline and Milestones	YES
Budget Complete and Match Verified	YES
Sustainability	
Clear and Executable Plan	YES
Evidence of Sustained Demand for Project	YES

IX. INFORMATION ITEMS
    a. DHCD Administratively Approved Projects
        i. Planning, Pilot, and Feasibility Grants
        ii. Hurricane Helene Business Recovery

Planning, Pilot, and Feasibility Grant Application

Vector Space Robotics Program Feasibility Study

Region: 2
Participating Localities: City of Lynchburg (in-kind) and Bedford County (in-kind)

Investment Strategy: Talent Development
Targeted Industry(s): IT and Emerging Technologies, Advanced Manufacturing
Type of Project: Planning, Pilot, and Feasibility Project
Applicant(s): Vector Space

Project Goal(s): To determine the need, value, and form of expanded robotics education and programming in Lynchburg.

Project Description: Vector Space will engage in validating the need and value of an expanded robotics education facility in Lynchburg. Vector Space will do this through conducting focus groups, exploring aligned credentials available for robotics training, developing a robotics training curriculum, and developing pathways for internships and dual enrollment during a potential future implementation. Vector Space will also be developing implementation plans during the grant period, including developing a draft budget and architectural design plans to accommodate a training facility.

Project Budget:

Type of Funds	Totals
GO Virginia Request	**$ 96,700**
Matching Funds	**$ 48,750**
Local Match	$ -
Additional Leverage	$ -
Total Project Budget	**$ 145,450**

GO Virginia funding will be used to pay for salaries for Vector Space travel costs, curriculum development, architectural plan development, financial review, and grant management support services. Match for this project is in the form of direct cash contributions.

Products:
- Market Analysis and Stakeholder Report
- Architectural Plans
- Robotics Training Program Curriculum

Vector Space Robotics Program Feasibility Study

Products (Cont.)

- Equipment Research and Interior Floor Plan Drawings
- Revenue and Sustainability Report
- Budget for Implementation

Application Evaluation:

- Application and project activities tie in well with the Region 2 Talent Pathways Initiative and the regional Growth and Diversification Plan.
- Budget and activities timing should be adjusted in order to best accomplish the goals set out in the application.
- Clear commitment and thinking towards future GO Virginia implementation.

Planning, Pilot, and Feasibility Grant Application

VTTI Workforce Pathways Plan for ACE Technology in Region 2

Region: 2
Participating Localities: Pulaski County (in-kind), Montgomery County (in-kind), and Roanoke County (in-kind)

Investment Strategy: Workforce Development
Targeted Industry(s): Advanced Manufacturing
Type of Project: Planning, Pilot, and Feasibility Project
Applicant(s): Virginia Tech Transportation Institute (VTTI)

Project Goal(s): To develop a strategic plan for building out workforce pathways for electric vehicle (EV) and automated vehicle (AV) jobs.

Project Description: VTTI aims to develop a strategic plan for growing the workforce in Region 2 for ACE (Automated-Connected-Electrified) technology-based jobs, specifically with electric vehicles and automated vehicles. They aim to develop this plan through three main activities:

1) Developing a core-competency model for EV and AV jobs through conducting a review of existing literature and the needs of the EV and AV job market.
2) Validating the findings of the core competency model through interviews with subject matter experts.
3) Identify regional gaps and opportunities for AV and EV jobs, identifying existing education programs to fill these gaps, and future opportunities to meet demand through customized training programs and stackable macro- and micro-credentials.

Project Budget:

Type of Funds	Totals
GO Virginia Request	$ 99,999
Matching Funds	$ 57,945
Local Match	$ 5,065
Additional Leverage	$ -
Total Project Budget	$ 157,944

GO Virginia funding will be used to pay for salaries and fringe for VTTI staff to conduct activities, travel costs, hire consultants to develop the curriculum, and grant management support services. Match for this project includes a direct cash contribution ($30,000 cash), and staff time for technical consulting ($27,945 in-kind contribution). Of the match, $5,065 is local match.

VTTI Workforce Pathways Plan for ACE Technology in Region 2

Products:
- Strategic Plan for Implementation

Application Evaluation:
- Project speaks to a clearly identified need in the Talent Pathways Initiative (TPI) plan developed by Region 2.
- Project team has shown a clear determination to work with regional partners to develop a plan that will lead to implementation.
- Mid-career upskilling addition is convincing, as it promotes the continued employment of workers in the sector as well as bringing in new workers.

Planning, Pilot, and Feasibility Grant Application

VersAbility TECH Center

Region: 5
Participating Localities: City of Hampton (staff support), City of Newport News (staff support)

Investment Strategy: Talent Development
Targeted Industry(s): Advanced Manufacturing; Port Operations, Logistics, and Warehousing
Type of Project: Planning, Pilot, and Feasibility Project
Applicant: VersAbility Resources

Project Goal(s): To develop physical space design plans and curriculum for a new workforce development center in the City of Hampton

Project Description: VersAbility Resources requests GO Virginia funding to engage a consultant to design architectural plans for a new workforce center and to develop curriculum for programming there. The region has struggled in recent years to meet employer demand for workers in target industry sectors, and this organization works to engage individuals with disabilities and connect them to employment opportunities. The organization has piloted programming in welding and forklift certifications, and this would look to expand their work in providing skilled trade certifications

Project Budget:

Type of Funds	Totals
GO Virginia Request	$ 100,000
Matching Funds	$ 135,750
Local Match	$ -
Additional Leverage	$
Total Project Budget	$ 235,750

GO Virginia funding will be used to pay for contract service costs associated with developing the architectural plan for the center and vendor services for advisory committee meeting. Match for this project includes in-kind staff time from the subgrantee associated with curriculum development. The full $135,750 match is being provided through in-kind contributions.

VersAbility TECH Center

Products:

- Architectural site plan for a 75,000-square-foot facility, incorporating universal design elements to ensure accessibility for people of all abilities
- Formation of a stakeholder advisory group with representation from industry, education, local government, and disability inclusion partners
- Curriculum and certification pathway outlines, aligned with employer demand in occupations such as welding, marine coatings, NDT, forklift operation, and logistics
- Labor market and workforce strategy report, focused on Region 5's economic clusters and guided by the Hampton Roads Workforce Council's Talent Pathways Report
- Industry-vetted roadmap for program launch, detailing timelines, partners, and implementation steps for a full-scale regional training initiative

Application Evaluation:

- Opportunity for the region to continue its efforts in reaching segments of the population that have historically been underrepresented in the workforce system
- Application outlines engagement with industry and locality partners
- Highlights specific credentials that the project would ultimately focus on

Planning, Pilot, and Feasibility Grant Application

Northern Neck Sites Inventory

Region: Region 6
Applicant(s): Westmoreland County
Participating Localities: Lancaster County (in-kind match), Westmoreland (cash and in-kind match), Town of Colonial Beach (in-kind match), and Town of Montross (in-kind match)

Investment Strategy: Site Development & Infrastructure
Targeted Industry(s): Manufacuting; Forestry/Wood Products; Aquaculture/Seafood/Marine; Distribution/Logistics; Professional Services
Type of Project: Sites Planning

Project Goal(s): To increase the inventory of shovel-ready sites in GO Virginia Region 6.

Project Description: Westmoreland County will partner with Lancaster County, and the Towns of Colonial Beach and Montross to coordinate sites inventory and prioritization to create a pipeline of 20 developable industrial/commercial sites in the Northern Neck. The evaluation process will include:

1. Assemble a standardized dataset for candidate parcels – ownership/control, zoning and comp plan status, access, utility proximity/capacity (water, sewer, 3-phase power, gas, fiber), environmental constraints (floodplain, wetlands), and workforce/market fit;
2. Verify or initiate VirginiaScan listings and confirm VEDP characterization tiers;
3. Complete gap analysis with order-of-magnitude "cost-to-Tier 4" roadmaps for the sties;
4. Validate assumptions via checks and interviews with owners and utilities as applicable;
5. Deliver site sheets, GIS layers, and a sequencing advancement plan that positions these sites for GO Virginia/VBRSP implementation within 6 months post planning grant closeout.

Through the formation of an advisory committee, partnering localities, electric and telecom utilities, and private site owners and brokers will provide input, service capacity confirmations, and access permissions as needed to determine the most regional significant sites ready primed for development.

Project Budget:

Type of Funds	Totals
GO Virginia Request	$ 100,000
Matching Funds	$ 50,000
Local Match	$ 50,000
Additional Leverage	$ 0
Total Project Budget	$ 150,000

Northern Neck Sites Inventory

GO Virginia funding will be used to pay for contract services for a consultant to conduct the site inventory evaluation. Match for this project includes acquisition of GIS Business Analyst ($10,000 cash contribution), and locality staff time for serving on the advisory committee ($40,000 in-kind contribution). All the match being contributed is from local units of governments.

Products:

- Final site inventory list of 20 sites
    - Gap analysis
    - Cost-to-tier 4 roadmaps
    - Ranked pipelines
    - Preliminary site sheets for all candidate sites
    - GIS maps
    - Implementation playbook

Application Evaluation:

- Opportunity to identify regional significant industrial/commercial sites in Northern Neck and understand the costs for development
- All match is local and four units of local government are partnering together

Planning, Pilot, and Feasibility Grant Application

NOVA TechWorks

Region: 7
Applicant(s): Marymount University
Participating Localities: Arlington County, Fairfax County, Alexandria City, Fairfax City

Targeted Industries: Computer Services, Cybersecurity, Life Sciences, and Emerging Technologies
Investment Strategy: Talent Development

Project Goal(s): Reskilling and upskilling the regional tech workforce by creating a centralized platform that connects individuals with training, certifications, internships, and job placement services tailored to the needs of Region 7's priority clusters.

Project Description: The project's primary focus is on reskilling and upskilling the regional tech workforce to meet the demands of clusters, which are deeply integrated with federal contracting and commercial markets. The specific challenge NOVATechWorks addresses is the disruption of the regional tech workforce due to federal spending cuts, layoffs, and the shift toward skills-based hiring, while preparing workers for roles in Emerging Technologies such as quantum computing, robotics, and alternative energy. Regional collaboration around this effort helps align resources to support the transition of skilled workers into high-demand private sector roles across the region.

The hub will also support the Life Sciences cluster by facilitating training in AI-driven healthcare technologies and digital health by coordinating training providers, employers, and support services.

Project Budget:

Type of Funds	Totals
GO Virginia Request	$ 99,993
Matching Funds	$ 50,185
Local Match	$
Additional Leverage	$47,808
Total Project Budget	$ 197,986

NOVA TechWorksHub

Funding Details: GO Virginia funds will be used to cover salaries, contract services, website development, and travel

Products:

- Implementation plan for a scalable virtual tech talent coordination hub

Application Evaluation:

- The application aligns with recommendations stated writing the region's Talent Pathways Initiative,
  - 1) expand technology training resources and create career pathways for both new talent and career changers.
  - 2) build stronger partnerships between public and private training providers to:
    - Leverage collective resources.
    - Increase awareness of free or low-cost training programs.
    - Develop incumbent worker training opportunities.

Planning, Pilot, and Feasibility Grant Application

Working in Sync with Employers (WISE)

Region: 7

Applicant: The George Washington University

.

Participating Localities: Prince William County, Loudoun County, and Fairfax County

Targeted Industries: Life Sciences, Emerging Technologies, Information Technology, Health and Biomedical Innovation

Investment Strategy: Talent Development

Project Goal(s): To strengthen the Life and Health Sciences industry cluster in Northern Virginia by embedding Artificial Intelligence (AI) competencies into biomedical data, digital health, and clinical research training programs.

Project Description: The WISE initiative is a strategic workforce development project designed to strengthen the Life and Health Sciences industry cluster in Northern Virginia by embedding Artificial Intelligence (AI) competencies into training programs. The project responds to a growing demand for professionals who can apply AI methods to biomedical data, digital health, and clinical research—skills increasingly critical to innovation and competitiveness in the life sciences sector.

WISE will pilot a scalable, employer-informed workforce development model that aligns training with real-world demands. The initiative will:

- Develop short courses and workshops (6 weeks) focused on AI readiness, business acumen, and applied science skills.
- Create career pathway frameworks that connect students and graduates with internships and job opportunities.
- Establish replicable strategies that can be expanded across the Commonwealth.

WISE aims to position the life and health sciences sector as an AI-empowered career pathway, helping students and job seekers navigate opportunities in a high-growth, high-impact industry.

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The WISE project proposes to convene education, workforce, and employer partners to assess current and future workforce needs and to design strategies for curriculum development,

Working in Sync with Employers (WISE)

credential alignment, and employer engagement. Planning activities include conducting employer surveys, holding regional convenings, and drafting a framework for pilot programs

Project Budget:

Type of Funds	Totals
GO Virginia Request	$ 99,556
Matching Funds	$ 49,810
Local Match	$4,220
Additional Leverage	$ 5,300
Total Project Budget	$ 154,666

Funding Details: GO Virginia funds will be used to for salaries for the project team (39,166), contract services (39,000).

Products:

- Report on implementing short courses, workshops, and events
- Advisory Panel report with recommendations for training and ongoing collaboration.
- Summary and analysis of business interviews
- Outreach strategy aimed at key audiences
- Report on findings, strategies for implementation and long-term sustainability

Application Evaluation:

- The project responds to Region 7's Growth & Diversification Plan priorities in technology and professional services and is consistent with the TPI report's finding of persistent tech workforce shortages.
- Applicant indicated commitment to engage private sector employers throughout the planning process

HELENE BUSINESS RECOVERY INITIATIVE

Downtown Business Recovery Initiative

Region: 1

Applicant(s): Friends of Southwest Virginia

Participating Localities: Town of Big Stone Gap (advisory and technical assistance), Town of Pennington Gap (advisory and technical assistance), Town of Wytheville (advisory and technical assistance), City of Bristol (advisory and technical assistance), City of Galax (advisory and technical assistance), Russell County (advisory and technical assistance), Dickenson County (advisory and technical assistance), Smyth County (advisory and technical assistance)

Investment Strategy: Cluster Scale Up

Type of Project: Helene Business Recovery Initiative

Project Goal(s): To promote the growth of businesses in the tourism, hospitality, and outdoor recreation industries that were heavily impacted by Hurricane Helene.

Project Description: The applicant, in partnership with local governments, Planning District Commissions, Virginia Main Street communities, and Commonwealth tourism leaders, will launch the Downtown Business Recovery Initiative. This initiative is an effort to restore and grow the tourism, hospitality, and outdoor recreation economy following the devastating impact of Hurricane Helene. This initiative will be comprised of five activities:

1. Delivering a tourism and hospitality workforce training program for frontline workers focused on customer service, storytelling, and post-disaster business recovery.
2. Providing direct technical assistance and creation of micro-landing pages for at least 75 tourism-facing businesses, particularly for businesses that exist in broadband-limited areas.
3. Procurement and deployment of mobile visitor analytics to track visitation patterns, measure campaign impact, and guide recovery strategies.

Downtown Business Recovery Initiative

4. Launching a refreshed regional marketing campaign and the From Town to Trail brand, supported by new photography, videography, itineraries, and discover tools such as digital passports and collectible card decks.
5. Building a shared digital asset library for use by tourism offices, Main Street programs, and small businesses to strengthen coordinated marketing.

Type of Funds	Totals
GO Virginia Request	$ 250,000
Matching Funds	$ 125,000
Local Match	$ 0
Additional Leverage	$ 0
Total Project Budget	$ 325,000

GO Virginia funds will be used for contract services. Match for this project is being applied to contract services ($125,000 cash contribution).

Project Impact/Outcomes:
- 200 people trained
- 75 businesses served
- 1 new program implemented

Application Evaluation:
- This project is designed to fit the Friends of Southwest Virginia footprint and which includes of GO Virginia Region 1, as well as six localities in Region 2, and one locality in Region 3.
- This project contains support and collaboration from a wide array of project partners, including the Virginia Tourism Corporation, the Virginia Restaurant, Lodging, and Tourism Association, several Planning District Commissions, and the Virginia Main Street Program.

HELENE BUSINESS RECOVERY INITIATIVE

Project Laurel Gateway

Region: 1
Applicant(s): Washington County
Participating Localities: Washington County (cash match), Grayson County (advisory), Town of Damascus (advisory)

Investment Strategy: Site Development and Infrastructure

Type of Project: Helene Business Recovery Initiative

Project Goal(s): To evaluate a 23-acre parcel for the best-case use supporting outdoor recreation and tourism that was devastated following the Hurricane Helene disaster.

Project Description: The applicant seeks to complete a site assessment for a 23-acre property located in the Town of Damascus. The site market and feasibility study will consist of the following activities:

1. Environmental assessment
2. Infrastructure assessment
3. Development cost estimates
4. Permitting and zoning compliance
5. Demand assessment (manufacturing, outdoor recreation, lodging, mixed-use)

This project will be guided by an advisory committee consisting of Washington County, Washington County IDA, the Wellspring Foundation, Grayson County Tourism, Friends of Southwest Virginia, Mount Rogers PDC, and Virginia Tourism Corporation.

Project Laurel Gateway

Type of Funds	Totals
GO Virginia Request	$ 75,000
Matching Funds	$ 37,500
Local Match	$ 25,000
Additional Leverage	$ 0
Total Project Budget	$ 112,500

GO Virginia funds will be used for a market and feasibility study. Match the market and feasibility study ($36,906 cash contribution) and project administration by the applicant ($594 cash contribution).

Project Impact/Outcomes:
- Site Market and Feasibility Study

Application Evaluation:
- The Town of Damascus was one of the most devastated communities in the Commonwealth by Hurricane Helene. The site being evaluated was for debris during the recovery efforts. This effort will help the Town determine the highest impact opportunities for development of this property for recreation and tourism purposes.
- The primary economic driver for the Town of Damascus is the Virginia Creeper Trail, which was heavily impacted by the hurricane. This project is strategically geared toward developing a site to compliment

Planning, Pilot, and Feasibility Grant Application

Vector Space Robotics Program Feasibility Study

Region: 2
Participating Localities: City of Lynchburg (in-kind) and Bedford County (in-kind)

Investment Strategy: Talent Development
Targeted Industry(s): IT and Emerging Technologies, Advanced Manufacturing
Type of Project: Planning, Pilot, and Feasibility Project
Applicant(s): Vector Space

Project Goal(s): To determine the need, value, and form of expanded robotics education and programming in Lynchburg.

Project Description: Vector Space will engage in validating the need and value of an expanded robotics education facility in Lynchburg. Vector Space will do this through conducting focus groups, exploring aligned credentials available for robotics training, developing a robotics training curriculum, and developing pathways for internships and dual enrollment during a potential future implementation. Vector Space will also be developing implementation plans during the grant period, including developing a draft budget and architectural design plans to accommodate a training facility.

Project Budget:

Type of Funds	Totals
GO Virginia Request	$ 96,700
Matching Funds	$ 48,750
Local Match	$ -
Additional Leverage	$ -
Total Project Budget	$ 145,450

GO Virginia funding will be used to pay for salaries for Vector Space travel costs, curriculum development, architectural plan development, financial review, and grant management support services. Match for this project is in the form of direct cash contributions.

Products:
- Market Analysis and Stakeholder Report
- Architectural Plans
- Robotics Training Program Curriculum

Vector Space Robotics Program Feasibility Study

Products (Cont.)
- Equipment Research and Interior Floor Plan Drawings
- Revenue and Sustainability Report
- Budget for Implementation

Application Evaluation:
- Application and project activities tie in well with the Region 2 Talent Pathways Initiative and the regional Growth and Diversification Plan.
- Budget and activities timing should be adjusted in order to best accomplish the goals set out in the application.
- Clear commitment and thinking towards future GO Virginia implementation.