



# VIRGINIA CAREER WORKS

BAY CONSORTIUM REGION

August 2020  
Volume 2

“Creating and managing a diverse workforce is a process, not a destination.”

-R. Roosevelt Thomas, Jr.

## Workforce Newsletter

Virginia Career Works is a state wide rebranding effort with a vision to obtain meaningful employment and a high quality of life for every Virginian and a qualified, job-ready workforce for Virginia businesses. Virginia Career Works is intended to bring consistency and visibility for all the workforce, education, and economic development partners across the Commonwealth. Market research showed that many Virginia employers and career seekers were not aware of the tremendous resources available to them, and this brand change was developed in direct response to their feedback. Virginia Career Works unites the following key partners to advance economic growth by preparing and connecting individuals with Virginia businesses looking to hire and build a stronger workforce.

### ***Department of Labor and Industry***

It is the mission of the Virginia Department of Labor and Industry to make Virginia a better place in which to work, live, and conduct business. The Virginia Department of Labor and Industry achieves this goal by promoting safe, healthful workplaces, best employment practices, job training opportunities through registered apprenticeship, the protection of children from hazardous employment, and safe operation of boiler and pressure vessels.

### ***Virginia Department of Blind and Vision Impaired***

The Department for the Blind and Vision Impaired is committed to providing quality services to assist Virginia's citizens who are blind, deafblind or vision impaired in achieving their desired level of

employment, education, and personal independence. The department provides an array of specialized services to blind Virginians of all ages to assist them in attaining the skills, confidence and positive outlook that are critical to independence.

### ***Virginia Economic Development Partnership***

The Virginia Economic Development Partnership was created to encourage, stimulate, and support development and expansion of the Commonwealth's economy. To accomplish these objectives, the Partnership focuses on business recruitment, expansion, and international trade by: ensuring that effective marketing programs are delivered, engaging in business and product development activities, encouraging exports of Virginia's products and services, assisting in formulating Virginia's economic development strategies, administering economic development incentive programs, and fulfilling administrative and reporting responsibilities.

### ***Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services***

The Division of Rehabilitative Services works to improve the employment, quality of life, security, and independence of older Virginians, Virginians with disabilities, and their families. They offer vocational rehabilitation to assist people with disabilities to prepare for, secure, retain or regain employment. They administer programs that support older or vulnerable adults and individuals with significant disabilities to maximize their

independence, employment and inclusion into society.

### ***Virginia Department of Education***

The Virginia Department of Education is a state education agency responsible for overseeing Virginia's public colleges and universities, the Virginia Community College System, Virginia's higher education centers, Virginia's public school divisions, and public museums. They work to advance equitable and innovative learning that will maximize the potential of all learners.

### ***Virginia Department of Veteran Services***

The Veterans Education Transition and Employment ensures that every Veteran or eligible person has a full and fair opportunity to reach his or her fullest potential through access to the G.I. Bill approved post-secondary educational, training/licensure/certification, entrepreneurial institutions, Virginia Values Veterans certified employers and Virginia Colleges and Universities.

### ***Virginia Employment Commission***

The Virginia Employment Commission promotes economic growth and stability by delivering and coordinating workforce services. The Virginia Employment Commission offers career assistance for job seekers, employment services for veterans, and employer services for businesses of all sizes, as well as unemployment benefits and other programs designed to assist with employment.

### ***Virginia Community College System***

The Virginia Community College System oversees a network of 23 community colleges in Virginia, which serve residents of Virginia and provide two-year degrees and various specialty training and certifications. It is the mission of the Virginia Community College System to give everyone the opportunity to learn and develop the right skills so lives and communities are strengthened.

### ***Virginia Department of Social Services***

The Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS) is a state supervised and locally administered social services system. VDSS delivers a wide variety of services and benefits to over 1.7 million Virginians each year through 120 local offices across the state. VDSS' programs are designed to help Virginia's most vulnerable citizens find permanent solutions to life's many challenges. The Department is responsible for administering a variety of programs, including Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Medicaid, Adoption, Child Care Assistance, Refugee Resettlement Services, and Child and Adult Protective Services. VDSS' goal is to promote the well-being of our citizens through the delivery of essential services and benefits to ensure families are strengthened, and individuals achieve their highest level of self-sufficiency.

As the new, unified Virginia Career Works brand has rolled out, it brings uniformity and familiarity for all workforce, education, and economic development partners throughout the state. With a promise to identify, develop, and connect a diverse and skilled talent pool with Virginia businesses, Virginia Career Works is Virginia's vital link between meaningful employment and growing businesses.



We have exciting news to share with you. The Commonwealth is launching a new grant program for small businesses and nonprofits called Rebuild VA. The program will provide grants of up to three times the applicant's average monthly eligible expenses up to a maximum award of \$10,000. The application will become available on August 10, 2020.

These grants are aimed at assisting small businesses and nonprofits that have faced economic distress as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Eligible entities include those in the following industry sectors: restaurant and beverage service, non-essential retail, exercise and fitness, personal care and personal grooming, entertainment and public amusement, private campgrounds, and overnight summer camps.

This statewide program is capitalized with \$70 million, which means we will be able to assist approximately 7,000 businesses. Half of the proceeds will be directed toward small businesses and nonprofits located in economically disadvantaged areas, including ensuring adequate representation of women-owned and minority-owned businesses.

More details about the program, including eligibility criteria, may be found in the attached flyer or by visiting <https://www.governor.virginia.gov/rebuildva/>

**[Click Here to See a List of Available Services & Contact Information](#)**

## ***Information Related to COVID-19***

If you have lost employment and seek to apply for Unemployment Compensation, please click on this link to apply online at the [Virginia Employment Commission website](#) or call the VEC Customer Contact Center by calling 1-866-832-2363, Monday through Friday 8:30am – 5:00pm.

[Pandemic Unemployment Assistance \(PUA\) and Unemployment Insurance \(UI\) provided for under the CARES Act](#)

[Tutorial Video – “How to File an Unemployment Claim on the Virginia Workforce Connection website”](#)

The Workforce Board staff continues to monitor the situation; any updates will be posted to the [BCWDB website](#) and the [Bay Consortium Workforce Development Board Facebook page](#). At this time, prevention, social separation and preparation are the best courses of action, and the BCWDB encourages all customers, staff, and community members to follow the CDC recommended hygiene and social distancing practices.

[COVID-19 Related Links Compiled 6-11-2020 Virginia Department of Social Services COVID-19 Resources](#)

[Frequently Asked Questions From Workers Regarding COVID-19](#)

[Las Preguntas Mas Frecuentes Para Los Empleados Sobre COVID-19](#)

Please feel free to contact us with any questions at:

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