



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

AGENDA
VIRGINIA GROWTH AND OPPORTUNITY BOARD GOVERNANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE

[Virtual Link](#)
May 19, 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 March 24, 2026, meeting minutes

- III. Staff Report
 - a. JLARC Recommendations Roadmap Cody Anderson
 - b. Policy Consideration 2: Awarding Funds to Small Organizations Discussion Cody Anderson

- IV. Discussion Items Chair
 - a. Talent Attraction and Retention Strategies Cody Anderson, Nicole Overly, and Debbie Melvin

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

- VI. ADJOURNMENT Chair

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



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VIRGINIA GROWTH AND OPPORTUNITY BOARD GOVERNANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE

March 24, 2026

11:00 AM

Library of Virginia

800 E. Broad St.

Richmond, VA 23219

Members Present

Cliff Fleet

Joel Griffin

Heywood Fralin

Kenneth Johnson

Senator L. Louise Lucas (virtual)

Members Absent

Jim Cheng

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.

Mr. Fleet noted that a member was running behind and that the Consent Agenda would be moved to the end of the agenda so that quorum would be achieved to take action.

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.

Staff Report

Mr. Fleet recognized Mr. Anderson to provide the staff report.

Mr. Anderson provided an overview of the Joint Legislative and Audit Review Commission (JLARC) items that remained for consideration by the Governance and Policy Committee.

Mr. Anderson noted that Policy Consideration 2, which referred to a recommendation that the GO Virginia Board revise its policies to allow smaller organizations, which meet criteria set by the Board, to receive a portion of their GO Virginia award at the start of the grant period, has been under consideration at DHCD. Mr. Anderson noted that the DHCD Fiscal Office has been working on several options for an agency-wide policy that would potentially allow the Board to implement this recommendation. Mr. Anderson reported that an update on this agency policy will be presented at the next Committee meeting.

Mr. Anderson provided an overview of JLARC recommendation 16, which refers to a recommendation that the Board revise its policies to allow increased capacity for GO Virginia regions to conduct planning activities from the Board established limit of \$250,000 per year. Mr. Anderson noted that the Board created a policy allowing planning to be a GO Virginia fundable activity under the assumption that planning would lead to a pipeline of GO Virginia fundable implementation projects. Mr. Anderson noted that the current conversion rate of planning to implementation was 50%.

Mr. Anderson also provided an overview of recent policy changes adopted by the State Board to provide flexibility and capacity for GO Virginia regions to conduct more planning activities. The policy changes described removed site development planning and broadband planning from counting against regional planning grant limits.

Discussion occurred regarding multi-regional competitive planning grant limitations and the potential to increase the amount of money two regions may receive if they participate in a competitive planning grant.

After discussion, the Committee chose to not move forward with a recommendation to increase regional planning grant limits, noting additional flexibility that recent policies created. The Committee directed staff to report at the next meeting of the Committee on

potential options for increasing the amount of funding two regions may receive for multi-region competitive planning projects.

Discussion Items

Mr. Fleet recognized Mr. Jack Honig, GO Virginia Program Administrator at DHCD, to provide an overview of the Commonwealth of Virginia's efforts to support childcare.

Mr. Honig noted that at the September 9, 2025, meeting of the Board, the Board referred the topic of whether projects supporting childcare availability should be considered a fundable activity by the Board. Mr. Honig provided an overview of childcare investments made by the General Assembly of Virginia, noting that between \$500,000,000 and \$600,000,000 across a variety of initiatives have been appropriated yearly to address childcare availability by the General Assembly, in comparison to the \$30,000,000 appropriated to the GO Virginia program each year.

After discussion, the Committee determined that childcare is a pivotal concern for the economy of the Commonwealth and that special consideration and advocacy for addressing childcare should be a priority; however, addressing childcare challenges as a GO Virginia fundable activity should not be considered due to the limited resources available to the program.

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.

Mr. Anderson also noted that Speaker Don Scott, who is empowered by the Code of Virginia to appoint three legislators to serve on the GO Virginia State Board, reappointed Delegate Michelle Maldonado and Delegate Terry Kilgore to the Board. Speaker Scott chose to not reappoint himself and appointed Delegate Virgil Thornton to take his place.

Consent Agenda

Mr. Fleet noted that the consent agenda, including the minutes of the July 30, 2025, meeting of the Committee and the minutes of the December 15, 2025, meeting of the Committee would be voted on as a block.

A motion was made by Mr. Fralin and seconded by Mr. Johnson to approve the consent agenda. The motion passed.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned.

DRAFT



Memorandum

TO: GO Virginia Governance and Policy Committee Members

FROM: DHCD Staff

RE: JLARC Recommendations Review Roadmap

DATE: 5/19/2026

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 one JLARC recommendation to consider. The recommendation is labeled Policy Recommendation 2 in the JLARC report, and 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.



Memorandum

TO: GO Virginia Governance and Policy Committee Members

FROM: DHCD Staff

RE: JLARC Recommendations Review Roadmap

DATE: 5/19/2026

BACKGROUND:

As part of the 2023 JLARC Report regarding the GO Virginia Program, the Commission adopted a series of recommendations. Specifically, Policy Consideration #2 recommended that the Board authorize a portion of grant funds to be released to project leads who meet certain qualifications at the start of the grant period.

The specific language of Policy Consideration #2 reads as follows:

“The Virginia Growth and Opportunity 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.”

Currently, the GO Virginia Program utilizes a reimbursement-based model for disbursing funding. After a GO Virginia application is approved, a contract agreement is signed and a project can begin. Grant funding for the project is provided on a reimbursement basis, which is similar to the approach used by the Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission (TRRC), the Virginia Economic Development Partnership (VEDP), and federal grant programs. This means that grant funds are not released until after a project shows allowable expenses have been incurred.

This model has several benefits. First, while requests for reimbursement are not directly tied to project performance, such as achievement of milestones or expected outcomes, requests are required to be submitted at least quarterly, which is the same cadence as quarterly performance reports. This allows DHCD staff to monitor project progress at the same time as reimbursement.

The second benefit is that it allows DHCD staff to ensure all expenditures are consistent with the scope of activities that appeared in the project’s application. Staff are able to ensure direct alignment with the project’s submitted budget, as well as ensuring that project activities are occurring in step with the project’s performance narrative.

The third benefit is that the reimbursement basis helps ensure that project is consistently meeting program requirements. The Code of Virginia requires that GO

Virginia awards be matched at a rate of 2:1 by non-state funding sources. Additionally, the GO Virginia program also requires that project's match consists of at least 20% locality matching funds. The reimbursement-based model allows these requirements to be consistently monitored to ensure these requirements are met.

The reimbursement-based model requires two pieces of documentation for a subgrantee to receive reimbursement. First, proof of expense is required to ensure that a project aligned activity was purchased/procured. The second piece of documentation required is proof of payment, showing that the service or product procured was a completed purchase before reimbursement.

The GO Virginia program includes a mechanism that allows flexibility for organizations experiencing issues with cash flow. This mechanism allows a subgrantee to request, on a case-by-case basis, to be reimbursed without documentation of proof of payment. This allows DHCD staff to determine the alignment of the expense with the project's scope and budget while also allowing the applicant to receive the funds prior to paying for the product or service. This mechanism requires proof of payment to be documented along with the next quarterly remittance. This case-by-case basis pay on expense model has been utilized over the years, however it is not currently reflected in program guidance. Updates to the GO Virginia Remittance Guidance document memorializes this mechanism.

In addition to these processes, the DHCD Fiscal staff has been developing an agency-wide policy that addresses up-front allocations for small organizations, similar to the policy described in the JLARC report. That report is in draft form and is in the process of being finalized.



Memorandum

TO: Governance and Policy Committee
FROM: DHCD Staff
RE: Talent Attraction Web Portals funded by GO Virginia
DATE: 05/19/2026

Background

Beginning on March 23, 2022, the GO Virginia State Board approved the first project with a portion of the funds going to the development of a talent attraction web portal when it approved Region 2's Regional Talent Strategy Implementation project. The application dedicated \$75,000 of a total \$315,918.80 request for funds to be used to develop a regional talent attraction portal for the Roanoke Valley and Alleghany Highlands area, get2knownoke.com. Following a budget revision, this allocated amount was increased to \$87,560 due to higher than anticipated cost. Besides this activity, GO Virginia funds were also used to create a toolkit for employers, outreach towards K-12 institutions and businesses, out-of-market conferences, implementation of a shared Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system between project partners, and salaries, fringe, equipment, and training for associated staff.

The committed versus achieved outcomes are listed below. Note that this project is an outlier because a smaller subset of the project's scope was a web portal. The other projects that follow are focused on the web portal as the only component of their scope of work.

Outcome Name	Committed	Achieved
People Trained	50	128
Employees Upskilled*	20	361
Jobs Created/Filled**	40	106
Businesses Served	100	40

*This metric is no longer considered a core outcome of the GO Virginia Program

**These outcomes are now two distinct outcome categories and are now tracked separately



In September of 2025, the state board approved the second GO Virginia project with a talent attraction web portal aspect, and the first to be solely focused on this goal, Region 2’s LRBA Regional Talent Portal (also referred to as Say Yes to LYH Region). As the name implies, Say Yes to LYH Region will be focused on the Lynchburg region and aims to attract talent to the region with a particular focus on the advanced manufacturing industry using a web platform currently being designed, sayyestolyhregion.org. Note that this project is active and design of the web portal is currently in progress, therefore no outcomes have been achieved to date.

Outcome Name	Committed
Jobs Created	50
Businesses Served	20

On March 24th, 2026, a third application based around a talent attraction web portal was approved by the GO Virginia State Board to further expand the startinhamptonroads.com landing page funded by VEDP into a regional talent marketing and attraction portal with concierge style matchmaking for talent to in-region industries. Note that this project is active and design of the web portal is currently in progress, therefore no outcomes have been achieved to date.

Outcome Name	Committed
New Interns Placed	20
Jobs Created	70
Businesses Served	35



Additional info can be found below on the state of average net domestic migration by PDC in Virginia, as well as whether they currently have a GO Virginia funded talent attraction web portal.

PDC Name	Region	Average Net Domestic Migration, 2023-2024	Talent Attraction Portal Funded
1 - LENOWISCO	1	373	No
2 – Cumberland Plateau	1	39	No
3 – Mount Rogers	1	1,180	No
4 – New River Valley Regional Commission	2	-210	No
5 – Roanoke Valley – Alleghany Regional Commission	2	906	Yes – get2knownoke
6 – Central Shenandoah	8	1,280	No
7 – Northern Shenandoah Valley Regional Commission	8	2,029	No
8 – Northern Virginia Regional Commission	7	-20,857	No
9 – Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Commission	9	1,514	No
10 – Thomas Jefferson	9	1,344	No
11 – Central Virginia	2	1,586	Yes - SayYestoLYH
12 – West Piedmont	3	1,267	No
13 – Southside	3	538	No
14 – Commonwealth Regional Council	3	861	No
15 – Richmond Regional	4	5,233	No
16 – George Washington Regional Commission	6	4,107	No
17 – Northern Neck	6	851	No
18 – Middle Peninsula	6	1,036	No
19 – Crater	4	3,834	No
19 – Crater w/o Chesterfield Co.	4	1,017	No



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22 – Accomack-Northampton	5	108	No
23 – Hampton Roads	5	-5,364	Start in Hampton Roads



Memorandum

TO: GO Virginia Governance and Policy Committee Members
FROM: DHCD Staff
RE: Upcoming Expiring Terms and Board Membership Turnover Report
DATE: 5/19/2026

RECENTLY EXPIRED TERMS:

Speaker Don Scott, 03/23/2026
Delegate Michelle Maldonado, 05/04/2026

NEW BOARD MEMBER APPOINTMENTS:

Delegate Virgil Thornton Sr., appointed 03/23/2026

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
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
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 McDougale	Senate Member	4	Coincident w/ office term	Member of the Senate appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules
Virginia House of Delegates Members:				
Virgil Thornton Sr.	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
VACANT	House Member	-	Coincident w/ office term	Member of the House appointed by Speaker of the House
*Not Eligible for Reappointment				