GO Virginia Region 2 Executive Committee Meeting

October 15, 2025, 2:00 pm-4:00 pm

[Virtual Meeting Link]

Roanoke Higher Education Center
108 N Jefferson St
Roanoke, VA 24016

I.	Opening (2:00-2:05) a. New Staff Introduction	Chairman Amos
II.	Financial Report (2:05-2:10)	Alyssa McKenney
III.	Staff Report (2:10-2:20) a. Proposal Updates b. State Board Childcare Discussion	Jemma Sabokrouh
IV.	Quarterly Project Reporting (2:20-2:25)	Emmalee Wagner
V.	Project VITAL Update (2:25-2:30)	Erin Burcham
VI.	Project Proposals (2:30-3:05) a. SBDC Business Preparedness Program NRV b. BRIC Industry Scale-Up Plan for Regions 2 and 3 c. Vector Space Robotics Program Planning in Lynchburg	Jemma Sabokrouh
VII.	Project Pipeline (3:05-3:10)	Jemma Sabokrouh
VIII.	Regional Council Committee Meeting Update (3:10-3:15)	Richmond Vincent
IX.	Program Updates & Business (3:15-3:35) a. State of the Region Event b. 2026 Calendar c. July 16, 2025 Meeting Minutes d. 2025 Annual Report	Chairman Amos
X.	2025 Growth & Diversification Plan Presentation (3:35-3:50)	Sarah Lyon-Hill
XI.	Council Membership (3:50-4:00) a. Executive Committee and Leadership b. Nominations for new members	Chairman Amos

The meeting will adjourn at 4:00p.m.

Public comment is welcome in writing. Please submit to Emmalee Wagner, emmaleewagner@vt.edu, by 10/13/2025 at 1:00p.m.

Region 2 Allocations Updated 10/3/2025

FY25 Per Capita Projects	
FY25 Allocation	**$1,515,210.00**
Transfer from FY23/24 Capacity Building Contingency	$166,021.42
GMP CLEAN	-$100,000.00
Artificial Intelligence State Landscape Assessment	-$50,000.00
Region 2 GO TEC Launch in the New River Valley and Roanoke County	-$994,213.00
Project Returns	$24,622.55
NRVRC Site Advancement Strategy 2025	-$94,400.00
FY25 Remaining Balance	**$467,240.97**

FY26 Per Capita Projects	
FY26 Allocation	**$1,506,951.00**
Lynchburg Regional Business Alliance Regional Talent Portal	-$99,999.00
FY25/FY26 Remaining Balance	**$1,874,192.97**

FY 25 Capacity Building (Support)	
FY25 Allocation	**$250,000.00**
FY25 Drawdown	**-$250,000.00**
Current Balance	**$0.00**

FY 26 Capacity Building (Support)	
FY26 Allocation	**$250,000.00**
FY26 Drawdown	**$0.00**
Current Balance	**$250,000.00**

Applications Pending Approval (Per Capita)		
Vector Space, Robotics Facility Planning, Lynchburg Region	-$97,200.00	*planning*
Virginia Tech Transportation Institute Workforce Pathways Plan for ACE Technology in	-$100,000.00	*planning*
Virginia Tech Corporate Research Center Regional Initiative for Startups and Entrepreneurship in the New River and Roanoke Valleys	-$648,000.00	
Applications Under Consideration (Per Capita)		
BRIC Industry Scale-Up Plan for Regions 2 and 3	-$250,000.00	*Statewide Competitive*
SBDC Business Preparedness Program NRV	-$71,155.61	*Helene Business Recovery Initiative*
Total	**-$1,166,355.61**	
Balance if All Per Capita Applications Approved	**$1,028,992.97**	

FY25 Planning Cap	**$250,000.00**
Planning projects approved	$244,400.00
Percentage of planning cap	98%
Planning funds remaining	$5,600.00

FY26 Planning Cap	**$250,000.00**
Planning projects approved	$0.00
Percentage of planning cap	0%
Planning funds remaining	$250,000.00

Project Name	Funding Type & FY	Start Date	End Date	GOVA Funding Approved	GOVA Drawn Down to date	GOVA Funds Remaining	Match Funding	Match Reported to Date	Match Funds Remaining	*Notes*
Center for Entrepreneurship	Per Capita (FY22)	3/14/2023	3/14/2026	$240,192.00	$78,416.19	$161,775.81	$120,096.00	$62,557.80	$57,538.20	
Bedford Metal Workforce Training Center	Per Capita (FY22)	8/1/2023	6/30/2025	$99,900.00	$96,542.35	$3,357.65	$201,000.00	$422,429.00	$0.00	*Fiscal closeout in process*
Industry 4.0 for the ACE Workforce	Per Capita (FY23)	3/1/2023	12/31/2025	$500,000.00	$172,054.64	$327,945.36	$251,300.00	$204,009.68	$47,290.32	
Lynchburg Beacon of Hope Career Acceleration Program	Per Capita (FY23)	8/1/2023	3/1/2026	$540,000.00	$295,798.39	$244,201.61	$352,200.00	$136,775.37	$215,424.63	
Falling Branch Corporate Park Regional Site Development	Per Capita (FY23)	7/1/2023	6/30/2026	$324,000.00	$262,897.92	$61,102.08	$2,810,765.60	$824,000.12	$ 1,986,765.48	
Strengthening Entrepreneurs' Impact	Per Capita (FY23)	12/1/2023	12/1/2025	$577,800.00	$336,480.09	$241,319.91	$288,900.00	$229,682.90	$ 59,217.10	
ACA Classical & CTE Academy Welding	Per Capita (FY24)	7/1/2024	7/1/2026	$565,000.00	$170,837.55	$394,162.45	$538,335.85	$133,361.32	$ 404,974.53	
Developing IT & Cybersecurity Certification Pipeline (ITCCP)	Per Capita (FY24)	7/1/2024	7/1/2026	$202,872.00	$41,432.35	$161,439.65	$116,863.00	$37,162.97	$79,700.03	
Randolph College Engineering	Per Capita (FY24)	7/1/2024	7/1/2026	$367,000.00	$157,201.56	$209,798.44	$379,784.00	$227,199.88	$152,584.12	
Project VITAL	Per Capita (FY24) & Statewide Competitive	1/1/2025	1/1/2028	$4,987,029.00	$353,463.99	$4,633,565.01	$2,517,443.16	$192,715.06	$2,324,728.10	
GMP CLEAN	Per Capita (FY25)	10/1/2024	10/1/2025	$100,000.00	$0.00	$100,000.00	$50,000.00	$0.00	$50,000.00	
GOTEC Launch in the New River Valley and Roanoke County	Per Capita (FY25)	7/1/2025	7/1/2027	$994,213.00	$0.00	$994,213.00	$518,956.00	$0.00	$518,956.00	*Contract executed 9/23/2025*
NRVRC Site Advancement Strategy 2025	Per Capita (FY25)	8/15/2025	8/14/2026	$94,400.00	$0.00	$94,400.00	$108,479.00	$0.00	$108,479.00	*Contracting in process*
Lynchburg Regional Business Alliance Regional Talent Portal	Per Capita (FY26	10/1/2025	9/30/2027	$99,999.00	$0.00	$99,999.00	$50,000.00	$0.00	$50,000.00	*Contracting in process*

Project Status Summary									
Project Type & FY	GOVA Funding Approved	GOVA Drawn Down to date	GOVA Funds Remaining	Match Funding	Match Drawn Down	Match Funds Remaining	Admin Fee	Admin Fee Draw Down	Admin Fee Remaining
Per Capita FY18 Projects:	$1,115,382.03	$1,086,718.14	$0.00	$3,252,380.71	$2,901,110.76	$353,216.13			
Per Capita FY19 Projects:	$1,197,486.00	$1,058,036.14	$0.00	$1,732,722.00	$1,597,744.44	$148,098.04			
Per Capita FY20 Projects:	$1,782,567.00	$1,622,794.44	$0.00	$1,272,290.00	$1,171,367.18	$141,145.26	$27,162.00	$27,162.00	$0.00
ERR FY20 Projects:	$1,110,700.00	$1,109,141.94	$0.00	$566,610.00	$570,743.57	$0.00	$23,598.00	$23,598.00	$0.00
Per Capita FY21 Projects:	$844,157.00	$794,295.95	$0.00	$695,042.00	$669,979.51	$25,062.49	$62,530.00	$58,836.99	$3,693.01
Per Capita FY22 Projects:	$1,442,743.00	$1,220,173.82	$222,569.17	$1,080,813.00	$1,117,901.99	$185,219.68	$105,369.00	$88,879.44	$16,489.56
Per Capita FY23 Projects:	$2,108,467.00	$1,233,898.04	$874,568.96	$3,799,832.37	$1,489,632.09	$2,310,200.28	$156,182.00	$96,399.13	$59,782.87
Per Capita FY24 Projects:	$1,274,231.00	$479,278.67	$794,952.33	$954,934.00	$505,550.72	$449,383.28	$92,350.19	$34,873.37	$57,476.82
TPI FY24 Projects:	$250,000.00	$196,940.02	$53,059.98	$125,029.00	$106,346.28	$18,682.72	$20,000.00	$14,588.15	$5,411.85
Statewide Competitive Projects FY24:	$4,987,029.00	$353,463.99	$4,633,565.01	$2,517,443.16	$192,715.06	$2,324,728.10	$121,634.85	$8,621.07	$113,013.78
Per Capita FY25 Projects:	$1,144,213.00	$0.00	$1,094,213.00	$568,956.00	$0.00	$568,956.00	$63,683.00	$0.00	$63,683.00
Per Capita FY26 Projects:	$99,999.00	$0.00	$99,999.00	$50,000.00	$0.00	$50,000.00	$7,407.00	$0.00	$7,407.00
TOTAL:	**$17,356,974.03**	**$9,154,741.15**	**$7,772,927.45**	**$16,616,052.24**	**$10,323,091.60**	**$6,574,691.98**	**$679,916.04**	**$352,958.15**	**$326,957.89**

Staff Report to Executive Committee

Project	**Status**	**Comments**
LRBA Regional Talent Portal	Approved	Approved during State Board meeting. Contract start date: October 1, 2025
VTTI Workforce Pathways for ACE Technologies in Region 2	Pending	Pending administrative approval from DHCD
VT CRC Regional Initiative for Startups & Entrepreneurship in NRV and ROA	Deferred	Deferred at State Board meeting. The applicant was asked to revise the proposal according to the following feedback: • Specific data to demonstrate demand for programming • Focus efforts on Virginia Tech, with KnowledgeWorks as the primary model for programming • Additional information to clarify differences in ERC programming and existing programs to avoid duplicated efforts • Additional information to make the sustainability of the programming clear Revised application package will be submitted in October for State Board review on December 9, 2025
Vector Space Robotics Program Feasibility Study in Lynchburg	Denied	Administratively denied by DHCD. Resubmission to be reviewed by Region 2 Executive Committee. See project brief for details on revisions
United Way of Central Virginia Childcare & Workforce Development in Lynchburg	Denied	Denied by State Board as ineligible based on current policy. Region 2 submitted a letter for the public comment period which was also signed by council leadership for regions 3 and 5. Separately, a Region 8 chamber of commerce submitted public comment urging the board to consider allowing GOVA investments in childcare services to support workforce. The board discussed the letters alongside the proposal under review and committed to discussing such a policy during the next Governance and Policy subcommittee meeting.

GO Virginia Region 2 Quarterly Report

Q3 : July - September 2025

Program to Date Metrics

Total Projects Funded	Totals Funds Allocated	Jobs Created/Placed	Matching Funds Allocated
56 (43 Projects Completed)	$17,591,881	961	$19,057,190

Stoplight Report Project Status Key	
Green	Project completed quarterly milestone(s) and is on track to complete outcomes by contracted end date.
Yellow	Project did not complete one or more quarterly milestone(s) but has a plan in place to complete outcomes by contracted end date.
Red	Project did not complete one or more quarterly milestone(s) and a plan for completing outcomes by contracted end date is not in place.

	Project Status, Details, GOVA Funds	Achieved/Committed Outcomes	Q3 Reporting from Staff
Red	**Industry 4.0 for the Automated-Connected- Electrified (ACE) Workforce** Workforce Development *Implementation* 2/28/23-12/31/25* $500,000	28/35 Businesses Served 151/530 Students Trained	1 of 3 milestones met; unable to host Module 1 training due to staffing and low interest and Module 3 training rescheduled to Q4. Reached out to past participants of Train the Trainer to offer ongoing support and capture training numbers from their companies. Meetings with project team and GENEDGE, advertised and provided Module 2 virtually. Staff is in contact with project lead.
Yellow	**GMP Clean** Cluster Scale Up *Planning* 10/01/24-10/01/25 $100,000	2/3 Businesses Served Contracted Deliverables: Pilot cleanroom completed. Inventory and needs assessment for future cleanroom space implementation completed. Financial and business plans for cleanroom operations.	1 of 2 milestones met; Chemistry, Manufacturing, and Controls (CMC)/Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) adherence steps not complete. Cleanroom is built/installed. 3 companies lined up to use the cleanroom. On pace to complete all outcomes and achieve all metrics at closeout. **Project is out of compliance with fiscal requirements and at risk for losing GOVA funding.**
Yellow	**GOTEC Launch in NRV and Roanoke County** *Implementation* 7/1/2025 - 7/1/2027 $994,213	7/1,136 People Trained 0/1 Program Implemented	1 of 4 milestones met; 3 milestones delayed due to delay in receiving executed contract from DHCD. Delayed contract delayed equipment purchases. Waiting on partner MOUs. Instructor training session successfully completed. Subgrantee reports project is positioned for continued success and growth in the subsequent period.
Yellow	**Lynchburg Career Accelerator** Workforce Development *Implementation* 7/31/23-3/01/2026* $540,000	264/112 Internships Completed 77/44 Certificates Awarded 59 /24 Businesses Served	0 of 1 milestone met; online tool development delayed; expected completion: Q4. New business partners engaged through 1-on-1 meetings to strengthen workforce pipeline partnerships and employer engagement. Continued supporting existing student, pausers, and 2Gen caseload First drafts of 3 guides (playbooks) completed.
Yellow	**LRBA Center for Entrepreneurship** Startup Ecosystem *Implementation* 3/14/23-3/14/26* $240,192	5/42 Jobs Created 40/20 Businesses Served $1,000/400K Capital Raised	3 of 6 milestones met; some workshops and events delayed as search for trainers and providers continues. Venture Magazine on hold; seeking marketing professional. Office is now operational; CO.STARTERS (entrepreneur cohort program) launched 9/09/2025. Several projects are in planning/underway, including developing angel network, finding service providers, Entrepreneurial Ecosystem Map. etc.
Yellow	**Project VITAL** Cluster Scale Up *Statewide Competitive* 1/01/25-1/01/28 $4,987,029	9/42 Employees Upskilled 11/406 Jobs Created/Filled 46/100 Businesses Served 7/55 Entrepreneurs Engaged 5/15 Mentors Engaged $9.2/$50M Capital Raised	14 of 17 milestones met; ISO resource program required more upfront efforts and taken more time than estimated. Carilion Human Factors Lab completing previously delayed milestones including website launch, media strategy, onboarding materials, event participation. RBIA launched a regulatory support scholarship; received 7 applications. VWCC biotechnology camp hosted 10 high school students from 8 schools and Summer BCSI micro-credential evaluator training certified 9 new evaluators and awarded 51 micro-credentials.

* DHCD awarded no-cost contract extension

Additional project information is available upon request. emmaleewagner@vt.edu

Project Status, Details, GOVA Funds	Achieved/Committed Outcomes	Q3 Update from Subgrantee
ACA Classical & CTE Institute Workforce Development *Implementation* 6/30/24-6/30/27* $565,000	0/54 Student Trained 0/7 Credentials Awarded	First tranche of equipment purchased and installed. First group of students (12) started welding and fabrication training. There is a dual enrollment class in the day and a workforce class at night (Procurement of equipment delayed, first classes are smaller than planned.)
Developing IT and Cybersecurity Certification Pipeline Workforce Development *Implementation* 7/01/24 - 7/01/26 $202,872	69/104 Credentials Awarded 4/15 Businesses Served	Expanded credential access by adding Certiport certifications in Microsoft Office, Adobe, IT Fundamentals, and more. Students and employers engaged at Radford University and Virginia Tech career fairs to showcase IT and Cyber programs. The second Talent Connect Summit (9/30/25) connected students and employers to network and explore IT and cybersecurity career pathways.
Educating Engineers for the Region 2 Workforce Workforce Development *Implementation* 7/01/24 - 7/01/26 $367,000	0/40 Students Trained 20/40 Internships Created	Department of Engineering faculty (2) trained to certify the students in robotics; student certifications will begin next year. 43 students in the introduction to engineering class.
Falling Branch Corporate Park Site Development *Implementation* 7/1/23-6/30/26* $324,000	0/35 Acres Elevated from Tier 4 to Tier 5 on VBRSP Scale 0/1,004 feet of sewer line constructed 2,800/2,800 feet of waterline constructed	The water line plan, sewer pump station and force main design accepted by the Town of Christiansburg. 20 acre site grading is 90% complete; July and August 2025 were wet months caused construction delays.
Strengthening Entrepreneurs Impact Start Up Ecosystem *Implementation* 12/01/23-8/30/26* $577,800	72/70 Jobs Created/Filled 28/35 Existing Businesses Expanded 4/8 New Businesses Created 63/58 Businesess Served 114/58 Entrepreneurs Engaged 61/50 Mentors Engaged	Held information session for startup founders to highlight fall offerings across all programs. Hosted an orientation for mentors assigned and paired to On RAMP cohort members and hosted a hybrid networking event at QCowork in Blacksburg. Organized an Investor Roadshow; 3 Exit RAMP companies pitched to investors. Innovation Studio Director provided early-stage coaching to new entrepreneurs.
NRV Regional Commission Sites Advancement Strategy *Planning* 8/15/2025 - 8/14/2026 $94,400	Contracted Deliverables: 6 Updated Site Inventory Reports 6 One Page Site Reports 1 Roadmap Report 1 Site Selection Investment Report	Kickoff meeting held 9/12/2025. Local Economic Development Organizations confirmed one-per-locality plus one regional structure, and identified potential backup sites.

Q2 Closed Project Details	Final Outcomes	Closeout Reporting from Subgrantee
Bedford Metal Workforce Retention Center Workforce Development *Planning* 7/31/2023-6/30/25* $99,900	Feasibility Plan	The Feasibility Plan provided an overview of the metals industry in the Roanoke and Lynchburg MSAs, an architectural and engineering assessment of the existing facility, and identified an operational model for a new 501(c)(3) entity to administer the center for operations, funding, and strategic governance. The Feasibility Plan process allowed frank conversations with metal industry, to understand issues finding, training, and retaining workforce with relevant industry skills. *Subgrantee interested in seeking GOVA implementation funding.*

* DHCD awarded no-cost contract extension

Additional project information is available upon request. emmaleewagner@vt.edu

GO Virginia Region 2 Project Brief

BRIC Industry Scale-Up Plan for Regions 2 & 3

Application Type: Statewide Competitive Planning

Applicant: Blue Ridge Innovation Corridor (BRIC)

Participating Localities: Botetourt County (*in kind*), Franklin County (*in kind*), Henry County (*in kind)*

Investment Strategy: Cluster Scale-Up, Workforce Development, Site Development & Infrastructure, Start-Up Ecosystem

Targeted Industry Cluster(s): Life Sciences & Biotechnology, Advanced Materials Manufacturing

Requirements	
$2:1 Match	Yes
Region 2 Priority Industry Cluster	Yes
Alignment with G&D Plan	Yes
Line of Sight to Implementation (Planning only)	Unclear
Locality Participation/Match	No

Goals: Lay the groundwork for transforming the BRIC region into a nationally competitive hub for target sectors by developing a playbook that includes strategies for scaling up clusters, aligning workforce programs with industry demand, and prioritizing sites and infrastructure needs. The project will connect many existing assets and programs to strengthen the BRIC region through collaboration and leveraging resources.

Project Description: BRIC, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, seeks GO Virginia funding to develop a Vision 2050 Plan, a strategic implementation playbook that includes six strategy reports to serve as a practical guide to accelerate the BRIC region as an economic engine with sequenced investments, durable workstreams, and a governance structure to drive implementation. The project focuses on three target clusters: advanced manufacturing, life sciences & biotechnology, and national security & defense innovation. Project activities include: convening a 75+ member steering committee to refine sectors, vision and an RFP; and contracting a consultant team who will develop the playbook.

Deliverables: Vision 2050 Plan which will include an infrastructure investment strategy, funding & financing roadmap, connectivity strategy, and three cluster scale-up strategies.

BRIC Industry Scale-Up Plan for Regions 2 & 3

Budget	
GO Virginia Request	$250,000
Local Match	$20,000
Total Matching Funds	$125,000
Additional Leverage	--
Total Project Budget	**$375,000**

Application Review Summary

This project proposal was reviewed by Janice Crawford, GO Virginia Region 2 Council; Jonathan Fink, Portland State University; Steven Pedigo, University of Texas at Austin; and Lisa Shapiro, GO Virginia Region 7

- Technical requirements currently missing: match verification form from the Harvest Foundation ($90,000 cash match) and local match from two Region 3 localities (currently one is included)
- Reviewers find that this project fills the gap for a megaregional strategy, addressing fragmentation, workforce alignment, and infrastructure prioritization, which are well-aligned with GO Virginia, regional strategies, and Virginia's economic goals.
- Strong private-sector leadership and an impressive breadth of experienced partners demonstrate high-level collaboration as well as demand for the project.
- The proposal makes no mention of Project VITAL, which overlaps with the Life Sciences & Biotechnology cluster and was awarded $4.9 million in GOVA investment earlier this year, nor the GOVA AM2 Tech Hub project, which recently closed and produced a 10-year roadmap to scaling Regions 2 and 3 into an additive manufacturing and advanced materials hub. How will BRIC compliment, collaborate with, and not duplicate these initiatives?
- One reviewer felt the applicant should address how the current economic uncertainty around tariffs, federal research and tech initiative funding may impact the funding, activities, or sustainability of this project.
- A well-defined governance model is needed to ensure the project is ready to proceed with established decision-making authority, funding and reporting responsibilities, legal agreements, and staff experienced in grant and fiscal management. One reviewer suggested a public dashboard for transparency and accountability.
- With the budget entirely dedicated to consultant services, the internal capacity of BRIC to execute the project in case of delays or misalignment with consultants is questioned.

BRIC Industry Scale-Up Plan for Regions 2 & 3

- The transition from strategy development to actionable projects is not clear. The applicant should draw a line of sight to implementation with a plan for how they will select, pilot, and implement initiatives under each investment area in response to the playbook.
- The National Security and Defense Innovation sector is not prioritized by either regions' G&D Plans.
- More explicit connections to each region's G&D Plans could be drawn to strengthen the proposal, citing specific activities or needs identified in each plan.
- Reviewers noted that the economic impact would be stronger if the applicant provided a more quantitative impact narrative with clear, measurable economic outcomes and balanced engagement across both regions. One suggestion was to include private investment dollars as an outcome of this planning phase to reduce the perception of risk.

GO Virginia Region 2 Project Brief
SBDC Business Preparedness Program NRV

Application Type: Helene Business Recovery Initiative (HBRI)

Applicant: Virginia Small Business Development Center, Greater Roanoke & NRV

Participating Localities: Floyd County *(in kind)*, Pulaski County (*in kind*), Giles County *(in kind)*

Investment Strategy: HBRI

Targeted Industry Cluster(s): Advanced Materials Manufacturing, Outdoor Recreation & Waterways, Tourism & Hospitality

Requirements	
$2:1 Match	Yes
Region 2 Priority Industry Cluster	Yes*
Alignment with G&D Plan	Yes
Locality Participation/Match	Yes

*The Helene Business Recovery Initiative allows for projects targeting regional priority industry clusters as well as heavily impacted locally traded industries such as outdoor recreation and tourism-based businesses

Goals: Increase the number of businesses prepared for future disasters and build economic resilience across industries that drive the NRV economy

Project Description: The Greater Roanoke and New River Valley Small Business Development Center seeks funding to develop and implement new programming designed to provide targeted support for preparing New River Valley businesses for natural disasters. Ready for Anything Continuity Planning will be a series of six interactive workshops offered to local businesses. Workshops will cover financial preparedness, insurance and risk management, crisis communication, cybersecurity and digital continuity, and marketing continuity. Programming will include training to strengthen continuity, risk assessment, and financial preparedness practices, one-on-one advising, and peer group collaboration. Each participating business will develop a customized continuity and resilience plan as a product of the program.

Outcomes:

- 1 new program implemented: Ready for Anything Continuity Planning
- 50 businesses served
- 2 new mentors providing business assistance

Budget	
GO Virginia Request	$71,156
Local Match	$8,886
Total Matching Funds	$36,279
Additional Leverage	--
Total Project Budget	**$107,435**

SBDC Business Preparedness Program NRV

Previous Grant Performance:
In 2018, the Roanoke Small Business Development Center was awarded $42,000 in GO Virginia funding to support the expansion of the center to staff a full-time business advisor dedicated to serving businesses in the New River Valley. The project closed in 2020 having achieved the following outcomes over the 2-year grant period:

-359 Clients Counseled	-$2.95 million in Capital Facilitated
-32 Training Events	-23 New Business Starts
-66 Jobs Created	-$700,530 in Increased Sales
-44 Jobs Retained	-835 Counseling Hours

Application Review Summary:
This project proposal was reviewed by: Dr. John Capps, GO Virginia Region 2 Council; Chad Miller, University of Southern Mississippi; Jemma Sabokrouh, GO Virginia Region 2 Staff

- This project aligns directly with the GOVA HBRI and addresses an important need in the region: disaster preparedness and recovery. One reviewer commented, "Should the unthinkable occur and another disaster strike the New River Valley, this program will also undoubtedly aid businesses in their recovery efforts."
- The broad-based collaboration and in-kind contributions from partners demonstrate strong support for the initiative but reviewers noted that the roles and activities around some of the partners' contributions are unclear.
- Clearer articulation of how this program is additive to readily available resources, rather than duplicating content. One reviewer cited Ready.gov, the FEMA Business Assistance Toolkit, and Mainstreet America Disaster and Resilience Toolkit as examples of existing resources the applicant should acknowledge.
- The proposal specifies that the program will be designed to meet the needs of NRV businesses; What features of this program will be NRV-specific?
- More detailed information about the programming is needed to gauge value. Specifically, what does targeted, 1:1 service to businesses entail?
- The commitment to serve 50 businesses aligned with Region 2 and HBRI target clusters is low considering the two-year grant period and investment amount.
- Reviewers noted that more information is needed to demonstrate the sustainability of this program. Specifically, details on follow-up training, resource accessibility of the grant period, and the continuity of the workshop series.

GO Virginia Region 2 Project Brief

Vector Space Robotics Program Planning in Lynchburg

Application Type: Planning

Applicant: Vector Space

Participating Localities: City of Lynchburg *(letter of support)*, Bedford County *(letter of support)*

Investment Strategy: Workforce Development

Targeted Industry Cluster(s): IT, Engineering Services, & Emerging Technology; Advanced Materials Manufacturing

Requirements	
$2:1 Match	Yes
Region 2 Priority Industry Cluster	Yes
Alignment with G&D Plan	Yes
Line of Sight to Implementation (Planning only)	Yes
Locality Participation/Match	N/A

Goal: Conduct a feasibility study to determine the need and value for expanded robotics education programming in Greater Lynchburg

Project Description: Vector Space seeks funding to conduct a feasibility study for a new robotics program offered to secondary students in the Lynchburg area. Activities will include site visits to STEM facilities, focus groups and visits to similar robotics program facilities, exploration of aligned credentials available for robotics training, curriculum development, exploring pathways and alignment to internships with local employers and dual enrollment programs. The outcomes of this planning project will shape a follow-up implementation project to support a new robotics facility adjacent to the Vector Space building.

Industry support for this proposal includes matching funds from Dominion 7 and Foster Fuels. The applicant has also received support or commitments to support the development of this robotics program from Framatome, Innovation Wireless Technologies, Electronic Design & Manufacturing, Cloudfit, Randolph College, and Lynchburg City Schools.

Deliverables:

-Market Analysis/Stakeholder Report
-Architectural Plans
-Robotics Training Program Curriculum
-Equipment Research & Interior Floor Plan Drawings
-Revenue & Sustainability Report
-Budget for Implementation

Vector Space Robotics Program Planning in Lynchburg

Budget	
GO Virginia Request	$97,200
Local Match	--
Total Matching Funds	$49,500
Additional Leverage	--
Total Project Budget	**$146,700**

Previous Grant Performance:

In 2022, Vector Space was awarded $324,000 in GO Virginia funding to lead the Vector Space Workforce & Entrepreneurship Initiatives in a Regional Makerspace project. This project aligned with Region 2 goals to support workforce development and the start-up ecosystem. Activities included the implementation of a new workforce training program, Women in Machining, supporting the advanced manufacturing sector, and an entrepreneur training program, CO.SRARTERS to support aspiring entrepreneurs through mentorship, access to equipment & technology, and support services.

The project closed in 2024 having achieved the following outcomes:

-86 students trained
-31 jobs created/filled
-8 businesses served
-17 new businesses created

Application Review Summary:

This project proposal was approved by the GO Virginia Region 2 Council in April 2025. On August 4th, DHCD administratively denied the proposal.

To meet DHCD's concerns outlined in their feedback, revisions include:

- Clarification that the robotics programming being proposed is new and not an established curriculum to be implemented.
- Clarification that curriculum development is a component of this project and staff time and site visits will contribute to curriculum development
- Exploring internship placements as an implementation outcome has been added to the planning grant activities
- Adjusted and clarified budget line items and match to meet program requirements
- Clarification that although construction of a new facility is a component of the implementation phase, GOVA funding would not be requested to support construction. The applicant intends to apply for an implementation grant to support eligible expenses such as equipment, salaries, and training

GO Virginia

State OF THE Region

The GO Virginia Region 2 Council is pleased to host the 2025 State of the Region reception.

Join other thought leaders to discuss the place of Region 2 in the state's economy, the impact of GO Virginia on Region 2, and strategic priorities for the future.

Keynote Speaker

Jason El Koubi

President and CEO of the Virginia Economic Development Partnership

Date: Wednesday, October 29th 2025

Time: 3:00pm - 5:00pm

Location: Taubman Museum of Art

110 Salem Ave. Roanoke, VA 24011

Please RSVP HERE by October 16th

2026 GO Virginia Region 2 Calendar

The GO Virginia Fiscal Year operates July 1 – June 30.

This 2026 calendar spans two fiscal years: FY26 (Jan–Jun 2026) and FY27 (Jul–Dec 2026). Funding, deadlines, and reports are tracked by the Fiscal Year ending June 30.

January — *FY26 Q3*

1/5: **Region 2 quarterly reports due**
1/16: State deadline for planning grant application submission in CAMS (5:00 pm)

February — *FY26 Q3*

2/3: **Region 2 Council meeting**
2/13: State deadline for council-approved implementation grant application submission in CAMS (12:00 pm)
2/23-27: State pitch calls for council-approved applications

March — *FY26 Q3*

3/20: **Region 2 application deadline (5:00 pm)**
3/24: **State Board meeting**
3/27: State deadline for planning grant application submission in CAMS (5:00 pm)

April — *FY26 Q4*

4/3: **Region 2 quarterly reports due**
4/17: State deadline for planning grant application submission in CAMS (5:00 pm)
4/29: **Region 2 Council meeting**

May — *FY26 Q4*

5/1: State deadline for council-approved implementation grant application submission in CAMS (12:00 pm)
Regional FY27 capacity building budget due to DHCD (12:00 pm)
5/11-5/15: State pitch calls for council-approved applications

June — *FY26 Q4*

6/9: **State Board meeting**
6/19: State deadline for planning grant application submission in CAMS (5:00 pm)
6/26: **Region 2 application deadline (5:00 pm)**

July		*FY27 Q1*
7/16:	**Region 2 quarterly reports due**	
7/17:	State deadline for planning grant application submission in CAMS (5:00 pm)	
August		*FY27 Q1*
8/5:	**Region 2 Council meeting**	
8/7:	State deadline for council-approved implementation grant application submission in CAMS (12:00 pm)	
8/17-21:	State pitch calls for council-approved applications	
September		*FY27 Q1*
9/11:	**Region 2 application deadline (5:00 pm)**	
9/15:	**State Board meeting**	
9/18:	State deadline for planning grant application submission in CAMS (5:00 pm)	
October		*FY27 Q2*
10/1:	**Regional annual reports due to DHCD**	
10/2:	**Region 2 quarterly reports due**	
10/16:	State deadline for planning grant application submission in CAMS (5:00 pm)	
10/29:	**Region 2 Council Meeting**	
10/30:	State deadline for council-approved implementation grant application submission in CAMS (12:00 pm)	
November		*FY27 Q2*
11/9-13:	State pitch calls for council-approved applications	
December		*FY27 Q2*
12/8:	**State Board meeting**	
12/18:	State deadline for planning grant application submission in CAMS (5:00 pm)	
12/17:	**Region 2 application deadline (5:00 pm)**	
1/6/2027:	**Region 2 quarterly reports due**	

GO Virginia Region 2 Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

July 16, 2025, 1:00 - 3:00p.m.

Virtual Zoom Webinar

Executive Committee members in attendance: Eddie Amos (Chair), Paul Denham (Vice-Chair), Whitney Czelusniak, Richmond Vincent, Justin Yalung.

Staff in attendance: Alyssa McKenney, Sarah Lyon-Hill, John Provo, Jemma Sabokrouh, Emmalee Wagner.

Public in attendance: Kaitlyn Bare, Kaitlyn Bedwell, Myra Blanco, Erin Burcham, Luke Campbell, Richard Gibson, Tori Gilmartin, Aisha Johnson, Sheri Lambert, Brandy Salmon, Rachel Stogner, Ginny Williams.

The meeting convened at 1:02 p.m. and adjourned at 3:07 p.m.

I. Roll Call

Ms. Emmalee Wagner called the roll.

II. Financials Review

Ms. Alyssa McKenney reviewed the financial reports included in the board packet. Council has a remaining balance of $537,018 in FY25 per-capita funds, along with $1,506,951 in FY26 per-capita funds, leaving a remaining FY25/FY26 balance of $2,043,969.
Chairman Amos asked McKenney to report back why the FY26 allocation is less than FY25.
Ms. McKenney reviewed the FY25 and FY26 planning cap funds, with a remaining balance of $350,000 (not including the pending planning grants).
Ms. McKenney then reviewed the remaining FY25 Capacity Building balance ($20,901) and the FY26 Capacity Building balance ($250,000).
Ms. McKenney reviewed the current project drawdown summary; CS/root is in fiscal closeout and Falling Branch Corporate Park Phase II received an executed contract extension.

III. Project Proposals

Virginia Tech Corporate Research Center Regional Initiative for Startups and Entrepreneurship in the New River and Roanoke Valleys

Ms. Jemma Sabokrouh reviewed the implementation project application, submitted by the Virgina Tech Corporate Research Center (VT CRC), requesting $648,000 in GOVA funding. Ms. Sabokrouh shared application evaluation feedback from staff, a Region 2 council member, and external reviewers. Chairman Dr. Amos opened the floor for questions. Ms. Brandy Salmon and Mr. Richard Gibson represented VT CRC and responded to the committee's questions.

Lynchburg Regional Business Alliance Regional Talent Portal

Ms. Sabokrouh reviewed the implementation project application, submitted by the Lynchburg Regional Business Alliance (LRBA), requesting $99,999 in GOVA funding. Ms. Sabokrouh shared application evaluation feedback from staff, a Region 2 council member, and external reviewers. Dr. Amos opened the floor for questions. Ms. Tori Gilmartin represented the LRBA and responded to the committee’s questions.

Virginia Tech Transportation Institute Workforce Pathways Plan for ACE Technology in Region 2

Ms. Sabokrouh reviewed the planning project application, submitted by the Virginia Tech Transportation Institute (VTTI), requesting $100,000 in GOVA funding. Ms. Sabokrouh shared application evaluation feedback from staff, a Region 2 council member, and external reviewers. Dr. Amos opened the floor for questions. Ms. Kaitlyn Bedwell represented VTTI and responded to the committee’s questions.

Recommendation to Move Forward
Mr. Justin Yalung motioned to move the projects forward to the full council for approval, contingent upon the applicants addressing the committee's concerns; Vice Chair Mr. Paul Denham seconded. All were in favor and none opposed.

IV. *Quarterly Project Reporting*

Ms. Wagner reviewed active project status, noting there is one current project listed in red, meaning they did not meet quarterly milestones, and staff is meeting with the sub-grantee. Dr. Amos requested the outcome of that meeting be shared with the Executive Committee.
Four active projects are listed in yellow, meaning they did not meet one or more Quarter 2, 2025 milestones but there is a plan to complete all contracted outcomes and products by the contract end date. The six remaining active projects are listed in green, meaning they have met quarterly milestones and are on track with their current deliverables.

V. *Project Pipeline*

Ms. Sabokrouh reviewed the projects in the pipeline, highlighting strategy areas and interested applicants.

VI. *Project VITAL Update*

Ms. Erin Burcham and Ms. Rachel Stogner provided a detailed update of the activities completed and in progress for the first two of Project VITAL.

VII. *Growth & Diversification Plan 2025 Update*

Dr. Sarah Lyon-Hill reviewed the first draft of the Region 2 Growth & Diversification Plan 2025 update. Dr. Lyon-Hill requested that the executive committee provide feedback by the end of July. The final updated plan is due to state staff by October 31, 2025.

VIII. *Program Updates*

Planning Grant Allocation

Mr. Richmond Vincent shared an update from the State GOVA Regional Council Committee on May 29th.

State of the Region Event

Ms. Sabokrouh shared that the annual Region 2 GOVA event will be held immediately following the October full council meeting; details are still to be determined.

IX. *Council Business*

Council Bylaws

Dr. Amos shared with the executive committee that staff will remind the full council of the Region 2 bylaws in the upcoming meeting, including how virtual participation affects quorum and the council members' vote.

Council Membership

Ms. Sabokrouh reviewed the nominees for Region 2 council membership.
Mr. Vincent motioned for the nominees to be voted on at the full council meeting; Mr. Yalung seconded. All were in favor and none opposed.
Dr. Amos requested Ms. Sabokrouh share the breakdown of Region 2 council member affiliation at the July 24th full council meeting.

Minutes

The committee reviewed minutes from the Region 2 Executive Committee Meeting held on April 16, 2025. Dr. Amos asked if there were any corrections, additions, or questions regarding the minutes; there were none. Mr. Denham motioned to approve the minutes; Mr. Vincent seconded. All were in favor and none opposed.

The meeting adjourned at 3:07 p.m.

FY 2025 Region 2 Annual Report

2025 Region 2 Growth & Diversification Plan DRAFT