



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

GO Virginia Funding Opportunity

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About GO Virginia

Growth & Opportunity Virginia (GO Virginia) is a statewide economic development initiative established by the Virginia General Assembly to promote **regional collaboration and economic diversification**.

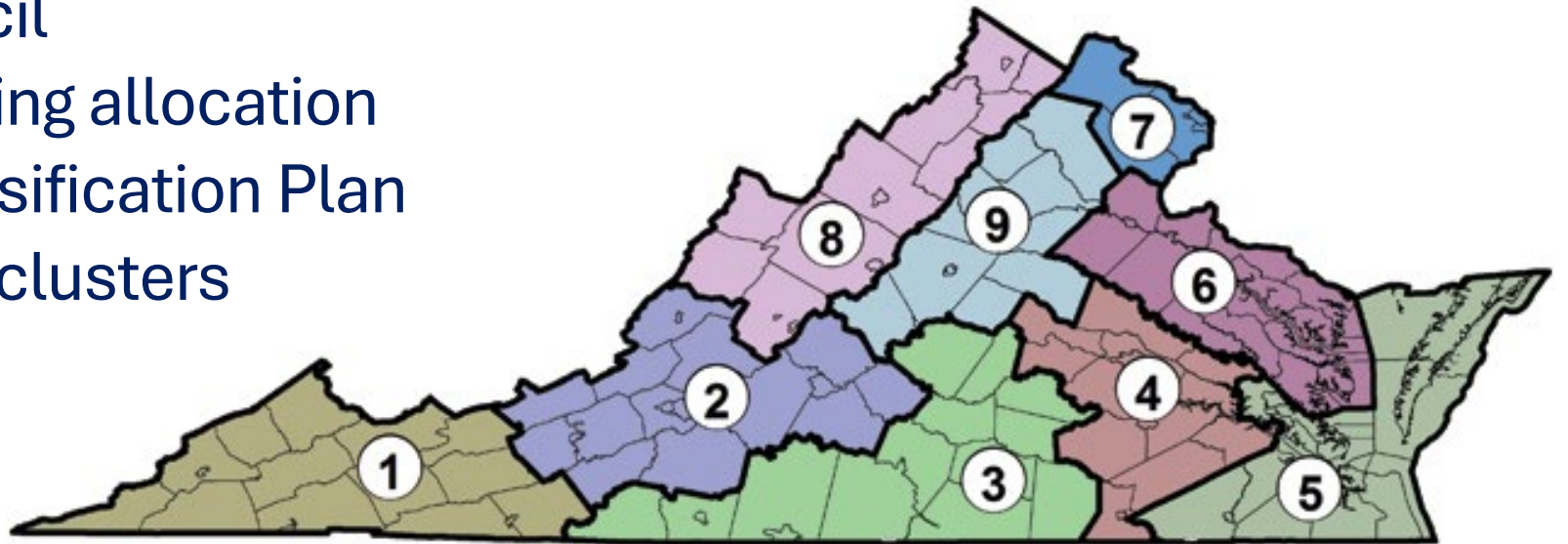
Rather than funding isolated projects, GOVA:

- Encourages **collaboration** across multiple localities
- Aligns **business, education, workforce, and government** leaders
- Invests in projects that **strengthen traded industries and create high-quality jobs**

GO Virginia Regions

9 Regions, each with unique:

- Support organization
- Regional Council
- Per capita funding allocation
- Growth & Diversification Plan
- Target industry clusters

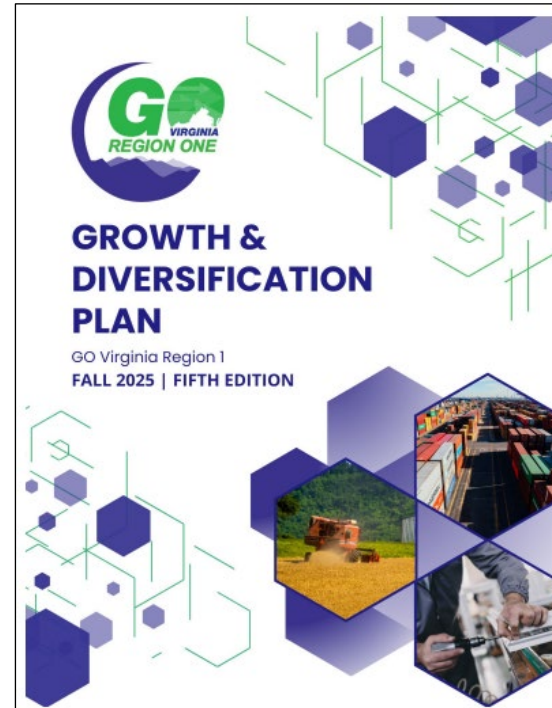


Regional Growth & Diversification Plan

Roadmap for accessing GO Virginia funding in each region

Identifies:

- Target industry clusters
- Priority strategies, activities, and regional goals
- Partners for project collaboration



Alignment with regional G&D Plan priorities is required for all project proposals

GO Virginia Investment Strategies



Cluster Scale-Up

Accelerating or scaling the development of emerging industry subclusters within target industry clusters



Entrepreneurship & Innovation

Building a stronger entrepreneurial ecosystem- network of programs, partnerships, and resources that enable startups and innovative businesses to launch, grow, and thrive



Workforce Development

Increasing system capacity to increase the pool of qualified workers to support priority industry clusters through talent development, attraction, and retention



Site Development & Infrastructure

Supporting the development and growth of sites and infrastructure used to support properties to meet the needs of priority industry clusters

Grant Types



PLANNING

Funding for early-stage activities such as research, strategy development, pilot programs, feasibility studies

Grant Period: 1 year

- Exempt from local match requirement
- Must show a line of sight to GOVA-eligible implementation activities
- Limit \$100,000 per planning grant
- Administrative approval from DHCD

**Regional planning grant cap: \$250,000 per fiscal year*



IMPLEMENTATION

Funding projects that are ready to launch, scale, & deliver measurable economic outcomes

Grant Period: 2 years

GOVA Core Grant Outcome Examples:

- *Jobs Created*
- *People Trained*
- *Job Placements*
- *Businesses Expanded*
- *Acres advanced*
- *Linear feet of infrastructure improvements*
- *Businesses Served*



COMPETITIVE

Multi-Region: 2 or more participating GOVA Regions.

Grant Period: 2 years

- Requires council approval from all participating regions
- Limit \$250,000 per grant for multi-region planning projects

Single Region: Accessible if regional per capita funds have been exhausted

Project Requirements

Alignment with
Regional Growth &
Diversification Plan

Supports target
industry cluster(s)

Demonstrates
industry demand

Meaningful
participation from
at least 2 localities

Sustainable after
GOVA grant
period*

2:1 matching funds
committed

20% Local match*

Tangible Core
Grant Outcomes*

*Planning grants are exempt

Proposal Evaluation

Economic Impact

- Will deliver tangible, measurable economic outcomes
- Evidence of industry demand and clear plan to meet
- Clear alignment with Region 2 G&D Plan
- Not duplicative of existing initiatives in the region

Regional Collaboration

- Meaningful collaboration & partnerships with diverse group of stakeholders, including match contributions
- Participation from the private sector

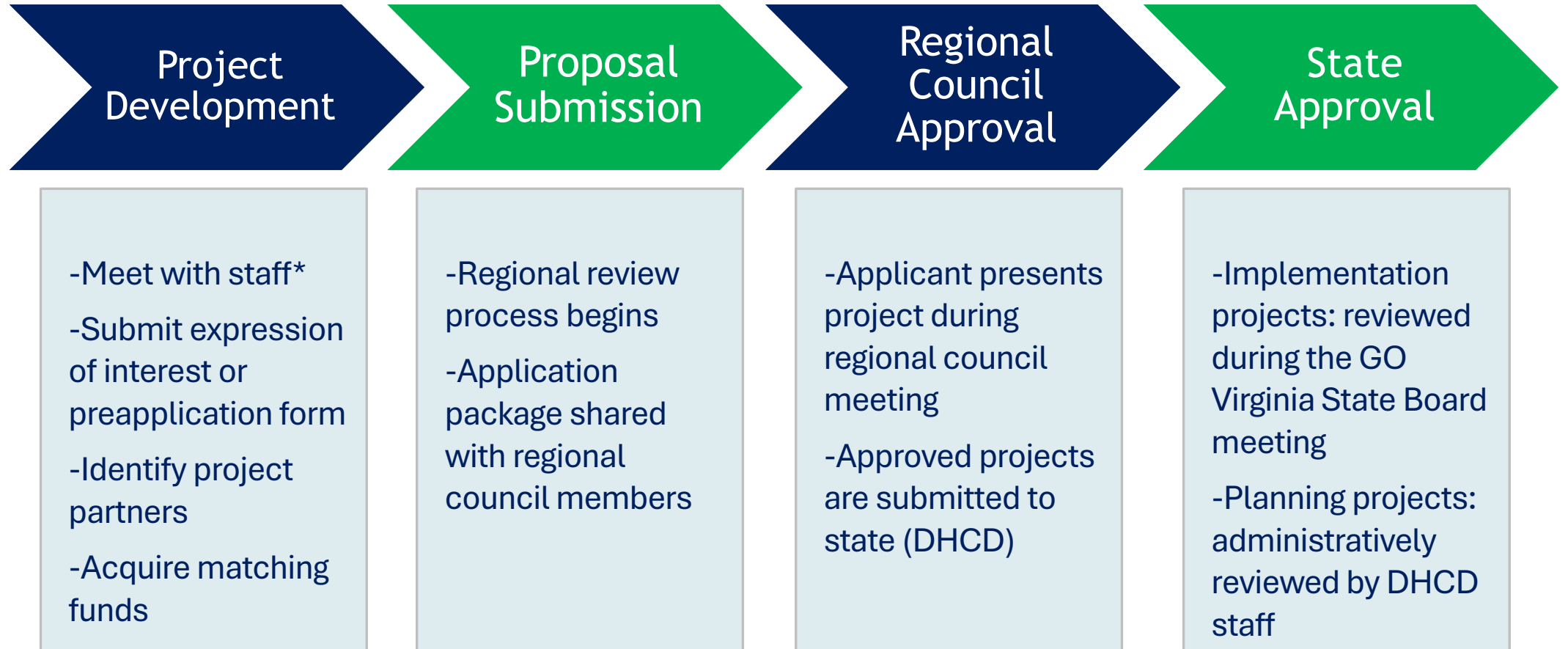
Project Readiness

- Clear, achievable plan; defined timeline and milestones
- Capacity of applicant and partners to execute
- Prerequisite activities complete or underway
- Reasonable barriers have been considered

Sustainability

- Defined strategy for continuing operations beyond the grant period, including funding sources
- Evidence of sustained demand

Application Process

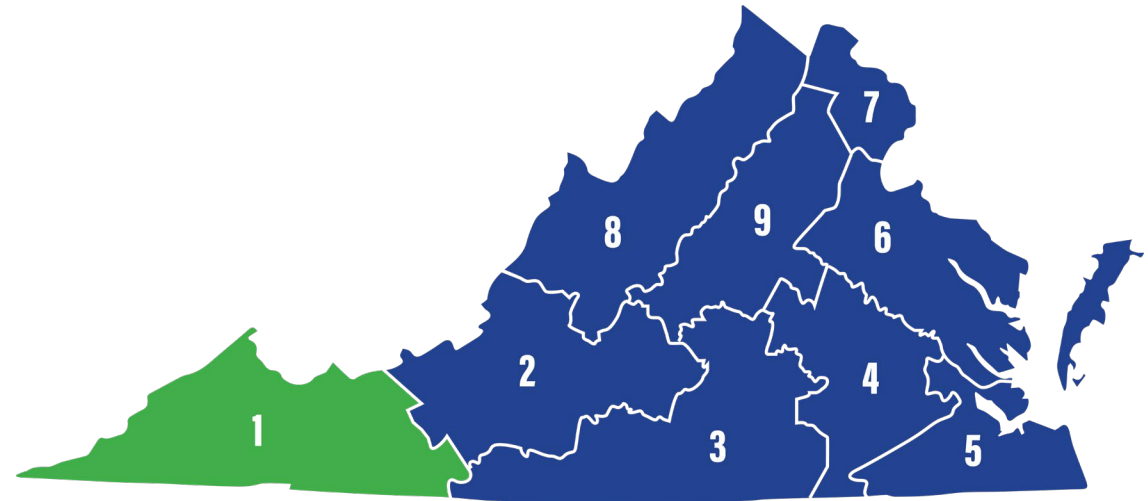


***Applicants are strongly encouraged to involve staff in project development. Staff can provide guidance, review and offer feedback on early drafts, and validate eligibility for budget items and activities**

GO Virginia Region 1

Annual per capita allocation: \$1 million, with \$250,000 reserved for planning grants

Support Organization: University of Virginia's College at Wise



Region 1 PDCs: LENOWISCO, Cumberland Plateau and Mount Rogers

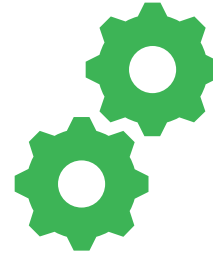
Region 1 Localities: Cities of Bristol, Galax and Norton; Counties of Bland, Buchanan, Carroll, Dickenson, Grayson, Lee, Russell, Scott, Smyth, Tazewell, Washington, Wise and Wythe.



Region 1 Target Industry Clusters



**Agriculture & Food and
Beverage Manufacturing**



Advanced Manufacturing



Energy & Minerals



**Information & Emerging
Technologies**



**Logistics,
Transportation &
Warehousing**

Region 1 Strategic Priorities

We invest in the full potential of Southwest Virginia- its people, communities, natural landscapes, and infrastructure- to cultivate a thriving economy rooted in innovation, collaboration, and industry diversification

1 Implementation Infrastructure & Coordinating Strategies Defined

2 Targeting Basic Employers with Wages Above Regional Median Wage

3 Targeting Existing Industry Clusters Where SWVA has a Competitive Advantage

4 Focused on Educational & Industry Alignment

5 Enhancing the Availability of Development-ready Sites

6 Supporting Existing Businesses to Develop New Products and/or New Markets

7 Enhancing Regional Ecosystem with Increased Access to Capital & Mentoring Opportunities

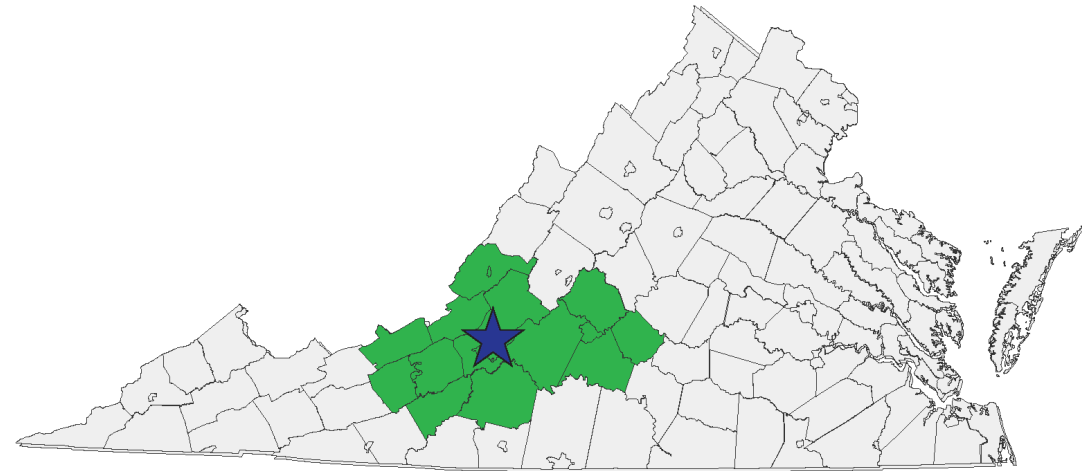
8 Focused on Product Development & Information/Data Capacity Critical to Industry Recruitment

See GO VA Region 1's [Growth and Diversification Plan](#) for more detail.

GO Virginia Region 2

Annual per capita allocation:
\$1.5 million, with \$250,000
reserved for planning grants

Support Organization: Virginia Tech
Center for Economic & Community
Engagement

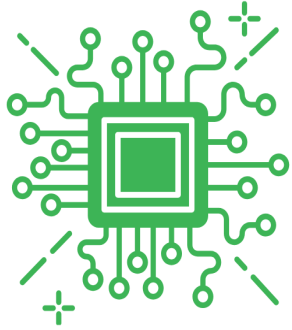


Region 2 PDCs: Central Virginia Planning District
Commission, New River Valley Regional Commission, Roanoke
Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission

Region 2 Localities: Cities of Covington, Lynchburg,
Radford, Roanoke, and Salem; Counties of Alleghany,
Amherst, Appomattox, Bedford, Botetourt, Campbell, Craig, Floyd,
Franklin, Giles, Montgomery, Pulaski, and Roanoke



Region 2 Target Industry Clusters



**Life Sciences &
Biotechnology**



**IT, Engineering Services &
Emerging Technology**



**Manufacturing for
Transportation,
Energy, & Autonomy**



**Advanced Materials
Manufacturing**

These four interrelated clusters offer the greatest potential for sustainable, scalable growth in the region.

Region 2 Council Priorities

build connections to regulatory expertise
come home campaign
talent development in AI, robotics, autonomy, quantum computing
COMPETITIVE MARKET ANALYSIS
STARTUP GROWTH informed use of AI along talent pipeline
expand secondary education talent pipeline programs business—ready sites
develop career pathways **NEW COMPANIES** INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES
additive manufacturing makerspace
TALENT RETENTION FOR SCIENTISTS + MANAGERIAL PROFESSIONS
site readiness planning **STUDENT STARTUPS** connect employers with students
mentorship programs
improve coordination INTEGRATE STARTUPS INTO REGIONAL BOARDS
private and alternative funding for startup growth **TALENT ATTRACTION**
IMPROVE TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER PROCESSES
CATALYZE TECHNOLOGY ADOPTION
refurbish underutilized spaces for labs
AFFORDABLE LAB AND PRODUCTION SPACE

See the Region 2
Growth &
Diversification
Plan for a detailed
list of priority
strategies and
activities!

Thank you!



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