



For Immediate Release
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GO VIRGINIA REGION 9 COUNCIL APPROVES FIVE PROJECTS TOTALING NEARLY \$1.5 MILLION

Projects Will Strengthen and Enhance the Regional Economy and Create High-Paying Jobs

Charlottesville, Virginia – On Monday, the GO Virginia Region 9 Council reviewed and approved five grant applications designed to foster private sector growth and job creation through state incentives for strategic regional collaboration. These projects total nearly \$1.5 million and will leverage an additional \$750,000+, including more than \$150,000 in matching funds from localities in Central Virginia. This funding will support economic diversification, entrepreneurship, workforce development, and local talent pipelines. All five projects will advance to be reviewed by the GO Virginia State Board.

GO Virginia Region 9, also known as the Piedmont Opportunity Corridor, includes the City of Charlottesville and the Counties of Albemarle, Culpeper, Fauquier, Fluvanna, Greene, Louisa, Madison, Nelson, Orange, and Rappahannock. Grant applications will now go through a formal review process led by the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development before being advanced to the GO Virginia Board for final approval on June 14.

To learn more about GO Virginia Region 9, visit www.GOVirginia9.org

BEACON's Kitchen | New Hill Development Corporation, through its new Black Entrepreneurial Advancement & Community Opportunity Network (BEACON), is proposing an 11,500 square foot, fully equipped shared-use commercial kitchen and incubator in Charlottesville for use on a membership subscription model by any food business regardless of location, development stage, or ownership demographic. The shared-use kitchen will promote knowledge sharing, innovation, and collaboration throughout the local food ecosystem.

Carver Food Business Incubator | Culpeper County has undertaken the construction of a 6,200 square foot, fully equipped commercial kitchen located in the Culpeper County Government building known as The Carver Center, former site of the George Washington Carver Regional High School (1948 - 1967). The Carver Food Business Incubator is a core component of a broader effort to revitalize the former high school into a thriving and sustainable agricultural education, production, research, and training hub.

Talent Supply Connector | Virginia Career Works – Piedmont Region will work to address employment and recruitment challenges by deploying recently developed tools and data to ensure business hiring needs are being met. Project activities will include convening coalitions of regional partners with a focus on creating positive experiences and outcomes for businesses and their employees, activating the Career Pathways Guide tool and database resource region-wide, and conducting an annual survey with coalition input to support real-time feedback.

Technology Academies for Fauquier and Rappahannock Counties | *Lord Fairfax Community College*, in partnership with local school systems, is proposing to implement technology academies to support economic prosperity, income mobility, and equity in access to technology by advancing education, credentialing, apprenticeship, and internship opportunities in the fields of drones and robotics for individuals preparing to enter the workforce. The technology academies will offer college-level courses in robotics and drones to Rappahannock and Fauquier high school and adult learners.

Tech Talent Retention | *The Central Virginia Partnership for Economic Development* will focus on retaining college students to launch their careers within the Central Virginia region upon graduation, thereby providing a skilled and diverse talent pipeline for higher-paying jobs in technology fields. Through a team of undergraduate Federal Work-Study students and summer interns, this project will raise awareness of local businesses through student “thought leaders” who will innovate and inspire classmates. Through direct peer engagement, students will learn that GO Virginia Region 9 is home to innovative technology-focused companies in a region that offers an ideal live, work, and play environment.