

Press Release

Southern Virginia GO Region 3 is Soliciting Project Grant Applications

South Hill, Virginia, October 4, 2017: The Southern Virginia GO Region 3 Council is pleased to announce that Project Applications can now be submitted for review by completing the Project Application form available on the website located at www.southsidepdc.org. Applications are due in full no later than 5:00 PM Monday, November 6, 2017. A "How to Apply" information webinar will be held on Wednesday, October 11 at 9:00 AM. Interested applicants should go to www.southsidepdc.org to access the webinar registration link. The webinar will be available online at www.southsidepdc.org after the live webinar.

The *Region 3 Growth & Diversification Plan* was approved on September 12 by the GO Virginia State Board. A copy of the full Plan is available at www.southsidepdc.org

The Region 3 Plan identifies three Areas of Critical Need that will be the framework through which the Region 3 Council determines how to invest its limited resources. All applications should recommend projects that advance one of more of these three areas:

- **Workforce Talent Development and Recruitment** — Developing, retaining and attracting people that have the hard and soft skills our region needs to advance economic opportunity and the growth of higher wages;
- **Sectoral Development** — Focusing on the business sectors that have the greatest potential of growing the number of employees, the wage levels and the types of businesses in the region; and,
- **Cyber Infrastructure** — Connecting this Region's many communities and businesses to the highway of the future. In the 19th Century it was railroads, in the 20th Century it was roads; going forward it will be areas with internet and broadband that will be more competitive; all of this region must be "connected" with this infrastructure in order to sustain a healthy economy.

"The plan we've submitted was created with input from over 200 stakeholders through a series of roundtables to provide a blueprint for moving forward," said Charles Majors, chairman of the Region 3 Council. "It's not designed to be an action plan but an investment strategy for the future that paints a broad picture of who we are as a region and where we want to be down the road. It's a starting point, and what we will use to review project proposals. A successful project proposal must be consistent with this plan."

All applications are welcome and the Region 3 Council is specifically looking for projects that first, reflect a spirit of collaboration, bringing together at least two jurisdictions and many partners to accomplish a shared goal. And second, show ideas consistent with the Region 3 Growth & Diversification Plan and reflect the shared vision of the region that can ultimately lead to higher-paying jobs for Region 3 citizens.

The timeline for the first round of full applications is as follows:

- October 2: Round 1 Call for Project Applications Announced
- October 11: "How to Apply" webinar for Round 1 Applications
- November 6: Round 1 Project Applications Due
- November 7: December 5 – Region 3 Review and Subject Matter Experts Team review
- December 6: Review Team/SME Experts meeting, Applicant Interviews
- December 20: Region 3 Council Meeting to Review Project Applications, Interview Applicants (if needed) and Act on Recommendations to GO Virginia State Board
- February 13: GO Virginia State Board Acts on Project Applications

“For the first time in my memory, we have groups working together that have never sat at the table together before and we’re working together to create something that will change our region for the better,” said Majors.

“We all want to see the same result: a region that becomes an economic driver for not only the Commonwealth of Virginia but for the entire mid-Atlanta region. We’re well on our way.”

GO Virginia is the Commonwealth's emerging economic development initiative. The mission of GO Virginia is to encourage collaboration among business, education, and government in each region, on activities that will enhance private sector growth and opportunity, economic competitiveness, and alignment of workforce development programs with the needs of the employers in the regions. GO Virginia is managed within nine regions of Virginia. Southern Virginia GO Region 3 includes the Counties of Patrick, Henry, Pittsylvania, Halifax, Mecklenburg, Brunswick, Nottoway, Prince Edward, Lunenburg, Buckingham, Cumberland, Charlotte, Amelia and the Cities of Martinsville and Danville.

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