

# Media Advisory



Roanoke Valley-Alleghany

**REGIONAL**  
**commission**

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## **Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission Receives \$2 Million in Grant Funding from Virginia Housing**

*First-Ever Planning and Implementation Grants Will Stimulate Innovative  
Regional Affordable Housing Initiatives*

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**Roanoke, VA., July 19th, 2021** - A new source of funding will be helping the Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission (RVARC) provide more affordable housing in the region. Last week [Virginia Housing](#) announced a \$2 million grant to RVARC for the creation of new housing initiatives.

"We are proud to provide these grants to Virginia's 21 PDCs," said Virginia Housing CEO Susan Dewey. "We have a close working relationship with these organizations, and this grant program will build upon that partnership by promoting regional approaches to housing development, enhancing collaboration between local housing service providers, and creating new affordable homes."

The grants will contribute to building 20 units over the next 36 months as well as financing new affordable homeownership opportunities, renovating vacant and blighted properties, supporting the development of a regional housing trust fund, and creating upper-story housing in downtown business districts.

"As a new undertaking for the Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission, we're excited for the opportunities to be able to provide Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission." says Regional Commission Executive Director Jeremy Holmes. "We know the need for affordable housing is significant, and this grant will give us a head starting on identifying creative solutions to that challenge."

The grant program is a new initiative provided through Virginia Housing's REACH Virginia program. The program uses Virginia Housing's own resources to provide support to local housing groups, non-profits, developers and other partner groups working to meet affordable housing needs.

"We are pleased that Virginia Housing has made significant funding and strong collaboration with the PDCs a top priority in its efforts to support regional housing opportunities and solutions," said Kim Callis, president of the [Virginia Association of Planning District Commissions](#). "With this initiative, Virginia's PDCs will be able to develop or enhance their own collaboration with regional and local organizations to help meet a critical housing need. We are excited to partner with Virginia Housing in this endeavor."

Virginia Housing also provided funding for the recently completed Roanoke Valley Housing Study through its Capacity Building and Community Impact grant programs, but this initiative marks the first time it has provided funding to invest directly into housing production.

Says Holmes, "We intend for this process to be collaborative and strategic, working with what we learned from the recent Roanoke Valley Housing study to implement projects where they can have the most impact."

The Commission intends to begin its work in the next several weeks, beginning with the formation of a stakeholder group of interested nonprofits, private developers, and others to help develop program guidance and a project selection process and criteria.



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### ***About the RVARC***

*The Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission (RVARC) is one of 21 regional planning agencies in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Member governments include the counties of Alleghany, Botetourt, Craig, Franklin and Roanoke; the cities of Covington, Roanoke, and Salem; and the towns of Clifton Forge, Rocky Mount and Vinton. The mission of the Regional Commission is to be a leader in driving collaboration and strategy within our communities on issues that are critical to the economic growth, quality of life, and the sustainability of this region.*

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