

The Northern Virginia Back to Work Leadership Task Force was formed in April to advocate for the continued support of education and workforce training opportunities for Virginians during all phases of the ongoing economic rescue and recovery. We continue to meet the challenges our organizations face as a result of the spread of COVID-19, and we encourage the General Assembly to face those challenges with us. We all agree that the General Assembly has made substantial investments in our workforce training and education system, particularly during the 2020 Session. As tens of thousands of Virginians now find themselves out of work, continuing those investments is critically important to your constituents and our collaborative effort to restore the vibrant economy of Virginia.

FY2021-2022 Budget:

1. Initial funding establishing the **G3 Program**: Gov. Northam's Get a Skill, Get a Job, Give Back program represents a critical opportunity for individuals who experience job loss or reduction during this crisis do get back to work and restart the thriving economy we were so proud of just a few weeks ago.
2. Support for **higher education**: institutions around the Commonwealth face sharp revenue reductions. Please consider direct investment to support students' ability to attend school this fall and beyond, and continue on the path to restore funding parity for George Mason University.
3. Funding for the **Tech Talent Investment Program**: Virginia is positioned to lead the way out of the crisis with record numbers of computer science graduates. Continued full funding for this program is central to our success.
4. Funding for **FastForward**: funding for Virginia's short-term credentialing program offered at community colleges, needs to be increased now in order to help Virginians seeking credentialing in fields like healthcare.
5. Funding for **Virginia Employment Commission** modernization: unemployment insurance has been a lifeline to those who lost their jobs because of the pandemic, but without a modern VEC not all who need it can get it.

About Back to Work

The Northern Virginia Back to Work Leadership Task Force was formed in April 2020 to advocate for education and workforce training support from all levels of government. Its members include chambers of commerce, higher education institutions, workforce training providers, and economic development authorities. More information can be found at our website novabacktowork.com or by [emailing Clayton Medford](mailto:clayton.medford@northernva.com), VP, Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce.

Other Workforce and Education Needs:

- **Support for Childcare**: workers and students in need of childcare will need support, either directly or through state and local programs, in order to work or attend school during K-12 virtual learning. Adequate childcare presents a significant threat to economic recovery.
- **Protect GO Virginia**: GO Virginia has and will continue to play a central role in economic recovery. Since April it has issued \$6 million in COVID-related economic resiliency and recovery grants.