

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
Office of the Governor

Timothy M. Kaine
Governor

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**GOVERNOR KAINE ANNOUNCES NEARLY \$700,000 IN
COMMUNITY FUNDING**

*~ Grants will fund local development projects in Lee County,
Pearisburg and Onancock~*

RICHMOND – Governor Timothy M. Kaine today announced the award of nearly \$700,000 in community development block grant funding for Lee County and the towns of Pearisburg and Onancock. The grant money will go towards funding projects that include building renovations, water service and fiber optic telecommunications. These projects are expected to create 25 new jobs.

“These community improvement projects will help address critical issues in localities that span across the Commonwealth,” Governor Kaine said. “These grants will not only provide funds for water, fiber optic telecommunications and economic redevelopment projects, they will also help create jobs and improve the quality of life in communities that have been hit hard by the economic recession.”

The Town of Pearisburg will receive \$200,000 in Virginia Community Development Block Grant (VCDBG) funding through the VCDBG Local Innovation Program. The project, which is also funded through private, local and VHDA funds, will convert the Shelton Place landmark building into a mixed use commercial and residential facility. The structure will then be used to provide commercial, retail and residential space. The project is expected to create five jobs.

Lee County has been awarded \$280,000 in VCDBG funding for the Ingles Chapel Community water project, which is expected to provide public water service to 28 homes and is expected to benefit 64 people, 38 of whom are low-to-moderate income.

Additionally, the Town of Onancock is being awarded \$200,000 in VCDBG funds for the Town of Onancock High-Speed Telecommunications Network, which is expected to provide fiber optic telecommunications for businesses, local government, and community facilities. The grant is expected to create about 20 jobs.

“These important funds will allow us to address various community improvement needs throughout Virginia, one of the most important of which is access to safe and clean water,” said

Patrick Gottschalk, Secretary of Commerce and Trade. “Each year Virginia receives up to \$19 million through the Community Development Block Grant program, which is used for projects designed to improve water quality, create jobs, and improve Virginia’s small downtowns.”

The VCDBG is a federally-funded grant administered by the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) since 1982. Currently, 284 localities in Virginia who do not receive CDBG funds directly from the federal government are eligible for VCDBG funding.

“Community development block grants provide critical funding to Virginia’s rural communities,” said DHCD Director Bill Shelton. “Through this funding, we are able to help create jobs, encourage economic revitalization, develop infrastructure improvements and more as a part of our mission to create safe, affordable, and prosperous communities in which Virginians can live, work and do business.”

VCDBG grants are awarded based on established threshold for low and moderate income benefit, job creation and investment. Most VCDBG projects benefit low and moderate income people and many projects are targeted for the prevention or elimination of slums and blight.

For more information about VCDBG programs, visit: www.dhcd.virginia.gov.

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