

Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission

Executive Summary of Interim Activity

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 compensated tobacco producers and quota owners for their losses due to the decline in tobacco quota and fully satisfied its statutory obligation to indemnify burley and flue-cured producers and quota owners in 2013. From 1999 to 2013, the Commission made available \$309 million together with \$170 million from other sources for indemnifying losses. With the completion of indemnification, the Commission's sole purpose is the revitalization of tobacco-dependent communities.

Revitalization of Tobacco-dependent Communities

Communities and citizens throughout the Southern 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 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 residents, businesses and localities in the Tobacco Region.

Grant and Loan Summary

The following is a summary of grants and loans acted upon by the Commission from July 1, 2023, through December 31, 2023. Of the 28 applications acted upon, 23 were approved, 2 were declined, and 3 were tabled. An additional 22 applications, totaling \$8,525,170 in requested funds, were submitted during this time and acted upon by the Commission during its January 9, 2024, meeting.

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 FY2023 are included in the tables below, as the Commission took action on them in FY2024. Data is as of December 31, 2023.

Table 1: Summary of Projects Acted Upon, 07/01/2023 - 12/31/2023 by Program				
Program	Acted Upon	Requested Amount	Approved	Net Award
Community & Business Lending (CBL) Program	1	\$25,000,000	1	\$25,000,000
Education - Competitive Education	11	\$2,678,484	11	\$2,620,566
Southern Virginia Program	13	\$5,864,032	9	\$2,723,461
Agribusiness	2	\$3,479,000	1	\$979,000
Tobacco Region Opportunity Fund (TROF)	1	\$146,000	1	\$146,000
Total	28	\$37,167,516	23	\$31,469,027

Table 2: Summary of Projects Acted Upon, 07/01/2023 - 12/31/2023, by Project Status			
Program	Acted Upon	Requested Amount	Net Award
Approved - Active	16	\$6,782,720	\$5,314,767
Approved - Pending Award Documents	7	\$26,154,260	\$26,154,260
Declined	2	\$273,319	\$0
Tabled	3	\$3,957,217	\$0
Total	28	\$37,167,516	\$31,469,027