



CENTRAL REGION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Updated figures from the Virginia Employment Commission show COVID-19 continues to have an impact on the Central Virginia workforce.

Data reported Thursday indicates 7,526 people in the Central Virginia workforce area filed initial claims for unemployment insurance between the weeks of March 14 and April 4, 2020. The Central Virginia workforce region includes the counties of Amherst, Appomattox, Bedford, and Campbell along with the city of Lynchburg.

The largest number of claims came from workers in the sector of Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations. 1,651 initial claims were filed by Central Virginia workers in this category between March 1 and April 4. Other highly impacted job areas include Office and Administrative Support Occupations, which reported 924 initial claims. Personal Care and Service Occupations reported 887 initial claims, followed by Sales and Related Occupations with 801 initial claims.

The Virginia Employment Commission has staff available in the Lynchburg area to assist both workers and employers with the filing process. Staff can be reached by calling the Virginia Career Works Lynchburg Center at (434) 455-5940.

Virginia Career Works will place a special emphasis on retraining workers for jobs in high demand fields such as manufacturing and healthcare, when conditions improve and allow for appropriate contact.

“We really have nothing with which to compare our current circumstances,” said Nat Marshall, chair of the Central Virginia Workforce Development Board and Virginia Board of Workforce Development. “Our Center is re-deploying many of its assets to help in the battle. We are focusing on the unemployed, but also looking to the future when we come out of this pandemic.”

ABOUT VIRGINIA CAREER WORKS – CENTRAL REGION

The Central Virginia Workforce Development Board (WDB) is the designated regional convener and administrative entity that coordinates workforce training and career services through federal funding from the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). We are charged with overseeing and implementing workforce development initiatives and activities throughout the Virginia Career Works – Central Region. Activities of Virginia Career Works - Central Region are supported in part with funds from the U. S. Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) award (#: AA-32183-18-55-A-51) awarded to the City of Lynchburg on behalf of the Central Virginia Workforce Development Board. Additional matching funds of \$23,000 comes from the Region 2 Go Virginia Talent Collaborative Grant.