



FY26 Competitive Fund Application

Please note: Each response in this application is limited to 6,000 characters.

ECONOMIC IMPACT

1. Provide an overview of the proposed project and project activities included in the project budget. **ATTACHMENTS:** A 1-2-page Executive Summary must be uploaded with the application.
2. Explain how this project represents a significant economic opportunity for the region. Describe how it supports the growth of traded-sector industries, as identified in the region's Economic Growth and Diversification Plan.
3. Which industry clusters identified in your region's Economic Growth and Diversification Plan(s) will this project focus on? Describe how the project supports the Plan's strategies and goals. What problem is the project team trying to solve?
4. Identify the project outcomes and deliverables that will be achieved during the grant performance period. For any quantitative outcomes that demonstrate project impact, select the most relevant items from the [GO Virginia Core Grant Outcomes](#) (definitions provided) and explain why they are appropriate for your project. Describe how the project team or its partners will track and report these outcomes over time. **ATTACHMENTS:** Upload the GO Virginia Core Grant Outcomes spreadsheet with the application.
5. Please attach the DHCD [Economic Impact template](#) that demonstrates the expected fiscal return to the Commonwealth. Please note that the template is used as an evaluation criterion but a positive fiscal return is not an eligibility requirement. Include an explanation and source any data used as the basis for inputs used to complete the template. **ATTACHMENTS:** The DHCD Economic Impact template should be uploaded with the application.
6. Competitive applications must have the economic impact analysis reviewed by DHCD. See the [DHCD Economic Impact Model Validation Process Memo](#) for more information on how to complete this step.

REGIONAL COLLABORATION

7. Identify the GO Virginia region(s) involved in this project and list the local units of government that are actively participating. Describe each locality's role in the project,



including financial contributions, staff involvement, or other meaningful forms of participation. A minimum of two localities is required for single-region competitive applications, and at least two localities from each region are required for multi-regional competitive applications. Refer to the [Regional Collaboration and Local Participation Guidelines](#) for examples of eligible participation.

8. Discuss how the Regional Council(s) and project development team consulted with local government entities regarding the strategy and implementation of the project.
9. Describe how private industry and subject matter experts have been involved in validating, developing, or planning this project. How has industry demand informed the project's purpose and design? Identify any traded-sector companies that have been engaged and explain their role or input.
10. Identify the applicant or fiscal agent and all partner organizations involved in implementing the project. For each partner, describe their role in completing the scope of work, their financial or in-kind match commitment, and their capacity to fulfill these responsibilities. Partners may include school divisions, community colleges, higher education institutions, economic and workforce development entities, local governments, regional organizations, planning district commissions, and nonprofit organizations. **ATTACHMENTS:** Upload [Match Verification Form\(s\)](#) with the application. Partners are encouraged to submit letters of support describing their role and involvement.
11. Describe any existing programs with similar goals and explain how this project will complement—not duplicate—those efforts. In what ways does this proposal add value to ongoing work that supports economic diversification and the growth of traded-sector industries? Have past or current efforts been successful and sustainable? Describe any cost efficiencies identified through collaboration with project partners.

PROJECT READINESS

12. Describe the project timeline and the specific project milestones and deliverables that will be utilized to track project progress and fund disbursement. **ATTACHMENTS:** Upload the DHCD Project Milestones Template, including the proposed Drawdown Schedule with the application.
13. Describe the total project budget, including how GO Virginia funds will be used, how matching funds will be allocated, and the sources and uses of all matching contributions. If applicable, identify any additional leveraged funds that are not eligible as match—such as other state or federal resources—that support the full scope of the project.

ATTACHMENTS: Upload the DHCD [Sources and Uses Budget template](#) with the application.

- a. Does the project have the required \$2:1 match?
 - b. Is the applicant requesting a waiver of the local match requirement? If so, refer to the [Match Waiver Request Guidelines](#). Note that at least 20% of the match must come from units of local government unless waived. **ATTACHMENTS:** If requesting a waiver, include the [Local Match Waiver Request Form](#) with the application.
- 14.** If this is a multi-regional proposal, describe how the project will be implemented across participating regions. Outline the roles and responsibilities of the project team, including how tasks are divided among administrators, support organizations, and partners. Explain how communication will be managed across regions to ensure coordinated execution.
- 15.** Discuss any major barriers or risks that could affect the successful implementation of the project. What strategies will the project administrator use to address or overcome these challenges?
- 16.** Describe any prerequisite activities undertaken by project partners to improve the efficiency of program delivery and support a successful project launch. If the applicant or its partners have previously led GO Virginia-funded projects, summarize the outcomes of those efforts and explain how that experience strengthens this proposal.

PROJECT SUSTAINABILITY

- 17.** Discuss how the project will achieve stable, long-term sustainability beyond the initial GO Virginia funding period? Have any funding sources been secured to continue implementation once these funds are exhausted? If not, what is the plan to identify and secure future support?
- 18.** Explain how this project could be replicated or scaled in other GO Virginia regions. What aspects of the model or approach make it transferable?

REQUIRED ATTACHMENTS

- Executive Summary
- [GO Virginia Core Outcomes](#)
- [Economic Impact \(DHCD Template\)](#)



- Economic Impact Analysis (Prepared by DHCD Approved Third-Party Contractor)
- [Match Verification Form](#)
- Milestones Overview and Drawdown Schedule (DHCD Template)
- [Budget Overview \(DHCD Sources and Uses Template\)](#)

OPTIONAL ATTACHMENTS

- [Local Match Waiver Request Form](#) (if applicable)
- Letters of Support