



February 2026 Update



Montgomery County Public Schools GO TEC Career Connections Lab Ribbon Cutting

On January 22nd, Montgomery County Public Schools celebrated the opening of the new GO TEC Career Connections Lab at Christiansburg Middle School with a ribbon-cutting ceremony and tour. The exciting event included student equipment demonstrations, a band performance, and food catered by the consumer science students at CMS.

This lab is the first GO TEC facility in the New River Valley and was funded by a GO Virginia Region 2 Per Capita Implementation grant opportunity. It has received broad support from local officials, manufacturers, economic developers, and educators.

GO TEC is a proven and growing talent pathway initiative, led by the [Institute for Advanced Learning and Research](#), which introduces middle school students to careers in fields such as manufacturing engineering, automation and robotics, welding, and precision machining.

For more information, please contact Emma Carroll, ecarroll@nrvrc.org.

2026 ARC How to Apply Workshop



The Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) will hold an in-person how-to apply workshop for the 2026 Virginia Appalachian Regional Commission Grant (ARC) program on February 13, 2026, 9 AM - 12 PM at the Pulaski County Innovation Center in Fairlawn.

This how-to-apply workshop will provide an overview of the information needed to prepare and successfully submit an ARC application, including important dates and updates for the upcoming program year. ARC staff have been invited to share important tips for getting your recommended project approved by the Federal Co-Chair and provide program updates on ARC programs administered by the Washington Office.

[Register Here](#) for this free workshop!



NRVRC is Hiring!

The Regional Commission is currently hiring for a Grant Management and Network Facilitator within the Community Health Team. Responsibilities include managing grant compliance, monitoring fiscal and performance data, reviewing

Rise Above

The New River Health District's mobile outreach service, Rise Above, the NRV Peer Coalition, along with the Virginia Department of Health, Carilion Clinic, and other community partners hosted open, welcoming conversations on substance use in the New River Valley, grounded in public health, lived experience, and real solutions. These free events, held at public libraries, bring together community members, families, providers, and leaders to discuss overdose prevention, available resources, and how we can work together to strengthen and save lives in the NRV.

The final Rise Above Panel, Substance Use in the NRV, is

partner invoicing, and ensuring alignment with funder and fiscal agent requirements. Contact achampion@nrvc.org for more information or check [our website](#).

scheduled for February 11th from 5:30pm until 7:30pm at the Radford Library, 30 W. Main Street, Radford, VA.

For more information contact, Erika Slagel-Perry, eslagelperry@nrvc.org



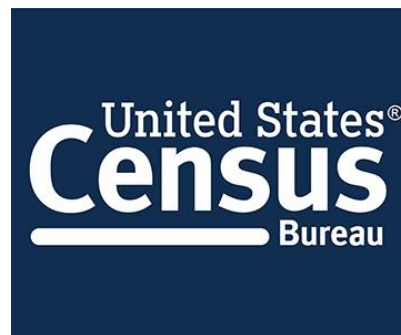
Annual Livability in Action Regional Exchange

The 12th Annual Livability in Action Regional Exchange will be held March 25th at the German Club in Blacksburg. Lightning round speakers will touch on topics like hurricane relief and recovery, housing, downtown revitalization, community-university partnerships, and more. Plus, we'll highlight how local governments used American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to support their communities after the Covid-19 pandemic.

This is a free event open to the community. [Register here!](#)

ACS Data Release

The American Community Survey (ACS), conducted annually by the U.S. Census Bureau, is a source of detailed community data. It collects social, economic, housing, and demographic information from a national sample of households, covering over 40 diverse topics such as education, employment, income, housing, and transportation. This vital information offers essential insights into communities' evolving needs and circumstances. The annual release of ACS data is indispensable for local officials, community leaders, and businesses, enabling them to make informed decisions.



For areas with a population under 65,000, the ACS provides 5-year estimates. The most recent 2024 datasets, typically released in December, became available on January 29, 2026. Explore the data at <https://data.census.gov/>.

Virginia Disaster Assistance Funds

The New River Valley Regional Commission will be hosting information sessions for Virginia Disaster Assistance Funds (VDAF) regarding Part 1 and Part 2. We will also be providing information on the DCR Resilient Virginia Revolving Loan Fund (RVRF).

For more information contact Community Resiliency Coordinator Patrick Ford via email at pford@nrvrc.org or by phone at 540-838-8012.

[Visit our website](#)

New River Valley Regional Commission | nrvrc.org



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