

Following are programmatic highlights of the Governor's introduced biennial budget

Community Development and Planning

- **Virginia Housing Trust Fund:** Directs \$8 million over the biennium to the Virginia Housing Trust Fund, and \$500,000 in additional revenue each year to Virginia's rapid re-housing program.
- **Planning District Commissions:** Cuts the annual state appropriation for Virginia's Planning District Commissions by \$70,000 per year. This represents a reduction of around 3.9 percent.
- **Entrepreneurial Accelerator Program:** Provides \$250,000 each year to start this new program at the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD). The program would provide intermediaries grants to assist entrepreneurs in their communities with business planning, technical assistance, mentoring and access to capital.
- **Agriculture and Forestry Industries Development Fund (Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services):** Provides additional \$250,000 each year to this VACo supported program that has assisted numerous county led initiatives to expand Virginia's agriculture based industries.
- **Mega Site Development:** Provides additional \$2 million in FY16 for the Major Employment and Investment Site Planning Fund, which assists localities with the development of mega sites to attract high-impact regional economic development projects.
- **Virginia Jobs Investment Program:** Transfers this annual appropriation of \$5.6 million from the Department of Business Assistance to the Virginia Economic Development Partnership, who will now manage the program if enabling legislation passes in 2014.
- **Motion Picture Opportunity Fund:** Provides additional \$1.75 million in FY 2015.
- **Broadband Planning and Assistance to Localities:** Provides additional \$1 million per year for the Center for Innovative Technology to assist localities with bringing wired broadband connectivity to Virginians who currently lack access.
- **Port Zone Grants:** Provides an additional \$1.5 million over two years for the Port of Virginia Economic and Infrastructure Development Zone Grant Fund. VACo supports this grant program and efforts to expand the eligibility zone statewide.

- **Rural Workforce Initiative:** Provides \$500,000 per year for the Rural Virginia Horseshoe Initiative (RVHI), a joint project between the fourteen community colleges in rural areas of the Commonwealth, the foundations for the respective colleges, and the statewide foundation, the Virginia Foundation for Community College Education.
- **Regional Sector Strategies:** Provides additional \$500,000 per year for Regional Sector Strategies and Career Pathways grants at Virginia's community colleges.