



County of Albemarle
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

ASHLEY HERNANDORENA
ahernandorena@albemarle.org
tel: 434-972-4016

To: Albemarle County Economic Development Authority
From: Ashley Hernandorena, Business Development Manager
Date: August 14, 2026
Regarding: CvilleBioHub Talent Pathways Initiative (TPI) Implementation Grant

In 2025, the Authority supported CvilleBioHub's "BioBridge: Developing Talent to Tomorrow's Breakthroughs" application to the GO Virginia Talent Pathways Initiative (TPI) for a planning grant enabling a data-driven regional analysis aimed at strengthening workforce development in the biotech and life science sector. Data indicates that while the sector is rapidly growing, with strong job and wage growth, it faces significant challenges in recruiting and retention. The analysis identifies four priorities: strengthening talent pipelines, addressing specialized workforce needs, improving regional coordination, and promoting a unified bioscience identity.

CvilleBioHub, in partnership with the Central Virginia Partnership for Economic Development (CVPED), is preparing a GO Virginia TPI Implementation Grant (a project called "BioBridge: Talent Infrastructure Alignment") to address the findings of the original TPI study. The project focuses on establishing employer-facing bioscience talent coordination infrastructure across UVA, PVCC, CvilleBioHub, and industry partners, with a key activity of creating a Talent Connector role to align workforce pipeline and employer engagement. Key activities include:

- Convening a quarterly biosciences workforce coalition
- Maintaining the regional Talent Pathways Map and CvilleBioHub jobs board
- Hosting a Tech Expo hospitality suite connecting students with employers
- Supporting PVCC technology and employer tours
- Managing a biosciences lab-crawl program for high school, community college, and university students
- Responding to employment inquiries and connecting candidates with relevant opportunities
- Sharing workforce programs and opportunities through CvilleBioHub's newsletter and website

Success will be measured through participation, employer and student engagement, jobs and opportunities posted, tours and events delivered, referrals and employment connections made, partner feedback, and progress on priorities identified by the workforce coalition.

Proposed Investment: \$50,000

\$25,000 annually for two years if CvilleBioHub is awarded the GO Virginia Talent Pathways Initiative (TPI) Implementation Grant. The project will be submitted in September 2026, with a decision expected prior to the end of 2026.

Staff recommends supporting this initiative as it aligns directly with Albemarle County's Economic Development Strategic Plan (EDSP) Goal 2, which focuses on establishing the region as the Mid-Atlantic's leading destination for biotechnology and life sciences innovation. It most specifically advances Strategy 2.3, which emphasizes leveraging CvilleBioHub to lead a coordinated life sciences workforce and sector partnership.

By strengthening entrepreneurship, expanding industry capacity, and fostering innovation within the Life Sciences sector, this initiative reinforces the county's economic development priorities and contributes to long-term regional vitality and prosperity.