



OVERVIEW

GO Virginia provides incentives which are matched with local, federal, and private funds to encourage collaboration at the regional level to grow and diversify the economy of each region and ultimately the Commonwealth. GO Virginia's purpose statement is, "GO Virginia will create more higher paying jobs through incentivized collaboration, primarily through out-of-state revenue, which diversifies and strengthens the economy in every region." GO Virginia brings together leaders from business, higher education, local government, workforce, economic development, and planning to ensure alignment of resources, the closing of skills gaps, and that each region finds success; this will lead to a growing and diversified Virginia economy.

The GO Virginia Board is the state-wide oversight group for the GO Virginia initiative; there are nine Regional Councils that will work at the regional level to develop strategies to grow the region's economy. The Regional Councils submit recommended projects to the GO Virginia Board for approval and funding.

The GO Virginia 8 Regional Council is comprised of 28 members that represent a variety of industry sectors and localities. Region 8 includes the counties of Augusta, Bath, Clarke, Frederick, Highland, Page, Rockbridge, Rockingham, Shenandoah, and Warren; and the cities of Buena Vista, Harrisonburg, Lexington, Staunton, Waynesboro, and Winchester.

Regional Council 8 is supported by four organizations whose purposes and competencies include collaborative planning, grant management, economic development and workforce activities within the region. The four support organizations are the Shenandoah Valley Partnership, Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission, Northern Shenandoah Valley Regional Commission, and the Shenandoah Valley Workforce Development Board. Together they provide fiduciary oversight and administrative services for the activities funded by monies received from GO Virginia. The support organizations operate with the advice and consent of the Regional Council.

Information about GO Virginia may be found on the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development's website at: <http://www.dhcd.virginia.gov/index.php/go-virginia.html>

GO Virginia Region 8 information is available on the Shenandoah Valley Partnership's website at: <http://www.shenandoah-valley.biz/tools-resources/go-virginia/>

APPLICATION GUIDELINES

The GO Virginia Region 8 Council is now accepting proposals for funding, and anticipates funding multiple awards. All projects must respond directly to the Region 8 Growth & Diversification Plan which can be found at the following link: <http://www.shenandoah-valley.biz/tools-resources/go-virginia/go-virginia-region-8-growth-diversification-plan/>

Available Funding as of March 1, 2018

- \$828,000 in per capita funds for award in Region 8
- \$11,300,000 in competitive state-wide funds for inter-regional projects

Qualifying Projects

To meet the economic development qualifications of the GO Virginia initiative, projects must:

- Lead to the creation of jobs that pay higher than the regional median wage (\$41,000 annually), primarily from out-of-state revenue. This requires a focus on industries with high growth potential, featuring in-demand occupations with higher wages.
- Include two or more localities that commit to provide matching funds of at least \$50,000 for projects up to \$250,000, or 20% for projects greater than \$250,000. The State GO Virginia Board may partially waive this requirement upon the recommendation of the Region 8 Council and the State Board's finding that the written request for a waiver clearly demonstrates that the project serves more than 50% of Region 8's population and creates an exceptional economic opportunity within the collaborating localities.
- Include a dollar for dollar match from non-state appropriated sources such as non-state public entities, private, federal, or local funds or in-kind commitments.

Targeted Industries

Region 8's Targeted Industry sectors were selected based on projected job growth, higher paying jobs, and emphasis on export-oriented activity. The Regional Council will consider projects in any of the following five industries that were determined to possess the greatest economic potential for Region 8:

- Health Care
- Financial and Business Services
- IT/Communications
- Light Manufacturing
- Transportation and Logistics

Eligible Project Categories

The Regional Council will consider projects that support at least one of following activities:

- Talent Development
Project aims to attract, develop, and retain a productive workforce that aligns with the demands of the region's businesses.
- Growing Existing Businesses
Project seeks to further develop regional assets in order to encourage additional economic activity.
- Startups/Innovation/Commercialization
Projects enable the region to stay on top of industry and economic changes and support resources that are most crucial to maintaining a strong entrepreneurial ecosystem.
- Sites
Projects ensure the physical capacity necessary to accommodate business expansion and new industry through site improvement and new site development.

The Region 8 Council may award enhanced capacity building funds for a project not otherwise suitable for a collaborative grant award. Support organization staff may discuss the appropriateness of enhanced capacity building awards for projects that would not have immediate economic outcomes. As an example,

a larger future project request might require pre-development activities (such as an assessment or planning or feasibility study), which the Regional Council may want to encourage through a small amount of capacity-building award funding. A capacity-building award shall be no more than \$100,000.

APPLICATION & AWARD PROCESS

- Interested applicants should review the Region 8 Economic Growth and Diversification Plan prior to submitting a project application.
- Interested applicants are encouraged to contact the support organization, below, to discuss the project prior to completing a project application.
- Project partners including at least two localities must be identified.
- The application questions should be completed using Microsoft Word.
- Total budget costs including anticipated GO Virginia request and matching fund sources should be provided.
- The completed application should be emailed to bonnie@cspdc.org.
- Applications are received by the support organization and reviewed by a committee of the Region 8 Council for its funding recommendation to the full Region 8 Council. Following review, the applicant may be requested to provide additional information or refine the proposal.
- Recommended projects are submitted to the GO Virginia Board through an online application coordinated by the Region 8 support organizations. The information provided by the applicant will be used to complete the online application.
- The GO Virginia Board evaluates projects based on economic impact, regional collaboration, project readiness, and project sustainability and innovation. Refer to scoring criteria available at <http://www.dhcd.virginia.gov/index.php/component/content/article/335.html>.
- If approved by the GO Virginia Board, the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development will execute a primary funding contract with the Northern Shenandoah Valley Regional Commission which serves as Region 8 Council's fiduciary support organization. An addendum will lay out the scope of work and roles and responsibilities of the project's partners.
- The project shall be completed within two years of funding.

APPLICATION DEADLINES

Applications for GO Virginia Region 8 funds are due the first Friday of every other month as listed below:

- April 6, 2018
- June 1, 2018
- August 3, 2018
- October 5, 2018

Completed applications should be submitted to:

Bonnie Riedesel, Executive Director
Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission
112 MacTanly Place
Staunton, VA 24401
(540) 885-5174
bonnie@cspdc.org

CONTACT INFORMATION

For information about the Region 8 Council, contact:

Carrie Chenery, Executive Director
Shenandoah Valley Partnership
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Harrisonburg, VA 22801
(540) 568-3259
chenerch@jmu.edu