

AGENDA
VIRGINIA GROWTH AND OPPORTUNITY BOARD GOVERNANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE
July 30, 2025
3:00 p.m.
[Virtual Link](#)

- I. OPENING
 - a. Call to order Chair
 - b. Roll Call Cody Anderson
 - c. Public Comment Chair
- II. Consent Agenda – ***Action Item*** Chair
 - a. Approval of March Meeting Minutes
- III. Nomination of Officers Nancy Agee
 - a. Chair
 - b. Vice Chair of Program Performance and Evaluation
 - c. Vice Chair of Regional Councils
- IV. Staff Report Cody Anderson
 - a. JLARC Recommendations Roadmap
 - b. JLARC Recommendation #8 Memo – Reduce or Eliminate Local Match
 - c. JLARC Recommendation #16 Memo – Increasing the Planning Grant Limits
 - d. Board Policy #3 Update and Memo – Excluding Site Planning from the Regional Planning Grant Cap
- V. Information Item Cody Anderson
 - a. Board Membership Turnover Report
- VI. ADJOURNMENT Chair

VIRGINIA GROWTH AND OPPORTUNITY BOARD GOVERNANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE

March 11, 2025

11:30 AM

Library of Virginia

800 E. Broad St.

Richmond, VA 23219

Members Present

Nancy Howell Agee

The Honorable Stephen Cummings

Heywood Fralin

Leah Fremouw

Emily O'Quinn

Members Absent

Jim Cheng

Joel Griffin

Kenneth Johnson

Senator L. Louise Lucas

Todd Stottlemeyer

Delegate Luke Torian

Call to Order

Ms. Emily O'Quinn, Chair of the Virginia Growth and Opportunity (GO Virginia) Board Governance and Policy Committee, 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 noted that a quorum was not present.

Public Comment

Ms. O'Quinn opened the floor for public comment.

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

The public comment period was closed.

Consent Agenda

Ms. O'Quinn noted that because a quorum was not present, that a vote would not be taken on the May 2024 meeting minutes.

Staff Report

Mr. Anderson provided an overview of the roadmap for addressing the JLARC report on GO Virginia's recommendations, including

moving all of the return on investment related recommendations to the Program Performance and Evaluation Committee as well as adding an additional JLARC recommendation for the Governance and Policy Committee to consider, which focuses on cash advances to small organizations with cash flow concerns.

Mr. Anderson led a discussion about a JLARC recommendation that suggested either eliminating local match requirements or reducing the local match from 20% to 10%. Mr. Anderson noted that staff recommends not taking action on this item due to rapid changes in the overall match policy resulting from legislative changes during the most recent General Assembly session. Mr. Anderson explained that if the Board noticed a concerning trend in resource utilization, the committee could choose to take action on this recommendation at a later date.

Mr. Anderson presented a JLARC recommendation that suggested increasing the amount of planning money a region may access from \$250,000 of their per capita allocation to 25% of their per capita allocation and to raise the cap on individual planning efforts from \$100,000. Mr. Anderson noted that staff would complete an analysis of all existing planning grant results to determine the efficacy of those plans in translation from plan to implementation, to present that data to the Regional Councils committee and Governance and Policy committee at a future meeting.

Mr. Anderson provided an overview of new administrative guidance issued by DHCD addressing the JLARC recommendation that suggested alternating full and light review cycles for growth and diversification plans at the regional council level. Mr. Anderson noted that staff met with regional council staffs' and determined that there was a path to satisfy the legislative requirement to update the regional growth and diversification plans in the form of full review and interim review cycles. Mr. Anderson explained that the Board will see the result of this process over the next review cycles, beginning in December of 2025.

Bylaws Update

Mr. Anderson provided the committee with an overview of proposed changes to the Board bylaws. Mr. Anderson noted that the proposed changes to the bylaws are either a result of clarification or a response to legislative changes. Mr. Anderson explained that the Secretary of Labor was added as a Board

member during the most recent General Assembly session, so the bylaws must be updated to reflect that change. Mr. Anderson also noted two changes to how committees work, one of which would allow any member to serve on any committee on a volunteer basis without having to be appointed by the chair, and the second being that the chair and vice chairs wouldn't be automatically required to be members of every committee. Mr. Anderson explained that a clarity change to the name of the Program Evaluation committee to the Program Performance and Evaluation committee is recommended to better align the name of the committee with its bylaw-designated scope of work.

Mr. Anderson noted that the current version of the bylaws indicates that the Vice Chair of the Regional Council committee is to serve as the presiding officer over the Board in the absence of the Chair; however, in practice, this has been exercised as a duty of the Vice Chair of Program Evaluation. Mr. Anderson explained that the proposed bylaws would make this a formal function of the Vice Chair of Program Evaluation. After receiving feedback, the staff chose to make an additional change to this section, which would allow either Vice Chair to preside over the Board in the absence of the Chair.

Mr. Anderson described the final recommended change to the bylaws, which eliminates Article 9. Mr. Anderson noted that the requirements found in this article are redundant to what is already required by the Code of Virginia and that each regional council has its bylaws, and this article should be eliminated in the spirit of recognizing the autonomy of those regional bodies in determining how they function.

Ms. O'Quinn noted that the proposed Bylaws will be presented at the March 11 meeting of the Board and that the Board must view the changes and then take action on them at the following quarterly meeting.

Information Items

Ms. O'Quinn noted that the information items included in the committee packet included an overview of the full Board membership, including turnover and term expiration dates.

Ms. O'Quinn also noted that the term of the Chair of the Board would expire in September 2025, and the Vice Chair of Program Evaluation would be rolling off the Board in July. Ms. O'Quinn

noted that the Governance and Policy committee serves as the de facto nominating committee of the Board and that a call for those interested in serving in leadership positions would be made at the March 11 meeting of the Board. Ms. O'Quinn explained that the committee would vet and nominate a slate of candidates at a meeting anticipated to be scheduled for July.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned.

DRAFT

Memorandum

TO: GO Virginia Governance and Policy Committee Members

FROM: DHCD Staff

RE: Nomination of Officers

DATE: 07/30/2025

BACKGROUND:

The Growth and Opportunity Virginia (GO Virginia) Board bylaws describe three primary leadership positions:

(i) Duties of the Chair

The Chair shall preside at all meetings of the Board at which the Chair is present and shall vote as any other member. The Chair may call special meetings as necessary and shall in general act as the Board's spokesman and perform such other duties as the Board may direct. The Chair shall have the authority to designate either the Vice Chair for Program Performance and Evaluation or the Vice Chair for Regional Councils to preside over meetings of the Board in which the Chair would be absent. Should the Chair be unable to make this designation for any reason, the power to designate either the Vice Chair for Program Performance and Evaluation or the Vice Chair for Regional Councils as the presiding officer shall be the duty of the Board's Secretary.

(ii) Duties of the Vice Chair for Program Performance and Evaluation

The Vice-Chair for Program Performance and Evaluation shall be charged with conducting annual reviews of funded projects to assess program performance, ensure programmatic compliance, and identify projects that are scalable in accordance with Board policy. The Vice-Chair for Program Performance and Evaluation shall Chair the Program Performance and Evaluation Committee.

(iii) Duties of the Vice Chair for Regional Councils

The Vice-Chair for Regional Councils shall be charged with coordination and oversight of the work of Regional Councils. The Vice Chair for Regional Councils shall be charged with development of strategies to ensure communication between the Board and Regional Councils, shall create synergy among the Regions, shall invite feedback from Regional Councils, share information on project focus and purpose, and ensure that Regional Councils are briefed on direction and strategies for implementing the GO Virginia mission. The Vice-Chair for Regional Councils shall Chair the Regional Council Committee.

The bylaws set forth the process for the election of these officers. The Board shall hold elections for the Chair, the Vice Chair for Regional Councils, and the Vice Chair for Program Performance and Evaluation at the first meeting of each fiscal year, as applicable. Legislative and ex-officio Board members shall not serve as Chair or Vice Chair. The Chair and Vice Chairs may serve a single two-year term that may be renewed for an extended term of one additional year.

All three positions will be vacant as of the September 9, 2025, meeting of the GO Virginia Board. This is due to term limitations on the position of Chair, as well as the expiring appointments of the former Vice Chair for Program Performance and Evaluation and the Vice Chair for Regional Councils.

The bylaws describe the role of the Governance and Policy Committee as responsible for establishing and implementing a policy for the development of Board members. This includes the following provision adopted as part of the Committee's Charter:

The Committee shall also be charged with identifying and developing non-legislative citizen members for Board leadership roles. The Committee shall confer and provide recommendations to the Virginia Growth and Opportunity Board and Board Chair for non-legislative citizen members that may be well suited for nomination to leadership positions.

Nominees for Consideration:

As part of the process for gathering a slate of interested Board members for leadership positions, a call for interested candidates was made at the March Governance and Policy Committee meeting, as well as at the March and June meetings of the GO Virginia Board. Interested parties were instructed to engage Board leadership ahead of the July meeting of the Governance and Policy Committee.

Three candidates have expressed interest in filling these positions and are before the Committee today for consideration. Note that, should the Committee confirm these nominations, they will be submitted to the full GO Virginia Board as recommended nominees at the Board's September 9, 2025, meeting.

Chair – Emily O'Quinn

Vice Chair for Program Performance and Evaluation – Jim Cheng

Vice Chair for Regional Councils – John King

For more information on each candidate, Committee members can find biographies attached.



EMILY O'QUINN

Senior Vice President of Investor Relations and Corporate Communications for Alpha Metallurgical Resources

BIOGRAPHY

Emily O'Quinn is Senior Vice President of Investor Relations and Corporate Communications for Alpha Metallurgical Resources (NYSE: AMR), the largest U.S. producer of metallurgical coal for the steel industry. In her role, Emily leads the company's public affairs efforts with responsibility for investor relations, government relations, communications, and corporate affairs.

With experience in both private and public companies, Emily has communications experience in a variety of business transactions including mergers, divestitures, an initial public offering, a Chapter 11 bankruptcy restructuring, and the launch of a new company. Over the course of her career, Emily also has been responsible for crisis management, strategic messaging and advocacy campaigns, corporate philanthropy, media relations, annual reporting, and management of political action committees.

In addition to her corporate background, Emily is engaged in the community and volunteers her time with organizations to help expand educational opportunities for children and increase access to the arts. She is currently President of the Board of Trustees for Barter Theatre, the State Theatre of Virginia.

Emily has served on a number of regional and local non-profit boards of directors, and she is a past gubernatorial appointee to both the Library of Virginia Board and the Southwest Virginia Cultural Heritage Foundation Board of Trustees. She currently serves in a gubernatorial appointment to the Growth and Opportunity (GO Virginia) state board, which focuses on the Commonwealth's economic development priorities to ensure a strong Virginia.

Emily holds a Bachelor's degree in English from King College in Tennessee. She is also a graduate of the Women in Governance Executive Education program through UCLA's Anderson School of Management.



JIM CHENG

Chief Strategy Officer of PIE-PS

BIOGRAPHY

Jim Cheng has over 30 years' experience as a technology entrepreneur, angel/private capital investor, business leader and a senior state government executive. He currently serves as Chief Strategy Officer for PIE-PS, a Tribal 8(a) IT service firm owned by the Pamunkey Indian Tribe of Virginia.

Jim is also co-founder of CAV Angels, a UVA Alumni based Angel Investment Group. He is also a member/advisor to several other Angel/Venture groups and high-tech Startups. He is an Executive Lecturer of Entrepreneurship at the University of Virginia School of Engineering and Applied Science. He also serves on numerous boards/advisory boards of community non-profit organizations and for-profit technology companies.

Previously, Jim served as the Secretary of Commerce and Trade for the Commonwealth of Virginia (2010-2014). His portfolio included 13 state agencies emphasizing business, economic development, innovation and entrepreneurship. As Secretary, he led numerous state trade delegations to destinations around the world, and, along with the Governor, interacted with corporate and world leaders.

Before serving in State Government, Jim was an award-winning tech entrepreneur in the government IT contracting industry, building his company, CHM, to close to 600 people before successfully exiting in 2005. CHM was the fastest growing private company in Virginia in 1999 and was named the #12th fastest growing company in the US by Inc Magazine in 2000.

Jim holds a BS Degree in Computer Science from ODU, an MBA from the UVA Darden School of Business, and a JD from Georgetown University Law Center.



JOHN KING

President, Virginia Poultry Growers Cooperative

BIOGRAPHY

John King is the President of Virginia Poultry Growers Cooperative, a Virginia company that employs over 500 employees and has over 200 grower members. He was involved in the planning and start-up of the organization in 2004 and named General Manager in 2014 and President in 2017. John has nearly 30 years of experience in sales, marketing, finance, and business management with both large and small public and private companies.

John also serves on several industry related committees and boards such as the National Turkey Federation, Virginia Poultry Federation, GO Virginia and the Center for Rural Virginia. A long-time believer in mentorship programs, John is committed to investing in the next generation of business leaders. He serves on the Board of Massanutten Technical Center Foundation and works with a variety of organizations whose goals are to enhance student success and community growth.

John attended Radford University where he earned a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration and an MBA with a concentration in Finance. He lives in Harrisonburg, Virginia with his wife and has five children.



Memorandum

TO: GO Virginia Governance and Policy Committee Members

FROM: DHCD Staff

RE: JLARC Recommendations Review Roadmap

DATE: 07/30/2025

BACKGROUND:

On December 10, 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 options. At the December 11, 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.

Recommendation Number	Recommendation Language	Staff Recommendation	Status
8	The GO Virginia board should either eliminate or reduce the local match requirement for all grants.	The Committee should consider the memo which describes "meaningful local participation" and the description in code "Regional activity" means an economic or workforce development-focused collaborative project or program that is (i) endorsed by a regional council, (ii) consistent with the economic growth and diversification plan developed by the regional council, and (iii) carried out, performed on behalf of, or contracted for by two or more localities, political subdivisions, or public bodies corporate and politic within a region. There is a Local Match Waiver process in place.	IN PROGRESS/COMPLETE: This item was discussed at the March 2025 Committee meeting and will be reviewed again at the July 2025 Committee meeting. 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 accompanies the discussion. The staff recommendation on this item is to not take action unless future data suggests that recent total match reductions are not sufficiently reducing barriers to access to the GO Virginia fund. The Board has approved a local match waiver process that provides relief for local governments unable to contribute.
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.	Staff will review the planning grant activity for each region (including those that moved forward to implementation) and bring forward a recommendation. If the Board approves of a change, staff recommends creation of a new Board Policy.	IN PROGRESS: This item was first discussed at the Committee's March 2025 meeting. Staff presented a memorandum and noted that an analysis of the conversion rate of planning grants to implementation projects was planned to determine the efficacy of planning efforts within the GO Virginia program. The initial analysis was shared with the Regional Council Committee for feedback. Members of the Committee requested that a deeper analysis be conducted to determine trends in planning projects that were successfully leveraged into implementation projects. An updated analysis has been conducted and will be shared along with a memorandum discussing findings and a staff recommendation to not increase planning limits at this time.
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.		IN PROGRESS: This item is being discussed internally among agency staff to determine other programs that utilize similar models and to determine if/what policies and processes if the Board were to move forward with this recommendation.

Memorandum

TO: GO Virginia Governance and Policy Committee Members

FROM: DHCD Staff

RE: JLARC Recommendation #8 – Local Match Policy

DATE: 07/30/2025

BACKGROUND:

As part of the 2023 JLARC Report regarding the GO Virginia Program, the Commission adopted a series of recommendations. Specifically, recommendation 8 recommended that the Board eliminate or reduce local match requirements for all grants.

The specific language of recommendation #8 reads as follows:

“The Code requires GO Virginia grants to be matched 1:1 with funding from non-state sources, and the board added a further requirement that a portion of the match must come from local sources. Lowering GO Virginia's match requirements would likely result in greater utilization of grant funds. The match requirements for regional per capita grants, which account for most GO Virginia grants, were temporarily reduced from FY21-FY23 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and local match was temporarily dropped. During this period, GO Virginia funded 22 percent more per capita projects, and the average grant size was twice as large.”

Local match policy has evolved considerably since the GO Virginia program's inception:

October 9, 2018: At the direction of the GO Virginia State Board, DHCD staff issued a memorandum on local match requirements, noting:

“All GO Virginia Per Capita and Competitive grants must be matched \$1:1 by non-state resources such as federal, private, non-profit, and local entities. Those matching funds should include a local contribution of not less than 20% of the required \$1:1 match, or \$50,000, whichever is greater.”

Example:

GO Virginia Request	Total Match Requirement	Local Match Requirement	Minimum Local Match Requirement
\$100,000	\$100,000	\$50,000	\$50,000

April 17, 2020: The GO Virginia State Board relaxed match requirements by adopting Board Policy #11, which reduced total match from 1:1 to 2:1 and waived local match requirements, citing fiscal distress caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. This policy was extended on September 22, 2020, March 16, 2021, and April 21, 2022.

Example:

GO Virginia Request	Total Match Requirement	Local Match Requirement	Minimum Local Match Requirement
\$100,000	\$50,000	\$0	\$0

June 13, 2023: Board Policy #11 was amended and readopted, returning the match policy to \$1:1 with 20% of the required match for projects required to come from localities. Requirements of a \$50,000 minimum local match contribution were removed, and an objective local match waiver was implemented to provide additional flexibility to the regions.

Example:

GO Virginia Request	Total Match Requirement	Local Match Requirement	Minimum Local Match Requirement
\$100,000	\$100,000	\$20,000	\$0

July 01, 2024: Legislation adopted by the General Assembly as part of the 2024 Session reduced the legal match requirement for the GO Virginia fund from \$1:1 to \$2:1. This change is consistent with JLARC's policy option #1, *"The General Assembly could amend § 2.2-2489 of the Code of Virginia to change the match requirement for GO Virginia grants to being at least equal to half of the grant amount."*

June 04, 2024: The State Board adopts an amended version of Board Policy #11 (with a delayed enactment date of July 01, 2024), making Board policy regarding total match requirements consistent with the upcoming legal requirement changes to the Fund. The language regarding the local match in that policy reads:

*"GO Virginia projects require the participation of two or more localities and implementation projects shall require that **20% of the total match be contributed by partnering localities.**"*

Example:

GO Virginia Request	Total Match Requirement	Local Match Requirement	Minimum Local Match Requirement
\$100,000	\$50,000	\$10,000	\$0

Because the total match changes from 1:1 to 2:1 were implemented by the General Assembly, this also intrinsically reduced the local match requirements for implementation projects by half as well.

Attachments to this memo include the most recently adopted version of Board Policy #11, the local match waiver form endorsed by the Board, and the original memorandum detailing local and total match requirements at the onset of the program.

Staff Recommendation:

The GO Virginia program has established eligibility criteria that two or more localities must be participants in any given project. Financial support for a GO Virginia proposal is the strongest demonstration of participation and commitment by a locality; however, it is understood that not every locality has the capacity to provide financial assistance and that other forms of participation are sufficient to support needed economic development projects. With this in mind, the GO Virginia State Board's adoption of the amended Board Policy #11 created an objective waiver for local match requirements to ensure that fiscally challenged localities can participate and benefit from the GO Virginia program.

With the match waiver process in place and the evolution of total match requirements that have recently occurred, staff recommends the Committee take no action at this time.



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

Board Policy #11

TITLE: GO Virginia Program Match Requirements – Per Capita Funds

EFFECTIVE DATE: 07/01/2024

AUTHORITY: § 2.2-2489 of the Code of Virginia

POLICY STATEMENT: State law requires that any grant awarded from the Fund to a regional council shall require matching funds at least equal to half the amount of the grant.

GO Virginia projects require the participation of two or more localities and implementation projects shall require that 20% of the total match be contributed by partnering localities. That match may be cash or in kind.

Participating localities may request a waiver of the Local Match as required in the table below and shall submit that request for consideration using the Match Waiver Administrative Guidance developed by DHCD.

PER CAPITA FUNDS	
Grant Type	Local Match Requirement
Enhanced Capacity Building (planning)	No Local Match Required
Regional Entrepreneurship Initiative (planning)	No Local Match Required
Sites (planning)	No Local Match Required
Sites Implementation	20% of Total Match
Broadband (planning)	No Local Match Required
Broadband Implementation	20% of Total Match
Project Implementation	20% of Total Match

APPROVAL AND REVIEW: This Board policy was reviewed and approved on 06/04/2024.

SUPERSESSION: This review includes technical amendments to Board Policy #11 approved on 04/17/2020, 3/16/2021, 4/21/2022, and on 06/13/2023.

DHCD DIRECTOR: Bryan Horn

Local Match Waiver Request

{Date}

Attn: GO Virginia State Board

The GO Virginia Region {number} Council is requesting a state board waiver of the local match requirement on behalf of {subgrantee} for {project name} This project is being performed by the subgrantee on behalf of the following participating localities: {list here}.

We are requesting a local match waiver in the amount of {\$amount} under the following conditions (please check one) and are submitting a project budget aligned with our request.

☐ 50% or more of the participating localities have fiscal stress rated as High or Above Average as measured by the Fiscal Stress Index published by the Commission on Local Government and are unable to support this project.

OR

☐ 50% or more of the participating localities do NOT meet the above criteria for fiscal stress, however, the applicant has attempted to solicit the local contribution and they are unable to provide it.

Please describe why the participating localities have been unable to provide the local contribution as well as a letter of support from each describing how they will meaningfully participate in the project.

{Regional Council Chair Signature}

Virginia Growth and Opportunity Fund (GO Virginia) Regional Collaboration & Local participation Guidance

Regional Collaboration

The GO Virginia program incentivizes regional collaboration around initiatives designed to grow and diversify regional economies and create higher paying jobs in targeted traded industry sectors. State Code defines a regional activity as follows:

"Regional activity" means an economic or workforce development-focused collaborative project or program that is (i) endorsed by a regional council, (ii) consistent with the economic growth and diversification plan developed by the regional council, and (iii) carried out, performed on behalf of, or contracted for by two or more localities, political subdivisions, or public bodies corporate and politic within a region.

Local Participation

Eligible projects must have the participation of two or more localities, political subdivisions, or public bodies, both corporate and political, within a region. This includes an expectation that the localities will play an active role in the development of the project proposal and remain engaged in the project after the award announcement. While local match may not be required for an individual project, it is important to note that applications that include local match are not just preferred but also viewed as favorable. Including local match significantly enhances the project's regional support and sustainability while highlighting the importance of their contribution.

Partnering localities may demonstrate collaboration and meaningful participation in several ways, including, but not limited to the following:

- Cash or in-kind contributions (non-state funds) to the project made by partnering localities or by an intermediary on behalf of two or more of their local government members (e.g. regional economic development organization, local EDAs, PDC¹);
- Active ongoing participation on a steering committee or advisory group tasked to guide or oversee implementation of the project;
- Utilization of a Regional Facility Industrial Authority or other similar, formal regional intermediary that outlines an agreed upon cost-sharing mechanism;

¹ Please reference [Match Guidelines](#) and specific guidance for documenting Pass Through Local Match, *In order to document funds as part of local match, a commitment letter from the organization should include: a list of localities that contributed to the local match, the total \$ amount received from localities, and an indication of whether the locality(s) authorized the local match through representation on the organization's Board, or through additional documentation attached.*

- Federal recovery funds (CARES, ARPA) provided by a locality and designated to support an eligible activity related to a project will be qualified as local match;

Letters of support should describe how the localities are contributing in one or more of the above activities, and submitted applications must include signed in-kind contribution forms as applicable. Letters of support are not sufficient to demonstrate regional collaboration or meaningful local participation.

Evaluating Regional Collaboration

Consistent with enabling legislation, the level of regional collaboration presented in applications will be evaluated based on the following factors:

- The expected economic impact or outcome of the activity, with particular emphasis on goals identified in the regional council's plan for economic growth and diversification;
- The fiscal resources from non-Fund sources that will be committed to the activity, including local or federal funds, private contributions, and cost savings expected to be achieved through regional collaboration;
- The number and percentage of localities, including political subdivisions and bodies corporate and politic, within the region that are participating in the activity, the portion of the region's population represented by the participating localities, and the participation of localities that are outside of the applicant region;
- The compatibility with other projects, programs, or existing infrastructure in a region to maximize the leverage of grants from the Fund to encourage new collaborative activities;
- The expected economic impact and outcomes of the project and the complexity of the project relative to the size of the economy of the region or to the population of the participating localities;
- The projected cost savings and other efficiencies generated by the proposed activity, and the local resources generated by collaboration that have been or will be repurposed to support the activity;
- The character of the regional collaboration, including the nature and extent of the regional effort involved in developing and implementing the proposed activity, the complexity of the activity, the prospective impact on relations between and among the affected localities, and the prospective impact on collaboration between and among business, education, and government entities in the region;

- Interstate, inter-regional, and other beneficial forms of collaboration, if any, that will accompany, result from, or be encouraged by the activity;
- Efficiency in the administration and oversight of regional activities; and
- Other factors deemed to be appropriate by the Board.

Memorandum

TO: GO Virginia Governance and Policy Committee Members

FROM: DHCD Staff

RE: JLARC Recommendation #16 – Increasing Planning Grant Limits

DATE: 07/30/2025

BACKGROUND:

As part of the 2023 JLARC Report regarding the GO Virginia Program, the Commission adopted a series of recommendations. Specifically, Recommendation 16 recommended that the Board amend its policy on planning grant caps by modifying the total amount allowed for planning efforts from the current cap of \$250,000 a year for all regions and adjusting the maximum amount for an individual planning grant from the current cap of \$100,000.

The specific language of recommendation #16 reads as follows:

“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.

The GO Virginia State Board initially adopted Board Policy #3 in 2018, establishing two rules regarding the use of regional per capita allocations for planning grants.

- 1. The Board limited the resources that any Region could allocate in a single fiscal year for planning to \$250,000. It was envisioned that a small subset of the Regional allocations could be utilized as a pipeline development tool for future implementation projects while also keeping a majority of the regional funds focused on implementation efforts.
- 2. The Board limited the resources that an applicant could request for a single planning effort to \$100,000 (for administrative approval). Planning efforts in excess of \$100,000 must be approved by the GO Virginia State Board.

Board Policy #3 can be found attached to this memorandum.

DHCD analyzed the impact of Planning, Pilot, Feasibility Grants, or Planning Grants, by reviewing 72 GO Virginia planning grants. The goal was to assess the outcomes of these grants and determine if they have successfully transitioned into full-scale projects, either within or outside the GO Virginia framework. The findings were presented to the Regional Council Committee and Regional Council staff for feedback.

DHCD found that 37 out of 72 planning grants have led to tangible impacts from implementation

projects, resulting in a success rate of 51% across participating regions. Of the remaining 35 grants, many have potential for high-impact initiatives but have yet to show results. For this analysis, DHCD determined that if a feasibility study recommended that a subgrantee not pursue further implementation that the feasibility study fulfilled its intended purpose and constitutes a project impact. This analysis excluded site planning applications.

Staff found opportunities to improve alignment across Board Policies #3 and #9, as well as DHCD planning grant administrative guidance.

Staff recommends advancing an amendment to Board Policy #3 to exclude site planning and broadband planning from the planning grant cap due to their unique nature, and advancing a technical amendment to Board Policy #9 to align the sites policy accordingly. Following the Board's decision, DHCD will proceed with updates to any related administrative guidance.

Memorandum

TO: GO Virginia Governance and Policy Committee Members

FROM: DHCD Staff

RE: Site Development Planning Applications

DATE: 07/30/2025

BACKGROUND:

The GO Virginia State Board initially adopted Board Policy #3 in 2018, establishing two rules regarding use of regional per capita allocations for planning grants. First, the Board limited the amount of resources that any Region could allocate in a single fiscal year for planning to \$250,000. It was envisioned that a small subset of the Regional allocations could be utilized as a pipeline development tool for future implementation projects while also keeping a majority of the regional funds focused on implementation efforts. The second was to limit the amount of state funds that an applicant could request for a single planning effort to \$100,000 (for administrative approval). An applicant may also choose to apply for a planning effort in excess of \$100,000, though those proposals must be approved by the GO Virginia State Board.

In 2019, the GO Virginia State Board adopted Board Policy #9, which allowed GO Virginia investments 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. As part of this policy, the Board endorsed use of GO Virginia Per Capita implementation funding for site planning activities, including site characterization and prioritization, and activities to develop collaborative cost/revenue-sharing agreements. This policy articulated that site planning applications for less than \$100,000 are eligible for administrative approval and count against a region's \$250,000 planning grant allowance.

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends taking the following actions to promote program flexibility and recognize the distinct difference between GO Virginia planning, feasibility, and small-scale pilot projects and site development-related planning efforts:

1. The Committee should consider adopting an amendment to Board Policy #3, clearly recognizing the difference between planning, feasibility, and small-scale pilot projects and site development planning efforts as it relates to the \$250,000 regional planning grant limit; and
2. To coincide with this Board Policy amendment, DHCD staff will propose a technical amendment to Policy #9 at the next GO Virginia State Board meeting to provide consistency among the Board's policies.

Board Policy #3

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

EFFECTIVE DATE: ~~12/10/24~~09/09/2025

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 for Planning, Feasibility, and Small-Scale Pilot projects.

To receive administrative approval, the Regional Council must submit a ~~planning grant~~Planning, Feasibility, and Small-Scale Pilot application for administrative approval to DHCD. An application considered for administrative approval must comply with all existing DHCD 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. At each Board meeting, DHCD staff will present a summary of all administrative approvals granted during the interim between meetings.

Note that site planning grants and broadband planning grants are excluded from the \$250,000 regional planning grant limit.

APPROVAL AND REVIEW: This Board policy was reviewed and approved on 02/13/2018 and amended on 12/10/2024 and 09/09/2025.

SUPERSESION: N/A

DHCD DIRECTOR: ~~Bryan Horn~~Maggie Beal



Memorandum

TO: GO Virginia Governance and Policy Committee Members

FROM: DHCD Staff

RE: Upcoming Expiring Terms and Board Membership Turnover Report

DATE: 07/30/2025

RECENT MEMBER TERM EXPIRATIONS

Gubernatorial Appointees:

Leah Fremouw – Expired Term

Todd Stottlemeyer – Expired Term

UPCOMING EXPIRING TERMS:

Gubernatorial Appointees:

Kenneth Johnson, Expiration 06/30/2026 – Eligible for Reappointment

John King, Expiration 06/30/2026 – Eligible for Reappointment

House of Delegates Appointees:

Jonathan Peterson, Expiration 11/4/2026 – Eligible for Reappointment

RECENT BOARD APPOINTMENTS:

Gubernatorial Appointees:

Bill Dotson (New Appointment)

Thomas Ransom (New Appointment)

FULL BOARD ROSTER:

Name	Member Type	GOVA Region	Expiration of Current Term	Seat Requirements
Gubernatorial Appointees:				
Sec of Finance - Steve Cummings	ex-officio voting member	n/a	Coincident w/ office term	One of four Secretaries from Ag & Forestry, Commerce & Trade, Education, Finance, and Labor; ex-officio
Sec of Commerce and Trade – Juan Pablo Segura	ex-officio voting member	n/a	Coincident w/ office term	One of four Secretaries from Ag & Forestry, Commerce & Trade, Education, Finance, and Labor; ex-officio
Sec of Labor – Bryan Slater	ex-officio voting member	n/a	Coincident w/ office term	One of four Secretaries from Ag & Forestry, Commerce & Trade, Education, Finance, and Labor; ex-officio
VACANT	ex-officio voting member	n/a	Coincident w/ office term	One of four Secretaries from Ag & Forestry, Commerce & Trade, Education, Finance, and Labor; ex-officio
Kenneth Johnson	non-legislative citizen member	4	6/30/2026	significant private-sector business experience
John King	non-legislative citizen member	8	6/30/2026	significant private-sector business experience
Nancy Howell Agee*	non-legislative citizen member	2	6/30/2027	significant private-sector business experience
Emily O’Quinn	non-legislative citizen member	1	6/30/2027	significant private-sector business experience
Cliff Fleet	non-legislative citizen member	5	6/30/2027	significant private-sector business experience
Jim Cheng	non-legislative citizen member	9	6/30/2028	significant private-sector business experience
Reggie Aggarwal	non-legislative citizen member	7	6/30/2028	significant private-sector business experience
Fouad Qreitem	non-legislative citizen member	7	6/30/2028	significant private-sector business experience
William Dotson	non-legislative citizen member	6	6/30/2029	significant private-sector business experience
Thomas Ransom	non-legislative citizen member	4	6/30/2029	significant private-sector business experience
Virginia Senate Appointees:				

Benjamin J. Davenport Jr. *	non-legislative citizen member	3	4/11/2027	Appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules from different regions of the Commonwealth with significant private-sector business experience
Heywood W. Fralin*	non-legislative citizen member	2	4/11/2027	Appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules from different regions of the Commonwealth with significant private-sector business experience
Virginia House of Delegates Appointees:				
Jonathan M. Peterson	non-legislative citizen member	7	11/4/2026	Appointed by the Speaker of the House from different regions of the Commonwealth with significant private-sector business experience
Joel Griffin	non-legislative citizen member	6	01/20/2029	Appointed by the Speaker of the House from different regions of the Commonwealth with significant private-sector business experience
Virginia Senate Members:				
L. Louise Lucas	Senate Member - ex-officio	5	Coincident w/ office term	Chair of Senate Finance and Appropriations Committee
Creigh Deeds	Senate Member	9	Coincident w/ office term	Member of the Senate appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules
Ryan McDougle	Senate Member	4	Coincident w/ office term	Member of the Senate appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules
Virginia House of Delegates Members:				
Don Scott	House Member	5	Coincident w/ office term	Member Appointed by the Speaker of the House
Luke Torian	House Member	7	Coincident w/ office term	Chair of the House Committee on Appropriations
Terry Kilgore	House Member	1	Coincident w/ office term	Member of the House appointed by Speaker of the House
Michelle Maldonado	House Member	7	Coincident w/ office term	Member of the House appointed by Speaker of the House
*Not Eligible for Reappointment				