

**National Dislocated Worker Grant
(DWG) Application Summary**

Project Type	POWER DWG
Applicant Name	Virginia Community College System (RESOURCE-FULL)
Applicant City and State	Richmond, VA
Up To Amount	\$1,965,730
Planned Participants	210
Project Service Area	Southwestern Virginia counties, including: Bland, Buchanan, Carroll, Dickenson, Floyd, Giles, Grayson, Lee, Montgomery, Pulaski, Russell, Scott, Smyth, Tazewell, Washington, Wise, and Wythe
Targeted Sectors	Advanced manufacturing; tourism & outdoor recreation
Qualifying Event/Impact	Ongoing decline in the coal industry, both in mining and in power production, across the region; 1,000 coal workers have been dislocated in the past 18 months from this region. Recent losses, combined with longer-term employment trends, indicate a continued contraction in regional coal industry-related employment. Coal industry jobs are critical as they average over \$87,000 annually; the next highest industry is manufacturing at nearly \$53,000. The region continues to see declining population, particularly among younger individuals, as career opportunities diminish.
Alignment with Economic Development Strategies	The region has begun the process of more closely aligning economic restructuring strategies across the domains of workforce and of economic development. The strategic planning activities in the POWER DWG will reinforce and enhance the ongoing efforts. This project proposes three arenas of strategic planning activities: a region-wide planning initiative; education and training efforts for economic and workforce development professionals in the region around workforce competencies and occupation transferability opportunities; and gap analysis and implementation plan development for supportive services, focused on identifying resource gaps and employment barriers for the region's workers and planning and implementing the facilitation of supply chain contracts. In addition, the activities of the proposal flow from a number of ongoing and recent regional planning processes and documents, including the Lenowisco Planning District Commission's 2014 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies

	<p>(CEDS) Update, the Cumberland Plateau Planning District Commission’s 2015 CEDS Update, and the New River Valley Regional Commission CEDS.</p>
<p>Proposed Project Summary</p>	<p><i>RESOURCE-FULL: A Consortium Approach to Workforce and Economic Development in Southwest Virginia</i> incorporates both traditional and innovative strategies in a holistic approach to restore economic prosperity, recognizing the necessary depth and integration required to maximize potential impact. The six platforms for deployment all complement each other and advance and emerge from key principles of the POWER Initiative: economic and workforce development integration, high quality jobs and worker advancement, planning foundation, strategy implementation, and a keen focus on advanced manufacturing. RESOURCE-FULL will be a multi-faceted bundle of activities with short and long-term strategies that will support and prepare displaced coal and energy sector workers for positions in emerging and promising higher-wage industry sector areas identified as part of the region’s ongoing economic transition efforts and as a result of the strategic planning activities outlined in this proposal. The workforce development activities are a crucial and complementary element of the larger regional economic restructuring. The 6 platforms are: Strategic Planning; Enhanced Career Services for Dislocated Workers; Training and Work-based Learning; Advanced manufacturing; Asset-based economic development to strengthen community and job creation; and entrepreneurial and small business support</p>
<p>DWG-Funded Strategic Planning Activities</p>	<p>Strategic Planning (tied to the Economic Development strategies of the region) activities include a regional economic summit, a continuation and enhancement of a workforce competency analysis including industry-specific data and occupation-specific cross-walk tools for emerging and developing industry sub-sectors based upon the planning process. The regional summit will generate ideas and build consensus around a sector-driven approach to re-imagine, rebuild, and restructure the region’s economy.</p>
<p>Other POWER Applications</p>	<p>Friends of Southwest VA (ARC, EDA)</p>

Applicant Contact

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