



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

2025 GROWTH PLAN OPPORTUNITIES

The GO Virginia Region 9 Council invites grant proposals that deliver outcomes for the Region 9 target sectors of *Biosciences; Financial & Business Services; Food & Beverage Manufacturing; Information Technology & Communication or Light Manufacturing.*



Talent Development

1. Establish workforce coalition(s) or initiatives that enhance collaboration and efficiency within the Region 9 talent development ecosystem for target sectors regionally or subregional.
2. Grow an AI-ready workforce to advance the competitiveness of region 9's target sectors informed by the AISLA Project Blueprint Report. (Fall 2025)
3. Advance sector-specific talent pathways planning efforts, ensuring the alignment of education and training with industry specified needs in each target sector.
4. Implement talent pathway strategies spanning from middle school career awareness to senior-level employment opportunities
5. Develop sector-driven credentialing, micro-credentialing, apprenticeship, upskilling, and internship (high school, adult) programs designed to meet the demands of target industries
6. Assess and address regional target sector workforce needs to fill high demand occupations



Grow Existing Business

1. For each target cluster, re-evaluate member industries within each cluster as defined and identify gaps in growth to develop recommendations for future implementation grants.
2. Support implementation grants from gaps identified in planning grants or other regional reports
3. Support sector led initiatives that address business-validated sector gaps to traded sector growth.
4. Catalyze AI & technology adoption in target sectors that drive sector growth and competitiveness



Entrepreneurship

1. Promote the creation or expansion of sector-specific industry support organizations or peer groups to drive mentorship, education, community engagement, and resource exchange for target sectors entrepreneurial leaders.
2. Establish coordinated sector specific incubators or accelerators when demand is validated
3. Widen founder education about capital sources and connect more capital



Sites

1. Advance development of regionally significant sites.
2. Identify new potential sites in the region for these sectors.
3. Create a regional site development plan for target sectors.
4. Support future projects from the regional sites plan, once completed.
5. Assess benefits of collaboration on site development, such as RIFA development opportunities.



Other

1. Support planning grants to assess, map, and catalyze growth in emerging industries for which the region may have a competitive advantage
2. Support implementation grants that address recommendations identified in emerging industries planning grants