

Annual Report

Region 9 Growth Plan Implementation

June 17, 2025

Goals

Demonstrate how activities have advanced the Region 9 Growth & Diversification Plan (Growth Plan)

Summarize FY 2025 milestones

Celebrate success!



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

ANNUAL REPORT

YEAR-END REPORT ON GROWTH PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

FISCAL YEAR 2025

GO VIRGINIA REGION 9 COUNCIL


June 17, 2025



Region 9 Growth Plan Update (2023)

17 Grant Opportunities

Target Sectors (5)	Strategies (4)
Biomedical & Biotechnology Financial & Business Services Food & Beverage Mfg. IT & Communications Light Manufacturing	Talent Development Growing Existing Businesses Entrepreneurship Site Readiness



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 - 2023

The Region 9 Council is seeking grant proposals that drive opportunities identified in the Region 9 Growth & Diversification Plan Update, as summarized below. For deadlines and details go to www.GOVirginia9.org.

Talent Development

1. Build a comprehensive regional workforce coalition or initiative to drive collaboration and efficiency in the Region 9 talent development ecosystem for target sectors.
2. Drive target sector talent pathways planning efforts as described in the Region 9 Request for Letters of Interest for the Talent Pathways Initiative (TPI) planning grants.
3. Develop sector driven credentialing, apprenticeship, and internship programs for target industries.
4. Evaluate and/or drive strategies to address regional demand for Software Developers (SOC 15-1252).

Growing Existing Businesses

1. For each target cluster, re-evaluate industries within each cluster as defined in 2017 and identify gaps in growth to develop recommendations for future implementation grants. (i.e. using Cluster Based Economic Development Model, DHCD, 2023)
2. Support implementation grants from gaps identified through planning grants or other regional reports such as the CEDS Plans to be published in 2024.
3. Support sector led verticals to address business-identified and validated sector gaps to traded sector growth.
4. Support implementation of a biotech wet lab accelerator/incubator model to support expansion in the sector.

Project Types

Talent Development

Growing Existing Businesses

Startup/Innovation/Commercialization

Site Readiness

Target Industries

Biomedical & Biotechnology

Financial & Business Services

Food & Beverage Manufacturing

Information Technology & Communications

Light Manufacturing

Startups/Innovation/Commercialization

1. Support recommended implementation grants that catalyze growth in target sector entrepreneurship as prioritized in the Regional Entrepreneurship Investment (REI) Plan in development.

Sites

1. Develop a plan for regional site development with a goal of

Region 9
Piedmont Opportunity Corridor



Download at www.GOVirginia9.org



GO VIRGINIA Region 9
Growth & Diversification Plan Update
2023



Projects	GO Virginia Funds	Locality Match	Non-Locality Match	Other Leverage
BioBridge Talent Pathways Initiative (FY23 TPI funds)	\$ 244,400	\$ 62,000	\$ 60,200	\$ 7,777
Innovation Corridor Road Map	\$ 100,000	\$ 35,000	\$ 45,000	\$ 15,000
Food & Beverage Business Accelerator	\$ 100,000	\$ 14,500	\$ 37,437	\$ 1,812
Rivanna Futures	\$ 613,570	\$ 316,000	\$ 8,000	\$ 8,000
Wine Industry Implementation Grant	\$ 224,125	\$ 191,534	\$ 15,750	-
Total	\$ 1,282,095	\$ 619,034	\$ 166,387	\$ 32,589

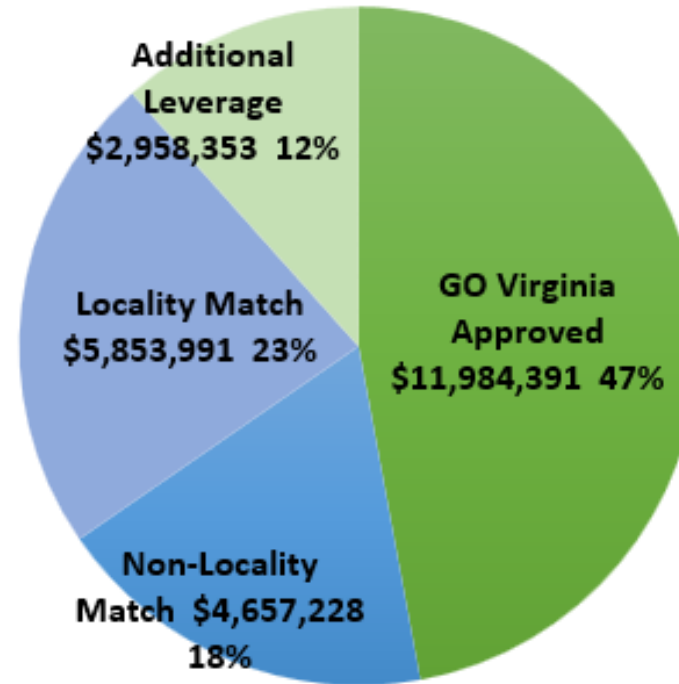
FY 2025 Grants Awarded



Since 2016

33 Grants

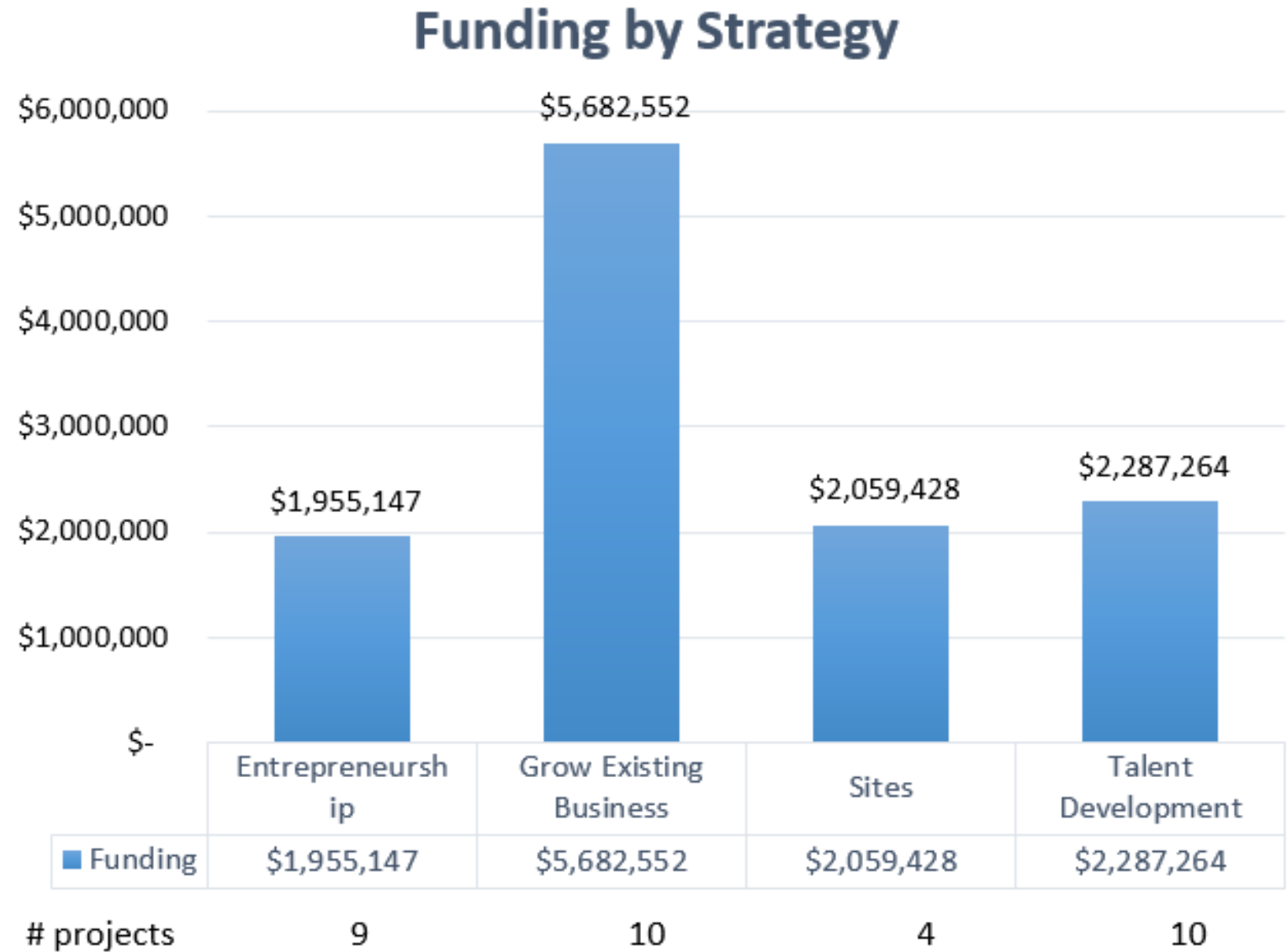
GO Virginia Region 9 Funded Projects



Through June 30, 2025

■ GO Virginia Approved ■ Non-Locality Match ■ Locality Match ■ Additional Leverage

Since 2016



BioBridge Talent Pathways Initiative



Summary: Develop plan for building a talent pipeline that meets the diverse workforce needs of biotechnology companies across the region.

Strategy: Talent Development

Sector: Biomedical & Biotechnology

Localities: Charlottesville, Albemarle

Other Support: AgroSpheres, CVPED, JMU, PVCC, Rivanna Medical, TEConomy, UVA, VCW-Piedmont

Outcomes: 3-5 year action plan for building a biotech-ready regional workforce; Implementation grant.

Advances Growing Existing Business and Talent Development:

- Drive target sector talent pathways planning efforts as described in the Region 9 Request for LOI for the TPI planning grants.
- Develop sector driven credentialing, apprenticeship, and internship programs for target industries.
- Support sector led verticals to address business-identified and validated sector gaps to traded sector growth.

Food & Beverage Business Accelerator Planning Grant



Summary: Support existing small to medium-sized food businesses, enhancing their ability to scale-up, create higher-paying jobs, and increase out-of-state revenue by evaluating the need for and design of an accelerator for Region 9.

Strategy: Grow Existing Businesses

Sector: Food & Beverage Manufacturing

Localities: Counties of Albemarle, Greene, Fauquier, Fluvanna, Orange, Louisa, Madison, Nelson, City of Charlottesville

Other Support: Bread & Roses; CIC; Brian, Craddock, Flora Petit PC; CAN; Copack; Erin's Elderberries; Flavor Craft Consulting; George Washing Carver Agriculture Research Kitchen; Georgiana Dearing; New Hill Development Corp.; Square One; The Good Food Co.; The Virginia Shop; 8 Myles

Outcomes: Strategic Plan, Operations Plan & Action Plan; Implementation grant

Advances Grow Existing Business & Other:

- Re-evaluate industries within each cluster... identify gaps in growth to develop recommendations for future implementation grants.
- Support sector led verticals to address business-identified and validated sector gaps to traded sector growth.
- Evaluate grant opportunities that align with the Growth Plan that are identified through the CEDS.

Innovation Corridor Roadmap



Summary: Identify areas where the region has a global strategic advantage and new growth opportunities across the domains of life sciences/biotech and digital/IT (data science, AI, autonomy, advanced materials, cybersecurity) with commercial and national security applications.

Strategy: Grow Existing Business

Sector: Biomedical & Biotechnology, IT & Communications, Light Manufacturing

Localities: Counties of Albemarle, Greene, Fauquier, Orange, City of Charlottesville

Other Support: Hourigan, UVA Economic Development, UVA Foundation

Outcomes: Report & Action Plan; Implementation grant

Advances Grow Existing Business & Other:

- Re-evaluate industries within each cluster... identify gaps in growth to develop recommendations for future implementation grants.
- Support planning grants to assess, map, and support the development of emerging industries for which this region may have a competitive advantage using Cluster Based Economic Development Model.
- Evaluate grant opportunities that align with the Growth Plan that are identified through the CEDS.

Rivanna Futures



Summary: Support design and permitting activities to advance 50 acres of the Rivanna Futures project from Tier 3 towards Tier 4 on the Virginia Business Ready Sites scale

Strategy: Sites

Sector: All

Localities: Albemarle County, Greene County, City of Charlottesville

Other Support: CVPED

Outcomes: 50 Acres Impacted

Advances Sites:

- Evaluate strategic advantages for site development collaboration.
- Drive the continued development of regionally prioritized sites.

Wine Industry Implementation Grant



Summary: Advance 10 of 25 recommendations from Wine Industry Planning Grant Report (10/2024)

Strategy: Grow Existing Business

Sector: Food & Beverage Manufacturing

Localities: Counties of Albemarle, Fauquier, Fluvanna, Greene, Louisa, Madison, Nelson, Town of Culpeper

Other Support: CACVB, CVPED, Eastwood Farm, PVCC, Veritas Winery

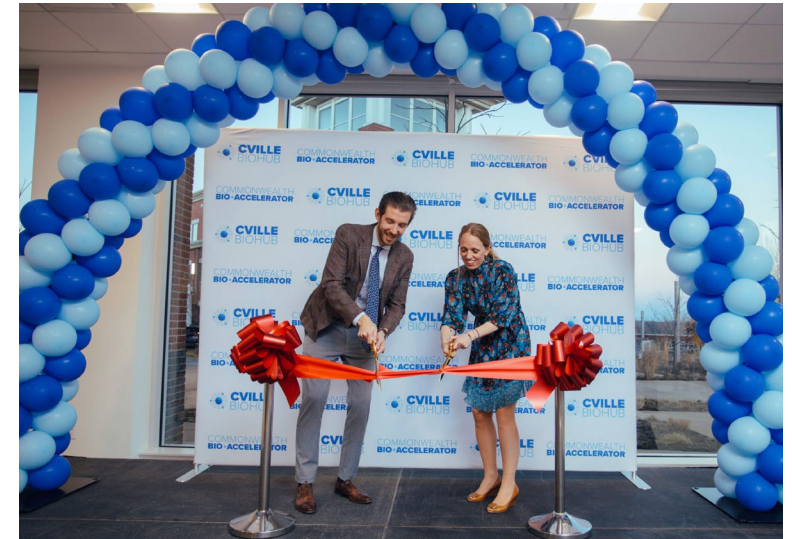
Outcomes: 20 Jobs Created, 104 Businesses Served, 25 Businesses Expanded (exporting across state lines)

Advances Growing Existing Business:

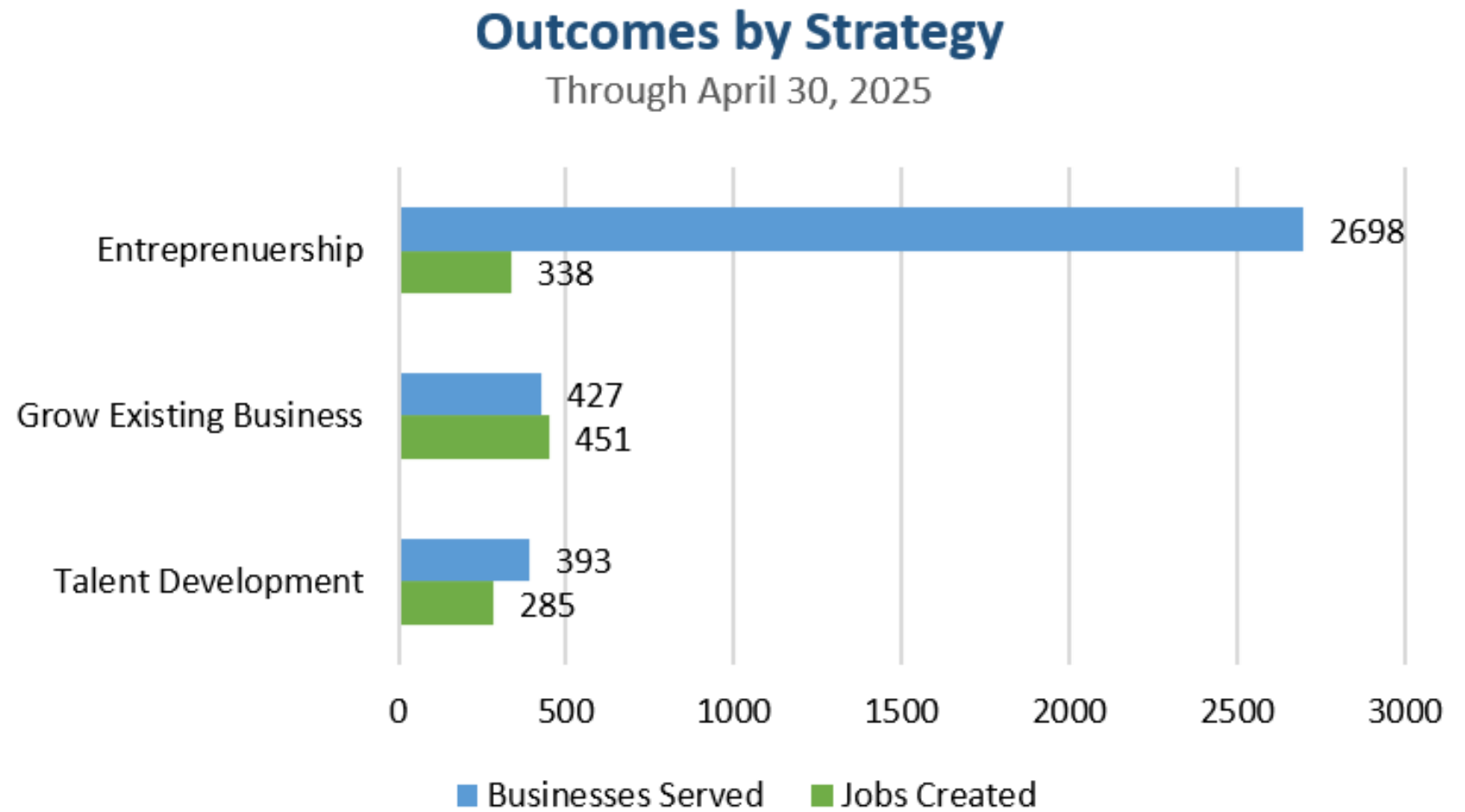
- Re-evaluate industries within each cluster ... identify gaps in growth to develop recommendations for future implementation grants.
- Support implementation grants from gaps identified through planning grants or other regional reports such as the CEDS Plans.
- Support sector led verticals to address business-identified and validated sector gaps to traded sector growth.

9 Active Projects

- BioBridge TPI
- Carver Food Incubator
- Commonwealth Bio Accelerator
- Food & Beverage Accelerator
- Innovation Corridor Strategic Roadmap
- Rivanna Futures
- Rural Entrepreneurship Ecosystem Building
- Technology Academies
- Wine Industry Implementation Grant



Outcomes



Celebrate Success & Milestones

Milestones

- **\$0 Recaptured**
- **Awarded \$937,695 of \$1,000,000 allocation (94%)**
- **Appointed first Task Force Chairs**
- **Collaborated with regions to advance Project VITAL**
- Hosted 5 Council meetings and 10 Committee meetings
- Internally led 2025 Growth Plan development process.
- Integrated recommendations from two regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies
- Chair attended GO Virginia Board Retreat
- Participated in DHCD Policy and Outcomes Feedback Sessions
- Hosted the Regional Staff Retreat at North Fork
- Collaborated with peer regions to help drive project pipelines statewide

145 Partners

- 87 Businesses
- 13 Education Institutions
- 16 Government
- 29 Non-Profits/Other

Thank you!