



July 2024 Update

2024 Annual NRVRC Awards Nominations Are Open!

Help us recognize the people who make an impact in the New River Valley! We need you to nominate worthy candidates for this year's awards program. The Commission is accepting nominations for our regional awards until **August 13th**. Award recipients will be honored at our annual dinner event in the fall. Please click on the links below to nominate candidates for Champion of the Valley (elected/appointed official), Citizen of the Valley, and Friend of the Valley (outside the region).

[Champion of the Valley-Elected/Appointed Official](#)

[Citizen of the Valley](#)

[Friend of the Valley](#)



Regional Economic Strategy Update & Economic

Each year the Regional Commission reviews and updates the Regional Economic Strategy (RES). The purpose of the RES is to continue federal and local partnerships to address economic development in the region. The RES also documents the planning efforts to identify economic development needs in the region and the creation of the strategy document.

At the June 27th NRVRC board meeting, the final 2024 Regional Economic Strategy document was approved. This year's document features updates to our updated top projects, and sections on resilience and recovery. The final document can be found at <https://nrvc.org/economy>.

The Regional Commission continues to enhance the accessibility and engagement of the RES and key information through an interactive [digital format](#) and a [data dashboard](#), maintained by the Regional Commission, providing user-friendly demographic, economic, and community health data for local governments, grant writers, non-profits, and citizens.

For more information, contact Leo Priddy at lpriiddy@nrvc.org.



Opioid Abatement Best Practices Workshop

The New River Valley Recovery Ecosystem (NRVRE) was highlighted at a Virginia's Opioid Abatement Authority (OAA) hosted workshop in Hampton, VA in June. The statewide workshops target local governments and funding agencies that are eligible for direct and competitive OAA awards. Holly Lesko provided an overview of the NRVRE focusing on the partnerships and integration of services and programming this regional approach allows. Chris Alderman, Harm Reduction Coordinator with New River Health District (NRHD), also presented about the Rise Above program funded through the NRVRE cooperative program. This is a wonderful example of impactful partnership with a service agency and local government entities. The local government and state funder response to the NRVRE model was positive which is a strong indicator of impact and sustainable funding.

For more information, please contact Holly Lesko, hlesko@nrvc.org.

NRV Recovery Ecosystem Year Two

The Virginia Opioid Abatement Authority Grants Committee met last month to review funding recommendations for FY25, noting a record number of proposal submissions this year. The NRV Recovery Ecosystem is pleased to announce the approval of the Year 2 Renewal package with a slight increase in funding totaling \$3,526,202. This decision ensures the continuity of current programs and introduces new collaborative opportunities, including partnerships with three new agencies.

Newly funded initiatives include the development of a pilot program for public schools, expanded peer support services across the region, and enhanced on-demand transportation options. Regrettably, funding requests for housing vouchers, supportive housing, and treatment facility expansion were not approved for this cycle. However, the project leadership team remains steadfast in their commitment to these crucial elements of the recovery ecosystem and will actively pursue funding opportunities for them in the future.

We are in this together.

For more information, please contact Anna Champion, achampion@nrvc.org.



NRV RECOVERY
ECOSYSTEM

NRVRC Staff Service Activity

Following the NRVRC retreat in May, several team members participated in a service activity hosted by the Giles County Access to Community College Education (ACCE) and Recovery Court programs. The activities included painting, landscape maintenance, and power washing at the Pembroke Ruritan Treasure Island Playground. Charlie



Mullins with Giles County coordinated this opportunity and provided history of the facility and the ACCE program prior to the afternoon activities. The opportunity to engage in service together with a local government partner was a great capstone to the retreat.



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