



Virginia Growth and Opportunity Fund (GO Virginia) Economic Resilience and Recovery (ERR) Program FAQs

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Economic Resilience and Recovery (ERR) Program?

The GO Virginia State Board has authorized the use of \$14.66M in statewide competitive funds (FY20) to respond to the unprecedented economic conditions facing Virginia due to the near and long-term effects of the coronavirus on regional economies. This initiative will focus resources on economic resilience and recovery while staying true to the GO Virginia mission.

There is an opportunity to strengthen the alignment of federal and state resources as part of this response around high-value activities that focus resources on targeted industry sectors and the supply chains that support them, as well as highly impacted locally traded sectors as identified by the Regional Councils.

Regional Councils may apply for up to \$1.0M with \$5.66M in reserve for projects with statewide or multi-regional impact. The ERR program requires a 2:1 match and the match must come from non-state sources of revenue. No local match is required. All GO Virginia projects require the participation of two or more localities. If no local match (cash or in-kind) is provided, letters of endorsement from two or more localities or a public body representing the interest of two or more localities will be required and the project must demonstrate meaningful participation of those public bodies.

This program is time limited, with an initial 12-month application window (April 18, 2021) unless extended by the GO Virginia State Board. Funds not obligated to projects will be returned to the statewide competitive pool.

Are the Fast Access grants to be used only for planning grants, or can they be used for implementation grants as well?

The purpose of the Fast Access program is to quickly deploy resources on implementation projects. Fast Access requests may include limited and focused planning activities (needs assessments, etc.) that support implementation activities. Applicants are encouraged to think holistically about the needs in their region and focus on efforts that produce near term impact.



Can ERR Funds be used to help businesses with professional services such as human resources legal, accounting, websites, marketing, etc.?

Yes. GO Virginia funds may be used to provide sector-based solutions, including technical assistance to employers that support job retention and economic recovery efforts. GO Virginia funds may not be used to provide direct grants to individual businesses; however, regions may explore shared service models that reduce costs for employers. These should be centrally managed by the subgrantee and/or designated partners.

Can ERR funds be used to purchase Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) for kits that will be distributed to businesses as they begin the reopening process?

GO VA funds cannot be used to purchase supplies or other consumables that would go to businesses. This type of expense may be used as match for a project that is coordinating a regional response and assistance to businesses. Federal resources will also be available to localities on a per capita basis as part of the CARES Act to help with reopening efforts.

Can ERR funds be used for construction purposes to help retrofit workspace to businesses as they begin the reopening process?

GO VA funds cannot be used for construction expenses to help mitigate this. DHCD administers other program funds (CDBG) that may be available to support this activity.

Can ERR funds be used for direct grants to individual businesses?

GO VA funds cannot be used to provide direct grants to individual businesses; however, GO VA may support efforts that add regional capacity to help businesses to retain and/or retrain workers, with the desired outcome of getting employees back to work in the immediate term.

Can ERR funds be used to purchase Hot Spots to be set up in parking lots to help get people online?

The projects should be focused on supporting businesses and public hot spots would not have that focus. We recommend you visit [Commonwealth Connect](#) to learn more about hot spots and resources available.

Can ERR funds be used for last mile broadband service?

The Virginia Telecommunications Initiative (VATI) program supports last mile broadband investments in Virginia. GOVA tries not to duplicate existing programs. More information on this program can be found at <https://dhcd.virginia.gov/index.php/vati>

GO Virginia funds may be used for middle-mile broadband projects and may be funded through a Region's regular per capita allocation or a statewide competitive grant.



Can ERR funds be used to purchase laptops that would be owned by schools/community colleges as equipment necessary to continue learning?

Grants for equipment to support select, new training capacity needed to prepare individuals to work in high-demand occupations and/or to make said program available online may be eligible. Applicants purchase of related equipment may be considered as match on a case by case basis.

Can ERR funds be used to offset costs for employers who are creating on-the-job training programs?

Go Virginia is designed to support sector-based solutions. For direct business assistance for the development of customized, on the job training programs, both the Virginia Employment Commission and WIOA Title 1 programs administered by the Workforce Investment Boards include provisions for on-the-job training cost offsets. GO Virginia is designed to create new capacity in regions to address skills shortages and sector-based approaches are preferred. GO Virginia staff would be happy to make a connection to those resources.

Could ERR funds be used to support sector-based initiatives for non traded sectors, including tourism and/or retail?

Yes, if identified as a priority by the Regional Council. We would advise that the Council fully understand the sector's economic impact to the region and the potential positive impact/effect of any effort. GOVA funds cannot be used for direct grant or loans, but may be used to provide sector-based programmatic services.

Virginia Tourism Corporation (VTC) has produced some great resources [here](#) and has been working closely with local tourism staff.

Can ERR funds be used to update nursing labs to train nurses?

No, ERR funds should be used for more short-term training programs that help employees retrain and get reemployed quickly.

If awarded ERR Fast Access funds, when can the project officially start and funds be first reimbursed?

The project can commence on the contract start date. The contract start date for ERR Fast Access funds can go back as early as the decision date that the Regional Council or empowered body of that Regional Council.

If awarded ERR Implementation (regional or competitive) funds, when can the project officially start and funds be reimbursed?

The contract start date for ERR Implementation funds can go back as early as the decision date of the State Board.



Can a revolving loan fund be used for match for an ERR project?

No; however, finance charges, interest, or fees forgone by the lender to support the initiative may be considered on a case by case basis.

Grant funding that supports programmatic activities related to the project scope may be considered.

Can ERR funds be used for marketing and advertising?

GO Virginia funds can be used for targeted outreach and engagement efforts to create awareness of programmatic activities related to the grant. Applicants should limit the total funding for these activities and maximize investments in programmatic efforts.

* Please note that this is a working document and may be updated periodically.