



*VIRGINIA INITIATIVE FOR*  
**GROWTH &  
OPPORTUNITY**  
*IN EACH REGION*

## FISCAL YEAR 2025 ANNUAL REPORT

Submitted by the Virginia Department of Housing and  
Community Development

Tamarah Holmes, PhD, Director



**VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING  
AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**  
*Partners for Better Communities*  
[www.dhcd.virginia.gov](http://www.dhcd.virginia.gov)

Chapters 778 and 779 of the 2016 Virginia Acts of Assembly amended Title 2.2 of the Code of Virginia by adding Chapter 24, establishing the Virginia Growth and Opportunity Board (the Board) and the Virginia Growth and Opportunity Fund (VGOF) under the Virginia Growth and Opportunity Act. In accordance with Subsection 11 of §2.2-2486, the Board is required to submit an annual executive summary of its interim activities by December 1 each year. This report provides that summary, covering the Board's activities and accomplishments from July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025.

This program is supported and administered by the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development.

## Contents

Letter from the Chair of the GO Virginia State Board .....	3
Executive Summary.....	4
GO Virginia Impact .....	5
The Virginia Growth and Opportunity Fund .....	6
The Virginia Growth and Opportunity Board .....	7
Key Board Actions and Activity during FY2025.....	8
FY25 Grant Awards.....	13
Appendix A – GO Virginia State Board Members.....	28

## Letter from the Chair of the GO Virginia State Board

Dear Partners, Stakeholders, and Friends of GO Virginia,

As Chair of the GO Virginia State Board, it is my honor to share our 2025 Annual Report, which highlights another year of meaningful progress in driving regional economic growth and prosperity across the Commonwealth. GO Virginia was founded on the principle that collaboration and innovation are the keys to unlocking sustainable economic opportunity. This year, our regions have continued to demonstrate just that—coming together to identify priorities, leverage resources, and implement strategies that strengthen Virginia’s economy for all communities.

In 2025, GO Virginia awarded funding to initiatives that span workforce development, entrepreneurship, technology commercialization, and infrastructure enhancements. These projects have not only created jobs and expanded economic activity but also have strengthened the capacity of regions to address the unique challenges and opportunities they face. From supporting new business formation to upskilling local talent, the impact of these investments is tangible and far reaching.

These successes are possible because of the dedication of our regional councils, local partners, and the businesses and organizations that step forward to drive innovation in their communities. Their commitment exemplifies the collaborative spirit that is at the heart of GO Virginia’s mission.

Looking ahead, our Board remains committed to fostering regional partnerships that are bold, inclusive, and results driven. We will continue to focus on initiatives that accelerate economic growth and position Virginia as a national leader in innovation and opportunity.

On behalf of the GO Virginia State Board, I extend my sincere gratitude to all our partners, stakeholders, and community leaders who make this work possible. Together, we are building stronger regions, creating meaningful opportunities, and shaping a more prosperous future for all Virginians.

With appreciation and optimism,



**Nancy Howell Agee**  
Chair, GO Virginia State Board (FY25)

## Executive Summary

GO Virginia continues to serve as a powerful engine for regional economic growth and diversification across the Commonwealth. Through its emphasis on collaborative, regionally driven strategies, the program enables localities to work together across jurisdictional lines to address shared economic challenges and capitalize on unique regional assets.

By investing in high-impact projects that support entrepreneurship, workforce development, site readiness, and industry cluster scale up, GO Virginia strengthens the foundation for long-term, sustainable economic growth. These investments have led to the creation of high-wage jobs, expansion of business-ready infrastructure, and development of sector-specific talent pipelines that align with employer demand.

GO Virginia's model of regional collaboration ensures economic development efforts are not only strategic and data-informed, but also inclusive—bringing together public and private sector partners to drive innovation and resilience. As a result, the program has played a critical role in diversifying regional economies and enhancing Virginia's competitiveness in national and global markets.

This grant-supported initiative encourages private sector growth and job creation through thoughtful, regionally driven economic development strategies that benefit communities across the Commonwealth. Projects are developed at the regional level, in alignment with regional strategies defined in board-approved Growth and Diversification Plans. Once approved, the plans advance to the State Board for approval or to the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development for administrative approval.<sup>1</sup>

In FY25, the Board approved \$11.8 million in funding for 37 collaborative economic development projects across the Commonwealth. These initiatives successfully leveraged more than \$6.1 million in qualifying non-state investments. The following report provides program background as well as information on the GO Virginia State Board's activities and actions during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025.

---

<sup>1</sup> Administrative approval authority is limited to planning grants, pilot projects, or feasibility studies of less than \$100K up to an annual regional cap of \$250K.

## GO Virginia Impact

Since 2017, GO Virginia has supported more than 330 regional economic development activities. With more than 165 completed projects, GO Virginia has met or exceeded project outcomes committed during the grant performance period, and these projects continue to deliver. In December 2024, DHCD released [the GO Virginia Program Dashboard](#), which provides details regarding all completed projects statewide.

Below is a summary of high-impact project outcomes achieved during the grant performance period since program inception for completed projects.

<b>GO Virginia Impact (completed projects since program inception) through June 30, 2025</b>	
Jobs Created	24,000
Businesses Created	1,200
Businesses Expanded	1,000
Businesses Served	23,000
Capital Raised by Businesses Served	\$572,000,000
Individuals Trained to Meet Industry Needs	43,000
Industry-Recognized Credentials Awarded	11,000
New Internships	3,000
Total Acres of Business Ready Sites Improved	11,000

A full list of project grant awards and detailed project descriptions can be found on [the GO Virginia Program Dashboard](#).

## The Virginia Growth and Opportunity Fund

Appropriations for the Virginia Growth and Opportunity Fund are included in the budget for the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD). The fund, as created in §2.2-2487 of the Code, has three grant categories:

- Capacity-building funds to assist regional councils in building capacity for job creation and program implementation;
- Per capita project grants allocated to each region on a per capita basis for projects of regional significance; and
- Statewide competitive grants awarded for projects of statewide economic impact and interregional collaborations.

The state budget included \$30.0 million for the fund in FY25. The chart below illustrates the Board’s allocation of the appropriation.

Virginia Growth and Opportunity Fund FY25 - \$30 m		
<p><b>Regional Capacity Building</b></p> <p><b>\$2.25 m</b></p> <p>\$250,000/region Provides support for administrative efforts to each regional council and may also be used towards projects</p>	<p><b>Regional Per Capita Projects</b></p> <p><b>\$17.6 m</b></p> <p>Based on Regional Population Data with \$1m floor drawn from competitive</p> <p>Region 1 - \$1,000,000 Region 2 - \$1,515,210 Region 3 - \$1,000,000 Region 4 - \$2,592,511 Region 5 - \$3,393,714 Region 6 - \$1,054,919 Region 7 - \$4,968,886 Region 8 - \$1,085,209 Region 9 - \$1,000,000</p>	<p><b>Statewide Competitive Projects</b></p> <p><b>\$10.14 m</b></p> <p>Discretionary pot of funding awarded by the GO Virginia Board on a competitive basis</p>

## The Virginia Growth and Opportunity Board

The Virginia Growth and Opportunity Board includes 7 legislators, 3 ex-officio members with voting rights from the Governor's Cabinet, and 14 representatives from the private sector. The Board has three committees, which support the Board in its decision-making processes in three critical areas:

- 1) Program Performance and Accountability, which reviews project and program performance,
- 2) Governance and Policy, which supports Board member onboarding and engagement and advises on program policy and guidelines, and
- 3) Regional Council engagement, which focuses on ensuring strong relationships between Regional Council and the State Board's activities. The roster below reflects members serving during the FY26 program year.

### **FY25 GO Virginia State Board Officers**

Nancy Howell Agee, Chair  
Todd Stottlemeyer, Vice Chair  
Leah Fremou, Second Vice Chair

### **FY25 Performance and Accountability Committee Members**

Todd Stottlemeyer, Committee Chair  
Nancy Agee  
Jim Cheng  
Cliff Fleet  
Leah Fremouw  
Secretary of Commerce and Trade, Juan Pablo Segura  
John Peterson  
Delegate Luke Torian

### **FY25 Governance and Policy Committee Members**

Emily O'Quinn, Committee Chair  
Nancy Howell Agee  
Jim Cheng  
Secretary of Finance, Stephen Cummings  
Jim Dyke  
Heywood Fralin  
Kenneth Johnson  
Senator L. Louise Lucas  
Emily O'Quinn  
Todd Stottlemeyer  
Delegate Luke Torian

## **FY25 Regional Council Committee Member**

Leah Fremouw, Committee Chair  
Jim Cheng  
Delegate Michelle Maldonado  
John King

The GO Virginia State Board conducted four business meetings and one retreat during the fiscal year. Subcommittees—Governance and Policy, Regional Councils, and Performance and Accountability —met at the request of the committee chairs. This report provides a detailed overview of the deliberations and actions taken.

In FY25, the Board approved \$11.8 million in funding for 37 collaborative economic development projects across the Commonwealth. These initiatives successfully leveraged more than \$6.1 million in qualifying non-state investments.

A full list of project grant awards and detailed project descriptions can be found starting on page 13.

## **Key Board Actions and Activity during FY2025**

The following section provides a summary of the key actions and decisions of the Board. Agendas, meeting materials, and minutes for the committee meeting are available via the links provided.

### **Program Performance and Evaluation Committee Meeting – August 9, 2024**

Following the June 4, 2024, approval of three projects advanced from GO Virginia Regions 2, 4, and 9, the committee was tasked to develop and advance a memorandum of understanding with other state authorities that could provide additional collaborative support, including but not limited to the following: the Virginia Innovation Partnership Corporation, the Virginia Economic Development Partnership, and Virginia Catalyst.

Then-Deputy Secretary of Commerce and Trade Juan Pablo Segura presented on the progress of a workgroup assigned to work on the memorandum of understanding regarding collaboration between state-affiliated organizations with connections to the work being done by the Project VITAL applicants.

No formal action was taken at this meeting.

[Agenda and Meeting Materials](#)

[Meeting Minutes](#)

## **Governance and Policy Committee Meeting – September 9, 2024**

The Governance and Policy Committee convened virtually on May 22, 2024, and took several key actions. The Committee approved the consent agenda, including the March 22 meeting minutes, following a motion by Mr. Johnson and a second by Mr. Dyke. It also reviewed and unanimously endorsed staff-proposed amendments to Board Policy #4 regarding the definition of the traded industry sector, and voted to recommend the updated policy to the full GO Virginia Board for consideration at the June 4 meeting. Additionally, the Committee reviewed staff progress toward updating GO Virginia guidance materials on high-wage job eligibility and accepted the proposed roadmap for completing the JLARC recommendation review by the end of 2024.

The Committee also discussed the tentative schedule for the September 9–10 Board Retreat and evaluated whether GO Virginia should fund youth entrepreneurship initiatives. While acknowledging the value of such programs, the Committee concluded they do not meet GO Virginia’s requirement for short-term measurable outcomes and therefore should not be prioritized. The Committee received informational updates on upcoming Board member term expirations, new legislative members, and proposed updates to Board Policies #11 and #13 that will move forward for full Board approval. The meeting concluded with no further action items.

[Agenda and Meeting Materials](#)

[Meeting Minutes](#)

## **Board Meeting – September 10, 2024**

The Board considered three grant applications and amended Board Policy # 4 – Growth of Traded Industry Clusters. The policy amendment was in response to recommendations included in a recent report from the Joint Legislative Audit & Review Commission (JLARC). The Board also certified the GO Virginia Regional Councils to ensure they meet the statutory requirements and established membership guidelines. The Board also updated its electronic meeting participation policy to reflect legislative changes enacted during the 2024 General Assembly Session.

Of the three presented applications, one was approved, one was deferred, and one was tabled for later consideration.

[Agenda and Meeting Materials](#)

[Meeting Minutes](#)

### **Program Performance and Evaluation Committee – October 15, 2024**

The committee took action to approve the Board-directed memorandum of understanding among DHCD; project leads for three projects, collectively referred to as Project VITAL; and other state authorities providing additional collaborative support, including the Virginia Innovation Partnership Corporation, the Virginia Economic Development Partnership, and Virginia Catalyst.

[Agenda and Meeting Materials](#)

[Meeting Minutes](#)

### **Board Meeting – December 10, 2024**

The Board met virtually and acted on technical amendments to five Board policies to respond to legislative changes that occurred during the 2024 General Assembly Session. Most notably, the match requirements for the program were changed.

The Board also took action to create the Helene Business Recovery Initiative and allocated \$1.5 million to support economic recovery efforts in localities (Regions 1, 2, and 3) affected by Hurricane Helene. This initiative directed an additional GO Virginia Competitive Fund allocation to provide relaxed program access and rapid pathways to project approval in response to Hurricane Helene.

They also reviewed seven grant applications, six of which were approved and one was deferred.

The Board was also briefed on the launch of the GO Virginia Program Performance Dashboard.

[Agenda and Meeting Materials](#)

[Meeting Minutes](#)

### **Regional Council Committee Meeting – February 24, 2025**

The committee received a General Assembly update and discussed council recruitment best practices and strategies that Regional Councils could use to further develop leaders in their regions. They also received a presentation from the Virginia Economic Development Partnership on the Innovation Growth Framework, a strategic initiative encouraging collaboration, and the Partnership's efforts to drive growth in three primary industries: knowledge work, manufacturing, and logistics.

[Agenda and Meeting Materials](#)

[Meeting Minutes](#)

### **Governance and Policy Committee Meeting – March 11, 2025**

The committee reviewed proposed changes to the GO Virginia State Board bylaws, which reflected membership changes for Board committees. Lacking a quorum, no action was taken.

[Agenda and Meeting Materials](#)

[Meeting Minutes](#)

### **March 11, 2025 – Board Meeting**

The full Board considered five grant applications. After being presented with the projects and staff recommendations, the Board approved four and deferred one application.

The Board was also presented with a required addendum to applicants requesting support for site development. This addendum requires that funding requests be accompanied by a description of steps taken in the region to evaluate housing demand that would be generated by a positive location decision on the site. Further, the applicants must describe the efforts being taken to accommodate and accelerate new housing development to support workforce needs.

[Agenda and Meeting Materials](#)

[Meeting Minutes](#)

### **May 29, 2025 – Regional Council Committee Meeting**

The committee received a presentation on a framework to complete an analysis of GO Virginia planning grants awarded and completed. This was in response to a JLARC recommendation to increase allowances for planning grants. The framework was designed to determine the impact of planning grants.

[Agenda and Meeting Materials](#)

### **June 10, 2025 – Board Meeting**

The Board approved the FY26 allocation of funds for the Per Capita and Competitive funds. In addition, the Board approved the Capacity Building fund allocation and approved the region's capacity building budgets.

Eight applications were presented for consideration, including a \$2.6 million request from Region 7 (George Mason University, Prince William County, and the City of Manassas) to create a Regional Innovation District. This project builds on the outcomes of the 2023 Innovation District planning study, which included regional asset mapping, industry cluster analysis, and the development of a governance and sustainability framework. The study engaged more than 50 stakeholders from local government, education, and the private sector and identified more than 150 innovation-related assets across Region 7.

[Agenda and Meeting Materials](#)

[Meeting Minutes](#)

## FY25 Grant Awards

The GO Virginia State Board approved \$11.8 million in funding for 37 regional projects during FY25. These grants attracted an additional \$6.1 million in matching funds from private and public non-state sources.

GO Virginia projects are developed and approved using a two-tier process that involves Regional Councils and the GO Virginia State Board. Applications are first vetted and approved by Regional Councils and advanced to DHCD. Following staff technical review, board members and subject matter experts review applications and participate in a collaborative review and receive presentations from each region.

The Board has directed that project evaluation be based on four primary criteria:

- 1) Economic Impact
- 2) Regional Collaboration
- 3) Project Readiness
- 4) Sustainability

DHCD engages other state agencies and stakeholders to ensure strategic alignment. Following these discussions, the workgroups develop recommendations for the Board's consideration.

The following section describes the FY25 GO Virginia grant awards by GO Virginia Region.

## GO Virginia Region 1

Region One includes the counties of Bland, Buchanan, Carroll, Dickenson, Grayson, Lee, Russell, Scott, Smyth, Tazewell, Washington, Wise, and Wythe, and the cities of Bristol, Galax, and Norton.

Project Name	Subgrantee	Investment Strategy	Date of Award	Grant Award	Committed Match
<b>Wildwood Commerce Park Site 1 Due Diligence</b>	Blue Ridge Crossroads	Site Development and Infrastructure	8/28/24	\$100,000	\$50,000
<p>The Blue Ridge Crossroads Economic Development Authority is advancing strategic site development at Wildwood Commerce Park by initiating due diligence activities for Site 1—the only tract currently available for development on the property. While other parcels are under option agreements, Site 1 represents a critical opportunity to expand the region’s inventory of business-ready sites. The site will undergo essential assessments to prepare it for future eligibility under the Virginia Business Ready Sites Program (VBRSP). Completing this due diligence will enhance the site’s marketability, reduce development timelines for prospective businesses, and position the region to attract new investment and job creation. This project supports long-term economic growth by ensuring that Wildwood Commerce Park remains a competitive and accessible location for industrial and commercial development.</p>					
<b>Progress Park Lot 10</b>	Wythe County IDA	Site Development and Infrastructure	9/10/24	\$425,876	\$213,000
<p>The Joint Industrial Development Authority (IDA) of Wythe County is advancing site readiness at Lot 10 in Progress Park—one of Southwest Virginia’s premier industrial development areas. This initiative builds on prior public and private investments by preparing a strategically located site that already benefits from robust infrastructure, including water, sewer, gas, electricity, telecommunications, and transportation access. By enhancing Lot 10’s readiness, the IDA aims to reduce the time and cost for prospective businesses to begin operations, making the site more competitive for industrial recruitment. This targeted investment supports regional economic growth, job creation, and the efficient use of existing assets to attract new industries to the region.</p>					
<b>Middle School Energy Education Academy</b>	Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center	Workforce Development	10/15/24	\$52,500	\$26,250
<p>To strengthen the future workforce in the Energy and Minerals sector, the Middle School Energy Education initiative will expand early career awareness and readiness in GO Virginia Region 1. Led by the Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center in partnership with Virginia Tech’s Southwest Center, this project will lay the groundwork for a sustainable talent pipeline by engaging students at a critical stage in their education.</p> <p>Through research on career pathways, curriculum best practices, and regional workforce needs, the project will inform the development of a middle school program focused on energy sector careers. These efforts will culminate in a pilot summer career exploration academy, designed to inspire and prepare the next generation of energy professionals, supporting long-term economic growth and industry competitiveness in Southwest Virginia.</p>					
<b>VA Small Business Disaster Response Portal</b>	PBS Appalachia	Cluster Scale-Up	10/29/24	\$97,500	\$48,750
<p>The Virginia Small Business Disaster Response initiative is launching a centralized, web-based portal to support economic recovery for businesses in Southwest Virginia impacted by Tropical Storm Helene. This innovative platform will streamline access to critical recovery resources—including financial aid, technical assistance, and community-based programs, helping businesses rebound more quickly and effectively.</p> <p>Led by PBS Appalachia, the project will ensure that local businesses can easily navigate the recovery process through a user-friendly, well-publicized digital hub. By consolidating support services and improving coordination among stakeholders, this initiative strengthens regional resilience and safeguards the economic vitality of Southwest Virginia’s small business community.</p>					

<b>Electrical Technology Modernization Initiative</b>	Virginia Highlands Community College	Workforce Development	3/11/25	\$312,326	\$156,163	
Virginia Highlands Community College, in partnership with local industry and community stakeholders, proposes a strategic investment to modernize its Associate of Electrical Technology program through the purchase of state-of-the-art training equipment. This initiative is designed to strengthen the region's skilled workforce pipeline and meet the evolving needs of employers in the electrical and advanced manufacturing sectors.						
<b>Microreactor Feasibility Study</b>	Wise County	Cluster Scale-Up	4/11/25	\$97,500	\$50,000	
Wise County will conduct a feasibility study to explore the deployment of nuclear microreactors as a next-generation energy solution for Region 1. This initiative aims to assess the potential of microreactors to provide reliable, resilient, and clean energy that can support future business development and attract investment to the region.						

## GO Virginia Region 2

Region Two includes the counties of Alleghany, Amherst, Appomattox, Bedford, Botetourt, Campbell, Craig, Floyd, Franklin, Giles, Montgomery, Pulaski, and Roanoke, and the cities of Covington, Lynchburg, Radford, Roanoke and Salem.

Project Name	Subgrantee	Investment Strategy	Date of Award	Grant Award	Committed Match
<b>GMP Clean</b>	Fralin Biomedical Research Institute	Cluster Scale-Up	9/5/24	\$100,000	\$50,000
<p>To accelerate growth in Virginia’s life sciences sector, the Fralin Biomedical Research Institute—working in partnership with VERGE, Virginia Tech, Montgomery County, and the City of Roanoke—is launching a strategic initiative to address the regional shortage of cleanroom space. This project will assess statewide and regional demand and implement a pilot modular cleanroom facility at the Institute.</p> <p>The pilot cleanroom will serve as a demonstration of a scalable, state-of-the-art model and will be immediately utilized by three local biotech startups—Tiny Cargo, Qentoros, and Acomhal—for the manufacturing of biomedicines. By supporting early-stage companies with critical infrastructure, this initiative strengthens Virginia’s biomedical innovation ecosystem, promotes commercialization, and enhances the region’s competitiveness in the life sciences industry.</p>					
<b>GOTEC Launch in the New River Valley and Roanoke County</b>	Montgomery County Public Schools	Workforce Development	6/10/25	\$994,213	\$518,956
<p>Montgomery County Public Schools, in partnership with Region 2 school districts, including Giles County, Roanoke County, Pulaski County, and the City of Radford, will implement the GO TEC program to expand the pipeline of skilled workers. This initiative will support key industry clusters such as Transportation and Autonomy Manufacturing, Materials and Machinery Manufacturing, Life Sciences and Biotechnology, and IT, Engineering, and Emerging Technologies.</p>					

### GO Virginia Region 3

Region Three includes the counties of Amelia, Brunswick, Buckingham, Charlotte, Cumberland, Halifax, Henry, Lunenburg, Mecklenburg, Nottoway, Patrick, Pittsylvania, and Prince Edward, and the cities of Danville and Martinsville.

Project Name	Subgrantee	Investment Strategy	Date of Award	Grant Award	Committed Match
<b>Amelia County Regional Commerce Center Planning Grant</b>	Amelia County EDA	Site Development and Infrastructure	10/8/24	\$100,000	\$100,000
<p>Amelia County is advancing economic development in Virginia’s Heartland Region by increasing the inventory of business-ready sites. The Amelia County Economic Development Authority has acquired a 134-acre property along Route 360 and successfully rezoned it to Industrial M-1 as of June 2023. To enhance the site’s marketability and investment potential, the County is undertaking due diligence activities that will elevate the site from Tier 2 to Tier 3 in the Virginia Business Ready Sites Program (VBRSP). A recent site suitability study indicates strong potential to support the Agricultural and Food Processing sector, even in the absence of public water and sewer infrastructure. This strategic investment positions the region to attract new industry, create jobs, and strengthen the rural economy.</p>					
<b>Co-locating Data Centers and CEA Greenhouses Feasibility Project</b>	Institute of Advanced Learning and Research	Cluster Scale-Up	12/10/24	\$52,000	\$26,020
<p>The Institute for Advanced Learning and Research (IALR) is advancing a strategic initiative to accelerate the growth of the Controlled Environment Agriculture (CEA) industry cluster in Region 3 by exploring innovative co-location strategies with data centers. This proposal aims to align two high-growth sectors, CEA and data infrastructure, by leveraging waste heat from data centers to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and environmental impact.</p> <p>Currently, high-tech greenhouses rely on fossil-fuel boilers for heating. By capturing and repurposing waste heat from adjacent data centers, operational costs can be significantly reduced, unit economics improved, and carbon emissions lowered. Additionally, the project will explore the use of Waste-Heat-to-Power (WHP) technologies, such as thermoelectric generators and absorption chillers, to further enhance energy efficiency and sustainability.</p>					
<b>Talent Pipeline Management to Support Advanced Manufacturing and Controlled Environment Agriculture</b>	Institute of Advanced Learning and Research	Workforce Development	12/10/24	\$116,745	\$59,842
<p>The Institute for Advanced Learning and Research (IALR) is strengthening talent pipelines in GO Virginia Region 3 by identifying and addressing specialized workforce needs in two high-growth sectors: advanced manufacturing and controlled environment agriculture (CEA).</p> <p>Through targeted evaluation of training gaps and industry requirements, this initiative will inform the development of customized workforce programs that align with employer demand. By preparing a skilled labor force tailored to these sectors, IALR is supporting job creation, industry expansion, and long-term economic resilience in Southern Virginia.</p> <p>This project builds on IALR’s proven leadership in workforce innovation and positions the region to attract and retain high-value employers in emerging and technology-driven industries.</p>					

<b>Artificial Intelligence Statewide Landscape Assessment</b>	Virginia Chamber of Commerce	Workforce Development	2/28/25	\$100,000	\$50,000
<p>The Virginia Chamber of Commerce will lead a statewide, business-driven initiative to assess workforce readiness in the age of artificial intelligence. This project will identify skill gaps across high-priority industry sectors and position Virginia's workforce to adapt to AI-driven economic transformation. The findings will inform the development of a pipeline of GO Virginia implementation projects aligned with emerging workforce needs.</p>					
<b>SOVA Fab Lab at the SOVA Innovation Campus</b>	SOVA Innovation Hub Corporation	Startup Ecosystem	6/10/25	\$510,000	\$260,000
<p>The SOVA Innovation Hub will launch the SOVA Fab Lab, a cutting-edge digital fabrication facility in South Boston designed to accelerate entrepreneurship, enhance STEM education pathways, and foster regional innovation in Southern Virginia. Equipped with advanced tools such as 3D printers, laser cutters, and electronics workstations, the Fab Lab will provide a hands-on environment for learning, prototyping, and business incubation. By investing in digital fabrication infrastructure, this initiative positions Southern Virginia as a hub for 21st-century skills, innovation, and inclusive economic growth.</p>					
<b>SVCC Occupational Training Facility Expansion</b>	Southern Virginia Community College	Workforce Development	6/10/25	\$570,000	\$285,000
<p>Southern Virginia Community College, with support from the U.S. Economic Development Administration and the Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission, will construct a state-of-the-art, 6,000+ square foot Power Line Worker Training School on a 4.82-acre site adjacent to its existing workforce development center in Blackstone. This investment will significantly expand training capacity in high-demand utility and transportation sectors. The project also includes the expansion of the college's truck driver training range, enabling more students to access career-ready programs. Together these enhancements will strengthen the region's workforce pipeline, support critical infrastructure industries, and drive long-term economic growth across Southern Virginia.</p>					

## GO Virginia Region 4

Region Four includes the counties of Charles City, Chesterfield, Dinwiddie, Goochland, Greensville, Hanover, Henrico, New Kent, Powhatan, Prince George, Surry, and Sussex, and the cities of Colonial Heights, Emporia, Hopewell, Petersburg and Richmond.

Project Name	Subgrantee	Investment Strategy	Date of Award	Grant Award	Committed Match
<b>Future AI Learning and Cloud Network Project</b>	Virginia Commonwealth University	Workforce Development	9/4/24	\$100,000	\$50,000
<p>Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) is advancing regional economic diversification by aligning workforce development with employer needs in specialized areas of Information Technology. Building on its proven track record, VCU is preparing to train students in advanced computing methods that directly support the bioscience industry, an emerging driver of economic growth in the region.</p> <p>This project will strengthen the connection between IT and biosciences by enhancing academic programming and industry engagement. It also builds on VCU's prior success in leveraging modest GO Virginia investments to secure tens of millions of dollars in federal funding, demonstrating a strong return on investment and the potential for scalable impact.</p> <p>By equipping students with in-demand skills and fostering cross-sector innovation, this initiative supports high-wage job creation, strengthens the regional talent pipeline, and positions Virginia as a leader in bioscience and health IT convergence.</p>					
<b>Advanced Engineering and Manufacturing Technician Program</b>	Rowanty Technical Center	Workforce Development	6/10/25	\$520,000	\$260,000
<p>Rowanty Technical Center will establish an Advanced Manufacturing and Robotics Program to serve Dinwiddie, Prince George, and Sussex counties. This initiative will provide students with industry-recognized credentials—including Workforce Readiness, Forklift Operation, OSHA10, and Smarta Automation certifications—preparing them for immediate employment in high-demand sectors.</p> <p>By initially targeting high school students and expanding to adult learners, the program will create a sustainable pipeline of skilled workers to meet the growing needs of the region's advanced manufacturing industry. Work-based learning opportunities, such as internships, will further strengthen job readiness and employer engagement.</p> <p>Strategically aligned with GO TEC programming at the middle school level and dual enrollment opportunities through Brightpoint Community College, the program ensures a seamless talent development continuum.</p>					
<b>GO TEC Expansion</b>	Commonwealth Center for Advanced Manufacturing (CCAM)	Workforce Development	6/10/25	\$970,835	\$513,940
<p>The Commonwealth Center for Advanced Manufacturing (CCAM) is expanding the GO TEC (Great Opportunities in Technology and Engineering Careers) program across GO Virginia Region 4. Building on a successful 2023 GO Virginia initiative, CCAM has already established GO TEC Career Connections Labs in Dinwiddie County, Surry County, Sussex County, and the cities of Petersburg, Colonial Heights, and Hopewell.</p> <p>This next phase will extend the program's reach to middle schools in Charles City County, Prince George County, and three schools in the City of Richmond, broadening access to early career exposure in high-demand technical fields.</p>					

## GO Virginia Region 5

Region Five includes the counties of Accomack, Isle of Wight, James City, Northampton, Southampton, and York, and the cities of Chesapeake, Franklin, Hampton, Newport News, Norfolk, Poquoson, Portsmouth, Suffolk, Virginia Beach and Williamsburg.

Project Name	Subgrantee	Investment Strategy	Date of Award	Grant Award	Committed Match
<b>UAS BVLOS Key Site Initiative</b>	Hampton Roads Alliance	Site Development and Infrastructure	8/15/24	\$35,392	\$17,696
<p>The Hampton Roads Alliance is leading a strategic planning effort to identify an optimal location for a next-generation unmanned systems testing and training site. This study will assess locations that can support expanded operational range and capabilities beyond what current facilities allow.</p> <p>Building on prior regional efforts to grow the unmanned systems industry cluster, the final deliverable will be a comprehensive site selection report. This report will equip localities and industry partners with the data needed to pursue implementation funding for site development and workforce training programs.</p> <p>By laying the groundwork for a dedicated testing and training facility, this initiative supports the continued growth of a high-tech, high-wage industry in Hampton Roads and strengthens Virginia's leadership in autonomous systems innovation.</p>					
<b>Advancing Commercialization and Innovation Opportunities for Jefferson Lab</b>	Hampton Roads Executive Roundtable	Cluster Scale-Up	1/8/25	\$99,900	\$55,000
<p>The Hampton Roads Executive Roundtable is spearheading an initiative to advance economic diversification in Region 5 by evaluating opportunities to leverage the advanced capabilities of the High-Performance Data Facility (HPDF) at Jefferson Lab. This strategic assessment will explore how the HPDF can serve as a catalyst for innovation, research, and commercialization across key target industries.</p> <p>Through collaboration with regional stakeholders, the initiative aims to identify high-impact use cases, attract private investment, and position Hampton Roads as a hub for data-driven economic growth.</p>					
<b>Economic Access Initiative</b>	Neighborhood	Workforce Development	3/11/25	\$305,000	\$152,500
<p>The Economic Access Initiative is a targeted workforce development effort designed to strengthen the talent pipeline for high-demand industries such as shipbuilding, repair, logistics, port operations, and warehousing. The initiative focuses on expanding access to career pathways for individuals from low-income communities, ensuring equitable participation in the region's economic growth.</p> <p>Through comprehensive training programs, mentorship, and direct connections to employers, the initiative equips participants with the skills and certifications needed to succeed in these critical sectors.</p>					
<b>Hampton Roads Investment Playbook</b>	Hampton Roads Alliance	Cluster Scale-Up	5/29/25	\$100,000	\$50,000
<p>The Hampton Roads Alliance, the region's lead economic development organization, is seeking GO Virginia funding to conduct a strategic analysis of growth opportunities within key targeted industry sectors. This effort builds on a previously funded phase that identified priority sectors for deeper exploration. The current phase will focus on developing seven to ten high-impact projects aimed at accelerating growth in these sectors, along with identifying sustainable funding models to support implementation.</p> <p>Historically, Hampton Roads has concentrated on end-product assembly. This initiative will shift focus upstream to explore how the region can expand its role in innovation, research, and early-stage production within advanced industries.</p>					

The Hampton Roads Workforce Council, the region's workforce development board, is a key partner in the project, providing matching funds and ensuring alignment with regional workforce strategies.

## GO Virginia Region 6

Region Six includes the counties of Caroline, Essex, Gloucester, King and Queen, King George, King William, Lancaster, Mathews, Middlesex, Northumberland, Richmond, Spotsylvania, Stafford, and Westmoreland, and the city of Fredericksburg.

Project Name	Subgrantee	Investment Strategy	Date of Award	Grant Award	Committed Match
<b>Career Advancement and Resource Education (CARE)</b>	Bay Consortium Workforce Development Board	Workforce Development	12/10/24	\$307,857	\$160,891
The Bay Consortium Workforce Development Board is launching a strategic initiative to build regional capacity for career awareness and workforce alignment within GO Virginia’s targeted industry sectors. This project will focus on four key goals to strengthen employer-led talent development and ensure long-term workforce competitiveness across the region.					
<b>Expanding Business Ecosystems (EBE) Business Accelerator</b>	Virginia Black Chamber of Commerce	Startup Ecosystem	12/10/24	\$300,000	\$155,500
The Virginia Black Chamber of Commerce is launching a strategic initiative to strengthen the growth and competitiveness of small businesses across GO Virginia Region 6. Through its Expanding Business Ecosystems (EBE) Accelerator, the Chamber will deliver targeted support—including mentorship, skills training, and access to capital—to help entrepreneurs scale their businesses and contribute to regional economic vitality. This initiative is designed to serve 120 small businesses over 2 years through six tailored cohorts, each focused on high-growth sectors such as agriculture, logistics, manufacturing, and professional services.					
<b>Cyber Titans Virginia Internship Program (Cyber Titans VIP)</b>	Cyber Titans Foundation	Cluster Scale-Up	1/22/25	\$99,826	\$49,913
The Cyber Titans Foundation will launch a planning and pilot initiative—Cyber Titans VIP—to prepare high school and college students, transitioning service members, and career seekers for in-demand roles in cybersecurity. This effort will design a regionally tailored training curriculum and certification pathway aligned with industry needs.					
<b>Economic Impact Analysis for RIVERE Ecological Center and Entrepreneurial Ecosystem</b>	RIVERE	Startup Ecosystem	2/7/25	\$72,100	\$36,050
RIVERE will conduct an economic impact assessment for a proposed 25,000-square-foot facility designed to support entrepreneurship and small business growth. The facility will function as a co-working and innovation hub, featuring specialized workspaces, advanced technological infrastructure, and equipment to support research and development focused on river systems and related industries.					

<b>Virginia Tidewater Aquaculture &amp; Maritime Innovation Incubator Program</b>	Greater Reedville Association	Startup Ecosystem	6/10/25	\$280,800	\$140,400
---	-------------------------------	-------------------	---------	-----------	-----------

The Greater Reedville Association (GRA) is undertaking a multi-phase renovation of Festival Halle, a historic former school building now serving as a community center in Reedville, VA. The first phase involves transforming part of the facility into a commercial kitchen to help local watermen bring their products directly to market and expand into regional and out-of-state markets. The second phase will establish a small business incubator, offering targeted support through skill-building resources, financial tools, and market development strategies. By combining heritage preservation with economic innovation, this project strengthens the local economy, supports small business creation, and enhances community resilience in Virginia’s Northern Neck.

<b>Practice Management Certification Program</b>	University of Mary Washington	Workforce Development	6/27/25	\$78,014	\$40,000
--	-------------------------------	-----------------------	---------	----------	----------

The University of Mary Washington is addressing a critical barrier to economic growth in GO Virginia Region 6: the shortage of healthcare professionals. This project will assess how workforce gaps in the healthcare sector are impacting the region’s key industry clusters and overall economic competitiveness.

In response to identified needs, the university will launch a pilot Practice Management Certification Program to strengthen the healthcare talent pipeline. This program will be designed in close alignment with employer demand and will equip participants with the skills needed to manage healthcare practices efficiently to support both clinical operations and patient access.

By targeting a high-demand occupation and aligning training with regional needs, this initiative will support job creation, improve healthcare delivery, and enhance the region’s ability to attract and retain employers.

## GO Virginia Region 7

Region Seven includes the counties of Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun, and Prince William, and the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax, Falls Church, Manassas and Manassas Park.

Project Name	Subgrantee	Investment Strategy	Date of Award	Grant Award	Committed Match
<b>Innovation District</b>	George Mason University	Cluster Scale-Up	6/10/25	\$2,604,410	\$1,302,598
<p>George Mason University will initiate the implementation phase of the Region 7 Innovation District, a dynamic regional innovation ecosystem anchored by GMU's SciTech Campus in Prince William County. Building on the strategic framework established through a previous GO Virginia planning grant, the district is designed to accelerate advanced industry growth, research commercialization, entrepreneurship and start-up development, workforce training and talent retention, and international business attraction. Encompassing 3,800 acres and supported by robust cross-sector partnerships, the Innovation District aims to catalyze scalable, long-term economic growth across Northern Virginia.</p>					

## GO Virginia Region 8

Region Eight includes the counties of Augusta, Bath, Clarke, Frederick, Highland, Page, Rockbridge, Rockingham, Shenandoah, and Warren, and the cities of Buena Vista, Harrisonburg, Lexington, Staunton, Waynesboro, and Winchester.

Project Name	Subgrantee	Investment Strategy	Date of Award	Grant Award	Committed Match
<b>Blue Mountain Extended Due Diligence</b>	Shenandoah Valley Partnership	Site Development and Infrastructure	12/10/24	\$348,810	\$174,405
<p>The Shenandoah Valley Partnership is advancing efforts to expand the inventory of regionally significant, shovel-ready sites in GO Virginia Region 8 by further developing the Blue Mountain industrial site. With prior GO Virginia support, 199 acres of the site have already been elevated to Tier 4 on the Virginia Business Ready Sites Program (VBRSP) scale. The Partnership now seeks additional funding to elevate the remaining 297 acres to Tier 4, ensuring the entire 496-acre site is fully development-ready.</p> <p>In parallel, the Partnership completed a GO Virginia-funded Regional Industrial Facilities Authority (RIFA) feasibility study in November 2024. The study recommends forming a RIFA as the next strategic step to support shared investment and governance of the regional industrial park.</p>					
<b>Clark County Camp 7 Site Development Planning</b>	Clark County	Site Development and Infrastructure	12/10/24	\$170,625	\$85,313
<p>Clarke County is advancing efforts to expand the inventory of shovel-ready sites in GO Virginia Region 8 through the strategic redevelopment of a 40-acre property formerly occupied by a state correctional facility, which closed in 2014. The County is currently working to acquire the site from the Commonwealth of Virginia.</p> <p>This GO Virginia-funded initiative will support Phase 1 planning and assessment activities to prepare the site for future industrial or commercial use.</p>					
<b>ShenValley Meat Processing Cooperative</b>	Page County	Cluster Scale-Up	4/11/25	\$87,450	\$43,725
<p>Page County will lead the development of a comprehensive business plan for establishing a regional meat processing facility and cooperative to serve GO Virginia Region 8 and support meat processors across the Commonwealth. This initiative aims to strengthen Virginia's agricultural economy by addressing processing capacity gaps and creating a sustainable, locally driven supply chain.</p>					
<b>Expressway to Power</b>	Laurel Ridge Community College	Workforce Development	6/10/25	\$401,374	\$200,687
<p>Laurel Ridge Community College will launch a comprehensive education-to-workforce Powerline Training Program to meet growing demand in the utility and infrastructure sectors. The initiative includes the development of two new curricula—Powerline Worker and Power Industry Fundamentals—designed to prepare students for high-skill, high-wage careers in the powerline industry.</p> <p>In addition, the college will adapt and enhance existing programs in Heavy Equipment Operation, Commercial Driver's License (CDL), and VDOT Flagger training to align with the specific technical and safety requirements of the powerline sector.</p>					



## GO Virginia Region 9

Region Nine includes the counties of Albemarle, Culpeper, Fauquier, Fluvanna, Greene, Louisa, Madison, Nelson, Orange, and Rappahannock, and the city of Charlottesville.

Project Name	Subgrantee	Investment Strategy	Date of Award	Grant Award	Committed Match
<b>BioBridge Talent Pathways Planning</b>	CvilleBioHub	Workforce Development	12/10/24	\$244,400	\$122,200
<p>CvilleBioHub is leading a strategic initiative to strengthen the biotechnology and biomedicine workforce in GO Virginia Region Nine. By aligning education, industry, and workforce development partners, this project is building clear, targeted talent pipelines to meet the growing demand for skilled professionals in the life sciences sector.</p> <p>This effort directly supports regional economic development by preparing a workforce that can drive innovation, attract investment, and sustain high-quality job growth. Through collaboration with local schools, colleges, and employers, CvilleBioHub is ensuring that both current and future workers are equipped with the skills needed to thrive in this rapidly evolving industry.</p>					
<b>Food and Beverage Business Accelerator</b>	Venture Central	Cluster Scale-Up	1/8/25	\$100,000	\$53,750
<p>"Venture Central is leading the development of a comprehensive action plan to launch a food and beverage accelerator program tailored to the unique assets and opportunities of GO Virginia Region 9. This initiative is designed to support local entrepreneurs and small businesses in the food and beverage sector by providing targeted resources such as mentorship, access to capital, and strategic networking opportunities.</p> <p>By cultivating a robust ecosystem for innovation and collaboration, the accelerator will help scale regional businesses, enhance the culinary economy, and position Region 9 as a destination for food-based entrepreneurship.</p>					
<b>Rivanna Futures</b>	Albemarle County	Site Development and Infrastructure	3/11/25	\$613,570	\$324,000
<p>Rivanna Futures is leading a strategic initiative to increase the number of regionally significant, shovel-ready sites within GO Virginia Region 9. This effort is focused on advancing the development of a regional industrial park to attract new business investment and support the expansion of existing industries.</p> <p>By identifying and preparing high-potential sites for development, the initiative will enhance the region's competitiveness, reduce time-to-market for prospective employers, and position Region 9 as a destination for high-impact economic growth.</p>					
<b>Wine Industry Implementation</b>	Nelson County	Cluster Scale-Up	3/11/25	\$224,125	\$209,784
<p>The Wine Industry Implementation Initiative will establish an industry-led coalition to strengthen the export capacity of Region 9's wine sector. This collaborative effort will deliver targeted support, including market research, export training, and international networking opportunities, to help local wineries scale operations and access global markets.</p> <p>By fostering strategic partnerships among producers, suppliers, and industry experts, the initiative aims to enhance the region's global competitiveness in wine production.</p>					

<b>Innovation Corridor Roadmap</b>	Central Virginia Partnership for Economic Development	Cluster Scale-Up	4/16/25	\$100,000	\$75,000
<p>The Central Virginia Partnership for Economic Development will lead a targeted analysis to identify high-potential subsectors within the region's biotechnology and information technology industries. This initiative will pinpoint areas where Central Virginia holds competitive advantages and uncover opportunities for sustainable growth and innovation.</p>					

## Appendix A – GO Virginia State Board Members<sup>2</sup>

 	
<b>Gubernatorial Appointees</b>	
The Honorable Steve Cummings	Secretary of Finance
The Honorable Juan Pablo Segura	Secretary of Commerce & Trade
The Honorable Bryan Slater	Secretary of Labor
Nancy Howell Agee, Chair	President and CEO, Carilion Clinic
Reggie Aggarwal	CEO & Founder, Cvent
Jim Cheng	Chief Strategy Officer of PIE-PS
Kenneth Johnson	President and CEO, JMI
John King	President, Virginia Poultry Growers Cooperative
Cliff Fleet	President and CEO, Colonial Williamsburg Foundation
Leah Fremouw, Second Vice Chair	Virginia Community Capital
Todd A. Stottlemyer, Vice Chair	CEO, CNSI
Emily O'Quinn	Senior Vice President of Investor Relations and Corporate Communications for Alpha Metallurgical Resources
Fouad Qreitem	Owner, Paisano's Pizza
<b>Virginia Senate Appointees</b>	
Benjamin J. Davenport Jr.	Chairman, First Piedmont Corporation
Heywood W. Fralin	Chairman of Retirement Unlimited, Inc

<sup>2</sup> Represents members as of June 30, 2025. A current board roster can be found [at the DHCD website](#).

### Virginia House of Delegates Appointees

Jonathan M. Peterson	CEO, Peterson Companies
Joel Griffin	Founder & CEO of Riphean

### Virginia Senate Members

Senator L. Louise Lucas	18 <sup>th</sup> District
Senator Creigh Deeds	11 <sup>th</sup> District
Senator Ryan McDougle	26 <sup>th</sup> District

### Virginia House of Delegates Members

Speaker Don Scott	88 <sup>th</sup> District
Delegate Luke Torian	24 <sup>th</sup> District
Delegate Terry Kilgore	45 <sup>th</sup> District
Delegate Michelle Maldonado	20 <sup>th</sup> District