



OPPORTUNITIES

1. **Our CEDS needs to be updated to incorporate a resiliency and a rural economic development (agriculture/silviculture) component**

Our CEDS has been approved, but before EDA will approve an application for us to become an Economic Development District we need to add a resiliency and rural economic development section to the CEDS document.

Economic Development District designation is valuable for all of the communities in our region when seeking EDA funds, especially those jurisdictions that are not fiscally stressed. Those jurisdictions will have an easier application process for EDA funded projects if we are a designated Economic Development District.

2. **EDA has COVID 19 grant funds that can be applied for through 2025.** This fund has a reduced match component

Recommended Action: Discuss new ideas and see whether any of these are worthy of further development. Work to blend both opportunities into one project.

IDEA #1: Building evaluation/retrofit of airflow, entrances and other COVID-19 impacts and funds in a grant/loan program to facilitate building modifications.

Concept:

- Virginia's Safety and Health Code Board have promogulated emergency regulations which require medium risk businesses to have HVAC controls that are appropriate to address SARS-CoV-2 virus and COVID-19 disease related hazards (see below)
- Some buildings may need structural or HVAC changes to keep operations functioning to prevent a shut down due to COVID-19
- A building/HVAC expert would offer inspection/plan review services and recommendations per 220-60B/ANSI requirements &/or ASRAE standards. (American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers- ASRAE)
- Monies would be available from this program for a grant/loan to the businesses to make improvements
- Identify local contractors qualified for providing upgrades per requirements
- After work, inspection/certification of quality
- Business can promote business practice, maintain production, safety of employees

Program:

- Contract Building & Heating/Air Expert (American National Standards Institute – (ANSI) – certified) to provide building evaluation, retrofit recommendations.
- Establish a loan/grant program to help offset cost of retrofits
- Provide Contractor Certification – able to ensure work to ASRAE/ANSI standards
- Provide retrofit funding support (%) in form of a loan or grant or mix
- Second review/work-certification program

**TITLE 16. LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT SAFETY AND HEALTH CODES BOARD
Emergency Regulation**

16VAC25-220-60. Requirements for hazards or job tasks classified at medium exposure risk.

A. The requirements in this section for employers with hazards or job tasks classified as medium exposure risk apply in addition to requirements contained in 16VAC25-220-40, 16VAC25-220-70, and 16VAC25-220-80.

B. Engineering controls.

1. Employers shall ensure that air-handling systems where installed are appropriate to address the SARS-CoV-2 virus and COVID-19 disease related hazards and job tasks that occur at the workplace and:

- a. Are maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions; and
- b. Comply with minimum American National Standards Institute (ANSI)/American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) Standards 62.1 and 62.2 (ASHRAE 2019a, 2019b), which include requirements for outdoor air ventilation in most residential and nonresidential spaces, and ANSI/ASHRAE/ASHE Standard 170 (ASHRAE 2017a), which covers both outdoor and total air ventilation in healthcare facilities. Based on risk assessments or owner project requirements, designers of new and existing facilities can go beyond the minimum requirements of these standards.

IDEA #2: Establish a service that will provide isolation space for employees who are deemed high risk or COVID-19 positive if the employee has no suitable place at home to be isolated.

Concept:

- Some employees do not have living arrangements that allow them to isolate themselves from other family members.
- This may be lower income workers, this could be essential workers
- Valuable service to public health to lower risk of spread
- Valuable service to business community to have an alternative isolation location for employees who may have been exposed or who test positive

Program:

- PDC contracts with a hotel/motel to provide rooms for workers for up to 14 days.
- A meal allowance would be included in package
- Service would be coordinated with the Health Department to allow ease of tracking and tracing
- There would be no charge to the employee as long as they left the room in proper condition
- This may be a 2-3 year service

IDEA #3: Establish a Revolving Loan Fund for the region

Concept:

- Loans up to \$250,000, larger than local programs
- Serve businesses throughout the region
- Payments could be used to make future loans

Program:

- Administered by the PDC
- Likely a board of financial professionals to review, approve loans
- Could focus on technology and advanced manufacturing if desired

Background – Ideas Previously Discussed:

January: Consultant to work with business and education on how to strengthen advanced manufacturing

- Access to Capital
- Manufacturing entrepreneurship
- Support for technological innovation
- Utilizing and strengthening supply chains
- Connections to national and global markets

May: Prepare an action plan to respond to COVID-19

- Regional economic impact assessment
- Identifying target economic sectors

June: Create a business continuity team adding staff to assist businesses when impacted by a COVID-19 positive case

- Medical expertise working in coordination with Health Department
- Public relations expertise to assure customers and community
- Ability to respond quickly and professionally

July: \$134,000 commitment to CVCC for Career and Technical Education Academy – approved. GO Virginia application expected in September.