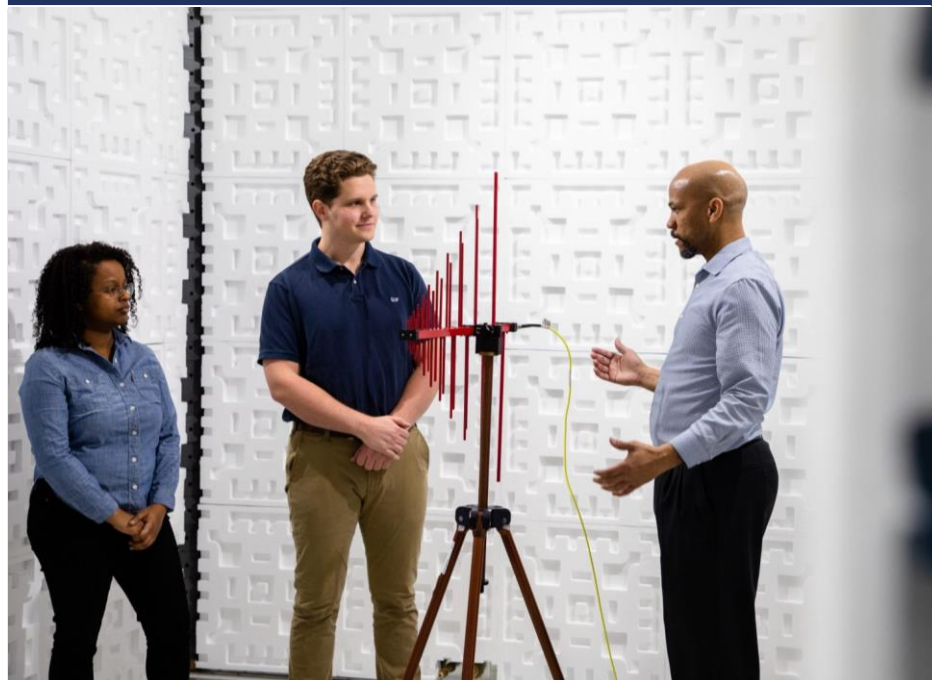




VIRGINIA INITIATIVE FOR
**GROWTH &
OPPORTUNITY**
IN EACH REGION

Virginia Growth and Opportunity Board

Business Meeting
September 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. Election of Officers
- III. Consent Agenda
- IV. Deputy Director's Report
- V. Governance and Policy Committee Report
- VI. Regional Council Committee Report
- VII. Information Items
- VIII. Adjournment



VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING
AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
Partners for Better Communities

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



I. Opening

- a. Call to Order
- b. Introduction of New Members
- c. Roll Call
- d. Public Comment



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II. Election of Officers

- a. Chair
- b. Vice Chair of Program Performance and Evaluation
- c. Vice Chair of Regional Councils



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III. Consent Agenda – *Action Items*

- a. June 10, 2025, Meeting Minutes
- b. FY25 Region 4 Capacity Building Budget Approval
- c. 2026 State Board Quarterly Meeting Calendar
- d. Regional Councils Certifications
- e. Amendment to Board Policy #3: Administrative Grant Approval Process for Grants Under \$100,000 from Regional Per Capita Grant Allocations
- f. Amendment to Board Policy #9: Use of GO Virginia Funds for Site Development Investments



IV. Deputy Director's Report



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a. **Action Item:**

I. Implementation Grant Applications (9)

- I. Advanced Manufacturing
- II. Aerospace & Autonomous Systems
- III. Clean Energy
- IV. Information & Emerging Technology
- V. Logistics



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TRADED CLUSTERS

THE ENGINES OF REGIONAL ECONOMIES

- Serve markets in other regions or nations
- Concentrated in regions that afford specific competitive advantages
- Example industries: aircraft manufacturing, management consulting, iron ore mining

[LEARN MORE →](#)

LOCAL CLUSTERS

THE FOUNDATION OF LOCAL ECONOMIES

- Sell products and services primarily for the local market
- Located in every region
- Example industries: drug stores, physician offices, elementary schools, radio networks

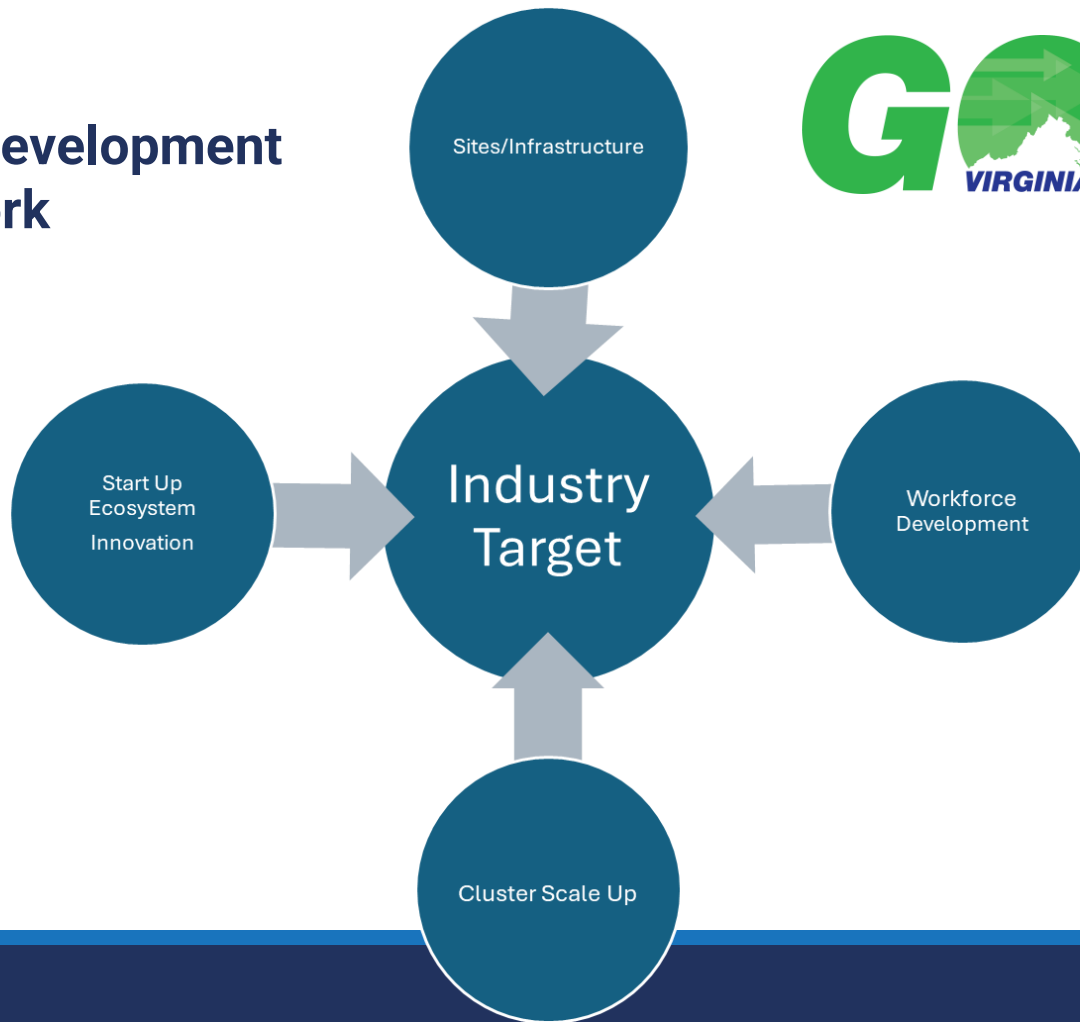
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Project Development Framework



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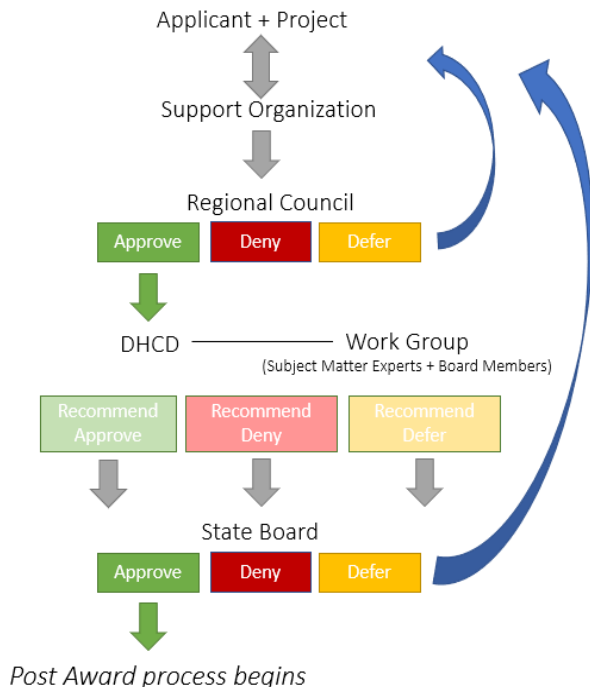


Application Process



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IN EACH REGION

GO Virginia Application Review



- 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 comply with all program requirements
 - **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



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a. Per Capita Applications

- 9 Project Proposals to Take Action On
- 4 out of 9 Regions Participated
- **Industry Cluster Targets:** Advanced Manufacturing, Aerospace & Autonomous Systems, Clean Energy, and Information Technology
- **Investment Strategies:** 6 Workforce Development Projects, 2 Startup Ecosystem Projects, and 1 Cluster Scale-Up Project



VIRGINIA INITIATIVE FOR
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**GO Virginia
Request:**
\$5,054,500.92

Total Match:
\$4,360,128

Local Match:
\$835,366



Region 5: Hampton Roads Advanced Manufacturing Modernization with Emerging Robotics (HAMMER) Program



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Targeted Industry Cluster(s): Advanced Manufacturing

Applicant: GENEDGE Alliance

Investment Strategy: Cluster Scale-Up

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

Goal: To grow and expand the advanced manufacturing industry in GO Virginia Region 5 by providing workforce training and technical assistance to small and medium manufacturers regarding the integration of collaborative robotic welding technologies.

Outcomes:

- 30 businesses served
- 20 existing businesses expanded
- 90 people trained
- 60 job placements
- 2 new programs implemented
- 90 credentials awarded

**GOVA
Request:**
\$669,783

Total Match:
\$398,360
Local Match:
\$15,000

Project Budget:
\$2,038,143

**Additional
Leverage:**
\$970,000

Staff Recommendation:
Approve



Region 2: Project RISE

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: To create a start-up ecosystem based in the universities of the Roanoke and New River Valley regions by providing commercialization funding for promising technologies, an incubator for new ventures, and a suite of AI tools and on-demand mentors to assist regional entrepreneurs.

Outcomes:

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



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**GOVA
Request:**
\$648,000

Total Match:
\$633,663
Local Match:
\$90,000

Project Budget:
\$3,581,663

**Additional
Leverage:**
\$2,300,000

Staff Recommendation: Defer

Region 4: Empowering Founders Through Every Stage

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

Applicant: Startup Virginia

Investment Strategy: Startup Ecosystem

Participating Localities: Henrico County (cash) and City of Richmond (cash)

Goal: To grow and expand the regional entrepreneurial ecosystem in GO Virginia Region 4 by introducing new incubator programs, adding new physical space for programming, and expanding programming focused on capital access.

Outcomes:

- 210 jobs created
- 60 existing businesses expanded
- 165 businesses served
- \$55 million in total funds raised by businesses served



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**GOVA
Request:**
\$1,473,710

Total Match:
\$737,112
Local Match:
\$427,000

Project Budget:
\$4,750,822

**Additional
Leverage:**
\$2,540,000

Staff Recommendation:
Approve

Region 2: Say Yes to LYH Region



VIRGINIA INITIATIVE FOR
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Targeted Industry Cluster(s): Advanced Manufacturing

Applicant: Lynchburg Regional Business Alliance

Investment Strategy: Workforce Development

Participating Localities: City of Lynchburg (cash) and Campbell County (cash)

Goal: To develop, retain, and attract new workers to the Lynchburg region through the development of a resource portal, thereby bolstering the regional workforce.

Outcomes:

- 20 Businesses Served
- 50 Job Placements

**GOVA
Request:**
\$99,999

Total Match:
\$50,000
Local Match:
\$14,390

Project Budget:
\$149,999

**Additional
Leverage:**
\$-

Staff Recommendation:
Approve



Region 2: UWCV Childcare & Workforce Development Project

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

Applicant: United Way of Central Virginia

Investment Strategy: Workforce Development

Participating Localities: City of Lynchburg (advisory) and Bedford County (advisory)

Goal: To address childcare capacity in GO Virginia Region 2.

Outcomes:

- Not Applicable



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**GOVA
Request:**
\$101,000

Total Match:
\$52,500
Local Match:
\$-

Project Budget:
\$203,500

**Additional
Leverage:**
\$50,000

Staff Recommendation: Deny

Region 5: Energy Resilience and Sustainability (ERAS) Program

Targeted Industry Cluster(s): Clean Energy

Applicant: Tidewater Community College

Investment Strategy: Workforce Development

Participating Localities: City of Portsmouth (in-kind) and City of Virginia Beach (cash)

Goal: To increase the pool of qualified workers in GO Virginia Region 5.

Outcomes:

- 160 people trained
- 120 job placements
- 10 businesses served
- 2 new apprenticeships created
- 4 new programs implemented
- 150 credentials awarded



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**GOVA
Request:**
\$1,188,330

Total Match:
\$621,976
Local Match:
\$242,976

Project Budget:
\$2,380,335

**Additional
Leverage:**
\$570,028

Staff Recommendation: Defer



Region 5: FAA Uncrewed Aerial Systems College Initiative and Talent Pipeline



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Targeted Industry Cluster(s): Uncrewed Systems and Aerospace

Applicant: Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission

Investment Strategy: Workforce Development

Participating Localities: Accomack County (advisory) and Northampton County (advisory)

Goal: To increase the pool of qualified workers in GO Virginia Region 5.

Outcomes:

- 24 people trained
- 10 people upskilled
- 26 jobs created/filled
- 5 businesses served
- 6 internships created
- 4 new programs/credentials implemented
- 12 credentials awarded

**GOVA
Request:**
\$721,216

Total Match:
\$1,972,540
Local Match:
\$-

Project Budget:
\$2,728,756

**Additional
Leverage:**
\$35,000

Staff Recommendation: Defer



Region 8: Cybersecurity Dual Enrollment Program



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Targeted Industry Cluster(s): Information and Emerging Technologies

Applicant: Rockbridge County Public Schools

Investment Strategy: Workforce Development

Participating Localities: Rockbridge County (in-kind) and City of Lexington (in-kind)

Goal: To increase the pool of qualified workers supporting the IT and Emerging Technologies industry cluster, within Cybersecurity subsector.

Outcomes:

- 20 people trained
- 10 jobs placements
- 3 businesses served
- 16 credentials awarded
- 16 students completing dual enrollment programs

GOVA Request:
\$38,227

Total Match:
\$20,000
Local Match:
\$20,000

Project Budget:
\$58,226

Additional Leverage:
\$-

Staff Recommendation:
Approve



Region 8: Rockbridge Advanced Manufacturing Workforce Development



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Targeted Industry Cluster(s): Advanced Manufacturing

Applicant: Rockbridge County Public Schools

Investment Strategy: Workforce Development

Participating Localities: Rockbridge County (in-kind) and City of Lexington (in-kind)

Goal: To increase the pool of qualified workers supporting the advanced manufacturing industry cluster.

Outcomes:

- 30 people trained
- 20 jobs placements
- 5 businesses served
- 30 credentials awarded
- 30 students completing dual enrollment programs

**GOVA
Request:**
\$131,128

Total Match:
\$71,000
Local Match:
\$71,000

Project Budget:
\$202,128

**Additional
Leverage:**
\$-

Staff Recommendation:
Approve



VIRGINIA INITIATIVE FOR
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V. Governance and Policy Committee Report



VIRGINIA INITIATIVE FOR
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VI. Regional Council Committee Report



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VII. Information Items

- *DHCD Administratively Approved Projects*
 - *Region 2 – NRV Site Advancement Strategy*
 - *Region 4 – VGR: Preparing the Region for Energy Intensive Industry*
 - *Region 5 – Hampton Roads Investment Playbook*
 - *Region 6 – River to Table – Blue Catfish Industry Study for the Northern Neck and Middle Peninsula*
 - *Region 6 – Practice Management Certification Program*



VII. Adjournment



VIRGINIA INITIATIVE FOR
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Future Meeting Schedule

- 2025
 - December 9th Board Meeting (virtual)
- 2026
 - March 24th (in-person)
 - June 9th (virtual)
 - September 15th (in-person)
 - December 8th (virtual)