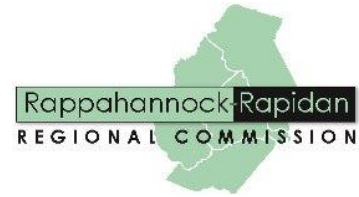


## **Executive Director's Report**

### **August 17, 2022**



The purpose of this monthly report is to provide members of the Regional Commission with a summary report of work plan-related activities, staff attendance and participation at local/regional/statewide meetings, and updates on initiatives impacting the Regional Commission and our localities.

#### **Administration:**

- Past Chair Bob Coiner received the President's Award from the Virginia Association of Planning District Commissions (VAPDC) in July. Bob has devoted much of the past decade towards leadership positions on the VAPDC Board, including three years as President and was instrumental in working with all PDCs to identify resources for a part-time Executive Director that has advanced the standing of the organization and PDCs statewide. Congratulations Bob!
- We've filled our Regional/GIS Planner and our AmeriCorps VISTA member positions. John Otto will begin on September 6<sup>th</sup> as Regional Planner and Matthew Tobias will begin on August 29<sup>th</sup> as a one-year VISTA working with Foothills Housing Network.
- Please consider submitting a nomination for the annual RRRC Regional Leadership Awards! The nomination form is brief and available at [www.rrregion.org/awards](http://www.rrregion.org/awards).
- Our audit consultant team will be in the office on August 23<sup>rd</sup> to complete on-site audit activities for FY 2022. We anticipate a draft audit by October for review.

#### **Homelessness & Regional Housing**

- Rebecca Wareham and I have been meeting with numerous community and regional partners to discuss regional emergency shelter needs. As you recall, federal and state funding has assisted in providing non-congregate shelter for much of the past 30 months, but those funding sources are ending. We continue to see increased calls from homeless or unsheltered households to Coordinated Entry, but are now anticipating a return to pre-pandemic shelter capacity, which is limited and high-barrier. These discussions have included regional partners and local representatives largely from Culpeper and Fauquier, but this is an issue that impacts or will impact each of your localities.
- We were pleased to formally announce the first three awards through the PDC Housing Development program to Culpeper Community Development Corporation, People Incorporated and Skyline Community Action Partnership. We continue to work with the other partners identified in February to ensure their ability to meet Virginia Housing deadlines for project completion, and will have a full update later in the year.
- My thanks again to Commissioner Deal for including RRRC in the High Growth Coalition affordable housing meeting in late June. Jennifer Little attended from RRRC and was also able to represent our region at one of the Governor's Affordable Housing listening sessions in Richmond in July.

#### **Economic Development & Tourism**

- We have signed off on the CEDS project agreement with U.S. Economic Development Administration and held an administrative kickoff meeting with EDA staff earlier this month. In the next quarter, we anticipate releasing an RFP in conjunction with Thomas Jefferson PDC for a consultant team to develop the CEDS. I encourage each of you with interest in economic

development and quality of life to be part of our regional CEDS committee, and to identify private and public-sector partners to participate as part of the process over the next 18 months.

- The Regional Tourism directors reconvened for the first time since 2020 in July. In addition to the VA250 commission request, we are also beginning a revision of the Virginia Piedmont website and seeking opportunities to expand our membership with Tween Rivers Trail. It was great to meet the new Tourism Director from Orange County and new staff from the Town of Culpeper!

### **Transportation**

- The 2022 GAP technical assistance projects from the Office of Intermodal Planning and Investment are mostly complete, with follow-up public engagement occurring at each locality's discretion. As a reminder, these projects were in Remington, Washington and Rappahannock County (Sperryville and Flint Hill).
- We had initial discussions with OIPI staff on an application for 2023 GAP-TA focused on development of a project review tool to identify local and regional projects and match them to existing transportation funding resources. Local staff also requested inclusion of a method to mimic Smart Scale scoring as part of pre-application project development.
- Kristin Lam Peraza will review in more detail, but she has coordinated more than 35 partner meetings as part of the strategic planning for the Regional Transportation Collaborative FY 2023 work over the past month.

### **Environmental & Natural Resources**

- The Land Use and Environment Committee met last week with a presentation from the Northern Region office from DEQ in an effort to provide improved connections between the region and DEQ on stormwater and erosion/sediment control permit and regulations.
- Michelle Edwards and I provided feedback to Virginia Cooperative Extension staff working with the HB894 workgroup, and provided examples from the region, as well as feedback about outputs from the panel and what would be of most use to local governments in the region. We've also been following the work the [HB 206 Regulatory Advisory Panel](#) (RAP) established to advise and assist on developing regulations to mitigate the impacts of small solar projects on forest lands and prime agricultural soils.

### **Emergency Planning & Hazard Mitigation**

- We coordinated a meeting on the Stream Gauge project in the Rappahannock watershed with VDEM and the Rappahannock River Basin Commission in late July and have sent local feedback to VDEM for potential stream gauge locations.
- I've participated in the Commonwealth of Virginia Hazard Mitigation Plan stakeholder workgroup meetings in July at the request of VDEM, along with Mayor Coiner. We anticipate pulling information from the state plan into our regional planning process, which should kickoff later this year or early in 2023.

### **Local Technical Assistance**

- Eldon James has requested any additional legislative concerns or other items in anticipation of the 2023 General Assembly session. This request also went to each locality that contributes to the regional legislative liaison activity, coordinated through Fauquier County's contract with Mr. James. I am happy to consolidate anything regionally, but know that many of your local governments also will correspond individually with Mr. James.

- Met with Madison County leadership and staff to discuss opportunities for RRRC to assist with the County's upcoming Comprehensive Plan revision.
- Worked with Town of Remington staff and partners on a draft Community Development Block Grant planning grant application for downtown revitalization planning
- Reviewed proposals for George Washington Carver Agricultural Research Center strategic planning that would bring in all Carver Center partners for a visioning and strategic planning process
- Attended VACo Regions 5 & 7 regional meeting in July for broad-based discussion. Topics of interest included broadband, utility scale solar, and affordable housing.
- Discussed grant and planning assistance with Town of Madison Town Attorney related to Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grants and comprehensive plan updates
- Staff are attending Connect Orange event in August and Taste of the Mountains in early September in support of all RRRC programs
- Provided overview of various RRRC transportation plans and programs to the Regional Planners Roundtable meeting in early August, and provided follow up letters of support to Town of Culpeper and Madison County for requests related to the Active Transportation Plan
- Coordinated discussions with Culpeper County and Town of Culpeper staff with DRPT regarding Railroad Crossing Elimination Program and priority projects
- Communicated with staff in Senator Kaine, Senator Warner and Rep. Spanberger's offices upon request from each office

## Foothills Housing Network

Virginia Balance of State

Local Planning Group

### COVID-19 Funding

	Emergency Shelter Operations	Targeted Prevention	Rapid Rehousing	Admin	Total
<b>COVID Emergency Funding Support</b>	XXXXXX	XXXXXX	XXXXXX	\$21,525	<b>\$21,525</b>
<b>VHSP COVID Funding</b>	\$214,953	XXX	XXX	XXX	<b>\$214,953</b>
<b>State COVID Relief</b>	\$362,900	XXX	XXX	\$19,100	<b>\$382,000</b>
<b>CHERP</b>	\$897,344	\$100,000	\$125,000	\$66,167	<b>\$1,188,511</b>
<b>State HTF</b>	\$334,650			\$10,350	<b>\$345,000</b>
<b>Covid-CDBG</b>	\$1,692,165			\$52,335	<b>\$1,744,500</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,502,012</b>	<b>\$100,000</b>	<b>\$125,000</b>	<b>\$169,477</b>	<b>\$3,896,489</b>

#### Funding Descriptions:

##### **COVID-19 Emergency Funding Support (Virginia Housing):** \$21,525

**Performance Period:** March 1, 2020 – August 30, 2020

State funding which provided general operations dollars to community agencies to support continued operations for provide housing services. Funds were used to support local housing agencies expenses on staffing/fringe, insurance, and building costs. Funds were not used for direct assistance to support clients. Funding was allocated to Community Touch, Inc.- \$12,500, Services to Abused Families, Inc.-\$5,500, and Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Commission-\$3,525.

##### **VHSP COVID-19 Funding for Emergency Shelter Operations (DHCD):** \$241,953

**Performance Period:** April 2, 2020 – December 31, 2020

State COVID-19 funding was used to provide temporary, emergency shelter for those experiencing homelessness during the pandemic. Funds were allocated to be expended on hotel rooms, and case management for those that would otherwise be unsheltered, to ensure some of the Commonwealth's most vulnerable citizens had safe shelter during the pandemic. Funding was allocated to Culpeper Housing and Shelter Services, as they were the only LPG partner eligible at the time through VHSP Emergency Shelter Operations funding.

##### **State COVID Relief (DHCD):** \$362,900 + \$19,100 in Admin

**Performance Period:** Through December 31, 2020

State funding which was provided to continue support for non-congregate sheltering through the end of 2020 to ensure that individuals were not forced to exit emergency hotel shelter due to lack of funding. It was awarded to Culpeper Housing and Shelter Services (\$332,000), and Community Touch Inc. (\$50,000). Note, this funding did not last through the end of 2020, and federal CHERP funds started being used in early October.

## **Virginia COVID Homeless Emergency Response Program (CHERP)**

### **\*\* Federal passthrough from DHCD \*\***

**CHERP Allocation 1 for Rapid Rehousing:** \$125,000 (\$118,750 + \$6,250 in Admin)

**Performance Period:** April 2, 2020 – September 30, 2022

Federal (HUD) ESG-CV1 funding passed through Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) to the region for Rapid Rehousing activities. Rapid Rehousing funds are used to support those experiencing homelessness to return to permanent housing as quickly as possible with case management and short-term housing subsidies. Rapid Rehousing funds under the CHERP allocation allow for intensive case management, staffing capacity, landlord incentives, and longer-term housing subsidies. Funding was allocated to People, Inc., and is sub-contracted to Culpeper Housing and Shelter Services, and Community Touch Inc., while also partially funding a full-time Homeless Diversion & Housing Case Manager employed by People, Inc. to serve PD9.

**CHERP Allocation 2:** \$1,066,011 (\$999,844 + \$66,167 in admin)

**Performance Period:** April 2, 2020 – September 30, 2022

Federal ESG-CV2 funding passed through Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) to the region for Emergency Shelter Operations (\$799,844), Rapid Rehousing (\$100,000), Targeted Prevention (\$100,000) and Administration (\$66,167). Funding was allocated to Culpeper Housing and Shelter Services (ESO + sub-contract for RRH/TP), Community Touch Inc. (ESO + sub-contract for RRH/TP), and People, Inc. (contract for RRH/TP).

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**DHCD State Housing Trust Fund Allocation:** \$345,000 (\$334,650 + \$10,350 in admin)

**Performance Period:** April 2, 2020 – September 30, 2022

Funding from the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) State Housing Trust Fund to the region for continued Emergency Shelter Operations (\$345,000).

**DHCD Covid-CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) Allocation:** \$1,744,500 (\$1,692,165 + \$52,335 in admin)

**Performance Period:** January 2021 – December 31, 2022 (Likely will be spent by 9/15/2022)

DHCD's Homeless and Special Needs Housing Unit allocated an additional round of CHERP funding to continue supporting non-congregate sheltering through CDBG funds. These funds were sourced from various funding streams outside of ESG-CV.