



Virginia Growth and Opportunity Fund (GO Virginia) Economic Resilience and Recovery (ERR) Program Guidelines

Section I: GO Virginia Program Intent and ERR

The GO Virginia program was designed to help grow and diversify regional economies and increase wages in every region of the Commonwealth. Nine regional councils have organized and developed Growth and Diversification plans and strategies organized around their own unique resources and assets.

The GO Virginia State Board has authorized the use of \$14.66M in statewide competitive funds (FY20) to respond to the unprecedented economic conditions facing Virginia due to the near and long-term effects of the coronavirus on regional economies. This initiative will focus resources on economic resilience and recovery while staying true to the GO Virginia mission.

There is an opportunity to strengthen the alignment of federal and state resources as part of this response around high-value activities that focus resources on targeted industry sectors and the supply chains that support them, as well as highly impacted locally traded sectors as identified by the Regional Councils.

Section II: Funding and Match Requirements

GO Virginia will dedicate up to \$14.66M from the PY20 statewide competitive pool to create the GO Virginia Economic Resilience and Recovery Grant Program. This program would help regions build capacity to support and serve existing businesses, priority traded sectors and essential businesses, including the healthcare system and its supply chain during this crisis.

Regional Councils would be eligible to apply for up to \$1.0M with \$5.66M in reserve for all regions for extraordinary need or extraordinary positive economic impact. The ERR program requires a 2:1 match and the match must come from non-state sources of revenue. No local match is required. All GO Virginia projects require the participation of two or more localities. If no local match (cash or in-kind) is provided, letters of endorsement from two or more localities or a public body representing the interest of two or more localities will be required and the project must demonstrate meaningful participation of those public bodies.

This program is time limited, with an initial 12-month application window (April 18, 2021) unless extended by the GO Virginia State Board. Funds not obligated to projects will be returned to the statewide competitive pool.



Section III: Regional Activities

Key activities as part of this program would include:

1. Reevaluate priorities in Growth and Diversification plans;
2. Prioritize identified industry targets based on immediate impact and influence on the regional economy;
3. Assess community and business needs; and
4. **Focus resources on actionable strategies that expand or build needed capacity and that support sustaining and expanding firms in targeted industry clusters and/or highly-impacted locally traded sectors as identified by the regional councils;**

Examples of these strategies could include:

- Expanding regional capacity to coordinate and deliver business support services such as access to financing;
- Accessing and utilizing the internet for e-commerce to increase sales;
- Identifying and connecting critical suppliers of goods and services to reduce service and production disruptions;
- Expanding workplace health and sanitation activities to support continuity of operations or return-to-work efforts;
- Maintaining and managing a remote workforce to keep people employed and productive;
- Developing new industry-aligned on-the-job training program that would meet critical need;
- Expanding existing training programs that have been identified as mission-critical;
- Facilitating job/training program placement in partnership with existing employer or workforce intermediary needs; or
- Providing technical assistance to retain and/or support impacted employees.

Consistent with other GO Virginia funding opportunities, **funds may not be used for direct grants to businesses, to capitalize loan pools, or provide seed or other equity investments in firms. Funds may not be used to provide scholarships. Funds may not be used to acquire real estate.**

Section IV: Statewide Activities

Regional Councils may wish to partner on projects that have significant statewide impact and where they have shared interests (industry focus, common strategies) or where there would be efficiencies in operating at scale.

Two or more partnering councils may apply for the \$5.66 M available for statewide projects. A lead Council must receive, review, and approve the project and submit it for consideration by the State Board. Partnering Regions must have meaningful involvement and have their respective Council formally endorse the application.



Section V: Application and Approval Process

Fast Access: In order to move resources quickly, DHCD will offer a Fast Access process and use its administrative approval authority for grant applications of \$100,000 or less. Applications will be received on a rolling basis, reviewed for program guideline conformance, and approved after staff review. DHCD will do every effort to review these applications within 5 business days of receipt and activities may begin after final contracts are executed by all parties. These Fast Access requests may include pre-implementation activities (needs assessments, etc.) and implementation or smaller-scale implementation projects. Applicants are encouraged to think holistically about the needs in their region and focus on efforts that produce near term impact in their regions.

Regions may access up to \$300,000 of their \$1.0M pool using the Fast Access process.

Link to Application: <https://www.dhcd.virginia.gov/sites/default/files/Docx/gova/gova-err-fast-access-application-questions.pdf>

Implementation: Grant applications requesting more than \$100,000 will be received under the regular grant application deadlines and review process.

Link to Application: <https://www.dhcd.virginia.gov/sites/default/files/Docx/gova/gova-err-application-questions.pdf>

Statewide: Two or more partnering councils may apply for the \$5.66 M available for statewide projects. A lead Council must receive, review, and approve the project and submit it for consideration by the State Board.

Link to Application: <https://www.dhcd.virginia.gov/sites/default/files/Docx/gova/gova-statewide-application-questions.pdf>

References:

[Board Policy #4 Use of GO Virginia Funds for Scholarships and Nontraded Sectors](#)

[Board Policy # 10 GO Virginia Economic Resilience and Recovery Program](#)

[Board Policy #11 Modified Per Capita Match Requirements](#)