



**For Immediate Release**  
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**GO VIRGINIA REGION 9 COUNCIL SOLICITING PROJECT APPLICATIONS FOR APRIL 4 DEADLINE**

*Over \$1.5 Million in Funding Is Available for Initiatives That Advance Specific Opportunities Identified in Region 9's Growth & Diversification Plan*

Charlottesville, Virginia – The GO Virginia Region 9 Council is soliciting applications for economic development projects that will advance specific opportunities identified in Region 9's Growth & Diversification Plan (Growth Plan). Applications received by the April 4 deadline have the potential to be reviewed and approved at the GO Virginia State Board meeting on June 14.

Projects proposals should strengthen and enhance the regional economy and contribute to the creation of higher-paying jobs as outlined in the Growth Plan. Proposals must demonstrate collaboration between business, education, and local government. Projects must focus on one or more of Region 9's target traded sectors and fall within one of four project frameworks:

Target Industries

Biomedical & Biotechnology  
Financial & Business Services  
Food & Beverage Manufacturing  
Information Technology & Communications  
Light Manufacturing

Project Frameworks

Talent Development  
Innovation/Entrepreneurship  
Growing Existing Businesses  
Site Readiness

Over \$1.5 million in funding is available for projects in Region 9. Eligible applicants include public sector entities, nonprofits, public-private partnerships, and educational institutions, among others. Region 9, also referred to as the Piedmont Opportunity Corridor, encompasses the City of Charlottesville and the Counties of Albemarle, Culpeper, Fauquier, Fluvanna, Greene, Louisa, Madison, Nelson, Orange, and Rappahannock. Projects must engage at least two localities and require match dollars from non-state sources.

April 4 is also expected to be the last opportunity to apply for funding through the GO Virginia Economic Resilience and Recovery Program. Region 9 has over \$425k available to fund strategic initiatives designed to address the near- and long-term impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Pre-applications and/or conversations with Region 9 Council staff are required before applying. For more information, go to [www.GOVirginia9.org](http://www.GOVirginia9.org) or contact Shannon Holland at [sholland@centralvirginia.org](mailto:sholland@centralvirginia.org)

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*The Virginia Initiative for Growth and Opportunity (GO Virginia) is a bipartisan, business-led economic development initiative that is changing the way Virginia's diverse regions collaborate on economic and workforce development activities. The objective of the GO Virginia initiative is to promote the creation of high wage careers, private sector job growth, and diversification across the Commonwealth through incentivized regional collaboration. GO Virginia funding seeks to grow jobs paying higher than the regional annual average wage, which for Region 9 is \$51,750.*