



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

AGENDA
VIRGINIA GROWTH AND OPPORTUNITY BOARD
Tuesday, December 10, 2024
1:00 PM – 3:00 PM
[Virtual Option Link](#)
Or dial +1 434-230-0065, #230615914

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

- II. PRESENTATIONS
 - a. Update on Southern Virginia Regional Alliance Shovel Ready Site Projects Linda Green

- III. CONSENT AGENDA – **Action Item** (pg. 3) Vice Chair
 - a. June 4, 2024 Meeting Minutes
 - b. September 10, 2024 Meeting Minutes
 - c. Resolutions for Jim Dyke, Pia Trigiani, and Senator Frank Ruff
 - d. Technical Amendments to Board Policies
 - i. Board Policy #3 –Administrative Approval Process
 - ii. Board Policy #6 – FY19 Per Capita Allocation & Competitive Redistribution
 - iii. Board Policy #8 – Investments in Broadband
 - iv. Board Policy #9 – Sites Development Investments
 - v. Board Policy #16 – Indirect Rates

- IV. DEPUTY DIRECTOR’S REPORT (pg. 32) Sara Dunnigan
 - a. Application Submission & Evaluation Process
 - b. **Action Items:**
 - i. Per Capita Applications (5)
 - ii. Talent Pathways Planning Initiative Applications (2)
 - c. Program Performance Dashboard
 - d. **Action Item:**
 - i. Amended Board Policy #10 – Helene Business Recovery Initiative (HBRI)

- V. JLARC REPORT: RECOMMENDATIONS IMPLEMENTATION (pg. 59) Sara Dunnigan

- VI. PROGRAM PERFORMANCE AND EVALUATION COMMITTEE REPORT Todd Stottlemeyer

- VII. REGIONAL COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORT Leah Fremouw
 - a. Action Item: Approval of Advisory Group to the Regional Council Committee



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VIII. EXECUTIVE ORDER 42: CATALYZING HOUSING DEVELOPMENT FOR CRITICAL WORKFORCE AND ECONOMIC NEEDS WITH INTERAGENCY COLLABORATION (pg.63)

Sec. Steve Cummings & Deputy Maggie Beal

IX. INFORMATION ITEMS (pg. 69)
a. DHCD Administratively Approved Projects

Sara Dunnigan

X. ADJOURNMENT

Vice Chair

2025 Meeting Schedule

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

Tuesday, June 10, 2025

Tuesday, September 9, 2025

Tuesday, December 9, 2025

All meetings will be held at 1:00 p.m.

III. CONSENT AGENDA - *Action Items*

- a. June 4, 2024 Meeting Minutes
- b. September 10, 2024 Meeting Minutes
- c. Resolutions for Jim Dyke, Pia Trigiani, and Senator Frank Ruff
- d. Technical Amendments to Board Policies



VIRGINIA INITIATIVE FOR
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IN EACH REGION

VIRGINIA GROWTH AND OPPORTUNITY BOARD MEETING

June 4, 2024

1:00 PM

Virtual Meeting

Members Present

Nancy Howell Agee
Jim Cheng
The Honorable Steve Cummings
Ben J. Davenport, Jr.
Senator Creigh Deeds
Cliff Fleet
W. Heywood Fralin
Leah Fremouw
William Holtzman
Kenneth Johnson
Senator L. Louise Lucas
Delegate Michelle Maldonado
Senator Ryan McDougle
The Honorable Caren Merrick
Emily O'Quinn
Jon Peterson
Delegate Don Scott
Todd A. Stottlemyer
Delegate Luke Torian
Pia Trigiani

Members Absent

Jim Dyke
Delegate Terry Kilgore
John King

Call to Order

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

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.

No members of the public appeared before the Board for the public comment period.

Mr. Anderson noted that the staff had received one written public comment, which was read aloud:

Beverly Dalton, Vice-Chair of GO Virginia Region 2 Council, wrote in support of the Region 2 Vital application, noting that the council urges the Board to consider approving the project at its full request amount.

The public comment period was closed.

Consent Agenda

Ms. Agee noted that the consent agenda, including the December 12, 2023 meeting minutes, the March 12, 2024 meeting minutes, the FY25 Regional Per Capita and Competitive Fund Allocation, the FY25 Regional Capacity Building Allocation and Continuation of Match Waiver, FY25 Regional Capacity Building Budget Approvals, Region 6 Board Appeal – Igniting Entrepreneurship, Amended Board Policy #11 – Modified Per Capita Match Requirements, and the Amended Board Policy #13 – Modified Competitive Fund Match Requirements, would be voted on as a block.

Senator McDougle requested that the Region 6 Board Appeal – Igniting Entrepreneurship be pulled from the block for individual consideration.

A motion was made by Mr. Stottlemeyer and seconded by Mr. Fleet to approve the remaining consent agenda items as presented. The motion passed (Y – Agee, Cheng, Cummings, Davenport, Deeds, Fleet, Fralin, Fremouw, Holtzman, Johnson, Lucas, McDougle, Merrick, Maldonado, O’Quinn, Peterson, Stottlemeyer, Torian, Trigiani; N – none).

A motion was made by Mr. Stottlemeyer and seconded by Mr. Fleet to accept the staff recommendation to deny the Region 6 Board Appeal – Igniting Entrepreneurship. The motion passed (Y – Agee, Cheng, Cummings, Davenport, Deeds, Fleet, Fralin, Fremouw, Holtzman, Johnson, Lucas, Merrick, Maldonado, O’Quinn, Peterson, Stottlemeyer, Torian, Trigiani; N – McDougle).

Election of Officer – 2nd Ms. Agee noted that the recently created Governance and Policy Vice Chair – Regional Committee is charged with providing recommended nominations for leadership positions. Ms. Agee recognized Ms. Emily O’Quinn, Chair of the Governance and Policy Committee, to report on the Committee’s recommended nominee.

Ms. O’Quinn noted that the Governance and Policy Committee had met and unanimously supported the nomination of Ms. Leah Fremouw for the position of Vice Chair for Regional Councils.

Mr. Johnson requested clarification of the term for the Vice Chair position. Mr. Anderson noted that a Vice Chair is elected for a two-year term with the option of being reelected for one additional one-year term.

The nomination of Ms. Fremouw was presented as a standing motion from the Governance and Policy Committee. No other members were nominated.

The motion passed (Y – Agee, Cheng, Cummings, Davenport, Deeds, Fleet, Fralin Fremouw, Holtzman, Johnson, Lucas, McDougle, Merrick, Maldonado, O’Quinn, Peterson, Stottlemeyer, Torian, Trigiani; N – none).

Deputy Director’s Report Ms. Dunnigan, Deputy Director of Economic Development and Community Vitality at DHCD, presented the Board with 6 Per Capita applications regarding workforce development, site development and infrastructure, and cluster scale-up: United Way of Southwest Virginia GO TEC Expansion 2 from Region 1, Educating Engineers for the Region 2 Workforce from Region 2, Developing IT & Cybersecurity Certification Pipeline to Advance Cluster Growth (ITCCP) from Region 2, GO TEC Region 3 Expansion from Region 3, Citizens Middle Mile Broadband from Region 2, and Region 4 – Project VITAL.

Ms. Dunnigan presented the Board with 2 Competitive Fund applications regarding cluster scale-up: Region 4 – Project VITAL and Region 9 – Project VITAL.

Ms. Dunnigan Presented the Board with 1 Talent Pathways Planning Initiative application: SVWDB TPI from Region 8.

Ms. Agee noted that the Board would vote on the proposed projects as a block.

After discussion, Senator Deeds requested that the Region 2 – VITAL, Region 4 – VITAL, and Region 9 – VITAL applications be pulled from the block for separate consideration.

After discussion, Mr. Davenport requested that the GO TEC Region 3 Expansion application be pulled from the block for separate consideration.

A motion was made by Mr. Fleet and seconded by Ms. O’Quinn to approve the remainder of the projects as recommended by staff. The motion passed (Y – Agee, Cheng, Cummings, Davenport, Deeds, Fleet, Fralin, Fremouw, Holtzman, Johnson, McDougle, Merrick, Maldonado, O’Quinn, Peterson, Stottlemeyer, Torian, Trigiani; N – none).

A vote was called for the GO TEC Region 3 Expansion application. The application was approved (Y – Agee, Cummings, Deeds, Fleet, Fralin, Fremouw, Scott, Holtzman, Johnson, Lucas, McDougle, Merrick, Maldonado, O’Quinn, Peterson, Stottlemeyer, Torian, Trigiani; N- none; Abstentions – Davenport).

After discussion, a motion was made by Senator Deeds and seconded by Senator Lucas to amend the staff-recommended motion about the three VITAL applications to include the following language: “Motion to approve the three VITAL projects and their accompanying local and total match waivers for approval contingent on verification follow-up and finalization of a memorandum of understanding between the three applicants with other state authorities that can provide additional collaborative support, including but not limited to Virginia Innovation Partnership Corporation, Virginia Economic Development Partnership, and Virginia Catalyst. Department of Housing and Community Development GO Virginia staff shall draft the MOU with project VITAL applicant leadership and oversee project collaboration”. The motion to amend passed (Y – Agee, Cheng, Cummings, Davenport, Deeds, Fleet, Fralin, Fremouw, Scott, Holtzman, Lucas, McDougle, Merrick, Maldonado, O’Quinn, Peterson, Stottlemeyer, Torian, Trigiani; N – none).

After discussion, a motion to table the three applications was made by Delegate Scott and seconded by Delegate Torian.

After further discussion, Delegate Scott withdrew the motion to table the applications.

Senator Deeds modified his amended motion to read as follows: "Move to recommend the Region 4 – VITAL project and its accompanying local and total match waivers for approval contingent on follow-up and finalization of a memorandum of understanding with other state authorities that can provide additional collaborative support, including but not limited to the following: Virginia Innovation Partnership Corporation, Virginia Economic Development Partnership, and Virginia Catalyst. The Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development's GO Virginia staff shall draft the memorandum of understanding with the Project VITAL applicant leadership and oversee project collaboration. Move to recommend the Region 2 – VITAL project for approval for the full amount contingent on verification of match and finalization of 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. The Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development's GO Virginia staff shall draft the memorandum of understanding with the Project VITAL applicant leadership and oversee project collaboration. Move to recommend the Region 9 – VITAL project and accompanying match waivers for approval contingent on verification follow-up and finalization of a memorandum of understanding with other state authorities that can provide additional collaborative support, including but not limited to the following: the Virginia Innovation Partnership Corporation, the Virginia Economic Development Partnership, and Virginia Catalyst. The Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development's GO Virginia staff shall draft the memorandum of understanding with the Project VITAL applicant leadership and oversee project collaboration. The memorandum of understanding required in these motions shall be subject to approval by the GO Virginia Program Performance and Evaluation Committee in collaboration with the Secretary of Commerce and Trade." The motion passed (Y – Cheng, Cummings, Davenport, Deeds, Fleet, Fremouw, Scott, Holzman, Merrick, Maldonado, O'Quinn, Peterson, Stottlemeyer, Torian, Trigiani; N – none; Abstentions: Agee, Fralin, Johnson, Lucas).

Healthcare Taskforce Report

Ms. Agee recognized Mr. Stottlemeyer, Chair of the Healthcare Taskforce, to present a report on the work of the Healthcare Taskforce.

Mr. Stottlemeyer provided an overview of the proposed Board Policy #17, allowing healthcare projects as eligible activities under the GO Virginia program.

Board Policy #17 was presented as a standing motion to the Board. The motion passed (Y – Cummings, Davenport, Deeds, Fralin, Fremouw, Scott, Johnson, Lucas, McDougle, Merrick, Maldonado, O’Quinn, Peterson, Stottlemeyer, Torian, Trigiani; N – none; Abstentions – Agee)

Deputy Director’s Report

Ms. Agee recognized Ms. Dunnigan to provide an overview of the proposed methodology for returning funds to the General Fund from the GO Virginia program, as required by the 2024-2026 biennium budget.

The methodology for returning funds to the General Fund was adopted by a roll call vote (Y – Agee, Cummings, Davenport, Deeds, Fralin, Fremouw, Scott, Johnson, Lucas, McDougle, Merrick, Maldonado, O’Quinn, Peterson, Stottlemeyer, Torian, Trigiani; N – none).

Adjournment

Ms. Agee noted that the meeting had run over and that any other items scheduled to be discussed on the agenda would be considered at the September meeting of the Board. The meeting was adjourned.



VIRGINIA INITIATIVE FOR
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IN EACH REGION

VIRGINIA GROWTH AND OPPORTUNITY BOARD MEETING
September 10, 2024
12:00 PM

The Institute for Advanced Learning and Research
150 Slayton Avenue
Danville, Virginia

Members Present

Nancy Howell Agee
Reggie Aggarwal
Jim Cheng
Ben J. Davenport, Jr.
W. Heywood Fralin
Leah Fremouw
Kenneth Johnson
John King
Delegate Michelle Maldonado
Senator Ryan McDougle – Virtual (Henrico,
Virginia; principal residence is in excess of 60
miles from the meeting)
Emily O’Quinn
Jon Peterson
Delegate Don Scott
Todd A. Stottlemeyer

Members Absent

The Honorable Steve Cummings
Senator Creigh Deeds
Cliff Fleet
Delegate Terry Kilgore
Senator L. Louise Lucas
The Honorable Caren Merrick
Fouad Qreitem
Delegate Luke Torian

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

Mr. Ethan Dunstan, Chair of the GO Virginia Region 9 Council, spoke in support of the three VITAL projects that were approved with contingencies at the June 4 meeting of the Board. Mr. Dunstan noted that he was speaking on behalf of GO Virginia Regions 2, 4, and 9 at the behest of the Chairs of those Councils. Mr. Dunstan explained the critical nature of acting with expediency on getting the three proposals to the stage of final approval and under contract.

Mr. Anderson noted that the staff had received two written public comments, which were read aloud:

Mr. William Blair Okita, representing BioPCS Consulting LLC, wrote in support of the CvilleBioHub VITAL application from Region 9, which was approved with contingencies at the June 4 meeting of the Board.

Mr. Evan Edwards, representing CvilleBioHub, wrote in support of the CvilleBioHub VITAL application from Region 9, which was approved with contingencies at the June 4 meeting of the Board, noting the critical need for expediency in moving toward final approval of the project.

The public comment period was closed.

Consent Agenda

Ms. Agee noted that the consent agenda, including the June 4, 2024 meeting minutes, the FY25 Region 4 Capacity Building Budget, the Region 4 GO TEC Contract Modification, the 2025 Board Calendar, the Regional Council Certifications, and the Amended Board Policy #2: Electronic Participation Policy, would be voted on as a block.

Ms. O'Quinn requested that the June 4, 2024 meeting minutes be pulled from the block for individual consideration to address a clerical error.

Mr. Anderson explained that the error occurred in the proper documentation of Delegate Michelle Maldonado's full name, as is customary with documentation of the roll call of Board members. Mr. Johnson also requested that language be added to the June 4 meeting minutes that recorded his request for clarity on the term of the Vice Chair of Regional Councils and the subsequent response of staff that the term is a two-year term with the option of reelection for one additional one-year term. Mr. Anderson noted that both items would be addressed, and Ms. Agee

explained that the corrected minutes would be considered at the next meeting of the Board.

A motion was made by Mr. Stottlemeyer and seconded by Mr. Fralin to approve the remaining consent agenda items as presented. The motion passed (Y – Agee, Aggarwal, Cheng, Davenport, Fralin, Fremouw, Johnson, King, Maldonado, McDougle, O’Quinn, Peterson, Scott, Stottlemeyer; N – none).

Deputy Director’s Report Ms. Shara Gibson, Program Manager of GO Virginia at DHCD, presented the Board with 3 Per Capita applications regarding workforce development and site development and infrastructure: Regional Talent Strategies from Region 6, Western Lee Sewer Phase IA from Region 1, and Progress Park Lot 10 from Region 1.

Ms. Agee noted that the Board would vote on the proposed projects as a block.

Ms. O’Quinn requested that the Western Lee Sewer Phase IA project be removed from the block for separate consideration.

Ms. O’Quinn noted that the applicant requested that the Board take no action on the application and had requested that the project be tabled so that they could improve the application for a possible resubmission at a later date. The project was tabled without objection or further discussion.

A motion was made by Delegate Scott and seconded by Ms. O’Quinn to approve the remainder of the projects as recommended by staff. The motion passed (Y – Agee, Aggarwal, Cheng, Davenport, Fralin, Fremouw, Johnson, King, Maldonado, McDougle, O’Quinn, Peterson, Scott, Stottlemeyer; N – none).

Ms. Agee recognized Mr. Anderson to provide the Board with an overview of the JLARC report on GO Virginia and the status of addressing the report’s recommendations. Mr. Anderson provided a brief overview of the process JLARC took to review the program, and the processes the Board has put into place to address the recommendations and noted that the Board packet contained a detailed list of recommendations and the progress toward addressing them.

Program Performance and Evaluation Committee Report

Ms. Agee recognized Mr. Stottlemeyer, Chair of Program Performance and Evaluation Committee to provide a report on the Committee’s work.

Mr. Stottlemeyer noted that the Committee last met on August 19 in which two topics were discussed. First, the Committee reviewed and discussed changes to the performance metrics for projects the Board approves, which was in response to a recommendation in the JLARC report. Second, the Committee held discussions with the Office of the Secretary of Commerce and Trade to discuss an MOU being formed as part of the contingent approval of the three VITAL projects from June 4, 2024. Mr. Stottlemeyer noted the Board’s commitment to move forward with expediency so the projects can begin work.

Governance and Policy Committee Report

Ms. Agee recognized Ms. O’Quinn, Chair of the Governance and Policy Committee, to provide a report on the Committee’s work.

Ms. O’Quinn noted that the Committee had met twice since the last report of the Committee. Ms. O’Quinn explained that the work of the Committee has been focused on the array of JLARC recommendations that were delegated to the Committee. Ms. O’Quinn provided an overview of the resolved and ongoing recommendations under the Committee’s consideration.

Ms. O’Quinn introduced an amendment to Board Policy #4 – Growth of Traded Industry Clusters as a standing motion for Board consideration.

After discussion, a second was made by Mr. Johnson to approve Board Policy #4 as presented. The motion passed (Y – Agee, Aggarwal, Cheng, Davenport, Fralin, Fremouw, Johnson, King, Maldonado, McDougle, O’Quinn, Peterson, Stottlemeyer; N – Scott).

Regional Council Committee Report

Ms. Agee recognized Ms. Fremouw, Chair of the Regional Council Committee, to provide a report on the Committee’s work.

Ms. Fremouw noted that she had begun work in partnership with the GO Virginia Foundation to conduct a series of interviews with Regional Council leadership as well as the launch of a survey tool to gather feedback from the Regions. Ms. Fremouw noted that these efforts are in progress and recommendations for action will come before the Board once the effort is complete.

Ms. Fremouw concluded her remarks with an open invitation for any member to volunteer to join the Committee membership.

Information Items

Ms. Agee noted that in the Board Packet, members can find a list of DHCD administratively approved items.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned.

DRAFT

**GROWTH AND OPPORTUNITY VIRGINIA
COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA**

At a regular meeting of the Growth and Opportunity Board on Tuesday, December 10, 2024, at the hour of 1:00 p.m., the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

WHEREAS, Senator Frank Miller Ruff Jr., was appointed by Senator Ryan T. McDougle, Chair of the Virginia Senate Committee on Rules on August 16, 2016, to serve on the Growth and Opportunity Board for a term subsequent to his term of office and subsequently reappointed by Senator Ryan T. McDougle in 2019 on April 10, 2019 for a term subsequent to his term of office, and subsequently reappointed by Senator Mamie E. Locke for a term subsequent to his term of office; and

WHEREAS, he served the Board with distinction since August 16, 2016; and

WHEREAS, his vision for the future of the Commonwealth has been pivotal in the establishment of the Virginia Growth and Opportunity Fund and to its growth; and

WHEREAS, his unwavering determination to strengthen the Commonwealth's economy coupled with his knowledge and experience in business collaboration with regional economic development efforts have greatly contributed to the realization of this Board's mission; and

WHEREAS, his voice for Virginia to grow fiscally independent of reliance on outside sources has markedly promoted the interests of this Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, his talent for identifying and promoting innovative best practices for the betterment of the well-being of the economy has greatly improved the Commonwealth's future; and

WHEREAS, his graciousness in supporting the corresponding initiatives of third parties in the interest of promoting the greatness of the Commonwealth has been principal to the execution of this Board's directive; and

WHEREAS, his affinity for assembling leaders across the Commonwealth who are passionate about its wealth and prosperity has been essential to this Board's accomplishments; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Growth and Opportunity Virginia Board does hereby posthumously express its gratitude to **Senator Frank Miller Ruff Jr.,** and his family for his many contributions to this body and for his enhancement of the professional and personal lives of all who have been associated with him; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be spread upon the Minutes of this meeting and that the resolution be presented to his wife, Jessica Ruff, as a permanent testament of our affection, esteem, and high regard.

Nancy Howell Agee, Chair

Todd Stottlemeyer, Vice Chair

**GROWTH AND OPPORTUNITY VIRGINIA
COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA**

At a regular meeting of the Growth and Opportunity Board on Tuesday, December 10, 2024, at the hour of 1:00 p.m., the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

WHEREAS, James W. “Jim” Dyke, Jr., was appointed by Governor Terence R. McAuliffe and confirmed by the 2016 Virginia General Assembly to serve on the Growth and Opportunity Board for a term of four years and subsequently reappointed by Governor Ralph S. Northam in 2020 to serve a term of four years; and

WHEREAS, he served the Board with distinction since July 1, 2016; and

WHEREAS, his vision for the future of the Commonwealth has been pivotal in the establishment of the Virginia Growth and Opportunity Fund and to its growth; and

WHEREAS, his unwavering determination to strengthen the Commonwealth’s economy coupled with his knowledge and experience in business collaboration with regional economic development efforts have greatly contributed to the realization of this Board’s mission; and

WHEREAS, his voice for Virginia to grow fiscally independent of reliance on outside sources has markedly promoted the interests of this Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, his talent for identifying and promoting innovative best practices for the betterment of the well-being of the economy has greatly improved the Commonwealth’s future; and

WHEREAS, his graciousness in supporting the corresponding initiatives of third parties in the interest of promoting the greatness of the Commonwealth has been principal to the execution of this Board’s directive; and

WHEREAS, his affinity for assembling leaders across the Commonwealth who are passionate about its wealth and prosperity has been essential to this Board’s accomplishments; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board does hereby express its gratitude to **James W. “Jim” Dyke, Jr.** for his many contributions to this body and to the Commonwealth of Virginia.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be spread upon the Minutes of this meeting and that a framed copy thereof be presented to **James W. “Jim” Dyke, Jr.**, as a permanent testament of our affection, esteem, and high regard.

Nancy Howell Agee, Chair

Todd Stottlemeyer, Vice Chair

**GROWTH AND OPPORTUNITY VIRGINIA
COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA**

At a regular meeting of the Growth and Opportunity Board on Tuesday, December 10, 2024, at the hour of 1:00 p.m., the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

WHEREAS, Pia Lucia Trigiani, was appointed by Governor Terence R. McAuliffe and confirmed by the 2016 Virginia General Assembly to serve on the Growth and Opportunity Board for a term of four years and subsequently reappointed by Governor Ralph S. Northam in 2020 to serve a term of four years; and

WHEREAS, she served the Board with distinction since July 1, 2016; and

WHEREAS, her vision for the future of the Commonwealth has been pivotal in the establishment of the Virginia Growth and Opportunity Fund and to its growth; and

WHEREAS, her unwavering determination to strengthen the Commonwealth's economy coupled with her knowledge and experience in business collaboration with regional economic development efforts have greatly contributed to the realization of this Board's mission; and

WHEREAS, her voice for Virginia to grow fiscally independent of reliance on outside sources has markedly promoted the interests of this Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, her talent for identifying and promoting innovative best practices for the betterment of the well-being of the economy has greatly improved the Commonwealth's future; and

WHEREAS, her graciousness in supporting the corresponding initiatives of third parties in the interest of promoting the greatness of the Commonwealth has been principal to the execution of this Board's directive; and

WHEREAS, her affinity for assembling leaders across the Commonwealth who are passionate about its wealth and prosperity has been essential to this Board's accomplishments; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board does hereby express its gratitude to **Pia Lucia Trigiani**, for her many contributions to this body and to the Commonwealth of Virginia.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be spread upon the Minutes of this meeting and that a framed copy thereof be presented to **Pia Lucia Trigiani**, as a permanent testament of our affection, esteem, and high regard.

Nancy Howell Agee, Chair

Todd Stottlemeyer, Vice Chair



Memorandum

TO: GO Virginia Board Members

FROM: DHCD Staff

RE: Board Policy #3 Administrative Approval Process

DATE: 12/10/2024

BACKGROUND: At the December 13, 2018 meeting of the GO Virginia State Board, the Board adopted Board Policy #3, which delegates authority to approve planning grant applications to the Department of Housing and Community Development. The Department may administratively approve planning grant applications for up to \$100,000. The policy also limits the amount of per capita funds that a Region may utilize for planning activities to \$250,000.

This amendment removes language referring to 1:1 match requirements, which were reduced to 2:1 as part of legislation adopted during the 2024 General Assembly Session. This amendment also includes language changes that remove specific administrative steps and instructions that are typically found in administrative guidance and not Board policies. These language changes instead refer back to those administrative guidance documents.

CODE LANGUAGE: A.3. The Board shall have the power and duty to: Develop and implement guidelines and procedures for the application for and use of any moneys in the Fund

RECOMMENDATION: DHCD staff recommends the attached amendments to Board Policy #3



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

Board Policy #3

TITLE: Administrative Approval Process for Grants under \$100,000 from Regional Per Capita Grant Allocations

EFFECTIVE DATE: ~~02/13/18~~ 12/10/24

AUTHORITY: § 2.2-2486 - §2.2-2487 of the Code of Virginia

POLICY STATEMENT: It is the policy of the Virginia Growth and Opportunity Board that each Regional Council will have the option to receive administrative approval for up to \$250,000 of its Regional Per Capita grant funds each fiscal year with a limit of \$100,000 per project.

To receive administrative approval, the Regional Council must submit ~~a an-enhanced-capacity building request~~ planning grant application for administrative approval to DHCD. ~~An application considered for administrative approval must comply with all existing planning grant guidance and match policies. Administratively approved planning grants shall not require local match but must demonstrate meaningful participation from two or more localities. ~~The request must include the project application approved by the Regional Council, a description of why the project is a priority for the Regional Council, and why it aligns with the Region's Economic Growth and Diversification Plan. The request must also demonstrate at least two participating localities and a 1:1 match. There is not a local match requirement for these projects. GO Virginia staff at DHCD must receive appropriate documentation and give administrative approval to the project before funding can be committed. DHCD will monitor project outcomes determined during contract negotiations.~~ At each Board meeting, DHCD staff will present a summary of all administrative approvals granted during the interim between meetings.~~

APPROVAL AND REVIEW: This Board policy was reviewed and approved on 02/13/2018 ~~and amended on 12/10/2024.~~

SUPERSESION: ~~This Board policy is new.~~ N/A

DHCD DIRECTOR: ~~Erik Johnston~~ Bryan Horn



REQUEST FOR ADMINISTRATIVE APPROVAL

REGION:

SUPPORT ORGANIZATION:

APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

- ~~1. Please list the participating localities (a minimum of 2 is required).~~
- ~~2. Please use the Budget Overview: Sources & Uses Template to provide the project budget and demonstrate that you have the required 1:1 match for the project.~~
- ~~3. Please provide a brief summary of the project.~~
- ~~4. Please describe why this project is a priority for the Regional Council.~~
- ~~5. Please describe how this project aligns with the Region's Economic Growth and Diversification Plan.~~

REQUIRED ATTACHMENTS:

- ~~1. Project Application to Regional Council~~
- ~~2. Letter from Regional Council Chairman stating support of the request~~
- ~~3. Budget Overview: Sources & Uses Template~~
- ~~4. Match Documentation~~



Memorandum

TO: GO Virginia Board Members

FROM: DHCD Staff

RE: Board Policy #6 GO Virginia Minimum Per Capita Allocation Policy

DATE: 12/10/2024

BACKGROUND: § 2.2-2487 of the Code of Virginia states that a portion of the GO Virginia fund shall be reserved for specific projects in each region on the basis of a region's share of the population, based on population estimates made by the Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service at the University of Virginia.

At the July 1, 2018 meeting of the GO Virginia State Board, the Board adopted Board Policy #6, which exercised the authority granted under the 2018-2020 biennium budget to create a per capita allocation floor of \$1,000,000 for any region, without regard to their share of the state's population.

This amendment eliminates language specifically pertaining to the fiscal year in which the original policy was adopted and inserts new language providing clarity that this policy applies to every fiscal year of the fund.

BUDGET LANGUAGE: N.3. The Virginia Growth and Opportunity Board may allocate monies among the distributions outlined in paragraph N.2. of this item to meet demonstrated demand for funds. However, only those regional councils whose allocation is less than \$1,000,000 in a fiscal year based on the region's share of state population shall be eligible to receive an additional allocation, and the amount shall be limited such that the total allocation does not exceed \$1,000,000 in a fiscal year.

RECOMMENDATION: DHCD staff recommends the attached amendments to Board Policy #6



Board Policy #6

TITLE: ~~FY19 Per Capita Allocation and Competitive Fund Redistribution~~ GO Virginia Minimum Per Capita Allocation Policy

EFFECTIVE DATE: ~~07/01/18~~ 12/10/24

AUTHORITY: § 2.2-2486 - §2.2-2487 of the Code of Virginia

POLICY STATEMENT: It is the policy of the Virginia Growth and Opportunity Board that, as permitted by the ~~2018-2020~~ 2024-2026 Biennium Budget, Item 1036, ~~monies among the distributions outlined in the budget shall be reallocated in order to meet demonstrated demand for per capita funds~~ no GO Virginia Regional Council shall receive less than \$1,000,000 in per capita funding allocations during a fiscal year. For those Regional Councils who would receive less than \$1,000,000 based on their share of the state’s population, monies shall be diverted from the GO Virginia Competitive fund allocation in order to reach the \$1,000,000 minimum. ~~A total of \$1,355,120 from Fiscal Year 2019 shall be reallocated from the statewide competitive fund to the per capita fund for those regional councils whose per capita allocations were less than \$1,000,000 based the region's share of state population. As such, the Fiscal Year 2019 statewide competitive fund will be reduced from \$12,300,000 to \$10,944,880, while the per capita fund will be increased from \$13,900,000 to \$15,255,120. The regional council allocations of per capita funds will therefore be as follows:~~

Region	Approved FY19 Per Capita Allocation
1	\$1,000,000
2	\$1,279,626
3	\$1,000,000
4	\$2,047,135
5	\$2,839,932
6	\$1,000,000
7	\$4,088,427
8	\$1,000,000
9	\$1,000,000
Total	\$15,255,120



VIRGINIA INITIATIVE FOR
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APPROVAL AND REVIEW: This Board policy was reviewed and approved on 06/12/2018 and amended on 12/10/2024.

SUPERSESSION: ~~This policy is new.~~ N/A

DHCD DIRECTOR: ~~Erik Johnston~~ Bryan Horn



Memorandum

TO: GO Virginia Board Members

FROM: DHCD Staff

RE: Board Policy #8 Use of GO Virginia Funds for Investments in Broadband

DATE: 12/10/2024

BACKGROUND: At the December 9, 2019 meeting of the GO Virginia State Board, the Board adopted Board Policy #8, which creates pathways for GO Virginia funding to be utilized for the purposes of planning and extending broadband access for the purposes of commercial and economic development.

This amendment removes language referring to 1:1 match requirements, which were reduced to 2:1 as part of legislation adopted during the 2024 General Assembly Session. This amendment also includes language clarifying the requirement that broadband planning efforts require the meaningful participation of two or more localities in lieu of local match requirements.

CODE LANGUAGE: A.3. The Board shall have the power and duty to: Develop and implement guidelines and procedures for the application for and use of any moneys in the Fund

RECOMMENDATION: DHCD staff recommends the attached amendments to Board Policy #8



Board Policy #8

TITLE: Use of GO Virginia Funds for Investments in Broadband

EFFECTIVE DATE: ~~12/10/2019~~ 12/10/24

AUTHORITY: § 2.2-2486 - §2.2-2489 of the Code of Virginia

POLICY STATEMENT: It is the policy of the Virginia Growth and Opportunity Board that per capita and competitive funds may be used for projects supporting regional broadband planning efforts focused on private sector service provisions as localities prepare to use taxpayer dollars to incentivize private sector broadband infrastructure build-out. ~~Broadband planning projects shall comply with existing match policies. Broadband planning applications shall not require local match but must demonstrate meaningful participation from two or more localities. The Board will require a 50% match on these awards (with no local match requirement) for regional broadband planning efforts given the exceptional economic opportunity of these projects.~~

Further, Virginia Growth and Opportunity per capita and competitive funds may be used for middle-mile broadband infrastructure projects, including but not limited to fiber and conduit, which extend telecommunications networks, in partnership with the private sector, and focus on meeting the business needs of a community. The Board will consider future applications that leverage broadband deployment with digital literacy and internet-relevant programming connected to business growth and expansion opportunities. ~~Broadband implementation projects shall comply with existing match policies. Both of these funding opportunities should meet normal match requirements for per capita and competitive grants, \$1:1 total match (with 20% or a minimum \$50,000 of this match required to be local match).~~

It is the policy of the Virginia Growth and Opportunity Board that shall not be used for broadband projects focused on providing residential broadband service to customers (also known as “last-mile”).

APPROVAL AND REVIEW: This Board policy was reviewed and approved on 12/9/2019 ~~and amended on 12/9/2019 and on 12/10/2024.~~

SUPERSESION: ~~This revision includes technical amendments to Board Policy #8 approved 9/10/2019. N/A~~

DHCD DIRECTOR: ~~Erik Johnston~~ Bryan Horn



Memorandum

TO: GO Virginia Board Members

FROM: DHCD Staff

RE: Board Policy #8 Use of GO Virginia Funds for Site Development Investments

DATE: 12/10/2024

BACKGROUND: At the December 9, 2019 meeting of the GO Virginia State Board, the Board adopted Board Policy #9, which creates pathways for GO Virginia funding to be utilized to expand the inventory of shovel-ready sites in the Commonwealth by allowing GO Virginia funding to be used for site development planning and site development implementation projects.

This amendment removes language referring to 1:1 match requirements, which were reduced to 2:1 as part of legislation adopted during the 2024 General Assembly Session. This amendment also includes language clarifying the requirement that site development planning efforts require the meaningful participation of two or more localities in lieu of local match requirements.

CODE LANGUAGE: A.3. The Board shall have the power and duty to: Develop and implement guidelines and procedures for the application for and use of any moneys in the Fund

RECOMMENDATION: DHCD staff recommends the attached amendments to Board Policy #9

Board Policy #9

TITLE: Use of GO Virginia Funds for Site Development Investments

EFFECTIVE DATE: ~~12/10/2019, amended 12/7/2020~~ 12/10/24

AUTHORITY: § 2.2-2486 - §2.2-2489 of the Code of Virginia

POLICY STATEMENT: It is the policy of the Virginia Growth and Opportunity Board that per capita and statewide competitive funds may be used for site development activities that increase the number of business-ready sites available to accommodate the expansion or attraction of businesses in the region's targeted industry sectors.

Activities must advance sites towards becoming a Tier 4 site using the Virginia Business Ready Sites Program tier descriptions for site readiness for sites of at least 25 contiguous acres. Applicants may request a waiver of the 25-acre minimum if they can demonstrate the site is of significant regional importance. GO Virginia investments will support regions in advancing priority sites in Tiers 1-3. Sites that have been certified as a Tier 4 or 5 may be considered for funding if the applicant can demonstrate that the investment will significantly increase the marketability of the site. The Virginia Economic Development Partnership staff will be consulted in the review of all site-related applications.

Applications must describe activities that lead to the development of regionally significant sites - those identified by regional councils as a priority and aligned to support industry sectors in their Growth and Diversification Plans. All projects must include the collaboration of at least two localities with efforts to jointly contribute to the project through cost/revenue sharing, joint workforce development efforts, and/or other partnerships or agreements, such as Regional Industrial Facility Authorities (RIFAs).

Applicants are encouraged to consider how the Virginia Collaborative Economic Development Act could be leveraged to advance the development of the site(s) in the future.

Funds may not be used for property acquisition, construction of speculative buildings, or any site developments that benefit only a single, known end user. Funds may be used for activities such as site characterization and prioritization, site due diligence, infrastructure enhancements, and the development of cost/revenue sharing agreements, such as a RIFA.

Per Capita Funds

Regional Councils must demonstrate that they have considered VEDP site characterization and prioritization analysis and are focused on funding a limited number of sites within their region with the most potential to advance their Growth and Diversification plan, which enhance regional collaboration, and are most likely to attract private sector investment. Regions are encouraged to consider sites' developability, location competitiveness, as well as sector suitability for their targeted sectors. Project activities should advance site readiness for future economic development opportunities. Applicants must describe their strategy to market and promote the

site to targeted end users.

Project applications that include both planning and implementation activities will be considered and reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

Planning Activities - Examples of fundable activities include site characterization and prioritization (for sites not previously fully characterized by the Virginia Economic Development Partnership) and activities to develop collaborative cost/revenue-sharing agreements. Planning projects should be designed to include recommendations for future investments that would advance a site's business readiness.

For site-related funding requests for planning of less than \$100,000, the application may be submitted as ~~an Enhanced Capacity Building (ECB) planning grant request, which shall be eligible for administrative approval under the authority granted by Board Policy #3. Administratively approved site planning applications shall count toward a region's \$250,000 annual planning grant limit.~~

Site development planning projects shall comply with existing [match policies](#). Site planning projects shall not require local match but must demonstrate [meaningful participation](#) from two or more localities.

~~The Board will require a 1:1 match with no local match requirement and funds awarded will count towards a region's \$250,000 annual limit for Enhanced Capacity Building activities.~~

Implementation – Examples of fundable activities include necessary due diligence (soft costs) and infrastructure enhancements (hard costs) that advance a site's readiness for development.

~~Site development implementation projects shall comply with existing [match policies](#).~~

~~For site implementation projects that exceed \$100,000 and are using regular per capita funds, the Board will require a 1:1 match with a local match requirement of 20% or \$50,000 of the project cost, whichever is greater.~~

Statewide Competitive Funds

Competitive funds may be used to advance regionally significant sites of 25 acres or more that will help grow the region's targeted industry sectors as described in their Growth and Diversification plan while supporting the state's economic development objectives. The results of VEDP's site characterization and prioritization process will play a key role in awarding competitive funds for site development but additional elements such as regional impact will be considered.

Competitive funds will be considered for projects that have a significant regional and statewide impact. Applicants must incorporate collaborative cost/revenue sharing agreements, such as Regional Industrial Facility Authorities (RIFAs), or demonstrate joint funding commitments in workforce development, transportation, or other collaborative partnerships that demonstrate significant involvement of two or more localities.

Sites with high location competitiveness for target industries and high developability will be prioritized; however, sites not meeting these criteria will be considered but will require significant

justification. Applicants must describe their strategy to market and promote the site to targeted end users.

Fundable activities include those that have the participation of two or more localities that would advance the site towards a Tier 4 status and/or improve its marketability and investment potential.

~~Site development implementation projects funded through the Competitive Fund shall comply with existing match policies. For site implementation projects using competitive funds, the Board will require a 1:1 match with a local match requirement of 20% or \$50,000 of the project cost, whichever is greater.~~

Privately Owned Sites

GO Virginia funds may be used to provide public infrastructure investments in privately owned sites under guidelines developed by DHCD. The guidance shall establish eligibility requirements, relevant agreements with the subgrantee/locality, and a grant repayment mechanism should the site cease to be used for an eligible GO Virginia use.

Changes to Projects Post-Board Approval

For site projects that have one or more sites that are sold or have pending sales before the execution of a contract, the Board will allow DHCD staff to administratively approve changes to the approved sites if the overall cost does not exceed the previously approved budget. The applicant must show that the new sites to be included in the project have been prioritized and meet all of the requirements as presented in the GO Virginia Regional Site Project Guidance.

APPROVAL AND REVIEW: This Board policy was approved on 12/9/2019, and amended on 12/7/2020 and 9/23/2021 ~~and 12/10/2024.~~

SUPERSESION: N/A

DHCD DIRECTOR: ~~Erik Johnston~~ Bryan Horn



Memorandum

TO: GO Virginia Board Members

FROM: DHCD Staff

RE: Board Policy #16 Applicant Indirect Rate Allowance

DATE: 12/10/2024

BACKGROUND: At the September 12, 2023 meeting of the GO Virginia State Board, the Board adopted Board Policy #16, which limits the percentage of grant funds that may be requested through the program for indirect costs related to a project or program.

This amendment adds language to the policy providing a clear definition for what an indirect rate is, based on federal language describing indirect rates.

CODE LANGUAGE: A.3. The Board shall have the power and duty to: Develop and implement guidelines and procedures for the application for and use of any moneys in the Fund

RECOMMENDATION: DHCD staff recommends the attached amendments to Board Policy #16.



VIRGINIA INITIATIVE FOR
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Board Policy #16

TITLE: Applicant Indirect Rate Allowance

EFFECTIVE DATE: ~~09/12/2023~~ 12/10/2024

AUTHORITY: § 2.2-2489 of the Code of Virginia

POLICY STATEMENT: It is the policy of the Virginia Growth and Opportunity Board that the indirect rate (~~also commonly referred to as facilities and administrative costs~~) a subgrantee may apply for through a Virginia Growth and Opportunity fund grant of any type shall not exceed 10% of the total grant allocation for a single project.

~~For this policy, an indirect rate is defined as costs necessary to provide a service but may not be readily identified with or easily allocable to a particular cost objective for a program. Indirect costs include, but are not limited to: goods and services required for program administration, including the rental or purchase of equipment (unless purchased for direct program services or activities, which should be identified as direct program costs identified in a subgrantee's sources and uses budget), utilities, office supplies, postage, and rental or maintenance office space, etc.~~

APPROVAL AND REVIEW: This Board policy was reviewed and approved on 09/12/2023 ~~and amended on 12/10/2024.~~

SUPERSESION: ~~This policy is new.~~-N/A

DHCD DIRECTOR: Bryan Horn



VIRGINIA INITIATIVE FOR
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IV. DEPUTY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- a. Application Submission & Evaluation Process
- b. **Action Item:**
 - i. Per Capita Applications (5)
 - ii. Talent Pathways Planning Initiative Applications (2)
- c. Program Performance Dashboard
- d. Action Item:
 - i. Amended Board Policy #10 – Helene Business Recovery Initiative (HBRI)

Per Capita Applications

Workforce Development

Per Capita Application

Career Advancement and Resource Education (CARE)

Region: 6

Applicant(s): Bay Consortium Workforce Development Board (BCWDB)

Participating Localities: Bay Consortium Workforce Development Board on behalf of its member localities (in-kind match)

Investment Strategy: Workforce Development

Targeted Industries: Information Technology, Aquaculture, and Manufacturing

Type of Project: Per Capita Implementation

Project Goal(s): To build new capacity to enhance career awareness and define career pathways within the identified targeted industries.

Project Description: The project will focus on four strategic goals: 1) develop the capacity to serve as the Sector Partnership regional convener to develop the foundation for employer-led talent development strategies through employer engagement; 2) define career pathways of the targeted industries influenced by data from employers; 3) address workforce development issues as larger industry initiatives to foster collaboration through the Sector Partnership Toolkit and outreach materials; and 4) collect and utilize data to inform collective talent development priorities and ensure actionable strategies are implemented through business toolkits.

The newly created Talent Development Coordinator position will lead the Sector Partnerships (established during the Talent Pathway Initiative Planning effort), serving as the facilitator across each of the targeted industries. The role will serve as the liaison between the business community and the broader workforce system. The project team will work with a consultant to create an employer toolkit that will assist with enhanced employee recruitment efforts, prioritize knowledge of and alignment to industry recognized credentials to promote skill-based hiring, and deploy programs offered by training providers. Both the Talent Development Coordinator and the toolkit will support other findings in the Region 6 Talent Pathway Initiative (TPI) Plan, including finding ways to use flexible On-the-Job-Training (OJT) and work-based learning to support employment and utilization of stackable credentials to support upward job mobility.

Career Advancement and Resource Education (CARE)

Project Budget:

Type of Funds	Totals
GO Virginia Request	\$ 307,857
Matching Funds	\$ 160,891
Local Match	\$ 43,160
Additional Leverage	-
Total Project Budget	\$ 468,748

GO Virginia funds will be used for salaries and fringe, contract services, outreach, indirect costs, and grant management services. Match will be used for salaries and fringe, software travel, computer and phones, and office supplies. Of the \$160,891 in committed match, all match in this project will be in-kind match.

Products:

- Business Toolkit to help the employer’s ability to recruit talent in the region and provide a skills-based hiring framework, including communicating information on credentials and what those credentials represent when screening and hiring workers.

Outcomes:

- 60 job placements
- 35 businesses served
- 5 new interns placed
- 10 new apprenticeships created

Workgroup Discussion:

- Will serve as a good opportunity to engage and fully integrate the business service team with the higher ed training partners (including the community colleges) and private industry employers Sector Partnership Framework.
- Opportunity to understand the needs of the business community and work with the training providers as the talent pipeline is fully developed in in the Ag, IT, and Aquaculture industries.

Career Advancement and Resource Education (CARE)

Staff Recommendation:

Based on the workgroup discussion and application review, staff **recommends this application 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

Per Capita Application

AI and Business Skills Training for Life Sciences (ABLE)

Region: 7

Applicant(s): George Washington University (GWU)

Participating Localities: City of Alexandria Public Schools (in-kind match), Loudoun County (in-kind match and advisory committee), and Prince William County (in-kind match and advisory committee)

Investment Strategy: Workforce Development

Targeted Industries: Life Sciences

Type of Project: Per Capita Implementation

Project Goal(s): To increase the pool of qualified candidates for careers in a rapidly evolving life science industry by integrating artificial intelligence (AI) and business skills.

Project Description: The previously funded planning grant identified computational expertise (with AI as a prime example), practical laboratory skills experience, and a range of business skills as critical knowledge gaps. ABLe proposes integrating advanced AI techniques with essential business acumen tailored for the life sciences, equipping students with the skills needed to excel in a rapidly evolving industry. Activities include:

1. **AI Curriculum and Digital Credentials:** ABLe expands credentialing with skill-based digital badges, supporting self-paced training and enhancing trainees' marketability. These credentials consist of digital badge coursework designed for life science students to improve their AI literacy and enable them to be effective users of AI technologies. To receive an AI credential, students must complete 3 core courses and 2 of 5 elective courses focusing on AI and business skills taught using life science data or applications. Employers recognize the qualifications of potential hires through these badges, which are utilized by industry leaders and higher education institutions nationwide.
2. **Hands-on Training for the Life Sciences:** ABLe builds targeted training aligned with employer needs, ensuring relevance and effectiveness. Training includes employer- and market-driven skills, such as AI, business skills tailored to employers' needs, and hands-on training in life sciences defined by job descriptions identified in the planning grant. The Immersive Learning Center (ILC): a mobile lab that immerses students in virtual laboratory settings utilizing Virtual Reality (VR) to teach lab skills with cutting-edge technology. The ILC will reach a wider audience by traveling to under-resourced areas.

AI and Business Skills Training for Life Sciences (ABLE)

3. **Enhancing Life Science Careers through Collaboration:** GW has created a structured format for ongoing consultation and collaboration with employers to build an employer-driven system. This initiative involves developing a diverse Advisory Board coalition, including local government, regional economic development organizations, life science experts, businesses, and educational institutions.
4. **Delivering Sustainable Impact:** ABLe develops open-source content that is accessible to all Virginia students. After the first two years, ABLe will generate a modest fee structure for networking events and AI credentials. The fees collected will ensure updated training content beyond the project timeline to engage students earlier, produce a continuous stream of workforce talent, and sustain the training program.

Project Budget:

Type of Funds	Totals
GO Virginia Request	\$ 2,849,286
Matching Funds	\$ 1,424,643
Local Match	\$ 58,170
Additional Leverage	\$ 303,832
Total Project Budget	\$ 4,577,761

GO Virginia funds will be used for salaries and fringe, hardware/software costs, travel, supplies, outreach efforts, contract services, indirect costs, and grant management services. Match will be used for waived tuition of students enrolled at GWU and partners' time providing expertise and input on the advisory committee, and recruitment/referral services of the local workforce development board. Of the \$1,424,643 in committed match, all match in this project is in in-kind match.

The GO Virginia Region 7 Council is requesting a state board waiver of the local match Requirement in the amount of **\$236,758.60** under the following conditions: 50% or more of the participating localities do NOT meet the criteria for fiscal stress, however, the applicant has secured \$48,170 in-kind local match from the following entities:

- Alexandria City (\$32,500)
- Loudoun County (\$5,670)
- Prince William County (\$10,000)

AI and Business Skills Training for Life Sciences (ABLE)

Products:

- Open-source AI and business curriculum with skill-based digital credentials
- Resource Strategy to ensure long-term sustainable funding

Outcomes:

- 270 individuals trained
- 75 credentials awarded (500 digital badges awarded)
- 45 new interns placed

Workgroup Discussion:

- Opportunity to develop curriculum and certifications for students and incumbent workers in a rapidly evolving life science industry with an emphasis on artificial intelligence, however no career pathways have been defined for this industry or group of occupations. Application is unclear how this effort enhances or complements the region's educational continuum
- The Region 7 Growth and Diversification Plan, the recently completed ECB, nor any quantitative data have sufficiently documented demand from the life science industry for AI Skills/Business Skills.
- The ROI calculations provided indicate targeted employment outcomes for specific occupations. The project is not sufficiently aligned with other academic curricula required for entry into those positions.
- Partnerships with postsecondary institutions and a commitment to incorporate the developed curriculum into the degree programs, or broad commitment from industry to support AI skills training for incumbent workers (upskilling) would be needed to ensure success.
- No formal agreement is in place with higher education partners to help with the pipeline of enrolled students.
- Applicant request for local match waiver indicated localities are unable to contribute cash match due to limited cash flow. Region has history of prior investments in targeted industry sector
- Match in the form of "in-kind college tuition for students enrolled ACPS Governor's Health Science Academy" must be qualified for this project.

Staff Recommendation:

Based on the workgroup discussion and application review, staff **recommends this application be deferred.**

AI and Business Skills Training for Life Sciences (ABLE)

Application Review Checklist	
Economic Impact	
Metrics and Outcomes Program Aligned and Defined	YES
Positive Return on Investment (3 or 5 years)	YES in 5-years
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	YES
Budget Complete and Match Verified	UNDETERMINED
Sustainability	
Clear and Executable Plan	YES
Evidence of Sustained Demand for Project	YES

Per Capita Application Start Up Ecosystem

Per Capita Application

Expanding Business Ecosystems (EBE) Business Accelerator

Region: 6

Applicant(s): Virginia Black Chamber of Commerce

Participating Localities: City of Fredericksburg (in-kind match), Spotsylvania County (in-kind match), and Stafford County (cash and in-kind match)

Investment Strategy: Startup Ecosystem

Targeted Industries: Agriculture/Controlled Environment Agriculture, Distribution and Logistics, Manufacturing, and Professional Services

Type of Project: Per Capita Implementation

Project Goal(s): To support the growth and competitiveness of small businesses in the region by providing targeted resources, skills, access to mentors, and capital.

Project Description: The program will launch a ten-week program for six cohorts over two years, serving 120 businesses across Region 6. Each cohort will focus on specific industries or demographic groups that require tailored support, such as minority-owned businesses, tech startups, or companies in the manufacturing sector. Key elements of the program include:

1. **Training Modules:** The program features a series of instructor-led workshops covering topics like financial management, operational efficiency, capital readiness, and government contracting. Delivered through instructor-led sessions and digital platforms, the curriculum combines interactive and self-paced learning formats.
2. **Mentorship:** One-on-one coaching from experienced mentors addresses participants' unique business challenges. Mentors include industry experts, chamber business development managers, and advisors from the University of Mary Washington Small Business Development Center (UMW SBDC).
3. **Networking Events:** Regular events facilitate connections with industry leaders, potential investors, and other entrepreneurs, fostering valuable business relationships.
4. **Advisory Committee:** A committee of experts and stakeholders ensures the program remains aligned with evolving business needs and regional economic goals.
5. **Targeted Outreach:** Outreach efforts are designed to ensure broad participation, particularly in underserved communities, thereby increasing the program's inclusivity and impact.

Expanding Business Ecosystems (EBE) Business Accelerator

Project Budget:

Type of Funds	Totals
GO Virginia Request	\$ 300,000
Matching Funds	\$ 155,500
Local Match	\$ 45,500
Additional Leverage	\$ 75,715
Total Project Budget	\$ 531,215

GO Virginia funds will be used for salaries, office lease and rental space, training sessions, contract services, website development, outreach to market the program, software, and grant management services. Match will be used for salaries, contract services, time spent on the advisory committee, and outreach efforts. Of the \$155,500 in committed match, \$15,000 is cash match and \$140,500 is in-kind match.

Outcomes:

- 120 business served
- 120 businesses expanded
- 10 new businesses created
- 18 jobs created
- 30 new mentors providing business assistance

Workgroup Discussion:

- Opportunity for minority-owned earlier stage businesses to scale up and for businesses focused government contracting given the proximity to Northern Virginia.
- DHCD staff will work with project team to make sure minority certified (SWAM) vendors is tracked as a project specific outcome.
- There is a concern that capital raised by the participating companies is not being committed as an outcome since part of the accelerator will focus on getting access to capital.

Expanding Business Ecosystems (EBE) Business Accelerator

Staff Recommendation:

Based on the workgroup discussion and application review, staff **recommends this application approved contingent upon refining core performance outcomes.**

Application Review Checklist	
Economic Impact	
Metrics and Outcomes Program Aligned and Defined	UNDETERMINED
Positive Return on Investment (3 or 5 years)	YES in 5-years
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



VIRGINIA INITIATIVE FOR
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Per Capita Applications Site & Infrastructure Development

Per Capita Application

Blue Mountain Extended Due Diligence

Region: 8

Applicant(s): Shenandoah Valley Partnership

Participating Localities: City of Buena Vista (advisory), City of Harrisonburg (advisory), City of Lexington (advisory), City of Staunton (advisory), City of Waynesboro (advisory), Bath County (advisory), Highland County (advisory), Rockbridge County (advisory) Augusta County (cash), Rockingham County (advisory), Page County (advisory), Shenandoah County (advisory)

Targeted Industries: Light Manufacturing

Investment Strategy: Site Development and Infrastructure

Type of Project: Implementation

Project Goal(s): To increase the inventory of regionally significant shovel-ready sites in GO Virginia Region 8 and develop a regional industrial park.

Project Description: Through previous GO Virginia grant funding, the applicant has worked with localities to elevate 199 acres of the Blue Mountain site to a tier 4 on the Virginia Business Ready Sites Program (VBRSP) scale. The applicant is seeking GO Virginia funding to elevate the remaining balance of the site (297 acres) to tier 4 on the VBRSP scale. This will allow the entire site to be best situated to be competitive for a future application for hard costs under the VBRSP grant program.

Another key component of this project is a GO Virginia funded Regional Industrial Facilities Authority (RIFA) feasibility study. The study, which was completed in November 2024, indicates a recommended next step of forming a RIFA. This revenue sharing model would make it possible for any participating locality to make investments in and reap the tax benefits from future development on the site. The applicant has expressed that nearly every locality participating in this project has expressed enthusiasm for joining this prospective RIFA.

Blue Mountain Extended Due Diligence

Type of Funds	Totals
GO Virginia Request	\$ 348,810
Matching Funds	\$ 174,405
Local Match	\$ 174,405
Additional Leverage	\$ 0
Total Project Budget	\$ 523,215

GO Virginia funds will be used for due diligence, for development of a grading plan, and for grant administration. Match for this project is being applied to construction of a new waterline to the site (\$102,600 cash contribution), and as cost share for the proposed grading plan (\$71,805 cash contribution).

Project Impact/Outcomes:

- 297 acres advanced to tier 4 on the VBRSP scale

DHCD Staff Recommendation:

Based on workgroup discussion and application review, staff recommends this project 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	Not Applicable

Per Capita Application

Clark County Camp 7 Site Development Planning

Region: 8

Applicant(s): Clark County

Participating Localities: Clark County (cash), Frederick County (access to infrastructure)

Targeted Industries: Light Manufacturing

Investment Strategy: Site Development and Infrastructure

Type of Project: Site Planning

Project Goal(s): To increase the inventory of shovel-ready sites in GO Virginia Region 8.

Project Description: The applicant is in the process of closing on the purchase of a 40 acre site from the Commonwealth of Virginia that was previously home to a prison which ceased operations in 2014.

The applicant has engaged VEDP to determine the proper steps needed to revitalize the site and resituate it for economic development purposes. The proposed GO Virginia funded first phase will include work with a site consultant to complete a series of planning and assessment activities, including review and analysis of site access, existing water and sewer infrastructure, industrial hygiene of all buildings, phase 1 environmental stream/wetland delineation, cultural resources, geotechnical surveys, and structural analysis.

Depending on the outcomes and recommendations of these due diligence planning activities, the applicant envisions returning to GO Virginia for a phase two site development project (hard costs) or to the Virginia Industrial Revitalization Fund Program for rehabilitation of the existing structures on the site.

Clark County Camp 7 Site Development Planning

Type of Funds	Totals
GO Virginia Request	\$ 170,625
Matching Funds	\$ 85,313
Local Match	\$ 85,313
Additional Leverage	\$ 0
Total Project Budget	\$ 255,938

GO Virginia funds will be used for site planning and assessment activities and grant administration. Match for this project is being applied to construction of a new water pump station (\$85,313 cash contribution) with services provided in a partnership with Frederick County (infrastructure access support).

Project Impact/Outcomes:

- 40 acres advanced to tier 2 on the VBRSP scale

DHCD Staff Recommendation:

Based on workgroup discussion and application review, staff recommends this project for **approval contingent on the finalized purchase of the property.**

Application Review Checklist	
Economic Impact	
Metrics and Outcomes Program Aligned and Defined	YES
Positive Return on Investment (3 or 5 years)	Not Applicable
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	Not Applicable



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

Talent Pathways Initiative Applications

Talent Pathways Initiative Planning Application

Talent Pipeline Management to Support Advanced Manufacturing and Controlled Environment Agriculture

Region: 3

Applicant(s): The Institute for Advanced Learning and Research (IALR)

Participating Localities: The Southern Virginia Regional Alliance on behalf of its member localities (advisory), the South Central Workforce Development Board on behalf of its member localities (advisory), the Commonwealth Regional Council on behalf of its member localities (advisory)

Targeted Industries: Advanced Manufacturing, Controlled Environment Agriculture

Investment Strategy: Workforce Development

Type of Project: Talent Pathways Initiative Planning

Project Goal(s): To define talent pathways for the advanced manufacturing and controlled environment agriculture industries in GO Virginia Region 3.

Project Description: The GO Virginia Region 3 Council has selected IALR to serve as a Talent Pathways Initiative Coordinating Entity, defining talent pathways for the advanced manufacturing and controlled environment agriculture industries in the region. The Talent Pathways Initiative was a one-time allocation of resources in the state budget, designed to allow regions to analyze workforce needs for targeted industry clusters. In September 2023, the GO Virginia State Board approved a healthcare focused talent pathways initiative planning grant for GO Virginia Region 3. This request would utilize the remaining funds available to the region through this allocation.

There are six required components of a Talent Pathways Initiative project:

- Development of industry coalitions to guide and advise on project work
- Completion of a qualitative/quantitative analysis of workforce needs for the industry/industries chosen by the regional council
- Completion of a gap analysis of jobs needed to help the industry/industries grow
- Identification of skills and training needed for individuals to fill those jobs
- Development of an asset map of the region's training providers who could support unmet needs

- Identification of strategies and future projects to meet unmet needs

Talent Pipeline Management to Support Advanced Manufacturing and Controlled Environment Agriculture

IALR proposes working with a consultant, along with the regional entities listed under the participating localities, to develop a plan responsive to these criteria.

Project Budget:

Type of Funds	Totals
GO Virginia Request	\$ 116,745
Matching Funds	\$ 59,842
Local Match	\$ 0
Additional Leverage	\$ 45,490
Total Project Budget	\$ 222,077

GO Virginia funds would be used for contract services, travel, workshops/meetings, indirect costs, printing costs, and support organization administration. Matching funds would be used for salaries, contract services, workshops/meetings, and printing costs. Of the \$59,842 in match, \$43,348 will be cash match and \$16,494 will be in-kind match.

Project Impact/Outcomes:

- Completion of a Talent Pathways Initiative Study and Recommendations for the advanced manufacturing and controlled environment agriculture industry in GO Virginia Region 3

Workgroup Discussion:

- Potential for industry engagement in high growth sectors for the region
- Grantee has prior track record of successfully executing workforce development projects
- Opportunity to build on previous workforce projects in the region

Talent Pipeline Management to Support Advanced Manufacturing and Controlled Environment Agriculture

DHCD Staff Recommendation:

Based on the workgroup discussion and application review, staff **recommends this project 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 – Planning
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

Talent Pathways Planning Initiative Application

BioBridge Talent Pathways Planning

Region: 9

Applicant(s): Cville BioHub

Participating Localities: Albemarle County (cash match and advisory role), Greene County (advisory role), City of Charlottesville (cash match and advisory role)

Targeted Industries: Biotechnology/Biomedical

Investment Strategy: Workforce Development

Type of Project: Talent Pathways Initiative Planning

Project Goal(s): To define talent pathways for the biotechnology/biomedicine industry in GO Virginia Region 9.

Project Description: The GO Virginia Region 9 Council has selected Cville Biohub to serve as their Talent Pathways Initiative Coordinating Entity, defining talent pathways for the biotechnology/biomedicine industry in the region. The Talent Pathways Initiative was a one-time allocation of resources in the state budget, designed to allow regions to analyze workforce needs for targeted industry clusters.

There are six required components of a Talent Pathways Initiative project:

- Development of industry coalitions to guide and advise on project work
- Completion of a qualitative/quantitative analysis of workforce needs for the industry/industries chosen by the regional council
- Completion of a gap analysis of jobs needed to help the industry/industries grow
- Identification of skills and training needed for individuals to fill those jobs
- Development of an asset map of the region's training providers who could support unmet needs
- Identification of strategies and future projects to meet unmet needs

Cville BioHub proposes working with a consultant as well as a talent specialist at the regional economic development organization in the region (the Central Virginia Partnership for Economic Development) to develop a plan which meets these requirements.

The application notes that the Biotechnology industry in Region 9 has seen substantial growth since 2020, including tens of millions of dollars of state and philanthropic investment at the

BioBridge Talent Pathways Planning

Manning Institute of Biotechnology at the University of Virginia. The applicant (Cville Biohub) has been a foundational part of the industry growth in the region and has successfully managed GO Virginia grants previously.

Project Budget:

Type of Funds	Totals
GO Virginia Request	\$ 244,000
Matching Funds	\$ 122,200
Local Match	\$ 50,000
Additional Leverage	\$ 7,777.46
Total Project Budget	\$ 374,377.21

GO Virginia funds will be used for contract services, salaries and fringe associated with project management, outreach, indirect costs, and support organization administration. Matching funds will be used for contract services and salaries. Of the \$122,200 in committed match, \$70,000 is cash-match and \$52,200 is in-kind match.

Project Impact:

- Completion of a Talent Pathways Initiative Study and Recommendations for the biotechnology/biomedicine industry in GO Virginia Region 9

Workgroup Discussion:

- The application describes the rapid growth of the biotechnology industry in GO Virginia Region 9, and makes a clear and compelling case for the need for this type of planning effort to ensure workforce readiness
- The project has strong regional support, with cash match provided by industry and locality partners. Localities (both through their economic development offices and through their school systems), educational partners (such as Piedmont Virginia Community College and the University of Virginia), and regional economic and workforce development groups are all engaged and ready to contribute to the project's scope of work
- The applicant team has a track record of successfully managing GO Virginia projects, and has established themselves as a foundational member of the Biotechnology community in GO Virginia region 9.

BioBridge Talent Pathways Planning

DHCD Staff Recommendation:

Based on workgroup discussion and review, staff recommends the project 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 – Planning
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



Memorandum

TO: GO Virginia Board Members

FROM: DHCD Staff

RE: Board Policy #10 Helene Business Recovery Initiative (HBRI)

DATE: 12/10/2024

BACKGROUND: At the March 16, 2021, meeting of the GO Virginia State Board, the Board adopted Board Policy #10, which created the Economic Resilience and Recovery Program. This program was designed to relax match requirements and provide pathways to rapid project approval in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. This program concluded on June 30, 2022.

This amendment replaces Board Policy #10 and creates the Helene Business Recovery Initiative (HBRI). This initiative is designed to set aside \$1.5M of the GO Virginia Competitive Fund allocation to provide relaxed program access and rapid pathways to project approval in response to Hurricane Helene. Regions that contain localities designated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency may access this program (Region 1, Region 2, and Region 3).

To accelerate access to funding, this Policy increases the delegated authority to approve projects by the Director of the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development for projects accessing HBRI to up to \$250,000. These applications will be accepted on a rolling monthly basis.

Flexibilities created through the initiative include the total elimination of local match requirements, waiving limitations on the use of Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission funds established by Board Policy #12, and elimination of the requirement that a project target traded industries identified in a Region's Economic Growth and Diversification Plan.

This initiative is scheduled to expire on June 30, 2025, and any funds remaining in the initiative's set aside will revert to the GO Virginia Competitive Fund.

BUDGET LANGUAGE: A. The Board shall establish guidelines, procedures, and objective criteria for the award and distribution of grants from the Fund to regional councils.

RECOMMENDATION: DHCD staff recommends the Board repeal existing Board Policy #10 and replace it with the attached Board Policy, which creates the Helene Business Recovery Initiative (HBRI).

Board Policy #10

TITLE: Helene Business Recovery Initiative (HBRI)

EFFECTIVE DATE: 11/01/2024 – 06/30/2025

AUTHORITY: § 2.2-2486 - §2.2-2489 of the Code of Virginia

POLICY STATEMENT: It is the policy of the Virginia Growth and Opportunity Board that the Helene Business Recovery Initiative (HBRI) be created herein.

\$1.5M in FY25 Competitive Funds will be used to create HBRI. HBRI funding shall be available on a competitive basis for the following GO Virginia Regions: Region 1, Region 2, and Region 3.

To accelerate the deployment of resources, DHCD shall be granted the power to administratively approve applications that meet the guidelines to be developed for HBRI. The agency may approve projects awards up to \$250K and applications will be accepted on a rolling basis for these projects.

HBRI funds originally sourced from the Competitive Fund that are not obligated when this program sunsets will be returned to the Competitive Fund.

Local match requirements for projects qualifying under HBRI shall be waived in their entirety without the need for completion of a GO Virginia match waiver document. Projects shall require the participation of two or more localities as defined in existing GO Virginia Regional Collaboration and Local Participation administrative guidance.

The Board hereby waives match limits to the use of the Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission otherwise established by Board Policy #12 for those projects qualifying under HBRI.

Projects qualifying under HBRI may target traded or non-traded industries without regard for a Regional Council's declaration of those industries in their Economic Growth and Diversification Plan.

DHCD staff shall develop guidelines and scoring criteria for the administration of HBRI.

APPROVAL AND REVIEW: This Board policy was reviewed and approved on 12/11/2025.

SUPERSESION: This Board policy replaces Board Policy #10 governing the expired Economic Recovery and Resilience Program.

DHCD DIRECTOR: Bryan Horn

V. JLARC REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS



Memorandum

TO: GO Virginia State Board

FROM: Sara Dunnigan

RE: JLARC Recommendations Review Roadmap

DATE: 12/10/2024

Background:

On December 11, 2023, the Joint Legislative Audit Review Commission released its report on the Growth and Opportunity Virginia (GO Virginia) Program. This report culminated in sixteen recommendations as well as two additional policy recommendations. At the December 12, 2023 meeting of the GO Virginia Board, Board leadership announced the intention of dividing consideration of the JLARC recommendations amongst three of the Board's committees: the Program Performance and Evaluation Committee, the Governance and Policy Committee, and the Healthcare Taskforce.

Delegation of Recommendations and Review Status:

Throughout the first three quarters of 2024, the Program Performance and Evaluation Committee, the Governance and Policy Committee, and the Healthcare Taskforce have met several times each to review and consider the recommendations put forward in the JLARC report. Of the sixteen recommendations and two policy recommendations, eleven were delegated to the Governance and Policy Committee. Attached to this memorandum, please find an overview of the status of the review of these recommendations and the anticipated timeline for review and implementation.

Recommendation/ Policy Consideration Number	JLARC Report Recommendation	Committee Responsibility	Status
1	The Department of Housing and Community Development should change its "number of jobs created/filled" outcome measure for the GO Virginia program by (i) splitting the criteria into separate "jobs created" and "jobs filled" measures, (ii) removing the "estimated" and "expected" qualifiers so that only actual jobs created or filled are counted, and (iii) clarifying that any job created or filled must be clearly attributable to the project's activities, which must be explained in project reports.	Program Performance and Evaluation Committee	COMPLETE: Staff proposed adopting the recommendations in this proposal while also redefining jobs filled as job placements, which aligns with metrics being utilized by the Virginia Workforce Agency. The Program Performance and Evaluation Committee reviewed the proposed changes and approved them at their March 12, 2024 meeting.
2	The Department of Housing and Community Development should revise the Core Grant Outcomes list for GO Virginia projects to ensure that outcomes measures are narrow enough to avoid mixing different program activities, are clearly defined, and are appropriate and specific to the project type.	Program Performance and Evaluation Committee	COMPLETE: At the March 12, 2024 meeting of the Program Performance and Evaluation Committee, the Committee reviewed and approved proposed staff changes to the GO Virginia Core Grant Outcomes and their associated definitions.
3	The GO Virginia Board should amend the GO Virginia bylaws to assign responsibility for the review of outcome calculation methods and outcome data verification to staff at the Department of Housing and Community Development.	Program Performance and Evaluation Committee (decision); Governance and Policy Committee (bylaws update)	IN PROGRESS: This recommendation was included as a preliminary discussion item during the August 19, 2024 meeting of the Program Performance and Evaluation Committee. Staff anticipates that this item will be discussed in-depth at a Spring meeting of the Committee.
4	The GO Virginia Board should develop and implement a policy to assess the long term impact of individual projects and the GO Virginia program as a whole, including which information should be collected to facilitate this long-term assessment. The board's actions should proceed under the guidance of its new project [program] evaluation committee and with the assistance and input of Department of Housing and Community Development staff and regional council support staff.	Program Performance and Evaluation Committee	IN PROGRESS: This recommendation was included as a preliminary discussion item during the August 19, 2024 meeting of the Program Performance and Evaluation Committee. Staff anticipates that this item will be discussed in-depth at a Spring meeting of the Committee. Staff anticipates holding a workgroup of stakeholders to discuss the most effective way to address long term impact of the program prior to the Spring meeting. A report to the Board on these findings and potential action will likely occur at the March or June meeting of the Board.
5	The GO Virginia board should revise its policies to include a more detailed definition of traded sector activities, modeled on definition used by the Virginia Economic Development Partnership's Virginia Jobs Investment Program, which can be used to determine project eligibility.	Governance and Policy Committee	COMPLETE: At the September 10, 2024 meeting of the Board, an amendment to Board Policy #4 was adopted, which defined traded sector activities.
6	The GO Virginia board should revise its policies to allow grants for healthcare projects that meet the following criteria: (i) are consistent with the region's growth and diversification plan, (ii) provide evidence that the project will help address an unmet healthcare need in the region, and (iii) provide evidence that addressing the healthcare need will benefit the regional workforce or economy. Eligibility determinations should be made on a case-by-case basis early in the application process, not at the final board vote.	Healthcare Taskforce (decision recommendation); Governance and Policy Committee (policy update)	Complete: At the June 4, 2024 meeting of the Board, Board Policy #17 was adopted which creates a pathway for Regional Councils to pursue workforce development projects for the healthcare industry.
7	The GO Virginia board should replace the eligibility requirement that all grant projects must create higher wage jobs with a requirement that all grant projects must create a new or expanded workforce or economic development activity.	Governance and Policy Committee	Complete: At the September 10, 2024 meeting of the Board, the Governance and Policy Committee reported that a review of existing policy and guidance had occurred and the Committee determined that higher wage jobs are not a project eligibility requirement. The Committee reported that staff had conducted a review of existing policies and guidance and inserted clarifying language where applicable that the GO Virginia program is designed to promote growth in traded industry sectors, which traditionally drive the creation of higher wage jobs.
8	The GO Virginia board should either eliminate or reduce the local match requirement for all grants.	Governance and Policy Committee	IN PROGRESS: This item will be discussed at the Spring meeting of the Governance and Policy Committee. A memo detailing the history of the local match requirement alongside a discussion of how recent legislation reducing total match also intrinsically reduced local match will be presented. The corresponding staff recommendation on this item will be not to take action unless future data suggests total match reductions are not sufficiently reducing barriers to access to the GO Virginia fund.
9	The GO Virginia Board should expand eligibility requirements for statewide competitive funds by making these grants available to (i) any region that has awarded or is about to award all or almost all of its per capita funds in a given year and is not carrying a significant unobligated funding balance, and (ii) projects that require a grant amount that is equal to or greater than half of the region's unobligated per capita funds. Projects that involve multiple regions should continue to be eligible for these funds.	Governance and Policy Committee	COMPLETE: At the March 12, 2024 meeting of the Governance and Policy Committee, the Committee reviewed changes made to the administrative guidance governing the Competitive Fund that were approved by the Board at the December 12, 2023 meeting of the Board. The Committee concluded that those approved changes addressed this recommendation.
10	The GO Virginia board should eliminate the requirement that all projects show a positive Return on Investment (ROI) to the state to be eligible for GO Virginia funding.	Governance and Policy Committee	IN PROGRESS: Initial discussions on this item is scheduled to take place at the Spring meeting of the Governance and Policy Committee. This will be an introductory conversation without a staff-recommended action. It is important to note that having a positive ROI is not an eligibility requirement of the GO Virginia program and is instead an evaluation tool. Staff anticipates holding a workgroup of stakeholders to discuss the relevance of the current ROI model prior to the Spring meeting. A report to the Board on these findings and potential action will likely occur at the March or June meeting of the Board.

Recommendation/ Policy Consideration Number	JLARC Report Recommendation	Committee Responsibility	Status
11	The GO Virginia board should revise its policies to delegate grant approval authority to the director of the Department of Housing and Community Development for any regional per capita implementation grant that has been dutifully reviewed and approved by a regional council and recommended for administrative approval by a board designated workgroup.	Governance and Policy Committee	COMPLETE: At the March 11, 2024 meeting of the Governance and Policy Committee, the Committee reviewed the timeline for the review of grants. The Committee concluded that increased delegated authority to the Director of the Department of Housing and Community Development for those projects that had been dutifully reviewed and approved by a Regional Council and approved by a Board designated workgroup would not meaningfully accelerate the approval process for grants. The Committee chose to take no action on this item and this was reported to the Board at its September 12 meeting.
12	The GO Virginia board should revise its policies to clarify that only grant applications that would require a significant investment of state funds are required to include an estimated return on investment (ROI). The ROI should be tailored to each project and calculated by experienced professionals using established methodologies, and the costs should be paid for by the GO Virginia program out of its existing fund balances.	Governance and Policy Committee	IN PROGRESS: Initial discussions on this item is scheduled to take place at the Spring meeting of the Governance and Policy Committee. This will be an introductory conversation without a staff-recommended action. It is important to note that currently, the program requires a 3rd party ROI evaluation of any project seeking to access the GO Virginia Competitive fund, which includes an eligibility requirement of "extraordinary economic opportunity". A positive ROI is not an eligibility criterion but serves as an evaluation tool. Staff anticipates holding a workgroup of stakeholders to discuss the relevance of the current ROI model before this meeting. Staff anticipates holding a workgroup of stakeholders to discuss the relevance of the current ROI model prior to the Spring meeting. A report to the Board on these findings and potential action will likely occur at the March or June meeting of the Board.
13	The General Assembly may wish to consider amending the Code to add the Secretary of Labor to the list of cabinet secretaries eligible to be appointed by the Governor to the GO Virginia board.	N/A	COMPLETE: Governor Youngkin signed legislation adopting this recommendation on April 2, 2024. The legislation went into effect on July 1, 2024.
14	The General Assembly may wish to consider amending the Code to require that, within the GO Virginia board's 14 citizen members, there must be at least one member appointed from each of the nine GO Virginia regions.	Governance and Policy Committee	NO ACTION TAKEN: No action was taken by the General Assembly on this item during the 2024 General Assembly Session. Staff is monitoring board composition and encouraging geographic distribution. Currently, only one GO Virginia Region (Region 6) has no representation on the GO Virginia State Board.
15	The GO Virginia board should adopt a policy that defines a cycle for full and lighter reviews of regional growth and diversification plans.	Governance and Policy Committee	COMPLETE: DHCD staff has engaged stakeholders to determine the best path forward for defined cycles of Regional Growth and Diversification Plan Review. These stakeholder sessions have resulted in a process of alternating full and light review cycles, now defined as "full reviews" and "interim reviews". DHCD staff will report further progress on these reviews to the Governance and Policy Committee at the Spring meeting.
16	The GO Virginia board should revise its policies to allow regions to award up to 25 percent of their annually allocated per capita funds for planning grants and raise or eliminate the \$100,000 per grant limit.	Governance and Policy Committee	IN PROGRESS: It is expected that DHCD staff will develop a survey for the Regional Support Organizations to detail grants that have been achieved as a result of planning efforts, both through GO Virginia implementation grants and other funding opportunities. Based on the data received in this survey, DHCD staff anticipates bringing this item before the Governance and Policy Committee at their Spring meeting, with a corresponding recommendation based on the data collected.
Policy Consideration 1	The General Assembly could reduce the match requirement for GO Virginia grants from being at least equal to the grant (1:1) to being at least equal to half of the grant (2:1) match.	N/A	COMPLETE: the Governor signed legislation adopting this recommendation on April 2, 2024. This legislation went into effect on July 1, 2024.
Policy Consideration 2	The GO Virginia board could revise its policies to allow smaller organizations, which meet criteria specified by the board, to receive a portion of their GO Virginia award at the start of the grant period.	N/A	NO ACTION TAKEN: No action or discussion has occurred on this item.

VIII. EXECUTIVE ORDER 42: CATALYZING HOUSING DEVELOPMENT FOR CRITICAL WORKFORCE AND ECONOMIC NEEDS WITH INTERAGENCY COLLABORATION



Commonwealth of Virginia
Office of the Governor

Executive Order

Executive Order

NUMBER FORTY-TWO (2024)

CATALYZING HOUSING DEVELOPMENT FOR CRITICAL WORKFORCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT NEEDS WITH INTERAGENCY COLLABORATION

By virtue of the authority vested in me as Governor, I hereby issue this Executive Order to strengthen our Commonwealth's support of Virginia's economy by aligning economic development with housing plans and development, including the provision of housing for workforce needs.

Importance of the Initiative

Since 2022, because of our efforts to improve Virginia's ability to compete for private sector jobs and capital, Virginia now ranks among the top ten states for overall job growth¹ with nearly 250,000² more jobs filled today and more than \$85 billion in new capital commitments from employers locating or expanding operations in the Commonwealth.³ In a reversal of recent net migration trends, more people are moving into the Commonwealth of Virginia than are moving out.⁴

Maintaining Virginia's economic growth requires increased housing development⁵, yet the housing market has been constrained by limited supply⁶, burdensome regulation⁷, increasing construction costs,⁸ and high interest rates.⁹

Virginia is lagging in housing supply to adequately meet sustained employment growth recorded in the past few years.

According to analysis from Virginia Housing and the Virginia Economic Development Partnership (VEDP), Virginia's metro areas are building new units at a lower rate compared to metro areas in economic competitor states. Metro areas outside of Virginia have not only outpaced housing stock growth in Virginia's metro areas, but they are also outpacing the Commonwealth's metro areas in issuing permits for new residential units.

In aggregate, Virginia has a housing supply of approximately 3.6 million units,¹⁰ short of total housing demand of 4.1 million units.¹¹ Virginia needs to build another 550,000 units to meet current demand, as well as 30,000 per year to match the state's growth.

Housing development in Virginia is proceeding at half the rate of job growth. For workforce housing specifically, the current estimated shortfall is 41,000 homes.¹² Virginia's economic growth demands more supply of housing, especially workforce housing.

We must further our efforts to increase the supply of housing, especially workforce housing, reduce regulatory burdens which drive up the cost of construction, and align housing development with economic growth.

The Virginia Business Ready Sites Program administered by the Virginia Economic Development Partnership has begun to incorporate housing supply into their analysis and will now require economic development organizations seeking grant funding to provide housing plans for nearby localities to be prepared to develop sufficient housing in support of resulting jobs.

We have improved our building codes—our Administration, led by the Department of Housing and Community Development, has reduced the cost of new home construction by approximately \$24,000 per unit.¹³

Additionally, through the Virginia Permitting Transparency system, formalized by Executive Order 39 (2024), the improvement in state permit processing time delivers real results for housing construction. For example, new housing developments often require state environmental permits from the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). DEQ is now clearing permits 70 percent faster on average than before the start of our Administration.¹⁴

Localities, which control zoning and planning, and where control of the vast majority of housing development permits and regulation resides, must drive similar processing time improvements.

We have prioritized infrastructure investments that support housing as well, including delivering broadband to over 130,000 previously unserved homes and businesses—a nation-leading figure.¹⁵

And, finally, today, our Administration announced the all-new Workforce Housing Investment Program, administered by Virginia Housing, which will invest \$75 million over five years with the potential to catalyze \$750 million and 5,000 units of workforce housing development near major announcements of new jobs.

The Workforce Housing Investment Program will catalyze investment in housing construction for Virginia families near reliable, high-paying jobs. Virginia Housing will provide loans, loan subsidies, and grants up to \$3 million to localities and non-profits to develop housing for workers earning 80-120 percent of area median income, and 150 percent in rural areas. To be

eligible for investment, a locality must be within a 30-minute drive of a business adding new jobs: 100 for a non-distressed locality, 50 for a distressed locality, and 25 for a double distressed locality.

Virginia must not only continue to support the supply of affordable housing, but also accelerate the development of workforce housing statewide to support the employees filling new jobs.

Economic development for new and expanding business sites must consider all aspects of necessary site infrastructure, including housing for workers and their families. Business site investment decisions shall include nearby localities' plans to foster housing development with economic growth.

To formalize and make permanent our practice of aligning housing support with economic site development investment, this Executive Order integrates the provision of housing for critical workforce needs with economic development by adapting how the state invests in business-ready sites, pairing those investments with housing plans in nearby communities.

Directive

Accordingly, pursuant to the authority vested in me as Chief Executive Officer of the Commonwealth and pursuant to Article V of the Constitution of Virginia and the laws of the Commonwealth, I hereby direct the Virginia Economic Development Partnership and the Department of Housing and Community Development to develop a Memorandum of Understanding with the Virginia Housing Development Authority to do the following:

1. Integrate housing plans into the Virginia Business Ready Sites Program by requiring localities applying for funds to include a housing plan to match the job potential of each site.
2. Collaborate on the Virginia Workforce Housing Investment Program.

¹ U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, "Labor Area Unemployment Statistics," <https://www.bls.gov/lau/>.

² U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, "Current Employment Statistics Survey," <https://www.bls.gov/ces/>.

³ Virginia Economic Development Partnership database of assisted and unassisted new jobs announced since 2022.

⁴ U.S. Census Bureau, "State to State Migration Flows," <https://www.census.gov/data/tables/time-series/demo/geographic-mobility/state-to-state-migration.html>.

⁵ Chmura Economics, "Housing as an Economic Development Strategy for Virginia," virginiahousing.com.

⁶ Virginia REALTORS, "Virginia Home Sales Report: September 2024" virginiarealtors.org/research/reports/

⁷ The Pew Charitable Trusts, "How Restrictive Zoning in Virginia Has Hurt Housing Affordability," <https://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/articles/2024/01/22/how-restrictive-zoning-in-virginia-has-hurt-housing-affordability>.

⁸ National Association of Homebuilders, "Material Costs Affect Housing Affordability," <https://www.nahb.org/advocacy/top-priorities/material-costs>; Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, "Producer Price Index by Commodity: Inputs to Industries: Net Inputs to Residential Construction, Goods," <https://fred.stlouisfed.org/series/WPUIP2311001>.

⁹ U.S. Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, “Data Spotlight: The Impact of Changing Mortgage Interest Rates,” <https://www.consumerfinance.gov/data-research/research-reports/data-spotlight-the-impact-of-changing-mortgage-interest-rates/>; Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, “30-Year Fixed Rate Mortgage Average in the United States,” <https://fred.stlouisfed.org/series/MORTGAGE30US>.

¹⁰ CoreLogic Market Trends, <https://www.corelogic.com/real-estate/housing-trends/>.

¹¹ Analysis performed by the Department of Housing and Community Development utilizing data from CoreLogic, the American Community Survey, and Comprehensive Housing Affordability Survey.

¹² Analysis performed by the Department of Housing and Community Development utilizing data from sources including CoreLogic, the American Community Survey, and Comprehensive Housing Affordability Survey.

¹³ Analysis performed by the Department of Housing and Community Development.

¹⁴ Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, “Virginia Permit Transparency and Permitting Enhancement and Evaluation Platform,” <https://www.deq.virginia.gov/get-involved/virginia-permit-transparency-and-permitting-enhancement-and-evaluation-platform>.

¹⁵ Data from Virginia Office of Broadband.

Effective Date

This Executive Order shall be effective upon its signing and shall remain in force and effect unless amended or rescinded by a future executive order or directive. Given under my hand and under the Seal of the Commonwealth of Virginia, this 14th day of November, 2024.




Glenn Youngkin, Governor

Attest:



Kelly Gee, Secretary of the Commonwealth



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

IX. INFORMATION ITEMS

a. DHCD Administratively Approved Projects



Administratively Approved Planning Grant Applications

Planning Grant Application

Middle School Energy Education Academy

Region: 1

Applicant(s): Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center

Participating Localities: Washington County (advisory), Smyth County (advisory), Russell County (advisory), City of Bristol (advisory)

Investment Strategy: Workforce Development

Targeted Industries: Energy and Minerals

Type of Project: Planning Grant

Project Goal(s): To increase the pool of qualified workers in the Energy and Minerals industry sector in GO Virginia Region 1.

Project Description: The Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center in partnership with Virginia Tech’s Southwest Center, will conduct research activities such as the exploration of career pathways, identification of benchmark data, and determination of best practices for curriculum to develop a middle school program focused on career exploration for the energy sector. These activities will lead to a pilot summer career exploration academy.

GO Virginia funding will be used for salaries to hire a coordinator of the program, supplies for the energy academy, and grant administration.

Matching funds will be used for travel, training, contract services, supplies, and grant administration.

Project Budget:

Type of Funds	Totals
GO Virginia Request	\$ 52,500
Matching Funds	\$ 26,250
Local Match	\$ 0
Additional Leverage	\$ 0
Total Project Budget	\$ 78,750

Middle School Energy Education Academy

Products

- Middle School Energy Education Academy Pilot completed
- Sustainability and scalability plan completed

Staff Discussion:

- Opportunity to collaborate with GO TEC programming currently in place in the region for middle school career exploration
- Chance to develop the workforce pipeline for an industry that is strategically important to the region

Planning Grant Application

VA Small Business Disaster Response Portal

Region: 1

Applicant(s): PBS Appalachia

Participating Localities: Washington County (advisory), Wise County (advisory)

Investment Strategy: Cluster Scaleup

Targeted Industries: Advanced Manufacturing, Agriculture, Food & Beverage Manufacturing, Information Technology, Energy, and Transportation and Logistics

Type of Project: Planning Grant

Project Goal(s): To develop a web-based portal to aggregate disaster recovery resources in Southwest Virginia.

Project Description: PBS Appalachia will develop and market a web-based resource portal targeted at connecting businesses in Southwest Virginia with resources and services intended to expedite recovery from the Tropical Storm Helene natural disaster.

GO Virginia funding will be used for hosting and maintaining the web based portal, salaries related to marketing and collecting resources for the portal, and for grant administration.

Matching funds will be used for salaries related to resource research and verification and marketing.

Project Budget:

Type of Funds	Totals
GO Virginia Request	\$ 97,500
Matching Funds	\$ 48,750
Local Match	\$ 0
Additional Leverage	\$ 11,000
Total Project Budget	\$ 157,250

VA Small Business Disaster Response Portal

Products

- Web-Based Resource Portal Launched

Staff Discussion:

- The applicant and localities (many of which who have made verbal commitments with official letters to follow) have pledged to collaborate on gathering resources that will be incorporated in the web-based portal
- This web-based portal will be designed to cover every locality that received a disaster designation by the Federal Emergency Management Administration.
- The applicant has a capacity and expertise to both develop and market the web-based portal through digital and television based media outlets

Planning Grant Application

Amelia County Regional Commerce Center Planning Grant

Region: 3

Applicant(s): Amelia County

Participating Localities: Buckingham County, Charlotte County, Lunenburg County, Nottoway County, and Prince Edward County via a partnership with the Heartland Regional Industrial Facilities Authority

Investment Strategy: Site Development and Infrastructure

Targeted Industry(s): Food & Beverage Manufacturing

Type of Project: Planning Grant

Project Goal(s): To increase the inventory of business-ready sites within Virginia’s Heartland Region.

Project Description: Amelia County Economic Development Authority recently acquired a 134-acre site on the north side of Rt. 360 and has rezoned the property to Industrial M-1 in June 2023. The due diligence work would elevate the site from a Tier 2 to a Tier 3 in the Virginia Business Ready Sites Program (VBRSP) scale. A site suitability study was recently completed indicating the site may be able to support the Agricultural & Food Processing sector in the absence of water and sewer being served.

GO Virginia funding will be used for the due diligence work and administration of the grant. Matching funds will be used for Amelia County EDA for site acquisition.

Project Budget:

Type of Funds	Totals
GO Virginia Request	\$ 100,000
Matching Funds	\$ 100,000
Local Match	\$ 100,000
Additional Leverage	\$ 638,000
Total Project Budget	\$ \$838,000

Products:

- Completion of the following due diligence work:
 - Waters and the US delineation
 - Geotechnical borings and preliminary evaluation
 - Topographic Survey
 - Cultural Resources Review

Amelia County Regional Commerce Center Planning Grant

- Master Plan of Development
- Preliminary engineering work with associated reports and cost estimates and timeline for infrastructure development
- Elevate 134 acres from a Tier 2 to a Tier 3 along the VBRSP scale

Staff Discussion:

- Resolution from Heartland Regional Industrial Facilities Authority and the Commonwealth Regional Council (made up of the same localities) endorses this project and commits to support and assist with marketing the property.
- Site characterization report by Draper Aden mentions this site will likely never have County water and sewer because of cost/distance. End users will be limited to well and septic.
- Due diligence work on the site has been reaffirmed by the Region 3 Council after the completion of the site suitability study.

Planning Grant Application

Future AI Learning and Cloud Network Project

Region: 4

Applicant(s): Virginia Commonwealth University

Participating Localities: Chesterfield County (advisory committee), Henrico County (advisory committee)

Investment Strategy: Workforce Development

Targeted Industries: Information Technologies

Type of Project: Planning Grant

Project Goal(s): To grow and diversify the regional economy by evaluating employer needs related to specialized areas of Information Technologies and prepare to train students to meet these needs.

Project Description: Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) requests GO Virginia funding to survey stakeholders on employer needs and student skill gaps for specialized areas of Information Technologies and outline educational opportunities that would meet these needs. Henrico and Chesterfield County staff have agreed to serve on an advisory committee that would meet once a quarter to provide to provide feedback and oversight, and the Richmond Technology Council has provided a letter of support stating that its member companies are eager to engage with VCU as they commence work. GO Virginia funds would be used for contract services for consultants, salaries for VCU staff working on the project, and support organization grant administration. Matching funds would be used for cost-share on consultants and salaries.

Project Budget:

Type of Funds	Totals
GO Virginia Request	\$ 100,000
Matching Funds	\$ 50,000
Local Match	\$ 0
Additional Leverage	\$ 360,500
Total Project Budget	\$ 510,500

Future AI Learning and Cloud Network Project

Products

- Survey of employer workforce needs
- Plan for addressing these needs through educational programming

Staff Discussion:

- Good alignment with other workforce development efforts in this industry in the region
 - Implementation efforts would be able to fit within larger talent pipeline in the region
- The application has letters of support showing buy-in from industry partners