

GOVA REGION 3
EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE
MEETING PACKET

September 16, 2026



Executive Committee

Date and Time: September 16, 2026
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Location: All-virtual

Link: <https://tinyurl.com/yjn5jvm4>

Dial-In: 929-205-6099

Meeting ID: 339 011 5898

Password: 202011

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.....Robert Bates
- II. Roll Call and Confirmation of Quorum.....Ann Wright
- III. Public Comments.....Robert Bates
- IV. Declaration of Conflicts of Interest..... Robert Bates
- V. Approval of Meeting Minutes..... Robert Bates
- VI. Financial Report and Approved Projects Update.....Ann Wright
- VII. GO Virginia Region 3 Project Funding Matrix Report.....Ann Wright

New Business

- VIII. Nominating Committee & Committee Assignments.....Bryan David
- IX. FY26 Annual Report.....Ann Wright

Project Coordinator's Report.....Bryan David

- X. Project Pipeline Report

Program Director's Report.....Ann Wright

- XI. Social Media Comment Management
- XII. Policy and Bylaws Review Workgroup

Adjourn

MINUTES

GO VIRGINIA REGION 3 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, June 17, 2026

REGULAR BUSINESS

Call To Order

Chair Willis called the GO Virginia (GOVA) Region 3 Executive Committee all-virtual meeting to order on Wednesday, June 17, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.

Roll Call and Confirmation of Quorum

Chair Willis declared a quorum was present.

Region 3 Executive Committee Members

Members	In Person	Virtual	Absent
Robert Bates		X	
Amy Griffin		X	
Randy Lail		X	
Elizabeth Leggett		X	
Lauren Willis		X	

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	
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
Clinton Joseph - DHCD - GO Virginia Program Administrator		X
Alex Veach – LetterPress - CEO and Creative Director		X
Karyn Keane – LetterPress - Project Manager, Social Media Manager		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	Patrick Henry Community College
Clark Casteel	Danville Regional Foundation
Lauren Willis	Charlotte County Public Schools
Charley Majors	The Institute for Advanced Knowledge & Research; Mid-Atlantic Broadband; SOVA Innovation Hub

Approval of Minutes

Chair Willis noted that the minutes of the March 18, 2026 Executive Committee meeting were received via email prior to the meeting and included in the meeting packet. **Robert Bates made a motion that the minutes from the March 18, 2026 Executive Committee meeting be approved as presented; the motion was seconded by Elizabeth Leggett and approved unanimously by roll call vote.**

Financial Reports & Project Update

Bryan David and Ann Wright presented the Financial Reports and Project Updates included in the meeting packet for the period ending May 31, 2026. **Elizabeth Leggett made a motion that the Financial Reports be approved as presented; the motion was seconded by Amy Griffin and approved unanimously by roll call vote.**

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:

- CEA Innovation Center Research Building Expansion. This project would involve installing a prefabricated research greenhouse, completing associated building improvements, and preparing the site and utilities to support expanded facilities and services at the Center.
- Farm Park Implementation Playbook. This planning project would build upon the recent feasibility report on the co-location of data centers and controlled environment agriculture greenhouses prepared by the Resource Innovation Institute.
- Southern Virginia Partnership for Health Science Careers (SOVA Partnership). It will establish coordinated training pathways in high demand healthcare fields, including medical technicians, behavioral health technicians, and nursing assistants, through a partnership involving Longwood University, Danville Community College, regional healthcare systems, and other higher education institutions.
- Virginia AI Innovation Hub and Venture Studios. Smart Innovation Corporation, a nonprofit organization, is proposing to develop an industry aligned workforce development program to support individuals pursuing careers in artificial intelligence, data analytics, and applied machine learning, as well as to assist existing businesses with AI adoption in the workplace.
- Metals Workforce Training Center. This project is being developed by the Town of Bedford Economic Development Authority following a successful feasibility and master planning effort funded by GO Virginia Region 2.
- RISE Regional Entrepreneurship & Innovation Strategy: Phase III (working title). This is a two-year regional implementation initiative to strengthen entrepreneurship, innovation, talent development, and business growth across GO Virginia Region 3. The project has three components: Student Entrepreneurship Expansion; Regional Ecosystem Building and Local Capacity Development; and AI Literacy for Innovation Capacity.
- Region 3 Leadership Development Project. This project would be developed in partnership with the University of Virginia Sorenson Institute for Leadership and the Virginia Institute for Government to establish a community leadership development program serving Region 3.

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

NEW BUSINESS

Marketing Contract

Region 3 Council, through the Southside Planning District Commission (SPDC), has received the annual service contract from Letterpress Communications to provide professional public relations and communications strategies. The FY26-27 proposal was presented to the Committee. **Randy Lail made a motion to approve the Proposal as presented; the motion was seconded by Robert Bates and approved unanimously by roll call vote.**

Region 3 FY26 Budget Amendment

Ann Wright proposed amendments to the Region 3 FY26 Capacity Building (Operations) Budget, as included in the meeting packet. **Amy Griffin made a motion to approve the Budget as presented; the motion was seconded by Elizabeth Leggett and approved unanimously by roll call vote.**

Staff Position RFPs Issued and Letters of Interest Received

The SPDC, as Fiscal Agent and Support Organization for Region 3, issued Requests for Proposals (RFPs) for two contract staff positions: Project Coordinator and Senior Program Advisor. One Letter of Interest for each position was received by the submission deadline, and both were included in the meeting packet. **Amy Griffin made a motion to convene in closed session to discuss the Region 3 Project Coordinator and Senior Advisor Letters of Interest, pursuant to the personnel exemption under §2.2-3711(A)(1) of the Code of Virginia; the motion was seconded by Elizabeth Leggett and approved unanimously by roll call vote.**

Following the closed session, **Amy Griffin made a motion to certify that, to the best of each member's knowledge: 1) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under Virginia law were discussed in the closed session; and 2) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed session were heard, discussed, or considered by the Council. The motion was seconded by Randy Lail and approved unanimously by roll call vote.**

Amy Griffin made a motion for the SPDC to accept both proposals as submitted; the motion was seconded by Elizabeth Leggett 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 which included the GO Virginia Regional Council Assessment, an update on the Region 3 staff transition, and the pending projects report.

ADJOURN

There being no additional business matters to be brought before the GOVA Region 3 Council, Chair Willis adjourned the meeting at 11:59 a.m.

These minutes were approved on _____.

Andy Wells, Southside PDC
Executive Director

Lauren Willis, GOVA Region 3
Council Chair



GO VIRGINIA REGION 3 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
Thursday August 6, 2026

REGULAR BUSINESS

Call To Order

Chair Bates called the GO Virginia (GOVA) Region 3 Special Called Executive Committee all-virtual meeting to order on Thursday, August, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.

Roll Call and Confirmation of Quorum

Chair Bates declared a quorum was present.

Region 3 Executive Committee Members

Members	In Person	Virtual	Absent
Robert Bates		X	
Amy Griffin		X	
Elizabeth Leggett		X	

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 – Region 3 Contract Staff - Project Coordinator		X	
Ann Wright – Southside PDC Contract Staff - Program Director		X	
Liz Povar – Southside PDC Contract Staff - Senior Advisor		X	
Andy Wells - Southside PDC (Support Org. & Fiscal Agent) – Executive Director		X	

Guests in Attendance

Name – Organization - Role	In Person	Virtual
Cody Anderson – DHCD - GO Virginia Program Administrator		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)
Robert Bates	Charlotte County Public Schools
Charley Majors	The Institute for Advanced Knowledge & Research; Mid-Atlantic Broadband; SOVA Innovation Hub

NEW BUSINESS

Project Review Committee- Rise Phase III: AI-Ready Entrepreneurial Ecosystem Application (revised)

Bryan David and Lauren Mathena presented the revised RISE Phase III: AI-Ready Entrepreneur Ecosystem application to the Council. The Project Review Committee reviewed the revised application and recommended approval. **Amy Griffin made a motion to approve the application as presented and authorized the Chair to execute the Project Match Waiver document; the motion was seconded by Elizabeth Leggett and approved unanimously by roll call vote.**

ADJOURN

There being no additional business matters to be brought before the GOVA Region 3 Council, Chair Bates adjourned the meeting at 9:44 a.m.

These minutes were approved on _____.

Andy Wells, Southside PDC
Executive Director

Robert Bates, GOVA Region 3
Council Chair

FINANCIAL REPORT & PROJECT UPDATE

MBC MIDDLE MILE CONSTRUCTION: CLOSED

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

Report Period: AUGUST 2026

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 #13 8/17/2026	Total Paid After Remittance	Grant Balance
SPDC Project Administration	\$ 14,863.77	\$ 14,863.77	\$ -	\$ 14,863.77	\$ -
MBC Project Administration	\$ 384.41	\$ 384.41	\$ -	\$ 384.41	\$ -
Legal Expenses	\$ 171.21	\$ 171.21	\$ -	\$ 171.21	\$ -
A&E Fees	\$ 419,695.13	\$ 419,695.13	\$ -	\$ 419,695.13	\$ -
Contract Services	\$ 4,564,885.48	\$ 4,526,640.60	\$ 38,244.88	\$ 4,564,885.48	\$ -
Awarded Total	\$ 5,000,000.00	\$ 4,961,755.12	\$ 38,244.88	\$ 5,000,000.00	\$ -

REQUIRED MATCHING FUNDS

Budget Categories from CAMS	Committed Match	Previous Match	Current Match	Total Match To Date	Match Balance
SPDC Project Administration	\$ 32,203.41	\$ 32,203.41	\$ -	\$ 32,203.41	\$ -
MBC Project Administration	\$ 384.40	\$ 384.40	\$ -	\$ 384.40	\$ -
Legal Expenses	\$ 10,561.40	\$ 10,561.40	\$ -	\$ 10,561.40	\$ -
A&E Fees	\$ 617,144.06	\$ 617,144.06	\$ -	\$ 617,144.06	\$ -
Contract Services	\$ 4,339,706.73	\$ 5,622,457.63	\$ 45,510.62	\$ 5,667,968.25	\$ (1,328,261.52)
Match Total	\$ 5,000,000.00	\$ 6,282,750.90	\$ 45,510.62	\$ 6,328,261.52	\$ (1,328,261.52)
					*Overmatched

Status: GOVA funds were 100% expended; GOVA project in close out. 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 - June 30, 2026

Report Period: AUGUST 2026

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 #14 7/29/2026	Total Paid After Remittance	Grant Balance
SPDC Project Monitoring/Reporting	\$ 25,288.00	\$ 21,771.91	\$ 3,470.35	\$ 25,242.26	\$ 45.74
Contract Services	\$ 270,688.33	\$ 270,688.33	\$ -	\$ 270,688.33	\$ -
Equipment (Freight, Inflationary)	\$ 292,146.96	\$ 292,146.96	\$ -	\$ 292,146.96	\$ -
Indirect Costs	\$ 256,114.00	\$ 215,641.94	\$ 17,799.38	\$ 233,441.32	\$ 22,672.68
Marketing (Outreach)	\$ 99,000.00	\$ 78,870.70	\$ 497.27	\$ 79,367.97	\$ 19,632.03
Salaries & Fringe	\$ 1,892,697.48	\$ 1,624,505.52	\$ 154,711.15	\$ 1,779,216.67	\$ 113,480.81
Supplies	\$ 126,025.20	\$ 126,025.20	\$ -	\$ 126,025.20	\$ -
Training	\$ 479,392.26	\$ 269,859.44	\$ 16,056.30	\$ 285,915.74	\$ 193,476.52
Travel	\$ 33,468.77	\$ 33,468.77	\$ -	\$ 33,468.77	\$ -
Awarded Total	\$ 3,474,821.00	\$ 2,932,978.77	\$ 192,534.45	\$ 3,125,513.22	\$ 349,307.78

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	\$ 434,094.51	\$ -	\$ 434,094.51	\$ (33,594.51)
Salaries & Fringe	\$ 1,232,540.00	\$ 1,916,724.53	\$ -	\$ 1,916,724.53	\$ (684,184.53)
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	\$ 3,028,135.28	\$ -	\$ 3,028,135.28	\$ (602,056.28)

Status: GOVA funds will be 99% expended. The final remittance is in process. GO TEC 2025 met or exceeded all project performance metrics, impacting more than 20,000 students. The Sustainability Plan has been completed. Portions of the plan will be made public, while proprietary sections will remain confidential. GO TEC has transitioned from development to strategic execution. As outlined in the Sustainability Plan, a staff reorganization is scheduled for completion by September to align with the plan's strategic priorities and establish sustainable revenue streams that support long-term operations.

RISE Build-to-Scale

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

Report Date: AUGUST 2026

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 #8 5/7/2026	Total Paid After Remittance	Grant Balance
SPDC Project Administration	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 13,095.82	\$ 1,121.19	\$ 14,217.01	\$ 15,782.99
Fiscal Management: MBC	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ -	\$ 20,000.00	\$ -
Marketing: MBC	\$ 60,000.00	\$ 19,804.19	\$ 33,759.99	\$ 53,564.18	\$ 6,435.82
Contract Services	\$ 490,000.00	\$ 249,853.79	\$ 98,840.19	\$ 348,693.98	\$ 141,306.02
Awarded Total	\$ 600,000.00	\$ 302,753.80	\$ 133,721.37	\$ 436,475.17	\$ 163,524.83

REQUIRED MATCHING FUNDS

Budget Categories from CAMS	Committed Match	Previous Match	Current Match	Total Match To Date	Match Balance
Marketing: MBC	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 45,428.56	\$ 4,468.59	\$ 49,897.15	\$ 102.85
Administration: MBC	\$ 60,000.00	\$ 52,298.64	\$ 601.26	\$ 52,899.90	\$ 7,100.10
Training	\$ 190,000.00	\$ 165,000.00		\$ 165,000.00	\$ 25,000.00
Match Total	\$ 300,000.00	\$ 262,727.20	\$ 5,069.85	\$ 267,797.05	\$ 32,202.95

Status: GOVA funds are 73% expended. Programs continue to move forward as planned. The third annual RISE Summit was held on August 27, with 99 attendees participating in 15 sessions featuring 18 speakers and 12 exhibitors. Nine of Region 3's 15 localities were represented. Monthly RISE Meetups continue, and fall workshops are currently being planned.

SVCC Occupational Training Facility

Grant Agreement Term: October 1, 2025 - September 30, 2027

Report Date: AUGUST 2026

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 #2 4/2/2026	Total Paid After Remittance	Grant Balance
Project Monitoring & Reporting	\$ 4,000.00	\$ -	\$ 1,014.41	\$ 1,014.41	\$ 2,985.59
Equipment	\$ 492,106.00	\$ 91,134.00	\$ 261,147.88	\$ 352,281.88	\$ 139,824.12
Contingencies	\$ 73,894.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 73,894.00
Awarded Total	\$ 570,000.00	\$ 91,134.00	\$ 262,162.29	\$ 353,296.29	\$ 216,703.71

REQUIRED MATCHING FUNDS

Budget Categories from CAMS	Committed Match	Previous Match	Current Match	Total Match To Date	Match Balance
A&E	\$ 133,200.00	\$ -	\$ 123,284.37	\$ 123,284.37	\$ 9,915.63
Land Acquisition	\$ 151,800.00	\$ 151,800.00	\$ -	\$ 151,800.00	\$ -
Match Total	\$ 285,000.00	\$ 151,800.00	\$ 123,284.37	\$ 275,084.37	\$ 9,915.63

Status: GOVA funds are 62% expended. The two tractors and trailers have been delivered, and Region 3 GO Virginia logo decals are being added. This equipment will allow additional students to be enrolled in both the Powerline and Tractor Trailer Driving cohorts moving forward. Construction of the driving track is complete, and the training facility building is expected to be completed by August 2026. To date, 8 net new students have been trained and 48 credentials awarded.

SoVa Fab Lab

Grant Agreement Term: April 1, 2026 - March 31, 2028

Report Date: AUGUST 2026

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 #1	Total Paid After Remittance	Grant Balance
SPDC Project Monitoring/Reporting	\$ 20,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 20,000.00
Equipment	\$ 350,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 350,000.00
Contract Services	\$ 85,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 85,000.00
Outreach	\$ 35,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 35,000.00
Fiscal Management/Accounting	\$ 20,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 20,000.00
Awarded Total	\$ 510,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 510,000.00

REQUIRED MATCHING FUNDS

Budget Categories from CAMS	Committed Match	Previous Match	Current Match	Total Match To Date	Match Balance
Contract Services	\$ 150,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 150,000.00
Rent/Lease	\$ 110,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 110,000.00
Match Total	\$ 260,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 260,000.00

Status: No remittance activity has occurred to date. Renovations are ongoing and are expected to be completed by the end of October, with furniture and equipment installation planned for November. A soft opening will be held later this fall, followed by a grand opening anticipated in February 2027. A five-year Fab Lab business plan is also currently being developed.

BRIC (Blue Ridge Innovation Corridor)

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

Report Date: AUGUST 2026

Sub-Grantee: BRIC

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	\$ 247,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 247,000.00
Awarded Total	\$ 250,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 250,000.00

REQUIRED MATCHING FUNDS

Budget Categories from CAMS	Committed Match	Previous Match	Current Match	Total Match To Date	Match Balance
Contract Services- Harvest Foundation	\$ 100,000.00		\$ -	\$ -	\$ 100,000.00
Contract Services- Montgomery	\$ 10,000.00		\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,000.00
Contract Services- Danville	\$ 5,000.00		\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,000.00
Contract Services- Pittsylvania	\$ 5,000.00		\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,000.00
Contract Services Match Total	\$ 120,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 120,000.00
Salaries- Botetourt	\$ 1,250.00		\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,250.00
Salaries- Franklin	\$ 1,250.00		\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,250.00
Salaries- Henry	\$ 1,250.00		\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,250.00
Salaries- Martinsville	\$ 1,250.00		\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,250.00
Salaries Match Total	\$ 5,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,000.00
Match Total	\$ 125,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 125,000.00

Status: No remittance activity has occurred to date; DD#1 is expected in September. The project is more than halfway through the Deloitte engagement and is now focused on identifying priorities and developing recommendations. A first draft of the playbook is expected by the end of October, with several additional stakeholder input sessions planned before then. A series of visioning sessions has been completed focusing on advanced manufacturing, life sciences/biotechnology, and IT/defense/national security, along with two infrastructure sessions focused on the Roanoke Valley and Martinsville/Danville areas. Deloitte has not yet shared preliminary conclusions or recommendations while its analysis remains underway.

Industrial Skilled Trades Regional Expansion

Grant Agreement Term: July 1, 2026 - June 30, 2028

Report Date: AUGUST 2026

Sub-Grantee: Patrick & Henry Community College 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 #1 8/3/2026	Total Paid After Remittance	Grant Balance
Project Monitoring & Reporting	\$ 25,000.00	\$ -	\$ 1,576.15	\$ 1,576.15	\$ 23,423.85
DCC Salaries	\$ 150,450.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 150,450.00
P&HCC Salaries	\$ 316,968.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 316,968.00
SVCC Salaries	\$ 330,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 330,000.00
Salaries TOTAL	\$ 797,418.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 797,418.00
DCC Equipment	\$ 250,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 250,000.00
P&HCC Equipment	\$ 42,568.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 42,568.00
SVCC Equipment	\$ 50,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 50,000.00
Equipment TOTAL	\$ 342,568.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 342,568.00
Fees & Licenses (DCC Student Certs)	\$ 25,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 25,000.00
Other (PHCC Paid Workplace)	\$ 156,800.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 156,800.00
Awarded Total	\$ 1,346,786.00	\$ -	\$ 1,576.15	\$ 1,576.15	\$ 1,345,209.85

REQUIRED MATCHING FUNDS

Budget Categories from CAMS	Committed Match	Previous Match	Current Match	Total Match To Date	Match Balance
DCC Other (Programming)	\$ 150,000.00		\$ -	\$ -	\$ 150,000.00
P&HCC Other (WIOA + SFME)	\$ 72,627.00		\$ -	\$ -	\$ 72,627.00
Other TOTAL	\$ 222,627.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 222,627.00
P&HCC Equipment	\$ 125,561.00		\$ 176,269.00	\$ 176,269.00	\$ (50,708.00)
SVCC Equipment	\$ 145,000.00		\$ 144,149.00	\$ 144,149.00	\$ 851.00
Equipment TOAL	\$ 270,561.00	\$ -	\$ 320,418.00	\$ 320,418.00	\$ (49,857.00)
Construction (SVCC Training Facility)	\$ 180,205.00		\$ 180,205.00	\$ 180,205.00	\$ -
Match Total	\$ 673,393.00	\$ -	\$ 500,623.00	\$ 500,623.00	\$ 172,770.00

Status: GOVA funds are 1% expended; DD#1 included a significant portion of the required project match. PHCC is awaiting completion of renovations needed to establish the trade labs, which are expected to be completed in November. Equipment will be ordered once renovations are complete. DCC has ordered all equipment and has conducted interviews for faculty positions. SVCC is also in the process of purchasing equipment and hiring staff.

Danville Aviation Training Facility

Grant Agreement Term: July 1, 2026 - June 30, 2028

Report Date: AUGUST 2026

Sub-Grantee: City of Danville

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
Equipment	\$ 69,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 69,000.00
Contingencies	\$ 20,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 20,000.00
Awarded Total	\$ 92,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 92,000.00

REQUIRED MATCHING FUNDS

Budget Categories from CAMS	Committed Match	Previous Match	Current Match	Total Match To Date	Match Balance
Construction- EDA	\$ 27,600.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 27,600.00
Construction- Danville	\$ 18,400.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 18,400.00
Match Total	\$ 46,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 46,000.00

Status: No remittance activity to date. Equipment purchases will begin upon completion of the renovations. Data installation was put out to bid, with the bid opening held on September 2, 2026. Construction remains on schedule, and the first drawdown is anticipated in October.

PROJECT FUNDING MATRIX

ALL PROJECTS TO DATE

Project Name	G & D Plan Investment Strategy	Project Status	Award Date	Project Close Out Date	Grant Amount Awarded	Per Capita Grant Amount Expended	State Competitive Amount Expended	Per Capita Project Match	State Competitive Match	Funding Pool
TOTAL ALLOCATIONS THROUGH: FY27						9,284,913.75				
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		\$2,157,605.00	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		\$84,198.00	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		\$2,672,970.00	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		\$722,303.00	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	Closed	12/15/21	5/1/2026	674,304	651,139.21		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	8/31/2026	5,000,000		5,000,000.00		\$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	6/30/2026	3,474,821		3,474,821.00		\$2,426,079.00	State Competitive
PHCC GO TEC Welding Instructor	Talent Evolution	Closed	03/14/23	5/31/2025	118,545	118,545.00		129,261.00		Per Capita
SVCC GO TEC Mechatronics Instructor	Talent Evolution	Closed	03/14/23	5/31/2025	139,732	139,732.00		223,208.00		Per Capita
VGA Site Development	Site Development	Closed	06/13/23	8/31/2025	335,050	323,695.00		164,670.00		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	Closed	09/12/23	3/31/2025	133,000		108,251.12		\$67,500.00	Talent Pathways
Amelia Co Reg. Commerce Center: Due Diligence	Site Development	Closed	10/08/24	10/22/2025	100,000	83,620.66		50,000.00		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	Closed	06/04/24	6/3/2026	302,690	302,690.00		303,500.00		Per Capita
Advanced Manufacturing/CEA Initiative	Talent Evolution	Closed	12/10/24	6/9/2026	116,745		116,745.00		\$59,842.00	Talent Pathways
Co-Location of Data Centers & CEA	Site Development	Closed	12/10/24	3/23/2026	52,000	51,907.53		26,020.00		Per Capita-Planning
Chamber-AI Project (\$50,000 from Region 2)	Talent Evolution	Closed	3/5/2025	4/22/2026	100,000	91,469.79		50,000.00		Per Capita-Planning
SOVA Fab Lab (The Hub at 801)	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 Dev (w/Region 4)	Site Development	Active	10/7/2025		11,111	11,111.00				Per Capita
Danville Aviation Training Facility	Talent Evolution	Active	12/10/2025		92,000	92,000.00		46,000.00		Per Capita
Blue Ridge Innovation Corridor (w/Region 2)	Cluster Scale Up	Active	12/10/2025		250,000		250,000.00		\$125,000.00	State Competitive
Industrial Skills Trades Regional Expansion	Talent Evolution	Active	12/10/2025		1,346,786	857,383.32	489,402.68	673,393.00		State Competitive
RISE Phase III: AI Ready Region 3	Startup Ecosystem	Pending	9/15/2026?		400,000	400,000.00		400,000.00		Per Capita
TOTAL PROJECT FUNDING					24,103,983	8,391,771.28	14,963,072.65	10,071,318.60	\$13,315,497.00	
PER CAPITA PROJECT AVAILABLE BALANCE						893,142.47			Grants + Match =	47,490,798.60

ACTIVE PROJECTS

Active Project Name	G & D Plan Investment Strategy	Project Status	Award Date	Fiscal Close Out Report Date	Grant Amount Awarded	Per Capita Grant Amount Expended/ Awarded	Project Match	State Competitive Amount Expended	State Competitive Match	Funding Pool
TOTAL ALLOCATIONS THROUGH: FY27						9,284,913.75				
MBC Middle Mile Construction	Site Development	Active	03/10/22		5,000,000			5,000,000.00	\$5,000,000.00	State Competitive
GO TEC Virginia 2025	Talent Evolution	Active	12/13/22		3,474,821			3,474,821.00	\$2,426,079.00	State Competitive
SOVA RISE Build to Scale	Startup Ecosystem	Active	09/12/23		600,000	600,000.00	300,000.00			Per Capita
Advanced Manufacturing/CEA Initiative	Talent Evolution	Active	12/10/24		116,745			116,745.00	\$59,842.00	Talent Pathways
The Hub at 801	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 Dev (w/Region 4)	Site Development	Active	10/7/2025		11,111	11,111.00				Per Capita
Danville Aviation Training Facility	Talent Evolution	Approved	12/10/2025		92,000	92,000.00	46,000.00			Per Capita
Blue Ridge Innovation Corridor (w/Region 2)	Cluster Scale Up	Active	12/10/2025		250,000			250,000.00	\$125,000.00	State Competitive
Industrial Skills Trades Regional Expansion	Talent Evolution	Active	12/10/2025		1,346,786	857,383.32	673,393.00	489,402.68		State Competitive
RISE Phase III: AI Ready Region 3	Startup Ecosystem	Pending	9/15/2026?		400,000	400,000.00	200,000.00			Per Capita
TOTAL PROJECT FUNDING					24,103,983	8,391,771.28	9,871,318.60	14,963,072.65	\$13,315,497.00	
PER CAPITA PROJECT AVAILABLE BALANCE						893,142.47				

NEW BUSINESS



DATE: September 11, 2026

TO: Region 3 Executive Committee

FROM: R. Bryan David, Project Coordinator

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'RBD', located next to the 'FROM' line.

RE: GO Virginia Region 3 Nominating Committee & Committee Assignments

Following discussions and guidance from Robert Bates and Elizabeth Leggett, the following Region 3 Council members have been appointed to the Executive Committee for the 2026-2027 term:

- Dr. Amy Griffin (Deputy Executive Director, Virginia Association of School Superintendents)
- Rhonda Hodges (Principal, Hodges Workwise, LLC)
- Dale Wagoner (County Administrator, Henry County)

Additionally, the following Regional 3 Council members and the external advisor are being reappointed to serve on the Project Review Committee for the 2026-2027 term:

- Ilsa Loeser (Founder, Letterpress Communications)
- Melody Foster (regional leader_retired Executive Director, Commonwealth Regional Council)
- Neil Burke (President/CEO, Benchmark Community Band)

Regarding the three vacancies on the Region 3 Council, my colleagues and I are developing a roster of 3 potential candidates for the Nominating Committee to recommend to the Region 3 Council at its October 21st meeting. These candidates will be representatives from the private sector and from a planning district commission, in accordance with GO Virginia organizational requirements.

A potential external advisor has expressed interest in serving on the Project Review Committee, would represent a Region 3 local economic development authority, and has extensive experience in economic development and regional collaboration. I will coordinate consideration of this individual with the Chair and Vice Chair.

RECOMMENDATION:

For the Region 3 Executive Committee's information. No action needed.





DATE: September 11, 2026
TO: Region 3 Executive Committee
FROM: Ann Taylor Wright, Region 3 Program Director
RE: FY26 Annual Report

The Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) requires each GO Virginia region to submit an Annual Report summarizing regional activities and accomplishments for the preceding fiscal year.

The Region 3 FY26 Annual Report provides an overview of activities conducted during the fiscal year, including project development and implementation, regional collaboration, capacity-building activities, project pipeline development, and progress toward the goals and priorities identified in the Region 3 Growth & Diversification Plan.

The FY26 Annual Report is due to DHCD by October 1, 2026. Submission of the Annual Report is required for DHCD to issue Region 3's Capacity Building funding for the upcoming funding period. Because the submission deadline occurs prior to the next regularly scheduled meeting of the full Region 3 Council, the Annual Report is being presented to the Executive Committee for review and approval.

A copy of the proposed FY26 Annual Report is included in the meeting materials.

RECOMMENDATION:

For the Region 3 Executive Committee's review and approval of the FY26 Annual Report and authorization for staff to submit the report to DHCD by the October 1, 2026 deadline



FY26

GO Virginia Region 3 Annual Report

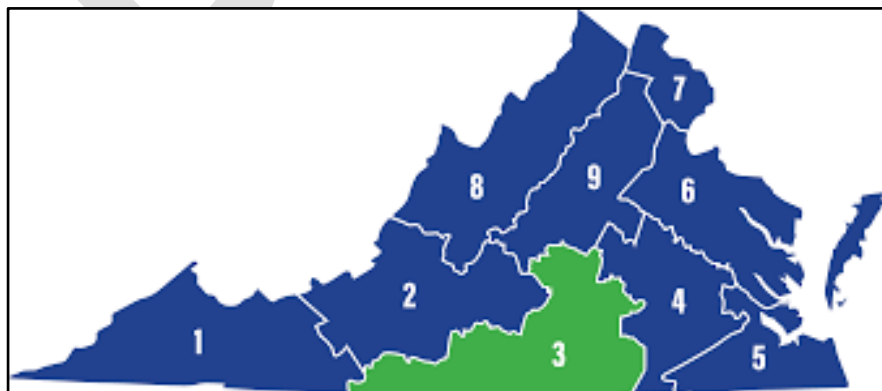
GO Virginia Region 3 Annual Report for FY26

I: Introduction

Region 3, located in rural south-central Virginia, covers the largest land area and 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 has consistently awarded its annual per capita allocation, a clear indicator of the strength and success of its initiatives. The FY26 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

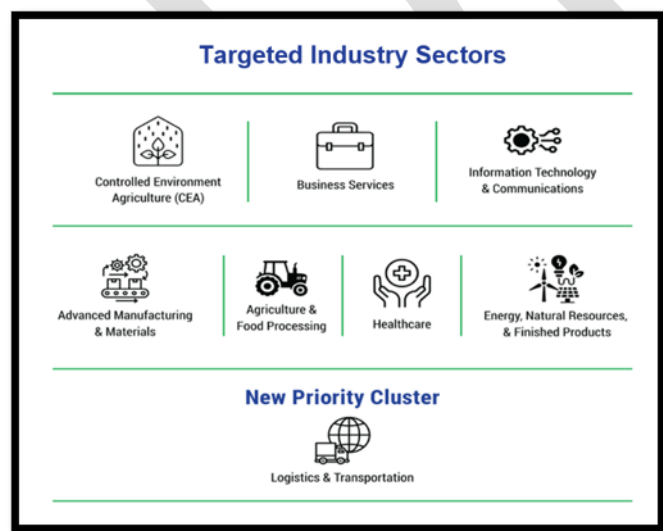
Region 3’s Growth & Diversification (G&D) Plan serves as the strategic roadmap for the Council’s investments in workforce development, business site development and infrastructure, entrepreneurship, and industry cluster growth. During FY26, Region 3 completed a comprehensive update of the Plan to assess the region’s economic performance, targeted industry sectors, workforce needs, and emerging opportunities and to establish priorities for near-term economic acceleration and long-term growth.

The update included a review of Region 3’s foundational 2017 Plan and subsequent updates completed in 2019, 2021, and 2023. Utilizing in-region expertise, Longwood University and the Longwood Small Business Development Center conducted updated economic and workforce analyses examining demographic and employment trends, wages, industry performance, occupational shortages, educational attainment, childcare access, health care availability, site readiness, and recent economic development activity. The review also evaluated the strategies and plans of 25 regional partner organizations to identify shared goals and opportunities for greater coordination.

Stakeholder engagement was a central component of the process. Nearly 100 business leaders, educators, economic developers, local government representatives, workforce organizations, community partners, and other subject matter experts were invited to participate in confidential virtual focus groups and individual interviews held between June and September 2025. An Advisory Committee composed of Region 3 Council members, regional leaders, and subject matter experts reviewed the research and stakeholder findings and provided guidance throughout development of the Plan.

The update found that Region 3 shows gradual improvement and renewed momentum, including stabilizing population trends, modest employment growth, and rising wages. However, wages and household income remain below statewide averages, and the region continues to face an aging population, low labor force participation, significant workforce shortages, and uneven economic conditions among its subregions. Housing, childcare, transportation, health care access, and digital infrastructure were identified as conditions that directly affect workforce participation, talent retention, and the ability of businesses to invest and grow.

The Plan confirmed Region 3’s continued focus on Advanced Manufacturing & Advanced Materials; Agriculture &



Food Processing; Business Services; Controlled Environment Agriculture; Energy, Natural Resources, & Finished Products; Health Care Services; Information Technology & Communications Services; and Transportation & Logistics. Transportation & Logistics was formally incorporated as a priority cluster in recognition of the region’s location, freight activity, employer demand, and growing need for commercial driver and logistics-related talent. Controlled Environment Agriculture remains an emerging, cross-cutting opportunity that builds upon the region’s agricultural assets, water resources, research capabilities, broadband infrastructure, and automation expertise.

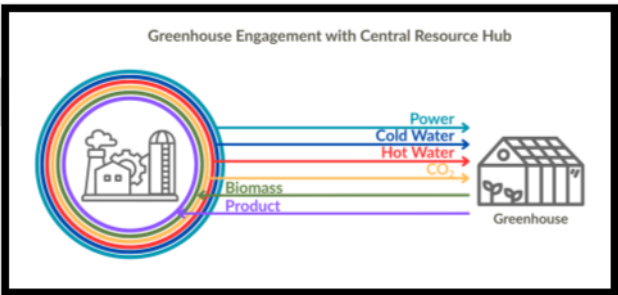
The updated Plan reinforces several priorities that have consistently guided Region 3’s work: advancing project-ready sites, strengthening career pathways, expanding employer-aligned credentials and work-based learning, supporting entrepreneurship, and building greater collaboration among education, workforce, economic development, and industry partners. It also places increased emphasis on utility and power capacity for manufacturing and data center opportunities, artificial intelligence literacy and sector-specific upskilling, and the role of childcare and housing as essential workforce infrastructure.



Region 3’s work during FY26 directly advanced these priorities. Talent initiatives continued to connect K–12 education, community colleges, higher education, and employers through GO TEC and other sector-based pathways. Advanced manufacturing and health care Talent Pathways Initiative projects analyzed occupational demand, training capacity, and opportunities to better align education with employer needs. Investments in skilled trades, mechatronics, welding, truck driver training, and other short-term credential programs responded to persistent shortages in manufacturing, maintenance, transportation, logistics, and health care

occupations. These efforts furthered the Plan’s goals of sustaining GO TEC-anchored career pathways, expanding nondegree credentials, strengthening work-based learning, and building a workforce prepared for new technologies and emerging sectors.

Region 3 also advanced the Plan’s emphasis on sites and infrastructure through investments in due diligence, site assessment, tier advancement, broadband, and regional site development strategies. Planning related to the co-location of data centers and CEA greenhouses explored an innovative opportunity to combine available land, utility infrastructure, technology, and agricultural research assets. Entrepreneurship investments continued to expand regional business support networks, innovation spaces, and technical resources for startups and small businesses, while CEA planning and research positioned the region for future cluster-scale investments.



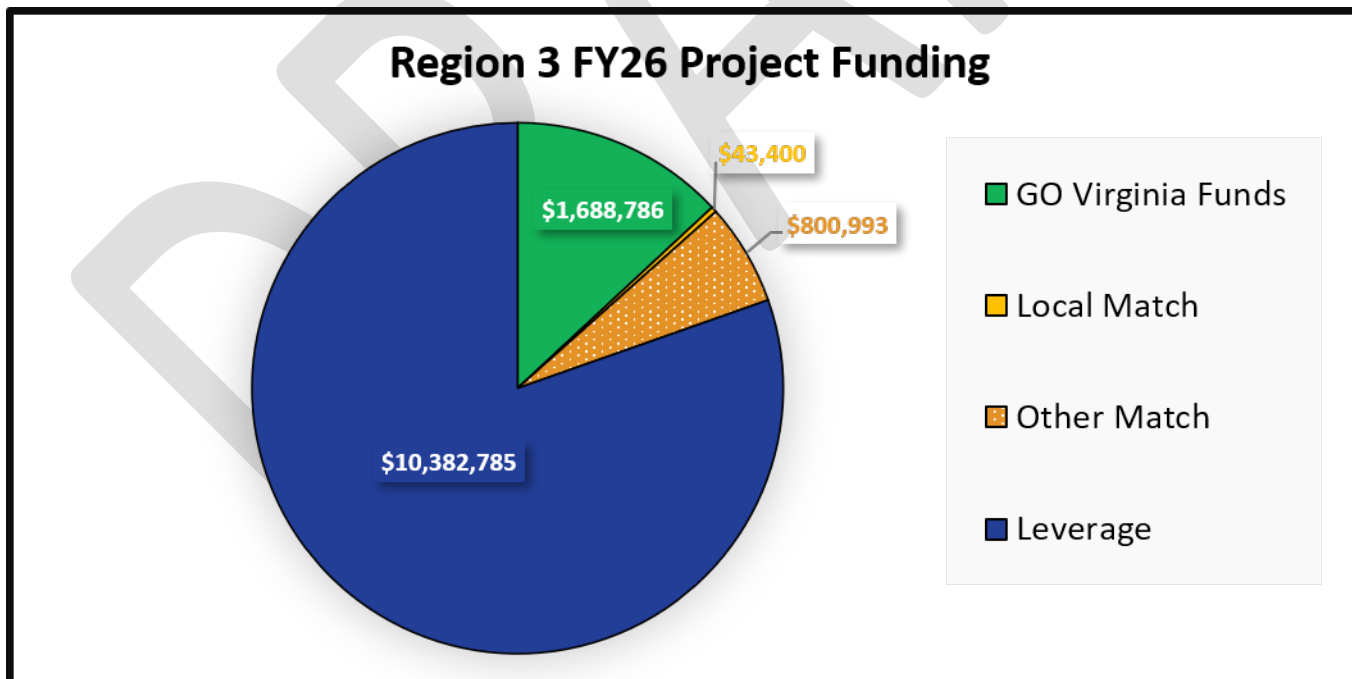
Collectively, these efforts demonstrate that Region 3’s project portfolio is closely aligned with the goals and opportunities identified in the updated G&D Plan. The Council’s investments are strengthening the region’s people, places, and economic assets while creating the partnerships and capacity necessary to respond to workforce shortages, technological change, and emerging industry opportunities. A table outlining the updated Plan goals and the active projects advancing each priority follows.

Investment Area	Goal	FY26 Project
Site Development	Prioritize regionally-significant sites that align with Region 3 target sectors	VGA Site Development; Co-Location of Data Centers & CEA
	Support development of strategies and plans to sustain a regional approach to site development	VGA Site Development; Co-Location of Data Centers & CEA; BRIC
	Strengthen the capacity of eastern and northern sub-regions EDO's	VGA Site Development; Amelia County Due Diligence
	Increase the number of Business-Ready Sites to Tier ratings 3, 4, and 5	VGA Site Development; MBC Middle Mile Construction; Amelia County Due Diligence
	Increase the marketability of unique properties in the Region	MBC Middle Mile Construction; Co-Location of Data Centers & CEA; BRIC
	Increase the number of Business-Ready Sites for business services and healthcare	VGA Site Development; MBC Middle Mile Construction; Amelia County Due Diligence; BRIC; SOVA Partnership for Health Science Careers
Talent Evolution	Monitor and advance the implementation of GO TEC	GO TEC 2025; GO TEC Region 3 Expansion
	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; SVCC Occupational Training Facility; A.I. Statewide Assessment; Industrial Skilled Trades; Danville Aviation; BRIC
	Support apprenticeship model implementation	SVCC Occupational Training Facility; Industrial Skilled Trades; SOVA Partnership for Health Science Careers
	Develop an approach to talent attraction and retention	GO TEC 2025; GO TEC Region 3 Expansion; BRIC; SOVA Partnership for Health Science Careers

Investment Area	Goal	FY26 Project *Denotes Multi-Region 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	Co-Location of Data Centers & CEA; SOVA Partnership for Health Science Careers
	Identify and support efforts to grow emerging business sectors	RISE Build to Scale; SEED Innovation Hub; SOVA Fab Lab; VA Chamber of Commerce's A.I. Statewide Assessment; BRIC
	Sustain the designation of <i>significant</i> entrepreneurial hubs and increase the designation of <i>moderate</i> and <i>limited</i> 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	BRIC; Co-Location of Data Centers & CEA;
	CEA: Enhance the growth and job creation within Virginia's existing CEA firms, making the state a prime location for CEA business investment	BRIC; Co-Location of Data Centers & CEA;
	CEA: Cultivate a pipeline of skilled individuals in CEA through comprehensive talent development programs that would include CEA-relevant credentials	Future IALR Greenhouse Expansion Project
	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 Project; Future IALR Greenhouse Expansion Project
	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	BRIC; Co-Location of Data Centers & CEA; Future IALR Greenhouse Expansion Project

III: Summary of Projects

FY26 Awarded Projects	GO Virginia Funds	Total Match	Local Match	Additional Leverage
Danville Aviation Training Facility	\$92,000	\$46,000	\$18,400	\$8,041,928
Blue Ridge Innovation Corridor (BRIC)	\$250,000	\$125,000	\$25,000	\$0
Industrial Skills Trades Regional Expansion	\$1,346,786	\$673,393	\$0	\$2,340,857
FY26 Project Totals	\$1,688,786	\$844,393	\$ 43,400	\$ 10,382,785



Sub- Grantee	Participating Localities	Project Description	Relevant Project Metrics
Danville Aviation Training Facility			
City of Danville	City of Danville; Counties of Mecklenburg, Halifax, and Pittsylvania	Through partnerships with Danville Community College (DCC), Averett University, and Danville City Public Schools (DCPS), the City of Danville will construct an Aviation Training Facility at Danville Regional Airport to expand the pool of qualified workers in the aviation sectors within Region 3. The facility will support DCC's new Aviation Maintenance Technology program that will be linked to the DCPS Aviation Science Pathways program and Averett University's Aeronautics program.	• 75 people trained • 50 credentials awarded • 1 new program implemented
Blue Ridge Innovation Corridor (BRIC)			
Blue Ridge Innovation Corridor	Counties of Franklin, Botetourt, Montgomery, Henry, and Pittsylvania; Cities of Martinsville and Danville	The Blue Ridge Innovation Corridor (BRIC)'s Vision 2050 is meant to serve as a guiding study to inform superregional strategy to promote the economic growth and vitality of the region. The study will contain strategic guidance on 7 topics: 1. Advanced Manufacturing Sector Strategy 2. Life Sciences and Biotechnology Sector Strategy 3. IT and Emerging Technology Sector Strategy 4. Infrastructure Investment Strategy 5. Funding Roadmap Strategy 6. Connectivity Strategy 7. Governance Model	• Advanced Manufacturing Sector Strategy • Life Sciences and Biotechnology Sector Strategy • IT and Emerging Technology Sector Strategy • Infrastructure Investment Strategy • Funding Roadmap Strategy • Connectivity Strategy • Governance Model

Industrial Skills Trades Regional Expansion

Patrick & Henry Community College	Counties of Amelia, Buckingham, Charlotte, Cumberland, Lunenburg, Nottoway, Henry, Halifax, Mecklenburg, Patrick, Pittsylvania and Prince Edward; Cities of Danville and Martinsville	Through partnerships with Danville Community College and Southside Virginia Community College, the proposed expansion program will provide training offerings in industrial skills trades professions to include electrical, carpentry, HVAC, plumbing, and industrial maintenance to expand the pool of qualified workers in industrial skills trade professions within Region 3.	• 360 people trained • 270 job placements • 3,021 credentials awarded • 20 new internships created
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IV: Regional Collaboration & Partner Support

Collaboration remained central to Region 3's work in FY26, with initiatives bringing together business, education, workforce, philanthropy, economic development, and local government partners around shared regional priorities. These partnerships strengthened Region 3's ability to address workforce needs, coordinate resources across jurisdictions, and pursue economic opportunities at a scale greater than any single organization or locality could achieve independently.



The Danville Aviation Training Facility Project demonstrates the value of collaboration among local government, workforce development, K12 education, and economic development partners to strengthen the region's aviation talent pipeline. Led by the City of Danville, the initiative builds upon the region's growing aviation sector by expanding the infrastructure available to prepare individuals for aviation-related careers. The effort reflects a coordinated approach to aligning workforce training capacity with employer needs and broader economic development opportunities, while leveraging partnerships to create a sustainable talent pipeline for an industry with continued growth potential in Region 3.

Region 3 also strengthened collaboration beyond its geographic boundaries through the Blue Ridge Innovation Corridor (BRIC) Project and its Vision 2050 initiative, which connects Regions 2 and 3 along the corridor extending from Roanoke and Blacksburg through Martinsville and Danville. BRIC brings together more than 50 business and institutional leaders around a shared vision for positioning the broader region to compete more effectively for national and global investment. Rather than approaching economic development solely through individual jurisdictions, the initiative recognizes the complementary assets of the two regions and creates a framework for pursuing opportunities collectively.

Through Vision 2050, business, higher education, economic development, philanthropy, and government leaders are collaborating around opportunities in Advanced Manufacturing, Life Sciences & Biotechnology, and Information Technology & Emerging Technology, as well as the infrastructure and workforce conditions necessary to support their growth. The partnership connects major educational, research, workforce, and economic development assets across Regions 2 and 3, including Virginia Tech, the Roanoke innovation ecosystem, the Institute for Advanced Learning and Research, and the advanced manufacturing strengths of Danville and Martinsville. The initiative is also establishing ongoing workstreams composed of business, government, and higher education leaders to ensure that collaboration continues through implementation.



Within Region 3, the Industrial Skilled Trades Regional Expansion Project provides another strong example of partners working across institutional and geographic boundaries. Patrick & Henry Community College, Danville Community College, and Southside Virginia Community College are collaborating on a first-ever coordinated regional approach to skilled trades training rather than developing programs independently. By aligning curricula, credentialing, equipment, instructor capacity, mobile training, and work-based learning opportunities, the colleges are creating a more connected workforce development system that can respond to employer needs throughout Region 3.

The initiative extends beyond the three community colleges through partnerships with workforce organizations, employers, philanthropic organizations, and state and federal partners. Virginia Career Works supports connections between training and paid work experiences, while other partners contribute resources and expertise that expand access to training and strengthen pathways from education to employment. Mobile training capabilities are particularly important to the collaborative model, allowing programs and resources to reach rural communities and employers throughout the region rather than requiring all participants to travel to a single training location.

Collectively, these efforts illustrate Region 3's continued evolution toward increasing regional and multi-regional approaches to economic and workforce development. FY26 collaborations cross-connected local government with workforce training, aligned three community colleges around a shared skilled trades strategy, and linked Region 3 with Region 2 through a long-term economic development framework driven by business and institutional leadership. These partnerships help reduce duplication, leverage complementary assets, strengthen connections between education and industry, and create the scale necessary to address challenges and opportunities that extend beyond individual jurisdictional boundaries.

The GO Virginia Region 3 Council relied on many partners during the year. FY26 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
- Region 3 Cities of Danville and Martinsville
- UVA's Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service
- Heartland Regional Industrial Facilities Authority
- Southside Planning District Commission
- Commonwealth Regional Council
- West Piedmont Planning District Commission
- Southern Virginia's Growth Alliance
- Institute for Advanced Learning & Research
- Longwood University
- Hampden Sydney College
- Southside Virginia Community College
- Patrick & Henry Community College
- Danville Community College
- Southern Virginia Higher Education Center
- SOVA Innovation Hub Corporation
- Mid-Atlantic Broadband Communities, Inc.
- Blue Ridge Innovation Corridor
- Virginia's Gateway Region
- Hampton Roads Alliance
- Hampton Roads Workforce Council

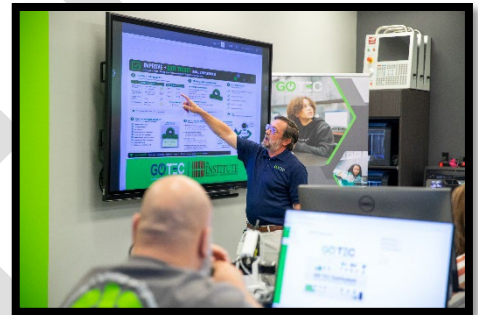


V: Outcomes & Impact

FY26 marked an important year of measurable impact for GO Virginia Region 3. The Council managed 15 active projects during the fiscal year, with eight projects reaching completion. Of those completed projects, four were implementation projects with measurable outcomes: GO TEC Virginia 2025, GO TEC Region 3 Expansion, Virginia's Growth Alliance Site Development, and the SEED Innovation Hub. Together, these projects demonstrate the long-term value of Region 3's investments in talent development, site readiness, entrepreneurship, and regional capacity.

The most significant impact of the year was the continued growth and statewide success of GO TEC. What began as a Region 3 workforce development strategy has evolved into a scalable talent pathway serving communities across Virginia. GO TEC introduces middle school students to career pathways connected to advanced manufacturing, engineering, information technology, health care technologies, precision agriculture, energy, and other high-demand fields while connecting K–12 education with higher education and industry.

Through the GO TEC Virginia 2025 Project, the initiative expanded across GO Virginia Regions 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 and established the infrastructure necessary to support continued growth. By Fall 2025, GO TEC had reached 73 schools and approximately 11,000 students, demonstrating the extraordinary scale achieved from a program that originated in Region 3.



The workforce and economic outcomes associated with GO TEC Virginia 2025 further demonstrate the program's impact. The project reported 3,019 jobs created or filled and 84 people trained. During the final quarter alone, 925 additional jobs were attributed to expansions by Hitachi Energy in South Boston. The project also completed a comprehensive Business & Sustainability Plan to guide GO TEC beyond the grant period, providing a framework for sustaining the network and its statewide impact.



GO TEC's impact extends beyond the metrics themselves. The project has created a replicable framework through which schools, higher education institutions, economic developers, and employers can introduce students to high-demand occupations and rapidly deploy consistent technology-based career programming across multiple regions. Continued activities such as mobile lab engagements, career awareness programming, and the annual GO TEC VEX IQ Robotics competition—which engaged 120 students from 14 schools in 2026—demonstrate how the initiative has developed into an enduring workforce development platform rather than a stand-alone grant project.

Region 3 also continued to strengthen GO TEC within its own footprint through the GO TEC Region 3 Expansion project. The initiative expanded programming into additional school divisions and reported 488 new students trained, exceeding its goal of 402. The project established and supported GO TEC lab capacity in Henry County and Brunswick County, further extending access to hands-on career exploration and technical education within Region 3.

FY26 also produced tangible results in site development, another long-standing Region 3 priority. The Virginia's Growth Alliance Site Development Project improved the readiness and marketability of industrial properties across the eastern portion of the region. The project advanced 362 acres to a higher tier per Virginia Business Ready Sites Program (VBRSP) and impacted a total of 449 acres.

The project also demonstrated the value of approaching site development regionally. By coordinating due diligence and tier-advancement activities across multiple localities, Virginia's Growth Alliance was able to consolidate resources and improve the collective inventory of marketable industrial properties. With nearly all of the project's site-readiness goals achieved, participating localities now have stronger economic development assets to market to prospective employers in Region 3's targeted sectors.

The SEED Innovation Hub represents another significant long-term outcome of Region 3 investment. The project



established a permanent northern anchor for Region 3's entrepreneurial ecosystem, connecting entrepreneurs, businesses, students, educators, manufacturers, and communities with prototyping technologies, business expertise, and regional innovation resources. SEED connects with the Longwood Small Business Development Center, Growth Lab accelerator, SOVA Innovation Hub, educational institutions, local governments, economic development organizations, manufacturers, investors, and technical experts, creating a physical location where these resources can converge.

SEED served 232 entrepreneurs and 63 businesses. The project also supported the creation of six new businesses and seven jobs while establishing the infrastructure necessary for longer-term business formation and commercialization. Additional outcomes included the launch of the Growth Lab accelerator, development of a regional mentor network, expanded makerspace and prototype development programming, integration of entrepreneurship into Longwood University curricula, and youth and community innovation programming.



The long-term impact of SEED extends well beyond the initial project period. GO Virginia's investment helped leverage more than \$3.7 million in complementary federal, state, university, and foundation investment, resulting in a permanent regional innovation asset. Longwood University has incorporated the facility into its academic, economic development, and community engagement activities, while the Longwood Small Business Development Center maintains a permanent presence within the facility. Commitments to continued operation and maintenance provide a foundation for SEED to continue supporting entrepreneurship, commercialization, workforce development, and regional partnerships well beyond the GO Virginia grant period.

Collectively, the projects completed in FY26 illustrate the cumulative impact of Region 3's approach to economic development. GO TEC has grown from a regional concept into a multi-regional workforce model reaching thousands of Virginia students; regional site investments have transformed undeveloped properties into increasingly marketable economic development assets; and SEED has created permanent infrastructure for entrepreneurship and innovation in a rural portion of the Commonwealth. These outcomes demonstrate that Region 3's investments are not simply completing individual projects—they are building systems, assets, and partnerships capable of producing economic impact well beyond the original grant periods.

Projects Completed in FY26	Implementation Outcomes
GO TEC 2025	- 3,019 jobs created/filled - 84 people trained
GO TEC Expansion	- 488 students trained
SEED Innovation Hub	- 7 jobs created/filled - 6 new businesses created - 63 businesses served - 232 entrepreneurs served
VGA Site Development	- 362 acres advanced to higher tier per VBRSP - 449 acres impacted/developed

VI: Communication and Outreach

In FY26, the Region 3 Council continued its partnership with Letterpress Communications to manage communications, marketing, and outreach efforts. Letterpress maintained Region 3's digital presence across Facebook, LinkedIn, and YouTube, developed and distributed a bi-monthly newsletter while also providing graphic design, photography, event communications, advertising, and website maintenance.

Letterpress also supported media outreach by maintaining targeted media lists, developing and distributing press releases, identifying opportunities for broader coverage, and monitoring economic development news throughout the region. These efforts helped maintain awareness of GO Virginia opportunities, Council activities, funded projects, and regional accomplishments among partners and stakeholders.

VII: Project Pipeline

Region 3 continues to maintain an active project pipeline aligned with priorities identified in the Growth & Diversification Plan. Projects currently in development or anticipated include:

1. CEA Innovation Center Research Building Expansion: This proposed implementation project would expand research capacity at the Institute for Advanced Learning & Research's Controlled Environment Agriculture (CEA) Innovation Center through a new research greenhouse and specialized equipment. The project builds upon other secured funding for the facility.

2. Farm Park Implementation Playbook: Building on Region 3's feasibility study examining the co-location of data centers and CEA greenhouses, this planning initiative would further develop a model for capturing and beneficially using data center waste heat to support CEA operations. Development of the project is currently paused to coordinate with a Virginia Department of Energy study and related state-level work examining beneficial uses of data center waste heat.

3. Southern Virginia Partnership for Health Science Careers: Centra- Farmville, SOVA Health- Danville/Martinsville, Sentara- Halifax, VCU Community Memorial Health- South Hill, Averett University, Longwood University, Hampden-Sydney College, Danville Community College, Patrick & Henry Community College, Southside Virginia Community College, Southern Virginia Higher Education Center, West Piedmont Higher Education Center, and other allied health care partners are developing an implementation strategy focused on high-demand health science career pathways. The project is expected to align and strengthen connections among community college credentials, four-year and postgraduate education, and employment opportunities within regional health systems. Development is currently being coordinated with the Virginia Rural Healthcare Transformation Program and potential federal funding opportunities.

4. RISE Phase III: AI Ready Entrepreneurial Ecosystems: Led by the SOVA Innovation Hub, this project strengthens Region 3/Southern Virginia’s innovation economy by helping entrepreneurs and traded-sector businesses identify AI opportunities, implement AI-enabled innovations, commercialize new products and services, and scale their businesses. It creates a coordinated Regional Service Model that combines Business Navigation, AI & Digital Opportunity Assessments, AI Education & Technical Assistance, and Commercialization Implementation Services. Entrepreneurs and businesses will receive Individual support based on their stage of development and readiness for AI implementation and/or commercialization. The initiative is designed to build upon previous Region 3 investments in entrepreneurship while expanding access to resources across rural communities.

5. Region 3 Leadership Development Project: Building upon the regional leadership strategy completed in 2024, Region 3 continues its goal of funding GO Virginia initiatives focused on strengthening leadership capacity and cultivating the regional networks and champions necessary to support long-term economic growth and collaboration for the region, community organizations, and the Region 3 Council.

III: Council Members

Council Member- Email	Title- Organization	Sector
Lauren Willis- Region 3 Chair	Senior Administrative & Compliance Officer- Bank of Charlotte County	Private Sector
Randolph Lail – Region 3 Vice Chair	Chair of the Board- Mid-Atlantic Broadband; Benchmark Community Bank	Private Sector
Rhonda Hodges- Executive Committee	Principal and Owner- Hodges Workwise, LLC	Private Sector
Robert Bates	Area Manager- Benchmark Community Bank	Private Sector
Clark Casteel- Executive Committee	President & CEO- Dan River Foundation	Non-Profit
Sheldon Barr	President – VCU 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
Dr. Amy Griffin	Deputy Executive Director- Virginia Assoc of School Superintendents	Education
Dr. Keith Harkins	Vice President – Academic & Workforce Programs Southside Virginia Community College	Education
Ilsa Loeser	Principal and Owner- 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 Wagoner	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

PROJECT COORDINATOR'S REPORT



DATE: September 10, 2026

TO: Region 3 Executive Committee

FROM: R. Bryan David, Project Coordinator

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'RBD', next to the 'FROM:' line.

RE: Project Pipeline Report

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

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

Update

- status unchanged since the Region 3 Council meeting (7.15.26)
- project rescheduled for consideration by the Region 3 Council at its meeting on January 20, 2026, and by the GO Virginia State Board on March 9, 2026.

Information submitted with prior Pipeline Reports

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

-the project would include installing a prefabricated research greenhouse, performing related building upgrades, and preparing the site and utilities.

-a grant application to the Southern Crescent Regional Commission (SCRC) for the project was submitted earlier this year. On December 2nd, Dr. Lowman received word from the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development that the grant had been approved for \$500,000.

-an application was submitted to the Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission for the Fall 2025 grant cycle to cover other related site improvement costs, but action was postponed until the SCRC grant decision was made.

-subsequently, the Tobacco Commission approved a \$350,00 grant at its January 12, 2026, meeting, and the grant award is in process.

-a GO Virginia Region 3 implementation grant can now be developed to fund equipment to ready-fit the greenhouse for research, with a funding request of approximately \$150,000.

-based on updated information from Dr. Lowman, the GO Virginia Region 3 application will be considered by the Region 3 Council at its meeting on October 21st and then by the GO Virginia State Board at its meeting on December 8th.



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-the equipment should be ordered in spring 2027.

II. **Farm Park Implementation Playbook (data center/CEA greenhouse colocation)**

Update

-the project is paused pending the release of the Virginia Department of Energy's report on the beneficial reuse of data center waste heat, as requested by the VA General Assembly. The release date is set for 9.1.26.

-proceed with the Region 3 Council implementation planning grant, with target reviews by the Project Review Committee in early October and by the Executive Committee during the week of 10.12-15.26; DHCH deadline for administrative approval is 10.16.26.

-invited to and participated in the Department's workgroup for three virtual meetings in June and July 2026; presented the Farm Park model at Meeting #2.

-on 7.14.26, prepared and submitted a white paper to Department staff on behalf of the Institute for Advanced Learning and Research, the Resource Innovation Institute, and the GO Virginia Region 3 Council, supporting and expanding upon the workgroup presentation; the project title is The Southern Virginia Data Center–Controlled Environment Agriculture (CEA) Greenhouse Colocation Opportunity as a Public Policy Model for Competitive Business Investment, Job Creation, and Accelerated Data Center Waste Heat Use.

-briefed Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry Katie Frazier and Assistant Secretary Caroline Buscaglia on the Farm Park model in early June and distributed the white paper in July.

-briefed Secretary of Commerce and Trade Carrie Chenery and Deputy Secretary Kristin Dahlman (w/ Liz Povar) on the Farm Park model in late August and distributed the white paper and other colocation documents before the meeting.

-Derek Smith, Resource Innovation Institute's Executive Director, and Dr. Scott Lowman, confirming cash match commitments from several in-state and out-of-state CEA and data center companies for the GO Virginia Region implementation grant.

Information submitted with prior Pipeline Reports

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



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-the total Region 3 per capita planning budget will be \$150k, apportioned among the project elements, with no single element exceeding \$100k (2025-2026 per capita planning funds reserved). This approach has been discussed with DHCD GO Virginia staff.

-the application, budget, and deliverables will be submitted by the Institute for Advanced Learning and Research in partnership with the Resource Innovation Institute.

-a meeting of regional and local government economic developers was held on February 23rd. There were approximately twenty-five (25) attendees.

-the purpose of the meeting was to update the group on the Feasibility Study released last year, to brief the group on the next step in the process with the Farm Park Implementation Playbook, and to solicit the group's support and participation in this project.

-over the past number of months, Derek Smith (Resource Innovation Institute) approached a number of companies that develop and/or operate data centers and CEA greenhouses, as well as a principal with the Netherlands-based model identified in the Feasibility Study, to request a cash match. These companies view the model and GO Virginia Region 3 leadership as timely, given each company's strategic business interests in North America. These discussions have continued to date.

-since early February, I have been aware of a study resolution sponsored by Delegate Richard Sullivan (D-Arlington) that directs the Virginia Department of Energy to prepare a report and recommendations on the beneficial uses of waste heat from data centers. Here's a link to the adopted resolution: [Chapter 591](#). The report is due in September 2026.

-I sent Delegate Sullivan all of the co-location information developed to date by the Region 3 Council, the CEA Innovation Center, and Resource Innovation Institute. He expressed great interest in February but wanted to wait until after the General Session ended to meet.

-Scott Lowman, Derek Smith, and I met with Delegate Sullivan in early May. The meeting was highly productive, and Delegate Sullivan is engaged in the co-location strategy and the work to date.

-at Delegate Sullivan's request, I have been invited to serve on the workgroup representing our project team. The workgroup will meet in late June and July.

-in parallel with this opportunity, Scott Lowman and I met with the Secretary and Assistant Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry, Katie Frazier and Caroline Buscaglia, on June 1st. The meeting aimed to introduce the CEA Innovation Center and Scott



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Lowman, provide information about the CEA Summit East in October, and brief them on the co-location project and Delegate Sullivan's study.

-Delegate Sullivan encouraged us to brief them on the project and the study. Also, Secretary Frazier and I served on the Council for Rural Virginia, and she was knowledgeable about our colocation work before her appointment.

-Secretary Frazier contacted the Secretary of Commerce and Trade, Carrie Chenery, following our meeting and requested that her office be represented on the workgroup. The Virginia Department of Energy is part of the Commerce and Trade Secretariat.

-as a result of these events, we will pause the Farm Park planning grant application to await the workgroup's outcome. Based on the discussion with Delegate Sullivan, he likely expects to introduce bills for the 2027 General Assembly session that could include the substance of this Region 3 planning grant.

III. **Southern Virginia Partnership for Health Science Careers (SOVA Partnership)**

Update

-met in August with Dr. Julie Brown and Dr. Greg Hodges (Patrick & Henry Community College) to outline a sequence and cadence for developing a GO Virginia Region 3 implementation grant to meet DHCD's May 7, 2026, deadline.

-confirmed that the Patrick & Henry Community College Foundation may use a grant from the Claude Moore Foundation to fund a contract position to serve as staff for the SOVA Partnership and to develop the implementation grant through May 2026. The grant is \$135k.

-preparing the pre-submission planning framework, position description, and other related materials, which will be presented to an ad hoc group of SOVA partnership principals from the higher education and healthcare organizations for vetting, and then to the full partnership in early October.

-coordinating the development of the GO Virginia application with H. Hertz and her staff at the Virginia Rural Health Transformation Program. Also briefed Secretary Carrie Chenery on this initiative to seek her support and guidance, as the GO Virginia program is under DHCD, which is part of her secretariat.

Information submitted with prior Pipeline Reports

-at its January 21st meeting, the Region 3 Council approved Dr. Julie Brown, on behalf of Averett University, to lead the SOVA Partnership in collaboration with Longwood University and Danville Community College to develop an implementation grant.



-since then, Dr. Brown and her colleagues at Longwood University and Danville Community College have met regularly to define the scope of work, budget, schedule, and deliverables for the implementation grant. This work involves representatives from SOVA Health, Sentara Halifax, Centra, and VCU Memorial Health.

-the contours of the project have been defined to focus on three high-demand health science career pathways, spanning community college credentials, four-year degrees, and postgraduate degrees. Currently, the identified pathways are medical technicians, behavioral health technicians, and nursing assistants.

-each of these fields begins with a community college credential, then a community college degree, and progresses to four-year and postgraduate degree programs at Averett and Longwood Universities. Healthcare systems and other allied employers have positions available for individuals who earn the base credential at the community college. An initial focus of the SOVA Partnership will be on shared instructional resources among the three community colleges and on coordination with healthcare systems for clinical work by these students.

-given the extensive coordination between the SOVA Partnership leadership and stakeholders, Dr. Brown has advised that additional time is needed to develop the GO Virginia Region 3 implementation application. The grant application was scheduled to be presented to the Region 3 Council for consideration at its April 15th meeting. This would be followed by submission to DHCD GO Virginia staff by May 1st and by presentation to the GO Virginia State Board at its June 10th meeting.

-it was agreed that waiting until the Region Council's meeting on July 15th would allow this complex project to be fully developed and better positioned for success. It would be submitted to DHCD GO Virginia staff by August 8th and presented to the GO Virginia State Board at its September 15th meeting.

-the potential request for this implementation grant has not yet been determined, but it could be around \$500k, with \$250k in cash contributions from healthcare systems and foundations. The total project value would be \$750k.

-recently, a significant federal grant opportunity has become available that could support the SOVA Partnership. The program is part of HR1, passed by the US Congress in the summer, and a GO Virginia Region 3 implementation grant could use this federal funding as a match.

-the [Virginia Rural Healthcare Transformation Program](#) will run for multiple years, and in the coming year ~\$189MM has been allocated. As with all federal grants, there are a number of requirements and qualifications, the foremost being designation as a "rural" region under a federal definition. All of GO Virginia Region 3 is designated as rural for the program.



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-in May, Governor Spanberger appointed Heidi Lail Hertz, MS, RD, as Director of Rural Health Transformation.

-Dr. Brown and I agreed it was beneficial to pause development of the SOVA Partnership implementation grant until the federal program's details are better understood. Accordingly, I coordinated a virtual informational meeting with Director Hertz on June 29th. Members of the SOVA and Blue Ridge Partnerships were invited along with other allied individuals. There were approximately 50 attendees.

IV. **Southern Virginia Higher Education Center**

- Dr. Charlette Woolridge and her leadership team inquired about a potential GO Virginia Region 3 implementation grant to support the repositioning and expansion of the IT Academy during late Spring. Subsequently, development of an implementation grant was initiated in June.

-the project is titled *Building the Southern Virginia AI Academy and Southern Virginia AI Academy*.

-the GO Virginia Region 3 grant request would be approximately \$300k and would leverage matching federal funds from the U.S. Department of Labor totaling \$991,277. The federal grant was not finalized until July.

-attached is a summary of the project for reference.

-all supporting materials for the application are in development and will be presented to the Project Review Committee in early October and to the Region 3 Council at its meeting on 10.21.26. Submission to DHCD GO Virginia staff will be by the 10.30.26 deadline.

V. **Fiber Outside the Plant Credentialing Project**

-the significant investment in last-mile fiber broadband, along with the increase in high-strand-count "middle-mile" fiber in Southern Virginia, has created growing demand for skilled labor for routine maintenance and emergency repairs.

-the skills include pole climbing, OSHA training, Commercial Driver Licensing, fiber optic cabling repairs and splicing, handhold repairs, replacement of outside equipment, and other related tasks.

-Patrick & Henry Community College and Southside Virginia Community College have established very successful power line work credentialing programs.



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-the leadership and workforce development professionals at these schools see an opportunity to bundle a number of relevant credentials to create a pipeline of in-demand, trained workers for companies operating fiber networks in the region and elsewhere in the state.

-the only other community college in Virginia is Laurel Ridge Community College in Warrenton, which provides a fiber splicing credential. These community colleges would be first-movers in Virginia to offer a coordinated and comprehensive credentialing pathway.

-concurrently, during the early discussions of this idea, Meta launched its America's Workforce Academy, which focuses on skilled trades credentials applicable outside the plant. The program is national in scope and provides enrollees with a residential experience. Meta funds all costs, with its operating partner administering the program and providing candidates with tuition, airfare, lodging, and a daily stipend during training.

- Meta is looking for implementation partners, and the workgroup agreed for me to approach Meta to explain the Region 3 initiative and solicit interest and feedback.
- Mid-Atlantic Broadband and Microsoft have invested in Southside Virginia Community College's current fiber splicing credentialing program. Microsoft has expressed interest in following the initiative's development. Mid-Atlantic Broadband will not be approached until the contours of the initiative are better developed.
- no Region 3 Council implementation grant amount has been outlined, nor has a timeline for application submission or the budget been established.
- The idea for this project was proposed by Lane Chambers, owner of Commonwealth Fiber Services in Wakefield, VA, to address an ongoing workforce need his company faces. He is also a member of the 2026 Virginia Rural Leadership Institute cohort, and this is his Community Impact Project. I am his mentor for the project..

VI. Region 3 Leadership Development Project

- report completed for strategy (8.24)
- GO Virginia funding strategy under development

RECOMMENDATION:

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

Southern Virginia Higher Education Center “Building the Southern Virginia AI Academy”

Project Summary

Southern Virginia Higher Education Center’s (SVHEC) IT Academy is preparing to launch the Southern Virginia AI Academy, a workforce training initiative that will prepare individuals to safely, effectively, and responsibly use artificial intelligence (AI) in the workplace. Funding from the US Department of Labor (US DOL ETA), Virginia Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission (TRRC), and SVHEC totaling \$991,277 (including federal indirect) will support the project development and implementation. SVHEC invites GO Virginia to join current funders in supporting the project with funds for program and instructional personnel, contractual services for curriculum development, and equipment.

SVHEC has provided access to education and workforce development in Southern Virginia for over forty years, working closely with education and industry partners to ensure programs meet employer needs. SVHEC’s IT Academy, established in 2015 with Virginia Tobacco Region Revitalization (TRRC) and industry support, has been a successful and enduring training program. Since opening, the IT Academy has enrolled over six hundred students, the vast majority of whom are now working in the region across a number of industry sectors. The Southern Virginia AI Academy will build on this successful model to ensure regional employers have an “AI ready” workforce.

AI-readiness is critical because, as regional employers increasingly integrate AI into business operations, they need workers who can not only use AI tools effectively but also understand data security, privacy, governance, and ethical implementation. The current AI skills gap threatens to constrain both organizational innovation and the region's ability to maximize the economic benefits of ongoing technology investments.

Through short-duration, hands-on training, Southern Virginia AI Academy students will gain practical experience using AI tools while developing skills in digital literacy, responsible AI practices, critical thinking, risk management, and organizational change management. The program will leverage SVHEC’s existing IT Academy infrastructure, instructional capacity, employer partnerships, and federally funded workforce development resources to maximize impact, expand access, and accelerate program implementation. By combining grant funding from the TRRC with these leveraged resources, the Southside Virginia AI Academy will strengthen the region’s workforce, enhance employer competitiveness, support economic growth, and prepare workers to succeed in an increasingly AI-enabled economy.

AI literacy and workforce readiness are not optional—they are essential to the Southern Virginia region’s economic growth, the competitiveness of Virginia businesses, the continued expansion of critical technology infrastructure, and the responsible adoption of emerging technologies.

Statement of Need

Artificial intelligence (AI) has evolved from an academic research discipline into a transformative force reshaping workplaces across every sector of the economy. Organizations are rapidly integrating AI into business operations to increase productivity, improve decision-making, automate routine tasks, enhance customer service, and streamline workflows.

However, while investments in AI technologies have accelerated, investments in preparing workers to use those technologies effectively, securely, and responsibly have not kept pace. As a result, employers face growing challenges in identifying and developing the talent needed to thrive in an AI-enabled economy. This challenge is particularly significant in Southern Virginia, where major investments in data centers, cloud infrastructure, and AI-enabled technologies are creating demand for new workforce competencies faster than existing education and training systems can supply them. Artificial intelligence (AI) is rapidly transforming the way organizations operate across technology, healthcare, manufacturing, government, education, finance, and countless other industries. As AI becomes embedded in everyday workplace processes, employees must possess more than basic technical proficiency. They must be able to evaluate AI-generated outputs, apply professional judgment, safeguard sensitive information, understand ethical and legal implications, and work effectively alongside AI-enabled technologies.

The need for an AI-ready workforce is particularly urgent in Virginia. According to the Virginia AI Landscape Assessment (2026), as many as 1.5 million Virginia jobs, approximately 35 percent of the Commonwealth's workforce, are expected to experience significant task transformation due to AI within the next five years. The assessment further found that more than 83 percent of Virginia employers are currently using or exploring AI technologies, yet only 27 percent believe adequate AI training resources are available in their region. This growing gap between AI adoption and workforce preparedness threatens organizational productivity, innovation, and long-term economic competitiveness.

Virginia's position as a national leader in technology infrastructure further amplifies this need. The Commonwealth's concentration of technology firms, hyperscale data centers, cybersecurity companies, federal contractors, financial institutions, and other data-intensive industries is accelerating demand for workers with competencies in AI literacy, cloud computing, cybersecurity, data management, privacy protection, regulatory compliance, and responsible AI governance. Increasingly, employers across all sectors seek workers who not only understand how to use AI tools but also how to deploy them effectively, securely, and responsibly.

This challenge is especially pronounced in Southern Virginia, where significant investments in digital infrastructure are reshaping the regional economy. The region is emerging as a technology and cloud-computing corridor, supported by more than a dozen active and proposed data center projects, expanding cloud infrastructure, and growing demand for AI-enabled services. Microsoft's continued expansion of its Southern Virginia Regional Network Group, along with other large-scale data center investments across Southside Virginia, is generating demand for workers skilled in cloud services, cybersecurity, networking, data management, and AI-supported business operations.

Despite these investments, workforce development has not kept pace with technological advancement. Southern Virginia's economy remains rooted in manufacturing, healthcare, logistics, education, public administration, and small- and mid-sized businesses, many of which lack the resources to provide comprehensive AI training for their employees. As AI adoption accelerates, employers face increasing difficulty in finding workers who possess both technical AI competencies and the practical knowledge needed to integrate AI into workplace processes safely, ethically, and effectively.

Project Description

To address this critical workforce skills gap, the Southern Virginia AI Academy will develop and deliver short-term, industry-responsive AI training through two targeted pathways. The first pathway, AI for Technology Professionals, will prepare information technology and data management professionals with advanced skills in AI systems, cybersecurity, cloud technologies, data management, and technical implementation. The second pathway, AI for Business and Industry Professionals will equip professionals in non-IT occupations, including human resources, administration, customer service, operations, healthcare, education, management, and public service, with practical skills for incorporating AI into daily workflows while promoting responsible, ethical, and secure use of AI technologies. Duration of training in each pathway is expected to be 8-10 weeks, followed by a cumulative, proctored assessment for a CompTIA credential at SVHEC's Pearson VUE Assessment Center.

Together, these pathways will expand access to high-quality AI education, strengthen workforce readiness, and support the region's growing demand for AI-enabled talent. By preparing current and future workers to successfully navigate an increasingly AI-driven economy, the Southern Virginia AI Academy will help enhance business competitiveness, support economic growth, and ensure that Southern Virginia is well positioned to capitalize on emerging opportunities in technology and innovation.

Project Goals and Objectives

The Southern Virginia AI Academy is focused on three goals: (1) developing and validating AI training that meets industry needs; (2) preparing the workforce for using AI; and (3) strengthening the Southern Virginia region's readiness to support an AI economy. Objectives for each goal are outlined below.

Goal 1: Develop and Validate Industry-Responsive AI Workforce Training Programs

Objective 1.1: Design and develop a foundational AI training program for information technology and data management professionals that addresses AI systems, data management, cybersecurity, governance, and responsible AI implementation.

Objective 1.2: Design and develop a foundational AI training program for non-technical professionals, including individuals working in administration, human resources, customer service, operations, management, and other business functions, focused on practical AI applications, productivity enhancement, digital literacy, and responsible AI use.

Objective 1.3: Pilot the foundational AI training program for IT and data management professionals in Year 1 with an initial cohort of 5-10 participants to assess course effectiveness, workforce relevance, and participant outcomes.

Objective 1.4: Pilot the foundational AI training program for non-technical professionals in Year 1 with an initial cohort of 5-10 participants to assess course effectiveness, workforce relevance, and participant outcomes.

Goal 2: Strengthen Workforce Readiness for Safe, Ethical, and Effective AI Adoption

Objective 2.1: Beginning in Project Year 2, train 34 IT and data management professionals annually in foundational AI competencies, including AI technologies, data governance, cybersecurity awareness, risk management, and human-AI collaboration. A total of 40 IT and data management professionals will be trained in this project.

Objective 2.2: Beginning in Project Year 2, train 34 non-technical professionals annually in foundational AI competencies, including AI-assisted productivity tools, critical evaluation of AI-generated content, responsible AI practices, data privacy, and organizational change management. A total of 40 non-technical professionals will be trained in this project.

Goal 3: Expand Regional Capacity to Support Virginia's AI-Enabled Economy

Objective 3.1: Increase access to affordable, industry-aligned AI workforce training opportunities for employers and workers in Southern Virginia.

Objective 3.2: Equip participants with practical skills that enable the responsible integration of AI into workplace processes while supporting organizational productivity, innovation, cybersecurity, and compliance requirements.

Objective 3.3: Establish a scalable AI workforce training model that can be expanded to meet the evolving talent needs of employers across Southern Virginia and the Commonwealth.

Evaluation and Performance Measurement

Project success will be measured primarily on the number of individuals enrolled in and completing the training, and the number of credentials earned during the project period. Additional metrics include student satisfaction and post-training employment outcomes, although data for the latter may not be available within the project period.

The IT Academy Director and Project Director will review all metrics results at the conclusion of each training and assessment period. Metrics results and student feedback will be used to evaluate training guide improvement. Enrollment, course completions, and certifications data are maintained in the SVHEC Student Information System (SIS), and all SVHEC workforce training students complete an end-of-course evaluation. Project progress and outcomes will be reported to the TRRC annually.

Sustainability Plan

Workforce training program sustainability depends on continued relevance and continued resources, primarily enrollment revenue at least equal to the cost of delivering programs. There is ample evidence that the relevance of AI to most industry sectors will increase. AI is a genuine general-purpose technology, and the technology itself will remain transformative. AI technologies have improved at an accelerating pace over the last 15 years. Examples include the following:

- Language understanding and generation have improved from systems that could barely maintain a coherent paragraph to models that can write software, summarize documents, reason across long contexts, and assist in specialized professional work.
- Image generation has improved from blurry, unrealistic outputs to photorealistic images and sophisticated visual editing.
- Speech recognition, translation, and coding assistance have all improved substantially in measurable benchmarks and commercial applications.

Regarding resources, SVHEC operates its campus and services through its state appropriation, local appropriations, grants and donations, and support from the Southern Virginia Higher Education Foundation. SVHEC workforce programs are expected to cover costs through tuition revenue.

To remove financial barriers to training and support student success, SVHEC's enrollment team connects students with financial assistance resources. Noncredit students may apply for assistance through the Workforce Investment Opportunity Act (WIOA) program, the Commonwealth's New Economy Workforce Credential Grant Program (NEWCGP), the Virginia Department of Aging and Rehabilitative Service (DARS), the Southern Virginia Higher Education Foundation (SVHEF), and other scholarship providers.

SVHEC does not compete with its degree-granting two- and four-year education partners but instead fills gaps in program offerings in the region. This reduces competitive tuition escalation and promotes collaboration. Through agreements with partner institutions including Danville Community College and Southside Virginia Community College, SVHEC allows SVCC and DCC students to enroll in SVHEC workforce training programs on a "for-credit" basis. By collaboratively offering both for-credit and noncredit enrollment options, SVHEC and its partners ensure students' needs are met.

For more information, contact:

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or

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PROGRAM DIRECTOR'S REPORT



DATE: September 9, 2026
TO: Region 3 Executive Committee
FROM: Ann Taylor Wright, Region 3 Program Director
RE: Social Media Comment Management

Region 3's social media platforms occasionally receive negative or critical comments in response to posts and shared news stories, particularly content related to data centers and other topics that may generate significant public discussion.

Region 3's current practice has been to not engage with or respond to negative comments unless a response is necessary to correct a significant factual error or address another specific concern. This approach has generally avoided drawing additional attention to negative commentary or creating extended exchanges on Region 3's social media platforms.

Staff is requesting guidance from the Executive Committee regarding how it would like LetterPress Communications to manage negative comments going forward. Options may include continuing the current practice of generally not engaging, responding when comments contain inaccurate information that warrants clarification, or developing additional guidelines for when a response may be appropriate.

Executive Committee guidance will be used to establish a consistent approach for LetterPress Communications and Region 3 staff when managing social media comments.

RECOMMENDATION:

For the Region 3 Executive Committee review, discussion, and guidance.





DATE: September 9, 2026
TO: Region 3 Executive Committee
FROM: Ann Taylor Wright, Region 3 Program Director
RE: Policy and Bylaws Workgroup

Over the past several years, a number of changes have occurred to the Code of Virginia, GO Virginia policies and procedures, and Region 3 operational practices. As a result, several Region 3 policies and the Council Bylaws should be reviewed to ensure they remain current, consistent with state requirements, and reflective of the Council's current governance and administrative practices.

At the July 15, 2026, Region 3 Council meeting, Council members were invited to express interest in serving on a temporary Policy and Bylaws Review Workgroup. No members volunteered to serve.

To move the review process forward, the Council Chair will appoint members to the workgroup. Staff will prepare draft revisions and supporting materials for the workgroup's review. The workgroup will review the Region 3 Policies and Bylaws, identify any needed revisions, and develop recommendations for consideration by the full Council.

The workgroup will review the Region 3 Policies and Bylaws, identify any needed revisions, and develop recommendations for consideration and action by the full Council at its January 2027 meeting.

The workgroup is expected to meet virtually approximately two times prior to the January Council meeting. Staff will prepare draft revisions and supporting materials for the workgroup's review to facilitate an efficient process.

RECOMMENDATION:

For Executive Committee information. No action is required. The Council Chair will appoint members to the Policy and Bylaws Review Workgroup, which will develop recommendations for consideration by the full Council at its January 2027 meeting.