



Annual Report

2024-2025

Chair's Message

Fiscal Year 25 is officially in the books for the New River Valley Regional Commission (NRVRC). Over the past year, the board and staff have actively added new projects, successfully closed out others, and continued progress on several key programs vital to the growth and well-being of our region. The Commission remains a steadfast partner to our local governments, and we are proud that many businesses continue to work closely with us to advance shared goals across the New River Valley.

We were thrilled to welcome the Town of Dublin as a new member of the NRVRC this year, marking the first time that every locality in the New River Valley is represented on the Commission.

Another exciting milestone this year was the purchase of a building in Christiansburg, which will soon become the new home of the Regional Commission offices. The larger facility will provide the space needed to support the high volume of regional meetings, trainings, and expanding staff. This initiative could not have taken place without the commitment of every member, which is greatly appreciated.

As Board Chair, I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to Angie Covey, recently retired Executive Director of the New River Community College Educational Foundation, for her dedicated service to the NRVRC. Angie served as Vice Chair of the board and provided invaluable leadership and insight. Among her many career achievements is the creation of the Access to Community College Education (ACCE) program — a transformative initiative that continues to make a significant impact across the region. Her contributions will be greatly missed.

Looking ahead, I am confident that the New River Valley Regional Commission is well positioned to remain a vital and effective partner for all of our communities. Together, we will continue to foster growth, innovation, and opportunity for everyone who calls the New River Valley home.

Hil Johnson

Chair

Fiscal Year 2024-2025



FY24-25 Commissioners

Floyd County

Mr. Michael Maslaney
Ms. Linda DeVito Kuchenbuch

Giles County

Mr. Richard McCoy
Mr. Leon Law, Treasurer

Montgomery County

Mr. Anthony Graftsky
Mr. Brian Wheeler

Pulaski County

Mr. Jeffery Reeves
Mr. Brian Juanarena

City of Radford

Mr. David Horton
Mr. Jeff Martin

Town of Blacksburg

Mx. Em Shawish
Ms. Susan Anderson

Town of Christiansburg

Ms. Tanya Hockett
Mr. Hil Johnson, Chair

Town of Dublin

Mr. Wayne Seagle

Town of Floyd

Mr. Will Griffin

Town of Narrows

Mr. Tom Spangler

Town of Pearisburg

Ms. Amanda Davis

Town of Pembroke

Mr. Robert Lawson

Town of Pulaski

Mr. Larry Clevinger
Mr. Brooks Dawson

Town of Rich Creek

Ms. Ann Chambers

Radford University

Dr. Angela Joyner

Virginia Tech

Mr. Ken Smith
Ms. Liza Morris

New River Community College

Ms. Angie Covey, Vice-Chair



Regional Cooperation



NRVRC Annual Awards

The Regional Commission board of directors celebrated its annual award recipients at the dinner held in October 2024 at the Floyd Center for the Arts in Floyd, Virginia. The 2024 award winners included two Citizens of the Valley — Ms. Sandra Davis, community leader, and Dr. Pat Huber of New River Community College — and the Champion of the Valley, Mr. Jonathan Sweet, Pulaski County Administrator.



NRV Recovery Ecosystem Program

The Regional Commission provides oversight and coordination of the New River Valley Recovery Ecosystem, which continues to build momentum in year two of a regional, five-year cooperative funding effort. The Virginia Opioid Abatement Authority (OAA) awarded this initial funding to the region through a competitive process for FY24–28 projects. With Montgomery County serving as fiscal agent, the Recovery Ecosystem coordinates programming in prevention, treatment, education, and harm reduction to create structural changes that address the impacts of addiction and support well-being across the region.

The Regional Commission provides staff support to the technical teams; assists with fiscal and performance tracking; delivers educational outreach and communication strategies; offers facilitation and programmatic guidance to regional leadership; seeks funding for pilot efforts; and troubleshoots issues to ensure this work delivers the greatest benefit in addressing opioid impacts on the New River Valley.



3 new peer center expansions in Giles, Floyd, and Pulaski County

1,300

youth participants in **Just Say Know** prevention education



302 people trained in **Trauma and Resiliency**

Year Two program highlights include:

Fiscal & Performance Tracking

- Review of all invoicing and performance tracking for funded partners
- Execution of quarterly performance tracking for project elements
- Support to local governments and funded partners to meet fiscal agent and grantors requirements
- Regular support to troubleshoot funding and programmatic concerns
- Point of contact for OAA to address concerns and request guidance for project elements
- Successful submission and award of renewal funding for year three with the Virginia Opioid Abatement Authority

Communications

- Expanded anti-stigma campaign through mailer, blogs, social posts and presentations
- Reached 30,000+ citizens of the region through mailers, social media and presentations to address substance use disorder stigma
- Cross-posting partner events and programming on social and print platforms
- Regular meetings and monthly newsletter communication with stakeholders about projects, events, and opportunities
- Developed and hosted training for local partners about Virginia OAA funding, performance tracking, and reporting requirements

Education & Programmatic Training

- 302 people trained in trauma and resiliency
- 25 people trained as trainers in trauma basics and adverse childhood experiences in partnership with NRV Resiliency Network, VA Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, and Cooperative Extension
- 1,300 students received Just Say Know substance use prevention education in area middle school and high school
- Representatives from each school system and school-based programs in the region attended school curriculum and programming training
- 80+ government leaders, law enforcement officials, health care professionals, and service providers participated in the Demystifying Substance Use and Harm Reduction workshop



1,638

naloxone kits distributed
as part of a comprehensive
harm reduction program

7,500

on-demand rides facilitated



Development of a
**Peer
Coalition**
for the
New River Valley



80+

government leaders, law enforcement and health care professionals participated in **Demystifying Substance Use and Harm Reduction** workshop to reduce stigma

311

participants served via Rise Above's comprehensive harm reduction program

ALL 5

local school districts participated in a **Trauma Sensitive School** training event



Outreach, Treatment & Facilities

- Opened three new peer centers in Floyd, Giles, and Pulaski counties to support recovery and access to services
- Distributed 1,638 naloxone kits as part of comprehensive harm reduction services
- Served 311 participants through Rise Above's harm reduction program
- Reversed 355 overdoses
- Distributed 3,600 fentanyl test kits
- Expanded access to mental health clinical services at New River Community College
- Connected 164 individuals to medications for opioid use disorder (MOUD) through harm reduction programming
- Hosted Day of Hope event at Huckleberry Park in Christiansburg with more than 500 attendees
- Developed REDCap data system for editable intake forms
- Launched the New River Valley Peer Coalition
- Hired additional peers at Instill Mindfulness, supporting 144 individuals through peer services and making 173 housing connections, with 20% of participants linked to mental health or recovery services
- Expanded Instill Mindfulness community outreach and weekly recovery programs
- Provided Community Health Center wrap-around services for 160 patients receiving MOUD

Expanded access to mental health services for all NRCC students



Expansion of **MOUD*** referrals through harm reduction programming

*Medications for opioid use disorder

25

Recovery Court graduates

355

 overdoses reversed

30,000

reached through anti-stigma campaign of mailers, social media posts and blogs



Transportation & Housing

- 7,500 on-demand rides facilitated
- Support of expanded ride access through DRPT application and matching funds
- Best practices for supportive housing documentation created for regional use
- New River Community Action linked with Rise Above outreach program to provide housing resources
- Recovery housing resource guide created and linked to online resource guide

Justice Involved

- 25 Recovery Court graduates
- Support of the State Opioid Response program through New River Health District to link citizens returning from incarceration to services prior to release

Community Health: New River Health District

The American Rescue Plan Act funding continues to support the Regional Commission's participation in the Healthy Roots governance structure in collaboration with the Community Foundation of the New River Valley.

FY25 Highlights:

- Support of Healthy Roots outreach and material development to advance organizational governance
- Draft and submission of an Appalachian Regional Commission grant proposal to support workforce engagement with citizens returning from incarceration and those experiencing substance use disorder
- Training and certification for staff to support HIPAA data protection
- Support for New River Health District's Certified Harm Reduction Site status with the VA Department of Health
- Final documentation and program closeout for completion of the project





**NRV
PRSA**

NRV Passenger Rail

The New River Valley Passenger Rail Station Authority (NRVPRSA), the entity responsible for owning and operating the station, in conjunction with the Virginia Passenger Rail Authority (VPRSA), the entity leading the project for the Commonwealth, has been working to deliver a passenger rail station in the Cambria area of Christiansburg.

The VPRSA was able to renegotiate with Norfolk Southern (NS) to secure the former train depot in Cambria located on NS's main line, along with an additional layover facility in Radford. Norfolk Southern has been diligently working on site development — clearing trees, beginning grade work, and currently preparing the site for infrastructure installation.

Simultaneously, the NRV Passenger Rail Station Authority received an Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) planning grant for \$252,500. These funds have been matched with \$240,000 from the nine partnering agencies and the New River Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). The combined funding will support A/E services for the development of the Preliminary Engineering Report/Preliminary Architectural Report (PER/PAR), the environmental review, a pro forma, and the design to include the construction documents. All of these plans and documents will help to propel the project into the construction phase.

Wendel and Foresight Engineering were hired for A/E services. Currently, the building scans are complete, and both the PER/PAR and the environmental review are in progress.

New River Watershed Roundtable

The New River Watershed Roundtable continues to serve as a convenor of water quality interests across the region. At quarterly meetings, partners gather to learn about regional watershed projects, discuss water quality concerns, and explore opportunities for collaboration. This year, the Roundtable played an important role in facilitating dialogue across the region following Hurricane Helene. Communities along the New River in Giles, Montgomery, and Pulaski counties, along with the City of Radford, were most impacted. Thankfully, no loss of life occurred; however, there was substantial damage to private property and municipal infrastructure. The ReNew the New event in fall 2025 will be an opportunity to bring several hundred volunteers to the river to assist with continued debris removal.



Learning from Hurricane Helene and Strengthening Policies for Future Preparedness

In the aftermath of Hurricane Helene, the Regional Commission, in collaboration with local communities, prioritized a re-examination of existing land use policies and zoning regulations. The effort is focused on assessing the effectiveness of these policies, particularly in light of the flooding that occurred. Current policies were evaluated, key lessons from recent experiences were documented, and a commitment to improving future preparedness was established. As the Regional Commission continues working with local communities to update comprehensive plans and zoning ordinances, these lessons will help mitigate the negative impacts of future climate hazards.



Planning Commissioners Training 2025

The Regional Commission collaborates each year with the region’s local government planners to offer a Planning Commissioners’ Training. This year, the training included two interactive sessions: (1) a three-act “play” highlighting common procedural items such as managing public comment, knowing when to defer a vote, and proffers vs. conditions; and (2) a presentation from the Virginia Cannabis Control Authority. The event was filmed by Montgomery County media staff, who created a short video to showcase it.



Scan to
view video



New River Valley HOME Consortium

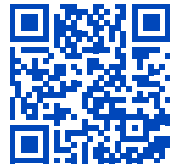
The New River Valley HOME Consortium was created in 2007 and utilizes an annual funding allocation from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to construct or rehabilitate affordable housing for low-to-moderate income households in the New River Valley.

Program Highlights

- Began construction on the Claremont Apartments in the Town of Pulaski, with developer Landmark Development. The project consists of both new construction and adaptive reuse of old Claremont School and totals 50 units of affordable rental housing
- Executed contract for Stroubles Ridge homeownership project, constructed by Community Housing Partners. The first phase of the project will construct 20 new homes
- Completed the Leggett Apartments project in the City of Radford, converting a former commercial building into 11 mixed-income rental units. Units owned and managed by Taylor Hollow Construction
- Began construction on the Legacy on Main Apartments, a 56-unit rental development in the Town of Blacksburg and owned by Community Housing Partners
- Worked with New River Community Action on planning efforts for a new permanent supportive housing project using \$2.1M in HOME American Rescue Act funding

Housing Education Campaign

At the end of 2024, the Regional Commission completed a pilot series of four engaging and informative housing videos designed to clarify commonly misunderstood or lesser-known facts about affordable housing. Virginia Housing provided funding for these videos, which were written, filmed, and edited in-house by Regional Commission staff. The goal is for the videos to be shared broadly with local government and nonprofit partners who may be engaging in housing conversations with a wide range of audiences. The Regional Commission also hopes the videos will spark discussion among regional partners about other topics that may be important to their work.



**Scan to
view video**



Planning/ Technical Assistance



Town of Rich Creek Comprehensive Plan

In February 2025, the Town of Rich Creek adopted its revised comprehensive plan, with assistance provided by the Regional Commission. This plan details the goals, objectives, and policies designed to tackle identified challenges and seize opportunities within the Town. The community’s input, gathered through public engagement, was instrumental in shaping the Town’s future vision to align with both current and anticipated needs.



Pulaski County: Hilton Village Waterline Expansion Project

The Regional Commission supported a proposed waterline expansion project to serve the Hilton Village community in Pulaski County. Many residents in the area currently rely on aging private wells with persistent issues such as sulfur odors, sediment buildup, white residue, and bacterial contamination, including E. coli. Some households depend on costly filtration systems or bottled water to meet their basic needs. These challenges highlight the growing importance of improving access to clean and reliable public water service.

To support potential state and federal funding applications, Regional Commission staff conducted door-to-door surveys and collected user agreements from residents in the project area. A majority of those surveyed expressed interest in connecting to public water if available; however, several households noted that the required connection fees may present a financial barrier. The data collected through this effort helped demonstrate community need and support for the project, both of which are essential for securing infrastructure funding through agencies such as the Virginia Department of Health (VDH).



Town of Christiansburg Community Gathering Space

With grant administration and project management assistance from the Regional Commission, the Town of Christiansburg secured funding from the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) for a new downtown community gathering space and farmer's market structure. The project moved into the design phase this year.



Giles County

VIRGINIA'S MOUNTAIN PLAYGROUND™

Giles County Comprehensive Plan

This year, Giles County kicked off the process for updating its comprehensive plan. The Regional Commission is providing technical support by providing data analysis and mapping to highlight key trends, challenges, and opportunities. These findings will shape the plan's goals, objectives, and policies in the areas of land use, economic development, recreation, transportation, and more.

Town of Rich Creek ARPA

The Town of Rich Creek received American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds to construct a new fire station. These funds were allocated to help local governments mitigate the economic and public health consequences of COVID-19, with the Regional Commission providing grant administration support. The town is continuing to work on the fire station project and is seeking additional funds to complete the full scope of work.



Pulaski County VATI

The Regional Commission, partnering with Pulaski County and All Points Broadband (APB), received a \$29,122,000 VATI grant from the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development. The County and APB are providing an additional \$26,103,057 in matching funds. Pulaski County's Broadband Initiative will bring Internet connectivity to unserved and underserved households throughout the county. Project construction has been delayed during the "make-ready" process; however, completion is still anticipated by 2026. The goal of the project is to install approximately 419 miles of fiber to provide broadband access to 7,073 households and 799 businesses across the remaining unserved and underserved areas of Pulaski County.



VATI 2024 Giles County — Rt 100/Rt 42 Corridor Broadband Project

Giles County received a \$4,199,596 Virginia Telecommunications Initiative (VATI) grant to provide broadband service to underserved and unserved areas in the county. An additional \$1,343,604 is being provided by the county and the Pembroke Telephone Cooperative (PemTel). This project will construct 103 miles of fiber to ensure that residents and businesses in the White Gate, Staffordsville, Poplar Hill, Sugar Run, Wilburn Valley, and Walker Creek communities have access to reliable, high-speed (100/20 Mbps) fiber-to-the-premise broadband. The goal is not only to improve the quality of life for 611 households, but also to support economic growth by expanding access to the resources and opportunities necessary to bridge the digital divide.

The project is currently in progress. To date, design and staking for the White Gate area have been completed. Design for the Staffordsville area is also complete, and staking is ongoing. Construction is anticipated to begin in the coming months.

Floyd County Industrial Access Grant Administration

The Regional Commission continues to support Floyd County's road extension in the Floyd County Commerce Center to support new pad sites with transportation access and utility extensions. Grant funding is being provided by the Tobacco Commission and the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC). To cover significant construction cost increases before the project could be successfully bid, an additional \$2,720,000 has been secured from the US Economic Development Administration. The project is currently under construction and is expected to be completed by the fall.

Crab Creek Watershed Project

In partnership with the Town of Christiansburg, the Regional Commission received funding through the Virginia 319(h) Nonpoint Source Grant Program to promote awareness about the Crab Creek Watershed to the community and to improve water quality. The initiative provides cost-share opportunities and technical assistance to private property owners located within the watershed. Eligible participants can implement approved best management practices (BMPs) primarily aimed at redirecting, infiltrating, and reducing stormwater runoff to improve the overall health of the watershed. The list of approved BMPs includes rainwater harvesting, dog waste stations, rain gardens, conservation landscaping, and impervious area removal.



Floyd County Comprehensive Plan Update

In March 2024, Floyd County kicked off its Comprehensive Plan update project at the Board of Supervisors meeting. Since then, the project team has gathered input from residents through a variety of engagement activities at local events, the launch of a community survey, and a series of technical working group meetings. The discussions and outcomes from these efforts will inform the development of the Comprehensive Plan goals and policies. Over 400 people participated in the engagement activities so far.

Online engagement platform results:

- Total visitors to the project page: 613
- Total participants who provided feedback: 386

The project team is currently analyzing and compiling findings from the survey and all community engagement activities to identify key themes and community priorities.



Painter School Road Broadband Project

The Regional Commission received a \$124,600 grant from the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC), matched with more than \$132,000 in private local investment, to provide broadband service to Painter School Road and the surrounding community, which had been identified as an underserved and unserved area in Giles County.

This project has helped close the digital divide for local businesses and residents alike. It expands opportunities for economic development and job growth and gives residents the ability to work from home, participate in virtual learning, and access telehealth services.

In addition, the project provided the infrastructure needed to continue building out the network to other underserved and unserved areas in Giles County.

The project is now complete, resulting in the installation of more than 33,402 linear feet of fiber and providing broadband service to more than 90 households.



The Montgomery/Bland Counties Broadband Initiative

The Montgomery/Bland Counties Broadband Initiative aims to bring broadband Internet connectivity to unserved or underserved households throughout Montgomery and Bland counties. This work has been ongoing and has progressed significantly during the past year.

A few highlights from the year:

- Montgomery County, partnering with GigaBeam Networks, received a 2021 Virginia Telecommunication Initiative (VATI) grant for \$919,569 from the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD). The county and GigaBeam provided an additional \$488,068 in matching funds. This project is complete. Approximately 7.4 miles of fiber-optic infrastructure have been constructed, providing service to 1,276 households and 44 businesses in the Allegheny Springs, Elliston, Lafayette, and Shawsville communities.
- The Regional Commission, partnering with Montgomery County, Bland County, and GigaBeam Networks, received a 2022 VATI grant from DHCD for \$39,233,355. The county and GigaBeam are providing \$38,247,340 in matching funds. In addition, the Regional Commission, with Montgomery County and GigaBeam, secured two Virginia Make-Ready Initiative (VMRI) grants totaling \$1,365,489 to cover make-ready costs such as utility pole replacements and mid-span pole installations.

The goal of this project is to install approximately 619 miles of fiber, providing broadband access for 11,587 households and 507 businesses across the remaining unserved and underserved areas of Montgomery and Bland counties.

Currently, GigaBeam has deployed more than 561 miles of fiber and installed over 50 OLT cabinets in various locations throughout Montgomery and Bland counties. GigaBeam continues to build out the network and is now serving 726 households, 17 businesses, and two community anchor institutions. This project is ongoing and anticipated to be completed in spring 2026.



Calfee Training School Adaptive Reuse Project

The Town of Pulaski received funding from the Appalachian Regional Commission (\$700,000) and the National Park Service (\$500,000) to continue renovation work on the former Calfee School building. In partnership with the Calfee Community and Cultural Center (CCCC), the funds will support construction of a new commercial kitchen and exterior improvements including new windows, a new roof, and brick façade restoration. In late 2024, CCCC completed its first round of renovations, converting three former classrooms into a childcare facility and adding a warming kitchen.





Regional Digital Opportunity Plan

With the region close to achieving universal broadband coverage, it is time to focus on making the most of that availability. Through the Digital Opportunity planning process, Floyd, Giles, Pulaski, and Montgomery counties, along with the City of Radford, are identifying strategies to increase broadband access and adoption in the New River Valley. Residents and businesses were invited to share their input and ideas through stakeholder meetings and online engagement channels.

Local and regional stakeholder meetings were held from May through July 2025 to gather feedback on challenges and opportunities. Key issues identified include affordability, helping users develop the digital skills needed to navigate the Internet safely and effectively, and protecting personal privacy online.

As broadband availability in the region grows and more homes and community centers come online, making the most of that access will become essential to improving quality of life and economic vitality. The plan developed through this process will serve as a starting roadmap for meeting that goal. With funding from the Department of Housing and Community Development's Virginia Affordability and Adoption Planning Grant, the plan will identify existing assets, outstanding needs, and implementation strategies to support future grant applications and investment opportunities.



New River Valley
DIGITAL OPPORTUNITIES

NRV Hazard Mitigation Plan Update

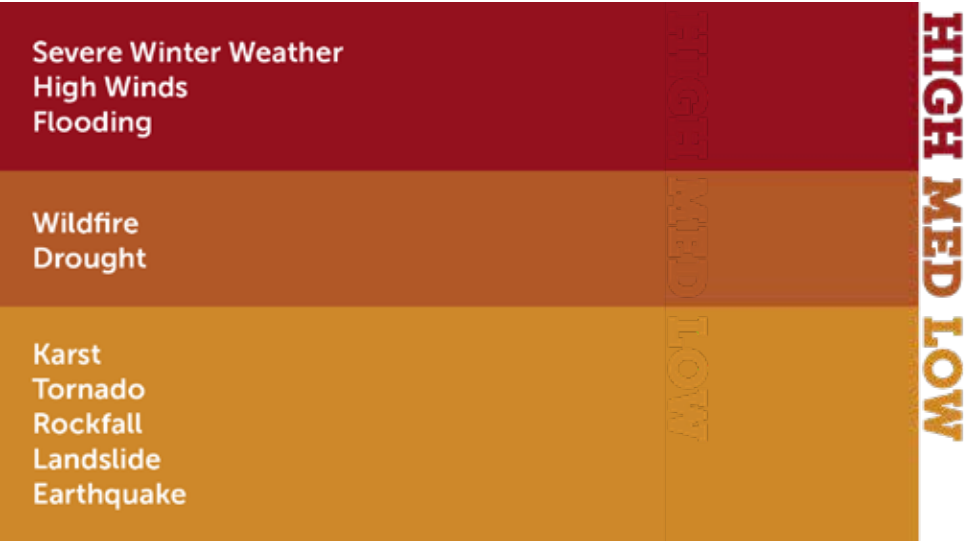
The Steering Committee for the NRV Hazard Mitigation Plan Update, supported by Regional Commission staff, completed the third five-year update to the regional plan, and received Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) approval in May, clearing the way for localities to adopt it. FEMA requires every locality to maintain a hazard mitigation plan and update it every five years; the regional plan satisfies this requirement. These plans examine the risk and impact of natural disasters and provide strategies for reducing impacts to people and property. Updating and adopting the plan ensures continued access to FEMA’s grant funds for mitigation projects.

This plan addresses natural hazards specific to the region — flooding, severe weather, and other hazards such as wildfire — with the latest available data. The plan rates hazards’ relative impact on the region, evaluates risks to human life and property, and identifies goals for reducing these risks — which will be supported by mitigation strategies and projects in every participating locality and at the regional level. Results of the plan include the ranking of natural hazards and projects identified by every locality.

The community engaged with the project website in a number of ways:

- Over 900 people visited the website.
- Over 280 participants actively clicked through the project webpages and/or contributed to one of the tools.
- 140 participants actively submitted input and feedback through the survey, quick poll, and mapping activities.
- 65 citizens identified the hazards that most affect them as high winds, winter weather, and flooding as the most impactful hazards — which exactly matches the steering committee’s ranking of the region’s highest hazards.

The final plan can be found at engagenrv.org/hazard-mitigation-plan.



Economic Development & Human Services



Regional Economic Strategy Annual Update

Each year, the Regional Commission reviews and updates the Regional Economic Strategy (RES), also known as the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). The purpose of the RES is to continue federal and local partnerships to address economic development initiatives in the region. The RES also documents the planning efforts to identify economic development needs in the region, which is required for grant applications to the U.S. Department of Commerce, the Economic Development Administration, and the Appalachian Regional Commission.



Major RES's sections include:

- An overview of regional economic conditions through summary data
- Strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats analysis
- Priority goals and strategies
- Prioritized regional and local economic development projects.

The Regional Commission continues to enhance the accessibility and engagement of the RES and its key information through an interactive digital format. A user-friendly data dashboard, maintained by the Commission, provides demographic, economic, and community health data for local governments, grant writers, nonprofits, and residents.

An online interactive version (ArcGIS StoryMap), as well as the full PDF version and consumer one-pager are posted at nrvrc.org/economy.



Tech Hubs

In 2023, the New River Valley and Danville regions were awarded a U.S. EDA Tech Hub Strategic Development grant to identify strategies and projects that bolster additive manufacturing and advanced materials technologies. Additive Manufacturing and Advanced Materials (AM²) Tech Hub program activities kicked off in 2024 with strong support from private industry, local government, and higher education.

Program Highlights:

- Supported the successful launch of GO TEC® in the New River Valley and Roanoke County through a GO Virginia Region 2 Per Capita application. Led by Montgomery County Public Schools, the project brings the GO TEC® program to six middle school Career and Technical Education labs, exposing more than 1,100 students to high-skill, high-wage technology and engineering careers and strengthening the region's future workforce.
- Conducted four AM² Tech Hub consortium meetings with 40+ attendees. The meetings highlighted regional assets, including manufacturing tours, lab tours, and workforce development programs, and sought feedback from the consortium on a strategic 10-year roadmap.
- Developed draft AM² Roadmap, a 10-year plan to launch projects supporting AM² technologies in business scale-up, lab-to-market commercialization, and workforce development.
- Partnered with Onward NRV to create a regional marketing plan.
- Continued planning efforts for celebratory consortium event with private industry engagement. The AM² Hub Conference took place on September 15, 2025.



Floyd County Housing Rehabilitation Project

Floyd County recently completed rehabilitation on 14 homes throughout the county. The Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development provided grant funding totaling \$1,080,000; in addition, leverage funds of \$256,307 further supported the project.

- Completed construction on nine housing rehabilitations and five substantial reconstructions
- Partnered collaboratively with Floyd County, FISH, SERCAP, and the Regional Commission to manage the project
- Presented on the project at the 2024 Governor’s Housing Conference
- Celebrated project completion with an Open Housing gathering in June
- Secured an additional \$1.24M from DHCD to begin a second round of housing rehabilitation work in FY26



Regional Housing Trust Fund (PDC Housing Development Grant)

In 2021, the Regional Commission was awarded a \$2M grant from Virginia Housing for the development of at least 20 affordable housing units in the region. The Regional Commission used that funding to pilot a regional housing trust fund, which is now called the New River Valley Housing Fund.



This past year the project has:

- Kicked off construction on the Claremont Apartments (Town of Pulaski) and Legacy on Main Apartments (Town of Blacksburg) for a total of 106 new affordable rental units
- Received \$380,000 for FY25 in local investment from local governments, Carilion, and Virginia Tech
- Met bi-monthly with NRV Housing Trust Fund Oversight Board to finalize articles of incorporation, bylaws, and a slate of officers

New River Valley Revolving Loan Fund

The Regional Commission operates a regional revolving loan fund designed to support the start-up and expansion of local small businesses. A committee of public and private sector representatives appointed by the Regional Commission oversees the program's guidelines, loan approvals, and impact. Loan funds can be used to finance expansions, capital purchases, or startup costs. These loans, typically ranging from \$10,000 to \$25,000, are offered at low interest rates, enabling businesses to access funds that might not otherwise be available or to leverage other, more traditional financing options. Qualifying businesses must complete a pre-application and go through a formal application process for approval.



The loan fund received several inquiries this year and is currently servicing loans to Floyd County and Christiansburg businesses. The fund has approximately \$30,000 loaned out to clients, with approximately \$78,000 available to lend.



New River Water Trail Expansion Efforts

The Regional Commission is actively collaborating on several projects related to the improvement and expansion of the New River Water Trail. Work in FY25 included advancing the design phase of four new boat access facilities, pursuing funding for wayfinding signage on the river, and collaborating with partners to expand the water trail into West Virginia, southwest Virginia, and North Carolina.

New River Valley Boat Access Facility Improvements

The Regional Commission is partnering with the Appalachian Regional Commission, Giles, Montgomery, and Pulaski Counties, and the City of Radford to add four new river access points along the water trail. The first will involve new non-motorized access in Radford's 57-acre Bisset Park. The project also includes three new motorized boat access facilities which include: 1) 10-acre Sheffey River Front Park in Pulaski County; 2) improving the Whitethorne access in Montgomery County; and 3) continuing to expand public access below McCoy Falls in Giles County. Design is anticipated to be complete for the motorized facilities and put out to bid for construction in FY26. The improvements are funded by \$1.5M Appalachian Regional Commission POWER Initiative funds and matched by NRV partners with \$1.9M, for a total project of \$3.4M.

New River Water Trail Signage

The Regional Commission is partnering with the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation to provide kiosks at new boat access facilities and new wayfinding signage along the water trail. Once complete, each public boat access located along the sixty-one miles of New River Water Trail will have a kiosk sign, featuring a map, recommended float sections, and safety and stewardship information. Mile markers and additional wayfinding signage will be installed at up to 20 new locations. The project was awarded \$63,600 through DCR's Recreational Trails Program in June 2025.

Expanding the NRWT Beyond the New River Valley

The Regional Commission is also collaborating with New River Conservancy and regional councils of government in North Carolina, Virginia, and West Virginia to develop a multi-state New River Action Plan. The New River Action Plan aims to significantly advance regional outdoor economies by creating a multi-state water trail that stretches over 200 miles. The proposed planning strategy involves five key activities: 1) leveraging the intersections of historical, cultural, and natural resources, 2) preserving and expanding access to natural resources, 3) promoting outdoor recreational economies, 4) building capacity and increasing public-private partnerships, and 5) creating shovel-ready strategies.

The Regional Commission also convenes and facilitates the New River Watershed Roundtable and assists regional partners with the annual ReNew the New clean-up event. Commission staff are eager to continue supporting and advancing efforts related to the New River in the upcoming fiscal year!

New River Valley/Mount Rogers Workforce Development Area



Appalachian Regional Commission POWER

Built regional capacity to help individuals in recovery build skills, earn credentials, and secure employment

➤ 256 completed training
239 earned a credential
235 obtained employment



Workforce Opportunities For Rural Communities

Addressing systemic and programmatic barriers for recovering and justice-involved citizens

➤ 165 completed training
165 earned a credential
146 obtained employment



YouthBuild (2 Grant Projects)

Empowering Opportunity Youth earn a GED® or high school diploma, gain in-demand credentials, serve their communities, and launch careers or further education.

➤ **Project 1:**
76 completed training
76 earned a credential
87 obtained employment

Project 2:
25 completed training
18 earned a credential
10 obtained employment



Community Project - Filling the Trades Gap

Tackling regional workforce challenges through sector strategies, targeted training, service coordination, and system growth.

➤ 97 completed training
82 earned a credential
97 obtained employment
3 Sector Partnerships Convened



Pathway Home Reentry

Providing pre- and post-release workforce services at Bland and Marion correctional facilities, NRV, SWVA, and Duffield jails to prepare returning citizens with in-demand skills for successful reentry and employment.

➤ 29 completed training
29 earned a credential
9 obtained employment



HRSA Healthcare

Addressing rural Virginia's healthcare workforce needs through training, job development, and placement in community health roles.

➤ 150 completed training
116 earned a credential
130 obtained employment



DISLOCATED WORKERS:

Received career services: 50 • Received training: 32 • Attained a credential: 7
• Employment at exit: 17

ADULT PROGRAM:

Received career services: 141 • Received training: 110 • Attained a credential: 35
• Employed at exit: 60

YOUTH PROGRAM:

Received career services: 116 • Received training: 75 • Attained a credential: 30
• Employment at exit: 42



INCUMBENT WORKERS:

Received career services: 24 • Received training: 24 • Attained a credential: 24
• Employment at exit: 24

WIOA Soft Skills Training Grant: Addressed soft skills needs explicitly stated by the business community. ➤ 62 completed soft skills training

WIOA Technical Skills Training Grant: Supplied skilled talent to manufacturing and healthcare employers to fill in-demand jobs and support growth. ➤ 39 completed training
30 earned a credential
31 obtained employment

WIOA Supplemental Grant: Provided HBI training to jobseekers and incarcerated individuals pursuing careers in the skilled trades. ➤ 38 completed training
38 earned a credential
15 obtained employment

Business Solutions: As the region's Workforce System Convener, the WDB streamlines access to workforce services for employers.

➤ **Recruiting Support:** 16 job fairs with 125 companies; 5 employer-specific events
Workshops & Events: Business Symposium + 5 workshops reached 101 businesses
Incumbent Worker Training: 6 projects, 35 workers upskilled
Business Services: 475 services delivered to 224 companies

The NRMWR Workforce Development Board is an Equal Opportunity Employer/Program. Auxiliary Aids and Services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. (540) 933-6794 or TDD-VIR Relay: 711 Link to our funding statement: <https://www.newrivermountrogers.com/about-us/funding-statement>

Transportation



RIDE Solutions


RIDE Solutions continues to connect with commuters through community outreach and employer events. Staff promoted Bike to Work Week in May and attended various community events throughout the year. The program experienced growth in its online app users and fielded requests for carpool matches. Participation in supporting partner efforts include:

- Farmers’ Markets around the valley
- Virginia Tech’s Sustainable Transportation Fair
- NRV Job Fair

The RIDE Solutions app continues to be the primary on-line resource for individuals looking for carpool matches and transportation choices.



- Nearly 1,500 commuters in the New River Valley are currently using the NRV app — 66% of whom commute within the region — and the app includes representation from 160 employers.
- More than 2,900 carpool matches were requested and 25% found matches.
- This fiscal year RIDE Solutions’ NRV members reduced 128,032 vehicle miles and 7,676 trips.
- Active users accumulated a savings of \$87,402.

STAY COOL, CARPOOL!



Use the ConnectingVA app to find carpool matches with other NRV commuters

connectingva.agilemile.com



Love Your Commute!



Use the ConnectingVA app to find carpool matches with other NRV commuters

Track your trips to earn points for discounts at local businesses



 www.ridesolutions.org

NRVMPO Long-Range Transportation Plan

The New River Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (NRVMPO) is one of 15 MPOs in Virginia and one of 450 MPOs across the United States. MPOs are established based on population data reported by the U.S. Census Bureau every ten years. Areas with populations of 50,000 or more are required to establish an MPO under the Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1962. MPOs receive federal funding and ensure regional cooperation in transportation planning. Each MPO is required to develop and maintain a Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP).

LRTPs must be updated every five years to remain consistent with existing conditions, confirm proposed plans and projects, and validate performance measures. The NRVMPO 2050 LRTP builds on strategies and initiatives identified in the 2045 plan update and includes projects anticipated to occur over the next twenty-five years. Transportation projects must be included in the constrained portion of the NRVMPO LRTP to be eligible for federal funding.

The LRTP includes a comprehensive list of existing and planned highway, bicycle, pedestrian, transit, transportation demand management, rail, and air transportation systems. An effective transportation system should accommodate safe and efficient movement of people and goods throughout the region. The NRVMPO was originally established following the 2000 decennial census. The planning area boundary includes Montgomery County, the City of Radford, and urbanized areas of Pulaski County. The MPO planning area includes both the urbanized area, as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau, and the area expected to be urbanized within a 20-year forecast period. The 2050 LRTP is anticipated to be released in fall 2025.





Finance & Personnel



Volunteer Contributions

New River Valley Regional Commission staff members are committed to utilizing our time, talents, and passion by volunteering to serve communities outside of our regular program of work.

The following is a list of organizations our team volunteered time with this past fiscal year.

- American Red Cross
- Blacksburg Farmers Market
- Blacksburg High School Marching Band
- Downtown Christiansburg
- Gaye Y. Whitaker Memorial Fund
- Giles County Public Schools
- Hurricane Helene Clean-up
- Live, Work, Eat, Grow
- Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce
- Montgomery Museum of Art & History
- Pembroke's Treasure Island Playground
- Pulaski County Chamber of Commerce
- ReNew the New
- YMCA International Women





Director's Message

In a typical annual look-back at the fiscal year, the Regional Commission recognizes accomplishments from external projects that have had substantial regional and local impacts. There are plenty of those to lift up at the close of FY25; however, there are two significant internal accomplishments for the agency that deserve acknowledgement.

First, the Town of Dublin joined the Regional Commission effective January 1, 2025. With Dublin's addition, 100% of eligible entities in the region are now members — the first time this has occurred in the Commission's history. Under Virginia state code, membership with a regional commission is voluntary, and the New River Valley has special enabling legislation allowing for higher education institutions to participate. This full membership is particularly important to celebrate because it includes 14 local governments (the counties, towns, and city in the region) as well as all three higher education institutions, for a total of 17 members. Such strong engagement helps ensure high levels of cooperation and a deeper understanding of shared challenges.

Second, the board of directors for the Regional Commission worked diligently with members to purchase a building in Christiansburg for a new office location. Since the agency was chartered in 1969, the Regional Commission has rented office space, while approximately two-thirds of similar organizations statewide and nationally own their facilities. In fall 2024, a unique opportunity arose to purchase a former bank property. The board quickly pursued the project by engaging each member, determining financial commitments, and executing a purchase agreement. The new location will require two construction projects — closing in the drive-through to create a large meeting room and enclosing an open area for a mid-size meeting room. Both projects are scheduled to begin in winter 2025, with a goal of moving into the new space prior to FY27. This initiative is a strong example of the members' commitment to the organization and their willingness to dedicate additional resources to benefit the region.

As detailed throughout this report, remarkable work is underway in every community. Across the region, partners are advancing affordable housing, passenger rail service, broadband deployment, and public infrastructure improvements that support both well-being and economic opportunity. The Commission is also spearheading efforts to address substance use disorder through the NRV Recovery Ecosystem and supporting industry growth through initiatives such as the AM² Tech Hub. Together, these coordinated efforts reflect the "region-first" spirit that continues to move the New River Valley forward, meeting challenges collectively while maximizing opportunities for the benefit of all.

Kevin Byrd, AICP

Executive Director

NEW RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL COMMISSION

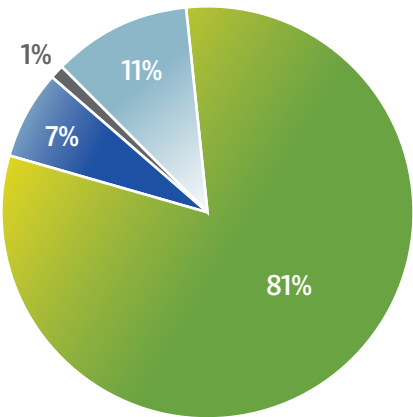
Finance Report

Year Ended June 30, 2025

Revenues

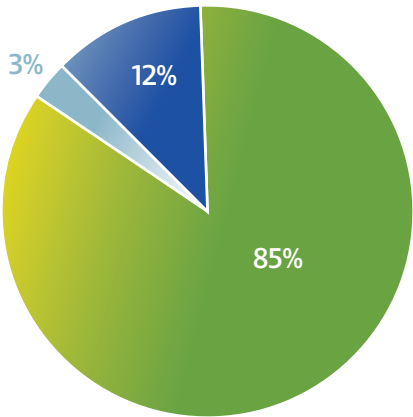
Grants and Appropriations

Federal.....	3,280,552
State	23,708,345
Local	1,999,031
Other	187,768
Total.....	\$29,175,696



Expenditures

Personnel	3,336,367
Contractual.....	23,748,743
Operations & Other	874,424
Total.....	\$27,959,534





6580 Valley Center Dr.
Suite 124
Radford, VA 24141

nrvrc.org

