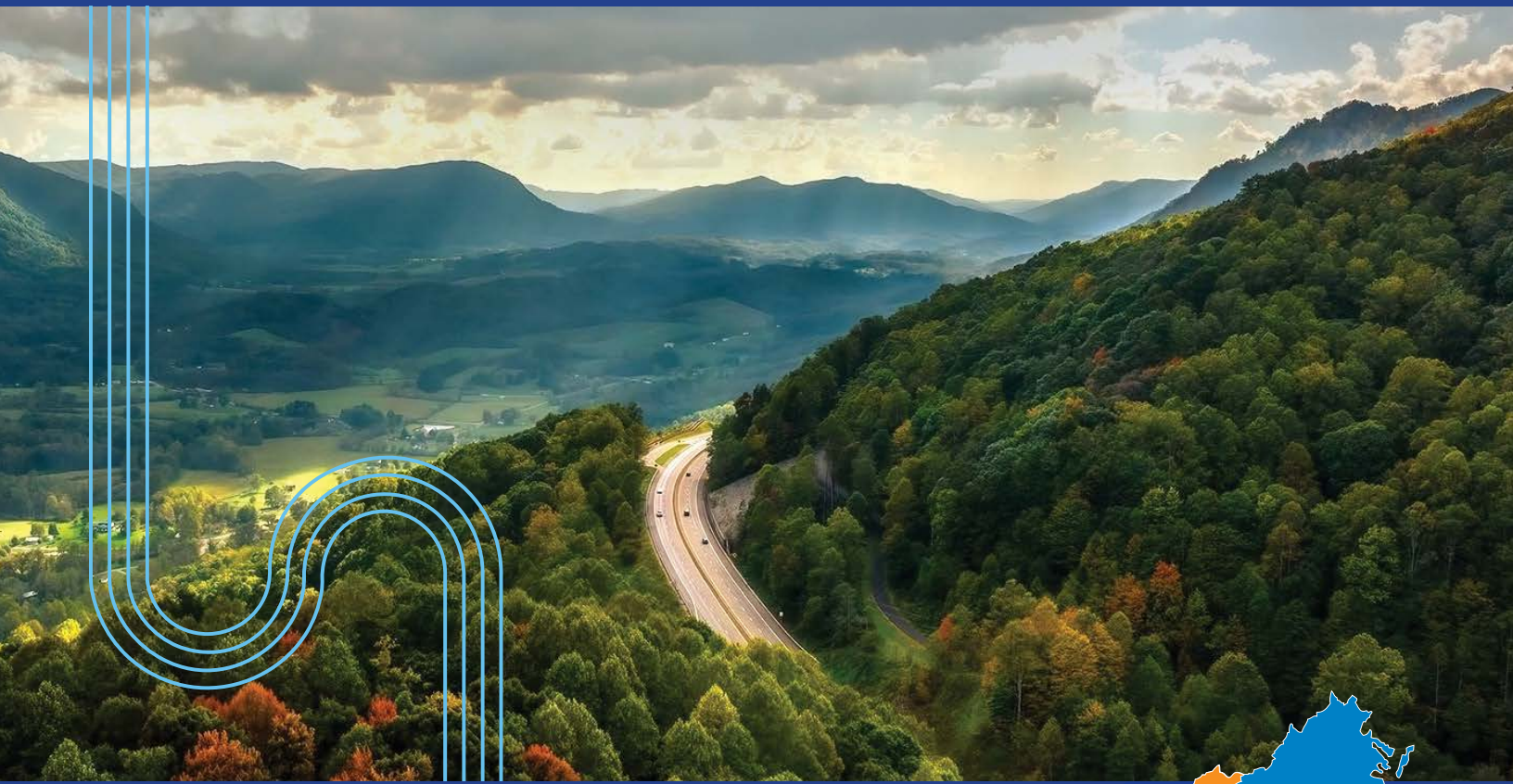
Imagine it. Design it. Refine it. Create it.
IN SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA'S e-REGION



VIRGINIA COALFIELD ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA'S e-REGION

WHERE WE ARE

Strategically located, Southwest Virginia's e-Region is ideally positioned to serve both East Coast and Mid-America markets.

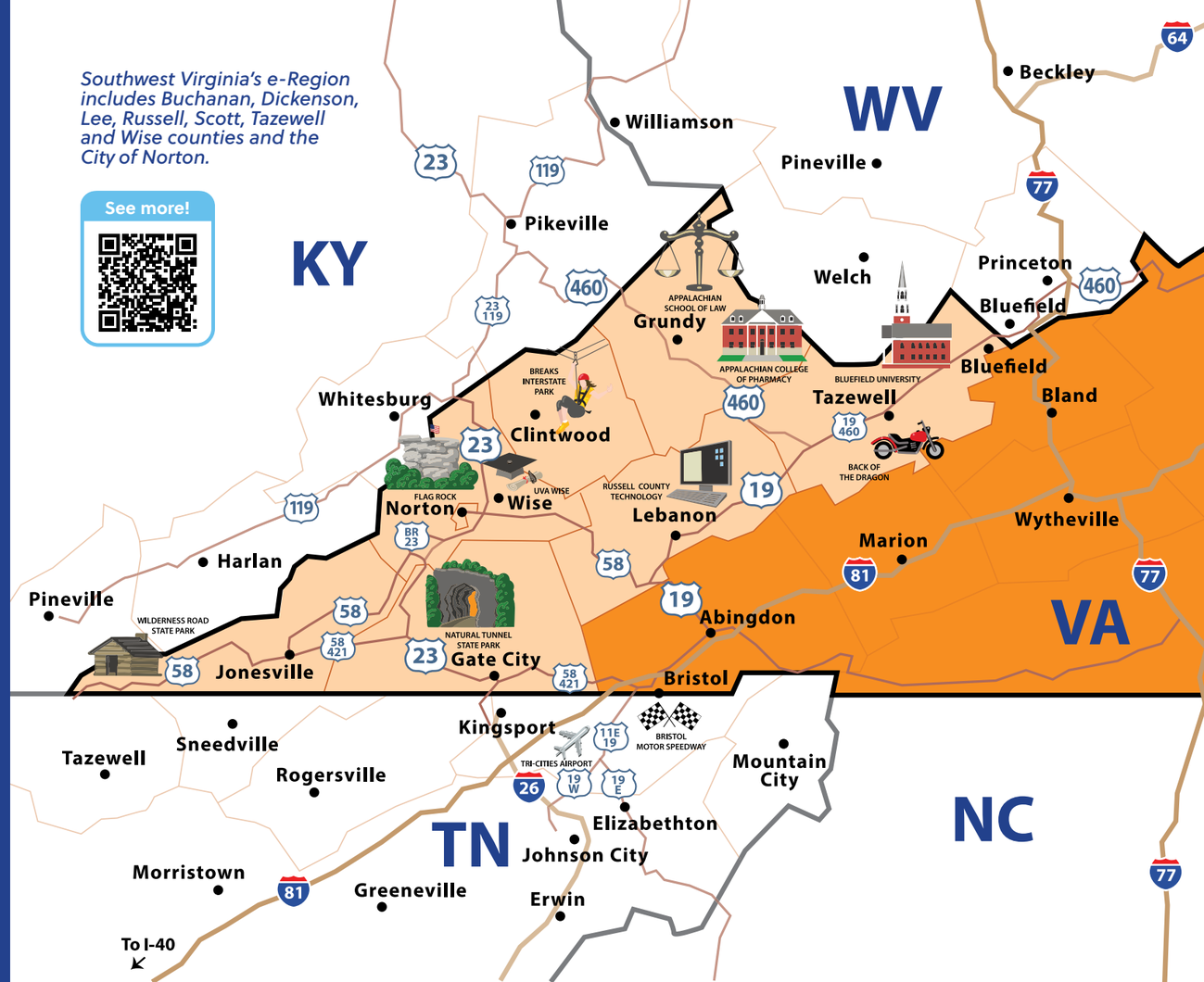
- Located midway between Atlanta–Pittsburgh, Charlotte–Cincinnati, and Richmond–Louisville
- Within a day's drive of more than half of the U.S. population
- The Virginia Coalfields Expressway (U.S. 121) will connect the region to Interstates 64 and 77 in West Virginia and U.S. Route 23 in Virginia, linking to interstates in Kentucky and Tennessee. Portions are open now

Affordability, natural beauty, and a comfortable way of life, along with outdoor recreation, cultural attractions, and quality healthcare and education, make Southwest Virginia's e-Region an appealing place to live, work, and do business.

Cover photo by Belcher Images

Southwest Virginia's e-Region includes Buchanan, Dickenson, Lee, Russell, Scott, Tazewell and Wise counties and the City of Norton.

See more!



The Bluestone Regional Business and Technology Center, Bluefield, VA

WHAT WE DO

The Virginia Coalfield Economic Development Authority (VCEDA) was created by the Virginia General Assembly to enhance this economic region of Virginia of seven counties and one city and offers programs to help qualifying businesses locate or expand in our region, including:

- Loans for real estate, building construction and expansion, and equipment
- Grants for workforce development and training
- Assistance in identifying available sites and buildings
- Industrial park development and infrastructure
- Tourism development
- A business retention and expansion program
- Seed capital grants to assist new start-ups

Imagine It. Design It. Refine It. Create It.

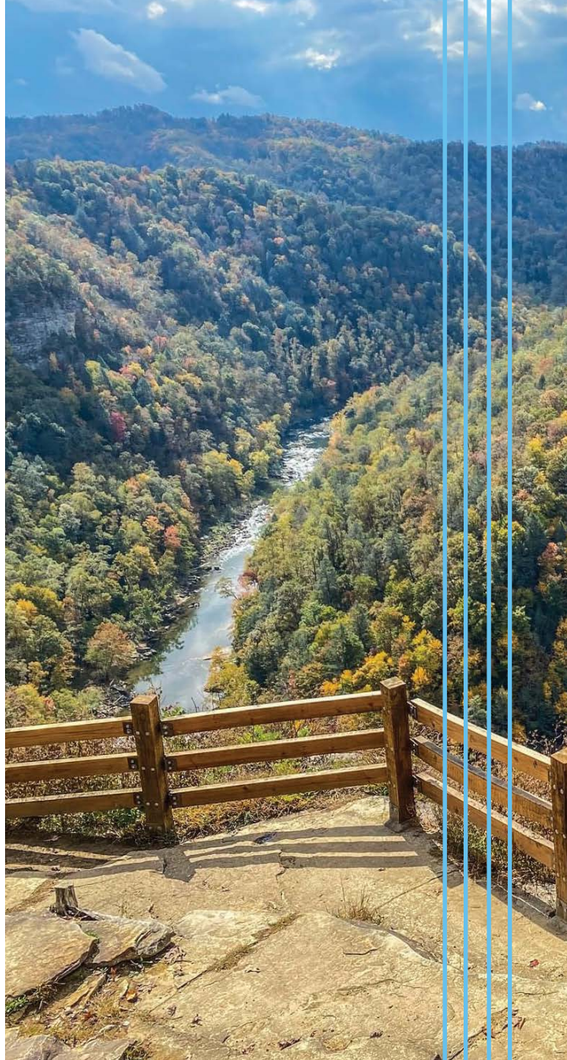
Whether it's ready-to-go facilities, unique incentives, a low cost location in the geographic center of the East Coast or a perfect work-life balance in one of the most scenic regions in the United States, Southwest Virginia's e-Region is the place to be.

The region has emerged as one of the East Coast's newest hubs for electronic information technology, energy, education, advanced specialty manufacturing, and entrepreneurship.

A recognized leader in fiber optic and satellite broadband and wireless connectivity, the region offers competitive operating costs and a skilled workforce. The region also provides tailored training programs, available facilities, and shovel-ready sites in modern technology and business parks.

Equally important, there is exceptional quality of life that helps businesses attract and retain talent.

Key driver of this progress is the Virginia Coalfield Economic Development Authority (VCEDA), a regional economic development authority created in 1988 to enhance and diversify the economy of the seven-county, one-city coal-producing region of southwestern Virginia. Since its inception, VCEDA has helped attract tens of thousands of jobs and facilitated hundreds of millions of dollars in approved funding for projects across the coalfield region—strengthening infrastructure, supporting business expansion, and positioning the region for long-term growth and opportunity.



Breaks Interstate Park

Learn more about advanced manufacturing with VCEDA

Welding training at Mountain Empire Community College

GENERATIONAL SKILLS, MODERN WORKFORCE

In Southwest Virginia's e-Region, you'll find a workforce fierce with pride in their roots—skills and traditions passed down through generations in industries like coal and natural gas.

Coupled with industries like manufacturing, cybersecurity, healthcare, new energy technologies and adventure tourism, the region boasts a skilled workforce and strong work ethic.

West River Conveyors

Manufacturing

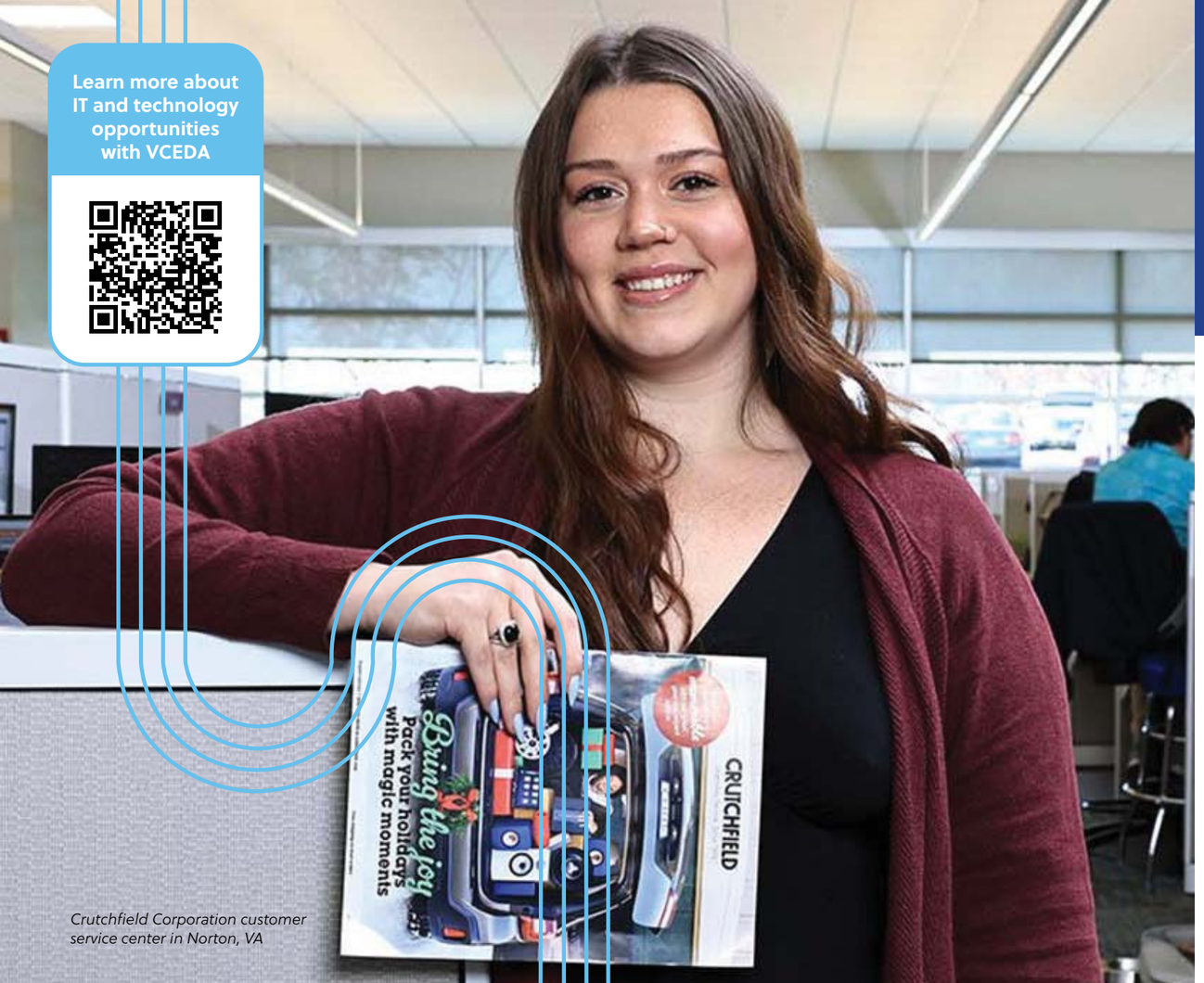
Building on our manufacturing history and base, we're ready for an upsurge in American manufacturing.

With a national renewed interest in Make it in the USA, our region offers manufacturers a place to start or expand in a region that has been actively diversifying and preparing for jobs of the future for many years.

Long-established companies that once supplied the mining and natural gas industries are leveraging advances in laser technology, mechatronics, and robotics. They're pivoting production to expand into global markets, while new companies are introducing advanced manufacturing technologies and innovative solutions to the region.

New manufacturers locating in the region are finding success and gaining access to a talent pool trained in manufacturing skills. We have finished and unfinished space and developed business parks to suit a variety of manufacturing business needs.

Learn more about IT and technology opportunities with VCEDA



Crutchfield Corporation customer service center in Norton, VA

INNOVATION, GROWTH, AND PROVEN EXPERIENCE

Southwest Virginia's e-Region has been growing and supporting technology businesses for more than 35 years.

CGI's first U.S. onshore delivery center in Lebanon, VA

Information Technology

Our region is home to thousands of IT professionals and a growing number of innovative technology companies benefiting from strong academic and training programs supporting IT careers. Offering a strong foundation for IT growth, the region has a proven track record of delivering high-quality services to both government and commercial clients.

We're a top choice for IT jobs and businesses due to widespread and high-speed fiber-optic broadband, proximity to Northern Virginia IT hubs, strong business continuity and disaster recovery, and a strong talent pipeline from University of Virginia's College at Wise and Virginia Tech. CGI chose Southwest Virginia's e-Region as the location for its first U.S. onshore delivery center. Crutchfield Corporation located its first customer service and tech support center away from its Charlottesville, VA headquarters in the VCEDA region.

Learn more about diverse energy opportunities with VCEDA

Solar panel training at Southwest Virginia Community College

ENERGY FOR THE FUTURE

With active metallurgical coal mining that helps produce the steel supporting bridges and buildings across the country, along with natural and coalbed methane gas production, Southwest Virginia's coalfield region is the energy capital of Virginia.

Metallurgical coal makes steel

Energy

Building upon the heritage of the coalfields of Virginia, our region is also becoming a home for alternative energy, including solar.

By utilizing reclaimed land formerly used for coal mining, the region offers a logical solution for the location of solar farms that can offer clean, green energy for the future.

The region's energy industry history, combined with its strong assets in manufacturing, also creates excellent opportunities to produce component parts for a variety of energy sectors.

Training the workforce for alternative energy jobs is an important part of our plans. VCEDA has helped to fund apprenticeship programs in the region in solar technology at the region's two community colleges as well as funding for new training programs in hybrid and electric vehicles. VCEDA also manages a Renewable Energy Fund to help support renewable energy projects.

Learn more about opportunities for small business with VCEDA

The Well on Main in Clintwood, VA

START OR GROW A SMALL BUSINESS WITH SEED CAPITAL

Hundreds of small businesses in Southwest Virginia's e-Region have launched or expanded with support from VCEDA's Seed Capital Matching Fund and regional Small Business Development Centers.

Neeka Skincare, LLC

Entrepreneurship

Starting a business can be a daunting process, but VCEDA is here, with our partners in the region, to help you grow your dream into reality.

Recognizing the role small business and entrepreneurs play in communities, VCEDA created its Seed Capital Matching Fund to provide a source of corresponding grant funds to assist new, startup and emerging small businesses located within Southwest Virginia's e-Region.

Since launching the program in 2017, hundreds of new business startups have been assisted in the region and numerous jobs have been created, with a 34:1 return on VCEDA's investment.

Seed capital grants have ranged from those approved for coffee shops, food trucks and restaurants to those providing services in construction, HVAC repair and manufacturing, and those utilizing drone technology for everything from photography and videography to lost pet and livestock searches.

Learn more about tourism opportunities with VCEDA

Elk viewing is a popular activity in the region

ENJOY THE NATURAL SCENIC BEAUTY OF SOUTHWESTERN VIRGINIA

From off-road trail systems to mountain biking, hiking, camping, river rafting, swimming, ziplining, elk viewing, horseback riding and more, Southwest Virginia's e-Region has much to offer to visitors and locals alike.

Covered bridge near Coeburn, VA

Tourism

The possibilities for building on all the natural assets in the region are virtually endless. VCEDA works with the region's economic development and tourism agencies and officials to help grow and support this significant industry sector in Southwest Virginia's e-Region.

Hike, ride, float, climb...or just enjoy the natural scenic beauty. Take a drive and enjoy the region's historical sites, including:

- **The Breaks Interstate Park:** known as the Grand Canyon of the South
- **Spearhead Trails System:** 400+ miles, 7 trail systems of off-road adventure
- **The Crooked Road:** Virginia's Heritage Music Trail, with several venues in the region
- **The Wilderness Road:** Virginia's Heritage Migration Route tracing the footsteps of Daniel Boone
- **The Virginia Coal Heritage Trail:** 300+ miles of scenic byways providing travelers with glimpses of unique coal mining towns formed more than a century ago

FIND YOUR WORK-LIFE BALANCE

When the workweek ends and it's time to unwind, our region offers a relaxed, welcoming lifestyle with a low cost of living, moderate four-season weather, and stunning scenery. Residents enjoy abundant outdoor recreation, rich cultural experiences, access to healthcare and educational facilities, and low crime rates—making it a great place to live, work and raise a family.

The region includes many notable attractions, such as Breaks Interstate Park, along the Virginia-Kentucky border, and is located just a short drive from Barter Theatre, the State Theatre of Virginia, the famous Bristol Motor Speedway, five state parks, and more than 20 golf courses.

Finding the perfect work-life balance is easy in Southwest Virginia's e-Region.

SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA'S e-REGION

VCEDA
VIRGINIA COALFIELD ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

vceda.us • 1-800-735-9999 • mail@vceda.us

Rock climbing at Breaks Interstate Park