

Executive Summary

The Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission is a 28-member body created by the 1999 General Assembly. It was established for the purposes of determining the appropriate recipients of moneys in the Tobacco Indemnification and Community Revitalization Fund and causing distribution of such moneys to (i) provide payments to tobacco farmers as compensation for the adverse economic effects resulting from loss of investment in specialized tobacco equipment and barns and lost tobacco production opportunities associated with a decline in quota and (ii) revitalize tobacco-dependent communities. (See Section 3.2-3101, Code of Virginia).

Payments to Tobacco Farmers

The Commission has compensated tobacco producers and quota owners for their losses due to the decline in tobacco quota and has satisfied its statutory obligation to indemnify burley and flue-cured producers and quota owners. No further distributions for that purpose are contemplated.

Revitalization of Tobacco-dependent Communities

Communities and citizens throughout the Southside and Southwest regions of Virginia continue to experience significant economic distress as a direct consequence of historical dependence on tobacco production, textile and furniture manufacturing and coal production. As today's markets are global and employment is increasingly knowledge-based, the Commission seeks to accelerate regional transformation so that all residents enjoy opportunities for education and employment and benefit from economic diversification.

The Commission's revitalization efforts are made through grant and loan programs that make cash awards to local governments, government entities, and non-profit organizations. The Commission prioritizes projects that maximize benefit to applicants and other partner organizations, and gives preference to projects that have regional participation and generate the most significant economic outcomes – primarily measured in terms of new jobs, income and taxable private capital investment - for the residents, businesses and localities in the tobacco region.

Grant and Loan Summary

The following is a summary of grants and loans acted on by the Commission from July 1, 2018 through December 31, 2018. Of the 35 applications acted on, 32 were approved, 1 was declined and 2 were tabled.

An additional 18 applications, totaling \$5,319,044 in requested funds, were submitted during this time and remain under review by the Commission.

Table 1 below summarizes these grants and loans by program type, and Table 2 summarizes these same grants and loans by status.

Note: some applications submitted in FY2018 are included in the tables below, as the Commission took action on them in FY2019.

Table 1: Summary of projects acted on, 6-months beginning 07/01/2018, by program

Program	Acted	Requested Amount (\$)	Approved	Net Award (\$)
AgriBusiness	-	-	-	-
Education - 4 Year Scholarships	-	-	-	-
Education - Centers of Excellence	-	-	-	-
Education - Competitive Education	-	-	-	-
Education - Workforce Financial Aid	-	-	-	-
MegaSite	-	-	-	-
Megasite Prospect Incentive Fund	-	-	-	-
Research and Development	-	-	-	-
Reserve	-	-	-	-
Southside Economic Development	6	2,497,941	6	1,997,870
Southwest Economic Development	1	4,500,000	1	4,500,000
Special Projects	12	9,002,290	10	4,334,507
Technology	-	-	-	-
Tobacco Region Opportunity Fund	16	10,170,000	15	9,260,000
Total	35	26,170,231	32	20,092,377

Table 2: Summary of projects acted on, 6-months beginning 07/01/2018, by project status

Program	Acted	Requested Amount (\$)	Net Award (\$)
Approved - Active	8	4,372,635	2,495,000
Approved - Closed	-	-	-
Approved - Pending Award Documents	24	21,100,571	17,597,377
Approved - VRA Loan	-	-	-
Declined	1	140,000	-
Submitted - Tabled	2	557,025	-
Submitted - VRA Loan	-	-	-
Total	35	26,170,231	20,092,377