



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Office of the Governor

Timothy M. Kaine  
Governor

December 18, 2009

Barbara Velarde  
Chief, Service Center Operations  
USCIS Foreign Trade, Investor & Regional Center Program  
Office of Service Center Operations, Business & Trade Services  
20 Massachusetts Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20529

Re: State Agency Designation

Dear Ms. Velarde:

This letter is to identify the agency in Virginia which has been named to determine and designate areas of high unemployment as Targeted Employment Areas with respect to the application of Gulf Coast Funds Management, LLC for approval of expansion in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Through this letter I am identifying the Virginia Employment Commission as responsible for the determination and designation of areas of high unemployment or rural areas as Targeted Employment Areas for the purposes of fulfilling this requirement for USCIS and the EB-5 Regional Center Program.

Sincerely,

Timothy M. Kaine



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Virginia Employment Commission

703 East Main Street

Dolores A. Esser  
Commissioner

Data Office Box 1178  
Richmond, Virginia 23218-1178

December 15, 2009

Barbara Velarde  
Chief, Service Center Operations  
USCIS Foreign Trade, Investor & Regional Center Program  
Office of Service Center Operations, Business & Trade Services  
20 Massachusetts Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20529

Re: Targeted Employment Area Designation in Virginia

Dear Ms. Velarde:

The Virginia Employment Commission certifies that the following areas are Targeted Employment Areas (TEA) within the Commonwealth of Virginia. Targeted Employment Areas are defined as areas, which at the time of investment, are rural areas, or areas which have experienced unemployment of at least 150 percent of the national average rate within Virginia.

High unemployment areas were determined using the 2008 national not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate of 5.8 percent; 150 percent of 5.8 percent is 8.7 percent. High unemployment areas are any particular geographical or political subdivision located within a Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), or within a city or town having a population of 20,000, or more, within such state. Many of the high unemployment areas are tobacco-dependent regions, which are established under *Code of Virginia*, Section 3.1-1107, and defined as civil jurisdictions in Southwest and Southside Virginia, where they are historical tobacco production regions and are experiencing the highest unemployment rates within the Commonwealth of Virginia. In order to decrease the high unemployment rate while transforming into a less tobacco-dependent economy, these areas are designated as TEA to seek enhanced economic recovery and development.

Rural areas are defined as civil jurisdictions not located within any standard MSA as designated by the Office of Management and Budget, or within any city or town having a population of 20,000, or more, based on the most recent decennial census of the United States.

The following attachment contains designated Target Employment Areas for the Commonwealth of Virginia. If you have any questions or need clarification, please contact Donald Lillywhite, Economic Information Services Director, at (804) 786-5670.

Sincerely,

Dolores Esser  
Commissioner

cc: Lauren Kiedsmeier, Chief of Staff, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services  
Donald Neufeld, Acting Associate Director, Domestic Operations

Attachment

(804) 786-1485

VCE TDD 1 (800) 828-1120  
Equal Opportunity Employer Program

E-Mail [vee@vaworkforce.com](mailto:vee@vaworkforce.com)

## Virginia Tobacco Localities Unemployment Rate Overview

Annual National Average Unemployment 2008

5.80%

Virginia Tobacco Counties	Annual 2008 Unemployment Rate	Multiple of National Average
Amelia	4.6%	79%
Bedford	3.6%	62%
Bland	4.8%	83%
Brunswick	6.7%	116%
Buchanan	5.1%	88%
Campbell	4.0%	69%
Carroll	6.8%	117%
Charlotte	6.0%	103%
Cumberland	4.9%	84%
Dickenson	5.8%	100%
Dinwiddie	4.6%	79%
Floyd	4.4%	76%
Franklin	4.9%	84%
Grayson	6.5%	121%
Greensville	5.5%	95%
Halifax	6.9%	119%
Henry	8.1%	140%
Lee	5.3%	91%
Lunenburg	6.0%	103%
Mecklenburg	6.6%	114%
Nottoway	5.5%	95%
Patrick	6.6%	114%
Pittsylvania	6.9%	119%
Prince Edward	5.4%	93%
Russell	5.8%	100%
Scott	5.5%	95%
Smyth	6.2%	107%
Sussex	5.9%	102%
Tazewell	4.4%	76%
Washington	5.0%	86%
Wise	4.6%	79%
Wythe	5.4%	93%
<b>Virginia Cities</b>		
Emporia (Greensville County)	7.4%	128%
Danville (Henry County)	9.6%	166%
Martinsville (Pittsylvania County)	12.1%	209%

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA  
Virginia Employment Commission  
PO Box 1358  
Richmond, Virginia 23218-1358

Official Business

CRDS 12/24/2009 08:34:49

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



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Chief, Service Center Operations  
USCIS Foreign Trade, Investor & Regional  
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Office of Service Center Operations  
Business & Trade Services  
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Washington, DC 20529

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