



On April 17, the GO Virginia State Board also approved the GO Virginia Economic Resilience and Recovery program, which will allow each regional council to apply for up to \$1.0 million in funding to support strategic initiatives that directly respond to the economic crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The regions will have access to these special funds for a year. The match is reduced (2:1) and no local match is required.

Using the Fast Access application process, applications asking for up to \$100,000 can be administratively approved by the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) after receiving regional council approval. The GO Virginia State Board will be required to approve larger requests.

GO Virginia is looking for projects focused on priority industry sectors or highly impacted locally traded sectors. Projects should have a high impact and be easy to deliver.

Examples of encouraged activities:

- projects with near-term impacts
- projects that identify and connect critical suppliers of goods and services to reduce service and production disruptions
- projects that facilitate job/training program placement
- projects that expand testing capabilities to encourage safe return-to-work strategies

Discouraged activities:

- planning only applications

Prohibited activities:

- direct grants to businesses
- direct loans to small businesses or capitalizing revolving loan funds
- equity investments in firms

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There are over \$1.5 million in collaborative grant funds available for Region 2 focused projects and over \$14 million in statewide competitive funds for multi-regional projects. GO Virginia Region 2 is currently accepting proposals for projects that seek to address the growth areas identified in the Growth and Diversification plan as well as proposals for projects that directly respond to the COVID-19 crisis.

[Learn More On Our Website](#)

A Message from Dr. Raymond Smoot

We are all caught up in what has emerged to be the social and economic crisis of our time. While the health of our people and communities is paramount, many of you are involved in supporting employers who are struggling. Keeping them whole now, and helping them find their eventual path back to prosperity, is a monumental task.

We do not have funding that can be provided directly to individual businesses. However, we can fund projects led by agencies, governments or other organizations who are supporting groups of businesses. We have more than \$1m in funding available at this moment that could be used to benefit firms in advanced manufacturing, life sciences and healthcare, food and beverage processing, and information and emerging technologies. More information on

the program, including examples of past projects can be found at this link: <https://econdev.vt.edu/GOVAR2.html>

Please help us understand what GO Virginia can do to help you help them. For example your organization may be assisting businesses with transition to telework, moving training programs on-line, implementing process improvements, or other activities. Could you take 10 minutes to reply to the survey at the below link with your insights as to what businesses in our targeted industry sectors may need?

[Click Here to Take Survey](#)



The GO Virginia State Board approved two Region 2 projects on April 17, 2020.

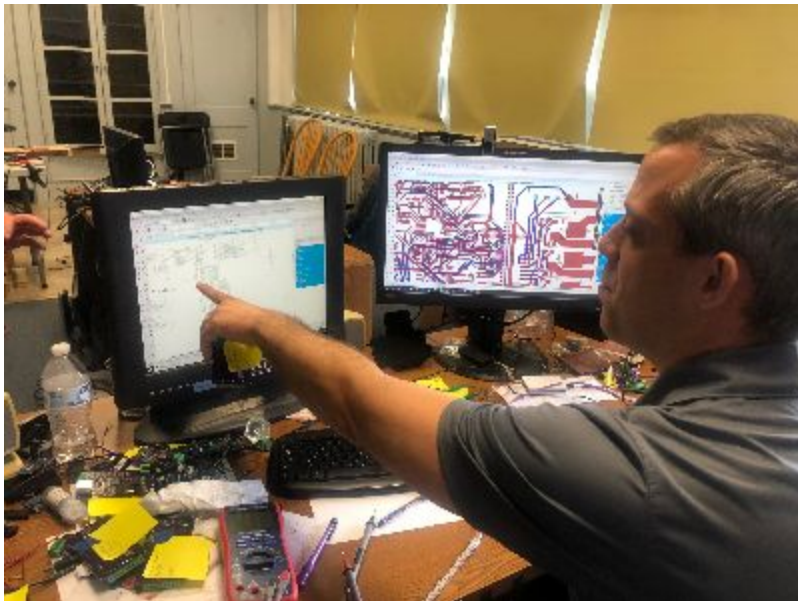
Classrooms to Careers (Montgomery, Floyd, and Giles County Public Schools)

The Classrooms to Careers project will connect high school students and teachers in the Montgomery, Floyd, and Giles counties with Information Technology (IT) businesses in the region. The project will work to raise student awareness of IT career opportunities in the New River Valley (NRV) and provide students with opportunities to participate in entry-level IT internships and job shadowing at local IT companies. Teachers from the three public school divisions will work with the participating IT employers to refine school curriculums and better align certification offerings, with the goal of increasing the number of students interested in pursuing IT careers after graduation.



Increasing Birth Rates of New and High Growth Companies at Innovation Mill (The Advancement Foundation)

The Advancement Foundation will continue to assist new high growth companies by engaging industry experts, STEM practitioners, and university students, branding the region as a high growth startup community, and providing comprehensive technical support. The project's goals are to support the development of new and early-stage high growth firms and increase the density of startups with a focus on advanced manufacturing, food and beverage, technology, and health and life science industries.



On April 21, 2020, the GO Virginia Region 2 Council approved the following project, the first under the GO Virginia Economic Resilience and Recovery program.

Workforce Training and Regional Capacity for Rapid High-Throughput COVID-19 Testing (Virginia Tech, Office of the Vice President for Health Sciences and Technology)

This workforce training project for COVID-19 testing will respond to the COVID-19 crisis by providing tests for symptomatic patients as well as performing wide scale surveillance testing. The project will cover the New River Valley Health District, the Alleghany Health District, and the Roanoke City Health District. The two testing sites will include the Fralin Life Sciences Institute (FLSI) in Blacksburg and the Fralin Biomedical Research Institute (FBRI) in Roanoke. A task force from Virginia Tech has developed assays for COVID-19; stood up laboratory facilities; worked with the appropriate local, state and federal regulatory agencies; deployed multiple sets of instrumentation at the two sites; and engaged a small group of volunteer Ph.D. level molecular biologists to work on the project. Along with providing a critical health need, the project will hire recent graduates and student interns to staff the two testing sites, providing them with training and workforce experience.



Future GO Virginia Meetings

May 6, 2020 - 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm - [Click here to join the meeting](#) - GO Virginia Region 2 Full Council Meeting

June 23, 2020 - 1:00 pm - 3:00 - Connection Information to Follow - GO Virginia State Board Meeting
