



For Immediate Release

CSPDC Contact: Elizabeth McCarty elizabeth@cspdc.org 540-885-5174 ext 108
or Bonnie Riedesel bonnie@cspdc.org 540-885-5174 ext 102

The CSPDC Receives Funding for Regional Housing Program *Grant will stimulate innovative regional affordable housing initiatives*

A new source of funding through Virginia Housing will help the Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission (CSPDC) and its housing partners create more affordable housing units in the region. On July 13, Virginia Housing announced \$40 million in grants to Virginia's 21 Planning Districts. This initiative marks the first time Virginia Housing has provided funding to invest directly into housing production. Based on the region's population, the CSPDC will receive \$2 million of the statewide grant allocation.

"We are pleased to receive this funding from Virginia Housing, said CSPDC Commissioner and Staunton City Council member, Carolyn Dull. These funds will allow the CSPDC to develop new housing initiatives that address the critical shortage of affordable and workforce housing in the region. We know that affordable housing and access to good jobs go hand-in-hand in creating a strong economy and this grant will help to build those strong communities."

"The 3-year grant will allow the CSPDC to look comprehensively at regional housing needs and prioritize projects and programs where funding would be the most impactful, said Elizabeth McCarty, CSPDC Deputy Director. Grant funds could be used for any number of housing initiatives including financing the construction of new housing units, renovating existing vacant properties, developing mixed-used housing, or creating upper-story housing in downtown business districts."

Through this opportunity, the CSPDC will work closely Virginia Housing and the region's housing delivery partners including local governments, housing authorities, non-profit organizations, developers, and other groups working to address the need for more affordable rental and homeownership housing units. The CSPDC plans to bring stakeholders together to launch the program this fall.

About CSPDC

Created in 1969, the CSPDC represents and serves the local governments of Augusta, Bath, Highland Rockbridge and Rockingham counties, and the cities of Buena Vista, Harrisonburg, Lexington, Staunton and Waynesboro as well as the 11 towns within the Central Shenandoah region. The CSPDC works with its member jurisdictions, communities and agencies to provide high-quality planning, technical assistance, and facilitation of services that address local, regional and state needs in an innovative, timely and cooperative manner. Covering everything from land use planning, transportation, water and

waste-water utilities, natural resource management, affordable housing, economic and community development, disaster mitigation and preparedness, agritourism to human services, the CSPDC is an invaluable asset and resource to the region.

###