

Executive Director's Report

To: Central Virginia Planning District Commissioners

From: Alec Brebner, AICP - Executive Director

Date: May 15, 2025

Looking Ahead to Fiscal Year 2026

CVPDC staff is very excited about the events and projects just getting underway in Central Virginia! The Central Virginia Planning District Commission's annual work plan explains the initiatives of the coming twelve months in broad brush strokes. It anticipates the work to be done with the resources expected to be available.

Each year, the CVPDC's Executive Committee convenes in April to review a draft work plan and a budget to implement that work plan. The chairman convenes the Executive Committee, which includes the county administrators, town managers, and city manager of the CVPDC's ten member local governments. These chief administrative officers, through their budgeting expertise and knowledge of local needs, peruse the draft work plan and budget prepared by CVPDC staff. If satisfied, the Executive Committee votes to recommend these documents to the full planning district commission.

The Executive Committee met on April 10, 2025, and advanced the work plan and budget for fiscal year 2026 that appears in this agenda packet. The budget includes revenues and expenses under the Commission's purview for 2026.

The work plan guides most, but not all, programmatic activities related to the CVPDC's revenues and expenses. The state and federal departments of transportation require the CVPDC to generate work plans specific to their revenue streams: SPR, PL, and 5303. The Rural Transportation Work Plan for SPR revenue appears as a freestanding CVPDC agenda item. The CVTPO adopts the Unified Planning Work Program, addressing expenditures of PL and 5303 revenues.

Capitalizing on Opportunities

Grant opportunities drive a planning district commission's work. Some grants, like SPR, PL, and 5303, are by formula and therefore predictable from year to year. Other, non-recurring funding opportunities require staff to analyze local and regional needs and fit them to grant programs. Non-recurring funding opportunities are difficult to budget for, as the inclusion of an award in a budget as revenue depends upon receipt of the award.

Most grant programs require a local match. The membership contributions of local governments typically cover matching obligations for regionally significant opportunities. The Planning District Commission will decide whether the opportunity is, in fact, regionally significant and desirable. Ongoing initiatives for which the CVPDC authorized local matching dollars include the Hazard Mitigation Plan, Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, and Comprehensive Transportation Safety Action Plan.

Central Virginia Workforce Development

Included in the CVPDC's budget is federal funding for workforce development. The Central Virginia Workforce Development Board programs most of this revenue; the remainder pays for staff housed at CVPDC offices. These revenues are distributed first to the states, then suballocated to each of Virginia's 14 workforce development boards. The recently created state department, Virginia Works, retains a portion of the federal WIOA revenue for operations and competitive grant programs.

On March 28, 2025, Virginia Works published a grant opportunity titled "[Facilitating Career Pivots into High-Demand Occupations](#)." The purpose of the grant is as follows:

The Virginia Secretary of Labor announces the availability of \$900,000 in Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act (WIOA) Title I Governor's set-aside funds. Up to \$150,000 per Applicant will be available through a competitive award process focused on providing job placement activities, such as, but not limited to upskilling, reskilling, innovative career transitions, coaching activities, and interactive learning & hiring events that support individuals in transferring existing skills across industries to other high-demand occupations. Target populations may include, but are not limited to, dislocated Federal talent.

The Central Virginia Workforce Development Board proposes to seek \$100,000 to fund training of Certified Nursing Assistants to become Licensed Practical Nurses. The application requires \$50,000 in local matching dollars.

LPNs are in dire need across the Commonwealth and in Central Virginia. Central Virginia Community College partners with Centra College to train nurses, but their joint program is undersubscribed. This grant will attract new entrants from CNAs who could not otherwise afford their training. (The Sunday, [May 11, 2025, edition of The News & Advance](#) highlighted Centra College's efforts to train nurses.)

The Central Virginia Planning District Commission has been a strong supporter of workforce development. In 2021, CVPDC provided \$134,000 in matching dollars for a GO Virginia grant to fund CVCC's CTE Academy. With these resources, CVCC has elevated career and technical education in Central Virginia as a model for the Commonwealth.

CVPDC staff successfully applied for \$883,000 from GO Virginia and the Tobacco Commission on behalf of Appomattox County to fund training equipment and space upfit at the former Carver-Price School for CTE education. CVCC is training EMT students in Appomattox now. Aspiring welders will join them in August.

The Central Virginia Workforce Development Board, similar to the Central Virginia Transportation Planning Organization, must rely on the CVPDC for grant matching dollars. Both boards budget programs but have no reserves. The CVPDC provides human resources and financial management for each.

CVPDC staff enthusiastically recommends the CVWDB's application to Virginia Works. In the face of annual declining formula revenues, competitive grant programs available from the

Governor's office offer funding vital for a competitive workforce development in Central Virginia. As every region struggles to develop nurses, the CVWDB proposes to support our healthcare system by funding training for its greatest need.

CVPDC Financial Capacity

As of April 30, 2025, the CVPDC has \$646,205 in cash on hand, about half of which is reserved in Virginia's local government investment pool (LGIP). This equates to about 8 months' reserves at our current rate of expenditures. Staff advises retaining reserves that would sustain the organization for 6 months. This position would leave \$186,159 available for new, one-time opportunities like Virginia Works's "Facilitating Career Pivots into High-Demand Occupations."

CVPDC Upcoming Events

Staff is thrilled to bring the Planning District Commission and the region several exciting initiatives this summer!

- [Central Virginia Regional Housing Summit](#)

Join housing providers from the public, private, and non-profit sectors alike to discuss how Central Virginia can provide housing for all. An impressive roster of speakers and panelists will present opportunities and challenges for housing development that provides all types of homes for all types of households.

- [Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy](#)

A CEDS is a regional initiative to identify strategic economic development opportunities. It further identifies mechanisms by which local and regional governments can support and promote economic development. The first convening of the CEDS steering committee will happen shortly.

- [Hazard Mitigation Plan Update](#)

Hurricanes. Ice storms. Earthquakes. Wildfires. Central Virginia has experienced a variety of natural disasters in just the past 18 months. Disaster preparedness is an important component of public safety, a local government's first responsibility. Hazard mitigation planning identifies strategies to make the region and its critical facilities more resistant to the impacts of natural disasters.

- [Water Relief Mini Grant Program](#)

The CVPDC's watershed improvement planning program received a supplemental award from Virginia DEQ with which to fund small demonstration projects worth up to \$4,500. These resources are available now to organizations of all types, ranging from schools to community groups interested in water quality solutions.

- [Long-Range Transportation Plan](#)

The CVTPO must develop a long-range plan for surface transportation for the urbanized areas in and around the city of Lynchburg and the town of Amherst. The 2050 plan will fold in results from the ongoing Comprehensive Safety Action Plan and Multi-Modal Plan. In executing its federal mandate, the CVTPO will plan and prioritize major projects for which it can reasonably expect to find funding.