



For Immediate Release
September 15, 2022

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REGION 9 APPLICANTS AWARDED OVER \$500,000 IN GRANTS

Projects Will Bolster Talent Development and Entrepreneurship in Region 9

Charlottesville, Virginia – On Tuesday, the Virginia Growth and Opportunity Board approved over \$500,000 in state grants to support two projects in Region 9. The projects will advance opportunities identified in Region 9’s latest Growth & Diversification Plan Update and help fill nearly 150 target sector jobs over three years.

The awarded grants include:

Carver Food Business Incubator: The County of Culpeper was awarded \$199,727 for an Entrepreneurship project that will fully equip the Carver Center’s shared-use commercial kitchen with specialized equipment to support the Food & Beverage Manufacturing sector in Culpeper, Fauquier, Madison, Orange, and Rappahannock.

Tech Talent Retention: The Central Virginia Partnership for Economic Development was awarded \$307,800 for a Talent Development project that will strengthen connectivity between target sector employers and tech talent in Region 9 to help retain college graduates in the region, close employment gaps, and drive the growth of higher-paying jobs.

“The Region 9 Council is proud to have helped drive this over \$500,000 state investment in the Piedmont Opportunity Corridor,” **said Region 9 Council Chair Ray Knott.** “The GO Virginia program continues to demonstrate how public and private sector stakeholders can work together to support business retention and expansion efforts while attracting new out-of-state investment.”

Since the program’s inception in 2017, GO Virginia has funded 23 projects and awarded approximately \$5.7 million to catalyze economic development efforts in Region 9. The two new projects will leverage an additional \$258,500 in nonstate resources.

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GO Virginia is a bipartisan, business-led economic development initiative that is changing the way the Commonwealth's diverse regions collaborate on economic and workforce development activities. The objective of the GO Virginia program is to foster private sector growth and job creation through state incentives for regional collaboration between business, education, and local government.

Region 9 includes the City of Charlottesville and the Counties of Albemarle, Culpeper, Fauquier, Fluvanna, Greene, Louisa, Madison, Nelson, Orange, and Rappahannock. To learn more about GO Virginia Region 9, visit www.GOVirginia9.org

The Central Virginia Partnership for Economic Development serves as Region 9's fiscal and administrative support organization. To learn more about the Central Virginia Partnership, visit www.centralvirginia.org