

Request for Letters of Interest

The Region 2 GO Virginia Council is now accepting Letters of Interest from potential applicants. Region 2 includes the counties of Alleghany, Amherst, Appomattox, Bedford, Botetourt, Campbell, Craig, Floyd, Franklin, Giles, Montgomery, Pulaski, and Roanoke; as well as the independent cities of Covington, Lynchburg, Radford, Roanoke, and Salem.

At this stage, we estimate that \$1.01 million in state funds are available for award in this region, and \$11.3 million in competitive state-wide funds are expected to be available. The Council anticipates granting multiple funding awards at varying amounts. The funding must support the growth of jobs that pay higher than the regional median wage (\$18/hour or \$37,000 annually), primarily through investment that is new to Virginia. This requires a focus on industries with high growth potential, featuring in-demand occupations with higher wages.

Projects must:

- Grow higher-wage jobs in one or more of Region 2's priority clusters: manufacturing; life sciences and health care; food and beverage processing; and emerging technologies and IT.
- Respond to one of the strategies in the Region 2 Economic Growth and Diversification Plan related to: advancing technology and high-growth clusters; growing skilled talent; supporting entrepreneurship; and collaborative development of sites and buildings.
- Show evidence of benefit to the larger region (two or more localities).
- Include substantive applicant matching contribution, including non-state sources.
- Be innovative, forward looking, and hold promise to promote sustainable long-term economic growth in the region.

Potentially interested applicants should submit a no more than 2 page letter of interest that:

- Includes the name and contact information of the expected primary applicant
- Identifies Region 2 jurisdictions to be impacted/involved
- Includes list of partners and collaborators
- Provides a brief narrative description of the project (250 words max)
- Identifies total budget costs including anticipated GO Virginia request and matching fund sources
- Includes a clear description of expected outcome or result - clearly describing how the project would spur growth of higher-wage jobs in one or more of Region 2's priority clusters AND respond to one or more of the identified strategies in the Region 2 Economic Growth and Diversification Plan

Projects will NOT be eligible for Council funding if the funds: impact only a single locality; focus on quality of life activities; support trade missions; fund transportation projects; fund museum or entertainment venues; or lack alternative or matching funding.

Interested applicants should review the Region 2 Growth & Diversification Plan prior to submitting their inquiry. The plan can be found at the following link: <http://bit.ly/2ws9BI8>



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

GO Virginia Region 2

The letter of interest process is an optional, non-binding step intended to support possible applicants by eliciting feedback and guidance on the appropriateness of potential projects for GO Virginia funding. The formal application may have additional or refined requirements and the state GO Virginia Board or Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development may provide additional or alternative guidance.

Applicants may submit letters of interest at any time after September 15, 2017. Letters of interest should be submitted electronically to John Provo jprovo@vt.edu. Additional project criteria and application information will be available shortly.

Within 30 days of receipt, Region 2 staff will contact inquirers to discuss the projects and to answer questions about alignment for a formal application. For questions prior to submission, please John Provo via email jprovo@vt.edu or by phone 540-231-5278.

For further information about the GO Virginia program and to join the notification mailing list, please contact Devon Johnson at dvj@vt.edu.