



VIRGINIA CAREER WORKS

BAY CONSORTIUM REGION

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Volume 13

“Our workforce and our entire economy are strongest when we embrace diversity to its fullest, and that means opening doors of opportunity to everyone and recognizing that the American Dream excludes no one.”

-Thomas Perez

Return to Earn Grant Program

Governor Northam announced a new \$3 million investment to pilot the Return to Earn Grant Program, which will match payments from eligible small businesses to provide new hires with up to \$1,000 to support their transition back into the workforce. While many companies are offering hiring bonuses, the Return to Earn Grant Program will serve businesses with less than 100 employees that may not have the resources to provide this financial support. The initial launch of this program will be funded through Virginia’s federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) set aside and additional recovery funds may be allocated based on demand. The Bay Consortium Workforce Development Board (LWDA 13) received \$171,156.00 based on our Labor Force.

This initiative will match up to \$500 that a qualifying small business pays directly to a new employee hired after May 31, 2021, either as a lump sum or in installments to offset the ongoing costs of child care, transportation, or other barriers to re-employment. Funds will only be reimbursed to businesses for new hires in positions that pay at least \$15 per hour and that qualify as W-2 employment, either full- or part-time. To help address workforce shortages in child care, qualifying child care businesses may qualify for up to \$500 per new hire without the match requirement.

This funding would be on a reimbursement basis to businesses and the business must enter into a contract with the Bay Consortium Workforce Development Board outlining the hiring bonus and the manner it will be paid along with a reimbursement request. Below are the links to the application and agreement, New Hire Self-Attestation Form and FAQ Sheet.

[BCWDB Return to Earn Grant Program Application and Agreement](#)

[BCWDB Return to Earn Grant Program – New Hire Self-Attestation Form](#)

[FAQ On The Virginia Return To Earn Grant Program](#)

LWDA 13 serves 16 jurisdictions, we have allocated the funding on a first-come, first-serve basis with an expiration date of December 31, 2021.



VaccineFinder

VaccineFinder helps you find clinics, pharmacies, and other locations that offer COVID-19 vaccines in the United States.

<https://vaccinefinder.org/>



To register for the free COVID-19 vaccine, and check your registration status, please check Vaccinate Virginia at:

<https://vaccinate.virginia.gov/>
or call 877-829-4682

**Do you have anxiety or stress
related to COVID-19?**

**Call or text VA COPEs, a free and confidential
COVID-19 support line:
877-349-6428**

**Monday - Friday 9:00am to 9:00pm
Saturday - Sunday 5:00pm to 9:00pm
Spanish speakers are available.**

Resource Room Availability

A resource room in the Bay Consortium Workforce Development Board office is available Monday through Friday, from 9 am till 2 pm. Computers and internet are provided. On Monday, staff assistance is available to for job applications and resume writing. For more information or any questions, please call 804-333-4048.

[**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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P.O. Box 1117
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(804) 333-4048
[Contact us online](#)

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