

CALL FOR PROPOSALS
Community Viability Matching Grants

Submit a pre-proposal today to enhance community viability through grants funded by the Endowed Chair for Excellence in Community Viability. Grants are available on a rolling deadline for initiatives to *Leverage Local Agricultural Partnerships to Enhance Community Viability*.

Funding priority will be given to projects that:

- Create new community viability partnerships between CALS and communities, schools, or industry.
- Highlight interdisciplinary work and support one or more of the funding priorities.
- Include novelty and innovation of new ideas, programs, or initiatives.
- Are a proof of concept and could lead to future funding.

Applications for a one or two year grants, with a maximum amount of \$25,000 allotted for each year, will be accepted on a continuous submission. Proposals should range from a minimum request of \$5000 to a maximum of \$50,000 with a maximum of \$25,000 being distributed each year. The proposals require a 100% match. Matching resources can include personnel time, funds from other sources, and in-kind contributions. (Note: You may submit both a one-year and two-year grant proposal for the same initiative.)

Proposals will be evaluated on the following criteria:	
Percent Scored	Evaluation Area
40%	Innovation and partnerships **
20%	Implementation and evaluation plan
20%	Potential impact and sustainability
20%	Budget and budget narrative
**Priority will be given to proposals that integrate extension, teaching, and research.	

Pre-proposals should be [submitted on Qualtrics](#) and should include the following sections:

- Project Title
- Amount Requested
- Project Target Start and End Dates
- Project Summary- 500 words (Should outline specific objectives, outcomes, and impacts of the project. Please provide insight on the proposed activities and need for funding.)
- Population of Service- 100 words (Please include demographics, geographic location, and estimated number of individuals served).
- Explanation of Interdisciplinary Partnerships- 250 words (Please provide a brief description of the qualifications of the individuals involved in the partnership.)

- Explanation of Novelty- 250 words (Please provide an explanation of the innovation involved in your proposal, including an explanation for how the project supports a funding priorities or priorities.)

Pre-proposals will be submitted electronically to utilizing the form found at <https://virginiatech.qualtrics.com/cvgrants>. Favored pre-proposals will be asked to submit a full proposal. Full proposals are limited to five single-spaced pages (12-point font) with an additional page for budget and budget narrative. Included within the five-page limit should be a brief timeline of the project.

All grant recipients are expected to communicate regularly with the Community Viability Chair of Excellence, Rick Rudd, and his team about your progress through the duration of the grant. The team is available to provide assistance and answer questions throughout the grant life. At the completion of the grant process, recipients are expected to submit a final report detailing project accomplishments and future plans.

Please email ALCE_CV@vt.edu with any additional questions regarding this opportunity.

Examples of previously funded proposals are available at: <http://tinyurl.com/cvgrant>.

COMMUNITY VIABILITY FUNDING PRIORITIES

Community Vision – Historical successes and failures in rural communities have revealed the importance of consistent change within a community. Rural communities must invest in the future and move towards clear goals, in order to thrive during hardships and upheavals to daily life. Living in a context of constant change, the community's vision provides residents with the capacity to solve problems with a variety of expertise. With a focus on the future, rural communities must utilize strategic thinking to devise long term plans that capitalize on the strengths of their community. The community's vision does not just serve the municipality for a few years, but looks towards longevity and preservation of the community. Initiatives should aim at capacity development within community vision.

Capable Leaders – Building capable leadership within a rural community is essential as a transition from historical power and influence shifts towards grassroots advocacy efforts. Capable leaders within a community need to be able to articulate a clear vision for their communities and are supportive of the longevity of the community's rural trade and service centers. These leaders engage in an array of community projects, are motivated towards community development, and motivate others to utilize their expertise for the betterment of the community. With an open climate, communities must have leaders that can be challenged to increase momentum device towards new goals. Capable leaders must also embrace heterogeneous input that is representative of the population and includes women and marginalized groups.

Sustainable Infrastructure – Rural communities are built both for and by their residents, interpersonally and physically. Sustainable infrastructure includes both physical constructs of capital and sources of human capital that contribute to the longevity of a community. Infrastructure serves as the basis for sustained community growth. Initiatives should promote increases in community assets that lead to economic sustainability. Food access, basic human needs, schools, healthcare accessibility, social services, and job access are all essential aspects of sustainable infrastructure, but by no means are an exhaustive list. Priorities should be placed on an increase in community capitals.

Community Sentiment – Community sentiment encompasses enthusiasm, tradition, heritage, identity, and cultural competency. Initiatives should incorporate means for developing and deepening the sense of community pride and engagement within a locality. Fitting within the larger community involves identifying what role individuals play within the larger social scheme, and how individuals serve and are served by the community. Both increasing citizenship and fostering community identity lend to an overall increase in community sentiment.