



Cities of: Buena Vista, Harrisonburg, Lexington,
Staunton, Waynesboro, & Winchester
Counties of: Augusta, Bath, Clarke, Frederick,
Highland, Page, Rockbridge,
Rockingham, Shenandoah, & Warren

GO Virginia Region 8 Executive Committee Agenda

Tuesday, April 7, 2026, at 8:30 AM

Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/95553779085?pwd=fOj1WdBEi5HPf1zaCdoiA8NRikj9G.1>

- Welcome/Call to Order *Dr. Yolanda Shields, Chair*
- Roll Call and Quorum Confirmation Alison Varner-Denbigh, ED
- **Review 3/3/26 Meeting Minutes (Attached)** *Dr. Yolanda Shields, Chair*
- **FY27 Capacity Building Budget (Attached)** Brandon Davis, NSVRC
- **Council Member Term Extensions (Attached)** Alison Varner-Denbigh, ED
- **Grant Application Review (Attached)** Alison Varner-Denbigh, ED
 - Regional Commercialization (JMU) – Competitive Grant
- **Brainstorming Sessions & Project Pipeline Update (Attached)** Alison Varner-Denbigh, ED
- **GoTec Program** Cody Anderson, DHCD
- April Dates & Deadlines Alison Varner-Denbigh, ED
- Other Business *Dr. Yolanda Shields, Chair*
- Adjournment: Next Executive Meeting — *Tuesday, May 5, 2026, at 8:30am (virtual)*

Legend: FYI Only, **For Review & Feedback**, **For Review & Vote***



*Cities of: Buena Vista, Harrisonburg, Lexington,
Staunton, Waynesboro, & Winchester
Counties of: Augusta, Bath, Clarke, Frederick,
Highland, Page, Rockbridge,
Rockingham, Shenandoah, & Warren*

Agenda Item Summary

Agenda Date: April 7, 2026

Consent Item: No

Action Needed: No

Item Title: March Meeting Minutes

Regular Item: Yes

Informational Purposes: Yes

Recommendation:

No Action needed.

Background:

Prior months' meeting minutes to create an official, historical record of discussions, decisions, and action items, ensuring accountability, transparency, and continuity, while also serving as a legal document and reference tool for attendees and absent stakeholders, preventing misunderstandings and guiding future decisions. The focus is on what was decided, not verbatim conversations, documenting key outcomes like motions, votes, and assigned tasks.

Budget Impact: None.

Attachments:

March 2026 Meeting Minutes



Cities of: Buena Vista, Harrisonburg, Lexington, Staunton, Waynesboro, & Winchester
 Counties of: Augusta, Bath, Clarke, Frederick, Highland, Page, Rockbridge, Rockingham, Shenandoah, & Warren

GO Virginia Region 8 Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 3, 2026 at 8:30 AM

Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/96535756433?pwd=AMm37hRCKtoSfbPlqZ5A3Yep8edPj.1>

Committee Member	Representing	Attendance
Yolanda Shields, Chair	YesBuilds!	✓
Janet Clarke, Vice Chair	Clarke Consulting, LLC	✓
Kim Blosser	Laurel Ridge Community College	✓
Mike Stolarz	UTS Systems	✓ (9:15am-Signed off)
Lai Lee	High Meadows Strategies, LLC	✓
Conrad Helsley	NSVRC Commissioner	✓
Brandon Davis	NSVRC Fiscal Agent	✓

Guests in attendance: Alison Varner-Denbigh (Region 8 Executive Director) and Waverly Coggsdale

At 8:30am, Chair Yolanda Shields welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. Executive Director Alison Varner-Denbigh called roll, and a quorum determination was made. Approval of February meeting minutes was not needed (no votes at prior meeting).

There was much discussion on the Data Center Feasibility Analysis Grant Proposal submitted by Shenandoah Valley Partnership (SVP). Janet expressed concern regarding politics around data centers, zoning efforts, issues with moving target in relation to timeline, and potential negative optics. Brandon spoke on the differences between the northern valley’s data center experience to the central/southern valley needs. Mike and Kim both expressed the need to further investigate the why behind the localities participating in the grant proposal. It was recommended by the executive committee that 1) Alison forward other GO Virginia similar applications to the EC, 2) Janet will schedule a meeting with SVP to educate on the current data center industry, 3) Alison will ask SVP to reach out to the four participating localities to ask for their feedback with the EC concerns & Janet’s information in consideration, and 4) if the applicant chooses to move forward then how will the grant final report deliverable be used for zoning efforts? Alison will schedule a special meeting for the EC if the applicant chooses to move forward.

Upon review of the Shenandoah Valley Innovation Commercialization Impact Network Competitive Grant Application submitted by James Madison University, there was continued concern regarding job creation ROI, financial support contribution from participating academic institutions, convincing proof of sustainability, lack of “buy-in” by localities/institutions, the application completeness versus timeline projected, and the application being academic institution affiliated vs. nonaffiliated non-profit like SCCF. The council stated that much of these concerns could be addressed but recommended that the applicant create MOU’s with each participating institution/organization.

It was recommended by the EC that Alison send a reminder email/post of the upcoming Brainstorming Sessions, email the locality economic development departments to encourage their involvement, and to send out calendar invites to the GoVaR8 council members.

Other Business – Yolanda stated that she will follow up with John Stamp of Merck about council involvement.



*Cities of: Buena Vista, Harrisonburg, Lexington,
Staunton, Waynesboro, & Winchester
Counties of: Augusta, Bath, Clarke, Frederick,
Highland, Page, Rockbridge,
Rockingham, Shenandoah, & Warren*

The Executive Committee adjourned at 9:45 am

Next Executive Committee meeting – Tuesday, April 7, 2026 at 8:30 AM (Virtual)



*Cities of: Buena Vista, Harrisonburg, Lexington, Staunton, Waynesboro, & Winchester
Counties of: Augusta, Bath, Clarke, Frederick, Highland, Page, Rockbridge, Rockingham, Shenandoah, & Warren*

Agenda Item Summary

Agenda Date: April 7, 2026	Regular Item: Yes
Consent Item: No	Informational Purposes: Yes
Action Needed: No	
Item Title: FY27 Capacity Building Budget	

Recommendation:

No Action needed.

Background:

The Capacity-Building budget funds support organizational efforts such as capacity-building activities, project prioritization, and studies related to the creation of a regional Growth & Diversification Plan. Each region receives \$250k each year for administrative support.

FY26 and FY27 Year-over-year differences include:

- Marketing, Outreach, & Websites: Decreased \$2k (removed website improvements)
- Meetings & Workshops: Increased \$900 (Increased cost of food/catering)
- Salaries of \$25k: Increased \$5k (restore FY25 funding cut but does not take into account the structural change of ED directly reporting to NSVRC)
- Salaries of \$17k: Decreased \$8k (CSPDC is not doing the G&D plan this year)
- Contract Services of \$7,750: Increase \$4,100 (Remaining funds for unforeseen expenses)

The DHCD CB budget template was distributed to R8 Chair/Vice-Chair on March 19th and approved by Chair for distribution to executive committee on March 22nd. The Region 8 CB budget will need to be presented to the Regional Council on April 28, 2026, for final approval before submission to DHCD by the May 1, 2026 deadline.



Budget Impact:

Yes.

Attachments:

- FY27 Capacity Building Budget
- FY27 Capacity Building Budget Narrative

ATTACHMENT 1: FY27 Capacity Building Funds Budget

Date: FY27		Region: 8	
Agency Name: Department of Housing & Community Development		 	
Agency Address: 600 East Main Street Suite 300 Richmond, VA 23219			
Budget Period:			
From: 07/01/26		Through: 06/30/27	
Budget Item			Amount
A Administration			
	Admin (General)		\$0.00
	Audit		\$1,500.00
	Contract Services		\$100,000.00
	Fiscal /Accounting Services		\$0.00
	Legal Expenses		\$500.00
	Marketing, Outreach, and Websites		\$2,000.00
	Meetings and Workshops		\$3,000.00
	Rent		\$0.00
	Salaries (Fringe if applicable)		\$85,000.00
	Salaries (Fringe if applicable)		\$25,000.00
	Salaries (Fringe if applicable)		\$17,000.00
	Supplies & Equipment		\$1,500.00
	Taxes and Insurance		\$0.00
	Travel		\$3,000.00
Total Administration Budget:			\$238,500.00
B Planning Services:			
	Contract Services		\$3,750.00
	Contract Services		\$7,750.00
Total Planning Services Budget:			\$11,500.00
TOTAL Expense Budget:			\$ 250,000.00
Narrative:			
Please provide narrative describing and itemizing all planned activities under each budget category. See attached budget narrative.			

GO Virginia Region 8
FY2027 Capacity Building Budget Narrative

Overview

GO Virginia Region 8 has budgeted for the use of the \$250,000 in capacity building funds assigned to the region for the purposes of administration and planning services.

Support Organization Structure

The Northern Shenandoah Valley Regional Commission (NSVRC) serves as Region 8's support organization, providing fiscal and accounting services as well as project management and operational administration. NSVRC partners with the Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission (CSPDC), which provides support to applicants located within the southern portion of the region and coordinates Growth and Diversification planning efforts. Alison Varner-Denbigh of 5 Clover Consulting (5 Clover) serves as Region 8's full-time Executive Director through a contract procured and administered by NSVRC. Day-to-day oversight is provided by NSVRC.

Line-Item Descriptions

The following bullets correspond to the line items on the Region 8 Budget in descending order:

A. Administration

- \$0. Costs for administrative services are reflected in the Salaries and Contract Services line items, since this work is performed by salaried employees at NSVRC and CSPDC, and by Region 8's contracted Executive Director 5 Clover.
- \$1,500 in the Audit line item to help offset the additional cost of the NSVRC Audit, which includes GO Virginia.
- \$100,000 in Contract Services accounts for the Executive Director contract with 5 Clover.
- Fiscal/Accounting services show \$0. These costs are reflected in the salaries line to provide uniformity with the way other regions account for staff time.
- Legal expenses of \$500 to cover the cost of any administrative inquiries to counsel.
- \$2,000 in Marketing, Outreach, and Website. These funds will be used to market Region 8 to partners and potential applicants within the region, cover fees for Region 8's customer relationship management system, and fund continuous website hosting, updates, and improvements.
- \$3,000 in Meetings and Workshops to cover the cost of GoVirginia meeting space and food.
- \$0. Region 8 operates rent free, capitalizing on its partnerships with CSPDC and NSVRC to house staff.
- Compensation for multiple staff members at CSPDC and NSVRC who perform program administration, fiscal/accounting/budgeting/internal audit services, executive director oversight, project management, Growth and Diversification Plan management, IT/Cybersecurity, procurement, contracting, FOIA/COIA/ADA/Title VI compliance, etc. total \$127,000. Represents a reduction of \$6,500 over FY26.
- Supplies & Equipment expenses total \$1,500 to cover office supplies throughout the year.
- \$0. Region 8 pays no taxes or insurance premiums by leveraging the non-taxable status of NSVRC and Region 8's inclusion in NSVRC's existing insurance policies.
- \$3,000 is listed to cover registrations and other travel costs for Region 8's Executive Director to attend statewide GOVirginia-related events located outside the region.

B. Planning Services

- \$11,500 is reserved for contract services to access software support for ROI calculations and planning purposes, potential contract costs associated with Growth and Diversification Plan amendments, additional unplanned website improvements, unexpected contractual cost increases, or the like.



*Cities of: Buena Vista, Harrisonburg, Lexington, Staunton, Waynesboro, & Winchester
Counties of: Augusta, Bath, Clarke, Frederick, Highland, Page, Rockbridge, Rockingham, Shenandoah, & Warren*

Agenda Item Summary

Agenda Date: April 7, 2026

Consent Item: No

Action Needed: No

Item Title: Council Member Nominations

Regular Item: Yes

Informational Purposes: Yes

Recommendation:

No action needed.

Background:

Per the GO Virginia Region 8 Bylaws as amended on April 26, 2022, the council will consist of up to 28 members. The GO Virginia Council will approve the member selection process, structure, composition, and leadership to meet the requirements of COV section 2.2-2485 of the Virginia Growth and Opportunity Act and the guidelines set forth by the GO VA board.

A majority of the members of the Council shall be from the private sector with demonstrated significant private-sector business experience. Council members may serve two or four-year terms as determined by consensus of the appointee and the chair, and confirmed by action of the Council. Council members shall not serve more than eight consecutive years.

The Council should include representatives from (i) the education sector, including school divisions, community colleges, public institutions of higher education, and private institutions of higher education as appropriate; (ii) the public economic and workforce development sector; (iii) local government; (iv) planning district commissions; (v) nonprofit organizations; and (vi) other entities that significantly affect regional economic or workforce development. Membership may include one or more nonlegislative citizen members of the GO VA Board from the region.

Budget Impact: None.

Attachments:

- Nomination Document – Draft
- Council Member Directory



*Cities of: Buena Vista, Harrisonburg, Lexington,
Staunton, Waynesboro, & Winchester
Counties of: Augusta, Bath, Clarke, Frederick,
Highland, Page, Rockbridge,
Rockingham, Shenandoah, & Warren*

Recommendation

Date: April 7, 2026

To: Region 8 Council Members

From: Yolanda Shields, Council Chair

RE: Council Member Term Extensions

The Region 8 Executive Committee also serves as the Nominations Committee, and recommends approval of term extension for the following Council members:

Dave Urso, Blue Ridge Community College VP – 2 years to 4/22/2028

Anthony Tongen, James Madison University VP – 2 years to 4/22/2028

Both Dave Urso and Anthony Tongen have been strong members since April 2024, attending most Regional Council meetings and actively engaged whenever possible. Dave Urso has served on the Growth and Diversification Committee. Anthony Tongen has served on the Grants Review Committee and hosts quarterly meetings at James Madison University (Central Location). We appreciate that both have agreed to continue to serve on the Region 8 council.

The Region 8 Executive Committee would like **Tracey Luellen** of Toray Plastics to join the Executive Committee. Tracey is currently serving a 1/28/25-1/27/29 Term and has served on the Ad-hoc Talent Pathways Initiative Committee.

The Executive Committee recommends Dave Urso and Anthony Tongen to be reappointed to the Region 8 Council for 2 more years and Tracey Luellen to join the executive committee.



*Cities of: Buena Vista, Harrisonburg, Lexington, Staunton, Waynesboro, & Winchester
Counties of: Augusta, Bath, Clarke, Frederick, Highland, Page, Rockbridge, Rockingham, Shenandoah, & Warren*

Agenda Item Summary

Agenda Date: April 7, 2026

Consent Item: No

Action Needed: No

Item Title: Grant Proposals

Regular Item: Yes

Informational Purposes: Yes

Recommendation:

No Action needed.

Background:

Shenandoah Valley Innovation Commercialization Impact Network is Region 8's first competitive grant application. Due to the complexity of the regional project and learning curve of the competitive grant application process; it is requested that the executive committee review the UPDATED application DRAFT, ask questions to help the applicant be proactive in addressing within the application, and/or make recommendations for improvement.

Based on last month's EC feedback:

- Financial Support/Contributions from participating academic institutions is addressed
- Academic Institution affiliated vs. unaffiliated institution concern
 - Addressed with "rebranding" as a project deliverable
- Sustainability has been vetted by Cody & DHCD program managers
- "Buy-in" from localities & institutions has been addressed
- MOU recommendation by EC: In the application stage, the applicant has created a breakdown of partner responsibilities with accompanying timeline that includes identification of who does what when. These two documents will be referenced in each participating partner's support letter. These documents have been reviewed and blessed by Cody. Per DHCD, they would like to see formal MOU's created as a deliverable early in the project's timeline. Based on the revised application, the deliverable is estimated during the second quarter.
- Outcomes have been built out more which includes revised job creation numbers. This is supported with permission to have a 3-year project term. The outcomes can then include the 3 years of the project plus the 1 year following project completion (Per DHCD).

Budget Impact:

No: Building Capacity Budget

Yes: FY26 Per-Capita Grant Funding will be depleted before Competitive Funds are granted

Attachments:

Shenandoah Valley Innovation Commercialization Impact Network Application Draft



*Cities of: Buena Vista, Harrisonburg, Lexington,
Staunton, Waynesboro, & Winchester
Counties of: Augusta, Bath, Clarke, Frederick,
Highland, Page, Rockbridge,
Rockingham, Shenandoah, & Warren*

Project Name: Shenandoah Valley Innovation Commercialization Impact Network

Applicant: James Madison Innovations

Application Type: Competitive Grant

Focus Industry: IT & Emerging Technology
Support Agriculture, Manufacturing, and Life Sciences

Framework: Entrepreneurship & Innovation

Participating Localities (minimum of 2): Harrisonburg, Staunton, & Waynesboro Cities

Funding Request: \$916,239

Match: \$458,125 Cash/In-Kind Match

Proposed Project Summary:

To establish a shared regional commercialization infrastructure to serve higher education institutions, innovators, and investors across the Shenandoah Valley. The project will operationalize the systems, agreements, and expertise needed to move university research and community innovations from concept to commercialization, filling a structural gap in the regional innovation ecosystem.

The Core Project Deliverables will include: 1) Establishing Governance and Participation Agreements, 2) Building Shared IP and Licensing Infrastructure, 3) Launching Fractional Executive Programs, 4) Activating Investor and Capital Networks, and 5) Implementing Economic Impact and Performance Measurement Tools.

By consolidating support functions, the project will 1) Increase the pipeline of investable ventures emerging from local universities and regional entrepreneurs, 2) Create high-wage employment in technology and innovation sectors, 3) Retain local innovators and talent, reducing the out-migration of graduates seeking startup ecosystems elsewhere, and 4) Catalyze private investment through reactivated regional angel and alumni investor networks.

Participating Institutions: James Madison University, Shenandoah University, Eastern Mennonite University, Mary Baldwin University, and Blue Ridge Community College.

Participating Partner Organizations: Small Business Development Center (SBDC), Shenandoah Valley Angel Investors, The Agriculture Innovation Center/The Advancement Foundation, iHubs (located in Harrisonburg, Staunton, & Waynesboro), and teaming with the SCCF and SVTC.



*Cities of: Buena Vista, Harrisonburg, Lexington,
Staunton, Waynesboro, & Winchester
Counties of: Augusta, Bath, Clarke, Frederick,
Highland, Page, Rockbridge,
Rockingham, Shenandoah, & Warren*

Agenda Item Summary

Agenda Date: April 7, 2026

Consent Item: No

Action Needed: No

Item Title: Project Pipeline

Regular Item: Yes

Informational Purposes: Yes

Recommendation:

No Action needed.

Background:

The Project Pipeline Spreadsheet serves as a systematic process for managing multiple projects through various stages, from ideation to submission for approval. It serves as a visual representation of all ongoing projects, allowing council/stakeholders to monitor progress, allocate resources, and ensure timely delivery. The project pipeline is crucial for effective project management, prioritize high-impact projects, and ensure use of funding in a timely manner.

The attached project pipeline spreadsheet includes majority of the Brainstorming Sessions #1 & #2 facilitated in early March. The spreadsheet is an active tracking tool that is in constant movement based on information updates and situational changes.

Brainstorming Session #3 has been rescheduled for April 15, 2026 due to low RSVP numbers. The session is now a scheduled public meeting so Rockbridge County EDA members can attend but will still require an RSVP.

Budget Impact:

Yes: FY26 & FY27 Per-Capita Funding Spend

Attachments:

GoVaR8 Project Pipeline Spreadsheet

Project Concepts in Development

Project Name	Applicant	Industry Sector	Application Type	Funding	Estimated \$ Request	Application Estimate	Point of Contact	Notes
Transitional Training Program	SVWDB	All Industries	Implementation	Per-Capita	TBD			Employer Support for hiring displaced workers, incarcerated, impoverished, and at-risk employees. Best Practices, Resources....
Workforce Outreach Project	SVWDB	All Industries	Implementation	Per-Capita	TBD			Ecosystem Infrastructure/Outreach Project. Asset Mapping Exercise. "Education & Awareness"
GoTec Implementation	Shenandoah, Augusta, & Rockbridge County	All Industries	Implementation	Per-Capita	TBD			Need to Identify Participating Schools/Localities: Jenna French & Rebecca Castle are heading up the initiative
Entrepreneurship Initiative (HIVE Scale-up)	SU	All Industries	Implementation	Per-Capita	TBD			
Regional Commercial Kitchen	Waynesboro	Agriculture Value-Add	Implementation	Per-Capita	TBD			Researching: Greg Hitchin, POC. Used by SAW area
	Staunton & Waynesboro		Planning	Per-Capita				Seeking Superintendent's Approval: Cassie (Staunton City Schools) will send me the missing information. Emailed 3/13/26
Youth Career Pathways Gap Solution	TBD	Manufacturing and IT & Emerging Technologies	TBD	Per-Capita	TBD			Project Specifics Need Identified: 6th-8th Grades: GoTec Program, 9th-10th Gap Issues, 11th-12th Grade: CTE/DE/TechSchools
Ag Ecosystem Initiative	Clarke Co/Front Royal	Agriculture	TBD	Per-Capita	TBD			Clarke Co has a building -->Convert to Agriculture Center and Front Royal has land -->Land Lab
Community Computer Lab	Highland County Public Schools	All Industries	Implementation	Per-Capita	\$ 75,000.00			Identify Employer Impact/Metrics (ROI): Students need a computer lab with computers/equipment for DE classes, Teachers use for certifications, & Community use for career development/Remote Work
Employability Readiness Initiative (TPI)	SVWDB	All Industries	Implementation	Per-Capita				Outcomes to Employers Needed/Metrics: Waynesboro City (WHS) & Staunton City (SHS)
Career Pathways & Sector Partnerships Initiative (TPI)	SVWDB	Manufacturing and T&L	Implementation	Per-Capita				Rework: Executive Summary Submitted - 1/6/26 Mtg (differentiate from past initiatives)
Regional Workforce Center	TBD (SVWDB)	All Industries	Planning	Per-Capita or Competitive	TBD			Identify Building & Create Advisory Committee: Suggested by Northern Valley. Referenced Danville's WF Center. Need to create a focus group around this concept. Note: Shenandoah County/Page have an accessibility issue.
Commercial Kitchen Oven & Stand-up Mixer	The Highland Center	Agriculture Value-Add	Implementation	Per-Capita				Low ROI due to locality size but needed to support area entrepreneurs & farmers
VAST Program (Scale-up)	VMI	Manufacturing	Implementation	Per-Capita	TBD	TBD		Timing: Not ready to scale
Blue Mountain Flight Testing Campus	Augusta Co.	Transportation	Implementation	TBD	TBD	2028		
Engineering Implementation & Scale-up Program	Blue Ridge Technical Center (BRTC)	Manufacturing	Implementation	Per-Capita	\$ 324,237.50	2028		On Hold: Superintendent "not now" Stabilize School Budget First
Regional Innovation Commercialization Scale-	JMU Non-Profit	All Industries	Implementation	Competitive	TBD	2029		After 1st Grant Completed (3-year term)



*Cities of: Buena Vista, Harrisonburg, Lexington, Staunton, Waynesboro, & Winchester
Counties of: Augusta, Bath, Clarke, Frederick, Highland, Page, Rockbridge, Rockingham, Shenandoah, & Warren*

Agenda Item Summary

Agenda Date: April 7, 2026

Consent Item: No

Action Needed: No

Item Title: GoTec Program

Regular Item: Yes

Informational Purposes: Yes

Recommendation:

No Action needed.

Background:

Shenandoah, Augusta, and Rockbridge Counties have been actively working on GoTec outreach with their school superintendents and other R8 localities. They have hosted a few virtual meetings with GoTec (IALR) and other R8 localities. There was much discussion at the Brainstorming Session #2 on this topic as well. Based on some previous EC feedback, there is some hesitation about if GoTec is the best use of R8 Per-Capita funds. If R8 holds this position, then it is recommended to create messaging to distribute to the localities before they spend more time on the efforts and involve more stakeholders.

Cody will speak on the statewide GoTec applications, the impact of those implementation projects, the current status of the program on a state level, and support discussion of next steps.

Note: Seven GO Virginia Regions have implemented GoTec labs (Except R7 & R8).

Budget Impact:

Yes: FY27 or FY28 Per-Capita Funding Budget

Attachments:

GoTec Information Packet

What is

GO TEC®

Great Opportunities in Technology and Engineering Careers

The Great Opportunities in Technology and Engineering Careers (GO TEC®) program, administered by the Institute for Advanced Learning and Research, develops a regional workforce by engaging students at the middle school level and connecting them with high school and postsecondary learning opportunities. GO TEC curriculum exposes students to various industry sectors including Information Technology, Advanced Manufacturing and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) in order to create a progressive talent pipeline that will stimulate job growth throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia.



Program curriculum targets high-demand strategic industry sectors via training modules that are designed to provide middle school students an early introduction to occupations and foundational training through hands-on technology enabled experiences. GO TEC also gives high school students access to technical courses, certifications and dual-enrollment training as part of the pathways.



The program, guided by GO TEC staff and instructors along with a state advisory board, receives support through partnerships with local industries, educational institutions, community and civic organizations and region-specific advisory councils.

WHERE?

GO TEC is administered by the Institute for Advanced Learning and Research (IALR) in Danville, Va. GO TEC Training Labs, are located in the following GO Virginia Regions:

- Region 1: Southwest Virginia at EO the Hub
- Region 3: Southside Virginia at IALR
- Region 4: South Central Virginia at Commonwealth Center for Advanced Manufacturing (CCAM)
- Region 5: Hampton Roads at Peninsula Higher Education Center (ODU)

There are 70+ GO TEC Career Connections Labs located in middle schools across Regions 1-5.

For more info, contact GO TEC staff at IALR at:

434.766.6700
gotecva_info@ialr.org
gotecva.org

TRAINING MODULES

Electrical Engineering

Healthcare Technologies

IT Coding & Networking

Precision Machining

Energy

Automation & Robotics

Metrology

Precision Agriculture

Welding

Manufacturing Engineering

Mechanical Engineering

The Specifics



To ensure the successful and sustainable implementation of the GO TEC program, K12 divisions commit to providing dedicated teachers, access to professional development opportunities, adequate classroom or lab space and consumable supplies. Additionally, schools must provide day-to-day operational support, program promotion and stakeholder engagement to further enhance the program's effectiveness and reach.

The Institute for Advanced Learning and Research (IALR) offers comprehensive support to schools, covering everything from implementation and teacher training to pathway development and recommended course codes. IALR provides curriculum resources, along with technical and instructional support. IALR's commitment also includes consultation for any upfit needs, as well as data collection, reporting and program evaluation to monitor program impact and measure student outcomes. To increase program visibility and student engagement, IALR offers marketing support, organizes regional GO TEC competitions and provides access to the GO TEC Mobile Lab.



Due to the rapid expansion of GO TEC across Virginia, IALR, as the lead agency, asks K12 partners to provide a one-time commitment fee of \$16,000; IALR, in partnership with the In-Region Coordinating Entity, seeks extramural funds to support and sustain the program. These funds reflect the locality's investment and commitment to the GO TEC program. The funds help cover the expense of travel to new sites for equipment setup and troubleshooting, implementation marketing and additional training resources.

In addition to a fully executed Memorandum of Understanding and a Letter of Commitment to IALR, schools must provide documentation detailing matching fund commitments for a GO TEC teacher (salary and fringe benefits) and GO TEC Classroom/Lab (in-kind space value). Schools commit to supporting the GO TEC Classroom/Lab IT and maintenance requirements, providing computers and furniture, identifying a point of contact for GO TEC, supplying required data and documentation for GO TEC and adhering to the modules identified by the regional council.





BUILDING VIRGINIA'S TALENT PIPELINE

73+

middle schools

in Fall 2025

Supporting local job growth and talent development across Virginia through collaborative regional partnerships.

\$26M+

funding

Leverages \$12 million from GO Virginia with over \$14 million from localities, federal agencies and philanthropy.

11,000+

students

in SY 2025-2026

Engaged in GO TEC Career Connections Labs.

A Competitive Advantage for the Commonwealth



Demonstrates Virginia's long-term commitment to TALENT DEVELOPMENT in strategic sectors



Drives regional collaboration in support of JOB GROWTH



Leverages PUBLIC and PRIVATE INVESTMENTS



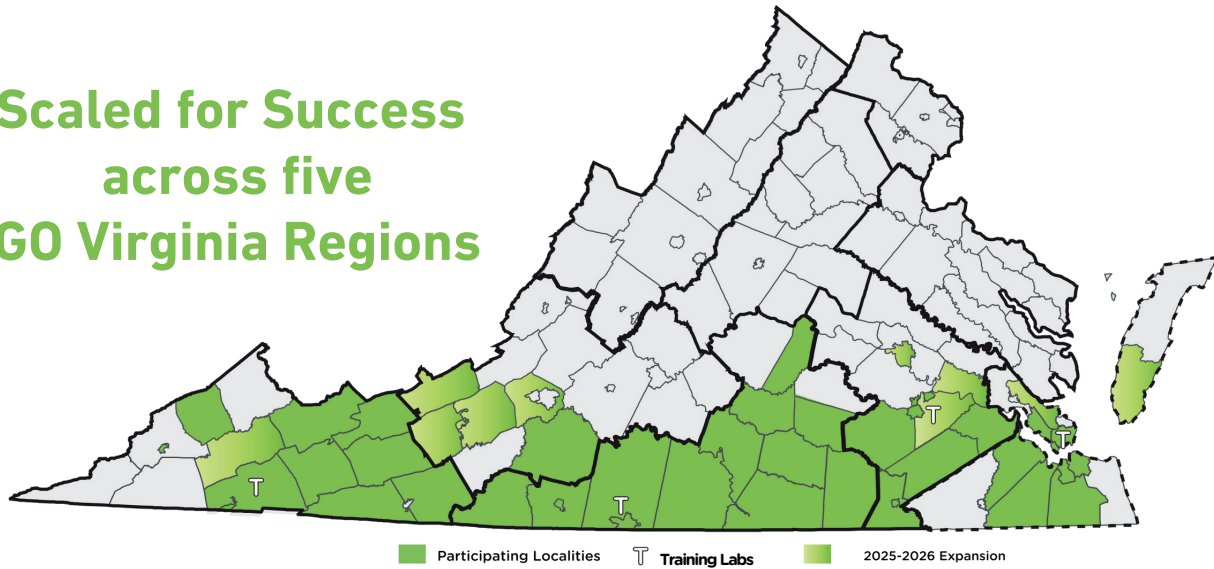
Engages BUSINESS and INDUSTRY in creating relevant curriculum for K12 students, leading to SKILL ATTAINMENT



Creates TECHNOLOGY INTEGRATION infrastructure with rapid deployment potential

The Great Opportunities in Technology and Engineering Careers (GO TEC®) program, administered by the Institute for Advanced Learning and Research (IALR), builds strategic talent pipelines from K12 to higher education. Education partners and businesses have aligned efforts, creating clear skill-development pathways that scale across multiple regions. GO TEC is providing new and expanding industries in targeted traded sectors with ready-to-hire skilled workers.

Scaled for Success across five GO Virginia Regions



COMMITMENTS AND COSTS

Equipment and Supplies \$150,000 +/-

School Division

2-year commitment to support infrastructure - \$16,000

Requirements

- Ability to Sustain the Program
- Teacher
- Professional Development
- Classroom/Lab Space
- Consumable Supplies
- Program Promotion and Support
- Regional Collaboration
- Equipment and Furniture
- Lab Upfits
- IT Requirements
- Data Requirements
- Implementation of 9 Modules as identified by the GO Virginia Region

GO TEC | IALR

Commitment

- Implementation Support
- Teacher Training - Cohort & 1:1
- Pathway Development and Course Code Recommendations
- Curriculum and Resources
- Real-time Technical Support
- Instructional Support
- Consultation for Lab Upfit
- Data and Reporting
- Program Evaluation
- Marketing
- GO TEC Regional Competitions
- GO TEC Mobile Lab

The Modules



The **Automation & Robotics** module introduces students to the fundamentals of automation and robotics using VEX IQ robots and the Dobot Magician robotic arm. Students learn to follow schematics to build robots, explore VEX IQ hardware and explore manual controls and programming of the Dobot Magician. They'll automate the Dobot using point-to-point programming, gaining insight into joint and linear movements. The module also reviews careers in automation and robotics, and the impact of the Industrial Internet of Things and Industry 4.0 on everyday life.

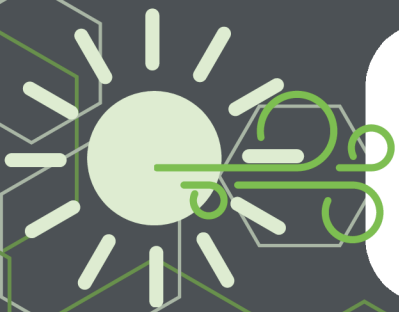


Students explore how electrical energy and magnetism work together to generate mechanical energy in the **Electrical Engineering** module. Through hands-on activities using digital multimeters, CAD software and microcontrollers, students learn how machines harness electricity to power specific processes, gaining practical insights into the applications of these concepts in real-world scenarios. By the end of the module, students have a solid grasp of how electricity and magnetism are essential in driving modern technology and machinery.

The **Welding** module introduces students to key aspects of welding including safety precautions, the use of personal protective equipment and the different types of arc welding processes such as MIG, Stick and TIG. Students learn about the equipment used in the field, such as Lincoln & Miller, and various welding positions, while investigating a range of career opportunities and occupational demand within the welding field.



Students learn about local power grids to gain a better understanding of where their electrical power comes from in the **Energy** module. Curriculum exercises, supported by hands-on activities, examine the concepts of grid composition and generation sources through the spinning of a turbine and solar cell, giving students real-world context and applications of energy creation and efficiencies.



In the **Precision Agriculture** module, students compare indoor techniques to field techniques and learn to synthesize the advantages and disadvantages of each. Indoor hydroponic units, such as Babylon Mircofarms, provides students hands-on experience in starting, maintaining and harvesting a variety of hydroponic cultivars, while learning about lighting, programmable logic controller (PLC) and flow. Measurement tools, such as pH meters and electrical conductivity meters, are used as students optimize growth cycles based on specific plant needs.





This module introduces students to **Manufacturing Engineering**, focusing on how it enhances process efficiency and speed, while conducting cost-benefit analyses and predicting potential waste types in each method. Students explore Lean Six Sigma principles to reduce waste and understand economics in manufacturing while learning to use standard industry equipment such as 3D printing pens, 3D printers and laser cutters. They design a lean production process, explore between value-adding and necessary but non-value-adding operations and compare waste and cost benefits between additive and subtractive processes.

The **Mechanical Engineering** module introduces students to the cyclical engineering design process and compare it with the scientific method. Topics include mechanical systems, energy transfer and 3D modeling using Tinkercad. Students will design and model projects, then use a laser cutter/engraver to create them. They will apply the engineering design process to develop, test and refine prototypes using both subtractive and additive manufacturing techniques.

Curriculum for the **Metrology** module focuses on measurement precision and accuracy and the use of various inspection tools. Students learn to select appropriate tools based on quality control, accuracy and relevance to different measurements. They review concepts and use tools such as digital micrometers, calipers, scales and steel rules. Additionally, students explore career opportunities for quality inspection including education requirements and job growth potential.

The **IT Coding & Networking** module introduces students to computer science concepts using Blockly Games. Students apply programming concepts to complete tasks with increasing complexity. They then advance to create animations and games with Scratch, and program microcontrollers to control circuits, employing computational thinking to create, modify and troubleshoot multi-step commands. Throughout, students develop creative thinking, systematic reasoning and collaborative problem-solving skills.

In the **Healthcare Technologies** module, students focus on understanding the circulatory, respiratory, immune, musculoskeletal and nervous systems. They explore how these systems work together to support the body and enable movement. Students use equipment commonly found in the industry, such as blood pressure simulators, CPR manikins, stethoscopes and microscopes, while also researching career opportunities in healthcare technology, including traditional roles in medicine and nursing.

In the **Precision Machining** module, students are introduced to subtractive manufacturing using a HAAS Milling Machine with computer numeric control (CNC) capability. Students learn the basics of CNC machining, including how to translate tool paths into simulated G-Code using a coordinate system. They apply these concepts using computer-aided design (CAD) software and the major components of CNC milling machines.



Great Opportunities in Technology and Engineering Careers

& the Mobile Lab

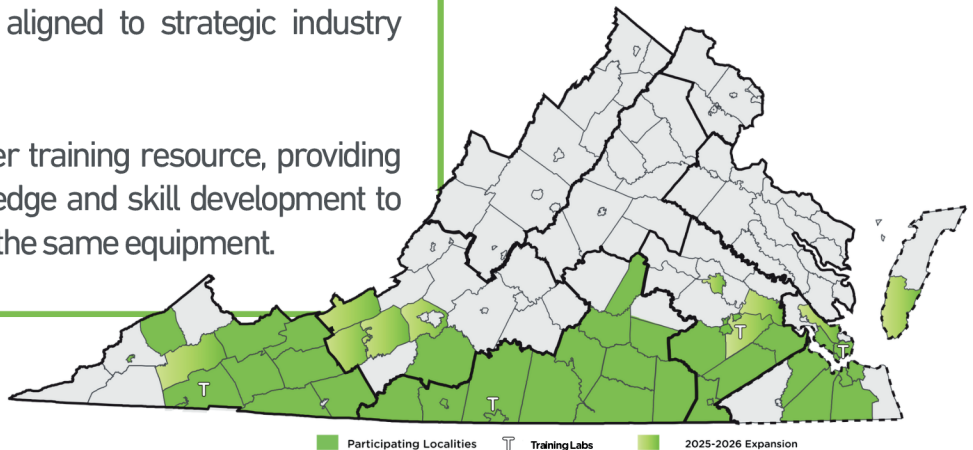
The Great Opportunities in Technology and Engineering Careers (GO TEC®) program, administered by the Institute for Advanced Learning and Research (IALR), builds regional talent pathways by focusing on strategic industry sectors in Information Technology, Advanced Manufacturing and STEM disciplines. The program utilizes a hub-and-spoke model to create a talent pipeline from middle school Career Connections Labs to high school with dual-enrollment and postsecondary programs. GO TEC targets high-demand career pathways through specialized training modules. The program has 50+ Career Connections Labs located in middle schools across GO Virginia Regions 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5.



The GO TEC Mobile Lab is a 45-foot mobile unit that travels all over the Commonwealth of Virginia. The Mobile Lab is a modified version of the onsite training lab at IALR and is equipped with state-of-the-art technology, applications and tools that enable students to have relevant hands-on experiences in STEM fields aligned to strategic industry sectors.

The Mobile Lab also serves as a teacher training resource, providing capacity to support the requisite knowledge and skill development to operate a GO TEC classroom, which has the same equipment.

For more info, contact GO TEC staff at IALR at:
434.766.6700 | gotecva_info@ialr.org
gotecva.org



School District Participation by Region

Region 1

- Bland County Public Schools
- Bristol Public Schools
- Buchanan County Public Schools
- Carroll County Public Schools
- Dickenson County Public Schools
- Galax City Public Schools
- Grayson County Public Schools
- Lee County Public Schools
- Norton City Schools
- Russell County Public Schools
- Scott County Public Schools
- Smyth County Public Schools
- Tazewell County Public Schools
- Washington County Public Schools
- Wise County Public Schools
- Wythe County Public Schools

Region 4

- Charles City County Public Schools
- Chesterfield County Public Schools
- Colonial Heights Public Schools
- Dinwiddie County Public Schools
- Goochland County Public Schools
- Greenville County Public Schools
- Hanover County Public Schools
- Henrico County Public Schools
- Hopewell City Public Schools
- New Kent County Public Schools
- Petersburg City Public Schools
- Powhatan County Public Schools
- Prince George County Public Schools
- Richmond Public Schools
- Surry County Public Schools
- Sussex Public Schools

Region 7

- Alexandria City Public Schools
- Arlington Public Schools
- Fairfax County Public Schools
- City of Fairfax Schools
- Falls Church City Public Schools
- Loudoun County Public Schools
- Manassas Park City Schools
- Manassas City Public Schools
- Prince William County Public Schools

- Denotes GO TEC Lab(s) Active
- Denotes GO TEC Lab(s) In Development
- Denotes Division Interest

Region 2

- Alleghany Highlands Public Schools
- Amherst County Public Schools
- Appomattox County Public Schools
- Bedford County Public Schools
- Botetourt County Public Schools
- Campbell County Public Schools
- Craig County Public Schools
- Floyd County Public Schools
- Franklin County Public Schools
- Giles County Public Schools
- Lynchburg City Schools
- Montgomery County Public Schools
- Pulaski County Public Schools
- Radford City Schools
- Roanoke County Public Schools
- Roanoke City Public Schools
- Salem City Schools

Region 5

- Accomack County Public Schools
- Chesapeake Public Schools
- Franklin City Public Schools
- Hampton City Schools
- Isle of Wight County Schools
- Newport News Public Schools
- Norfolk Public Schools
- Northampton County Public Schools
- Poquoson City Public Schools
- Portsmouth Public Schools
- Southampton County Public Schools
- Suffolk Public Schools
- Virginia Beach City Public Schools
- Williamsburg-James City County Public Schools
- York County School Division

Region 8

- Augusta County Public Schools
- Bath County Public Schools
- Buena Vista City Public Schools
- Clarke County Public Schools
- Frederick County Public Schools
- Harrisonburg City Public Schools
- Highland County Public Schools
- Lexington City Schools
- Page County Public Schools
- Rockbridge County Public Schools
- Rockingham County Public Schools
- Shenandoah County Public Schools
- Staunton City Schools
- Warren County Public Schools
- Waynesboro Public Schools
- Winchester Public Schools

Region 3

- Amelia County Public Schools
- Brunswick County Public Schools
- Buckingham County Public Schools
- Charlotte County Public Schools
- Cumberland County Public Schools
- Danville Public Schools
- Halifax County Public Schools
- Henry County Public Schools
- Lunenburg County Public Schools
- Martinsville City Public Schools
- Mecklenburg County Public Schools
- Nottoway County Public Schools
- Patrick County Public Schools
- Pittsylvania County Schools
- Prince Edward County Public Schools

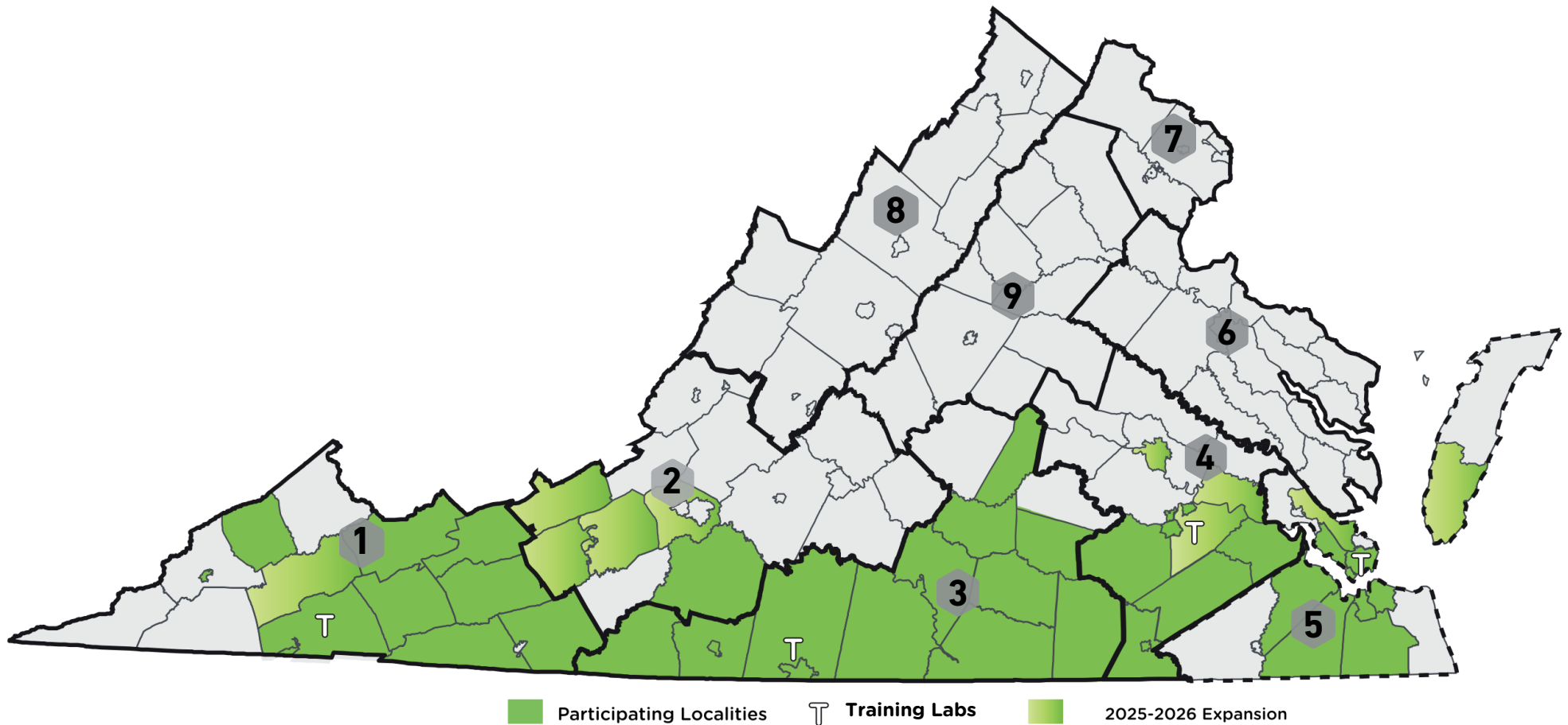
Region 6

- Caroline County Public Schools
- Essex County Public Schools
- Fredericksburg Public Schools
- Gloucester County Public Schools
- King and Queen County Public Schools
- King George County Schools
- King William County Schools
- Lancaster County Public Schools
- Mathews County Public Schools
- Middlesex County Public Schools
- Northumberland County Public Schools
- Richmond County Public Schools
- Spotsylvania County Public Schools
- Stafford County Public Schools
- Westmoreland County Public Schools
- Colonial Beach School District
- West Point Public Schools

Region 9

- Albemarle County Public Schools
- Charlottesville City Schools
- Culpeper County Public Schools
- Fauquier County Public Schools
- Fluvanna County Public Schools
- Greene County Public Schools
- Louisa County Public Schools
- Madison County Public Schools
- Nelson County Public Schools
- Orange County Public Schools
- Rappahannock County Public Schools

Program Expansion Across the Commonwealth of Virginia





*Cities of: Buena Vista, Harrisonburg, Lexington, Staunton, Waynesboro, & Winchester
Counties of: Augusta, Bath, Clarke, Frederick, Highland, Page, Rockbridge, Rockingham, Shenandoah, & Warren*

Agenda Item Summary

Agenda Date: April 7, 2026

Consent Item: No

Action Needed: No

Item Title: April Dates, Deadlines, & Goals

Regular Item: Yes

Informational Purposes: Yes

Recommendation: No Action needed.

Background:

April Dates & Deadlines:

- 4/7/26: Executive Committee Meeting (Virtual)
- 4/7/26: Clarke County Contract Call w/ DHCD
- 4/8/26: Inauguration of JMU President (H'burg)
- 4/8/26: Distribute GRC meeting packet
- 4/14/26: Grants Review Committee Meeting (JMU)
- 4/15/26: Brainstorming Session #3 (Rockbridge County)
- 4/16/26: DHCD Monthly Support Call
- 4/17/26: SVP Committee Meeting (BRCC)
- 4/21/26: Distribute Regional Council Meeting Packet
- 4/21/26: VA Workforce Symposium (H'burg)
- 4/22/26: Day 2 - VA Workforce Symposium (H'burg)
- 4/23/26: Brainstorming Session Recap (Virtual)
- 4/28/26: Regional Council Meeting (HIVE-Winchester)
- 4/29/26: Business at the Bloom (Winchester)
- 4/29/26: Distribute May EC Meeting Packet
- 4/30/26: CAMS deadline for approved projects
- 4/30/26: Submit FY27 CB budget to DHCD
- TBD: Aviation Ad-hoc Committee Meeting (Kick-off is 3/27/26)

Projects/Goals in April:

- Complete/Distribute packets for GRC, Regional Council, & April's EC meetings
- Support the completion of the Per-Capita and Competitive Grant Applications
- Update project pipeline from #3 session then prep for the recap virtual meeting
- Review GoVaR8's New Orientation Manual w/ leadership
- Promote events via social media & distribute quarterly newsletter

Budget Impact: None.

Attachments: None.