

# Commonwealth Regional Council

## September 2025 Items of Interest

### CRC Hosts Rain Barrel Workshops Across the Region

This month, CRC partnered with Piedmont SWCD, Peter Francisco SWCD, and Buckingham 4-H; to host three rain barrel workshops, helping residents learn about stormwater conservation and create their own functional rain collection systems.

- Farmville Adult Workshop: Participants assembled and took home 55-gallon rain barrels, learning installation tips and maintenance practices.
- Buckingham Kids Workshops: Two youth-focused sessions introduced kids to water conservation through hands-on activities and decorating 5-gallon mini rain barrels, combining environmental education with creativity.

Workshops like these empower residents of all ages to take practical steps toward protecting local waterways and reducing runoff pollution.



### Upcoming Funding Opportunities:

- VDACS AFID Infrastructure Grant – Fall 2025
  -  Expected to open September/October 2025
  - Supports capital projects like food hubs, farmers' markets, commercial kitchens, and value-added processing facilities (meats, dairy, produce).
- VDOT Rural and Tribal Assistance Pilot Program (RTA)
  -  Applications accepted September 8 – October 8, 2025
  - Provides up to \$54.2 million in no-match grants for legal, technical, and financial advisory services to help advance rural and tribal infrastructure projects (roads, bridges, utilities).
- VTC VA250 Marketing Leverage Program
  -  Applications open September 16 – October 23, 2025
  - Offers matching funds for marketing initiatives that promote Virginia's 250th commemoration events and tourism opportunities.

### Grants Awarded

- Tobacco Commission
  - Prince Edward - Trailblazing/Wayfinding Signage
  - Cumberland - Community Grocery
  - Cumberland - Small Area Plan
  - Town of Crewe - Food Hub
- Centra
  - Charlotte - Meals on wheels
- FEMA
  - Price Edward - VFD Air Trailer

The CRC provides free grant writing services for member localities and local 501C3 non-profits.

### VHREDA Meet & Greet



CRC hosted a Meet & Greet for VHREDA Executive Director Alex McCoy, welcoming him to the region. The event brought together local officials, state representatives, and business leaders to discuss economic development priorities and strengthen regional partnerships. We were pleased to welcome Delegate Wright and appreciate his continued support for regional economic development efforts.

### TRRC Awards Announced

CRC staff attended the Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission meeting at Virginia International Raceway, where funding decisions were finalized. Several projects from our region were approved, supporting continued investment in local infrastructure and economic growth.

### Ribbon Cutting: Harris Memorial Armory & Hospitality Training Center

CRC staff attended the ribbon cutting of the new Harris Memorial Armory and Hospitality Training Center in Blackstone, after helping secure funding through several successful grant applications.

The Center will offer degree and certification programs in partnership with Virginia State University, Virginia Union University, and Transition Solutions Enterprises, supporting students, veterans, and community members pursuing careers in hospitality and tourism. This facility will be a regional hub for education, workforce training, and community support.

