

**GOVA REGION 3
FULL COUNCIL
MEETING PACKET**

October 21, 2026



Full Council

Date and Time: **October 21, 2026**
 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Location: **715 Wilbourne Ave**
 South Boston, VA

Link: <https://tinyurl.com/y5rdwrwe>

Dial-In: 929-205-6099

Meeting ID: 89871503203

Password: 287955

Purpose Statement

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

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order and Chair's Opening Comments.....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

Special Appearances & Presentations.....Robert Bates

- VIII. Mid-Atlantic Broadband (MBC) Middle Mile Expansion Project- Tab Deriso, MBC
- IX. SOVA Fab Lab Project- Lauren Mathena, SOVA Innovation Hub and Adam Reeves, SOVA Fab Lab

Old Business

- X. Executive Committee Report.....Ann Wright

New Business

- XI. Nominating Committee & Committee Assignments.....Bryan David
- XII. Pending Projects Report.....Bryan David
- XIII. Marketing Budget Adjustment.....Ann Wright

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

- XIV. Project Pipeline Report

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

XV. DHCD Recapture

XVI. Region 3 FY26 Annual Report

XVII. Tour of SOVA Fab Lab

Adjourn

MINUTES

GO VIRGINIA REGION 3 FULL COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, July 15, 2026

REGULAR BUSINESS

Call To Order

Chair Bates called the GO Virginia (GOVA) Region 3 Full Council all-virtual meeting to order on Wednesday, July 15, 2026, at 1:00 p.m.

Roll Call and Confirmation of Quorum

Ann Wright conducted the roll call. Chair Bates declared that a quorum was present.

Region 3 Executive Committee Members

Members	In Person	Virtual	Absent	Members	In Person	Virtual	Absent
Kelly Lanier-Arnold		X		Angie Kellett			X
Sheldon Barr		X		Elizabeth Leggett			X
Robert Bates		X		Ilsa Loeser		X	
Clark Casteel		X		Sheri McGuire		X	
Melody Foster		X		Danny Marshal		X	
Kristin Gee		X		John Parkinson			X
Amy Griffin		X		Dale Wagoner		X	
Keith Harkins		X					
Rhonda Hodges		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) – Region 3 Contract Staff		X	
Andy Wells - Southside PDC - Support Org. & Fiscal Agent		X	
Ann Taylor Wright (CTW Consulting) – Southside PDC Contract Staff		X	
Liz Povar (The Riverlink Group) - Southside PDC Contract Staff		X	

Guests in Attendance

Name – Organization - Role	In Person	Virtual
Billy Gammel - DHCD GO Virginia - Senior Program Administrator		X
Lauren Mathena – MBC - Director of Eco. Development & Community Engagement		X
Jack Honig – DHCD GO Virginia – Program Administrator		X
Jessie Vernon - IALR - Director of Employer Engagement & Experiential Learning		X
Clinton Joseph - DHCD GO Virginia – Program Administrator		X

Public Comments

No written or verbal public comments were received.

Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

Potential conflicts of interest exist for activities benefiting and/or contracts issued to the following organizations and projects:

Name	Organization(s)
Keith Harkins	Southside Virginia Community College
Rhonda Hodges	IALR Foundation Board
Clark Casteel	Danville Regional Foundation
Angie Kellet	Mecklenburg County Economic Development
Ilsa Loeser	LetterPress Communications
Charley Majors	The Institute for Advanced Knowledge & Research; Mid-Atlantic Broadband; SOVA Innovation Hub
Sheri McGuire	Longwood University

Approval of Minutes

Chair Bates noted that the minutes of the April 15, 2026 Full Council meeting were received via email prior to the meeting and included in the meeting packet. **Melody Foster made a motion that the minutes from the April 15, 2026 Full Council meeting be approved as presented; the motion was seconded by Amy Griffin 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 June 30, 2026. **Amy Griffin made a motion that the Financial Reports be approved as presented; the motion was seconded by Melody Foster and approved unanimously by roll call vote.**

SPECIAL APPEARANCES & PRESENTATIONS

IALR Talent Pathway Initiative Plan: Advanced Manufacturing & CEA Presentation

Jessie Vernon, Director of Employer Engagement & Experiential Learning at the Institute for Advanced Learning & Research (IALR), presented the Talent Pathways Initiative findings and recommendations.

Virginia General Assembly 2026 Legislative Review

Billy Gammel, Senior Program Administrator for GO Virginia, DHCD, provided an update on recent Virginia General Assembly actions and other legislative developments, including a summary of the current GO Virginia funding status.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

Ann Wright, Program Director for GO Virginia Region 3, informed the Council of actions taken by the Executive Committee since the Council's previous meeting, including the Letters of Interest received for contract staff positions, the marketing agreement, and the FY26 budget amendment. The RFPs, letters of interest, marketing agreement, and budget amendment were included in the meeting packet. Chair Bates asked if there were any questions or comments. There being none, no discussion followed.

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Project Review Committee - RISE AI Ready Region 3 Per Capita Application

Bryan David and Lauren Mathena presented the RISE-AI Ready Region 3 application to the Council. The Project Review Committee (PRC) had previously reviewed the application and requested additional time to consider the proposed revisions. The PRC will reconvene to review the revised application, after which a special Executive Committee meeting will be held to consider whether to recommend the application for approval. **No action was taken by the Council.**

GO Virginia Region 3 Nominating Committee & Committee Assignments

The Chair and staff agreed to defer the identification, recruitment, and recommendation of individuals to fill current vacancies due to the leadership transition underway and the Vice Chair's unavailability. The Nominating Committee will present a recommended slate of nominees for Council consideration at the Region 3 Council's next quarterly meeting on October 14. **No action was taken by the Council.**

FY26 Region 3 Capacity Building (Operating) Budget Amendment

Ann Wright presented the FY26 Capacity Building (Operating) Budget Amendment approved by the Executive Committee at its June 2026 meeting. **Clark Casteel made a motion to ratify the FY26 Capacity Building (Operating) Budget Amendment as approved by the Executive Committee; the motion was seconded by Keith Harkins and approved unanimously by roll call vote; Ilsa Loeser abstained due to a conflict of interest related to LetterPress Communications.**

GO Virginia Region 3 Policy #9: Electronic Meeting Participation

Ann Wright reviewed Region 3 Policy #9: Electronic Meeting Participation, which, pursuant to Section 2.2-3708.3 of the Code of Virginia, must be readopted annually by each public body that wishes to conduct electronic meetings. **Amy Griffin made a motion to readopt Policy #9; the motion was seconded by Ilsa Loeser and approved unanimously by roll call vote.**

Draft UVA Cooper Center/Region 3 Council Partnership Agreement (FY26-FY27)

Bryan David presented the draft agreement to continue the partnership between Region 3 and the UVA Weldon Cooper Center's Karsh Institute for Democracy. **Melody Foster made a motion to authorize the Chair to execute the agreement once finalized, subject to any non-substantive revisions requested by the University; the motion was seconded by Kristin Gee and approved unanimously by roll call vote.**

PROJECT COORDINATOR'S REPORT

Project Pipeline Report

Bryan David reviewed the current project pipeline, which had been emailed to Council members prior to the meeting. The following projects were discussed: the CEA Innovation Center Research Building Expansion; the Farm Park Implementation Playbook (Data Center/CEA Greenhouse Co-location); the Virginia AI Innovation Hub & Venture Studios; the Metals Workforce Training Center; the RISE Regional Entrepreneurship and Innovation Strategy (Phase III); and the Region 3 Leadership Development Project. Chair Bates asked if there were any questions or comments. There being none, no discussion followed.

PROGRAM DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ann Wright presented the Program Director's Report. Council members interested in serving on the temporary Policy and Bylaws Review Workgroup were invited to notify Region 3 staff. The workgroup will review the Region 3 Policies and Bylaws, identify any necessary revisions, and develop

recommendations for consideration by the full Council at its October 2026 meeting.

ADJOURN

There being no additional business matters to be brought before the GOVA Region 3 Council, Chair Bates adjourned the meeting at 2:50 p.m.

These minutes were approved on 10/21/2026.

Andy Wells, Southside PDC
Executive Director

Robert Bates, GOVA Region 3
Council Chair

DRAFT

FINANCIAL REPORT & PROJECT UPDATE

GO VIRGINIA REGION 3 FY26 OPERATING BUDGET

Region 3 Capacity Building (Operations) Monthly Report						
Current Budget Entered Into On:	8/1/2026	Projected Current Budget End Date:			3/31/2027	
Current Budget Funding Source:	FY26	Months Covered to Date by Current Budget:			2	
Monthly Report Period Ending: September 30, 2026						
FY26 Approved Capacity Building Budget						
Budget Categories	Operating Budget	Revision (DATE)	Total Paid to Date	Remittance #3	Total Paid After Remittance	Balance Remaining
Contract Services- UVA Weldon-Cooper	\$ 68,470.07		\$ 11,519.07	\$ -	\$ 11,519.07	\$ -
			\$ 56,951.00	\$ -	\$ 56,951.00	\$ -
Contract Services- SPDC/Operations	\$ 19,114.93		\$ 10,710.32	\$ 3,615.40	\$ 14,325.72	\$ 4,789.21
Contract Services- Program Director	\$ 82,503.00		\$ 18,332.00	\$ 9,166.00	\$ 27,498.00	\$ 55,005.00
Contract Services- Project Coordinator	\$ 38,997.00		\$ 8,666.66	\$ 4,333.33	\$ 12,999.99	\$ 25,997.01
Contract Services- Senior Advisor	\$ 6,750.00				\$ -	\$ 6,750.00
Contract Services- Program Support	\$ 2,160.00				\$ -	\$ 2,160.00
Contract Services- Marketing	\$ 26,505.00		\$ 5,460.00	\$ 2,730.00	\$ 8,190.00	\$ 18,315.00
Contract Services- TOTAL	\$ 244,500.00	\$ -	\$ 111,639.05	\$ 19,844.73	\$ 131,483.78	\$ 113,016.22
Meetings & Workshops	\$ 2,000.00		\$ 479.70	\$ -	\$ 479.70	\$ 1,520.30
Audit	\$ 1,500.00		\$ 1,500.00		\$ 1,500.00	\$ -
G&D Plan Update	\$ 2,000.00		\$ 1,250.00	\$ -	\$ 1,250.00	\$ 750.00
TOTAL BUDGET:	\$ 250,000.00	\$ -	\$ 158,037.73	\$ 19,844.73	\$ 197,727.19	\$ 115,286.52
Region 3 Checking Account Summary						
Beginning Balance	\$49,229.79	Local Funds (Martinsville-Henry Co EDC Match)				
Interest Earned to Date	\$545.39					
Total Deposits/Credits		*deposit detail				
Total Funds	\$49,775.18					
ENDING BALANCE	\$49,775.18					
Debits Included in Report		FY26 Remit # 3				
Contract Services-Marketing	\$ 2,730.00	Letterpress September 2026				
Contract Services- SPDC	\$ 3,615.40	September Invoice				
Contract Services- Program Director	\$ 9,166.00	September Invoice				
Contract Services- Program Coordinator	\$ 4,333.33	September Invoice				
TOTAL DEBITS	\$ 19,844.73					

GO TEC 2025: CLOSED

Grant Agreement Period: December 13, 2022 - June 30, 2026

Report Period: SEPTEMBER 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 #15 9/28/2026	Total Paid After Remittance	Grant Balance
SPDC Project Monitoring/Reporting	\$ 25,288.00	\$ 25,242.26		\$ 25,242.26	\$ 45.74
Contract Services	\$ 320,688.33	\$ 270,688.33	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 320,688.33	\$ -
Equipment (Freight, Inflationary)	\$ 292,146.96	\$ 292,146.96	\$ -	\$ 292,146.96	\$ -
Indirect Costs	\$ 256,114.00	\$ 233,441.32	\$ 19,176.88	\$ 252,618.20	\$ 3,495.80
Marketing (Outreach)	\$ 99,000.00	\$ 79,367.97	\$ 3,882.98	\$ 83,250.95	\$ 15,749.05
Salaries & Fringe	\$ 1,932,697.48	\$ 1,779,216.67	\$ 149,645.34	\$ 1,928,862.01	\$ 3,835.47
Supplies	\$ 126,025.20	\$ 126,025.20	\$ -	\$ 126,025.20	\$ -
Training	\$ 389,392.26	\$ 285,915.74	\$ 35,328.68	\$ 321,244.42	\$ 68,147.84
Travel	\$ 33,468.77	\$ 33,468.77	\$ -	\$ 33,468.77	\$ -
Awarded Total	\$ 3,474,821.00	\$ 3,125,513.22	\$ 258,033.88	\$ 3,383,547.10	\$ 91,273.90

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	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,637.20	\$ 19,362.80
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	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 3,038,135.28	\$ (612,056.28)

Status: GOVA funds were 99% expended. Close Out is in progress. 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: SEPTEMBER 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 #9 9/9/2026	Total Paid After Remittance	Grant Balance
SPDC Project Administration	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 14,217.01	\$ 3,475.15	\$ 17,692.16	\$ 12,307.84
Fiscal Management: MBC	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ -	\$ 20,000.00	\$ -
Marketing: MBC	\$ 60,000.00	\$ 53,564.18	\$ 5,231.39	\$ 58,795.57	\$ 1,204.43
Contract Services	\$ 490,000.00	\$ 348,693.98	\$ 52,297.07	\$ 400,991.05	\$ 89,008.95
Awarded Total	\$ 600,000.00	\$ 436,475.17	\$ 61,003.61	\$ 497,478.78	\$ 102,521.22

REQUIRED MATCHING FUNDS

Budget Categories from CAMS	Committed Match	Previous Match	Current Match	Total Match To Date	Match Balance
Marketing: MBC	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 49,897.15	\$ -	\$ 49,897.15	\$ 102.85
Administration: MBC	\$ 60,000.00	\$ 52,899.90	\$ 7,315.62	\$ 60,215.52	\$ (215.52)
Training	\$ 190,000.00	\$ 165,000.00	\$ -	\$ 165,000.00	\$ 25,000.00
Match Total	\$ 300,000.00	\$ 267,797.05	\$ 7,315.62	\$ 275,112.67	\$ 24,887.33

Status: GOVA funds are 83% 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: SEPTEMBER 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. Both tractors and trailers are in use and have been outfitted with Region 3 logo decals. The additional equipment will increase enrollment capacity for future Powerline and Tractor Trailer Driving cohorts. Construction of the driving track is complete, and the training facility's metal building has been erected. Interior improvements are underway, with the Certificate of Occupancy expected by the end of November 2026.

SoVa Fab Lab

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

Report Date: SEPTEMBER 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 expected to be completed by the end of November, with furniture and equipment installation scheduled for December. A series of soft opening events is planned for winter 2026–2027, followed by a grand opening anticipated in March 2027. Development of a five-year Fab Lab business plan is also underway.

BRIC (Blue Ridge Innovation Corridor)

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

Report Date: SEPTEMBER 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: DD#1 is in process. 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: SEPTEMBER 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 expects classroom renovations to be completed by December, with equipment purchases to follow. DCC has ordered all equipment and conducted faculty interviews, while SVCC continues equipment procurement and staffing efforts. VCCS has approved Level 3 programs in Carpentry, HVAC, and Electrical, with enrollment anticipated to begin in Spring 2027.

Danville Aviation Training Facility

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

Report Date: SEPTEMBER 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 following completion of renovations. The vendor that provided the original budget estimate did not submit a bid, and all bids received exceeded the project budget. A second Request for Proposals (RFP) has been issued.

Am2: Region 2 Administered Project

Grant Agreement Term: May 1, 2026 - November 1, 2028

Report Date: SEPTEMBER 2026

Sub-Grantee: Virginia Tech

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
Project Monitoring & Reporting	\$ 233,434.44	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 233,434.44
Administration	\$ 40,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 40,000.00
Salaries	\$ 2,282,771.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,282,771.00
Contract Services	\$ 535,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 535,000.00
Equipment	\$ 2,600,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,600,000.00
Supplies	\$ 85,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 85,000.00
Travel	\$ 61,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 61,000.00
Other	\$ 1,400,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,400,000.00
Outreach	\$ 70,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 70,000.00
	\$ 7,307,205.44	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7,307,205.44

REQUIRED MATCHING FUNDS

Budget Categories from CAMS	Committed Match	Previous Match	Current Match	Total Match To Date	Match Balance
Salaries	\$ 3,508,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,508,000.00
Contract Services	\$ 64,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 64,000.00
Other	\$ 120,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 120,000.00
Match Total	\$ 3,692,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,692,000.00

Status: GOVA funds are 0% expended; contract executed in late August. Following contract execution in late August, partners focused on finalizing scopes, budgets, match commitments, and reporting requirements. AM2 continued to advance partner coordination, manufacturer outreach, Innovation Fund planning, and federal engagement, including EDA application coordination. A quarterly All-Hands Meeting brought together more than 60 participants to discuss industry needs and potential projects. Planning also progressed for the November Emerging Tech Conference, Industry Advisory Board, Studios, and Career Network activities.

PROJECT FUNDING MATRIX

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	Closed	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	12/31/2026	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	3/31/2028	510,000	510,000.00		260,000.00		Per Capita
SVCC Occupational Training Facility	Talent Evolution	Active	6/10/2025	9/30/2027	570,000	570,000.00		285,000.00		Per Capita
VA's Gateway Region Site Dev (w/Region 4)	Site Development	Closed	10/7/2025	8/21/2026	11,111	11,111.00				Per Capita
Danville Aviation Training Facility	Talent Evolution	Active	12/10/2025	6/30/2028	92,000	92,000.00		46,000.00		Per Capita
Blue Ridge Innovation Corridor (w/Region 2)	Cluster Scale Up	Active	12/10/2025	12/31/2026	250,000		250,000.00		\$125,000.00	State Competitive
Industrial Skills Trades Regional Expansion	Talent Evolution	Active	12/10/2025	6/30/2028	1,346,786	857,383.32	489,402.68	673,393.00		State Competitive
RISE Phase III: AI-Ready Entrepreneurial Ecosystem	Startup Ecosystem	Approved	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	Grant Amount Awarded	Project Match	State Competitive Amount Expended	State Competitive Match	Funding Pool
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	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
SOVA Fab Lab	Startup Ecosystem	Active	6/10/2025	510,000	260,000.00			Per Capita
SVCC Occupational Training Facility	Talent Evolution	Active	6/10/2025	570,000	285,000.00			Per Capita
Danville Aviation Training Facility	Talent Evolution	Active	12/10/2025	92,000	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	673,393.00	489,402.68		State Competitive
RISE Phase III: AI-Ready Entrepreneurial Ecosystem	Startup Ecosystem	Approved	9/15/2026	400,000	200,000.00			Per Capita

SPECIAL APPEARANCES & PRESENTATIONS



DATE: October 19, 2026
TO: Region 3 Council
FROM: Ann Taylor Wright, Region 3 Program Director
RE: Recognition of Bryan David's Service

The Region 3 Council will recognize Bryan David's service and consider a resolution honoring his leadership and contributions to GO Virginia Region 3.

Bryan became Program Director in 2021, bringing more than 35 years of public service experience, including service as a County Administrator. His regional knowledge, commitment to collaboration, and dedication to economic development have contributed greatly to advancing the Council's goals. Following his transition from Program Director, Bryan continues to serve Region 3 as Project Coordinator.

During the meeting, Bryan will be presented with the resolution and a token of appreciation in recognition of his distinguished leadership and continued service to the Region.

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the resolution honoring Bryan David.

RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION HONORING BRYAN DAVID

WHEREAS, Bryan David became Program Director for GO Virginia Region 3 in 2021, providing dedicated leadership in advancing the Region's economic growth and diversification; and

WHEREAS, his more than 35 years of public service, including service as a County Administrator, reflect a longstanding commitment to strengthening communities and improving the lives of those he serves; and

WHEREAS, his experience in local government has provided a valuable understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing Southern Virginia and the importance of regional cooperation in addressing them; and

WHEREAS, his extensive knowledge of the Region, commitment to collaboration, and strong public and private sector relationships have been instrumental in developing projects and partnerships that further the Council's strategic goals; and

WHEREAS, his vision and advocacy have strengthened regional cooperation and expanded opportunities for businesses, communities, and the workforce throughout Southern Virginia; and

WHEREAS, his thoughtful guidance and willingness to share his knowledge have supported Council members, staff, and project partners in turning regional priorities into meaningful opportunities for growth; and

WHEREAS, after stepping back from his role as Program Director, he continues to demonstrate his dedication to Region 3 by serving as Project Coordinator, contributing his experience and guidance to the Region's continued success;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the GO Virginia Region 3 Council hereby expresses its sincere gratitude to Bryan David for his distinguished service as Program Director, his more than 35 years of public service, and his continued commitment to the Region as Project Coordinator; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be entered into the minutes of this meeting and that a copy be presented to Bryan David as a lasting expression of the Council's appreciation, esteem, and high regard.



Robert Bates, Chair





DATE: October 8, 2026
TO: Region 3 Council
FROM: Ann Taylor Wright, Region 3 Program Director
RE: MBC Middle Mile Project Presentation

Tad Deriso, President & CEO of Mid-Atlantic Broadband Communities Corporation (MBC), will provide an overview of the completed \$5 million GO Virginia Middle Mile Project.

The project was awarded funding to construct approximately 69 miles of open-access fiber optic infrastructure across Regions 3 and 4, with the goal of providing critical broadband connectivity to 31 industrial and business park sites in nine localities. The proposed infrastructure was intended to enhance site marketability, reduce future broadband extension costs, and support business attraction and expansion by improving network capacity and redundancy.

The project was designed to strengthen regional economic development efforts by supporting technology-driven industries, expanding telecommunications infrastructure, and increasing the competitiveness of industrial sites throughout Southern Virginia.

RECOMMENDATION:

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





DATE: October 8, 2026
TO: Region 3 Council
FROM: Ann Taylor Wright, Region 3 Program Director
RE: SOVA Fab Lab Project Presentation

Lauren Mathena, Director of Economic Development & Community Engagement for Mid-Atlantic Broadband Communities Corporation (MBC), will provide an overview of the recently awarded SOVA Fab Lab Project.

The project will establish a state-of-the-art digital fabrication laboratory at the SOVA Innovation Hub in South Boston to support entrepreneurship, workforce development, and regional innovation. Equipped with advanced fabrication technologies, the lab will provide opportunities for rapid prototyping, product development, STEM education, and technical skills training.

Led by the SOVA Innovation Hub in partnership with Microsoft TechSpark and the Fab Foundation, the project aims to support 100 businesses and engage at least 20 new mentors during the grant period.

RECOMMENDATION:

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

OLD BUSINESS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT



DATE: October 7, 2026
TO: Region 3 Council
FROM: Ann Taylor Wright, Region 3 Program Director
RE: Executive Committee Report

The Region 3 Executive Committee met on August 6 and September 16, 2026, to consider project applications and administrative and operational matters between regularly scheduled meetings of the Region 3 Council. Both meetings were held all-virtual.

At the August 6 special called meeting, the Executive Committee considered the revised RISE Phase III: AI-Ready Entrepreneurial Ecosystem application, which the Project Review Committee recommended for approval. The Executive Committee unanimously approved the revised application and authorized the Chair to execute the Project Match Waiver document.

At the September 16 meeting, the Executive Committee approved the financial reports for the period ending August 31, 2026, and reviewed updates on funded projects. The Committee also unanimously approved the FY26 Annual Report for submission to the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD).

The Committee received an update on appointments for the 2026–2027 term. Amy Griffin, Rhonda Hodges, and Dale Wagoner were appointed to the Executive Committee, and Ilsa Loeser, Melody Foster, and Neil Burke were reappointed to the Project Review Committee. Staff were developing a roster of three potential candidates to fill vacant private sector and planning district commission seats for consideration by the Nominating Committee and recommendation to the Council at its October meeting.

The Executive Committee also discussed the management of negative comments on Region 3 social media platforms. The Committee's consensus was that Region 3 should not engage with negative comments. As additional projects generate public concerns, particularly related to data centers, Region 3 may coordinate with other GO Virginia regions to develop a consistent approach to responding to those concerns.

RECOMMENDATION:

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

NEW BUSINESS



DATE: October 16, 2026

TO: Region 3 Council

FROM: Ann W. Wright, Program Director
R. Bryan David, Project Coordinator

RE: GO Virginia Region 3 Nominating Committee and Committee Assignment Report

As previously communicated to the Region 3 Council, the Nominating Committee (R. Bates, Chair, and E. Leggett, Vice Chair) was recruiting candidates to serve on the Region 3 Council for appointment at the Council's meeting on October 14th.

These appointments would replace Lauren Willis and Randy Lail as private-sector members and would also appoint a private-sector member from Region 3's Western Subregion. There are no other vacancies on the Region 3 Council at this time.

Accordingly, the Nominating Committee is pleased to recommend that Joseph Cappaert be appointed to serve on the GO Virginia Region 3 Council, representing the Southside Planning District Commission. He is also a small business owner in South Hill. Consequently, these two roles can be used to meet the Department of Housing and Community Development council representation categories.

Mr. Cappaert will serve the unexpired term of Randy Lail from July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2030. His appointment will be made at the beginning of the October 21st meeting.

Also, in his capacity as Chair, Robert Bates has appointed the following individuals to the Region 3 Council's standing committees for 2026–2027:

Executive Committee • Robert Bates, Chair (Council appt.) • Elizabeth Leggett, Vice Chair (Council appt.) • Amy Griffin (reappt.) • Rhonda Hodges (appt.) • Dale Wagoner (appt.) • Charley Majors_advisor • Randy Lail_advisor	Project Review Committee • Neil Burke (non-council member_President/CEO Benchmark Community Bank_returning) • Melody Foster (reappt.) • Ilsa Loeser (reappt.) • David Denny (non-council member_Co-Executive Director Goochland-Amelia-Powhatan Regional Economic Development Alliance_appt.)
Personnel Committee • Robert Bates, Chair • Elizabeth Leggett, Vice Chair	Nominating Committee • Robert Bates, Chair • Elizabeth Leggett, Vice Chair



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The Chair will appoint special-purpose committees as needed

RECOMMENDATION:

Appoint Joseph Cappaert to serve the unexpired term as a representative of the Southside Planning Commission and the private sector from July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2030.





DATE: October 16, 2026

TO: Region 3 Council

FROM: R. Bryan David, Project Coordinator

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

RE: Pending Projects Report

I. Executive Committee Action on Behalf of the Region 3 Council

The GO Virginia Region 3 Executive Committee met on Tuesday, October 13th, and, acting on behalf of the Region 3 Council, approved the following two companion planning applications for submission to the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD):

- **Farm Park Playbook: Sites and Governance Planning Project**
- **Farm Park Playbook: Workforce Development and Economic/Fiscal Impact Assessments**

Status of the Project:

- On October 13th, the Executive Committee approved both applications on behalf of the Region 3 Council.
- The Project Review Committee was not engaged in reviewing these applications, given the long-standing nature of the Farm Park initiative and the Council's knowledge of it, including its prior investments in the 2023 Region 3 CEA Strategies and Roadmap and the June 2025 data center and greenhouse colocation feasibility study, and because both applications are planning projects rather than implementation projects.
- Both applications were submitted to DHCD by the October 16th deadline for administrative review and approval by DHCD staff.
- Upon DHCD approval and the execution of a grant contract with IALR, project initiation is expected in mid-November 2026, with the comprehensive final report expected in July 2027.

Project Overview

- The two applications fund the next phase of the Farm Park Implementation Playbook, a planning framework for colocation of a data center with controlled-environment agriculture (CEA) greenhouses at a pilot site in Southern Virginia. The work builds on the June 2025 feasibility study by the Resource Innovation Institute (RII), funded by GO Virginia Region 3 and managed by the Institute for Advanced Learning and Research (IALR), which identified an integrated Farm Park as the optimal colocation model. In a Farm Park, a combined heat and power (CHP) microgrid and shared utilities serve a data center, multiple large-scale greenhouses, and complementary businesses, including packaging, cold storage, and distribution.



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- The project includes two companion applications:
 - i. **Sites and Governance Planning Project** will retain a qualified consulting firm to develop a siting rubric for colocated data center and CEA greenhouse uses, evaluating sites for data centers with an anticipated peak electrical demand of up to 25 megawatts (MW). The firm will score publicly held business sites across Region 3 against the rubric through a desktop review, prepare engineering estimates for the improvements needed at promising sites, and prepare site maps. A governance consultant will develop a governance, infrastructure stewardship, and financing framework for the shared infrastructure of a pilot Farm Park.
 - ii. **Workforce Development and Economic/Fiscal Impact Assessments** will retain a qualified consulting firm to assess regional workforce capacity and operational readiness for data center and CEA greenhouse construction and operations, including credentials and training pathways. It will also estimate the direct, indirect, and induced economic, fiscal, and job-creation impacts of a pilot Farm Park across the host locality, the Southern Virginia region, and the Commonwealth, assuming a data center with an anticipated peak electrical demand of up to 25 megawatts (MW).
- RII will serve as managing principal and overall project coordinator, in collaboration with IALR and GO Virginia Region 3 staff, and will consolidate the work of both applications into a single comprehensive final report. A Farm Park Workgroup of regional and state partners will provide input to the consultants and review draft documents.
- The analysis does not commit any local governing body to any course of action and is not to be construed as an endorsement of the project by any locality.

Funding and Match (2:1_GO VA/Partner Match):

The proposed budgets for the two applications:

Sites and Governance Planning Project

\$ 100,000 (GO Virginia Region 3 Per Capita Fund)
50,000 (Matching Funds_cash, Microsoft grant to IALR, contingent upon award)
\$ 150,000 Total Project Budget

Workforce Development and Economic/Fiscal Impact Assessments

\$ 53,000 (GO Virginia Region 3 Per Capita Fund)
28,252.60 (Matching Funds_\$25,000 cash from RII and \$3,252.60 in-kind)
\$ 81,252.60 Total Project Budget

Combined

\$ 153,000 (GO Virginia Region 3 Per Capita Fund)
78,252.60 (Matching Funds_cash and in-kind)
\$231,252.60 Total Combined Budget



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- IALR will serve as the applicant, grant recipient, and contracting entity with DHCD for both applications and will procure all consultant services in accordance with the Virginia Public Procurement Act and/or IALR purchasing policies.
- GO Virginia funds support contract services for consultants, RII project coordination and management, principal services, and grant administration by the Region 3 support organization.
- The in-kind match consists of volunteer time contributed by Farm Park Workgroup members. No local government match is required for GO Virginia planning projects.

Supporting Local Political Subdivisions:

Participating local governments include the Counties of Amelia, Brunswick, Buckingham, Charlotte, Cumberland, Halifax, Henry, Lunenburg, Mecklenburg, Nottoway, Patrick, Pittsylvania, and Prince Edward, along with the Cities of Danville and Martinsville. The localities participate through five regional economic development organizations, which are submitting letters of support on behalf of their member localities, and through the Farm Park Workgroup.

Implementation Partners:

- Institute for Advanced Learning and Research (IALR), applicant and grant recipient
- Resource Innovation Institute (RII), managing principal and project coordinator, and \$25,000 cash match
- Microsoft, \$50,000 cash match through a grant to IALR (contingent upon award), and Farm Park Workgroup member
- Southern Virginia Regional Alliance (SVRA), Virginia's Heartland Alliance, Martinsville-Henry County Economic Development Corporation, Virginia's Gateway Region, and the GAP Alliance
- Danville Community College, Patrick & Henry Community College, Southside Virginia Community College, and GO TEC/IALR, through a workforce task group
- Virginia Economic Development Partnership (VEDP) and Virginia Energy, Farm Park Workgroup
- Industry partners, including CEA and CEA supply chain firms
- Southside Planning District Commission (SPDC), GO Virginia Region 3 support organization

Letters of Support:

- **Regional Economic Development Organizations:** GAP Alliance (Amelia County); Martinsville-Henry County Economic Development Corporation (City of Martinsville and Henry County); Southern Virginia Regional Alliance (City of Danville and Halifax, Mecklenburg, Patrick, and Pittsylvania Counties); Virginia's Gateway Region (Brunswick County); and Virginia's Heartland Alliance (Buckingham, Charlotte, Cumberland, Lunenburg, Nottoway, and Prince Edward Counties)
- **Education and Workforce Development Partners:** Danville Community College, GO TEC, Patrick & Henry Community College, and Southside Virginia Community College



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- **Private Sector Partners:** Microsoft, Greenswell Growers, and Resource Innovation Institute, along with RII project partners ARCO/Murray, FoodVentures, and Red Sun Farms

RECOMMENDATION:

For the Region 3 Council's information.

II. Project Review Committee Report

Building the Southern Virginia AI Academy

Applicant: Southern Virginia Higher Education Center (SVHEC)

Status of the Project:

- The Project Review Committee reviewed the application on October 16th and recommended approval by the Region 3 Council, including the requested waiver of the \$31,300 local match.
- The Region 3 Council will consider the application at its October 21st meeting. Upon Council approval, the application must be submitted to DHCD by October 30th (12:00 noon) and will be considered by the GO Virginia State Board at its December 8th meeting.
- The project would be funded by GO Virginia Region 3's Per Capita fund as an implementation grant supporting the Talent Development investment strategy. The current unobligated balance of the FY2026-2027 Region 3 Per Capita fund is \$614,046.67, net of the \$153,000 approved by the Executive Committee on October 13th for the two Farm Park Playbook applications. Approving the \$313,000 request would leave a balance of approximately \$300,000.
- The proposed project period is January 15, 2027, through January 14, 2029. According to the applicant, the U.S. Department of Labor award notification has been received, and a contract is expected by December 31, 2026.

Project Review Committee Discussion:

- The PRC discussed the need for this type of workforce training in the region and noted that the project will address a current need among traded-sector businesses.
- The PRC recognized the alignment with the Region 2- and 3-funded Virginia Chamber of Commerce's AI Landscape Assessment.
- The PRC noted SVHEC's long-standing experience in workforce training.



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Project Overview

- Building the Southern Virginia AI Academy is a two-year workforce training initiative by SVHEC's IT Academy, established in 2015, designed to equip workers to use artificial intelligence (AI) safely, effectively, and responsibly in the workplace. Since opening, the IT Academy has enrolled more than 600 students. The project will leverage the IT Academy's established training infrastructure and employer partnerships.
- Training will be delivered through two 8- to 10-week pathways, each followed by a proctored CompTIA credential assessment at SVHEC's Pearson VUE Assessment Center.
 - i. **AI for Technology Professionals** prepares IT and data management professionals in AI systems, cybersecurity, cloud technologies, and data management.
 - ii. **AI for Business and Industry Professionals** prepares professionals in non-IT roles to integrate AI into daily workflows responsibly and securely. GO Virginia funding will support training for traded-sector workers only; U.S. Department of Labor funding will support training for non-traded-sector workers.
- Year 1 includes classroom renovation, equipment procurement, curriculum development, and pilot cohorts of four participants per pathway. Year 2 delivers full cohorts of 24 participants per pathway, with the addition of a second instructor.
- The primary target sector of the Region 3 Growth & Diversification Plan (December 2025) is Information Technology & Communications, with benefits extending to Advanced Manufacturing & Advanced Materials and other target sectors. The project implements the Plan's Talent Evolution goal to "Build regional AI literacy and sector-specific upskilling so Region 3's target sectors can boost productivity and ensure a skilled talent pipeline," including the "AI Credential established" impact measure.
- The Plan's Skills Gap Analysis finds that Region 3's workforce covers only 60% of IT demand (85% statewide), with a projected shortfall of more than 500 cybersecurity and IT jobs over the next five years.

GO Virginia Core Grant Outcomes (Talent Development):

Outcome	Year 1	Year 2	Post-Contract (Year 3)	Total
Number of people trained	8	44	52	104
Number of job placements	7	40	47	94
Number of new programs implemented	2	0	0	2
Number of credentials awarded	4	22	22	48



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Funding and Match (2:1_GO VA/Partner Match):

The proposed project budget:

\$ 313,000 (GO Virginia Region 3 Per Capita Fund)
156,500 (Matching Funds_cash, U.S. Department of Labor, ETA)
\$ 469,500 Total Project Budget

- GO Virginia funds support AI training classroom equipment (\$172,000), a second instructor in Year 2 (\$102,000), curriculum development by AI and Data Science subject matter experts (\$27,000), and project monitoring and fiscal management (\$12,000).
- The U.S. Department of Labor, ETA cash match supports initial AI curriculum development (\$50,000), employer needs and market research (\$20,000), and equipment (\$86,500).
- An additional \$764,048 in leverage from the U.S. Department of Labor, the Virginia Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission (TRRC), and SVHEC (not counted as match) brings the total project investment to \$1,233,548.
- A local government match waiver of twenty percent (20%) of the required match, totaling \$31,300, is requested because 50% or more of the participating localities have fiscal stress rated High or Above Average, as measured by the Commission on Local Government's FY2023 Fiscal Stress Index.
- SVHEC will serve as the lead applicant and fiscal agent. The Southside Planning District Commission will provide project monitoring and reporting.

Region 3 Considerations:

- SVHEC is a new applicant for a GO Virginia Region 3 Per Capita Implementation grant. Equipment accounts for 55% of the GO Virginia request, and post-grant sustainability depends on tuition revenue. SVHEC has partnered on the GO TEC initiative since 2018 and serves as an implementation partner in RISE Phase III: AI-Ready Region 3.
- The applicant cites the Virginia Chamber of Commerce's Virginia AI Landscape Assessment, a GO Virginia Region 2 and 3-funded planning project, which estimates that as many as 1.5 million Virginia jobs (about 35% of the workforce) will undergo significant task transformation due to AI within five years. It also reports that only 27% of Virginia employers believe adequate AI training resources are available in their region.

Supporting Local Political Subdivisions:

Participating local governments include the Counties of Halifax, Mecklenburg, and Pittsylvania, and the City of Danville, which will provide advisory support, employer outreach, participant recruitment, and in-kind staff resources through their respective economic development offices.



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Implementation Partners:

- Southern Virginia Higher Education Center (SVHEC), lead applicant and fiscal agent
 - U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration, \$156,500 cash match and additional leverage
 - Virginia Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission (TRRC) and SVHEC, additional leverage
 - Halifax County Industrial Development Authority, City of Danville Office of Economic Development & Tourism, Mecklenburg County Department of Economic Development, Pittsylvania County Office of Economic Development, and Southern Virginia Regional Alliance
 - Danville Community College and Southside Virginia Community College
 - Industry partners Microsoft, Hitachi, Hefty South Boston, Gloster, and IPerionX (project design input)
 - Southside Planning District Commission (SPDC), project monitoring and reporting
- Letters of support, match verification forms, and other pertinent documents are being prepared and will be included in the application submitted to DHCD.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Project Review Committee recommends that the Region 3 Council approve the Building the Southern Virginia AI Academy application, including the requested \$31,300 local match waiver, at its October 21st meeting for submission to DHCD.





DATE: October 7, 2026

TO: Region 3 Council

FROM: Ann Taylor Wright, Region 3 Program Director

RE: Marketing Budget Adjustment: 10 Years of GO Virginia Campaign

The FY27 Marketing and Communications Services Agreement with LetterPress Communications includes \$1,200 for assistance with the creation and design of Region 3's annual report. The Program Director completed the FY26 Annual Report without requiring these services, making the allocation available for another marketing activity.

Staff recommends reallocating the \$1,200 to a "10 Years of GO Virginia" campaign designed to increase brand awareness, strengthen social media engagement, and generate newsletter subscriptions. The campaign will highlight notable projects and milestones through a time capsule-style presentation of GO Virginia's accomplishments.

LetterPress will work with Region 3 staff to gather photographs and project facts and develop and run two to three Meta advertisements. Complementary organic social media content and newsletter blurbs will be provided through the existing monthly retainer.

The proposed adjustment repurposes the annual report allocation and does not increase the total approved marketing budget.

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the reallocation of \$1,200 within the FY27 Marketing and Communications Services Agreement with LetterPress Communications from annual report creation to the "10 Years of GO Virginia" marketing campaign.

PROJECT COORDINATOR'S REPORT



DATE: October 14, 2026

TO: Region 3 Council

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 January 20, 2026, meeting 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. 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

-following Executive Committee approval at its meeting on October 13th, the application was submitted to the Department of Housing and Community Development for administrative approval on October 16th.

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

Update

-since the last update to the Region 3 Council, I have coordinated with Dr. Jule Brown (Provost, Averett University) and Dr. Greg Hodges (President, Patrick & Henry Community College) to determine the best way to support the Partnership in preparing a GO Virginia Region 3 implementation application. Ultimately, the Region 3 application would leverage federal funding from the Rural Health Transformation Program on behalf of the Partnership members to address gaps and expand eligible programs.

-a GO Virginia Implementation Grant Development Plan has been prepared, under which the Patrick & Henry Community College Foundation would provide up to \$130,000 to underwrite this work. These funds would be used to retain a qualified contractor to develop the GO Virginia Region 3 implementation grant application with the Partnership, to provide general staff support to the Partnership, and for other application development expenses. The implementation application would be presented to the Region 3 Council at its April 21, 2027, meeting.

-attached are draft copies of the plan along with a scope of work for the qualified contractor.

IV. **Southern Virginia Higher Education Center**

-the application is being presented to the GO Virginia Region 3 Council at its meeting on October 21st.

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.



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

-Patrick & Henry Community College (P&HCC) and Southside Virginia Community College (SVCC) have established highly successful credentialing programs for power line work.

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

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

-potential partner community colleges that currently offer powerline worker training programs include Laurel Ridge Community College (Region 9), Mountain Empire Community College (Region 1), and Wytheville Community College (Region 2). These community colleges could join P&HCC and SVCC to pursue a GO Virginia multi-region competitive implementation grant.

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

-Meta is seeking implementation partners, and the workgroup agreed that I should contact Meta to explain the Region 3 initiative and solicit interest and feedback.

-Mid-Atlantic Broadband and Microsoft have invested in SVCC's current fiber splicing credentialing program. Microsoft has expressed interest in tracking the initiative's development. Mid-Atlantic Broadband will not be approached until the initiative's contours are more fully defined.

-no 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 at his company. 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 this project.



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VI. **Region 3 Leadership Development Project**

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

RECOMMENDATION:

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



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Southern Virginia Partnership for Health Science Careers (SVPHSC) GO Virginia Implementation Grant Development Plan

Purpose

This plan outlines how the Southern Virginia Partnership for Health Science Careers (SVPHSC), with support from the Patrick & Henry Community College Foundation, the Southside Planning District Commission, and the GO Virginia Region 3 Council staff, will retain a qualified contractor to develop and submit a GO Virginia implementation grant application to the Region 3 Council. This grant will operationalize the SVPHSC to expand existing projects and services and leverage funding from the Virginia Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP) to advance rural health workforce development.

The application development period aligns with the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) implementation submission deadline of April 30, 2027, for consideration by the GO Virginia State Board at its June 8, 2027, meeting. During the grant development phase, the qualified contractor will coordinate with Region 3's community colleges, four-year institutions, four health systems, and allied stakeholders.

Funded through a 2023 GO Virginia Region 3 planning grant and with technical support from the Blue Ridge Partnership for Health Science Careers leadership, the SVPHSC currently operates as an informal coalition without independent nonprofit status or a formal organizational structure. This plan treats that as the appropriate starting point rather than a gap to close immediately.

The Blue Ridge Partnership, GO Virginia Region 2's counterpart coalition, followed the same path: it began as an informal regional network in 2019 and registered as a separate nonprofit entity several years later, once its programs and funding relationships were established. The SVPHSC is expected to follow a similar trajectory, formalizing after this implementation grant phase demonstrates a durable funding and governance track record.

Grant Concept and Scope

The implementation grant will likely fund projects across the coalition's community colleges, four-year institutions, and health systems. The goal is to close workforce and capacity gaps, thereby making these institutions and systems more competitive for Virginia RHTP funding, particularly through the Homegrown Health Heroes initiative.

Core Partnership Members

The following organizations constitute the SVPHSC core members for this implementation grant.

Partner Organization	Type
SOVA Health	Health System
Centra-Farmville	Health System
Sentara Halifax	Health System
VCU Community Memorial Hospital	Health System
P&HCC	Community College

Partner Organization	Type
DCC	Community College
SVCC	Community College
Averett University	Four-Year Institution
Longwood University	Four-Year Institution
Southern Virginia Higher Education Center	Regional Center
West Piedmont Higher Education Center	Regional Center

As a tentative outline, these health systems and educational institutions will apply for their own RHTP subawards independently through the relevant gate organizations, but in coordination with the SVPHSC and the Region 3 Council, to ensure that projects funded by the GO Virginia implementation grant complement rather than duplicate each partner's RHTP pursuits.

Background: The Virginia Rural Health Transformation Program

The Virginia Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP) is Virginia's share of a \$50 billion federal fund created under the 2025 federal reconciliation legislation (H.R. 1) and administered nationally by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). Virginia was awarded \$189.5 million for Budget Period 1, announced on December 29, 2025, with four additional budget periods to follow through federal fiscal year 2030. The Virginia Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS) administers the program on behalf of a cross-secretariat effort spanning Health and Human Resources, Education, Agriculture and Forestry, Commerce and Trade, and Labor.

Virginia's RHTP plan allocates funding to four initiatives: Connected Care, Closer to Home; CareIQ; Homegrown Health Heroes; and Live Well, Together. Homegrown Health Heroes is the workforce development initiative and the one most directly relevant to this implementation grant because it targets the same rural health workforce shortages that the SVPHSC's coalition of colleges and health systems addresses.

Homegrown Health Heroes represents an estimated \$132 million of Virginia's five-year RHTP allocation, distributed across four sub-initiatives, each managed by a separate gate organization rather than by DMAS: expanding allied health degree capacity at Virginia's community colleges through the VCCS Foundation; expanding apprenticeship and earn-to-learn programs through Virginia Works; expanding career and credential pipelines, including EMT and CNA credentials, at high school CTE centers through the Virginia Department of Education; and funding rural residency slots in high-priority specialties such as OB/GYN and family medicine through the Virginia Hospital and Healthcare Association (VHHA) Foundation.

Because each health system and educational institution in the SVPHSC pursues its own RHTP subaward directly through the relevant gate organization, the coordinator's early work in Phases 1 and 2 of this plan, identifying and tracking each partner's status in that process, keeps the GO Virginia implementation grant complementary to, rather than duplicative of, the separate funding stream.

Sources: Virginia Rural Health Transformation overview (Virginia Center for Rural Health, May 2026 briefing materials) and Virginia RHTP program tracking (RHTP Navigator, accessed September 2026). Dollar figures reflect planned five-year allocations as of the time of that research; given how actively DMAS is still issuing guidance and subawards, these figures should be reconfirmed against ruralhealthtransformationva.virginia.gov before the application is finalized.

Funding Structure

GO Virginia Region 3 funding will serve as a match at a 2:1 ratio, contingent on each partner institution and health system securing an RHTP award.

Because RHTP subawards are being issued by multiple gate organizations on rolling timelines, the coordinator's early work should include identifying, aligning, and mapping each partner's position within its RHTP application to ensure the implementation grant can be realistically sequenced to meet the April 30, 2027, submission deadline.

Staffing and Technical Support

The Patrick & Henry Community College (P&HCC) Foundation would fund the position, and the Southside Planning District Commission (SPDC) would retain a qualified contractor to staff the SVPHSC through June 2027. Funding for the position and for supporting the SVPHSC during the development of the implementation grant totals up to \$130k. An agreement will be in place between P&HCC Foundation and SPDC to address financial and operational matters. Andy Wells (Executive Director, SPDC) will administer the contractor agreement.

The position would be primarily responsible for coordinating among SVPHSC partner organizations and the RHTP and for leading the development and submission of the implementation grant application. A companion position description provides a detailed overview of this role.

Bryan David, GO Virginia Region 3 Council Project Coordinator, and Dr. Julie Brown (Averett University Provost, formerly VP for Advanced Learning at the Institute for Advanced Learning and Research) will provide extensive technical support, review, and input for the grant application, drawing on expertise from prior successful GO Virginia implementation grants. Dr. Greg Hodges (President, P&HCC) will represent the P&HCC Foundation during the plan's implementation.

Governance and Review Process

The application will undergo a staged review to build support among the coalition's core institutions before it is considered by the Region 3 Council, the Department of Housing and Community Development's GO Virginia staff, and the GO Virginia State Board.

Stage	Reviewers	Purpose
1. Initial review draft development plan outline	Dr. Julie Brown (Averett University Provost) and Dr. Greg Hodges (P&HCC President)	Confirm the development plan concept, scope, and approach before wider circulation.
2. Principals group review	-Dr. Julie Brown (Provost, Averett University) -Dr. Greg Hodges (President, P&HCC) -Sheldon Barr (VCU Community Memorial Hospital/GO VA Region 3 Council member) -Sovah Health representative (TBN) -Dr. Angela McDonald (Dean of the College of Education, Health and Human Services, Longwood University) -Dr. Charlette Woolridge (Exec. Director/SVHEC)	Review, provide input, and approve the development plan's concept, scope, and approach before presenting, as may be revised.
3. Core partners review	See above table	Review, provide input on, and approve the development plan's concept,

Stage	Reviewers	Purpose
		scope, and approach before presenting, as may be revised.
4. Concurrent outreach and approval	Heidi Hertz (Virginia RHTP)	Confirm alignment with RHTP program expectations.
5. Regional endorsement by extended partners	SVPHSC	Review, provide input on, and approve the development plan's concept, scope, and approach, and agree to move forward.

Timeline

The timeline below assumes a contractor start date in October 2026. It should be adjusted once the actual start date and the GO Virginia Region 3 Council's 2027 meeting calendar are confirmed.

A review gate is a checkpoint at which a designated reviewer or body must approve the work before it advances to the next phase. The reviewer group, criteria, and process for each gate listed below have not yet been determined. After contractor recruitment and hiring, developing them will be one of the Coordinator's early deliverables, informed by the staged review process described in Governance and Review Process.

Phase / Target	Activities	Review Gate
Phase 1 Oct - Nov 2026	-Finalize contractor solicitation and recruit and hire contractor -Contractor onboarding -Begin partner-by-partner mapping of RHTP subaward status -Initiate with Dr. C. Sutter development of a scope, schedule, and deliverables with GMU for technical assistance and data to support the GO VA implementation application.	To be developed*
Phase 2 Dec 2026 - Jan 2027	-Convene core partner conversations. -Convene extended partner organizations for information gathering and input. -Confirm each core partner's proposed project scope and RHTP timing -Begin drafting the implementation grant narrative and budget with B. David and Dr. J. Brown -Coordinate technical assistance from Dr. C. Sutter (GMU) -Coordinate with C. Lawrence with Blue Ridge Partnership for technical assistance as needed.	To be developed*
Phase 3 Feb 2027	-Complete a full draft narrative, budget, partner commitment summary, and other application elements for review by project principals and other allied stakeholders. -Coordinate through Region 3 Council staff preliminary technical review by DHCD GO Virginia staff.	To be developed*
Phase 4 Mar 2027	Revise the application based on input from stakeholders, DHCD GO Virginia staff, and others.	To be developed*
Phase 5 Apr 2027	-Incorporate feedback to final draft application -Convene GO Virginia Region 3 Project Review Committee (TBD 4.5-8.27)	To be developed*

Phase / Target	Activities	Review Gate
	-GO Virginia Region 3 Council considers and approves application (4.21.27) -Finalize and submit the application package.	

*Reviewer group, criteria, and process for each gate to be developed by the Coordinator in Phase 1, based on the staged review process outlined in Governance and Review Process.



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Southern Virginia Partnership for Health Science Careers (SVPHSC)

Contractor Scope of Work

Position	SVPHSC Partnership Coordinator
Classification	Independent contractor (IRS Form 1099)
Funding Source	Patrick & Henry Community College (P&HCC) Foundation
Contracting Organization	Southside Planning District Commission (SPDC)
Term	Anticipated October 2026 through June 30, 2027 (approximately 9 months; exact start date to be established)
Compensation	To be determined
Functional direction	B. David (GO Virginia Region 3 Project Coordinator) and Dr. J. Brown (Averett University)
Funder representative	Dr. G. Hodges (President, P&HCC), representing the P&HCC Foundation
Contract administration	Andy Wells (Executive Director, SPDC), under an agreement between SPDC and the P&HCC Foundation addressing financial and operational matters

Position Summary

The SVPHSC Partnership Coordinator staffs the Southern Virginia Partnership for Health Science Careers (SVPHSC) during its current phase of grant development. The SVPHSC is an informal, unincorporated coalition of Region 3 community colleges, four-year institutions, four health systems, regional higher education centers, and allied stakeholders working to expand the region's health science workforce pipeline.

It was funded through a 2023 GO Virginia Region 3 planning grant and receives technical support from the leadership of the Blue Ridge Partnership for Health Science Careers. The Coordinator's primary responsibility is to lead the SVPHSC, in coordination with its core and extended partner organizations, in developing, completing, and submitting a competitive GO Virginia implementation grant application to the GO Virginia Region 3 Council and, subsequently, to the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) GO Virginia staff, by April 30, 2027, for consideration by the GO Virginia State Board at its June 8, 2027, meeting.

The implementation grant will operationalize the SVPHSC to expand existing projects and services and to leverage funding from the Virginia Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP), particularly through the Homegrown Health Heroes initiative, to advance rural health workforce development.

This role focuses on grant development, coordination, and project management. B. David and Dr. J. Brown will provide extensive technical support, review, and input, drawing on prior successful GO Virginia implementation grants, with additional technical assistance from George Mason University and the leadership of the Blue Ridge Partnership for Health Science Careers. The Coordinator is expected to keep

application development on schedule and to align and engage the coalition's many partner organizations. This scope of work may be modified, by mutual agreement between the Coordinator and the project principals (B. David, Dr. J. Brown, Dr. G. Hodges, and A. Wells), to address changed circumstances or other material matters that arise during the engagement.

Primary Responsibilities

- Lead development of the GO Virginia implementation grant application, including the narrative, budget, partner commitment summary, and required attachments, with technical support, review, and input from B. David, Dr. J. Brown, and other technical advisors.
- Coordinate engagement across SVPHSC's core and extended partner organizations, including community colleges, four-year institutions, health systems, regional higher education centers, and allied stakeholders.
- Convene core partner conversations, engage extended partner organizations for information gathering and input, and confirm each core partner's proposed project scope and RHTP timing.
- Identify, align, and maintain an up-to-date map of each core partner's independent RHTP subaward status with the relevant gate organization (VCCS Foundation, Virginia Works, Virginia Department of Education, or VHHA Foundation) to ensure the implementation grant application is realistically sequenced to each partner's funding timeline and complements rather than duplicates each partner's RHTP pursuits.
- Coordinate and communicate with Virginia RHTP staff throughout the development of the GO Virginia Region 3 application, including concurrent outreach to confirm alignment with RHTP program expectations.
- Manage the application development work plan, including scheduling, note-taking, version control, and tracking open items through submission.
- Initiate with Dr. C. Sutter (George Mason University) a scope, schedule, and deliverables for technical assistance and data to support the application, and coordinate that assistance, together with technical assistance from C. Lawrence (Blue Ridge Partnership for Health Science Careers) as needed.
- Organize and staff the staged review process described in the Development Plan's Governance and Review Process, including initial review, principals group review, core partners review, concurrent RHTP outreach, and regional endorsement by extended SVPHSC partners.
- As an early deliverable, develop the reviewer group, criteria, and process for each review gate in the Development Plan timeline, informed by the staged review process.
- Coordinate and schedule all meetings for relevant individuals and groups, including preparation of briefing materials, meeting agendas, and follow-up summaries for each review stage.
- Coordinate, through GO Virginia Region 3 Council staff, a preliminary technical review of the draft application by DHCD GO Virginia staff and support the GO Virginia Region 3 Project Review Committee and the Council in their consideration of the application.
- Coordinate and collect all third-party documentation for the GO Virginia Region 3 application.
- Track the application throughout the development process and after DHCD submission, and provide guidance and follow-up as needed on behalf of the SVPHSC.
- Prepare a brief transition and closeout summary at the end of the contract term.

Role Boundaries

The Coordinator leads development of the implementation grant application and exercises professional judgment and discretion as appropriate; the application's content remains subject to the staged review and approval process described in the Development Plan. The Coordinator is not responsible for the underlying RHTP subaward applications that each health system or educational institution files on its own behalf

through the relevant gate organization; in that context, the Coordinator's role is limited to tracking status and timing for coordination purposes. The Coordinator does not hold fiduciary, contractual, or final decision-making authority on behalf of SPDC, the P&HCC Foundation, or the SVPHSC.

Qualifications

The ideal candidate will have a combination of the following qualifications and experience. No single qualification is required, and candidates with other equivalent combinations of education, training, and experience are encouraged to apply.

- Experience coordinating projects or partnerships across multiple organizations, ideally in higher education, healthcare, or regional economic development.
- Experience developing competitive grant applications, including narratives, budgets, and supporting documentation, ideally for state or federal economic or workforce development programs.
- Familiarity with the GO Virginia program, the Virginia RHTP, Virginia's higher education system, healthcare workforce development, Southern Virginia's regional stakeholders, or other regional workforce development programs.
- Strong project management, meeting facilitation, and written communication skills.
- Ability to work independently across a geographically dispersed set of partner organizations, manage multiple relationships, and meet deadlines.
- Comfort working under an independent contractor arrangement, including managing one's own schedule and work methods to meet agreed-upon deliverables.

Deliverables and Milestones

Compensation is tied to the following milestones, consistent with the companion Development Plan timeline. Each milestone is subject to review by B. David, Dr. J. Brown, and Dr. G. Hodges and to approval by A. Wells, the contract administrator, before a contractor's invoice is accepted for payment. Milestone dates assume a contractor start date in October 2026 and should be finalized once the actual start date and the GO Virginia Region 3 Council's 2027 meeting calendar are confirmed.

- Milestone 1: Partner contact map and RHTP subaward status tracker completed; reviewer group, criteria, and process for each review gate developed; and the George Mason University technical assistance scope, schedule, and deliverables initiated with Dr. C. Sutter. (Plan Phase 1, October-November 2026)
- Milestone 2: Core and extended partner convenings held; each core partner's proposed project scope and RHTP timing confirmed; and drafting of the implementation grant narrative and budget begun, with technical support from B. David and Dr. J. Brown. (Plan Phase 2, December 2026-January 2027)
- Milestone 3: Full draft of the implementation grant narrative, budget, partner commitment summary, and other application elements, completed and confirmed by B. David, GO Virginia Region 3 Project Coordinator; Dr. J. Brown; and Dr. G. Hodges, for review by project principals and allied stakeholders, and for preliminary DHCD GO Virginia staff technical review coordinated by Region 3 Council staff. (Plan Phase 3, February 2027)
- Milestone 4: The Principals group and core partners have completed their review, and the application has been revised based on input from stakeholders, DHCD GO Virginia staff, and others (Plan Phase 4, March 2027).)
- Milestone 5: Regional endorsement from extended SVPHSC partners obtained and feedback incorporated into the final draft application (Plan Phase 5, April 2027).

- Milestone 6: The GO Virginia Region 3 Project Review Committee convened; Region 3 Council approval was obtained at its April 21, 2027, meeting; and the final application package was assembled. (Plan Phase 5, April 2027)
- Milestone 7: Application submitted to DHCD GO Virginia staff by the April 30, 2027, deadline (Plan Phase 5, April 2027).
- Milestone 8: Transition and close-out summary delivered after the GO Virginia State Board's June 8, 2027, meeting (following Plan Phase 5; not yet represented as a separate phase in the Development Plan's Timeline).

Work Arrangement

This is a remote work engagement, subject to the standard contract terms and conditions for SPDC contractors.



PROGRAM DIRECTOR'S REPORT



DATE: October 7, 2026
TO: Region 3 Council
FROM: Ann Taylor Wright, Region 3 Program Director
RE: FY26 GO Virginia Fund Recapture

During the 2026 General Assembly session, the Commonwealth's FY26 budget required the recapture of \$10 million in unobligated GO Virginia funds based on each region's fiscal position as of June 30, 2026.

At its September 15, 2026 meeting, the GO Virginia State Board authorized the recapture of \$7.5 million from unobligated Competitive Funds and \$2.5 million from unobligated Regional Per Capita funds. The Per Capita portion was allocated among the regions based on each region's percentage of total FY26 Regional Per Capita funds allocated by the State Board. As a result, \$142,476.14 was recaptured from Region 3's unobligated Per Capita funds.

Region 3 had fully obligated its available Per Capita funding prior to the June 2026 withdrawal of the Heartland Sites application, which returned approximately \$94,000 to the region's unobligated balance. Additional balances from recently closed projects also became available near fiscal year-end, leaving limited time to responsibly obligate the funds prior to June 30.

Staff will continue to closely monitor available Per Capita balances and the project pipeline to minimize the risk of future recapture while ensuring projects are sufficiently developed before being advanced for funding.

RECOMMENDATION:

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





DATE: October 8, 2026
TO: Region 3 Council
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. Submission is required for DHCD to issue Region 3's Capacity Building funding for the upcoming funding period.

The Region 3 FY26 Annual Report provides an overview of 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.

Because the October 1 submission deadline preceded the next regularly scheduled meeting of the full Council, the Executive Committee reviewed and approved the FY26 Annual Report on September 16, 2026. The approved report has been submitted to DHCD.

A copy of the FY26 Annual Report is included in the meeting packet for the Council's information.

RECOMMENDATION:

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



FY26

GO Virginia Region 3 Annual Report

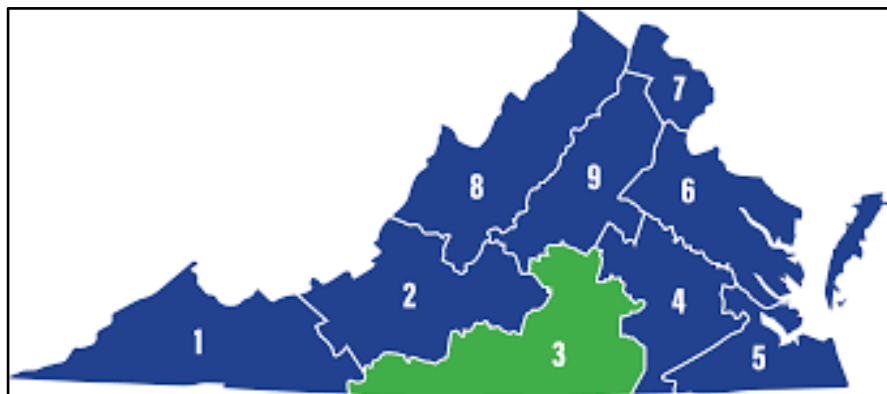
GO Virginia Region 3 Annual Report for FY26

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

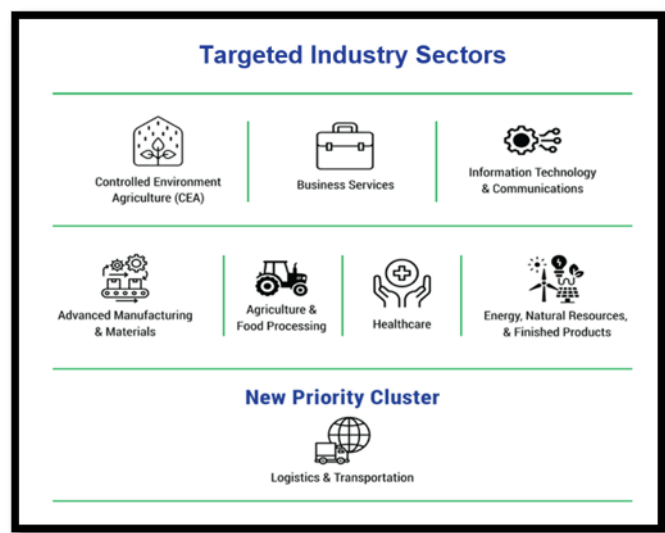
Region 3’s Growth & Diversification (G&D) Plan serves as the strategic roadmap for the Council’s investments in workforce development, business site development and infrastructure, entrepreneurship, and industry cluster growth. During FY26, Region 3 completed a comprehensive update of the Plan to assess 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.

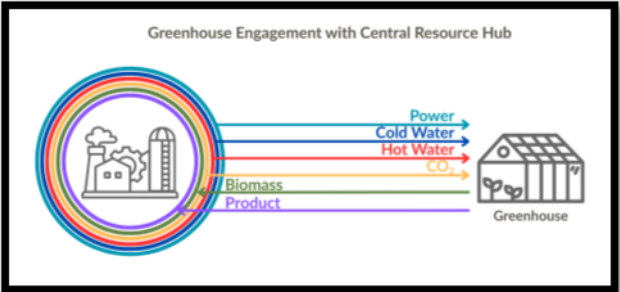
The updated Plan reinforces several priorities that have consistently guided Region 3’s work: advancing project-ready sites, strengthening career pathways, expanding employer-aligned credentials and work-based learning, supporting entrepreneurship, and building greater collaboration among education, 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.



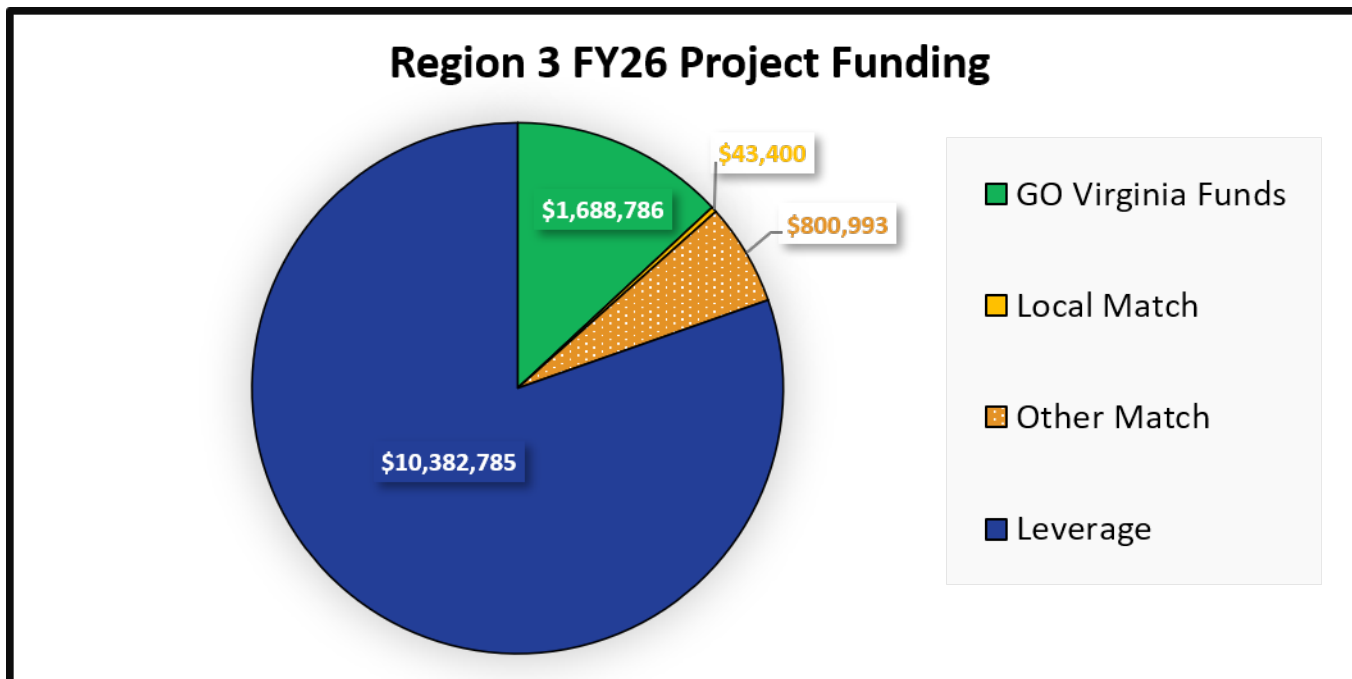
Collectively, these efforts demonstrate that Region 3’s project portfolio is closely aligned with the goals and opportunities identified in the updated G&D Plan. The Council’s investments are strengthening the region’s people, places, and economic assets while creating the partnerships and capacity necessary 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

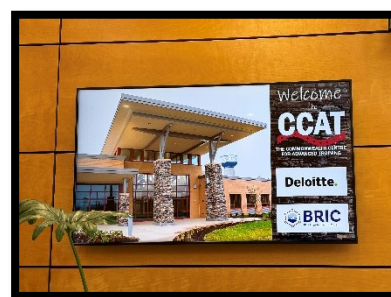
Collaboration remained central to Region 3's work in FY26, with initiatives bringing together business, education, workforce, philanthropy, economic development, and local government partners around shared regional priorities. These partnerships strengthened Region 3's ability to address workforce needs, 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

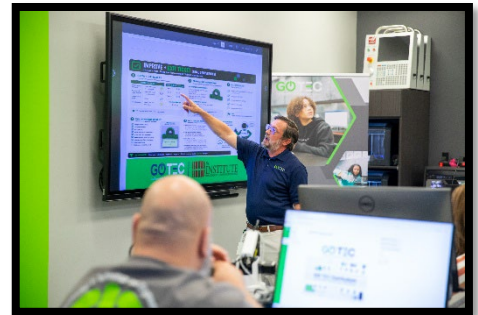


V: Outcomes & Impact

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





DATE: October 7, 2026
TO: Region 3 Council
FROM: Ann Taylor Wright, Region 3 Program Director
RE: SOVA Fab Lab Tour

Following the October 21, 2026, Region 3 Full Council meeting, Council members and guests are invited to participate in an on-site tour of the SOVA Fab Lab.

Adam Reeves, SOVA Fab Lab Manager, and Mallory Lawter, SOVA Innovation Hub Community Manager, will lead the tour and provide participants with an overview of the Fab Lab and its equipment and capabilities.

The tour will begin immediately following adjournment of the Full Council meeting.

RECOMMENDATION:

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