

Guidelines for Special Projects

Adopted by the Commission October 22, 2003

Special Projects are intended to be those activities and/or partnerships which:

- provide potential positive impacts across a substantial portion of the tobacco region of Virginia;
- are so innovative in nature that they provide replicable models that could potentially reshape the economies of communities across the tobacco region;
- are so broad in scope and geographic impact that they do not clearly fit under the eligibility and project types for the Commission's other funding pools (economic development, education, agribusiness, technology, etc.)

Eligible activities for funding: research; marketing; entrepreneurship development (including venture capital and microenterprise lending); non-traditional and/or non-basic* economic development projects and activities.

* Non-traditional or non-basic economic development may include projects or activities that enhance the ability of tobacco-dependent communities to attract outside investment, including (but not limited to) innovative partnerships in the development of housing, recreation and cultural opportunities.

Ineligible activities for funding: infrastructure or projects for water and sewer, telecommunications, transportation, agribusiness or education *unless the proposal involves the active participation of three or more tobacco region localities;*

Eligible applicants: Applications will be accepted from public and non-profit entities, including local and regional political subdivisions and IRS-designated non-profits. Projects that will result in Commission funds being granted or loaned to for-profit private enterprises must be submitted and administered by a public or non-profit applicant.

Matching fund requirement: A minimum required percentage of matching funds is 15-25% of the total project cost, depending on the localities fiscal distress. Matching funds committed to the project must be spent concurrently with Commission funds (i.e. in the same fiscal year). Other project funds used prior to the award of Commission funds will not be considered as matching funds.

Application process: applications are accepted at any time.* The Special Projects Committee will meet as necessary to make recommendations to the full Commission for final action. ■

* *(on forms to be developed, that place the burden of proof on the applicant that the project truly is Special and to provide evidence of why the project should be considered from this source of Commission funds at this time)*