

FY 2026-2027 Work Plan

Approved May 21, 2026



The PDC's major work objectives for 2026-2027 strive to support the CVPDC's mission:

- to be a **dynamic** public forum for matters of regional significance; and,
- to create **solutions** by coordinating plans and building coalitions; and,
- to provide **service** excellence to our localities and to the Commonwealth.

Economic and Community Development

Strategic Planning (CEDS)

CVPDC is updating its Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy in Fiscal Years 2026 and 2027. The exercise serves as the organization's strategic plan required in the Code of Virginia for planning district commissions. The CEDS will inform how the CVPDC and member local governments can support economic prosperity and wealth creation in Central Virginia.

The US Economic Development Administration awarded \$30,000 for consecutive years to fund the development of the CEDS, provided CVPDC matches dollar for dollar. The intent of the grant is that CVPDC will complete a CEDS that meets US EDA's standards for an "economic development district." That designation improves the region and its localities' competitiveness for federal grants to develop public works and workforce. The CEDS must therefore include a list of projects for which prospective Central Virginia applicants would seek funding.

Per US EDA, procedures to develop a CEDS include a diverse committee of stakeholders from a cross-section of the regional economy and include public input. The CEDS committee guides the process, oversees means and methods of public participation, and makes a recommendation on a strategy document to the CVPDC Commission.

The Virginia Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission awarded the CVPDC a \$10,000 grant for an agribusiness planning initiative. The initiative is folded into the CEDS, convening regional interests across sectors to participate in needs assessment, opportunities analysis, and planning efforts. The CVPDC is facilitating information sharing and connecting farmers, other producers, and land-based businesses to resources available to support and advance the industry.

Brownfields

CVPDC staff continues to work with the Commonwealth to eliminate barriers to site redevelopment. Virginia's brownfields program commissions Phase 1 and Phase 2 environmental studies to identify or clear up challenges to reuse of previously developed land.

The CVPDC has applied to re-up its regional program, which received a \$500,000 grant from US EPA in May 2022. A decision on the grant application is expected in Summer 2026. If awarded, staff will utilize 15 percent of the revenue for administration and other expenditures related to the program. The balance will be invested into sites.

Hazard Mitigation Planning

The Virginia Department of Emergency Management awarded the CVPDC \$126,000 to update the Central Virginia Hazard Mitigation Plan in 2026 and 2027. The grant requires only a 5-percent local match. The plan is unique in Virginia in that it requires adoption by all localities in the planning area, including towns. According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency, which is providing most of the funding:

Hazard mitigation planning reduces loss of life and property by minimizing the impact of disasters. It begins with state, tribal, and local governments identifying natural disaster risks and vulnerabilities that are common in their area. After identifying these risks, they develop long-term strategies for protecting people and property from similar events. Mitigation plans are key to breaking the cycle of disaster damage and reconstruction.

As has been the case in previous hazard mitigation planning efforts, Central Virginia's initiative will identify projects that will help the region insulate itself from disasters and recover more quickly when they strike. Altavista's riverbank stabilization grant initiative arose from the last iteration of the hazard mitigation plan.

The plan appeared similarly in the 2026 Work Plan; however, delays related to state and federal administration of the hazard mitigation program, including government shutdowns, necessitated a grant extension.

Regional Support

1. CVPDC will continue to connect the region and member local governments to statewide and federal resources including but not limited to those available from US EDA, USDA Rural Development, US DOT, US EPA, the Southeast Crescent Regional Commission (SCRC), Virginia Housing, GO Virginia, the Tobacco Commission, VDEQ, VDOT, and VDHCD. CVPDC was recognized as a local development district by the new federal Southeast Crescent Regional Commission in 2023 and was awarded \$22,000 in annual funding to pursue and develop grant opportunities for Central Virginia.
2. CVPDC will assist localities with grant applications and grant management for economic development, community development, housing, infrastructure, trail, and park or open space development projects. Ongoing projects include but are not limited to the following:
 - a. Comprehensive Plan update for the Town of Brookneal;
 - b. Community development block grant administration for Phase 2 of the Hilltop Neighborhood housing rehabilitation project in the Town of Bedford;
 - c. Community development block grant administration for the Mosley Heights Community Revitalization rehabilitation project in the Town of Altavista;
 - d. Community development block grant administration for the Madison Heights infrastructure implementation for Amherst County, contingent on a successful application; and
 - e. Exploration of funding for restoration of the Confederate Blvd. sewer main in the Town of Appomattox.

3. The CVPDC is convening stakeholders to address the state's mandate for a regional water supply plan, including local governments, utilities, and private high-volume water users. With an \$11,000 grant from DEQ in FY26, the CVPDC is compiling data and assessing documentation availability necessary to support the plan. This investigation will help inform a more precise cost estimate from CVPDC's bench to complete a plan that meets the Commonwealth's requirements. CVPDC staff is coordinating with the Virginia Association of PDCs to find necessary funding the coming biennium to meet a deadline of October 2029.
4. The CVPDC will conduct research into and develop ideas for regional initiatives. Opportunities identified by one or more Commissioners for investigation include real estate assessment, including but not limited to joint procurement, relocation of dry utilities underground, and education around accessory dwelling units and other types of housing that the General Assembly may require localities to permit by right.

Workforce Development

1. CVPDC will continue to provide the administrative staff of the region's workforce development board, as well as financial and human resources management. CVPDC will further seek opportunities to assist the mission of the Central Virginia Workforce Development Board.
2. CVPDC will continue to coordinate with Central Virginia Community College and support its efforts to enhance and expand career and technical education in the region.
3. SCRC has uncertain footing in the federal budget; however, it is providing an award again in 2026. Again this year, the SCRC has announced funding availability in March and required a budget from LDDs by April, the middle of the federal fiscal year. The CVPDC must then expend the funds by September 30.
 - a. In 2026, the CVPDC will partner with Central Virginia Community College and the United Way of Central Virginia to support wrap-around services for training and workforce development.
 - b. CVPDC and CVWDB staff will further support increased access to state and federal grant resources, according to the mission of the SCRC Local Development District Capacity Building Grant Program.

Housing

The CVPDC will continue to facilitate conversations arising from its Regional Housing Market Analysis and Central Virginia Regional Housing Summit, exploring opportunities to implement recommendations and increase access to housing choices for households of all income levels.

The CVPDC's *Thriving Communities* initiative, funded by USDOT to link transportation planning with community and economic development planning, is coordinating planning for the future of the 12th Street corridor with access to transportation, including Amtrak and bus service. On behalf of project partners GLTC and the City, the CVPDC received a \$50,000 subaward to begin implementation. These resources will fund design and engineering to improve safety and accessibility to schools (Payne and Dunbar) from surrounding neighborhoods.

In the same spirit, the CVPDC will pursue resources to improve alignment between planning for housing and planning for transportation. Accessibility for households to jobs and education is the mutual goal in both subject areas. Staff is in communication with Virginia Housing to develop scoping for capacity building.

Transportation

1. CVPDC will continue to host and manage the Central Virginia Transportation Planning Organization, which serves the urbanized portion of the region, and provide transportation planning for the remaining, rural area as well. A planning work program for each of these two study areas is due to VDOT and subject to approval by the CVTPO Policy Committee and the Planning District Commission, respectively. In lieu of reproducing each transportation planning work program in its entirety, the following highlights appear herein:
 - a. The CVTPO is finishing the Lynchburg Multi-Modal Plan to study and make recommendations to improve mobility for those who walk, ride bikes, take transit, and rideshare, in addition to those who drive. Staff will work with GLTC and local stakeholders to evaluate existing resources, socioeconomic factors, routes, first- and last-mile connectivity, and primary destinations. This initiative will inform short- and long-term infrastructure investments, program development, and service efficiencies.
 - b. CVTPO is supporting GLTC in executing route and program planning and transit services, including evaluating existing resources and methodology to consider access needs and grant assistance; ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) evaluations; and membership on the Customer Route Advisory Committee.
 - c. CVPDC and CVTPO have begun 5-year updates to urban and rural Long-Range Transportation Plans, "Connect Central VA 2050," as federal law requires. This effort will incorporate findings from the multi-modal plan and safety action plan.
 - d. Additional initiatives with deliverables under development include the GLTC Bus Stop Inventory & Facility Recommendation Plan and the Timberlake GLTC Service Expansion Assessment.
2. CVPDC will administer the DRPT Commuter Assistance Program by advancing the CommuteVA program, transit, and other multi-modal programs that support access to jobs, essential services, and community resources. Action includes vanpool program development.

Environmental Quality

CVPDC will coordinate with locality and area stakeholders in cooperation with DEQ to implement the Virginia Chesapeake Bay Watershed PDC Locality Implementation Program Scope of Work. Activities include the following:

1. Continue to convene and engage localities and regional and state partners regarding Chesapeake Bay Phase III Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) programmatic actions, to promote and facilitate implementation of initiatives and activities towards achieving the goals of Virginia's Phase III WIP;
2. Disseminate funding information to localities, assist them with grant applications, and provide or support grant administration and project implementation as requested.
3. Supplemental to the WIP III program, DEQ awarded the CVPDC \$15,000 to develop a mini-grant program to fund small demonstration projects (best-management practices and low-impact development initiatives) to foster community engagement and awareness of stormwater management for water quality. \$10,500 remains to be put to work.

Administration

Central Virginia Radio Communications Board

CVPDC will continue to provide staff for general administration, maintenance coordination, and financial management to the Central Virginia Radio Communications Board. Its five-member board will determine priorities for the organization.

Region 2000 Services Authority

CVPDC will continue to staff general administration, financial management, and human resources management for the Region 2000 Services Authority to advance environmentally safe and cost-effective solid waste disposal services. The four-member Authority Board will determine the primary objectives of the organization.

Communications

1. CVPDC will continue to serve as a forum for regional dialogue. Commission meetings will include conversations of regional significance, including input from our delegation to Richmond and leaders in the public and private sectors.
2. CVPDC will maintain information on the World Wide Web and social media sites for the Region 2000 Services Authority, CVTPO, and certain programs, as appropriate, in addition to CVPDC.
3. CVPDC will distribute digital newsletters every other month (those months without a full Commission meeting). The newsletter aims to highlight CVPDC's activities to all the region's elected officials and essential stakeholders.
4. Staff will be available to visit the governing bodies of each locality as well as interest groups and stakeholder boards.