



What is GO Virginia?

A bipartisan, business-led, game-changing initiative ... that will provide a new framework for strengthening the economy in each Virginia region ... through enhanced collaboration by business, education, and local government ... that is incentivized and encouraged by the State.

The GO Virginia Mission is to encourage collaboration among business, education, and government in each of the nine GO Virginia regions on activities that will enhance private sector growth and opportunity, economic competitiveness, and alignment of workforce development programs with the needs of employers in the region.

Why is GO Virginia needed?

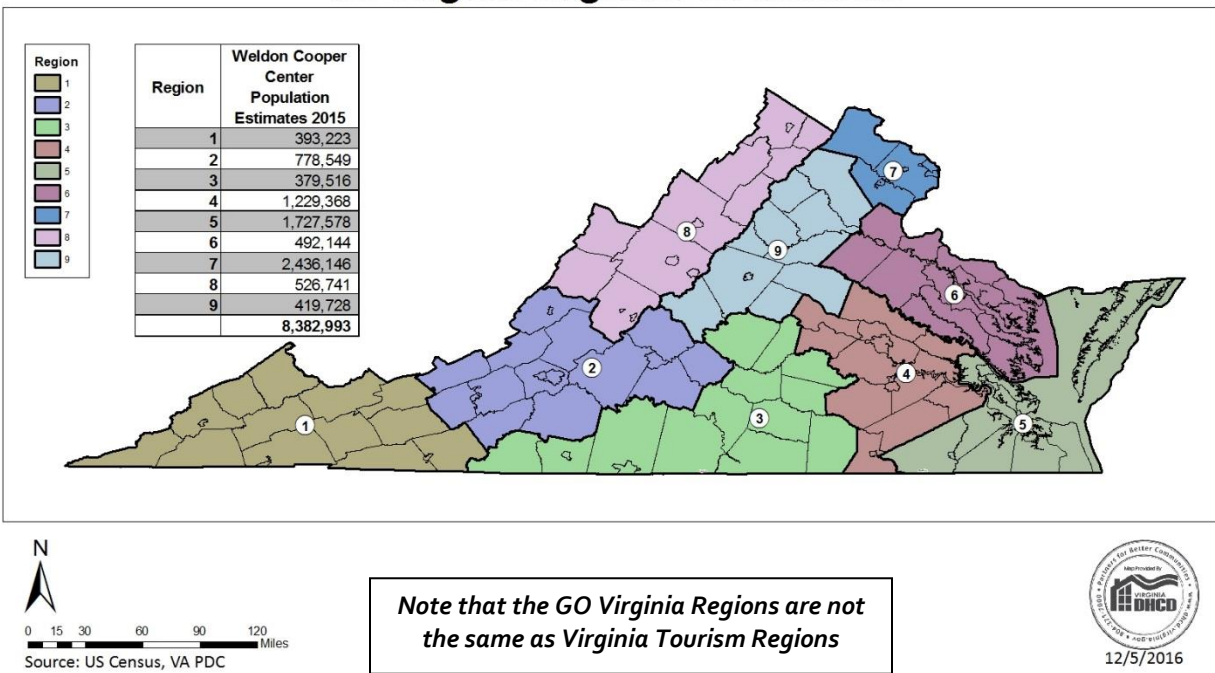
For the first time in a half-century, Virginia is trailing the nation in economic recovery and job creation. Steep cutbacks in defense and other federal programs have exposed Virginia's over-dependence on public-sector and government-contractor jobs. Virginia urgently needs strong private-sector growth and a more diversified economy.

Virginia does not have a single economy; the state’s economy is the aggregate of regions. Because Virginia is a large and diverse state, the opportunities for private-sector growth vary significantly from one part of the state to another, requiring collaborative innovation among employers, entrepreneurs, investors, researchers, educators, governments, and other leaders in each region. Too often this cooperation has been lacking, causing Virginia to lag behind other states. GO Virginia encourages needed regional collaborations and regional projects.

What is the structure of GO Virginia?

The Virginia Growth and Opportunity 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 and project plans to grow Virginia’s economy. The Regional Councils will submit recommended projects to the Virginia Growth and Opportunity Board for approval and funding.

GO Virginia Regional Boundaries



How can Virginia’s tourism industry be involved with GO Virginia?

The GO Virginia Regional Councils are in the process of developing their region’s Economic Growth and Diversification Plans, due by September 2017. These plans are not intended to define the exact projects that could be funded by GO Virginia project funds; but instead, will serve as the framework to guide future decisions by the Regional Councils and the GO Virginia Growth and Opportunity Board in determining which potential projects might address the plan’s priorities and other statewide goals established by the GO Virginia Growth and Opportunity Board.

As part of the plan development, the Regional Councils will hold meetings to collect and analyze data, and determine the components of the Region's plan.

Virginia travel industry partners are encouraged to engage with their GO Virginia Regional Councils. **Think bold initiatives!** Examples could include the development of an eco-lodge and resort to compliment outdoor recreation; development and recruitment of industry clusters that compliment a region's tourism assets (example: Spearhead Trail and an ATV manufacturer in Southwest Virginia); or the repurposing of an existing structure or site for tourism-related businesses. All proposed projects should have significant economic impact and job creation. Tourism-related projects should fit the GO Virginia project key components, listed below:

Key Components of the Regional Plan Evaluation

- Expected economic impact
- Fiscal resources committed to project
- Number and percentage of localities in region participating
- Expected impact and outcomes or projects and complexity of project
- Projected cost savings
- Regional effort
- Interstate or inter-regional collaboration
- Efficiency of administration and oversight
- Compatibility of proposed projects with other projects, programs and existing infrastructure
- Other factors deemed appropriate

GO Virginia Meeting Schedules, and Additional GO Virginia Information

Meeting schedules of the Regional Councils are posted on the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development's GO Virginia web page at <http://www.dhcd.virginia.gov/index.php/calendar-at-dhcd.html>.

For more information on GO Virginia – including minutes from past GO Virginia Council meetings and past GO Virginia presentations – visit: <http://www.dhcd.virginia.gov/index.php/go-virginia.html> and the Go Virginia Website at www.GoVirginia.org.

A listing of the GO Virginia Regional Council contacts is on the following pages.

GO Virginia Regional Councils

Region Number: **Statewide Program Contact**
Region Name: GO Virginia Program Contact
Contact: Elizabeth Rafferty
Title: Policy and Legislative Director
Organization: Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development
Address: Main Street Centre
 600 East Main Street, Suite 300
 Richmond, VA 23219
Phone: 804-371-7000
Email: elizabeth.rafferty@dchd.virginia.gov
Link to GO Virginia Info: <http://www.dhcd.virginia.gov/index.php/go-virginia.html>

Region Number: **1**
Region Name: Region One Council
Contact: Shannon Blevins
Title: Fiscal Manager
Organization: UVA Wise
Address: 1 College Avenue
 Wise, Va 24293
Phone: 276-328-0133
Email: srb8q@uvawise.edu
Link to Council Info: <http://www.dhcd.virginia.gov/images/GoVA/Region%201-GO%20Virginia%20Regional%20Council%20Intent%20to%20Form%20StatementFinal.pdf>

Region Number: **2**
Region Name: None specified
Contact: John Provo
Title: Director of Economic Development
Organization: Virginia Tech
Address: 702 University City Boulevard (0373)
 Blacksburg, VA 24060
Phone: 540-231-5278
Email: jprovo@vt.edu
Link to Council Info: <http://www.dhcd.virginia.gov/images/GoVA/Region%202-GO%20Virginia%20Regional%20Council%20Intent%20to%20Form%20Statement.PDF>

Region Number: **3**
Region Name: Southern Virginia
Contact: Elizabeth Povar
Title: Principal
Organization: The Riverlink Group
Address: 100 Confroy Drive, Suite 4
 South Boston, VA 24592
Phone: 434-570-1319 or 804-399-8297

Email: gosouthernva@gmail.com
Link to Council Info: <http://www.dhcd.virginia.gov/images/GoVA/Region%203-GO%20Virginia%20Regional%20Council%20Intent%20to%20Form%20Statement.pdf>

Region Number: 4
Region Name: None specified
Contact: Wilson Flohr, Jr.
Title: President & CEO
Organization: GROW Capital Jobs Foundation
Address: 200 South 3rd Street
Richmond, VA 23219
Phone: 804-347-7000
Email: info@growcapitaljobs.org
Link to Council Info: <http://www.dhcd.virginia.gov/images/GoVA/Region%204-GO%20Virginia%20Regional%20Council%20Intent%20to%20Form%20Statement.pdf>

Region Number: 5
Region Name: Hampton Roads
Contact: James Spore
Title: President & CEO
Organization: Reinvent Hampton Roads
Address: World Trade Center
101 West Main Street, Suite 415
Norfolk, VA 23510
Phone: 757-961-8181
Email: jspore@reinventhr.org
Link to Council Info: <http://www.dhcd.virginia.gov/images/GoVA/Region%205-GO%20Virginia%20Regional%20Council%20Intent%20to%20Form%20Statement%20FINAL.pdf>

Region Number: 6
Region Name: Mary Ball Washington
Contact: Tim Ware
Title: Executive Director
Organization: George Washington Regional Commission
Address: 406 Princess Anne Street
Fredericksburg, VA 22406
Phone: 540-642-1580
Email: ware@gwregion.org
Link to Council Info: <http://www.dhcd.virginia.gov/images/GoVA/Region%206-GO%20Virginia%20Regional%20Council%20Intent%20to%20Form%20Statement.pdf>

Region Number: 7
Region Name: NOVA GO Virginia Regional Council
Contact: Martha Marshall
Organization: NOVA GO Virginia Regional Council
Phone: 703-407-0479
Email: govirginianovainterimdirector@gmail.com
Link to Council Info: http://www.dhcd.virginia.gov/images/GoVA/Region%207-GO%20Virginia%20Regional%20Council%20Intent%20to%20Form%20Statement_signed.pdf

Region Number: 8
Region Name: None specified
Contact: Carrie Chenery
Title: Executive Director
Organization: Shenandoah Valley Partnership
Address: 127 West Bruce Street
Harrisonburg, VA 22801
Phone: 540-460-3904
Email: chenerch@jmu.edu
Link to Council Info: <http://www.dhcd.virginia.gov/images/GoVA/REGION%208%20GO%20Virginia%20LOI%20Final%20Update%20032317.pdf>

Region Number: 9
Region Name: Regional Council 9
Contact: Helen Cauthen
Title: President
Organization: Central Virginia Partnership for Economic Development
Address: 2211 Hydraulic Road
Suite 104
Charlottesville, VA 22901
Phone: 434-979-5610
Email: hcauthen@centralvirginia.org
Link to Council Info: <http://www.dhcd.virginia.gov/images/GoVA/Region%209-GO%20Virginia%20Regional%20Council%20Intent%20to%20Form%20Statement.pdf>

Link to DHCD Calendar with information on Regional Council meetings:
<http://www.dhcd.virginia.gov/index.php/calendar-at-dhcd.html>