

**GOVA REGION 3
FULL COUNCIL
MEETING PACKET**

October 15, 2025



Full Council Meeting

Date and Time: October 15, 2025
1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Location: SOVA Innovation Hub
715 Wilbourn Ave
South Boston, VA

Link: <https://tinyurl.com/2hunf7w3>

Dial-In: 929-205-6099

Meeting ID: 89871503203

Password: 287955

Purpose Statement

"Create more high-paying jobs through incentivized collaboration, primarily through out-of-state revenue, which diversifies and strengthens regional economies."

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order and Chair's Opening Comments Lauren Willis
- II. Roll Call and Confirmation of Quorum.....Ann Wright
- III. Public Comments.....Lauren Willis
- IV. Declaration of Conflicts of Interest..... Lauren Willis
- V. Approval of Meeting Minutes and Notes..... Lauren Willis
- VI. Financial Report and Approved Projects Update.....Ann Wright
- VII. GO Virginia Region 3 Project Funding Matrix ReportAnn Wright

Special Appearances and Presentations

- VIII. Resolution of Recognition and Appreciation for Julie Brown.....Lauren Willis

Old Business

- IX. Project Pipeline.....Bryan David

New Business

- X. Project Review Committee.....Bryan David
 - Blue Ridge Innovation Corridor
 - Region 3 Industrial Skilled Trades Regional Expansion
 - Danville Aviation Training Project
- XI. GO Virginia Region 3 2025 Growth & Diversification Plan.....Liz Povar, Bryan David
- XII. GO Virginia Region 3 Annual Report_FY25.....Bryan David, Ann Wright

Program Director's Report.....Bryan David

- XIII. Southern Virginia Partnership for Health Sciences Careers_ Request for Letters of Interest for a Lead Organization
- XIV. GO Virginia State Board Retreat and Meeting

Adjourn

MINUTES

GO VIRGINIA REGION 3 FULL COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, July 16, 2025

REGULAR BUSINESS

Call To Order

Chair Willis called the GO Virginia (GOVA) Region 3 Full Council all-virtual meeting to order on Wednesday, July 16, 2025, at 1:00 p.m.

Roll Call and Confirmation of Quorum

Deborah Gosney conducted a roll call. Chair Willis declared a quorum was present.

Region 3 Executive Committee Members

Members	In Person	Virtual	Absent	Members	In Person	Virtual	Absent
Kelly Lanier-Arnold			X	Randolph Lail		X	
Sheldon Barr		X		Elizabeth Leggett		X	
Robert Bates		X		Ilsa Loeser		X	
Clark Casteel			X	Sheri McGuire			
Melody Foster		X		Danny Marshal		X	
Kristin Gee		X		John Parkinson		X	
Amy Griffin		X		Alfreda Reynolds		X	
Keith Harkins		X		Dale Wagner			X
Rhonda Hodges		X		Lauren Willis		X	
Angie Kellett							

Ex Officio Member

Name – Organization - Role	In Person	Virtual	Absent
Charley Majors – Region 3 Executive Committee - Advisor		X	

Region 3 Staff

Name – Organization - Role	In Person	Virtual	Absent
Bryan David (UVA Weldon Cooper Center) - Program Director – Region 3 Contract Staff		X	
Deborah Gosney - Southside PDC - Support Org. & Fiscal Agent		X	
Ann Wright (CTW Consulting) – Southside PDC Contract Staff		X	
Liz Povar (The Riverlink Group) - Southside PDC Contract Staff		X	
Andy Wells – Southside PDC – Support Org. & Fiscal Agent		X	

Guests in Attendance

Name – Organization - Role	In Person	Virtual
Billy Gammel - DHCD GO Virginia - Senior Program Administrator		X
Jacob Honig – DHCD GO Virginia – Program Administrator		X
Joeseeph Dennie – DHCD GO Virginia – Program Administrator		X
Shara Gibson- DHCD GO Virginia – Program Manager		X
Dr. Scott Lowman - Institute for Advanced Learning and Research - Vice President, Applied Research		X
Cynthia Lawrence - Blue Partnership for Health Science Careers – Director of Workforce Development		X
Dr. Carrie Sutter- George Mason University - Co-Director Center for Health Workforce		X
Alex Veatch – LetterPress Communications – Chief Executive Officer		X
Karyn Kean - Letterpress Communications – Account Manager		X
Derek Smith - Resource Innovation Institute – Executive Director		X
Rob Eddy - Resource Innovation Institute - Resource Efficiency Horticulturist		X
Shelia Minor- Public Admin & Policy PhD student @ Old Dominion University – meeting observer		X

Public Comments

No written or verbal public comments were received.

Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

Conflicts of interest potentially exist for activities benefiting and/or contracts issued to the following organizations and projects listed below:

Name	Organization(s)
Randolph Lail	Mid-Atlantic Broadband; SOVA Innovation Hub
Rhonda Hodges	IALR Foundation Board
Clark Casteel	Danville Regional Foundation
Lauren Willis	Charlotte County Public Schools
Keith Harkins	Southside Virginia Community College
Alfreda Reynolds	Brunswick County

Agenda Amendment

Chair Willis requested an amendment to the agenda to move Committee Reports to the first order of business. **Melody Foster made a motion to amend the agenda; the motion was seconded by Robert Bates and approved unanimously by roll call vote.**

Committee Reports

The Nominating Committee reported that Clark Casteel, President/CEO, Danville Regional Foundation; Melody Foster retired Executive Director, Commonwealth Regional Council and Rhonda Hodges, Principal and Owner, Hodges Workwise, LLC have each agreed to a four-year reappointment to the Region 3 Council with a term beginning July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2030. Additionally, Delegate Danny Marshall House District 49- Danville City, Pittsylvania County, and Halifax County; Sheri McGuire, Associate Vice President for Community and Economic Development, Longwood University; and Angie Kellett, Director of Economic Development, Mecklenburg County have each agreed to serve on the Region 3 Council for a four-year term beginning July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2030. **Randy Lail made a motion to appoint/reappoint the Council members as recommended by the Nominating Committee; the motion was seconded by Amy Griffin and approved unanimously by roll call vote.**

Chair Willis appointed herself, Randy Lail, Robert Bates, Amy Griffin, and Elizabeth Leggett to the Executive Committee. She also appointed herself and Randy Lail to both the Personnel and Nominating Committees, noting an additional Executive Committee member will be added to each. Special purpose committees will be appointed as needed. Chair Willis asked members for questions or comments; there being none, there was no discussion regarding committee appointments.

Approval of Minutes

Chair Willis noted that the minutes of the April 16, 2025 Full Council meeting were received via email prior to the meeting and included in the meeting packet. **Melody Foster made a motion that the minutes from the April 16, 2025 Full Council meeting be approved as presented; the motion was seconded by Keith Harkins and approved unanimously by roll call vote. Ilsa Loeser abstained as she was not present at the April meeting.**

Financial Reports & Project Update

Bryan David and Deborah Gosney presented the Financial Reports and Project Updates that were included in the meeting packet for the period ending June 30, 2025. **Randy Lail made a motion that the Financial Reports be approved as presented; the motion was seconded by Elizabeth Leggett and approved unanimously by roll call vote.**

SPECIAL APPEARANCES & PRESENTATIONS

LetterPress Communications Presentation

Alex Veatch, Chief Operating Officer, LetterPress Communications, presented the FY25 (7/1/2024 – 6/30/2025) Region 3 Annual Communications Report.

SOVA Partnership for Health Science Careers Presentation

Cynthia Lawrence, Executive Director, Blue Ridge Partnership for Health Science Careers and Dr. Carrie Sutter, Co-Director Center for Health Workforce, George Mason University presented the final report for the Southern Virginia Partnership for Health Science Careers which was funded by a Region 3 Talent Pathway Initiatives (TPI) planning grant.

Co-locating Data Centers and CEA Greenhouses Presentation

Derek Smith, Executive Director, and Rob Eddy, Resource Efficiency Horticulturist, Resource Innovation Institute presented the Co-locating Data Centers and CEA Greenhouses Feasibility Report which was funded by a Region 3 per capita planning grant.

OLD BUSINESS

Project Pipeline

Bryan David reviewed the current project pipeline which was emailed to Council members prior to the meeting. The following projects were discussed:

- SOVA Partnership for Health Science Careers: This project will implement the plan developed through the SOVA Health Sciences TPI Planning grant. The project will support a staff position to facilitate data collection, data analysis, and healthcare workforce development.
- Industrial Skilled Trades Training Program: This project will support the creation of a workforce development training program for industrial skilled trades focusing on Region 3's targeted sectors. Project partners will include Patrick & Henry, Danville, and Southside Virginia Community Colleges.
- CEA Innovation Center Research Building Expansion: This will be an implementation project for the CEA Strategy & Roadmap which will involve installing a prefabricated research

greenhouse, making associated building improvements, and preparing the site and utilities.

- Blue Ridge Innovation Corridor (BRIC): BRIC is an initiative to establish Virginia's first inter-regional economic zone focusing on advanced manufacturing and biotechnology. This planning project will establish a comprehensive framework for transforming the BRIC corridor into a globally competitive innovation ecosystem spanning across GO Virginia Regions 2 & 3.
- Region 3 Leadership Development Project: This project will be in partnership with the UVA Sorenson Institute for Leadership and the Virginia Institute for Government to develop a community leadership program in Region 3.

Chair Willis asked members for questions or comments; there being none, there was no discussion regarding the updates.

NEW BUSINESS

Project Approval

GOVA Region 4 staff has received a site development planning application from Virginia's Gateway Region (regional economic development organization) for a routine regional site development planning grant for all of its member localities to identify and prioritize new sites suitable for public sector industrial park development. As of July 1st, Brunswick County, along with Greensville County and Emporia, are members of this regional economic development organization. Based on past practice involving Region 3 and Region 4 localities, Region 3 has been asked to contribute one-ninth of the \$100,000 planning grant request on behalf of Brunswick County totaling \$11,111. **Randy Lail made a motion to approve the application as presented; the motion was seconded by Ilsa Loser and approved unanimously by roll call vote. Alfreda Reynolds abstained citing a conflict of interest.**

Policy Update

A requirement of the code provision (§2.2-3708.3, Code of Virginia) requires each GOVA Region Council to readopt its electronic meeting policy annually. **Elizabeth Leggett made a motion to adopt the policy as presented; the motion was seconded by Melody Foster and approved unanimously by roll call vote.**

PROGRAM DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Bryan David presented the Program Director's Report as detailed in the meeting packet. The topics discussed were the status of the SOVA Fab Lab Project, the SVCC Occupational Training Facility Project, the G&D Plan Update, the GOVA Regional Council Committee Report, and upcoming Region 3 staff transition.

The Executive Committee entered into closed session for the discussion of upcoming personnel changes. Randy Lail made the motion that pursuant to Section §2.2-3711 of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, the GO Virginia Region 3 Council convene in closed session to discuss Region 3 staffing transitions; the motion was seconded by Melody Foster and approved by roll call vote.

Upon return to open session, Randy Lail made the motion that having convened and concluded a closed meeting pursuant to Section §2.2-3711 of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act on this

date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and per Section §2.2-3712(D) of the Code of Virginia to certify that the executive meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia law; and that the GO Virginia Region 3 Council hereby certified that to the best of each member's knowledge;

1) Only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia Law were discussed in the executive meeting to which certification resolution applies, and;

2) Only such business matters as were identified in the motion convening the executive meeting were heard, discussed, or considered by the Council; the motion was seconded by Melody Foster and approved by roll call vote. No formal action was taken upon return to open session.

ADJOURN

There being no additional business matters to be brought before the GOVA Region 3 Council, Chair Willis adjourned the meeting at 3:15 p.m.

These minutes were approved on ____.

Deborah Gosney, Southside PDC
Executive Director

Lauren Willis, GOVA Region 3
Council Chair

FINANCIAL REPORT & PROJECT UPDATE

GO VIRGINIA REGION 3 FY25 OPERATING BUDGET

GO Virginia Remittance Activity

GO VIRGINIA



VIRGINIA INITIATIVE FOR
GROWTH & OPPORTUNITY
IN EACH REGION

FY25 Budget Year: May 1, 2025-April 30, 2026

Report Date: September 2025

FY25 Approved Budget Allocation

Budget Categories	Operating Budget	Remit # 5	Previous Remittances	Total to Date Remittances	Balance Remaining
PROGRAM OPERATIONS					
Audit	1,500.00	-	1,500.00	1,500.00	-
Meetings & Facilitation					
Special Events	-	-	-	-	-
Meetings & Trainings	6,750.00	-	510.46	510.46	6,239.54
Total Meetings & Facilitation	6,750.00	-	510.46	510.46	6,239.54
Supplies	150.00	-	35.28	35.28	114.72
Salaries - SPDC	84,000.00	8,524.56	37,112.86	45,637.42	38,362.58
Contract Services					
SPDC UVA MOU	113,902.00		36,758.15	36,758.15	77,143.85
SPDC Contract Staff - Riverlink	9,000.00	-	2,250.00	2,250.00	6,750.00
Total Contract Services	122,902.00	-	39,008.15	39,008.15	83,893.85
Outreach/Marketing - Letterpress	32,880.00	2,625.00	13,125.00	15,750.00	17,130.00
Total Program Operations	248,182.00	11,149.56	91,291.75	102,441.31	145,740.69
PLANNING					
G& D plan Update	1,250.00		-	-	1,250.00
Technical Assistance	568.00		-	-	568.00
Total Planning	1,818.00	-	-	-	1,818.00
TOTAL	250,000.00	11,149.56	91,291.75	102,441.31	147,558.69

The Checking Account is comprised of	49,229.79	Local Funds (Martinsville-Henry Co EDC Match)
	520.72	Interest cumulative through September 2025
	49,750.51	Total Local Funds
	(11,149.56)	Payments
	38,600.95	Checkbook Register Balance
Payments included in Remittance # 5		
Letterpress August PR	2,625.00	
SPDC August Salaries	8,524.56	
Total	11,149.56	

SEED INNOVATION HUB

Grant Agreement Term: January 2, 2023 - January 1, 2026

Report Period: September 2025

Sub-Grantee: Longwood University Real Estate Foundation

GO VIRGINIA



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

GO VIRGINIA GRANT FUNDS

Budget Categories from CAMS	GOVA Budget	Previously Paid	DHCD Request Drawdown #5 9/19/2025	Total Paid After Remittance	Grant Balance
SPDC Project Monitoring/Reporting	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 6,148.37	\$ 527.36	\$ 6,675.73	\$ 5,324.27
Equipment	\$ 611,438.00	\$ 462,704.05	\$ 74,380.76	\$ 537,084.81	\$ 74,353.19
Contingencies	\$ 50,866.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 50,866.00
Awarded Total	\$ 674,304.00	\$ 468,852.42	\$ 74,908.12	\$ 543,760.54	\$ 130,543.46

REQUIRED MATCHING FUNDS

Budget Categories from CAMS	Committed Match	Previous Match	Current Match	Total Match To Date	Match Balance
Construction	\$ 2,218,222.00	\$ 2,282,475.29	\$ -	\$ 2,282,475.29	\$ (64,253.29)
A&E	\$ 150,000.00	\$ 115,794.01	\$ 10,271.19	\$ 126,065.20	\$ 23,934.80
Match Total	\$ 2,368,222.00	\$ 2,398,269.30	\$ 10,271.19	\$ 2,408,540.49	\$ (40,318.49)
					*Overmatched

Status: GOVA funds are 81% expended. The facility remains in soft opening mode. Currently, they are engaging as many students and community members as possible, and launching the community membership plans in manageable blocks. The electrical upgrade needed to operationalize the heavy makerspace has been completed. The dust collection systems are the last remaining installations to make full use of the heavy duty makerspace. To date, 121 prototypes have been built, 740 people have used the facility, and 69 tours/events have been held engaging a total of 384 individuals. A community grand opening will be held in early 2026 allowing for time to finalize the community engagement aspects of the project.

MBC MIDDLE MILE CONSTRUCTION

Grant Agreement Term: September 1, 2023 - August 31, 2026

Report Period: September 2025

Sub-Grantee: Mid-Atlantic Broadband

GO VIRGINIA



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

GO VIRGINIA GRANT FUNDS

Budget Categories from CAMS	GOVA Budget	Previously Paid	DHCD Request Drawdown #7 9/29/2025	Total Paid After Remittance	Grant Balance
SPDC Project Administration	\$ 26,713.00	\$ 6,210.59	\$ -	\$ 6,210.59	\$ 20,502.41
MBC Project Administration	\$ 48,083.00	\$ -	\$ 384.41	\$ 384.41	\$ 47,698.59
Legal Expenses	\$ 10,685.00	\$ 171.21	\$ -	\$ 171.21	\$ 10,513.79
A&E Fees	\$ 397,144.00	\$ 129,359.40	\$ 130,862.30	\$ 260,221.70	\$ 136,922.30
Contract Services	\$ 4,517,375.00	\$ 598,534.69	\$ 1,608,871.44	\$ 2,207,406.13	\$ 2,309,968.87
Awarded Total	\$ 5,000,000.00	\$ 734,275.89	\$ 1,740,118.15	\$ 2,474,394.04	\$ 2,525,605.96

REQUIRED MATCHING FUNDS

Budget Categories from CAMS	Committed Match	Previous Match	Current Match	Total Match To Date	Match Balance
SPDC Project Administration	\$ 26,713.00	\$ 23,550.23	\$ -	\$ 23,550.23	\$ 3,162.77
MBC Project Administration	\$ 48,083.00	\$ -	\$ 384.40	\$ 384.40	\$ 47,698.60
Legal Expenses	\$ 10,685.00	\$ 10,561.40	\$ -	\$ 10,561.40	\$ 123.60
A&E Fees	\$ 397,144.00	\$ 289,931.87	\$ 167,738.75	\$ 457,670.62	\$ (60,526.62)
Contract Services	\$ 4,517,375.00	\$ 897,426.38	\$ 1,624,416.21	\$ 2,521,842.59	\$ 1,995,532.41
Match Total	\$ 5,000,000.00	\$ 1,221,469.88	\$ 1,792,539.36	\$ 3,014,009.24	\$ 1,985,990.76

Status: GOVA funds are 49% expended. A project extension request is in process. MBC construction continues and is accelerating fiber builds between Stony Creek and Farmville and Louisa. These routes are anticipated to be completed by summer of 2026. Active economic development prospects continue to drive acceleration of the completion timelines. MBC anticipates having all 130+ miles of new middle mile fiber completed by summer of 2027, if not earlier.

GO TEC 2025

Grant Agreement Period: December 13, 2022 - December 31, 2025

Report Period: September 2025

Sub-Grantee: Institute for Advanced Learning & Research

GO VIRGINIA



VIRGINIA INITIATIVE FOR
GROWTH & OPPORTUNITY
IN EACH REGION

GO VIRGINIA GRANT FUNDS

Budget Categories (FROM CAMS)	GOVA Budget	Previously Paid	DHCD Request Drawdown #9 8/20/2025	Total Paid After Remittance	Grant Balance
SPDC Project Monitoring/Reporting	\$ 17,288.00	\$ 12,902.07	\$ 1,636.38	\$ 14,538.45	\$ 2,749.55
Contract Services	\$ 332,243.69	\$ 117,586.29	\$ -	\$ 117,586.29	\$ 214,657.40
Equipment (Freight, Inflationary)	\$ 292,146.96	\$ 292,146.96	\$ -	\$ 292,146.96	\$ -
Indirect Costs	\$ 256,114.00	\$ 137,241.07	\$ 13,251.70	\$ 150,492.77	\$ 105,621.23
Marketing (Outreach)	\$ 94,000.00	\$ 7,285.84	\$ 642.00	\$ 7,927.84	\$ 86,072.16
Salaries & Fringe	\$ 1,961,228.00	\$ 944,783.43	\$ 148,466.28	\$ 1,093,249.71	\$ 867,978.29
Supplies	\$ 151,602.79	\$ 118,151.52	\$ 1,601.59	\$ 119,753.11	\$ 31,849.68
Training	\$ 336,697.56	\$ 223,476.94	\$ 9,578.65	\$ 233,055.59	\$ 103,641.97
Travel	\$ 33,500.00	\$ 12,101.87	\$ 5,357.86	\$ 17,459.73	\$ 16,040.27
Awarded Total	\$ 3,474,821.00	\$ 1,865,675.99	\$ 180,534.46	\$ 2,046,210.45	\$ 1,428,610.55

MATCHING FUNDS

Budget Categories (FROM CAMS)	Committed Match	Previous Match	Current Match	Total Match to Date	Match Balance
Contract Services	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 637.20	\$ -	\$ 637.20	\$ 29,362.80
Equipment (Freight, Inflationary)	\$ 505,191.00	\$ 504,959.30	\$ -	\$ 504,959.30	\$ 231.70
Marketing (Outreach)	\$ 127,848.00	\$ 162,325.61	\$ -	\$ 162,325.61	\$ (34,477.61)
Rent/Lease	\$ 400,500.00	\$ 101,490.00	\$ 150,006.56	\$ 251,496.56	\$ 149,003.44
Salaries & Fringe	\$ 1,232,540.00	\$ 782,963.93	\$ 923,604.76	\$ 1,706,568.69	\$ (474,028.69)
Supplies	\$ 120,000.00	\$ 87.47	\$ -	\$ 87.47	\$ 119,912.53
Travel	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 9,306.66	\$ -	\$ 9,306.66	\$ 693.34
Match Total	\$ 2,426,079.00	\$ 1,561,770.17	\$ 1,073,611.32	\$ 2,635,381.49	\$ (209,302.49)

Status: GOVA funds are 59% expended. Over 6,000 middle school students participated in GO TEC during the 2023-2024 school year. The project is proceeding on schedule. Region's 1, 2, and 4 are planning to add additional labs. To date, this project has supported the creation/filling of 2,174 jobs. A 6-month extension is in process.

VIRGINIA'S GROWTH ALLIANCE (VGA) SITE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

Grant Agreement Term: September 1, 2023 - August 31, 2025

Report Period: September 2025

Sub-Grantee: Virginia's Growth Alliance

GO VIRGINIA



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

GO VIRGINIA GRANT FUNDS

Budget Categories from CAMS	GOVA Budget	Previously Paid	DHCD Request Drawdown #4 7/18/2025	Total Paid After Remittance	Grant Balance
SPDC Project Monitoring/Reporting	\$ 10,825.00	\$ 6,740.34	\$ 2,990.22	\$ 9,730.56	\$ 1,094.44
A&E	\$ 324,225.00	\$ 265,167.00	\$ 47,703.00	\$ 312,870.00	\$ 11,355.00
Awarded Total	\$ 335,050.00	\$ 271,907.34	\$ 50,693.22	\$ 322,600.56	\$ 12,449.44

REQUIRED MATCHING FUNDS

Budget Categories from CAMS	Committed Match	Previous Match	Current Match	Total Match To Date	Match Balance
Site Work	\$ 42,500.00	\$ 42,500.00	\$ -	\$ 42,500.00	\$ -
A&E	\$ 125,500.00	\$ 103,125.00	\$ 19,045.00	\$ 122,170.00	\$ 3,330.00
Match Total	\$ 168,000.00	\$ 145,625.00	\$ 19,045.00	\$ 164,670.00	\$ 3,330.00

Status: GOVA funds are 96% expended. All invoices have been received and were submitted in DD#4. Up tiering certification is in progress at most sites. The Brunswick site will not be able to up tier due to an issue with the railroad easement; DHCD is aware.

RISE Build-to-Scale

Grant Agreement Term: January 1, 2024 - December 31, 2026

Report Date: September 2025

Sub-Grantee: SoVa Innovation Hub

GO VIRGINIA



VIRGINIA INITIATIVE FOR
GROWTH & OPPORTUNITY
IN EACH REGION

GO VIRGINIA GRANT FUNDS

Budget Categories from CAMS	GOVA Budget	Previously Paid	DHCD Request Drawdown #6 8/5/2025	Total Paid After Remittance	Grant Balance
SPDC Project Administration	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 10,075.24	\$ 1,259.04	\$ 11,334.28	\$ 28,665.72
Fiscal Management: MBC	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 17,500.00	\$ 2,500.00
Marketing: MBC	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 13,701.78	\$ 1,966.08	\$ 15,667.86	\$ 14,332.14
Contract Services	\$ 510,000.00	\$ 170,468.32	\$ 48,146.55	\$ 218,614.87	\$ 291,385.13
Awarded Total	\$ 600,000.00	\$ 209,245.34	\$ 53,871.67	\$ 263,117.01	\$ 336,882.99

REQUIRED MATCHING FUNDS

Budget Categories from CAMS	Committed Match	Previous Match	Current Match	Total Match To Date	Match Balance
Marketing: MBC	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 42,039.97	\$ 137.62	\$ 42,177.59	\$ 7,822.41
Administration: MBC	\$ 125,000.00	\$ 42,686.64	\$ 9,612.00	\$ 52,298.64	\$ 72,701.36
Training	\$ 125,000.00	\$ 165,000.00		\$ 165,000.00	\$ (40,000.00)
Match Total	\$ 300,000.00	\$ 249,726.61	\$ 9,749.62	\$ 259,476.23	\$ 40,523.77

Status: GOVA funds are 44% expended. Monthly virtual meetings and in-person Navigator outreach is ongoing. The Fall Regional Innovation Summit for Entrepreneurs will be held on November 1st. To date, a total of 388 entrepreneurs and 287 businesses have been served. Thirteen new businesses have been created and 17 jobs created/filled. Continuing project management in partnership with Community Investment Collaborative (CIC).

GO TEC REGION 3 EXPANSION

Grant Agreement Term: June 4, 2024 - June 3, 2026

Report Date: September 2025

Sub-Grantee: Institute for Advanced Learning & Research

GO VIRGINIA



VIRGINIA INITIATIVE FOR
GROWTH & OPPORTUNITY
IN EACH REGION

GO VIRGINIA GRANT FUNDS

Budget Categories from CAMS	GOVA Budget	Previously Paid	DHCD Request Drawdown #3 9/23/2025	Total Paid After Remittance	Grant Balance
SPDC Project Monitoring/Reporting	\$ 5,690.00	\$ 1,206.58	\$ 263.22	\$ 1,469.80	\$ 4,220.20
Training	\$ 275,000.00	\$ 244,755.25	\$ 25,357.57	\$ 270,112.82	\$ 4,887.18
Indirect	\$ 22,000.00	\$ 19,580.42	\$ 2,028.61	\$ 21,609.03	\$ 390.97
Awarded Total	\$ 302,690.00	\$ 265,542.25	\$ 27,649.40	\$ 293,191.65	\$ 9,498.35

REQUIRED MATCHING FUNDS

Budget Categories from CAMS	Committed Match	Previous Match	Current Match	Total Match To Date	Match Balance
Salaries	\$ 110,000.00	\$ 54,129.58	\$ 114,153.59	\$ 168,283.17	\$ (58,283.17)
Training	\$ 156,000.00	\$ 208,892.74	\$ -	\$ 208,892.74	\$ (52,892.74)
Rent/Lease	\$ 37,500.00	\$ 18,750.00	\$ 47,880.00	\$ 66,630.00	\$ (29,130.00)
Match Total	\$ 303,500.00	\$ 281,772.32	\$ 162,033.59	\$ 443,805.91	\$ (140,305.91)

Status: GOVA funds are 97% expended. Equipment procurement and install is complete. To date, 410 students and 2 teachers have been trained.

AMELIA COUNTY DUE DILIGENCE

Grant Agreement Term: October 23, 2024 - October 24, 2025

Report Date: September 2025

Sub-Grantee: Amelia County EDA

GO VIRGINIA



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

GO VIRGINIA GRANT FUNDS

Budget Categories from CAMS	GOVA Budget	Previously Paid	DHCD Request Drawdown #1	Total Paid After Remittance	Grant Balance
SPDC Project Monitoring/Reporting	\$ 3,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,000.00
Contract Services	\$ 97,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 97,000.00
Awarded Total	\$ 100,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 100,000.00

REQUIRED MATCHING FUNDS

Budget Categories from CAMS	Committed Match	Previous Match	Current Match	Total Match To Date	Match Balance
Acquisition	\$ 50,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 50,000.00
Match Total	\$ 50,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 50,000.00

Status: No remittance activity to date; only one remittance will be submitted at the conclusion of this project. All due diligence work has been completed. The Master Plan of Development and PER are in process.

ADVANCED MANUFACTURING TPI

Grant Agreement Term: December 10, 2024 - December 9, 2025

Report Date: September 2025

Sub-Grantee: IALR

GO VIRGINIA



VIRGINIA INITIATIVE FOR
GROWTH & OPPORTUNITY
IN EACH REGION

GO VIRGINIA GRANT FUNDS

Budget Categories from CAMS	GOVA Budget	Previously Paid	DHCD Request Drawdown #2 8/13/2025	Total Paid After Remittance	Grant Balance
SPDC Project Monitoring/Reporting	\$ 3,400.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,400.00
Contract Services	\$ 81,000.00	\$ 16,500.00	\$ 16,500.00	\$ 33,000.00	\$ 48,000.00
Training	\$ 12,091.00	\$ -	\$ 2,835.43	\$ 2,835.43	\$ 9,255.57
Travel	\$ 10,507.50	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,507.50
Indirect Costs	\$ 8,396.00	\$ -	\$ 1,640.00	\$ 1,640.00	\$ 6,756.00
Other	\$ 1,350.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,350.00
Awarded Total	\$ 116,744.50	\$ 16,500.00	\$ 20,975.43	\$ 37,475.43	\$ 79,269.07

REQUIRED MATCHING FUNDS

Budget Categories from CAMS	Committed Match	Previous Match	Current Match	Total Match To Date	Match Balance
Contract Services	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 8,250.00	\$ 9,810.00	\$ 18,060.00	\$ 21,940.00
Training	\$ 1,948.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,948.00
Salaries	\$ 16,494.00	\$ -	\$ 878.75	\$ 878.75	\$ 15,615.25
Other	\$ 1,400.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,400.00
Match Total	\$ 59,842.00	\$ 8,250.00	\$ 10,688.75	\$ 18,938.75	\$ 40,903.25

Status: GOVA funds are 32% expended. The Chmura Living Wage Study has been completed. The TPI Plan is 25% complete. The IALR TPI team is working to identify a new project lead to replace Dr. Julie Brown.

CO-LOCATION OF DATA CENTERS & CEA GREENHOUSES

Grant Agreement Term: December 17, 2024 - December 16, 2025

Report Date: September 2025

Sub-Grantee: IALR

GO VIRGINIA



VIRGINIA INITIATIVE FOR
GROWTH & OPPORTUNITY
IN EACH REGION

GO VIRGINIA GRANT FUNDS

Budget Categories from CAMS	GOVA Budget	Previously Paid	DHCD Request Drawdown #1 5/7/2025	Total Paid After Remittance	Grant Balance
SPDC Project Monitoring/Reporting	\$ 2,000.00	\$ -	\$ 367.22	\$ 367.22	\$ 1,632.78
Contract Services	\$ 50,000.00	\$ -	\$ 23,880.77	\$ 23,880.77	\$ 26,119.23
Awarded Total	\$ 52,000.00	\$ -	\$ 24,247.99	\$ 24,247.99	\$ 27,752.01

REQUIRED MATCHING FUNDS

Budget Categories from CAMS	Committed Match	Previous Match	Current Match	Total Match To Date	Match Balance
Contract Services	\$ 23,500.00	\$ -	\$ 27,014.75	\$ 27,014.75	\$ (3,514.75)
Salaries	\$ 2,520.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,520.00
Match Total	\$ 26,020.00	\$ -	\$ 27,014.75	\$ 27,014.75	\$ (994.75)

Status: GOVA funds are 47% expended. The Feasibility Report has been completed and accepted by the Institute for Advanced Engineering and Research. A media release was prepared and released. A final draw is forthcoming once the report's author, Resource Innovation Institute, completes it invoicing to IALR.

AI STATEWIDE LANDSCAPE ASSESSMENT

Grant Agreement Term: February 28, 2025 - February 27, 2026

Report Date: September 2025

Sub-Grantee: Virginia Chamber

GO VIRGINIA



VIRGINIA INITIATIVE FOR
GROWTH & OPPORTUNITY
IN EACH REGION

GO VIRGINIA GRANT FUNDS

Budget Categories from CAMS	GOVA Budget	Previously Paid	DHCD Request Drawdown #1	Total Paid After Remittance	Grant Balance
SPDC Project Monitoring/Reporting	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00
Contract Services	\$ 99,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 99,000.00
Awarded Total	\$ 100,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 100,000.00

REQUIRED MATCHING FUNDS

Budget Categories from CAMS	Committed Match	Previous Match	Current Match	Total Match To Date	Match Balance
Salaries	\$ 45,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 45,000.00
Outreach	\$ 5,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,000.00
Match Total	\$ 50,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 50,000.00

Status: No remittance activity to date. The team is working to meet the minimum match to submit the first remittance. The AI Research and Literature Review are complete. The analysis of AI workforce demand and the inventory of AI workforce training offerings will continue into Quarter 3 of 2025.

PROJECT FUNDING MATRIX

GO VIRGINIA REGION 3 PROJECT FUNDING MATRIX

Project Name	G & D Plan Investment Strategy	Project Status	Award Date	Fiscal Close Out Report Date	Per Capita Grant Amount Awarded	State Comp Grant Amount Awarded	Per Capita Grant Amount Expended	State Competitive Amount Expended	Project Match	Funding Pool
TOTAL ALLOCATIONS THROUGH: FY26							8,301,293.09			
GO TEC Phase 1	Talent Evolution	Closed	02/13/18	3/12/2021	648,000		617,172.79		1,966,230.33	Per Capita
SOVA Innovation Hub	Startup Ecosystem	Closed	07/25/18	6/30/2020	80,000		79,919.80		79,919.81	Per Capita-Planning
GO TEC Phase 2A	Talent Evolution	Closed	03/12/19	6/30/2021		1,320,787		1,320,787.00		State Competitive
E&I Strategic Initiative	Startup Ecosystem	Closed	10/09/19	1/13/2021	100,000		77,662.12		90,641.32	Per Capita
Operation Last Mile Drone	Cluster Scale Up	Closed	04/15/20	10/15/2020		75,000		75,000.00		COVID ERR Fund
IALR Common Platform	Talent Evolution	Closed	04/15/20	12/15/2021	90,140		88,914.96		119,369.53	Per Capita-Planning
GO TEC Phase 2B	Talent Evolution	Closed	06/23/20	9/30/2022		3,575,741		3,360,247.21		State Competitive
MBC Middle Mile Planning	Site Development	Closed	08/04/20	12/31/2022	100,000		99,017.68		891,159.12	Per Capita-Planning
Bridge to Recovery	Cluster Scale Up	Closed	06/23/20	9/27/2023		925,000		767,818.64		COVID ERR Fund
E&I Implementation	Startup Ecosystem	Closed	03/16/21	9/29/2023	449,000		448,120.25		418,229.59	Per Capita
SVRA Site Development	Talent Evolution	Closed	09/23/21	12/31/2025	1,534,900		1,494,464.19		767,450.00	Per Capita
ExperienceWorks	Talent Evolution	Closed	09/23/21	3/31/2024	515,628		321,436.64		257,814.00	Per Capita
Controlled Environment Ag (CEA) Planning	Cluster Scale Up	Closed	11/29/21	6/30/2023	77,803		77,315.50		40,230.90	Per Capita-Planning
SEED Innovation Hub	Startup Ecosystem	Active	12/15/21		674,304		674,304.00		2,368,222.00	Per Capita
VGA Refresh Planning	Site Development	Closed	01/19/22	12/31/2023	100,000		100,000.00		51,000.00	Per Capita-Planning
MBC Middle Mile Construction	Site Development	Active	03/10/22			5,000,000		5,000,000.00		State Competitive
Gupton Initiative (\$64,200 from Regions 1,2,4,8)	Talent Evolution	Closed	06/23/22	12/31/2023	99,200		99,177.65		55,000.00	Per Capita-Planning
CRC REDO Planning	Site Development	Closed	08/18/22	1/31/2024	65,000		64,279.45		44,500.00	Per Capita-Planning
GO TEC Virginia 2025	Talent Evolution	Active	12/13/22			3,474,821		3,474,821.00		State Competitive
PHCC GO TEC Welding Instructor	Talent Evolution	Active	03/14/23		118,545		118,026.03		129,261.00	Per Capita
SVCC GO TEC Mechatronics Instructor	Talent Evolution	Active	03/14/23		139,732		139,732.00		223,208.00	Per Capita
VGA Site Development	Site Development	Active	06/13/23		335,050		335,050.00		168,000.00	Per Capita
SOVA RISE Build to Scale	Startup Ecosystem	Active	09/12/23		600,000		600,000.00		300,000.00	Per Capita
SoVA Health Sciences Careers Planning	Talent Evolution	Active	09/12/23			133,000		108,251.12		Talent Pathways
Amelia Co Reg. Commerce Center: Due Dilligence	Site Development	Active	10/08/24		100,000		100,000.00		100,000.00	Per Capita-Planning
Amelia Co Reg. Commerce Center: Site Study	Site Development	Closed	05/06/24	10/16/2024	21,000		20,996.74		10,500.00	Per Capita-Planning
GO TEC Region 3 Expansion	Talent Evolution	Active	06/04/24		302,690		302,690.00		303,500.00	Per Capita
Advanced Manufacturing/CEA Initiative	Talent Evolution	Active	12/10/24			116,745		116,745.00		Talent Pathways
Co-Location of Data Centers & CEA	Site Development	Active	12/10/24		52,000		52,000.00		26,020.00	
Chamber-AI Project (\$50,000 from Region 2)	Talent Evolution	Active	3/5/2025		100,000		100,000.00		50,000.00	Per Capita-Planning
SOVA Fab Lab	Startup Ecosystem	Active	6/10/2025		510,000		510,000.00		260,000.00	Per Capita
SVCC Occupational Training Facility	Talent Evolution	Active	6/10/2025		570,000		570,000.00		285,000.00	Per Capita
Va's Gateway Region Site Development (w/ Region 4)	Site Development	Pending			11,111		11,111.00			Per Capita-Planning
TOTAL PROJECT FUNDING					7,394,103	14,621,094	7,101,390.80	14,223,669.97	9,005,255.60	
FY26 PER CAPITA PROJECT BALANCE							1,199,902.29			
Of the \$1,000,000 that is awarded annually, no more than \$250,000 can be utilized for Planning Projects. Projects highlighted in green are not funded by the Region 3 Per Capita allocation. Date of Award for Planning Grants is the date DHCD staff approved it. DHCD recaptured \$497,944.75 per letter dated October 4, 2024.								ERR-Economic Resilience & Recovery Fund ECB-Enhanced Capacity Building		

SPECIAL APPEARANCES & PRESENTATIONS



DATE: October 10, 2025

TO: GO Virginia Region 3 Council

FROM: Bryan David, Program Director

RE: Recognition of Dr. Julie Brown

The Region 3 Council will recognize Dr. Julie Brown for her leadership and success with developing, implementing, and managing GO Virginia Region 3 workforce development projects during her tenure at the Institute for Advanced Learning and Research.

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt the Resolution of Recognition as presented at the meeting.

GROWTH AND OPPORTUNITY VIRGINIA REGION 3

RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION

Honoring Dr. Julie Brown

WHEREAS, Dr. Julie Brown has served Southern Virginia with exceptional distinction through her visionary leadership in advanced learning, workforce development, and regional collaboration; and

WHEREAS, as Vice President for Advanced Learning at the Institute for Advanced Learning and Research (IALR), Dr. Brown conceived, launched, and expanded the GO TEC (Virginia Great Opportunities in Technology and Engineering Careers) initiative—now recognized statewide as a model for career and technical education alignment and is a cornerstone of Southern Virginia’s economic transformation; and

WHEREAS, through her leadership, GO TEC established a seamless career pathway from middle school through community college and employment, uniting K–12 systems, community colleges, and employers across the GO Virginia Region 3 footprint and beyond; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Brown played a central role in the successful establishment of the Southern Virginia Partnership for Health Science Careers (SVPHSC) under the Region 3 Talent Pathways Initiative, a regional collaborative formed to address critical healthcare workforce needs and strengthen educational and employer alignment throughout Southern Virginia; and

WHEREAS, her strategic vision, organizational leadership, and ability to build cross-sector partnerships were instrumental in advancing GO Virginia’s mission to create higher-paying jobs, grow the traded-sector economy, and foster sustainable regional competitiveness; and

WHEREAS, her collaborative spirit and deep knowledge of the region’s communities and people, and its education, workforce, and economic development systems have helped establish Southern Virginia as a national model for innovation through partnership; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Brown now continues her career in higher education as Provost of Averett University, where she will apply her experience, credentials, and leadership to further strengthen academic excellence and community engagement across Southern

Virginia; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the GO Virginia Region 3 Council hereby expresses its deep appreciation to Dr. Julie Brown for her extraordinary vision, leadership, and dedication in ensuring the success of every Region 3 initiative she advanced, and for her enduring commitment to the people and prosperity of Southern Virginia;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be spread upon the minutes of this meeting and that a copy be presented to Dr. Julie Brown as a permanent testament to the Council's gratitude, esteem, and high regard.

Adopted this _____ day of _____, 2025
by the GO Virginia Region 3 Council.

Lauren Willis, Chair

OLD BUSINESS

PROJECT PIPELINE



DATE: October 9, 2025

TO: Region 3 Council

FROM: R. Bryan David, Program Director

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'RBD'.

RE: Project Pipeline Report

Below is information about projects that are in varying stages of development:

I. **SOVA Partnership Health Science Careers**

-the Talent Pathways Initiative planning project was completed by the project principals with the Blue Ridge Partnership for Health Science Careers (C. Lawrence) and George Mason University (Dr. C. Sutter). Dr. Julie Brown (IALR) has provided in-region leadership and staffing support to the SOVA Partnership. This report was presented to the Region 3 Council at its meeting on July 16th.

-the SOVA Partnership group met virtually on September 12th. The meeting involved finalizing the data work, received an update on the development of similar healthcare workforce development partnerships elsewhere in Virginia, and next steps to solicit interest to identify a lead organization to apply for a Region 3 Per Capita grant that would operationalize the SOVA Partnership.

-The Executive Committee was briefed on this matter at its meeting on September 17th and authorized the issuance of a *Request for Letters of Interest* from an organization to serve as the lead organization. The results of the request will be presented to the Region 3 Council at its meeting on October 15th.

II. **Industrial Skilled Trades Training Program**

-a Region 3 Per Capita implementation grant would create a workforce training program for "industrial skilled trades" to meet student demand beyond current offerings at each of the community colleges.

-the application was prepared and submitted by Patrick and Henry Community College in partnership with Danville Community College and Southside Virginia Community College for consideration by the Region 3 Council at its meeting on October 15th.

III. **CEA Innovation Center Research Building Expansion**

-Dr. Scott Lowman has shown that the greenhouses currently used for contract research for CEA firms and other academic institutions are at capacity, creating a backlog of work. Contract research is an operating revenue source for the CEA Innovation Center.

-the project would involve installing a prefabricated research greenhouse, making associated building improvements, and preparing the site and utilities.



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-a grant from the Southern Crescent Regional Commission (SCRC) was submitted following approval of a pre-application for the project. Approval is anticipated in the coming weeks.

-a Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission will be pursued to support the purchase of the greenhouse and fund the associated site development and utilities.

-a GO Virginia Region 3 Per Capita grant would be pursued for the equipment used in research at the greenhouse for a funding request of approximately \$250-\$500k—submission for January 2026 Region 3 Council meeting.

IV. **Blue Ridge Innovation Corridor (BRIC)**

-the [Blue Ridge Innovation Corridor](#) is an initiative of leaders from business, education, non-profits, and the public sector to establish Virginia's first inter-regional economic zone, specifically designed to capture the convergence of advanced manufacturing and biotechnology in the 21st-century economy.

-this project is in partnership with GO Virginia Region 2.

-the application was prepared and submitted by a consulting firm, S.I.R., on behalf of the BRIC organization for consideration by the Region 3 Council at its meeting on October 15th.

-the Region 2 Council will consider the application at its meeting on October 29th.

V. **Virginia Tech – Additive Manufacturing and Advanced Materials (AM2) Tech Hub**

-launched in 2023 with a grant by the US EDA, the AM2 Tech Hub is creating a competitive advantage for advanced manufacturing and advanced materials in Region 2 and Region 3.

-This initiative is managed by Virginia Tech's Center for Economic and Community Engagement and includes businesses in Regions 2 and 3, Virginia Tech, and the Center for Advanced Learning and Research.

-the proposed project would build on the Tech Hub and create:

- Building AM2 Innovation Studios in Blacksburg and Danville
- Embedding AM2 Innovation Fellows
- Learning AM2 Career Network to enhance education and training at all levels

-the budget will be determined as part of the application submission in early 2026.



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-this would be a statewide competitive grant, and no Region 3 Per Capita funds would be used.

VI. **Virginia's Heartland Regional Economic Development Alliance**

-after meeting with the Heartland Alliance's Executive Director, Alex McCoy, there is an opportunity (Phase 1) for a business site planning project to determine the inventory available business investment sites and buildings in the region, each's VEDP tier level, and analysis of the opportunities for up-tiering the regional priority properties.

-Phase I would include a facilitator to support the members in understanding the findings from the engineering analysis and how best to set priorities and timing of site investments.

-Phase II could be an identification and analysis of potential large sites that could be developed by a regional industrial development authority, by members of the Heartland Alliance, which could include exploring the potential to reorganize and repurpose the Heartland Regional Industrial Development Facilities Authority.

-all future applications submitted by the Heartland Alliance are subject to receiving its non-profit organization tax exemption by the IRS and Amelia County becoming a full member.

-a project budget for Phase I is estimated at \$100k.

VII. **Farm Park Siting, Fiscal and Economic Impact, and Workforce Development Project**

-this project will be a planning project building upon the recent feasibility report on the colocation of data centers and CEA greenhouses prepared by Resource Innovation Institute.

-the planning project will include, but not be limited to, the following elements in collaboration with regional and local economic developers:

- siting requirement matrix and other related items.
- scoping analysis and ranking of potential sites which may be most suitable for a Farm Park.
- development and research of a Farm Park's fiscal (direct/indirect local, regional, and state tax revenues) and economic impact (direct, indirect, and induced local, regional, and state economic activity and job creation).
- a project budget is under development.



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VIII. **Virginia AI Innovation Hub & Venture Studios**

-the Smart Innovation Corporation (non-profit) is proposing to develop an industry-aligned workforce development program to support individuals pursuing careers in artificial intelligence, data analytics, and applied machine learning, and to support employees of existing businesses in the use of AI in the workplace.

Additionally, the program would incorporate training for local, state and federal government employees in the use of AI in the workplace.

-the project principals have experience and credentials in the area of technology workforce development. One of the principals was raised in Halifax County.

-the project principals have met with the Region 7 Program Director, and she has expressed interest. A follow-up meeting between Region 7 and Region 3 Program Directors will occur.

-the project principals were awarded and successfully implemented a GO Virginia workforce development grant from Region 7 involving cybersecurity.

-this would be a multi-region project for GO Virginia Region 3 (Southern Virginia) and GO Virginia Region 7 (Northern Virginia).

-project concept, budget, schedule, and deliverables under development with SIC principals.

-the concept will be further development once the Virginia State Chamber of Commerce's Blueprint Virginia 2035 is released in December 2023, which includes the GO Virginia Regions 3 and 2 funded *AI in the Workplace Component* project.

IX. **Region 3 Leadership Development Project**

-report completed for strategy (8.24)

-GO Virginia funding strategy under development

RECOMMENDATION:

For the Region 3 Council's information. No action is needed.

NEW BUSINESS



DATE: October 9, 2025

TO: Region 3 Council

FROM: R. Bryan David, Program Director

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'RBD', is placed over the 'FROM' line.

RE: Project Review Committee Report

The Project Review Committee will meet on Friday, October 10th, to review the following project applications:

- I. **Danville Aviation Training Facility** – The project involves the installation of data network furnishings and equipment for the 13,244 sq. ft. Aviation Training Facility being constructed at Danville Regional Airport. This facility will host Averett University's Aeronautics program, Danville Community College's aviation maintenance technology training program, and the new Danville City Schools' Aviation Science Pathways, which is linked to Danville Community College's program.

\$ 92,000 GO Virginia Region 3 Per Capita Fund Request

46,000 Match of 2:1 met, along with the 20% local match requirement, through a US EDA construction grant and a cash contribution by Danville City to the overall project

\$ 138,000 Total Project Budget

- A project summary and the complete application will be distributed to the Region 3 Council under separate cover with the Project Review Committee's recommendation.
- II. **Blue Ridge Innovation Corridor (BRIC)** – This is a business-led initiative, extends from Roanoke to Blacksburg through Martinsville, Danville, and the counties in between. Currently, it is Virginia's fourth-largest economic region and its second-fastest-growing economy, relative to Northern Virginia, Richmond, and Hampton Roads.

This planning project will retain a qualified consultant to prepare the following deliverables:

- Three sector strategies for Advanced Manufacturing, Life Sciences & Biotechnology, and National Security & Defense Innovation.
- Non-Engineering investment strategy for business sites, broadband, energy, transportation, and workforce housing.
- Funding and financing roadmap strategy to align federal, state, philanthropic, and private capital funding.
- Connectivity strategy for a framework to unify Virginia Tech, Institute for Advanced Learning and Research, Roanoke's life sciences hub, and Danville/Martinsville's advanced manufacturing sectors into a cohesive megaregional platform.



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- GO Virginia Regions 3 and 2 have joined together to process this project as a multi-region planning grant. GO Virginia Region 3 is the lead region for grant administration.

\$ 250,000 GO Virginia Region 3 and 2 Multi-Region Competitive Fund Request
125,000 Match of 2:1 met, along with the 20% local match requirement, through a combination of cash and in-kind services

\$ 375,000 Total Project Budget

- A project summary and the complete application will be distributed to the Region 3 Council under separate cover with the Project Review Committee's recommendation.

III. **Region 3 Industrial Skilled Trades Regional Expansion** – Patrick & Henry Community College (P&HCC), Danville Community College (DCC), and Southside Virginia Community College (SVCC) are working collaboratively to grow a strategic talent pipeline to attract new companies and grow existing Region 3 traded-sector businesses through a targeted industry-skilled trades workforce development program.

- Across Region 3, employer demand for workers trained to fill industrial skilled trades positions has grown exponentially in recent years, as has enrollment at each school. To meet this demand, all three schools are working to expand existing training. Virginia Career Works West Piedmont Region will also serve as a project partner to assist with the job placement of students.
- The partner colleges will expand and scale training in carpentry, HVAC, plumbing, powerline workers, and industrial maintenance. This training will result in industry-accepted certifications that are in demand by Region 3's traded-sector businesses.
- Industrial skilled trades (machinery maintenance and repair, plumbers, pipefitters, steamfitters, plumbing technology, carpentry, trades supervisors, and electricians) have an average annual salary of \$55,850.
- The project would be funded from GO Virginia Region 3's Per Capita fund as an implementation grant for workforce development and from the GO Virginia Statewide Competitive fund.
- The current unobligated balance of the FY2025-2026 Region 3 Per Capita fund (9.17.25) is \$1.1MM. Accounting for the pending grant for the Danville Aviation Training Facility (\$92,000), the remaining FY2025-2026 Per Capita fund balance of \$1.108MM is available.
- The remaining balance for this project of \$213,786 will be funded by the GO Virginia Statewide Competitive fund (<~10MM balance available). The GO Virginia State Board expanded the Statewide Competitive in December 2023 beyond multi-region projects so that "...a single region may apply for implementation projects through the Competitive Fund if their funding request exceeds their available Per Capita Fund balance."



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\$1,321,786 GO Virginia Region 3 Request:

-funding for FTE/PTE instructors, industrial maintenance simulator, refrigeration and HVAC training equipment, mobile plumbing trainer, certification fees and licenses, and paid work experience for Virginia Career Works West Piedmont Region.

660,893 Matching Funds (cash and in-kind):

-cash and In-kind funding from Career Technical Education Program funds (federal and non-state), Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (US Dept. of Labor), Ratcliffe Foundation, Hapden Home Efficiency Auditor Facility (Federal), and Expansion of Trade Skills Training Facility (Federal)

\$1,982,679 Total Project Budget

Match Apportionment:

\$ 212,000 Danville Community College (32.08%)
248,893 Patrick and Henry Community College (37.66%)
200,000 Southside Virginia Community College (30.26%)
\$ 660,893

- A local government match waiver of twenty percent (20%) of the project request is being requested for \$264,357.
- A project summary and the complete application will be distributed to the Region 3 Council under separate cover with the Project Review Committee's recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION:

Project Recommendation provided under separate cover for the Region 3 Council's consideration.





DATE: October 10, 2025

TO: GO Virginia Region 3 Council

FROM: R. Bryan David, Program Director 

RE: 2025 GO Virginia Region 3 Growth & Diversification Plan

The 2025 Growth & Diversification Plan development has continued with staff finalization of the plan following input from the Advisory Committee's final meeting held on Monday, October 6, 2025. This final draft reflects input from the Advisory Committee and from a review by Billy Gammel, Region 3's liaison with the Department of Housing and Community Development GO Virginia staff.

The Executive Committee was briefed on the finalization of the plan at its meeting on September 17th.

A copy of the goals and strategies, along with highlights of the economic data, will be provided under separate cover before the Region 3 Council meeting on October 15th. Liz Povar and I will report on the final draft at the meeting.

The Department of Housing and Community GO Virginia staff require submission of the plan by October 31st.

RECOMMENDATION:

For the Region 3 Council's consideration and approval.





DATE: October 10, 2025

TO: GO Virginia Region 3 Council

FROM: R. Bryan David, Program Director

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'RBD', is placed over the name 'R. Bryan David'.

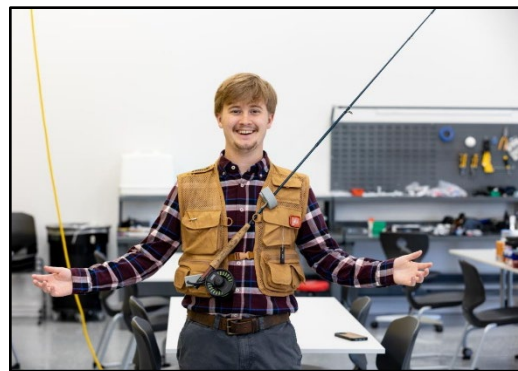
RE: FY25 GO Virginia Region 3 Annual Report

Ann Wright has prepared a GO Virginia Region 3 Annual Report for FY25. This report is being submitted to the Department of Housing and Community Development GO Virginia staff by October 31st for approval by the GO Virginia State Board at its meeting on December 9th.

A copy of the report is attached for your review.

RECOMMENDATION:

For the Region 3 Council's information. No action is needed.



FY25

GO Virginia Region 3 Annual Report

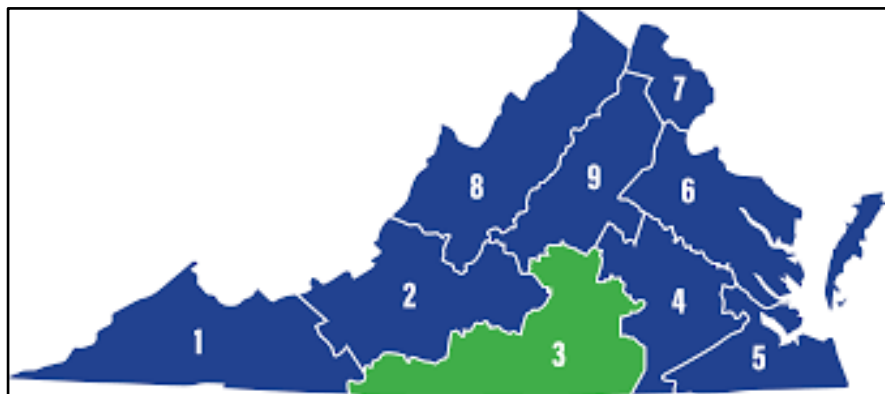
GO Virginia Region 3 Annual Report for FY25

I: Introduction

Region 3, located in rural south-central Virginia, covers the largest land area yet has the smallest population of the nine GO Virginia (GOVA) regions. The region is comprised of thirteen counties and two cities. While predominantly rural, Region 3 holds significant opportunity: it is home to established hubs of advanced manufacturing and technology, growing innovation assets that support an entrepreneurial ecosystem, higher education institutions committed to workforce development, abundant natural resources, and civic leadership that provides the social capital needed to adapt to shifting market demands.

Region 3 is also the only GOVA region that has consistently expended its full per capita allocation each year, a clear indicator of the strength and success of its initiatives. The FY25 Annual Report will incorporate updates to the Growth & Diversification Plan, highlight ongoing projects and regional partners, assess the impacts of funded initiatives, and review both outreach efforts and the current project pipeline.

Region 3 Localities	Counties of: Amelia, Brunswick, Buckingham, Charlotte,
	Cumberland, Halifax, Henry, Lunenburg, Mecklenburg,
	Nottoway, Patrick, Pittsylvania, and Prince Edward
	Cities of: Danville and Martinsville
Support Organization	Southside Planning District Commission
Targeted Sectors	Advanced Manufacturing & Advanced Materials
	Agriculture & Food Processing
	Business Services
	Controlled Environment Agriculture
	Energy, Natural Resources, & Finished Products
	Health Care Services
	Information Technology & Communications Services
	Transportation & Logistics



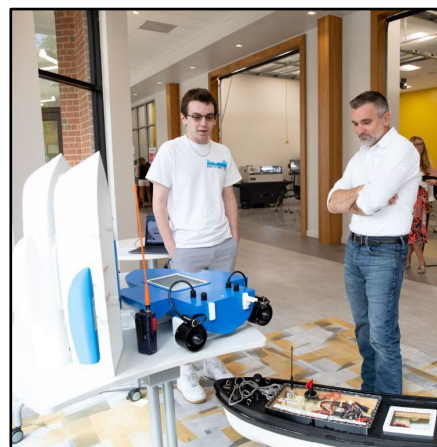
II: Growth & Diversification Plan

The initial development of Region 3's Growth & Diversification (G&D) Plan was an extensive process designed to establish a strong foundation for future projects and initiatives. Nearly 100 strategically selected stakeholders participated in engagement sessions, which included five virtual group discussions focused on entrepreneurship, business retention and scale-up, sites, and talent. Additional one-on-one and group interviews engaged a wide range of participants, including chambers of commerce, educational institutions, community foundations, youth leaders, grant recipients, economic developers, local government managers, state agencies, innovation catalysts, and business leaders. From this process, Region 3 identified its initial Priority Targeted Industry Sectors: Business Services; Agriculture & Food Processing; Energy, Natural Resources, & Finished Products; Health Care Services; Information Technology & Communication Services; and Advanced Manufacturing & Advanced Materials.

The 2023 Review of Region 3's G&D Plan provided a more streamlined assessment of the 2021 update, focusing on evaluating progress and identifying meaningful adjustments to guide future initiatives. Input was gathered from existing project partners, an ad hoc work group of Region 3 Council members, and Region 3 staff. The Longwood Small Business Development Center contributed data analysis, including employment and wage trends, economic development announcements, SWOT analyses of targeted sectors, workforce gaps, and recommendations for broadening the sectors of focus. The 2023 G&D Plan Review, approved by both the Region 3 Council and State Board, resulted in several key updates: the expansion of targeted industry sectors, the addition of Controlled Environment Agriculture as a new sector, and a renewed emphasis on building leadership capacity within the Council and across the Region. Currently, Region 3 is engaged in another comprehensive update of the G&D Plan, which will be finalized during the first of FY26. This update builds on the lessons learned from earlier iterations, combines new economic and workforce data analysis with broad stakeholder input, and ensures that the Plan continues to reflect the evolving opportunities and challenges facing the Region.

In FY25, the Region 3 economy remained largely consistent with the trends and metrics outlined in the 2021 and 2023 Growth & Diversification Plans. What has become increasingly evident, however, is the strategic nature of the Region 3 Council's investments. Approved projects have been intentionally designed to build capacity across multiple targeted sectors, with many initiatives supporting more than one priority area simultaneously. Since the inception of GO Virginia Region 3, a total of 32 projects have been awarded, representing more than \$22 million in funding. These investments have been further leveraged with just over \$22 million in local and private matching funds, amplifying their impact. Of the approved projects, 54% have advanced talent evolution, 33% have supported site development, 11% have strengthened the entrepreneurial ecosystem, and 2% have contributed to cluster scale-up.

These outcomes have served as a critical foundation for the 2025 Growth & Diversification Plan update, ensuring that future priorities build upon proven successes while addressing emerging opportunities across the region. A table outlining Region 3's targeted industrial sectors, identified in the current G&D Plan, along with the related active projects and their primary goal, follows:



Investment Area	Goal	FY25 Project *Denotes Statewide Project
Site Development	Prioritize regionally-significant sites that align with Region 3 target sectors	SVRA Site Development; VGA Site Development; Co-Location of Data Centers & CEA
	Support development of strategies and plans to sustain a regional approach to site development	SVRA Site Development; VGA Site Development; Co-Location of Data Centers & CEA
	Strengthen the capacity of eastern and northern sub-regions EDO's	Amelia County Site Suitability; VGA Site Development; Amelia County Due Diligence
	Increase the number of Business-Ready Sites to Tier ratings 3, 4, and 5	Amelia County Site Suitability; SVRA Site Development; VGA Site Development; MBC Middle Mile Construction*; Amelia County Due Diligence
	Increase the marketability of unique properties in the Region	Co-Location of Data Centers & CEA
	Increase the number of Business-Ready Sites for business services and healthcare	Amelia County Site Suitability; SVRA Site Development; VGA Site Development; MBC Middle Mile Construction*; Amelia County Due Diligence
Talent Evolution	Monitor and advance the implementation of GO TEC	GO TEC 2025*; GO TEC Region 3 Expansion; P&HCC GO TEC Welding; SVCC GO TEC Mechatronics
	Support sector-based partnerships by identifying career paths for cross-walks incorporating new and emerging target sectors	GO TEC 2025*; GO TEC Region 3 Expansion; P&HCC GO TEC Welding; SVCC GO TEC Mechatronics; SoVa Health Science Careers TPI; SVCC Occupational Training Facility; A.I. Statewide Assessment
	Support apprenticeship model implementation	P&HCC GO TEC Welding; SVCC GO TEC Mechatronics; SoVa Health Science Careers TPI; SVCC Occupational Training Facility
	Develop an approach to talent attraction and retention	GO TEC 2025*; GO TEC Region 3 Expansion; SVCC Occupational Training Facility; P&HCC GO TEC Welding; SVCC GO TEC Mechatronics; SoVa Health Science Careers TPI

Investment Area	Goal	FY25 Project *Denotes Statewide Project
Entrepreneurship	Monitor and advance the implementation of the SOVA Rise Collaborative	RISE Build to Scale; SOVA Fab Lab
	Support programmatic emphasis on agribusiness and health care sectors	SoVa Health Science Careers TPI; FY26 Pending Project- CEA Implementation
	Identify and support efforts to grow emerging business sectors	RISE Build to Scale; SEED Innovation Hub; SOVA Fab Lab; A.I. Statewide Assessment
	Sustain the designation of <i>significant</i> and increase the designation of <i>moderate</i> and <i>limited</i> in the entrepreneurial hubs within Region 3	RISE Build to Scale; SEED Innovation Hub; SOVA Fab Lab
CLUSTER SCALE-UP	CEA: Increase the number, success rate, and profitability of Virginia's CEA-related entrepreneurs, small businesses, and on-farm revenue-generating enterprises	Future CEA Implementation Projects
	CEA: Enhance the growth and job creation within Virginia's existing CEA firms, making the state a prime location for CEA business investment	Co-Location of Data Centers & CEA Greenhouses Feasibility Report (completed Fall 2025); Future CEA Project for Farm Parks
	CEA: Cultivate a pipeline of skilled individuals in CEA through comprehensive talent development programs that would include CEA-relevant credentials	Future CEA Implementation Projects for Farm Parks; Future IALR Greenhouse Expansion
	CEA: Increase enrollment in K-12, community college, undergraduate, and graduate-level students in CEA-related programs supplemented by internships, curricular instruction, career awareness, and relevant work-based learning experiences	Future CEA Implementation Projects for Farm Parks; Future IALR Greenhouse Expansion
	CEA: Position the translational research capabilities and reputation of the VT/IALR CEA Innovation Center to enhance and increase its support of existing and emerging CEA businesses and reach a complementary portfolio of companies across their supply chains	Co-Location of Data Centers & CEA Greenhouses Feasibility Report (completed Fall 2025); Future CEA Implementation Projects for Farm Parks; Future IALR Greenhouse Expansion

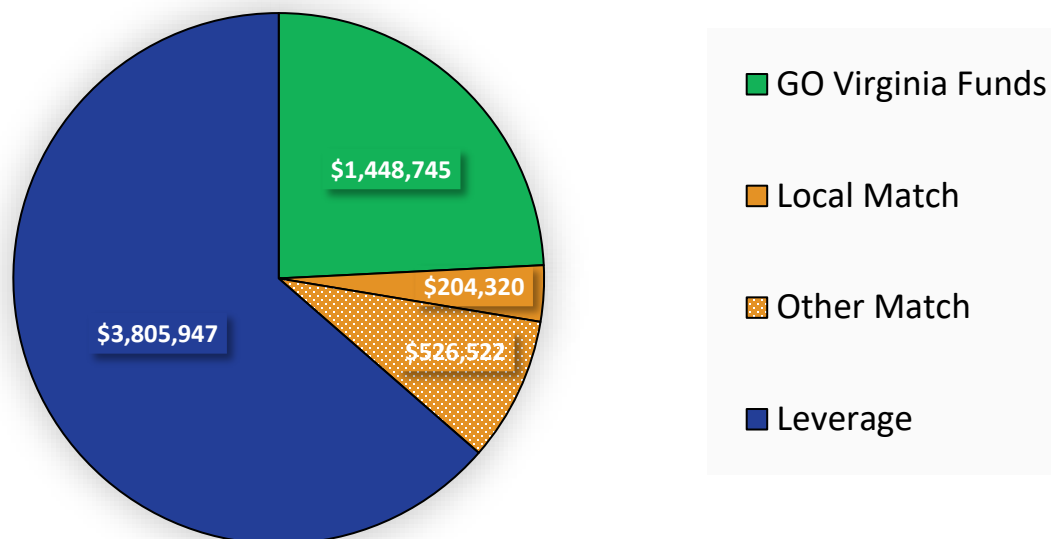
III: Summary of Projects

FY25 Awarded Projects	GO Virginia Funds	Total Match	Local Match	Additional Leverage
Amelia Co: Due Diligence	\$100,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$624,000
IALR Advanced Manf TPI	\$116,745	\$59,842	Waived	\$45,490
Co-Location of Data Centers & CEA	\$52,000	\$26,000	\$2,520	\$0
SOVA Fab Lab	\$510,000	\$260,000	Waived	\$0
SVCC Occupational Training Facility	\$570,000	\$285,000	\$151,800	\$3,136,457
A.I. Statewide Assessment	\$100,000	\$50,000	Waived	\$0
FY25 Project Totals	\$1,448,745	\$730,842	\$204,320	\$3,805,947

Sub- Grantee	Participating Localities	Project Description	Relevant Project Metrics
Talent Pipeline Management to Support Advanced Manufacturing Talent Pathways Initiative Planning Project			
Institute for Advanced Learning and Research (IALR)	Southern Virginia Regional Alliance; South Central Workforce Development Board; Commonwealth Regional Council	This project will define talent pathways for the advanced manufacturing industry in Region 3. It will development industry coalitions to guide and advise on project work, complete qualitative/quantitative analysis of workforce needs, complete gap analysis of jobs needed to grow industry, identify skills and training needed for individuals to fill those jobs, and develop an asset map of the region's training providers.	• Complete the Talent Pathways Initiative Study and Recommendations for the advanced manufacturing industry in Region 3
Co-location of Data Centers & CEA Greenhouses Per Capita Planning Project			
Institute for Advanced Learning and Research (IALR)	Southern Virginia Regional Alliance; Virginia Growth Alliance; Virginia's Heartland Regional Economic Development Alliance	This project will explore the feasibility of co-locating data centers near Controlled Environment Agriculture (CEA) greenhouses to capture and repurpose the heat generated by data centers for greenhouse operations. The idea is that by utilizing the excess heat, the co-location approach can create a positive economic and environmental impact, reducing energy costs for greenhouses while promoting sustainability. The study will assess the technical, logistical, and financial viability of this innovative approach, including potential energy savings, infrastructure requirements, direct and indirect workforce impacts, and the overall benefits to both industries.	• Complete the Co-location Feasibility Report
Amelia County Regional Commerce Center Due Diligence Per Capita Planning Project			
Amelia County Economic Development Authority	Heartland Regional Industrial Facilities Authority; Counties of Buckingham, Charlotte, Lunenburg, Nottoway, and Prince Edward	Amelia County Economic Development Authority recently acquired a 134-acre site on the north side of Rt. 360 and has rezoned the property to Industrial M-1 in June 2023. Due diligence work will elevate the site from a Tier 2 to a Tier 3 in the Virginia Business Ready Sites Program (VBRSP) scale. A site suitability study was recently completed.	• Elevate 134 acres from a Tier 2 to a Tier 3

Sub- Grantee	Participating Localities	Project Description	Relevant Project Metrics
SOVA Fab Lab at the SOVA Innovation Campus Per Capita Implementation Project			
SOVA Innovation Hub Corporation	Counties of Charlotte, Halifax, Mecklenburg, and Pittsylvania; Towns of South Boston and Halifax	This project will establish a state-of-the-art digital fabrication laboratory in South Boston to accelerate entrepreneurship, strengthen STEM talent pathways, and support regional innovation in Southern Virginia. The Fab Lab will serve as a hands-on learning and business incubation space, equipped with 3D printers, laser cutters, electronics workstations, and other digital fabrication tools that enable rapid prototyping and product development.	• 100 Businesses Served • 20 Mentors Engaged • 84 Jobs Created
Artificial Intelligence (AI) Statewide Landscape Assessment Per Capita Planning, Pilot, and Feasibility Project			
Virginia Chamber of Commerce	Counties of Mecklenburg and Montgomery; Pittsylvania County Public Schools; Cities of Lynchburg and Roanoke; IALR	This statewide collaborative effort will position Virginia's business sector to lead an AI-driven workforce assessment to identify skill gaps in high priority, statewide sectors that will support a skilled workforce capable of adapting to AI advancements and help develop a pipeline of eligible GO Virginia implementation projects.	• Blue Print Virginia 2035 with the integration of AI in the areas of the 3 targeted industry clusters • Completion of a statewide workforce readiness assessment focusing on AI in the identified targeted industry clusters
SVCC Occupational Training Facility Expansion Per Capita Implementation Project			
Southside Virginia Community College (SVCC) Foundation	Commonwealth Regional Council; Nottoway County; Town of Blackstone	This project will support the purchase of critical training equipment (two tractor-trailers, classroom IT) for SVCC's Occupational Training Facility located at Fort Pickett. The equipment will directly support the Powerline Worker and Truck Driver Training Programs, which are essential to meeting regional workforce needs in high-demand sectors.	• 50 people trained • 200 credentials awarded

Region 3 FY25 Project Funding



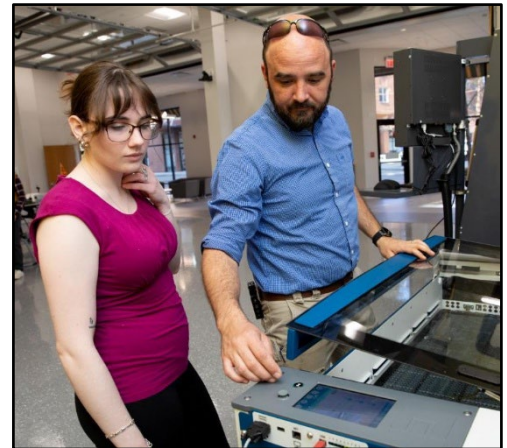
IV: Regional Collaboration & Partner Support

Region 3's strength lies in its proven ability to foster meaningful collaboration that advances statewide priorities. In FY25, Region 3 partnered with Region 2 to champion the inclusion of an Artificial Intelligence (AI) Statewide Assessment in the 2025 *Blueprint Virginia*, demonstrating leadership in addressing emerging workforce trends. This joint initiative, conducted in coordination with the Virginia Chamber of Commerce, collects real-time insights from business and workforce leaders through surveys and interviews, assessing AI's current and future impact on Virginia's key industries. The resulting comprehensive report will analyze AI applications in the workplace, standardize terminology, and evaluate workforce readiness across all nine GO Virginia regions. It will also catalog existing workforce development programs, identify gaps in AI skill integration, and offer strategic recommendations for aligning K-12, higher education, and regional workforce programs with future AI demands. Through this collaborative effort, Region 3 continues to exemplify how regional partnerships can drive innovation and strengthen Virginia's economic competitiveness.

Region 3's strength in collaboration is further demonstrated through its leadership of the GO TEC (Great Opportunities in Technology and Engineering Careers) initiative, one of the most successful multi-regional workforce development projects in Virginia. Originating in Region 3 and led in partnership with the Institute for Advanced Learning and Research (IALR), GO TEC was designed to build a strategic talent pipeline to attract new companies and support the growth of existing businesses in key traded sectors. Through Region 3's vision and coordination, the program expanded to include GO Virginia Regions 1, 2, 4, and 5, creating a unified, statewide framework that connects K-12 schools, higher education, economic developers, and industry partners. What began as a regional pilot has evolved into a national model for aligning education and industry needs, with GO TEC career labs and training pathways now preparing students across the Commonwealth for high-demand, high-wage jobs. Region 3's leadership and early investment served as the catalyst for this transformative, collaborative workforce initiative.

The GO Virginia Region 3 Council relied on many partners during the year. FY25 active project partners include:

- GO Virginia Regions 1, 2, 4, and 5
- Region 3 Counties of Amelia, Brunswick, Buckingham, Charlotte, Cumberland, Halifax, Henry, Lunenburg, Mecklenburg, Nottoway, Patrick, Pittsylvania, and Prince Edward
- Project Partner Counties of Carroll, Grayson, Wythe, Buchanan, Greenville, Surry, and Montgomery
- Region 3 Cities of Danville and Martinsville
- Project Partner Cities of Colonial Heights, Hopewell, Hampton, Newport News, Portsmouth, Norfolk, Roanoke, and Lynchburg
- UVA's Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service
- Southern Virginia Partnership for Health Science Careers
- Heartland Regional Industrial Facilities Authority
- Southside Planning District Commission
- Commonwealth Regional Council
- West Piedmont Planning District Commission
- Southern Virginia's Growth Alliance
- Virginia's Growth Alliance
- Institute for Advanced Learning & Research
- Longwood University
- Hampden Sydney College
- Southside Virginia Community College
- Patrick & Henry Community College
- Southern Virginia Higher Education Center
- SOVA Innovation Hub Corporation
- Mid-Atlantic Broadband Communities, Inc.
- Commonwealth Alliance for Rural Colleges
- Virginia's Gateway Region
- Hampton Roads Alliance
- Hampton Roads Workforce Council



V: Outcomes & Impact

In FY25, GO Virginia Region 3 demonstrated exceptional leadership and collaboration in advancing key initiatives that will have a lasting impact on the region's economy and workforce. One of the most significant accomplishments was Region 3's success in leading the statewide effort to make healthcare projects eligible for GO Virginia funding. For years, Region 3 had identified healthcare services and workforce development as critical priorities due to the region's limited access to providers and the sector's direct impact on economic competitiveness. After extensive advocacy, data analysis, and collaboration with state partners, the GO Virginia State Board adopted Policy #17 in June 2024. This policy officially made healthcare projects eligible for GO Virginia grants under specific conditions, such as those already present in Region 3. This policy shift originated from Region 3's persistent efforts, beginning with its \$135,000 planning grant for the Southern Virginia Partnership for Health Science Careers, matched by the Claude Moore Charitable Foundation. This milestone not only benefits Region 3 but also establishes a precedent for other regions to address healthcare workforce shortages through GO Virginia-supported initiatives.



Region 3 also took major steps toward strengthening leadership across the region through its Envisioning Leadership initiative. Recognizing that leadership capacity is foundational to regional collaboration and economic development, the Region 3 Council partnered with Virginia Tech's Center for Economic and Community Engagement and Virginia Cooperative Extension to conduct the 2024 Spring "Advance" in South Boston. This event brought together 30 leaders representing all subregions to identify leadership assets, discuss strategies for building stronger regional networks, and

develop actionable next steps for fostering leadership pipelines. The session emphasized sustaining strong Council and regional leadership, increasing stakeholder engagement, and supporting sustainable regional economic development organizations (REDOs). The resulting report identified immediate next steps, including mapping leadership development assets, cultivating new regional champions, and aligning leadership development with economic diversification goals. Leadership advancement efforts will ensure that Region 3 continues to grow both its social and economic capital.

In addition, Region 3 included Transportation & Logistics as a new targeted traded sector in its Growth & Diversification (G&D) Plan because of a growing industry demand. This strategic amendment, recommended by DHCD GO Virginia staff and adopted by the Region 3 Council, ensures that projects like the expansion of Southside Virginia Community College's Occupational Training Facility to support their Truck Training Program are eligible for GO Virginia Per Capita funding. This addition recognizes the critical role logistics and supply chain management play in supporting advanced manufacturing and regional commerce, especially in rural areas where connectivity to markets is essential.



Finally, Region 3 launched the 2025 Growth & Diversification Plan update process, which began in February 2025 and will conclude in October 2025. The Advisory Committee, composed of Region 3 Council members, regional leaders and subject matter experts, convened multiple times to analyze economic and workforce data. Stakeholder interviews have been conducted, and the plan is in final draft form. This comprehensive update will build upon the achievements of the 2023 review, ensuring that Region 3’s strategies remain data-driven, collaborative, and aligned with evolving regional and statewide economic priorities.

Together, these accomplishments demonstrate Region 3’s continued leadership in shaping statewide policy, fostering collaboration, expanding industry focus areas, and strategically planning for long-term growth, cementing its role as a model for regional economic development across the Commonwealth.

Region 3 managed 17 active projects during FY25, with five projects reaching completion within the fiscal year. Of those completed, three were implementation projects with measurable outcomes, which are detailed below.

Project	Outcomes	
SVRA Site Development	- 5,195.5 acres advanced to higher tier per VBRSP	
P&HCC GO TEC Expansion Welding Instructor	- 24 students trained	- 41 credentials awarded
SVCC GO TEC Expansion Mechatronics Instructor	- 29 students trained	- 135 credentials awarded

VI: Communication and Outreach

In FY25, the Region 3 Council continued to strengthen its communications and outreach efforts through its engagement with Letterpress Communications. This professional firm provides comprehensive



strategic consulting and implementation services, including social media management, public relations, graphic design, event communications, photography, videography, advertising, and website design and maintenance. Letterpress oversees Region 3’s digital presence, managing content creation, posting, and engagement across Facebook, YouTube, and LinkedIn. The firm also maintains and updates targeted media lists at the local, regional, state, and national levels; develops and distributes press releases; pitches stories to national media outlets; and actively monitors economic development news throughout Region 3 across traditional and digital platforms.

VII: Project Pipeline

During FY25, Region 3 advanced a strong and diverse project pipeline reflecting strategic collaboration, innovation, and responsiveness to regional needs. The following projects demonstrate Region 3's commitment to workforce development, industry diversification, and leadership cultivation.



SOVA Partnership for Health Science Careers:

The Talent Pathways Initiative (TPI) planning project, led by the Blue Ridge Partnership for Health Science Careers and George Mason University, has been completed, with in-region support from Dr. Julie Brown. The final report was presented to the Region 3 Council on July 16th. Since then, Dr. Brown has transitioned to Provost at Averett University, affecting plans for IALR to advance the implementation phase. A Request for Interest was issued to identify additional organizations interested in serving as the project lead and grant applicant.

Industrial Skilled Trades Training Program:

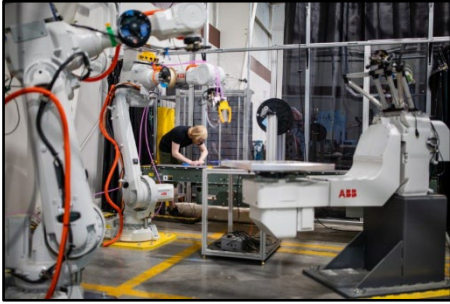
Patrick & Henry, Danville, and Southside Virginia Community Colleges established a collaborative partnership in October 2024 to expand skilled trades training and credentialing, supported by a \$1 million grant from Virginia Community College System's Chancellor Dore. A Region 3 Per Capita implementation grant, estimated to total approximately \$1 million, is being developed to create a unified workforce training initiative in electrical, HVAC, carpentry, and plumbing/pipefitting. The project, led by Patrick & Henry Community College, will include equipment acquisition and instructional personnel at each institution. The proposal will be reviewed by the Project Review Committee and Region 3 Council in October for submission to DHCD by October 31, 2025.



Controlled Environment Agriculture (CEA) Innovation Center Expansion:

The CEA Innovation Center, led by Dr. Scott Lowman, is seeking to expand its research capacity with a new prefabricated greenhouse to relieve current capacity constraints. A grant application to the Southern Crescent Regional Commission (SCRC) has been submitted, with approval anticipated by the end of September. Additional funding will be sought from the Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission and a GO Virginia Region 3 Per Capita grant request of approximately \$250,000–\$500,000 is expected for submission in January 2026.

Virginia Tech Additive Manufacturing and Advanced Materials (AM²) Tech Hub:



Launched in 2023 through a U.S. EDA grant, the AM² Tech Hub strengthens advanced manufacturing and materials innovation across Regions 2 and 3. Managed by Virginia Tech's Center for Economic and Community Engagement in partnership with IALR and regional businesses, the next phase will include building AM² Innovation Studios in Blacksburg and Danville, embedding Innovation Fellows, and launching an AM² Career Network. A statewide competitive GO Virginia grant is anticipated for early 2026.

Blue Ridge Innovation Corridor (BRIC):

The Blue Ridge Innovation Corridor aims to create Virginia's first inter-regional economic zone linking advanced manufacturing and biotechnology across Regions 2 and 3. This planning initiative will leverage assets across more than 25 localities, from Danville and Martinsville to Roanoke and Blacksburg, to establish a globally competitive innovation ecosystem. Coordination between consultant SIR, Region 2, and Region 3 staff is underway to develop a Statewide Competitive Planning Grant for submission by October 31, 2025, with State Board consideration in December 2025.



Virginia's Heartland Regional Economic Development Alliance:



Region 3 continues to support the Heartland Alliance in exploring opportunities to strengthen its regional site development capacity. Phase I will identify available industrial properties, assess Virginia Economic Development Partnership (VEDP) tier levels, and analyze up-tiering potential. Phase II may include identifying and evaluating large regional sites through a potential reorganized

Heartland Regional Industrial Development Facilities Authority. Future applications are contingent upon the Alliance's IRS nonprofit designation and Amelia County's full membership.

Region 3 Leadership Development Project:

Building on the Region 3 Council's focus on leadership capacity, discussions have been initiated with the University of Virginia's Sorensen Institute for Political Leadership and the Virginia Institute of Government to establish a community leadership program aligned with the SOVA Rise Collaborative. A completed report (August 2024) recommends pursuing an Enhanced Capacity Building feasibility study to define the program's structure, outcomes, and partnerships. A GO Virginia funding strategy will be developed once the GO Virginia Board makes funding available.



III: Council Members (Current as of 7/1/2025)

Council Member- Email	Title- Organization	Sector
Lauren Willis- Region 3 Chair	BSA Officer- Bank of Charlotte County	Private Sector
Randolph Lail – Region 3 Vice Chair	Chair of the Board- Mid-Atlantic Broadband	Private Sector
Rhonda Hodges- Executive Committee	Vice President- Workforce, Economic & Community Development Patrick & Henry Community College	Workforce Development
Robert Bates - Executive Committee	Branch Manager- Halifax Office Benchmark Bank	Private Sector
Clark Casteel- Executive Committee	President & CEO- Dan River Foundation	Non-Profit
Sheldon Barr	CEO- VCU Health Community Memorial Hospital	Private Sector
Elizabeth Leggett	Vice President- Leggett Town and Country	Private Sector
Melody Foster	Executive Director (retired)- Commonwealth Regional Council	Civic/Community Leader
Kristin Gee	General Counsel- Kyanite Mining Corp.	Private Sector
Amy Griffin, PhD	Deputy Executive Director- Virginia Association of School Superintendents	Civic/Community Leader
Keith Harkins, PhD	Vice President – Academic & Workforce Programs Southside Virginia Community College	Education
Ilsa Loeser	Principle- LetterPress Communications	Private Sector
John Parkinson	CEO- Drake Extrusion, Inc.	Private Sector
Sheri McGuire	Assoc. Vice President for Community & Economic Development- Longwood University	Education
Danny Marshal	Delegate- Virginia House of Delegates, District 49	Civic/Community Leader

Angie Kellett	Director of Economic Development- Mecklenburg County	Local/Regional Economic Development
Kelly Lanier-Arnold	Senior Program Manager- Microsoft Corporation	Private Sector
Dale Wagner	County Administrator- Henry County	Local Government

IX: Support Organization

Region 3 Support Organization
Southside Planning District Commission
200 S. Mecklenburg Ave South Hill, Virginia 23920
Bryan David- Region 3 Program Director
UVA- Weldon Cooper Center
Email: rbd7g@virginia.edu Phone: 540-395-6504

PROGRAM DIRECTOR'S REPORT



DATE: October 10, 2025

TO: GO Virginia Region 3 Council

FROM: R. Bryan David, Program Director

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'RBD'.

RE: Southern Virginia Partnership for Health Sciences Careers_ Request for Letters of Interest for a Lead Organization

At its meeting on September 17th, the Executive Committee received an update on the status of the Southern Virginia Partnership for Health Science Careers (SOVA Partnership).

The following is the information presented to the Executive Committee:

- The Talent Pathways Initiative planning project was completed by the project principals with the Blue Ridge Partnership for Health Science Careers (C. Lawrence) and George Mason University (Dr. C. Sutter). Dr. Julie Brown (IALR) has provided in-region leadership and staffing support to the SOVA Partnership. This report was presented to the Region 3 Council at its meeting on July 16th.
- Since that time, Dr. Brown has left IALR and begun serving as Provost of Averett University. She had been serving as the in-region coordinator for the SOVA Partnership.
- A meeting of the SOVA Partnership members was held on September 12th to discuss possible paths forward to operationalize the SOVA Partnership. All voiced commitment to support the SOVA Partnership and its work going forward.
- At its meeting on Wednesday, September 17th, the Executive Committee received information about the SOVA Partnership's commitment to continue with its work. The committee members discussed potential options to find a lead organization to support and coordinate the work of the SOVA Partnership.
- Accordingly, the Executive Committee approved the preparation and posting of a *Request for Letters of Interest* from GO Virginia eligible organizations to serve as the Lead Organization for the Southern Virginia Partnership for Health Science Careers (SOVA Partnership). In this role, the selected organization will prepare and submit a GO Virginia Region 3 Per Capita Implementation Grant to support and coordinate the SOVA Partnership.

A copy of the request is attached for your reference.

- The *Request for Letters of Interest* was prepared and announced on Friday, September 26th. The request was sent to all members of the SOVA Partnership and posted on the GO Virginia Region 3 website deadline for submitting letters of interest was Wednesday, October 8th.



GO Virginia
Region 3 Council
October 10, 2025
Page 2

- A number of organizations expressed interest in supporting the work SOVA Partnership and the pursuit of a GO Virginia Region 3 Per Capita implementation grant to operationalize the SOVA Partnership. This interest ranged from being the lead organization to supporting with implementation of the grant. The organizations responding to the *Request for Letters of Interest* were:

Averett University Danville Community College
Longwood University Pittsylvania County Public Schools
Southern Virginia Higher Education Center

Given the strong and collective interest in supporting a GO Virginia Region 3 implementation grant for the SOVA Partnership, Lauren Willis and I will review discuss and recommend a process to identify and select the lead organization that best meets the Per Capita grant eligibility and experience criteria outlined in the *Request for Letters of Interest*. In addition, this process will include an opportunity for all interested organizations actively partners and support the selected lead organization with the implementation grant.

Our recommendation will be presented to the Region 3 Council at its meeting on October 15th.

RECOMMENDATION:

For the Region 3 Council's information and discussion.



REQUEST FOR LETTERS OF INTEREST

Issued: September 26, 2025

Responses Due: October 8, 2025, by 5:00 pm

The GO Virginia Region 3 Council invites *Letters of Interest* from GO Virginia eligible organizations to serve as the *Lead Organization* for the **Southern Virginia Partnership for Health Science Careers (SOVA Partnership)**. In this role, the selected organization will prepare and submit a GO Virginia Region 3 Per Capita Implementation Grant to operationalize the SOVA Partnership.

Eligibility and Experience

Eligible Organizations:

- Local government entities or organizations working on behalf of participating local government entities; or,
- Regional government entities, nonprofit organizations, regional economic development organizations, regional chambers of commerce, planning district commissions, and colleges and universities.

The selected organization will:

- Be physically located within GO Virginia Region 3 and able to operate independently across the region's footprint.
- Demonstrate experience in building and managing healthcare workforce development coalitions involving a wide range of stakeholders, including:
 - Major healthcare systems and providers
 - Healthcare practitioners
 - Non-profit and government healthcare organizations
 - Higher education and K–12 institutions
 - Regional foundations
 - Local and regional governments
 - Other allied stakeholders
- Have experience successfully developing and managing matching grant-funded programs, including GO Virginia preferred.

Partnerships

- While not required, the *Lead Organization* may choose to partner with other qualified organizations to manage and deliver the GO Virginia Region Implementation Grant.



Resources and Reference Materials

The roles and responsibilities of the *Lead Organization*, along with program requirements, are detailed in the following documents:

- [2026 GO Virginia Program Manual](#)
- [GO VA Healthcare Industry Guidelines](#)
- [GO VA FY26 Implementation Grant Application](#)
- [GO VA Match Documentation Guidance](#)
- [GO Virginia Regional Materials](#)

The Region 3 Council supported the formation of the SOVA Partnership through a **Talent Pathways Initiative** planning grant. A copy of the June 2025 final report, which establishes baseline data and outlines the path forward for the Partnership, is attached.

Since its inception in 2017, the Region 3 Council has identified healthcare workforce development as a top priority. This emphasis has been reaffirmed in subsequent Growth & Diversification Plans (2017, 2019, and 2021). The selection of a Support Organization represents the next step in advancing this priority.

Submission Instructions

Letters of Interest should:

- Briefly state the basis for interest in serving as the Support Organization for the SOVA Partnership.
- Be limited to **one (1) page**.
- Be submitted as a **PDF attachment** via email to **bryan.david@virginia.edu** with the subject line: *GO Virginia Region 3_SOVA Partnership*.
- **Deadline:** October 8, 2025, by 5:00 p.m.

The Region 3 Council anticipates selecting a finalist at its meeting on **October 15, 2025**; however, it reserves the right to extend the recruitment process if necessary.

For further information, please contact:

Bryan David

Program Director_GO Virginia Region 3

Email: bryan.david@virginia.edu | Phone: 540.395.6504





DATE: October 10, 2025

TO: Region 3 Council

FROM: R. Bryan David, Program Director

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'RBD', is placed over the name 'R. Bryan David'.

RE: GO Virginia State Board Retreat/Meeting (9.9.25)

The GO Virginia State Board held its annual retreat and a quarterly meeting at J. Sargent Reynolds Community College in Richmond.

Attached is a copy of the meeting agenda and materials.

RECOMMENDATION:

For the Region 3 Council's information. No action is needed.



GO Virginia State Board Retreat

Dates/Times:

September 9th, 2025, 8:00 am – 5:00 pm

Location:

Reynolds College
Workforce Development Center
1651 E Parham Rd,
Richmond, VA 23228

The objective of this retreat is to engage in a strategic discussion on aligning the Commonwealth's economic development priorities and expectations for GO Virginia.

Tuesday, September 9th

- | | |
|---------------------------|---|
| 8:00 am – 9:00 am | Check-In – Breakfast Served |
| 9:00 am - 9:05 pm | Welcome

<i>Dr. Paula P. Pando, President, Reynolds College</i> |
| 9:05 pm - 9:20 pm | Opening Remarks

<i>Nancy Howell Agee, Chair, GO Virginia State Board</i> |
| 9:20 am - 10:00 am | Virginia's Economic Landscape

This session sets the tone for the day's conversations by grounding attendees in the facts, trends, and forecasts that shape Virginia's economy. The presentation will touch on emerging opportunities and risks, offering strategic insights that can inform GO Virginia's statewide investment and priorities. |
| 10:00 am- 10:10 am | Networking Break |
| 10:10 am – 11:00 | Panel: Exploring Virginia's Economic Competitiveness

This discussion will examine Virginia's economic position through the lens of industry—exploring the factors that drive business growth, attract investment, and sustain a strong workforce. Panelists will share insights on the state's competitive advantages, including high-performing industry clusters and ecosystem assets, while also addressing barriers that could limit long-term success. |
| 11:00 – 11:10 am | Networking Break |



11:10 am – 12:00 pm Panel: Increasing GO Virginia’s Collective Impact

This session will explore how GO Virginia functions as a catalyst for statewide economic transformation by leveraging the strengths of its regional partners. Panelists will highlight regional collaboration, scalable initiatives, and innovative approaches to aligning local priorities with the broader goals of the Commonwealth.

12:00 pm – 12:30 pm Lunch

12:30 pm – 2:00 pm Facilitated Conversation: GO Virginia Investment Strategies

In this facilitated discussion, board members will break into small groups to reflect on whether GO Virginia’s current investment strategies remain responsive to regional needs, competitive realities, and the Commonwealth’s long-term economic goals. Groups will reconvene to share takeaways and proposed action steps with the whole board. This session is designed to spark candid conversation and lay the groundwork for potential refinements to the program’s strategic direction in the months ahead.

Close of Meeting

The quarterly business meeting of the GO Virginia State Board will immediately follow the retreat.