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News Release

For Immediate Release

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Roanoke County Recognized for Model Programs

(Roanoke County, VA—August 6, 2021) The Virginia Association of Counties (VACo) has awarded Roanoke County two Achievement Awards, which recognize excellence in local government programs. Of the 100 submissions received from across the state, only 30 were selected. Winning entries focused on addressing inclusion, belonging and reconciliation.

Roanoke County earned an award for the role of its Public Libraries in civic engagement and providing continual services to citizens amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. The staff transitioned to new service delivery models, such as increasing electronic resources and virtual programs, instituting curbside services, utilizing 3D printers to make face shields for first responders, and adapting their drive-through windows for use by the Treasurer's office.

Roanoke County also earned an Achievement Award for the successful revitalization project, in conjunction with the Town of Vinton, of preserving and redeveloping underutilized historic properties, creating new jobs, and revitalizing the Town's central business district. The revitalization project consists of five redeveloped properties with a total investment of \$21.7 million in taxable new investment and the creation of nearly 130 jobs.

More information about the award submissions can be found [here](#).

The VACo Achievement Awards is a competitive program open to local government members of the association.



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PRESS RELEASE



Visit [VACo's Achievement Award website](#) to view all entries in their complete format.

2021 ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

ROANOKE COUNTY | From Crisis to Transformation: Local Solutions to a Global Pandemic

As Roanoke County Public Library (RCPL) shifted its services home and back again, staff reimagined the library's role in civic engagement and in providing support across the area. The library leveraged its brick and mortar, technological, and intellectual resources, and over the course of 12 months, transitioned to new service delivery models, updated its buildings according to COVID-19 protocols, supported first responders by creating 300 3D printed face shields, the Treasurer's office by opening our three drive-through windows and renovating a former café for their use, schools by providing hot spots to students, the Census Bureau by dedicating our assistant director as the County's Census Count Committee Chair, and Virginia Department of Health by providing staff who would spend about 140 hours making phone calls to help mostly older residents schedule vaccines. Throughout the pandemic, RCPL strengthened our connections with one another and furthered our reach in the community.

ROANOKE COUNTY | Town of Vinton Business District Revitalization Project

The Town of Vinton Business District Revitalization Project consists of five (5) public-private partnerships involving two local governments and multiple properties. The Town of Vinton, located in Roanoke County, is a 3-square mile community, home to over 8,000 residents. Though small, the Town of Vinton and Roanoke County have initiated multiple redevelopment projects over the past six years to enhance the Town's economic vitality. The Vinton Business District Revitalization Project is comprised of five separately redeveloped properties: Roland E. Cook School; William Byrd School; Vinton Library; Vinyard Station; and Gish's Mill. The total investment is \$21.7 million in taxable new investment with \$533,500 in annual tax base enhancement, and over 129 jobs created from redeveloped properties.