

Planning for Community and Economic Development on Virginia's Eastern Shore

Introduction

The Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission (A-NPDC) on July 27, 2018 hosted a Strategic Planning Session for Housing, Community, and Economic Development Leaders. The purpose of this working meeting was to inform state agencies of desired and prospective implementation and construction projects on Virginia's Eastern Shore relating to housing, community, and economic development. More than 50 state and local government officials from the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development, Virginia Housing Development Authority, Virginia Tourism Corporation, United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development, and other organizations, and including Governor Ralph Northam, attended the session and provided input on the more than 90 prospective project ideas presented. Agency officials identified those projects falling under their organizations' purviews and program and contact information was collected for more than 50 of these projects as a result of the meeting. This information will be used to connect housing, community and economic development project heads with appropriate funding programs and agency contacts when seeking to implement their projects.



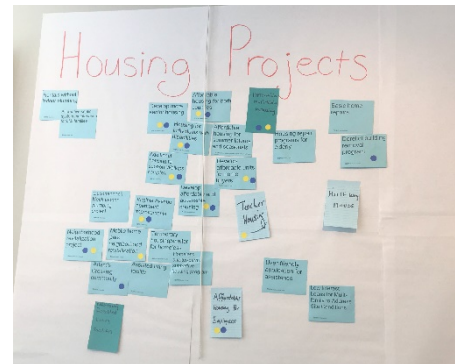
Photo by Clara Vaughn, A-NPDC

Methods

Prior to the meeting, community leaders appointed to and representing various regional and local housing, economic and community development committees, agencies, and community groups were contacted via email and asked to identify housing, community, and economic development activities needed on Virginia's Eastern Shore. Drawing on their professional backgrounds and areas of expertise, respondents identified more than 60 project ideas ranging from infrastructure development to marketing and tourism initiatives, education and youth training, and site-specific housing projects. Due to the nature of this survey, answers were limited to five words or less per project activity. Respondents' names were collected with their respective project idea(s).



During the strategic planning session, participants identified an additional 22 housing, community and economic development projects specific to Virginia's Eastern Shore. All proposed activities were grouped under either Housing Projects or Community and Economic Development Projects and posted during the planning session to spark discussion and allow agency leaders to recognize needs related to their organizations and programs. Participants were asked at times to provide additional explanation beyond the 5-word simple explanation provided during the survey. State officials were then asked to identify projects falling under their organization's purview, which allowed the A-NPDC to collect potential funding program and contact information for each activity. A comprehensive list of this information is included in Appendix A.



Photos by Clara Vaughn, A-NPDC

Summary

As a result of the Strategic Planning Session for Housing, Community, and Economic Development Leaders, agency heads identified fifty-seven prospective implementation and construction projects best fit to current funding programs and priorities. In almost every case, leaders provided project-specific funding programs and contact information for these activities, creating a warehouse of information strategic to securing funding for future project development and implementation on Virginia's Eastern Shore. For full list of housing, community, and economic development projects, funding programs and contact information, see APPENDIX A.

APPENDIX A:

Projects, Funding Programs
and Program Contacts

Department of Housing and Community Development Projects:

| Project Type | Project Description | Funding Program | Program Contact |
|----------------------------|---|--|-----------------------------|
| General Infrastructure | Last Mile broadband buildout | Virginia Telecommunications Initiative (VATI) | Tamarah Holmes |
| General Infrastructure | Incorporated town broadband - \$3.5 million | | Tamarah Holmes |
| General Infrastructure | Better broadband/internet services | Virginia Telecommunications Initiative (VATI) | Tamarah Holmes |
| General Infrastructure | Regional sewer system | Community Development Block Grant | Tamarah Holmes |
| General Infrastructure | Wallops research park built out | | Jeff Sadler |
| Economic Incentives | Revolving loan fund for downtown businesses | Community Development Block Grant | Tamarah Holmes |
| Economic Incentives | Establish small business incubator(s) | | Jeff Sadler |
| Economic Incentives | Flex space building at Wallops Research Park | | Jeff Sadler |
| Education & Youth Training | Expansion of employment training and certifications | Community Development Block Grant / Local Innovation | Tamarah Holmes |
| Education & Youth Training | Develop entrepreneurial pipeline | Community Business Launch | Jeff Sadler |
| Education & Youth Training | Prepare a skilled labor force for local industries | Community Development Block Grant / Local Innovation | Tamarah Holmes |
| Education & Youth Training | Community centers (youth and seniors) | | Tamarah Holmes |
| Plans, Studies & Research | Tangier Town Plan | | Tamarah Holmes |
| Additional Housing | Additional housing to support Wallops complex | | Tamarah Holmes |
| Additional Housing | Affordable housing for employees | Affordable and Special Needs Housing/DPA/ Rural Rehab | Willie Fobbs |
| Additional Housing | Affordable housing for both counties | Community Development Block Grant | Tamarah Holmes |
| Additional Housing | Affordable multi-family housing | Affordable and Special Needs Housing/CDBG | Tamarah Holmes/Willie Fobbs |
| Additional Housing | Develop affordable units for home buyers | Community Development Block Grant | Tamarah Holmes |
| Additional Housing | Develop affordable and accessible housing | Community Development Block Grant / Housing Production | Tamarah Holmes |
| Additional Housing | Housing for individuals with disabilities | Affordable and Special Needs Housing | Willie Fobbs |
| Additional Housing | Develop more senior housing | Community Development Block Grant/Affordable and Special Needs Housing | Tamarah Holmes |

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|-------------------------------|--|---|-----------------------------|
| Housing Repairs & Maintenance | Derelict building removal program | Community Development Block Grant/ Revitalization Only/ Business Revitalization | Tamarah Holmes/Willie Fobbs |
| Site-Specific Projects | Virginia Avenue apartment improvements | Affordable and Special Needs Housing | Willie Fobbs |
| Site-Specific Projects | Adam's Crossing community | Affordable and Special Needs Housing | Willie Fobbs |
| Site-Specific Projects | Neighborhood revitalization project | Community Development Block Grant/Affordable and Special Needs Housing | Tamarah Holmes/Willie Fobbs |

Virginia Housing Development Authority Projects:

| Project Type | Project Description | Funding Program 1 | Program Contact 1 | Funding Program 2 | Program Contact 2 |
|------------------------|---|------------------------|--|--|--|
| Additional Housing | Teacher housing | Community Impact Grant | Chris Thompson, Chris.Thompson@vhda.com | Tax Credit Program, Mixed Use, Mixed Income | Chris Thompson, Chris.Thompson@vhda.com |
| Additional Housing | Additional housing to support Wallops complex | Community Impact Grant | Chris Thompson, Chris.Thompson@vhda.com | Tax Credit Program, Mixed Use, Mixed Income | Chris Thompson, Chris.Thompson@vhda.com |
| Additional Housing | Affordable housing for employees | Community Impact Grant | Chris Thompson, Chris.Thompson@vhda.com | Tax Credit Program, Mixed Use, Mixed Income | Chris Thompson, Chris.Thompson@vhda.com |
| Additional Housing | Affordable housing for both counties | Community Impact Grant | Chris Thompson, Chris.Thompson@vhda.com | Tax Credit Program, Mixed Use, Mixed Income | Chris Thompson, Chris.Thompson@vhda.com |
| Additional Housing | Affordable multi-family housing | Community Impact Grant | Chris Thompson, Chris.Thompson@vhda.com | Tax Credit Program, Mixed Use, Mixed Income | Chris Thompson, Chris.Thompson@vhda.com |
| Additional Housing | Develop affordable units for home buyers | Community Impact Grant | Chris Thompson, Chris.Thompson@vhda.com | Tax Credit Program, Mixed Use, Mixed Income | Chris Thompson, Chris.Thompson@vhda.com |
| Additional Housing | Develop affordable and accessible housing | Community Impact Grant | Chris Thompson, Chris.Thompson@vhda.com | Tax Credit Program, Mixed Use, Mixed Income | Chris Thompson, Chris.Thompson@vhda.com |
| Additional Housing | Housing for individuals with disabilities | Community Impact Grant | Chris Thompson, Chris.Thompson@vhda.com | Tax Credit Program, Mixed Use, Mixed Income | Chris Thompson, Chris.Thompson@vhda.com |
| Additional Housing | Develop more senior housing | Community Impact Grant | Chris Thompson, Chris.Thompson@vhda.com | Tax Credit Program, Mixed Use, Mixed Income | Chris Thompson, Chris.Thompson@vhda.com |
| Site-Specific Projects | Virginia Avenue apartment improvements | Community Impact Grant | Chris Thompson, Chris.Thompson@vhda.com | Tax Credit Program, Mixed Use, Mixed Income | Chris Thompson, Chris.Thompson@vhda.com |
| Site-Specific Projects | Neighborhood revitalization project | Community Impact Grant | Chris Thompson, Chris.Thompson@vhda.com | Tax Credit Program, Mixed Use, Mixed Income | Chris Thompson, Chris.Thompson@vhda.com |
| Site-Specific Projects | Mobile home park neighborhood revitalization | Community Impact Grant | Chris Thompson, Chris.Thompson@vhda.com | Tax Credit Program, Mixed Use, Mixed Income | Chris Thompson, Chris.Thompson@vhda.com |

Virginia Tourism Commission Projects:

| Project Type | Project Description | Funding Program 1 | Funding Program 2 | Program Contact |
|----------------------------------|---|---|--|------------------------------------|
| General Infrastructure | Convert rails to bike trails | Department of Conservation & Recreation (DCR) Recreational Trails Program | Federal Rails to Trails funding | |
| Marketing & Tourism | Develop a regional marketing strategy or brand | VTC Marketing Leverage Grant | DHCD Downtown Affiliate Grants | |
| Marketing & Tourism | Expand tourism marketing budget via legislation | Virginia Restaurant, Travel Lodging Association (VRLTA) | Virginia Destination Marketing Organization (VADMP) | Judy Watlkins, Legislative Liaison |
| Marketing & Tourism | Consolidated marketing of Wallops complex | Marketing Leverage Grant Program | | |
| Marketing & Tourism | Working farm interactive tourist attraction | USDA; annual agritourism conference managed by Virginia Cooperative Extension | Beginner Farmer Training Program through Future Harvest CASA | |
| Coastal Protection & Development | Update and promote seaside water trail | CZM Coastal Zone Management Funding | VTC Marketing Leverage Grants | |
| Coastal Protection & Development | Create new bayside water trails | CZM Coastal Zone Management Funding | VTC Marketing Leverage Grants | |
| Coastal Protection & Development | Additional public access sites around the region | | | |
| Economic Incentives | Revolving loan fund for downtown businesses | Virginia Community Economic Network | Virginia Community Capital | |
| Economic Incentives | Assist artisans with scalable growth | Artisans Center of Virginia | Old Dominion University Artisan Entrepreneurship Seminars | |
| Economic Incentives | Establish regional artisan champion competition | Artisan Center of Virginia | America's Craft Week | |
| Education & Youth Training | Expansion of employment training and certifications | Tidewater Community College Hospitality Program via Eastern Shore Community College | | |
| Education & Youth Training | Develop entrepreneurial pipeline | ODU Strome Entrepreneurial Center | DHCD Community Business Launch Program | |
| Education & Youth Training | Boater safety education in high schools (statewide) | Virginia Department of Education; Department of Game & Inland Fisheries funding | NOAA CZM Policy grants | |

USDA Rural Development Projects:

| Project Type | Project Description | Funding Program | Program Contact |
|-------------------------------|--|--|---|
| Housing Repairs & Maintenance | Basic home repairs | 504 Home Repair | Jeanie Barbrow, 276-484-9382 or jeanie.barbrow@va.usda.gov |
| Housing Repairs & Maintenance | Housing repair programs for elderly | 504 Home Repair | Jeanie Barbrow, 276-484-9382 or jeanie.barbrow@va.usda.gov |
| Housing Assistance | Low-interested loans for multi-family to address site conditions | 538 MFH Loan Guarantee | Ora Rollins, 804-287-1584 or ora.rollins@va.usda.gov |
| General Infrastructure | Last Mile broadband buildout | Broadband | Matt Underwood, matthew.underwood@va.usda.gov or Richard Jenkins, 681-318-3236 or richard.jenkins@wdc.usda.gov |
| General Infrastructure | Convert rails to bike trails | Business Program | Ricardo Colon, ricardo.colon@va.usda.gov |
| Marketing & Tourism | Develop a regional marketing strategy or brand | Business Programs and Community Programs | Ricardo Colon, ricardo.colon@va.usda.gov or Robin Pulkkinen, 804-287-1590 or robin.pulkkinen@va.usda.gov |