



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

AGENDA
VIRGINIA GROWTH AND OPPORTUNITY BOARD GOVERNANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE

Library of Virginia
800 E. Broad St.
Richmond, VA 23219

[Virtual Link](#)

March 24, 2026
11:00 A.M.

- I. OPENING
 - a. Call to order Chair
 - b. Roll Call Cody Anderson
 - c. Public Comment Chair

- II. Consent Agenda – **Action Item** Chair
 - a. Approval of July 30, 2025, Meeting Minutes
 - b. Approval of December 15, 2025, Meeting Minutes

- III. Staff Report
 - a. JLARC Recommendations Roadmap Cody Anderson
 - b. Recommendation 16: Raising the \$250,000 Planning Grant Limit Discussion Cody Anderson

- IV. Discussion Items Chair
 - a. GO Virginia Briefing on Virginia State Efforts to Support Childcare Jack Honig

- V. Information Item Cody Anderson
 - a. Board Membership Turnover Report

- VI. ADJOURNMENT Chair

FY2026 Committee Meeting Calendar
Tuesday, May 19 (virtual)
Tuesday, September 15 (in-person)
Tuesday, November 17 (virtual)



VIRGINIA GROWTH AND OPPORTUNITY BOARD GOVERNANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE

July 30, 2025

3:00 PM

Virtual Meeting

Members Present

Nancy Howell Agee
 Jim Cheng
 The Honorable Stephen Cummings
 Heywood Fralin
 Joel Griffin
 Kenneth Johnson
 Senator L. Louise Lucas
 Emily O'Quinn

Members Absent

Delegate Luke Torian

Call to Order

Ms. Emily O'Quinn, Chair of the Virginia Growth and Opportunity (GO Virginia) Board Governance and Policy Committee, called the meeting to order.

Roll Call

Mr. Cody Anderson, GO Virginia Program Administrator for the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD), called the roll and noted that a quorum was present.

Public Comment

Ms. O'Quinn opened the floor for public comment.

No members of the public appeared before the Committee for the public comment period.

The public comment period was closed.

Consent Agenda

Ms. O'Quinn noted that the consent agenda consisted of the March 1, 2025, meeting minutes.

A motion was made by Ms. Agee and seconded by Mr. Fralin to approve the minutes. The motion passed (Yea: Agee, Cummings, Fralin, Griffin, Lucas, O'Quinn; Nay: None).

Nomination of Officers

Chair O'Quinn recognized Nancy Agee to conduct the nomination of officers.

Ms. Agee announced that three candidates had emerged as interested candidates for the three pending Board leadership positions: Emily O'Quinn for the position of Chair, Jim Cheng for the position of Vice Chair of Program Performance and Evaluation, and John King for the position of Vice Chair of Regional Councils.

A motion was made by Ms. Agee and seconded by Mr. Fralin to nominate Emily O'Quinn for the position of Chair of the Board. The motion passed (Yea: Agee, Cummings, Fralin, Griffin, Lucas; Nay: None; Abstention: O'Quinn).

A motion was made by Ms. Agee and seconded by Ms. O'Quinn to nominate Jim Cheng for the position of Vice Chair of Program Performance and Evaluation. The motion passed (Yea: Agee, Cummings, Fralin, Griffin, Lucas, O'Quinn; Nay: None).

A motion was made by Ms. Agee and seconded by Senator Lucas to nominate John King for the position of Vice Chair of Regional Councils. The motion passed (Yea: Agee, Cummings, Fralin, Griffin, Johnson, Lucas, O'Quinn; Nay: None).

Staff Report

Mr. Anderson provided an overview of the roadmap for addressing the JLARC report on GO Virginia's recommendations.

Mr. Anderson led a discussion about a JLARC recommendation that suggested either eliminating local match requirements or reducing the local match from 20% to 10%. Mr. Anderson noted that staff recommends not taking action on this item due to rapid changes in the overall match policy resulting from legislative changes during the most recent General Assembly session. Mr. Anderson explained that if the Board noticed a concerning trend in resource utilization, the committee could choose to take action on this recommendation at a later date.

Mr. Anderson presented a JLARC recommendation that suggested increasing the amount of planning money a region may access

from \$250,000 of their per capita allocation to 25% of their per capita allocation and to raise the cap on individual planning efforts from \$100,000. Mr. Anderson noted that staff had completed an initial analysis of planning grant conversions to implementation. The analysis concluded that approximately 51% of GO Virginia planning grants either led to an implementation or led to a recommendation to not move forward with further implementation. Mr. Anderson noted that during the analysis, staff noted several inconsistencies with Board policy and administrative guidance, and in order to better prepare for a recommendation on the recommendation, staff would like more time to evaluate those inconsistencies.

Mr. Anderson provided an overview of a recommended change to Board policy to create flexibility in GO Virginia regional planning grant limits. Mr. Anderson noted that currently, the \$250,000 limit on planning activities for a region includes both site planning applications and normal planning applications. Staff recommended adopting a change to board policy which would exclude site planning and broadband planning activities from counting toward a region's planning grant cap.

A motion was made by Mr. Johnson and seconded by Ms. Agee to approve the policy amendment as presented. The motion passed (Yea: Agee, Cheng, Cummings, Fralin, Griffin, Johnson, Lucas, O'Quinn; Nay: None).

Information Items

Mr. Anderson noted that the information item in the Committee packet included a Board Membership Turnover Report, detailing new Board appointments and upcoming member term expirations.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned.



VIRGINIA GROWTH AND OPPORTUNITY BOARD GOVERNANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE

December 15, 2025

10:30 AM

600 E. Main St.

Richmond, VA 23219

Members Present

Jim Cheng

The Honorable Stephen Cummings (virtual –
Richmond, Virginia)

Cliff Fleet

Heywood Fralin

Kenneth Johnson (virtual – Richmond, Virginia)

Members Absent

Joel Griffin

Senator L. Louise Lucas

Delegate Luke Torian

Call to Order

Mr. Cliff Fleet, Chair of the Virginia Growth and Opportunity (GO Virginia) Board Governance and Policy Committee, called the meeting to order.

Roll Call

Mr. Cody Anderson, GO Virginia Program Administrator for the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD), called the roll and noted that a quorum was not present.

Public Comment

Mr. Fleet opened the floor for public comment.

No members of the public appeared before the Committee for the public comment period.

The public comment period was closed.

Consent Agenda

Mr. Fleet noted that because a quorum was not present, a vote would not be taken on the July 30 meeting minutes and the proposed 2026 meeting calendar.

Staff Report

Ms. Sara Dunnigan, Deputy Director of Economic Development and Community Vitality at DHCD, provided the Committee with an overview of the Committee's charter.

Ms. Shara Gibson, GO Virginia Program Manager at DHCD, provided the Committee with an overview of the GO Virginia Board self-assessment and new member orientation process. After discussion, the Committee noted that the application workgroup review process is the best way to bolster Board member program knowledge and directed staff to explore steps to make participation in the process mandatory.

Mr. Anderson provided the Committee with an overview of the Joint Legislative and Audit Review Commission Recommendation Roadmap. Mr. Anderson noted that Policy Consideration 2 regarding giving small organizations an amount of their grant award at the beginning of their grant is paused for consideration as DHCD develops an agency-wide policy for similar scenarios across the agency.

Mr. Anderson presented a JLARC recommendation that suggested increasing the amount of planning money a region may access from \$250,000 of their per capita allocation to 25% of their per capita allocation and to raise the cap on individual planning efforts from \$100,000. Mr. Anderson noted that recent changes to GO Virginia Board Policy created flexibility in the planning grant cap by excluding site development planning and broadband planning projects from the cap. After discussion, the Committee directed staff to perform an analysis of the impact of these changes.

Discussion Items

Ms. Dunnigan provided an overview of the enabling legislation for the GO Virginia program as well as information on GO Virginia Board Policies in the context of considering early childhood education and childcare as an eligible GO Virginia funding activity. After discussion, the Committee directed staff to conduct a review of similar policies and initiatives across the Commonwealth and across the country for review at the next Committee meeting.

Ms. Gibson provided the Committee with an overview of the 2025 State Board Retreat and solicited feedback from the Committee ahead of planning for the 2026 Retreat.

Information Items

Mr. Anderson provided an overview of the Board Membership and Turnover Report. Mr. Anderson noted that three members would have their terms expiring in 2026: John King, Kenneth Johnson, and Jon Peterson. Mr. Anderson explained that gubernatorial appointees wishing to be considered for reappointment should apply through the website of the Secretary of the Commonwealth and members appointed by the Speaker of the House of Delegates should reach out to the Speaker's Office with interest in being reappointed.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned.

DRAFT



Memorandum

TO: GO Virginia Governance and Policy Committee Members

FROM: DHCD Staff

RE: JLARC Recommendations Review Roadmap

DATE: 3/24/2026

BACKGROUND:

On December 10, 2023, the Joint Legislative Audit Review Commission released its report on the [Growth and Opportunity Virginia \(GO Virginia\) Program](#). This report culminated in sixteen recommendations as well as two additional policy options. At the December 11, 2023 meeting of the GO Virginia Board, Board leadership announced the intention of dividing consideration of the JLARC recommendations amongst three of the Board's committees: the Program Performance and Evaluation Committee, the Governance and Policy Committee, and the Healthcare Taskforce.

Currently, the GO Virginia Governance and Policy Committee has two JLARC recommendations to consider. The first, Recommendation 16, pertains to potentially raising the amount of planning grant capacity a region may access from \$250,000 to 25% of their per capita allocation. The second, Policy Recommendation 2, recommends the Board consider allowing smaller, lower capacity organizations to access a portion of their grant funds up-front without the need for immediate reimbursement documentation.

Recommendation/ Policy Consideration Number	JLARC Report Recommendation	Committee Responsibility	Notes	Status
5	The GO Virginia board should revise its policies to include a more detailed definition of traded sector activities, modeled on definition used by the Virginia Economic Development Partnership's Virginia Jobs Investment Program, which can be used to determine project eligibility.	Governance and Policy Committee	Status - Complete The GO Virginia Board approved an amendment to Board Policy #4 on September 10, 2024, which defined traded sector activities.	COMPLETE: At the September 10, 2024 meeting of the Board, an amendment to Board Policy #4 was adopted, which defined traded sector activities.
7	The GO Virginia board should replace the eligibility requirement that all grant projects must create higher wage jobs with a requirement that all grant projects must create a new or expanded workforce or economic development activity.	Governance and Policy Committee	Status - Complete The Governance and Policy Committee discussed this item on September 10, 2024. Staff conducted an audit of all program documents and clarified language to focus on traded industries as the program focus.	Complete: At the September 10, 2024 meeting of the Board, the Governance and Policy Committee reported that a review of existing policy and guidance had occurred and the Committee determined that higher wage jobs are not a project eligibility requirement. The Committee reported that staff had conducted a review of existing policies and guidance and inserted clarifying language where applicable that the GO Virginia program is designed to promote growth in traded industry
8	The GO Virginia board should either eliminate or reduce the local match requirement for all grants.	Governance and Policy Committee	Status - Complete The Governance and Policy Committee chose to take no action on this item at the July 30, 2025 Committee meeting.	COMPLETE: This item was discussed at the July 30, 2025 meeting of the Governance and Policy Committee. The Committee chose to take no action on the recommendation, citing recent changes in match requirements that reduced the program's local match requirement. This decision was presented to the GO Virginia Board at the September 9, 2025 meeting.
9	The GO Virginia Board should expand eligibility requirements for statewide competitive funds by making these grants available to (i) any region that has awarded or is about to award all or almost all of its per capita funds in a given year and is not carrying a significant unobligated funding balance, and (ii) projects that require a grant amount that is equal to or greater than half of the region's unobligated per capita funds. Projects that involve multiple regions should continue to be eligible for these funds.	Governance and Policy Committee	Status - Complete Guidelines adopting these recommendations were formalized at the December, 2023 meeting of the State Board.	COMPLETE: At the March 12, 2024 meeting of the Governance and Policy Committee, the Committee reviewed changes made to the administrative guidance governing the Competitive Fund that were approved by the Board at the December 12, 2023 meeting of the Board. The Committee concluded that those approved changes addressed this recommendation.
11	The GO Virginia board should revise its policies to delegate grant approval authority to the director of the Department of Housing and Community Development for any regional per capita implementation grant that has been dutifully reviewed and approved by a regional council and recommended for administrative approval by a board designated workgroup.	Governance and Policy Committee	Status - Complete The Governance and Policy Committee discussed this item on March 11, 2024 and chose to take no action on the item, citing the limited impact on the timeline of grant approval. This was communicated to the Board at the March 11, 2024 Board meeting.	COMPLETE: At the March 11, 2024 meeting of the Governance and Policy Committee, the Committee reviewed the timeline for the review of grants. The Committee concluded that increased delegated authority to the Director of the Department of Housing and Community Development for those projects that had been dutifully reviewed and approved by a Regional Council and approved by a Board designated workgroup would not meaningfully accelerate the approval process for grants. The Committee chose to take no action on this item and this was reported to the Board at its September 12 meeting.
15	The GO Virginia board should adopt a policy that defines a cycle for full and lighter reviews of regional growth and diversification plans.	Governance and Policy Committee	Status - Complete This recommendation was adopted by DHCD staff by way of a stakeholder engagement process. This was discussed at the Committees March 11, 2025 meeting.	COMPLETE: DHCD staff has engaged stakeholders to determine the best path forward for defined cycles of Regional Growth and Diversification Plan Review. These stakeholder sessions have resulted in a process of alternating full and light review cycles, now defined as "full reviews" and "interim reviews". DHCD staff will report further progress on these reviews to the Governance and Policy Committee at the Spring meeting.

Recommendation/ Policy Consideration Number	JLARC Report Recommendation	Committee Responsibility	Notes	Status
16	The GO Virginia board should revise its policies to allow regions to award up to 25 percent of their annually allocated per capita funds for planning grants and raise or eliminate the \$100,000 per grant limit.	Governance and Policy Committee	This recommendation is in progress and further review of DHCD guidelines are ongoing.	IN PROGRESS: DHCD staff provided an overview of data of planning to implementation conversion rates for planning grants at the July 30, 2025 meeting of the Committee. At the December 15, 2025 meeting of the Governance and Policy Committee, the Committee requested data to determine the additional flexibilities that have been afforded with recent policy changes removing site and broadband planning from counting against the \$250,000 planning grant limit.
Policy Consideration 2	The GO Virginia board could revise its policies to allow smaller organizations, which meet criteria specified by the board, to receive a portion of their GO Virginia award at the start of the grant period.	Governance and Policy Committee	GO Virginia has traditionally been a reimbursement based grant, making this recommendation logistically challenging from a fiscal standpoint. Further internal evaluation will be required.	IN PROGRESS: DHCD staff is working internally with DHCD's Fiscal Department to formalize a Department wide policy for utilizing similar processes for up-front allocation of grant funds. This recommendation will be discussed at a future meeting of the Committee once this policy is finalized.



Memorandum

TO: GO Virginia Governance and Policy Committee Members

FROM: DHCD Staff

RE: JLARC Recommendation #16 – Increasing Planning Grant Limits

DATE: 03/24/2026

BACKGROUND:

As part of the 2023 JLARC Report regarding the GO Virginia Program, the Commission adopted a series of recommendations. Specifically, Recommendation 16 recommended that the Board amend its policy on planning grant caps by modifying the total amount allowed for planning efforts from the current cap of \$250,000 a year for all regions and adjusting the maximum amount for an individual planning grant from the current cap of \$100,000.

The specific language of recommendation #16 reads as follows:

“The GO Virginia board should revise its policies to allow regions to award up to 25 percent of their annually allocated per capita funds for planning grants and raise or eliminate the \$100,000 per grant limit.

The GO Virginia State Board initially adopted Board Policy #3 in 2018, establishing two rules regarding the use of regional per capita allocations for planning grants.

- 1. The Board limited the resources that any Region could allocate in a single fiscal year for planning to \$250,000. It was envisioned that a small subset of the Regional allocations could be utilized as a pipeline development tool for future implementation projects while also keeping a majority of the regional funds focused on implementation efforts.
- 2. The Board limited the resources that an applicant could request for a single planning effort to \$100,000 (for administrative approval). Planning efforts in excess of \$100,000 must be approved by the GO Virginia State Board.

DHCD analyzed the impact of Planning, Pilot, Feasibility Grants, or Planning Grants, by reviewing 72 GO Virginia planning grants. The goal was to assess the outcomes of these grants and determine if they have successfully transitioned into full-scale projects, either within or outside the GO Virginia framework. DHCD found that planning grant activities resulted in implementation activities at a rate of approximately 51%.

As a result of this review, staff found opportunities to improve alignment across Board Policies #3 and #9, as well as DHCD planning grant administrative guidance. The changes to the respective board policies have created flexibility for regions by excluding site development planning projects and broadband planning projects from counting toward the \$250,000 planning grant limit. Administrative guidance for the planning has also been strengthened to ensure that funded planning projects have a stronger emphasis on future GO Virginia fundable implementation.

Attached to this memorandum are two tables detailing planning grant allowance utilization and quantifying how much of the planning grant limit has been utilized for the purposes of site planning and broadband planning over the history of the program.

Total Planning Grant Funding with % of \$250,000 Cap Used

Year	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
FY18	\$212,738 85%	\$142,501 57%	\$79,920 32%	\$48,924 20%	\$46,559 19%	\$222,548 89%		\$78,811 32%	\$228,799 92%
FY19	\$178,927 72%	\$211,448 85%	\$187,933 75%	\$196,098 78%	\$248,397 99%	\$121,454 49%	\$173,031 69%	\$120,265 48%	\$71,717 29%
FY20	\$70,000 28%	\$200,000 80%		\$131,231 52%	\$210,544 84%		\$196,361 79%	\$100,000 40%	\$94,668 38%
FY21	\$134,356 54%	\$194,859 78%	\$77,316 31%	\$156,391 63%	\$248,677 99%				
FY22	\$240,000 96%	\$194,283 78%	\$263,457 105%		\$283,233 113%	\$228,916 92%	\$226,618 91%		\$100,000 40%
FY23	\$47,184 19%				\$122,400 49%	\$232,074 93%			\$100,000 40%
FY24	\$182,198 73%	\$109,807 44%	\$20,997 8%	\$87,490 35%	\$32,538 13%	\$92,203 37%	\$262,226 105%	\$226,893 91%	
FY25	\$249,306 100%	\$194,400 78%	\$252,000 101%	\$100,000 40%	\$235,292 94%	\$72,100 29%		\$87,450 35%	\$200,000 80%
FY26		\$197,199 79%	\$92,000 37%	\$100,000 40%	\$100,000 40%	\$280,842 112%	\$249,600 100%		

This table highlights the yearly utilization of the planning grant capacity by region, both as a dollar figure and as a percentage of the potential available (\$250,000). Each region has utilized their planning grant allocations to varying degrees that largely fluctuate from year to year.

Site Development - Total Planning Grant Funding Used with % of \$250,000 Cap

Year	1	2	3	4	5	6	8	9
FY18	\$89,248 36%					\$93,305 37%		\$55,500 22%
FY19	\$127,928 51%	\$69,345 28%	\$99,018 40%	\$96,098 38%	\$65,000 26%			
FY20		\$100,000 40%					\$100,000 40%	
FY21				\$95,095 38%				
FY22			\$64,279 26%		\$100,000 40%			
FY23						\$100,000 40%		
FY24	\$157,198 63%		\$20,997 8%				\$155,893 62%	
FY25	\$99,306 40%	\$94,400 38%	\$100,000 40%		\$35,392 14%			
FY26			\$92,000 37%	\$100,000 40%				

This table demonstrates how much of the planning grant limit has been utilized for site development planning related activities each year, both as a dollar figure and as a percentage of the yearly planning grant limit (\$250,000). Moving forward, site planning activities will create flexibility so that these activities will not count against the planning grant limit, affording each region additional planning capacity.



Memorandum

TO: GO Virginia Governance and Policy Committee Members

FROM: DHCD Staff

RE: GO Virginia Briefing on Virginia State Efforts to Support Childcare

DATE: 03/24/2026

BACKGROUND:

At the September 9, 2025, meeting of the GO Virginia State Board, the Board received an application from GO Virginia Region 2 to request funding support for a business plan for the operation of a to-be-constructed childcare facility. This application was accompanied by public comments from several regional councils urging the Board to consider funding projects to support early childhood education and childcare-related projects. In response to the application and public comment, this topic was referred to the Governance and Policy Committee for consideration.

The enabling legislation for the GO Virginia Program, § 2.2-2487, outlines the uses of GO Virginia funds:

“B. Moneys in the Fund shall be used to facilitate regional collaboration on economic growth and diversification. Specifically, the Fund shall be used to incentivize and encourage cooperation among business, education, and government on regional strategic economic development and workforce development efforts.”

The Code of Virginia also authorizes the Board to develop and implement guidelines and procedures for the application for and use of any moneys in the Fund.

The Board has adopted Board Policy #4, which establishes the following;

“It is the policy of the Virginia Growth and Opportunity Board that program funds shall be used to support the growth of prioritized traded industry clusters as identified in each Regional Council’s Economic Growth and Diversification Plan.”

This policy also allows the Board to adopt superseding policies that make targeted exceptions to this policy, should a challenge be identified, that would otherwise hinder the growth of traded industry clusters.

The Board has funded one childcare-related proposal in its history. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Board created the Economic Recovery and Resilience Program. This program created wide-ranging program flexibilities, guidance, and policy exemptions to allow localities and applicants to propose critical projects in response to the pandemic that may not have otherwise been allowed.

This allowed the State Board to consider the United Way of Southwest Virginia – Employer-Sponsored Childcare Benefit. The goal of this project was to increase labor force participation rates in Southwest Virginia by piloting a program that coordinated with employee funding, employer match, and private foundation funds to subsidize the cost of childcare for employees and prospective employees. GO Virginia funds for this project were used for salaries of United Way employees to coordinate the effort.

This project closed and reported that of the 38 jobs that were projected to be filled through the effort, only 8 were realized. The applicant noted that this was not due to a lack of interest in the project, but due to a pervasive regional lack of childcare availability for employees to access.

Attached to this memo, DHCD staff has developed a briefing on the childcare topic, including an overview of current investments made by the Commonwealth on childcare, as well as notes on current legislation being considered by the General Assembly to address childcare challenges.

GO Virginia Briefing on Virginia’s State Efforts to Support Childcare

Background

At a recent State Board meeting, an application proposing childcare-related investments was submitted for consideration. This has prompted discussion regarding the appropriate role of GO Virginia in addressing childcare as an economic issue.

Supply and Demand

Across the Commonwealth and the United States as a whole, a lack of affordable childcare has been recognized as a clear inhibitor to economic development. As such, nearly every state and many localities across the nation have invested in efforts to provide affordable childcare. In Virginia, the demand and supply of affordable childcare vary from region to region. As such, the Virginia Early Childhood Foundation (VECF) has developed nine “Ready Regions” which have some (but not full) alignment with the Various GO Virginia Regions. The [regional details](#) can be seen in the table below but point to two main themes: the demand and supply for affordable childcare varies significantly for each region, and publicly funded childcare slots serve far below half of all income-eligible children across each region.

Ready Region [GOVA Region(s)]	Demand under 85% State Median Income	Early Childhood Care and Education Capacity (must be publicly funded)	Demand to Supply Ratio	Publicly Funded Slots (FY25)	% of Income-Eligible possible to serve With Publicly Funded (FY25)
1 [1, 2]	17,931	10,344	1.733:1	4,994	27.9%
2 [2, 3, 8]	17,321	11,026	1.571:1	4,475	25.8%
3 [2, 3]	20,723	10,627	1.950:1	4,978	24.0%
4 [4]	44,910	32,557	1.379:1	10,135	22.6%
5 [5]	53,955	26,526	2.034:1	10,127	18.8%
6 [5, 6]	24,925	14,683	1.698:1	5,444	21.8%
7 [7]	28,027	33,535	0.836:1	8,271	29.5%
8 [6, 7, 9]	39,558	41,407	0.955:1	7,833	19.8%
9 [3, 8, 9]	29,500	13,265	2.224:1	5,389	18.3%
STATE	276,850	193,970	1.427:1	61,646	22.3%

These issues have negatively impacted the labor supply for Virginia as a whole, thereby decreasing the economic competitiveness of the state. [A November 2022 Virginia employer](#)

[study](#) commissioned by VECF, the Virginia Chamber Foundation, and the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond found that a full 50% of employer respondents stated that employee childcare issues negatively impacted their businesses. An even more recent [December 2025 Virginia employer study](#) done by the same partners found that 86% of employers said that their employees struggled with childcare expenses, 65% said that their employees couldn't find childcare programs with open seats.

Existing State Investment in Childcare

Virginia currently invests significant amounts of money in childcare, and these efforts have historically been made through several programs overseen by the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE).

Child Care Subsidy Program:

VDOE, together with the Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS), runs the Child Care Subsidy Program (CCSP), which provides subsidized childcare to families of young children where the household income is less than 85% of the state median income for a given household size. CCSP is funded by both General Fund revenues and Federal dollars through pass-throughs from the Child Care Development Fund (CCDF). For FY25 and FY26, Virginia allocated approximately \$400.7 million and \$430.4 million, respectively. ([FY25-26 Biennium State Budget, Page 216](#), and [FY26 Budget Adjustment, Page 77](#))

Virginia Preschool Initiative:

VDOE and VDSS also administer the Virginia Preschool Initiative (VPI), a program to help provide at-risk three-, four- and five-year-olds with preschool by working together with localities via required local matching funds. With the state funds allocated coming from General Fund Revenues, Virginia allocated approximately \$152.5 million and \$156.4 million for FY25 and FY26, respectively. ([FY25-26 Biennium State Budget, Page 216](#), and [FY26 Budget Adjustment, Page 77](#))

Early Childhood Educator Initiative

In FY25, VDOE was allocated \$20 million for the purposes of further developing the Early Childhood Educator Initiative, which aims to increase the quality of and attract new early childhood educators. ([FY25-26 Biennium State Budget, Page 166](#))

Miscellaneous Programs:

During FY25 and FY26, several smaller programs were funded to train early childhood educators, including through UVA (\$700,000 per year) and VCCS (\$350,000 per year).

Recent Statewide Policy Discussions

Given the salience of affordable childcare across the Commonwealth, several initiatives have been proposed by various taskforces set up by entities aligned with both the government and business communities to promote economic development by easing the burden childcare places upon employees.

These groups are often led by coordinated teams from the private, public, and nonprofit sectors, and include teams like the [Virginia Business Roundtable for Early Education](#) (VBREE) and the [Shovel Ready Virginia Taskforce](#). These groups include representatives affiliated with the GO Virginia program in many cases, such as VBREE including GO Virginia as a whole and both GO Virginia Regions 3 and 6 in particular in its membership. Most recently, [a report](#) was published in July 2025 by the Shovel Ready Virginia Task Force with suggested strategies to combat the affordable childcare shortage. In total, this task force developed nine strategies for state-level action. These include the following strategies:

1. Establishing childcare as a policy priority.
2. Identifying a dedicated, robust, and permanent revenue source.
3. Taking a “childcare in all plans and policies” approach.
4. Increasing the speed-to-market for new and expanding childcare operators.
5. Supporting employers to address childcare needs of employees.
6. Identifying and implementing collaborative partnerships.
7. Leveraging private sector approaches to improve the childcare business model.
8. Identifying and enacting policies which lead to a more favorable business climate for childcare operators.
9. Create programs to value, retain, and advance the early educator workforce.

Proposed Budget Adjustments for Childcare for the FY27-FY28 Biennium

While the FY27-FY28 Biennium budget is far from finalized yet, a few changes have been proposed in either accepted budget amendments or the introduced budget. In the introduced budget, CCSP funding is set to approximately \$509 million each year, an increase of \$78.6 million annually compared to FY26. Also in the introduced budget, VPI funding is set at approximately \$170.9 million in FY27 and \$174 million in FY28, being increases of \$20.1 million and \$23.2 million respectively compared to FY26. Lastly, budget amendments have been introduced to begin a Employee Child Care Assistance Program (ECCAP) with at least \$25 million in funding in FY27 on both sides of the legislature, but differences between the two sides exist for the proposed funding for the program.

GO Virginia Investment Consideration

GO Virginia's statutory purpose is to support regional economic growth and diversification through workforce, innovation, industry cluster development, and site readiness investments.

Given:

- The substantial existing state investment in childcare,
- The presence of dedicated agencies with direct program authority,
- And GO Virginia's focus on industry-driven economic development,

Staff recommends that GO Virginia not pursue direct investment in childcare infrastructure or operations. Direct funding for childcare initiatives would duplicate existing state efforts and extend beyond GO Virginia's core economic development mandate. Direct GO Virginia investment would duplicate existing state-administered funding streams and oversight structures.



Memorandum

TO: GO Virginia Governance and Policy Committee Members
FROM: DHCD Staff
RE: Upcoming Expiring Terms and Board Membership Turnover Report
DATE: 3/24/2026

RECENTLY EXPIRED TERMS:

Juan Pablo Segura, Expired 1/17/2026
Stephen Cummings, Expired 1/17/2026
Bryan Slater, Expired 1/17/2026

UPCOMING EXPIRING TERMS:

Gubernatorial Appointees:

Kenneth Johnson, Expiration 06/30/2026 – Eligible for Reappointment
John King, Expiration 06/30/2026 – Eligible for Reappointment

House of Delegates Appointees:

Jonathan Peterson, Expiration 11/4/2026 – Eligible for Reappointment

FULL BOARD ROSTER:

Name	Member Type	GOVA Region	Expiration of Current Term	Seat Requirements
Gubernatorial Appointees:				
VACANT	ex-officio voting member	n/a	Coincident w/ office term	One of four Secretaries from Ag & Forestry, Commerce & Trade, Education, Finance, and Labor; ex-officio
VACANT	ex-officio voting member	n/a	Coincident w/ office term	One of four Secretaries from Ag & Forestry, Commerce & Trade, Education, Finance, and Labor; ex-officio
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VACANT	ex-officio voting member	n/a	Coincident w/ office term	One of four Secretaries from Ag & Forestry, Commerce & Trade, Education, Finance, and Labor; ex-officio
Kenneth Johnson	non-legislative citizen member	4	6/30/2026	significant private-sector business experience
John King	non-legislative citizen member	8	6/30/2026	significant private-sector business experience
Nancy Howell Agee*	non-legislative citizen member	2	6/30/2027	significant private-sector business experience
Emily O'Quinn	non-legislative citizen member	1	6/30/2027	significant private-sector business experience
Cliff Fleet	non-legislative citizen member	5	6/30/2027	significant private-sector business experience
Jim Cheng	non-legislative citizen member	9	6/30/2028	significant private-sector business experience
Reggie Aggarwal	non-legislative citizen member	7	6/30/2028	significant private-sector business experience
Fouad Qreitem	non-legislative citizen member	7	6/30/2028	significant private-sector business experience
William Dotson	non-legislative citizen member	6	6/30/2029	significant private-sector business experience
Thomas Ransom	non-legislative citizen member	4	6/30/2029	significant private-sector business experience

Virginia Senate Appointees:				
Benjamin J. Davenport Jr. *	non-legislative citizen member	3	4/11/2027	Appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules from different regions of the Commonwealth with significant private-sector business experience
Heywood W. Fralin*	non-legislative citizen member	2	4/11/2027	Appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules from different regions of the Commonwealth with significant private-sector business experience
Virginia House of Delegates Appointees:				
Jonathan M. Peterson	non-legislative citizen member	7	11/4/2026	Appointed by the Speaker of the House from different regions of the Commonwealth with significant private-sector business experience
Joel Griffin	non-legislative citizen member	6	01/20/2029	Appointed by the Speaker of the House from different regions of the Commonwealth with significant private-sector business experience
Virginia Senate Members:				
L. Louise Lucas	Senate Member - ex-officio	5	Coincident w/ office term	Chair of Senate Finance and Appropriations Committee
Creigh Deeds	Senate Member	9	Coincident w/ office term	Member of the Senate appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules
Ryan McDougle	Senate Member	4	Coincident w/ office term	Member of the Senate appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules
Virginia House of Delegates Members:				
Don Scott	House Member	5	Coincident w/ office term	Member Appointed by the Speaker of the House
Luke Torian	House Member	7	Coincident w/ office term	Chair of the House Committee on Appropriations

Terry Kilgore	House Member	1	Coincident w/ office term	Member of the House appointed by Speaker of the House
Michelle Maldonado	House Member	7	Coincident w/ office term	Member of the House appointed by Speaker of the House
*Not Eligible for Reappointment				