



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

Virginia Growth and Opportunity Board

Business Meeting
December 9, 2025



Center for Energy Research and Education Industry Lab offers students the opportunities to observe and assist with research in fields of science and engineering. (Photo courtesy of GO Virginia Region 2 Website)



VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING
AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
Partners for Better Communities



Agenda

- I. Opening
- II. Consent Agenda
- III. Deputy Director's Report
- IV. Governance and Policy Committee Report
- V. Regional Council Committee Report
- VI. Information Items
- VII. Adjournment



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COgro Labs at Virginia Tech Corporate Research Center (Source: GO Virginia Region 2 Annual Report)



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I. Opening

- a. Call to Order
- b. Roll Call
- c. Public Comment



II. Consent Agenda – Action Items

- a. September 9, 2025, Meeting Minutes
- b. Board Policy #2: Electronic Participation Policy



III. Deputy Director's Report

a. ***Action Item:***

- i. 2025 Regional Economic Growth and Diversification Plan Updates

b. Application Submission and Evaluation Process

c. ***Action Item:***

- i. Per Capita Implementation Grant Applications (5)

- ii. Competitive Grant Applications (4)

a. Annual Report Highlights



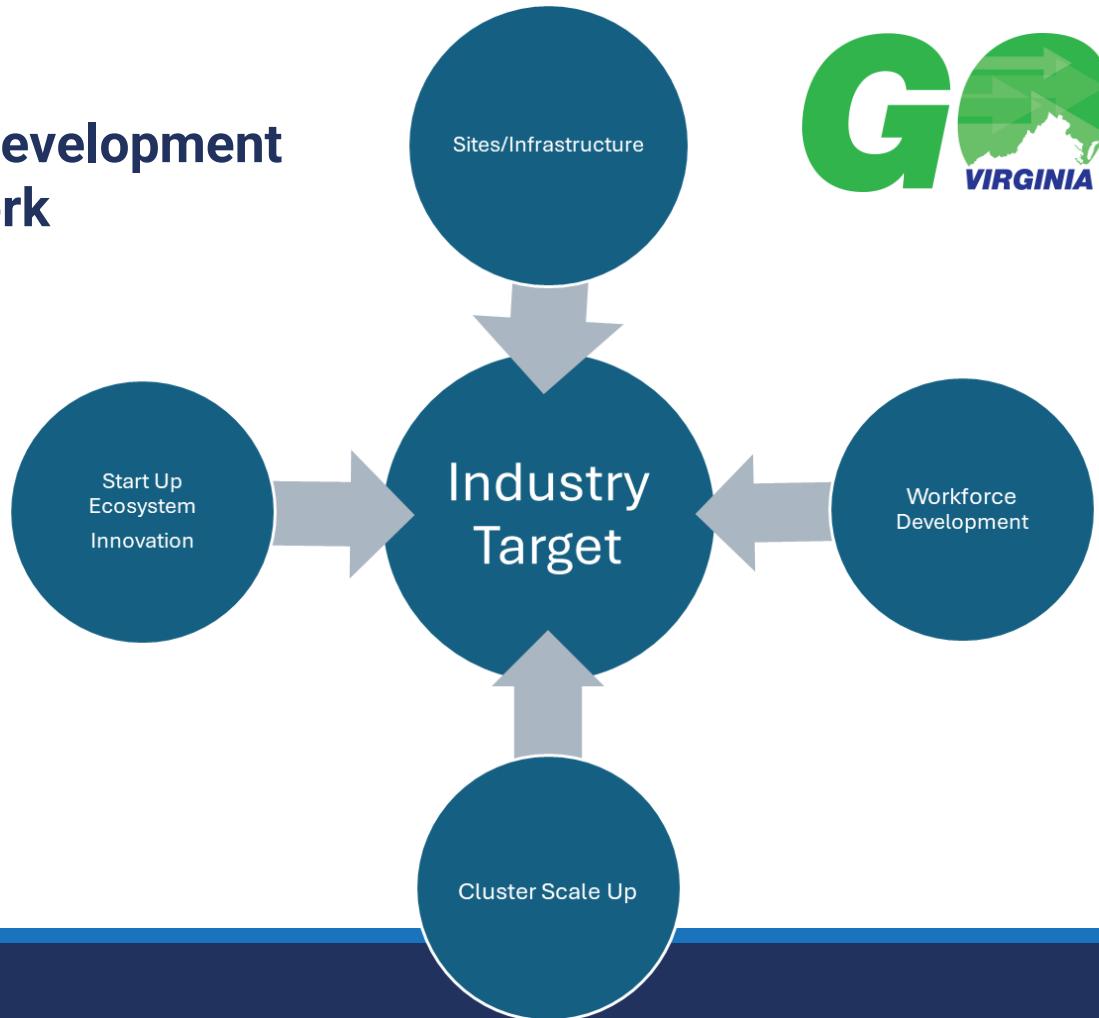
2025 G&D Plan Updates

GO Virginia Target Industries Matrix

Industry Sector		Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9
Manufacturing	Advanced Manufacturing									
	Food and Beverage Manufacturing						REMOVED			
	Shipbuilding									
Knowledge Work	Information and Emerging Technologies									
	Professional and Business Services							REMOVED	REMOVED	
	Life Sciences and Biotechnology									
	Aerospace and Unmanned Systems									
Logistics	Logistics and Transportation			NEW						
Agriculture	Agriculture and Aquaculture	REMOVED							NEW	
	Forestry			REMOVED						
	Energy				NEW					



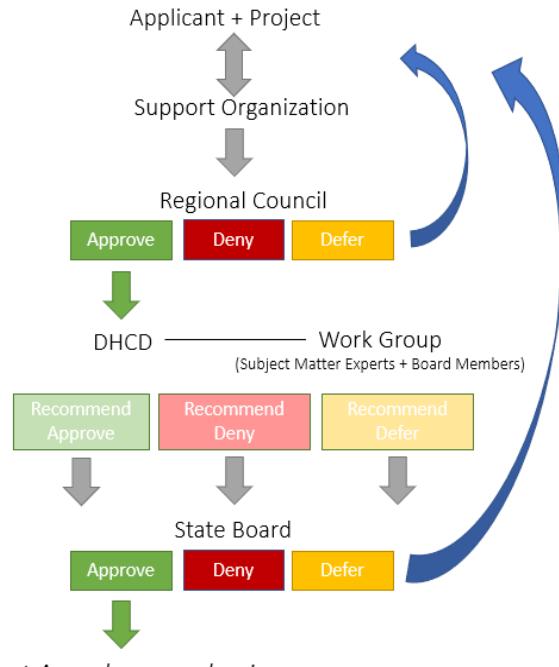
Project Development Framework





Application Process

GO Virginia Application Review



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- Applications are submitted to Regional Councils
- Approved applications are advanced to DHCD
- Technical review by DHCD staff
- Workgroup review and project pitch calls
- Staff prepares recommendations for the Board
- Presented for Board consideration
 - **Approve:** Application satisfies *all* program requirements
 - **Defer:** Application is in line with GO Virginia priorities, but fails to sufficiently address *all* program requirements or evaluation criteria
 - **Not Approve:** Application activities are out of scope with GO Virginia priorities
- Approved projects go to contract



Evaluation Criteria

- **Economic Impact**
 - Metrics and outcomes program aligned and defined
 - Demonstration of economic impact
- **Regional Collaboration**
 - Regional Plan Alignment
 - Meaningful participation of 2 or more localities
 - Collaboration with industry and other partners
- **Project Readiness**
 - Partner Commitments, Match Resources, and Milestones
- **Sustainability**
 - Clean and Executable Plan, Sustained Demand for the project



■ i. Per Capita Applications

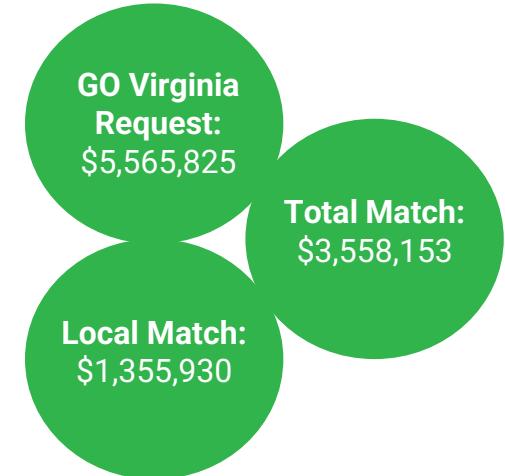


- 5 Project Proposals to Take Action On
- 4 out of 9 Regions Participated

Industry Cluster Targets: Advanced Manufacturing, Aerospace & Autonomous Systems, Life Sciences, Transportation and Logistics, and Information Technology

Investment Strategies:

- 1 Entrepreneurship & Innovation Project
- 3 Workforce Development Projects
- 1 Cluster Scale-Up Project



Region 2: Project RISE



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Targeted Industry Cluster(s): Information and Emerging Technologies, Aerospace and Autonomous Systems, Advanced Manufacturing

Applicant: Virginia Tech Corporate Research Center

Investment Strategy: Startup Ecosystem

Participating Localities: Botetourt County (in-kind and advisory), Pulaski County (in-kind and advisory), City of Roanoke (in-kind and advisory), Roanoke County (advisory), and Montgomery County (cash and advisory)

Goal: Support existing businesses, cultivate new startups, increase job creation, and boost patent activity for university-based ventures in the Roanoke and New River Valley, complementing ongoing regional investments.

Outcomes:

- 35 Jobs Created
- 10 New Businesses Created
- 40 Businesses Served
- 40 New Mentors Providing Assistance
- 20 Patents Filed
- 10 Patents Awarded

GOVA Request:
\$648,000

Total Match:
\$633,555
Local Match:
\$89,892

Project Budget:
\$3,581,555

Additional Leverage:
\$2,300,000

Staff Recommendation:
Approve

Region 1: HOMEWorks Initiative



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Targeted Industry Cluster(s): Advanced Manufacturing

Applicant: Appalachian Highlands Housing Partnership

Investment Strategy: Workforce Development

Participating Localities: Russell County (in-kind), Washington County (advisory), Grayson County (advisory), and Smyth County (advisory)

Goal: To develop a regional training asset that will significantly advance the growth of the advanced manufacturing sector, specifically as it relates to modular construction.

Outcomes:

- 160 people trained
- 145 job placements
- 81 jobs created
- 5 businesses served
- 50 new interns placed
- 20 new apprenticeships created

Outcomes, Cont.:

- 5 new programs implemented
- 140 credentials awarded
- 75 students completing dual enrollment programs

GOVA Request:
\$748,425

Total Match:
\$580,400
Local Match:
\$144,000

Project Budget:
\$1,692,895

Additional Leverage:
\$364,070

Staff Recommendation: Defer

Region 3: Danville Aviation Training Facility

Targeted Industry Cluster(s): Transportation and Logistics

Applicant: City of Danville

Investment Strategy: Workforce Development

Participating Localities: City of Danville (cash) and Southern Virginia Regional Alliance on behalf of their member localities (City of Danville, Mecklenburg County, Patrick County, Pittsylvania County, Henry County, City of Martinsville, and Halifax County)

Goal: To expand the pool of qualified workers in the aviation sectors within Region 3.

Outcomes:

- 75 people trained
- 50 credentials awarded
- 1 new program implemented



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GOVA Request:
\$92,000

Total Match:
\$46,000
Local Match:
\$18,400

Project Budget:
\$8,179,928

Additional Leverage:
\$8,041,928

Staff Recommendation:
Approve

Region 9: Expanding the GOTEC Career Pathways in Region 9

Targeted Industry Cluster(s): Advanced Manufacturing, Information Technology, Logistics, Bioscience

Applicant: Albemarle County Public Schools

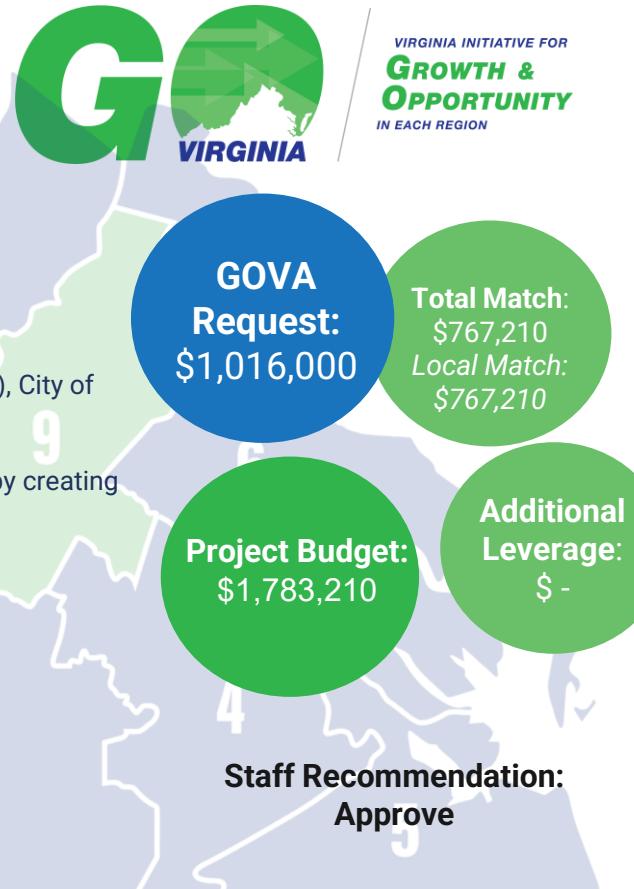
Investment Strategy: Workforce Development

Participating Localities: Albemarle County (cash and in-kind), Greene County (cash and in-kind), City of Charlottesville (cash and in-kind)

Goal: To create career exploration opportunities in targeted industries in GO Virginia Region 9 by creating Career Connection labs as a part of the GO TEC hub-and-spoke model.

Outcomes:

- 3,126 people trained
- 7 new programs implemented



Region 5: Hampton Roads Mobility Innovation Center

Targeted Industry Cluster(s): Uncrewed Systems and Aerospace

Applicant: Newport News Economic Development Authority

Investment Strategy: Cluster Scale-Up

Participating Localities: City of Hampton (in-kind) and City of Newport News (in-kind)

Goal: To expand the pool of qualified workers in unmanned systems in Region 5.

Outcomes:

- 540 people trained
- 230 job placements
- 5 businesses served
- 6 new interns placed
- 1 apprenticeship created
- 4 new programs implemented
- 125 credentials awarded
- 40 students completing dual enrollment



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GOVA Request:
\$3,061,400

Total Match:
\$1,530,988
Local Match:
\$336,428

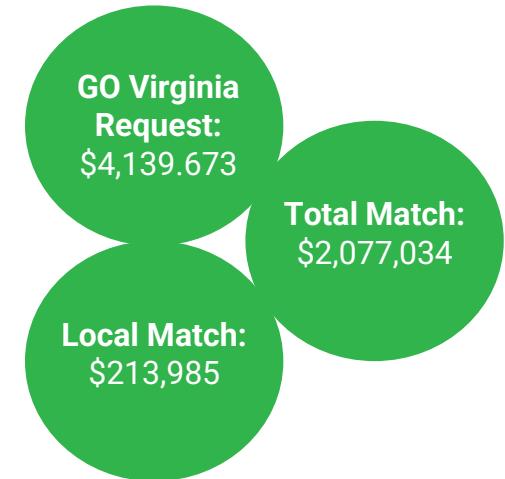
Project Budget:
\$4,592,388

Additional Leverage:
\$ -

Staff Recommendation: Defer

ii. Competitive Grant Applications

- 4 Project Proposals to Take Action On
- 7 out of 9 Regions Participated
- ***Industry Cluster Targets:*** Advanced Manufacturing, Life Sciences, Professional and Business Services, and IT and Emerging Technology
- ***Investment Strategies:*** 1 Cluster Scale-Up Project, 2 Workforce Development Projects, and 1 Entrepreneurship & Innovation Project



Regions 3 and 2: Blue Ridge Innovation Corridor Vision 2050

Targeted Industry Cluster(s): Advanced Manufacturing, Life Sciences, and IT and Emerging Technology

Applicant: Blue Ridge Innovation Corridor

Investment Strategy: Cluster Scale Up

Participating Localities: Franklin County (in-kind), Botetourt County (in-kind), Montgomery County (cash), Henry County (in-kind), City of Martinsville (cash), City of Danville (cash), and Pittsylvania County (cash)

Goal: To develop a megaregional playbook to guide the BRIC region in terms of economic development and governance.

Products:

- Advanced Manufacturing Sector Strategy
- Life Sciences and Biotechnology Sector Strategy
- IT and Emerging Technology Sector Strategy
- Infrastructure Investment Strategy
- Funding Roadmap Strategy
- Connectivity Strategy
- Governance Model



GOVA Request:
\$250,000

Total Match:
\$125,000
Local Match:
\$25,000

Project Budget:
\$375,000

Additional Leverage:
\$ -

Staff Recommendation:
Approve

Region 3: Industrial Skilled Trades Regional Expansion

Targeted Industry Cluster(s): Advanced Manufacturing

Applicant: Patrick and Henry Community College

Investment Strategy: Workforce Development

Participating Localities: Charlotte County (business referrals), Lunenburg County (business referrals), Patrick County (business referrals), City of Danville (business referrals), City of Martinsville business (referrals), and Southern Virginia Regional Alliance (on behalf of their member localities through business recruitment and expansion referrals).

Goal: To expand the pool of qualified workers in industrial skills trade professions within Region 3.

Outcomes:

- 360 people trained
- 270 job placements
- 3,021 credentials awarded
- 20 new internships created



GOVA Request:
\$1,346,786

Total Match:
\$673,393
Local Match:
\$ -

Project Budget:
\$4,361,036

Additional Leverage:
\$2,340,857

Staff Recommendation:
Approve

Regions 6 and 9: AI Mobile Unit for Workforce and Education

Targeted Industry Cluster(s): Professional and Business Services, IT and Emerging Technology

Applicant: The Cyber Bytes Foundation

Investment Strategy: Workforce Development

Participating Localities: Fauquier County (advisory), Nelson County (in-kind), Orange County (cash and in-kind), Rappahannock County (in-kind), Spotsylvania County (in-kind), and Stafford County (in-kind).

Goal: Directly connect high school students and educators with local industry demand or credential-to-career pipelines in the identified targeted industry clusters.

Outcomes:

- 2080 people trained (includes 80 teachers)
- 20 businesses served
- 280 credentials awarded (includes 80 teachers)
- 1 new program implemented



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GOVA Request:
\$1,317,887

Total Match:
\$665,641
Local Match:
\$40,985

Project Budget:
\$2,024,328

Additional Leverage:
\$40,800

Staff Recommendation: Defer

Regions 4, 5, 6, and 7: Small Business Opportunity Center Expansion

Targeted Industry Cluster(s): Advanced Manufacturing, IT and Emerging Technology, Life Sciences, and Professional and Business Services

Applicant: Virginia Commonwealth University

Investment Strategy: Entrepreneurship & Innovation

Participating Localities: Henrico County (cash), Chesterfield County (cash), City of Richmond (in-kind), Prince George County (in-kind), Charles City County (in-kind), City of Alexandria (in-kind), Fairfax County (in-kind), Arlington County (in-kind), Stafford County (in-kind), City of Fredericksburg (in-kind), City of Portsmouth (in-kind), City of Norfolk (in-kind)

Goal: To grow and expand entrepreneurship activity among under-resourced populations in GO Virginia Regions 4, 5, 6, and 7 in the aforementioned sectors.

Outcomes:

- 230 jobs created
- 165 existing business expanded
- 195 new businesses created
- 500 businesses served
- \$80,000 in total funds raised by businesses served



GOVA Request:
\$1,225,000

Total Match:
\$613,000
Local Match:
\$148,000

Project Budget:
\$3,308,000

Additional Leverage:
\$1,470,000

Staff Recommendation:
Approve



GO Virginia FY25 Year in Review

- Key Interim Activities of the Board
- FY25 Grant Year Summary
- FY25 Investments by GO Virginia Region
- Program Performance
 - FY26 Completed Project Performance
 - Program Impact
- Recognition and Appreciation
- Q&A Discussion

Key Interim Activities



- Conducted 4 regular business meetings and a board retreat
- Awarded \$11.8M to support 37 collaborative economic development projects across the Commonwealth.
- Created a subprogram – the Helene Business Recovery Initiative, to assist with business recovery and resiliency efforts in impacted Regions in Southwestern Virginia
- Conducted 6 committee meetings
- Reviewed JLARC recommendation for program improvements and implemented a series of policy and programmatic changes in response
- Advised on the development of the Program Performance Dashboard, a public-facing reporting tool



FY25 Grant Year Summary

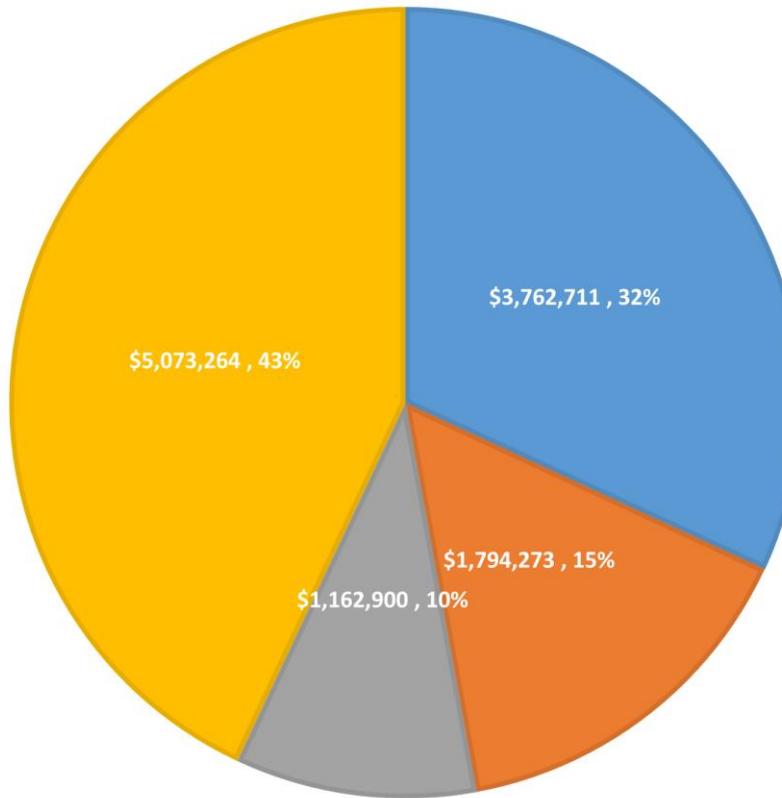


- Awarded \$11.8M to support 37 collaborative economic development projects across the Commonwealth.
- Leveraged more than \$6.1 million in qualifying non-state investments.



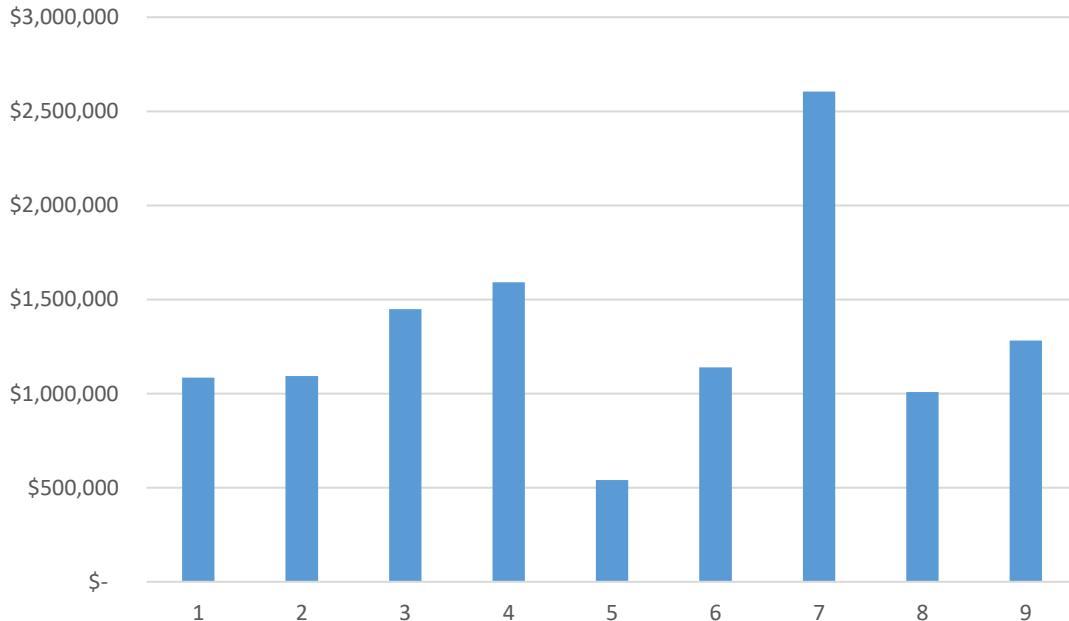
GO VIRGINIA FY25 GRANT AWARDS BY INVESTMENT STRATEGY

■ Cluster Scale-Up ■ Site Development and Infrastructure ■ Startup Ecosystem ■ Workforce Development





FY25 GO Virginia Awards by Region

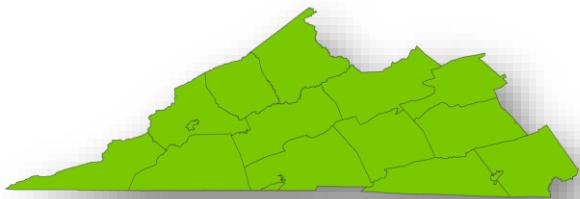


Region	Pct FY25 Allocation Obligated
1	109%
2	72%
3	145%
4	61%
5	16%
6	108%
7	52%
8	93%
9	128%



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FY26 Grant Awards by GO Virginia Region



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Region 1

Project Name	Subgrantee	Investment Strategy	Award	Match
Wildwood Commerce Park Site 1 Due Diligence	Blue Ridge Crossroads	Site Development and Infrastructure	\$100,000	\$50,000
Progress Park Lot 10	Wythe County IDA	Site Development and Infrastructure	\$425,876	\$213,000
Middle School Energy Education Academy	Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center	Workforce Development	\$52,500	\$26,250
VA Small Business Disaster Response Portal	PBS Appalachia	Cluster Scale-Up	\$97,500	\$48,750
Electrical Technology Modernization Initiative	Virginia Highlands Community College	Workforce Development	\$312,326	\$156,163
Microreactor Feasibility Study	Wise County	Cluster Scale-Up	\$97,500	\$50,000

Regional Partners:

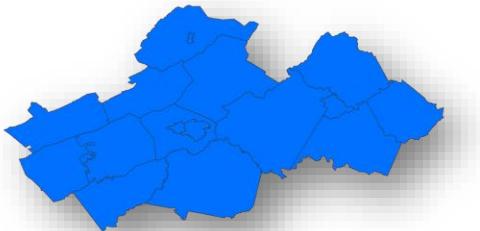
Counties of Bland, Buchanan, Carroll, Dickenson, Grayson, Lee, Russell, Scott, Smyth, Tazewell, Washington, Wise, and Wythe, and the cities of Bristol, Galax and Norton.

Support Organization:

UVA Wise



Region 2



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Project Name	Subgrantee	Investment Strategy	Award	Match
GMP Clean	Fralin Biomedical Research Institute	Cluster Scale-Up	\$100,000	\$50,000
GOTEC Launch in the New River Valley and Roanoke County	Montgomery County Public Schools	Workforce Development	\$994,213	\$518,956

Regional Partners:

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

Support Organization:

Virginia Tech Office of Economic Development



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Region 3

Project Name	Subgrantee	Investment Strategy	Award	Match
Amelia County Regional Commerce Center Planning Grant	Amelia County EDA	Site Development and Infrastructure	\$100,000	\$100,000
Co-locating Date Centers and CEA Greenhouses Feasibility Project	Institute of Advanced Learning and Research	Cluster Scale-Up	\$52,000	\$26,020
Talent Pipeline Management to Support Advanced Manufacturing and Controlled Environment Agriculture	Institute of Advanced Learning and Research	Workforce Development	\$116,745	\$59,842
Artificial Intelligence Statewide Landscape Assessment	Virginia Chamber of Commerce	Workforce Development	\$100,000	\$50,000
SOVA Fab Lab at the SOVA Innovation Campus	SOVA Innovation Hub Corporation	Startup Ecosystem	\$510,000	\$260,000
SVCC Occupational Training Facility Expansion	Southern Virginia Community College	Workforce Development	\$570,000	\$285,000

Regional Partners:
Counties of Amelia, Brunswick, Buckingham, Charlotte, Cumberland, Halifax, Henry, Lunenburg, Mecklenburg, Nottoway, Patrick, Pittsylvania, and Prince Edward, and the cities of Danville and Martinsville.

Support Organization:
Southside Planning District Commission



Region 4



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Project Name	Subgrantee	Investment Strategy	Award	Match
Future AI Learning and Cloud Network Project	Virginia Commonwealth University	Workforce Development	\$100,000	\$50,000
Advanced Engineering and Manufacturing Technician Program	Rowanty Technical Center	Workforce Development	\$520,000	\$260,000
GO TEC Expansion	Commonwealth Center for Advanced Manufacturing (CCAM)	Workforce Development	\$970,835	\$513,940

Regional Partners:
Counties of Charles City, Chesterfield, Dinwiddie, Goochland, Greensville, Hanover, Henrico, New Kent, Powhatan, Prince George, Surry, and Sussex, and the cities of Colonial Heights, Emporia, Hopewell, Petersburg and Richmond.

Support Organization:
Grow Capital Jobs



Region 5



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Project Name	Subgrantee	Investment Strategy	Award	Match
UAS BVLOS Key Site Initiative	Hampton Roads Alliance	Site Development and Infrastructure	\$35,392	\$17,696
Advancing Commercialization and Innovation Opportunities for Jefferson Lab	Hampton Roads Executive Roundtable	Cluster Scale-Up	\$99,900	\$55,000
Economic Access Initiative	Neighborhood	Workforce Development	\$305,000	\$152,500
Hampton Roads Investment Playbook	Hampton Roads Alliance	Cluster Scale-Up	\$100,000	\$50,000

Regional Partners:

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

Support Organization:
Reinvent Hampton Roads



Region 6



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Project Name	Subgrantee	Investment Strategy	Award	Match
Career Advancement and Resource Education (CARE)	Bay Consortium Workforce Development Board	Workforce Development	\$307,857	\$160,891
Expanding Business Ecosystems (EBE) Business Accelerator	Virginia Black Chamber of Commerce	Startup Ecosystem	\$300,000	\$155,500
Cyber Titans Virginia Internship Program (Cyber Titans VIP)	Cyber Titans Foundation	Cluster Scale-Up	\$99,826	\$49,913
Economic Impact Analysis for RIVERE Ecological Center and Entrepreneurial Ecosystem	RIVERE	Startup Ecosystem	\$72,100	\$36,050
Virginia Tidewater Aquaculture & Maritime Innovation Incubator Program	Greater Reedville Association	Startup Ecosystem	\$280,800	\$140,400
Practice Management Certification Program	University of Mary Washington	Workforce Development	\$78,014	\$40,000

Regional Partners:

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



Support Organization:

George Washington Regional Commission



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Region 7

Project Name	Subgrantee	Investment Strategy	Award	Match
Innovation District	George Mason University	Cluster Scale-Up	\$2,604,410	\$1,302,598

Regional Partners:

Counties of Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun, and Prince William, and the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax, Falls Church, Manassas and Manassas Park.

Support Organization:
Northern Virginia
Regional Commission



Region 8



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Project Name	Subgrantee	Investment Strategy	Award	Match
Blue Mountain Extended Due Diligence	Shenandoah Valley Partnership	Site Development and Infrastructure	\$348,810	\$174,405
Clark County Camp 7 Site Development Planning	Clark County	Site Development and Infrastructure	\$170,625	\$85,313
ShenValley Meat Processing Cooperative	Page County	Cluster Scale-Up	\$87,450	\$43,725
Expressway to Power	Laurel Ridge Community College	Workforce Development	\$401,374	\$200,687

Regional Partners:

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

Support Organization:
Northern Shenandoah Valley Regional Commission



Region 9



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Project Name	Subgrantee	Investment Strategy	Award	Match
BioBridge Talent Pathways Planning	CvilleBioHub	Workforce Development	\$244,400	\$122,200
Food and Beverage Business Accelerator	Venture Central	Cluster Scale-Up	\$100,000	\$53,750
Rivanna Futures	Albemarle County	Site Development and Infrastructure	\$613,570	\$324,000
Wine Industry Implementation	Nelson County	Cluster Scale-Up	\$224,125	\$209,784
Innovation Corridor Roadmap	Central Virginia Partnership for Economic Development	Cluster Scale-Up	\$100,000	\$75,000

Regional Partners:

Counties of Albemarle, Culpeper, Fauquier, Fluvanna, Greene, Louisa, Madison, Nelson, Orange, and Rappahannock, and the city of Charlottesville.



Support Organization:

Central Virginia Partnership for Economic Development



FY25 Closed Project Performance

Project Monitoring and Final Reporting

- Each applicant is required to make a commitment to complete activities and deliver outcomes defined across the four investment strategies.
- Grants are monitored at the regional and state level. First, by the Regional Councils and again at DHCD via quarterly progress reports through our grants management system.
- Performance Close-Out Reports and Narratives are submitted with an attestation by the Regional Council Leadership, the designated regional Support Organization.
- These are reviewed and approved by DHCD staff, and final project outcomes are recorded.
- DHCD uses the grant management system and tools, such as Tableau, to evaluate project performance.



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Project Performance – FY25 Closed Projects (38)

Performance Metric	Committed	Achieved	Percentage Achieved
Business Created	88	81	92%
Jobs Created	5,533	1,633	30%
Business Served	672	1,551	231%
Capital Raised by Businesses Served	\$5.5M	\$55M	1000%
New Workforce Training Programs Implemented	9	84	933%
People Trained	1,440	5,855	407%
Interns Placed	874	890	102%
Dual Enrollment Students	15	620	4133%
Credentials Awarded	687	3,070	447%
Acres Advanced for Development	5,215	7,561	145%

GO Virginia Program Impact*



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GO Virginia Impact (completed projects since program inception)

Jobs Created	24,000
Businesses Created	1,200
Businesses Expanded	1,000
Businesses Served	23,000
Capital Raised by Businesses Served	\$572,000,000
Follow on (nonstate) Funding	\$112,000,000
Individuals Trained to Meet Industry Needs	43,000
Industry-Recognized Credentials Awarded	11,000
New Internships/Work-Based Learning	3,000
Total Acres of Business Ready Sites Improved	11,000

165 Closed/Completed projects as of June 30, 2025



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VI. Information Items

- DHCD Administratively Approved Planning Grants
 - *Region 2 – Vector Space Robotics Program Feasibility Study*
 - *Region 2 – VTTI Workforce Pathways Plan for ACE Technology in Region 2*
 - *Region 5 – VersAbility TECH Center*
 - *Region 6 – Northern Neck Sites Inventory*
 - *Region 7 – NOVA TechWorksHub*
 - *Region 7 – Working in Sync with Employers (WISE)*
- DHCD Administratively Approved Helene Business Recovery Initiative (HBRI) Grants
 - *Region 1 – Downtown Business Recovery Initiative*
 - *Region 1 – Project Laurel Gateway*
 - *Region 2 – Small Business Development Center Business Preparedness Program in the New River Valley*



VII. Adjournment

Future Meeting Schedule

- 2026
 - March 24th (in-person)
 - June 9th (virtual)
 - September 15th (in-person)
 - December 8th (virtual)