



VIRGINIA INITIATIVE FOR  
**GROWTH &  
 OPPORTUNITY**  
 IN EACH REGION  
 REGIONAL COUNCIL 9

GO Virginia is an economic development initiative designed to diversify and strengthen regional economies by offering grants that drive collaboration between **business, education, and local government.**

## Grant Opportunities Identified in Region 9 Growth Plan Update

*The Region 9 Council is seeking grant proposals that support these opportunities identified in the Region 9 Growth & Diversification Plan Update. In general, projects must be framed in one of the specific project types and focus on target industry. Each of the bullets below represents an identified opportunity.*



### Talent Development

1. Drive the development of a regional and comprehensive workforce coalition or initiative to support collaboration and efficiency in the Region 9 talent development ecosystem
2. Accomplish a regionally focused implementation grant to execute labor sector strategies identified for Financial & Business Services, Food & Beverage Manufacturing, Information Technology, and Light Manufacturing in the *Labor Sector Strategies Report for GO Virginia Region 9 (2021)*. Report recommendations include:
  - o Establish sector led coalitions comprised of business, workforce, and education stakeholders to identify and drive solutions for industry
  - o Promote VCW - Piedmont Region and community college workforce services more broadly across sectors to enhance awareness of business-focused programs offered by these groups
  - o Create a career readiness program to help employees understand workplace courtesies and protocols associated with softs skills
3. Drive development of Biotech labor sector strategies
4. Develop sector driven credentialing, apprenticeship, and internship programs for target industries
5. Evaluate or drive strategies to address regional demand for Software Developers (SOC 15-1256) across IT, Biotech, and Financial & Business Services sector

Project Types	
Talent Development	T a r g e t i n g
Growing Existing Businesses	
Startup/Innovation/ Commercialization	
Site Readiness	
Target Industries	
Biomedical & Biotechnology	
Financial & Business Services	
Food & Beverage Manufacturing	
Information Technology & Communications	
Light Manufacturing	



### Growing Existing Businesses

1. Evaluate challenges to each or all regional target sectors to identify gaps that inhibit regional sectors from scaling to attain a critical mass of enterprises, talent, and intellectual property
2. Implement solutions to identified gaps or barriers to scaling and expanding regional target clusters

**Who can apply?**

**How much funding is available?**

**How to apply?**

**When are upcoming deadlines?**

**What projects have been funded?**

**Find out more at:**

**[www.GOVirginia9.org](http://www.GOVirginia9.org)**

3. Support sector led verticals, i.e., CvilleBioHub, to address business-identified sector gaps to traded sector growth
4. Support development of a large amount of new square footage, including wet and/or dry labs, to serve Biotech industry growth



## Startups/Innovation/Commercialization

1. Support advancement of opportunities identified to serve the regional entrepreneurship ecosystem in the *Region 9 Rural Entrepreneurship Report* (2020) and the *Venture Hub Report* (2019) including:
  - o Strategically integrate “concierge” or “business navigator” roles to connect entrepreneurs to resources, etc.
  - o Promote existing resources throughout the region and drive regional collaboration between entrepreneurship support organizations, stakeholders, and entrepreneurs
2. Develop stronger ideation programming and support strategic expansion of existing programming targeting traded sector startups
3. Support advancement of integrated accelerators, incubators, entrepreneurial hubs, etc. to serve the region
4. Catalyze wider range of risk capital in the region
5. Strengthen networking of traded sector industry clusters to engage startups more actively



## Sites

1. Advance further development of sites and seek opportunities for regional collaboration on new sites
2. Evaluate regional strategic advantages for potential sites and/or sites under development in regional target sectors, i.e., data centers, light manufacturing
3. Support and encourage the continued development of regionally prioritized sites
4. Advance the creation of a Regional Industrial Facilities Authority (RIFA) or equivalent regional collaborative partnerships, as appropriate, to support regional site development



## Other

1. Explore opportunities to assess and support the development of emerging industries that could help the region grow high paying jobs and expand traded sectors (i.e., Hemp Industry, Renewable Energy Industry, and Environmental Sustainability Industry)
2. Drive programming for regional economic recovery and resiliency from the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic through the ERR grant program set to expire April 2022

Download at  
[www.GOVirginia9.org](http://www.GOVirginia9.org)



### Available funding:

**\$1 million+ for Projects in Region 9**  
*Additional funding for interregional projects*

GO Virginia has funded 229 projects and awarded approximately \$92.5 million to support regional economic development efforts since 2017

Region 9 has awarded 21 projects totaling approximately \$5.2 million

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