Virginia Growth and Opportunity Board

Business Meeting
March 24, 2026
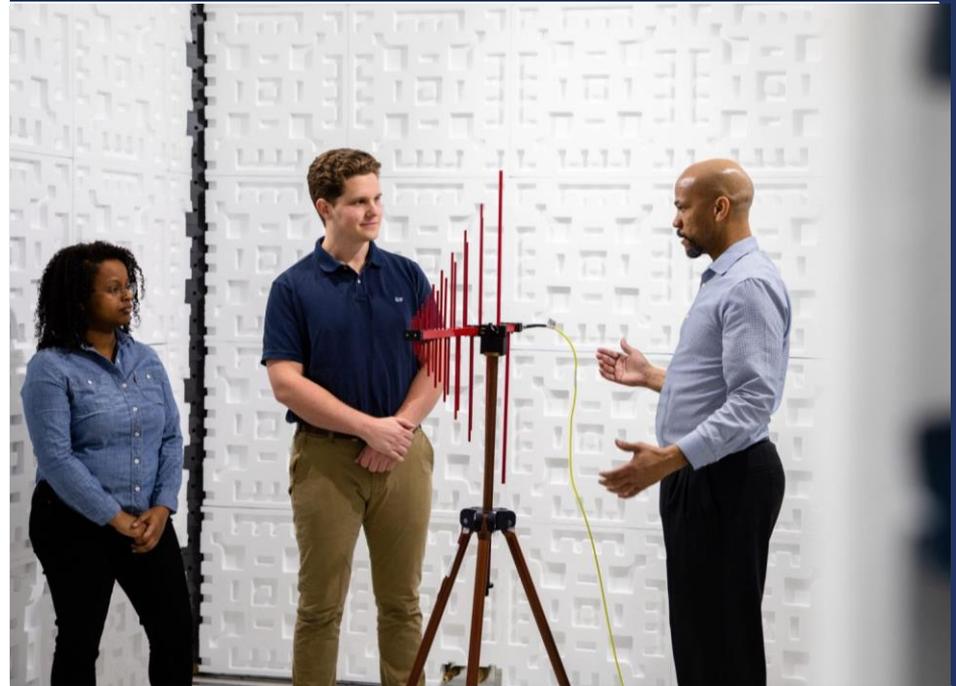
Center for Energy Research and Education Industry Lab offers students the opportunities to observe and assist with research in fields of science and engineering. *(Photo courtesy of GO Virginia Region 2 Website)*

VIRGINIA INITIATIVE FOR
GROWTH & OPPORTUNITY
IN EACH REGION

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
Partners for Better Communities

Agenda

I. Opening
II. Consent Agenda
III. Presentations
IV. Deputy Director's Report
V. Program Performance and Evaluation Committee Report
VI. Governance and Policy Committee Report
VII. Regional Council Committee Report
VIII. Legislative/Budget Update
IX. Information Items
X. Adjournment

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING
AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
Partners for Better Communities

VIRGINIA DHCD

COgro Labs at Virginia Tech Corporate Research Center *(Source: GO Virginia Region 2 Annual Report)*

I. Opening

a. Call to Order

b. Roll Call

c. Public Comment

II. Consent Agenda – *Action Items*

a. December 9, 2025, Meeting Minutes

III. Presentations

a. Virginia AI Landscape Assessment

VIRGINIA GROWTH AND OPPORTUNITY BOARD

Andrew Sinclair, Vice President, Public Policy

Virginia Chamber of Commerce

BLUEPRINT VIRGINIA 2035

Blueprint Virginia (2013)

Setting the Foundation

Launched the Commonwealth's first business-led strategic plan, delivered to the governor to guide policies that strengthen economic competitiveness and job creation.

Blueprint Virginia 2025 (2017)

Expanding the Vision

Built upon the inaugural plan with broader regional engagement and a deeper focus on workforce, education, and innovation as drivers of statewide prosperity.

Blueprint Virginia 2030 (2021)

Driving Resilience and Recovery

Addressed the challenges and opportunities emerging from the pandemic era, emphasizing infrastructure modernization, broadband expansion, and workforce readiness.

Blueprint Virginia 2035 (2025)

Charting the Future

The fourth iteration of *Blueprint Virginia* reflects the insights of more than 10,000 Virginians— offering a clear, business-led roadmap to keep Virginia a best state for business.

VIRGINIA CHAMBER

BLUEPRINT VIRGINIA 2035 ENGAGEMENT

SINCE JANUARY 2024

10,000+

VIRGINIANS ENGAGED VIA
EVENTS & SURVEYS

170+

BLUEPRINT RECOMMENDATIONS

> Artificial Intelligence

> Broadband, Cybersecurity, and Digital Infrastructure

> Innovation Ecosystems and Research Commercialization

> Entrepreneurship and Start-Up Growth

VIRGINIA CHAMBER

INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY PRIORITIES

Artificial Intelligence

> Digitize data and information and implement ethical AI solutions in government operations to modernize services, reduce administrative costs, and improve permit processing times

> Develop programs to integrate responsible and trustworthy AI technologies into business operations that enhance productivity and workforce efficiency while providing guidance and model policies regarding AI use by employees

> Advocate for cohesive federal-level, industry-specific AI regulations while maintaining state-level oversight focused on protecting data privacy and preventing unlawful and unethical applications

> Develop and implement new workforce training resources and improve visibility and access to existing training resources to strengthen workplace skills essential in an AI-enabled workplace for incumbent workers, those transitioning industries, and those seeking new opportunities

> Quickly establish AI-related curricula and classroom use policies in the K-12 system and at higher education institutions that encourage appropriate AI training and usage for students

> Develop and provide training in business process redesign, systems thinking, and change management for managers who are leading the deployment of ethical AI tools and resources in a rapidly changing workplace

VIRGINIA CHAMBER

DOWNLOAD *BLUEPRINT VIRGINIA 2035* TODAY

VISIT **BLUEPRINTVIRGINIA.ORG**

QUESTIONS?

About Economic Leadership

- **Economic Leadership helps clients navigate economic change with clarity and confidence, developing actionable strategies for long-term competitiveness.**

- **Founded in 2013, the firm brings decades of expertise in research, public policy, communications, and strategy to our work with clients across the United States.**

- **We help clients turn complex data into clear insights and actionable strategies for faster growth and innovation in their communities.**
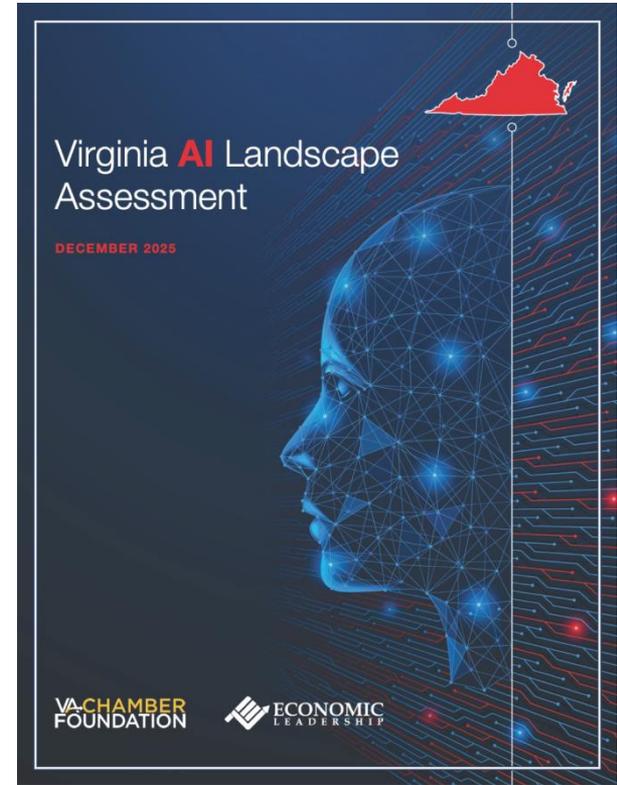
Examining AI Workforce and Workplace Impacts

- **Virginia is the first state to look at this through a workforce and workplace lens**
  - Idea came from discussions at the state board retreat last year
  - Regions 2 & 3 came together to fund a Planning Grant
- **No state has this figured out**
- **There is no time to wait – action is needed now**
- **Virginia has several inherent advantages at this point**

15 States Adopting ChatGPT the Fastest
US States with Fastest Quarter-over-Quarter User Growth (July 2025)

OpenAI released a report showing, among other things, which states are adopting ChatGPT the fastest. OpenAI
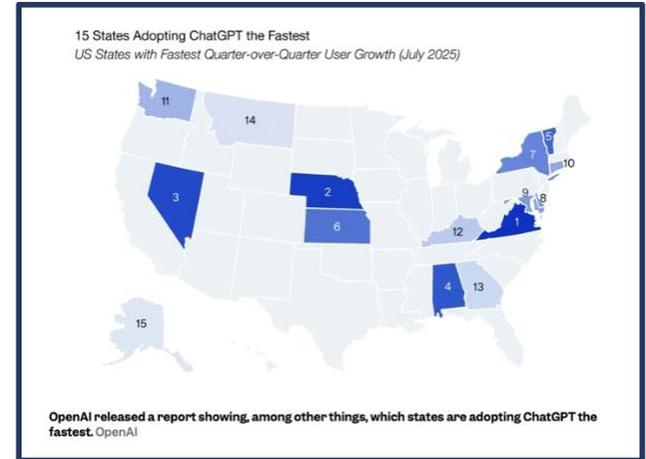
Virginia AI Landscape Assessment - Released January 6th

Key Elements of the Report

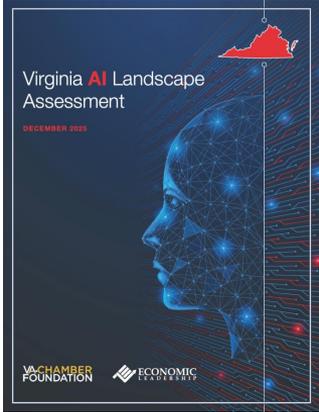| Overview of AI and AI Research	AI Perspectives in Virginia	Virginia AI Asset Mapping
Forecasting AI Impacts in the Commonwealth	34 Strategic Recommendations	Regional Impact Forecasts
	Transferrable Skills Analysis Examples	

Download the Report

About the Process

- **Literature Review**

- **Mapped Virginia's Assets**

- **Listened to Virginians' Perspectives**
  - Surveyed 500+ attendees at Blueprint Tour Stops in 8 out of 9 GO Virginia Regions
  - 38 Individual Interviews in all 9 Regions
  - Conducted an online employer survey

- **Modeled Potential Impacts by Occupation and Industry**

- **AI Landscape Assessment Workgroup**

Research on Business Opportunities and Impacts

- Executives report seeing significant potential in AI to improve productivity and innovation
- Many employees remain skeptical, though many are already using AI tools—sometimes informally or without formal approval
- Thus far, AI appears to be affecting tasks more than employment levels, reshaping what workers do rather than eliminating positions
- Early adopters of AI are already realizing productivity gains and strong returns on initial investments
- While efficiency gains are notable, the largest long-term impacts may emerge in product innovation and R&D
- There is currently wide variation in adoption rates, with large firms moving faster than small and mid-sized businesses

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Research on AI and Occupations

- Estimates vary, but somewhere between 20-30 percent of occupations could be subject to automation within 5 years.
- Depending on the mix of skills, some jobs will be fully automated, many augmented and others minimally impacted
- Highly educated, higher wage, white-collar and creative occupations are most "exposed" to GenAI
- STEM fields are more likely to be exposed to AI but with advent of AI, demand for AI-specific skills is spreading to a broader set of occupations than just tech
- In addition to AI literacy, employers are seeking skills such as creative thinking, resilience, critical thinking, systems thinking and agility

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AI Use and Perspectives in Virginia

Is AI training readily available at your firm or in this region?

- Yes: 27.1%
- Somewhat: 29.2%
- No: 36.3%
- Unsure: 7.3%
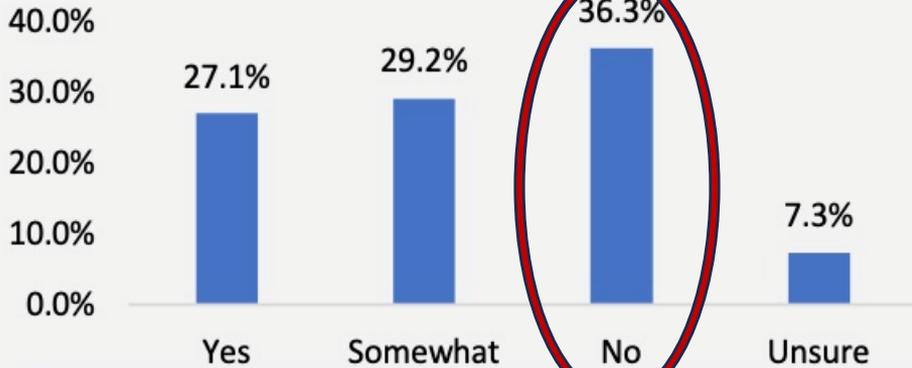
Mentimeter Survey Results from Blueprint Tour Stops in May-August 2025; 520 attendees responded to survey questions in eight locations

If yes, how is AI training currently being provided to your workforce?

- Online training modules: 24%
- In-house or internal training programs: 36%
- Local or regional training providers: 4%
- External consultants or vendors: 8%
- Other (please specify): 28%

ECONOMIC LEADERSHIP
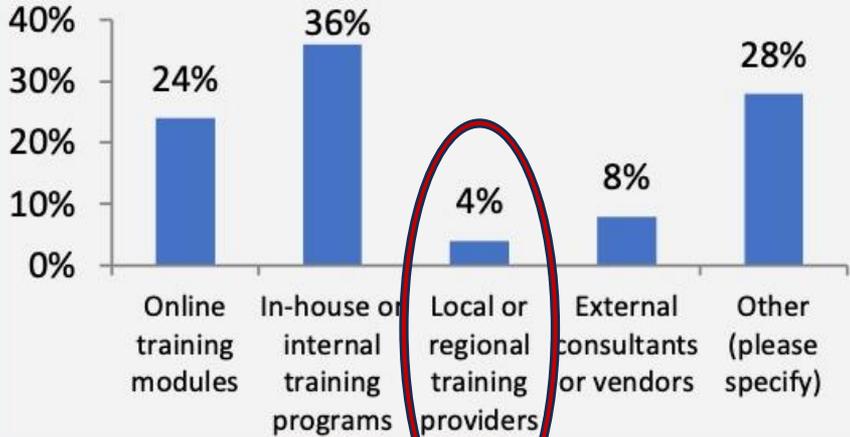
AI Use and Perspectives in Virginia

How is AI currently being used within your organization?

- AI use is prohibited 2%
- Not sure 7%
- Formally through approved tools and policies 33%
- Informally without policies or guidelines 58%
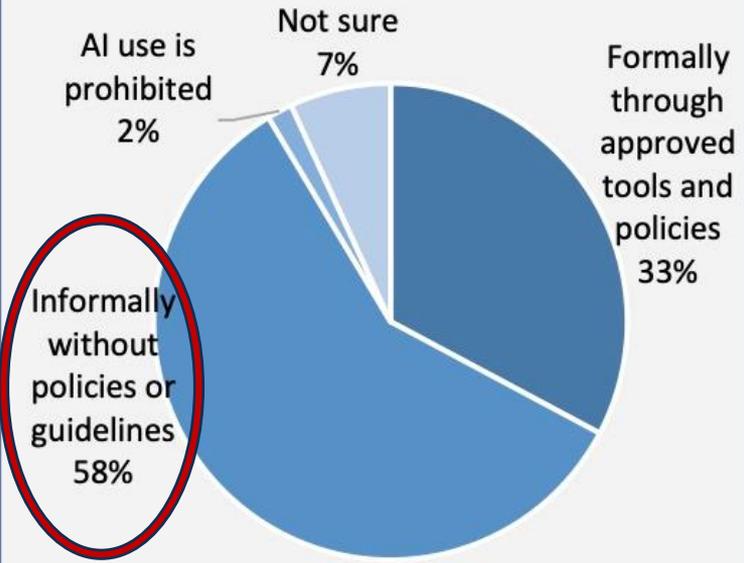
If your organization is using AI, how has it been integrated into your operations?

- Not sure 28%
- We redesigned entire business processes around AI 3%
- We incorporated AI like other software tools (e.g., licenses, plug-ins) 41%
- A mix of both 28%

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Occupations with Greatest AI Exposure in Virginia

Occupation	Jobs
Software Developers	72,700
General and Operations Managers	49,000
Office Clerks, General	39,400
Retail Salespersons	38,400
Customer Service Representatives	36,600
Bookkeeping, Accounting, and Auditing Clerks	30,100
Accountants and Auditors	28,900
Business Operations Specialists	28,000
Registered Nurses	27,000
Management Analysts	27,000
Project Management Specialists	26,200
Secretaries and Administrative Assistants	25,800
Sales Representatives of Services	25,600
Human Resources Specialists	20,900
Cashiers	20,800
Postsecondary Teachers	19,600
Computer Systems Analysts	17,100
Medical Secretaries and Administrative…	14,900
Receptionists and Information Clerks	13,900

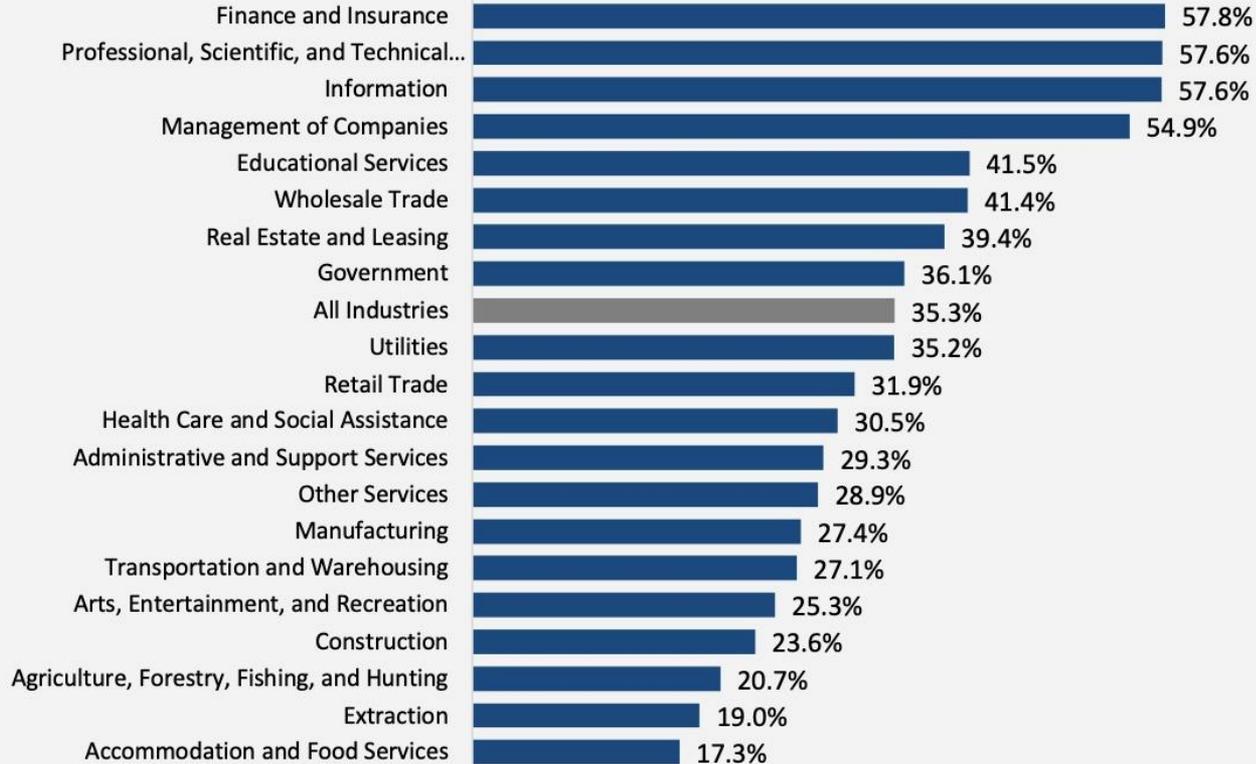**1,553,000** Jobs in Virginia with Exposure to LLMs

Source: EL calculations based on Lightcast 2025.3 and Eloundou et al. (2024)

ECONOMIC LEADERSHIP

Industries with Greatest Exposure to LLMs in Virginia

Industry	Jobs
Government	322,300
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	270,900
Health Care and Social Assistance	154,200
Retail Trade	126,500
Finance and Insurance	89,900
Administrative and Support Services	72,700
Manufacturing	67,000
Accommodation and Food Services	60,300
Other Services	59,500
Construction	52,700
Management of Companies	49,700
Wholesale Trade	46,900
Transportation and Warehousing	42,600
Information	40,200
Educational Services	39,800
Real Estate and Leasing	24,800
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	17,600
Unclassified	6,600
Utilities	4,000
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, and Hunting	3,300
Mining and Extraction	1,100

1,553,000
Jobs in Virginia with Exposure to LLMs

Source: EL calculations based on Lightcast 2025.3 and Eloundou et al. (2024)

ECONOMIC LEADERSHIP

Share of Jobs with LLM Exposure within Industry, 2024

Industry	Share
Finance and Insurance	57.8%
Professional, Scientific, and Technical...	57.6%
Information	57.6%
Management of Companies	54.9%
Educational Services	41.5%
Wholesale Trade	41.4%
Real Estate and Leasing	39.4%
Government	36.1%
All Industries	35.3%
Utilities	35.2%
Retail Trade	31.9%
Health Care and Social Assistance	30.5%
Administrative and Support Services	29.3%
Other Services	28.9%
Manufacturing	27.4%
Transportation and Warehousing	27.1%
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	25.3%
Construction	23.6%
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, and Hunting	20.7%
Extraction	19.0%
Accommodation and Food Services	17.3%

Source: EL calculations based on Lightcast 2025.3 and Eloundou et al. (2024)

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Exposed Jobs – By Region

Jobs with AI Exposure by Region

Region	Jobs
Region 3	36,900
Region 1	39,800
Region 6	59,300
Region 9	64,700
Region 8	75,300
Region 2	115,300
Region 4	240,400
Region 5	271,400
Region 7	543,600

Source: EL calculations based on Lightcast 2025.3 and Eloundou et al. (2024)
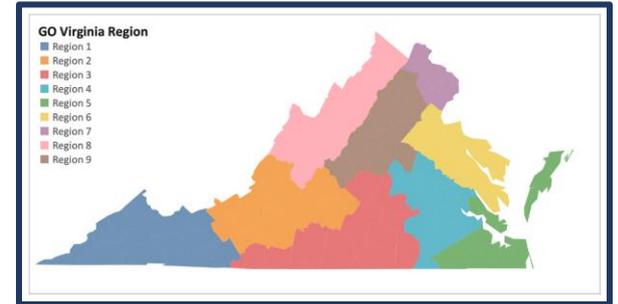Note: Some jobs are only categorized at the state level, therefore regional numbers do

Share of Jobs with AI Exposure, 2024

Region	Share
Region 7	39.0%
Virginia Total	35.3%
Region 4	34.3%
Region 6	33.8%
Region 9	33.8%
Region 2	32.1%
Region 5	31.9%
Region 1	30.9%
Region 8	30.4%
Region 3	29.1%

Source: EL calculations based on Lightcast 2025.3 and Eloundou et al. (2024)

ECONOMIC LEADERSHIP
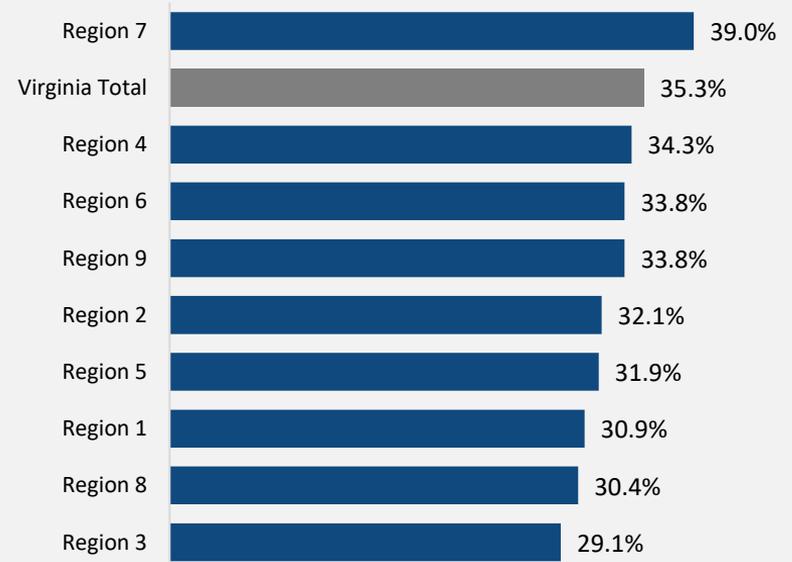
What We Found...

- **All current and future workers need AI familiarity and data literacy**

- **Incumbent workers need AI training, policy and use clarity and reskilling as their jobs change**

- **Displaced workers need re-employment training and assistance**

- **To maximize the benefits of AI, businesses need to strategically deploy AI and provide training and clarity for workers on AI use**

- **Virginia can be a leading state for AI-related business attraction and expansion if the infrastructure (utility capacity, sites, fiber connectivity) can keep up**

GO Virginia Region
Region 1
Region 2
Region 3
Region 4
Region 5
Region 6
Region 7
Region 8
Region 9

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34 Strategic Recommendations in 5 Areas

Workforce-related Recommendations

1. Universal AI Literacy

2. Incumbent Workers – Training and Resources

3. Displaced Workers – Upskilling and Support

4. Support and Resources for Virginia Businesses

5. Infrastructure to Grow & Attract AI-related Businesses

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AI-related Opportunities for GO Virginia

- Develop regional AI implementation strategies

- Facilitate the flow of information from the business community to inform AI workforce development needs and emerging transferrable skill opportunities

- Support workforce training opportunities in each of the 3 workforce goal areas (universal AI literacy, incumbent workers, displaced workers)

- Support initiatives that help businesses optimize the use of AI (this is especially important for small- and mid-sized firms)

- Support for infrastructure development necessary for Virginia to grow and attract AI-related businesses
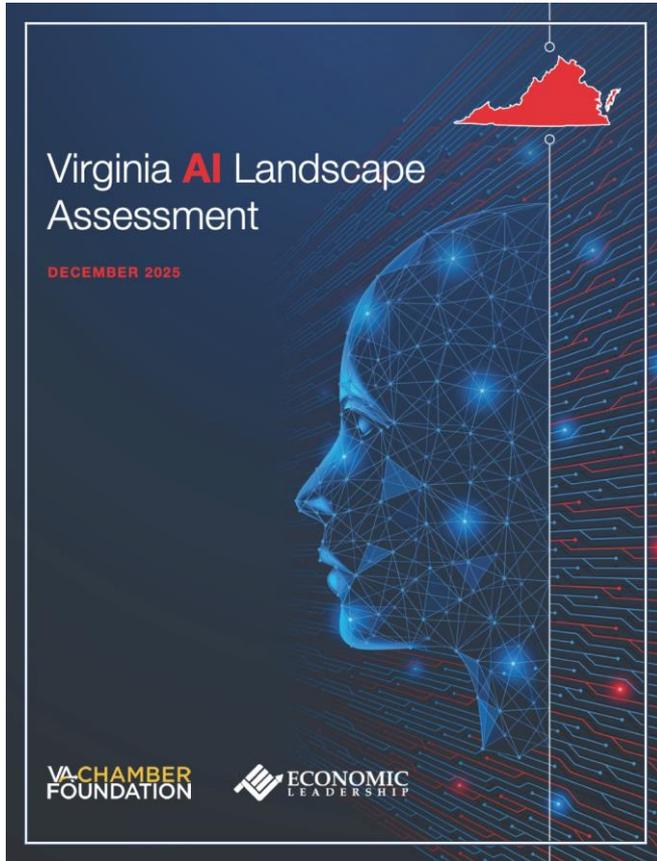
THANK YOU!

Mike Malone
mike@econleadership.com

IV. Deputy Director's Report

a. *Action Item:*

    i.   Per Capita Applications (9)

    ii.   Competitive Applications (3)

Project Development Framework
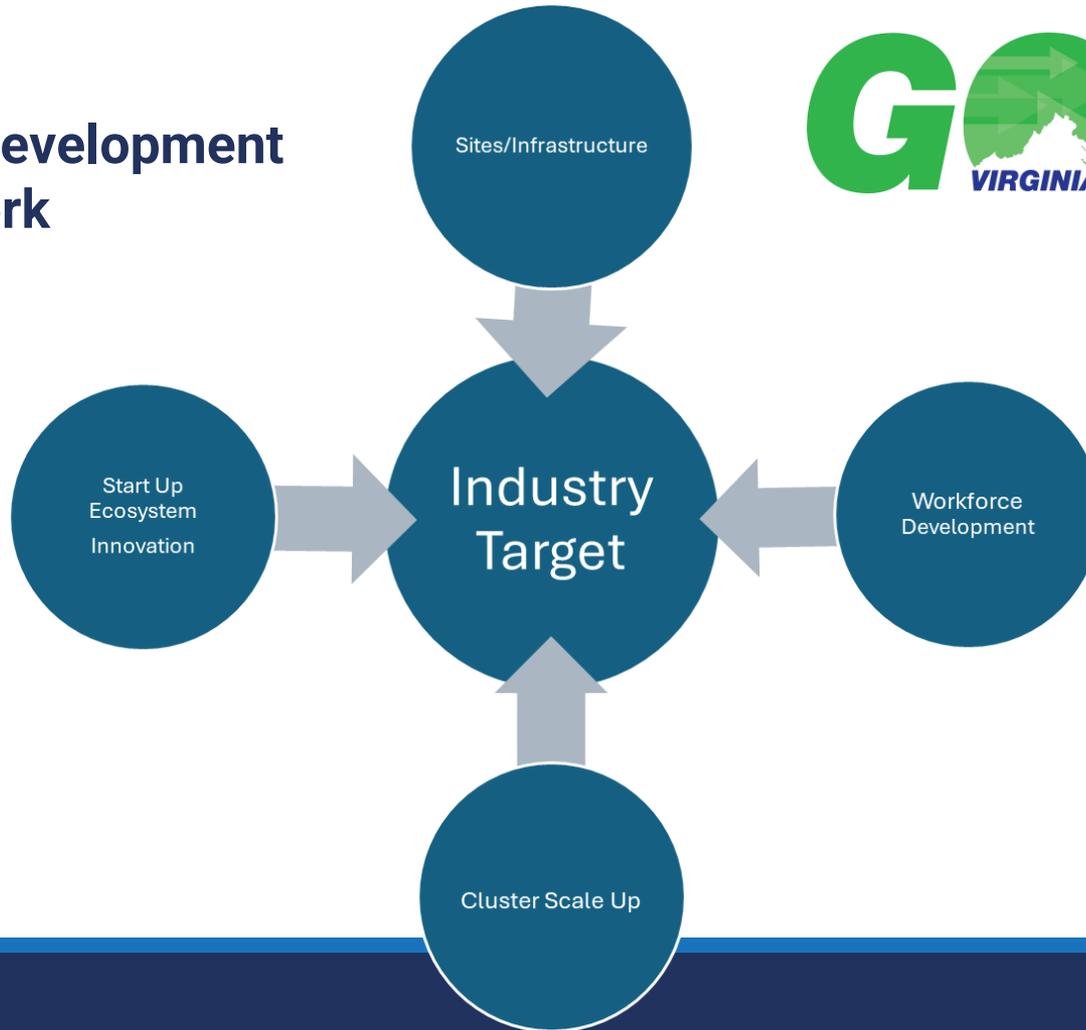
Application Process

1. Applications are submitted to Regional Councils

2. Approved applications are advanced to DHCD

3. Technical review by DHCD staff

4. Workgroup review and project pitch calls to develop recommendations for the Board

5. Feedback Loop Process informs Regional Councils and allows applicants to address any outstanding questions of the workgroup

6. Staff prepares final workgroup recommendations for the Board

7. Presented for Board consideration

   - *Approve: Application satisfies all program requirements*
   - *Defer: Application is in line with GO Virginia priorities, but fails to sufficiently address all program requirements or evaluation criteria*
   - *Not Approve: Application activities are out of scope with GO Virginia priorities*

8. Approved projects go to contract

Evaluation Criteria

- **Economic Impact**
  - Metrics and outcomes program aligned and defined
  - Alignment with Targeted Industry Sectors (G&D, REI, or TPI)
  - Economic Impact Analysis Validated
  - Evidence of Industry Demand for Project
- **Regional Collaboration**
  - Meaningful participation of 2 or more localities
  - Private Industry Involvement
  - Demonstrates Regional Coordination and Contribution
- **Project Readiness**
  - Defined Timeline and Milestones
- **Sustainability**
  - Clean and Executable Post-Grant Sustainability Plan, Sustained Demand for the Project

i. Per Capita Applications

- 9 Project Proposals
- 5 out of 9 Regions Participated

Industry Cluster Targets:

Advanced Manufacturing, Agriculture/Value-Added Food Manufacturing, Shipbuilding and Ship Repair

Aerospace & Autonomous Systems

Life Sciences

Transportation and Logistics, Port Operations

Information Technology

Energy Security

Business Services

Investment Strategies:

- 2 Site Development and Infrastructure Projects
- 1 Cluster Scale-Up Project
- 6 Talent Development Projects

GO Virginia Request: $9,387,985

Total Match: $6,425,291.54

Local Match: $1,551,526.54

Region 5: Hampton Roads Playbook Sites Planning

Targeted Industry Cluster(s): Shipbuilding and Ship Repair, Uncrewed Systems, Port Operations, Logistics, and Warehousing, Energy Security

Applicant: Eastern Virginia Regional Industrial Facility Authority (EVRIFA)

Investment Strategy: Site Development and Infrastructure

Participating Localities: Gloucester County (cash), James City County (cash), Isle of Wight County (cash), York County (cash), City of Chesapeake (cash), City of Franklin (cash), City of Hampton (cash), City of Newport News (cash), City of Poquoson (cash), City of Portsmouth (cash), City of Virginia Beach (cash), City of Williamsburg (cash)

Goal: To expand the inventory of shovel-ready industrial sites in the Hampton Roads region by deploying a Site Readiness Analyst and applying the "DEAL" framework to transform industrial site data into market-ready assets and prioritize future site investment opportunities.

Products:

- Aviation and Uncrewed Systems site analysis
- Regional industrial site readiness evaluations
- Post-announcement major project readiness guidance
- DEAL Framework-informed site prioritization
- Development of market-ready site profiles
- Regional Asset Map Integration

GOVA Request: $296,450

Total Match: $158,500
Local Match: $158,500

Project Budget: $454,950

Additional Leverage: $ -

Workgroup Recommendation: Approve

Region 8: Clarke County Camp 7 Extended Due Diligence

Targeted Industry Cluster(s): Business Services, Agriculture/Value-Added Food Manufacturing, Life Sciences, Information Technology and Emerging Technologies, Advanced and Light Manufacturing, Transportation and Logistics

Applicant: Clarke County

Investment Strategy: Site Development and Infrastructure

Participating Localities: Clarke County (cash) and Frederick County (infrastructure)

Goal: To expand the inventory of shovel-ready industrial sites in GO Virginia Region 8 by completing infrastructure design, topographical surveying, and site characterization for the 40-acre Camp 7 site.

Products:

- Technical review documents, including:
    - Topographical survey
    - Sanitary sewer line design
    - Infrastructure and engineering site plan
    - Site characterization report

GOVA Request: $250,000

Total Match: $152,895.77
Local Match: $152,895.77

Project Budget: $402,895.77

Additional Leverage: $ -

Workgroup Recommendation: Approve

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Partners for Better Communities

Region 5: Hampton Roads Playbook Implementation: Defense

Targeted Industry Cluster(s): Shipbuilding and Ship Repair

Applicant: Hampton Roads Alliance

Investment Strategy: Cluster Scale-Up

Participating Localities: Isle of Wight County (cash), James City County (cash), New Kent County (cash), Southampton County (cash), York County (cash), City of Chesapeake (cash), City of Franklin (cash), City of Hampton (cash), City of Newport News (cash), City of Norfolk (cash), City of Poquoson (cash), City of Suffolk (cash), City of Virginia Beach (cash), City of Williamsburg (cash)

Goal: To strengthen defense-related supply chains and support the expansion and attraction of companies to GO Virginia Region 5 through a targeted implementation strategy led by the Hampton Roads Alliance that leverages retired executive networks, international partnerships, and a comprehensive regional capabilities matrix.

Outcomes:

- 300 jobs created
- 4 businesses attracted
- 6 existing businesses expanded
- 50 businesses served

GOVA Request: $746,494

Total Match: $443,000
Local Match: *$143,000*

Project Budget: $1,254,550

Additional Leverage: $ 65,056

Workgroup Recommendation: Approve

Region 2: Randolph College Mechanical Engineering Program Expansion

Targeted Industry Cluster(s): Advanced Manufacturing

Applicant: Randolph College

Investment Strategy: Talent Development
Participating Localities: City of Lynchburg (In-Kind), Amherst County (In-Kind), Lynchburg Regional Business Alliance (LRBA) on behalf of its member localities (City of Lynchburg, Amherst County, Campbell County, and Appomattox County) (In-Kind)

Goal: To expand the pool of qualified mechanical engineers for the advanced manufacturing industry within Region 2.

Outcomes:
- 40 people trained
- 15 job placements
- 1 new program implemented
- 40 credentials awarded
- 20 new interns placed
- 15 students completing a dual enrollment program

GOVA Request: $686,340

Total Match: $395,167
Local Match: $7,902

Project Budget: $1,353,507

Additional Leverage: $272,000

Workgroup Recommendation: Approve

Region 5: FAA Uncrewed Aerial Systems College Initiative and Talent Pipeline: Advancing BVLOS Capabilities in the Commonwealth of Virginia

Targeted Industry Cluster(s): Uncrewed Systems

Applicant: Eastern Shore Community College

Investment Strategy: Talent Development

Participating Localities: Accomack County (in-kind), Northampton County (in-kind)

Goal: To increase the pool of qualified workers in GO Virginia Region 5, by establishing an Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) workforce development program aligned with regional industry needs.

Outcomes:

- 544 people trained
- 54 jobs created
- 5 businesses served
- 50 new interns placed
- 6 new apprenticeships created
- 10 new programs implemented
- 470 credentials awarded

Outcomes, cont.:

- 25 students completing dual enrollment
- 4 new mentors providing assistance

GOVA Request: $788,700

Total Match: $1,918,900
Local Match: $-

Project Budget: $2,742,600

Additional Leverage: $ 35,000

Workgroup Recommendation: Approve

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Region 5: Hampton Roads Mobility Innovation Center

Targeted Industry Cluster(s): Uncrewed Systems, Cybersecurity, Data Analytics, Modeling, and Simulation

Applicant: Newport News Economic Development Authority

Investment Strategy: Talent Development

Participating Localities: City of Hampton (in-kind) and City of Newport News (cash and in-kind)

Goal: To expand the pool of qualified workers in unmanned systems in Region 5.

Outcomes:

- 800 people trained
- 4 new interns placed
- 4 new programs implemented
- 460 credentials awarded

GOVA Request: $3,061,400

Total Match: $1,530,988
Local Match: *$336,428*

Project Budget: $4,860,388

Additional Leverage: $ 218,000

Workgroup Recommendation: Approve

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
Partners for Better Communities

Region 5: Start in Hampton Roads: Talent Attraction & Retention Program

Targeted Industry Cluster(s): Uncrewed Systems, Cybersecurity, Data Analytics, Modeling, and Simulation, Port Operations, Logsitics, and Warehousing, Shipbuilding and Ship Repair

Applicant: Hampton Roads Chamber Foundation

Investment Strategy: Talent Development

Participating Localities: Hampton Roads Workforce Council on behalf of member localities: Isle of Wight County (cash), James City County (cash), New Kent County (cash), Southampton County (cash), York County (cash), City of Chesapeake (cash), City of Franklin (cash), City of Hampton (cash), City of Newport News (cash), City of Norfolk (cash), City of Poquoson (cash), City of Suffolk (cash), City of Virginia Beach (cash), City of Williamsburg (cash)

Goal: To expand the pool of qualified workers in GO Virginia Region 5 by creating a comprehensive talent attraction portal and lead-management system to recruit and retain talent for the region's priority industries.

Outcomes:

- 70 jobs created
- 20 new interns placed
- 35 businesses served

GOVA Request: $200,000

Total Match: $100,000
Local Match: $20,000

Project Budget: $300,000

Additional Leverage: $ -

Workgroup Recommendation: Approve

Region 6: Extended and New Pathways with Stafford and Caroline Counties

Targeted Industry Cluster(s): IT/Data Centers, Distriburion and Logistics, and Professional Services

Applicant: Stafford County Public Schools

Investment Strategy: Talent Development

Participating Localities: Stafford County Public Schools (cash and in-kind), Caroline County Public Schools (in-kind)

Goal: To create pathways and training opportunities for high school students to attain certificates, dual enrollment credits, four-year degrees, and/or go directly into employment.

Outcomes:

- 250 people trained
- 7 new programs implemented
- 250 credentials awarded

GOVA Request: $965,601

Total Match: $482,800.77
Local Match: $482,800.77

Project Budget: $1,459,476.77

Additional Leverage: $11,075

Workgroup Recommendation: Approve

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IN EACH REGION

Region 7: Life Sciences Innovation and Future Talent (LIFT-VA)

Targeted Industry Cluster(s): Life Sciences

Applicant: Future Kings

Investment Strategy: Talent Development

Participating Localities: Loudoun County (in-kind), Loudoun County Public Schools (in-kind), Prince William County (in-kind), Prince William County Public Schools (in-kind)

Goal: To grow the regional life sciences workforce pipeline from middle school through graduate education laboratory training, credentials, internships, and employment pathways.

Products:

- Implementation of ACE approved STEM curriculum

Outcomes:

- 340 people trained
- 150 job placements
- 10 businesses served
- 60 interns placed
- 20 apprenticeships created

Outcomes, cont.:

- 300 credentials awarded

GOVA Request: $2,383,000

Total Match: $1,193,040
Local Match: $250,000

Project Budget: $3,576,040

Additional Leverage: $-

Workgroup Recommendation: Approve

iii. Competitive Grant Applications

- 3 Project Proposals
- 4 out of 9 Regions Participated

Industry Cluster Targets:

Advanced Manufacturing,

Professional and Business Services

IT and Emerging Technology

Investment Strategies:

- 1 Cluster Scale-Up Project,
- 2 Talent Development Projects

GO Virginia Request: $5,740,844

Total Match: $2,871,400

Local Match: $254,197

GO VIRGINIA

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GROWTH & OPPORTUNITY
IN EACH REGION

Regions 2 and 3: AM2 Initiative to Grow Advanced Manufacturing

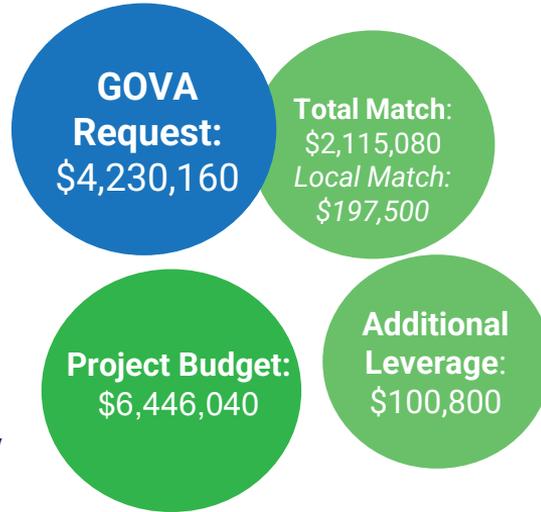**Targeted Industry Cluster(s):** Advanced Manufacturing

Applicant: New River Valley Regional Commission (NRVRC)

Investment Strategy: Cluster Scale Up

Participating Localities: New River Valley Regional Commission on behalf of its member localities [City of Radford, Pulaski County, Giles County, Montgomery County, and Floyd County] (in-kind), West Piedmont Planning District Commission on behalf of its member localities [Town of Rocky Mount, City of Danville, City of Martinsville, Franklin County, Henry County, Patrick County, and Pittsylvania County] (in-kind), Southern Virginia Regional Alliance of behalf of its member localities [City of Danville, Halifax County, Mecklenburg County, Patrick County, and Pittsylvania County] (in-kind), Lynchburg Regional Business Alliance on behalf of its member localities [City of Lynchburg, Amherst County, Appomattox County, and Campbell County] (in-kind), Roanoke Regional Partnership on behalf of its member localities [Alleghany County, Botetourt County, City of Covington, Franklin County, City of Roanoke, Roanoke County, City of Salem, and the Town of Vinton] (in-kind), Onward New River Valley on behalf of its member localities [[City of Radford, Pulaski County, Giles County, Montgomery County, and Floyd County] (cash and in-kind), Giles County (in-kind), Floyd County (in-kind), Montgomery County (cash and in-kind), Roanoke County (cash and in-kind), Halifax County (in-kind), City of Danville (in-kind), Botetourt County (in-kind), Pulaski County (in-kind), City of Radford (in-kind), Pittsylvania County (in-kind), and the Town of Bedford (in-kind).

GOVA Request: $4,230,160

Total Match: $2,115,080
Local Match: $197,500

Project Budget: $6,446,040

Additional Leverage: $100,800

Workgroup Recommendation: Approve

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
Partners for Better Communities

Regions 2 and 3: AM2 Initiative to Grow Advanced Manufacturing, cont.

Targeted Industry Cluster(s): Advanced Manufacturing

Applicant: New River Valley Regional Commission (NRVRC)

Goal: To expand the additive materials and advanced manufacturing sector in Regions 2 and 3 through a combination of talent development and cluster scale-up activities.

Products:
- Creation of the AM2 Fellows Program
- Establishment of two AM2 Studios
- Establishment of the AM2 Consortium
- Establishment of the AM2 Innovation Fund
- Develop a nationally recognized AM2 Credential

Outcomes:
- 10 people trained
- 25 new interns placed
- 4 new apprenticeships created
- 1 new program created

Outcomes, cont.:
- 3 new business mentors
- 100 jobs created
- 1 business attracted
- 1 business expanded
- 40 businesses served
- $2,000,000 raised by businesses served

GOVA Request: $4,230,160

Total Match: $2,115,080
Local Match: $197,500

Project Budget: $6,446,040

Additional Leverage: $100,800

Workgroup Recommendation: Approve

VIRGINIA INITIATIVE FOR **GROWTH & OPPORTUNITY** IN EACH REGION

GO VIRGINIA

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
Partners for Better Communities

Regions 6 and 9: AI Mobile Unit for Workforce and Education

Targeted Industry Cluster(s): Professional and Business Services, IT and Emerging Technology

Applicant: The Cyber Bytes Foundation

Investment Strategy: Talent Development

Participating Localities: Fauquier County (advisory), King George County (in-kind), Nelson County (in-kind), Orange County (cash and in-kind), Rappahannock County (in-kind), Spotsylvania County (in-kind), and Stafford County (in-kind).

Goal: To address the limited availability of accessible, industry-credential–aligned AI literacy and certification training for students, educators, and adults within the region's targeted industry clusters.

Outcomes:

- 2080 people trained
- 20 businesses served
- 280 credentials awarded
- 1 new program implemented
- 100 students completing dual enrollment

GOVA Request: $1,079,109

Total Match: $549,728
Local Match: $40,985

Project Budget: $1,899,639

Additional Leverage: $280,800

Workgroup Recommendation: Approve

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
Partners for Better Communities

Region 6: CNC Machining Program at RCC

Targeted Industry Cluster(s): Manufacturing

Applicant: Rappahannock Community College Educational Foundation

Investment Strategy: Talent Development

Participating Localities: Gloucester County (in-kind), King and Queen County (in-kind), Middlesex County (in-kind), Northumberland County (in-kind), Lancaster County (cash and in-kind), and the Town of West Point (in-kind).

Goal: To expand the pool of qualified workers in the manufacturing industry within Region 6.

Outcomes:

- 36 people trained
- 30 job placements
- 3 new programs implemented
- 108 credentials awarded

GOVA Request: $431,575

Total Match: $216,592
Local Match: $15,712

Project Budget: $673,817

Additional Leverage: $25,650

Workgroup Recommendation: Approve

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
Partners for Better Communities

VII. Legislative/Budget Update

IX. Information Items

- *DHCD Administratively Approved Planning Grants*
    - *Region 6 – Advancing Virginia Shellfish*
    - *Region 7 – The PIVOT Academy*
    - *Region 8 – Buzzins Commercial Kitchen and Entrepreneurship Hub*

X. Adjournment

Future Meeting Schedule

- 2026
    - June 9th (virtual)
    - September 15th (in-person) – Business Meeting and Board Retreat
    - December 8th (virtual)