The Virginia Rural Leadership Institute (VRLI) is a rural leadership program that develops and supports highly-skilled, highly-motivated leaders who are committed to revitalizing their communities across the Commonwealth. VRLI addresses the need for high-quality, professional leadership and economic development training that equips community leaders with the skills they need to lead long-term economic advancement in their community and region. The program also seeks to increase cooperation, collaboration, and coordination across a broad array of organizations and sectors. Each year, VRLI will accept up to 30 applicants.

VRLI provides opportunities for participants to hear from economic development and leadership experts, engage with and learn from peers, apply knowledge through classroom exercises, and learn about community successes. VRLI Cohort Members will:

- Increase understanding of leadership, data, and issue trends in Virginia
- Increase understanding of community & economic development
- Teach skills in effective collaboration at the local, regional, and state level
- Increase knowledge of resources available to their community and how to access them
- Build a regional network of community leaders to encourage peer learning, resource sharing and collaboration
- Become part of the Center’s leadership alumni network, which will provide annual professional development, mentoring, and peer networking.
2023 Program

The 4 Sessions will occur one weekend a month typically on a Thursday (half day), Friday, and Saturday (half day).

Session 1 - Southside Virginia
Bee Hotel - Danville - May 18, 19 & 20

Session 2 - Middle Peninsula/Northern Neck
St. Margaret's School - Tappahannock - June 28, 29 & 30 *(Weds. - Fri.)*

Session 3 - Southwest Virginia
Western Front Hotel - St. Paul, Va - September 7, 8 & 9

Session 4 - Shenandoah Valley
Hotel 24 South - Staunton, Va - November 2, 3 & 4

How to Apply
The registration form will be on the www.cfrv.org website and the Institute fee is $3,500 which includes training, materials, lodging, and meals. Applications for the 2023 Cohort are due by March 2, 2023.

By completing an application, you are committing to attending all Sessions.
Financial Aid

Tuition
Tuition for the 2023 VRLI Cohort is due in full by July 1, 2023. Acceptance to VRLI is need-blind.

Requests for financial aid or scholarships will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis by the Advisory Committee of the Rural Leadership Institute, once the selection process is completed. Participants are responsible for their own travel expenses, but meals, lodging, and program materials are covered by the tuition.

Financial Aid Process
Financial aid requests are managed after applicants are accepted to programs. The financial aid process usually consists of filling out a short application describing a participant's financial needs and planned contribution toward their program fees.

Financial Assistance Payment Plan
As a form of financial assistance, accepted applicants may choose our payment plan. The payment plan for the 2023 VRLI Cohort is a $875 payment due on May 15, July 1, August 15, and November 1.

Fundraising
In many instances, participants may find it necessary to fundraise to pay the program deposit and/or supplement their financial aid awards. We are happy to provide guidance and advice based on successful efforts by previous program participants in locating financial support, but the responsibility of any necessary fundraising lies solely on the participant.
The VRC is the established voice for rural localities throughout the Commonwealth and recognizes the demonstrated lack of mechanisms specifically focused on rural Virginia. VRC has long recognized the need for this opportunity and plans to address this with the creation and implementation of the Virginia Rural Leadership Institute.

Our Team

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