



BEDFORD BUSINESS FIRST

News from Bedford County Office of Economic Development

October 2021

Do you need assistance in determining what programs and loans are available for your business? Please visit the [Office of Economic Development's website](#) for available loans and grants and click Covid-19 Business Resources at the top of the page. Call our office for more information.



Pam Bailey
Economic Development Director
540-587-5670 ext. 1375
[email](#)

Click this link for COVID-19
business information.



Bedford County Names New Economic Development Director

Following a national search process, County Administrator Robert Hiss is pleased to announce a familiar person in Bedford County, Pam Bailey, as the new Economic Development Director. Since February 2018, she served as the Marketing and Business Development Coordinator for the County's Economic Development Office. Bailey will replace long-time Director, Traci Blido, who is now the Director of the Workforce Development in Central Virginia.

Ms. Bailey has over 25 years' experience in the marketing and communications field with private companies (Blair Marketing), a global telecommunication company (Ericsson), and non-profits (United Way of Central Virginia). While in Bedford County she has led all marketing efforts, managed the departmental and Economic Development Authority (EDA) budgets, managed and facilitated many grants and leases, and led the Bedford One program.

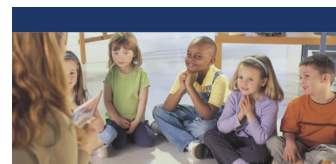
[Read the full release here.](#)

Attention all parents and employers in Bedford County We want to hear from you!

Please help us determine the needs of parents/guardians, and employers in terms of childcare needs and its impact on workforce development. Please take the short survey as it pertains to you.

[Childcare Needs Survey](#)
[Employer Childcare Survey](#)

Please help up spread the word and take the survey by
October 29th.



ATTENTION ALL PARENTS AND EMPLOYERS

Childcare Needs Surveys

Please help us determine the needs of parents/guardians, and employers in terms of childcare needs and its impact on workforce development. Please take the survey as it pertains to you.



Parent/Guardian Survey



Employer Survey



bedford@economicdevelopment.com 540-587-5670

WexcoUSA opens bi-metallic component manufacturing facility in Bedford

The Bedford County Office of Economic Development, in



partnership with the Economic Development Authority (EDA), is pleased to announce that WexcoUSA, a BlenClad company is now open in Bedford in the former Bunker Hill Foods plant at 3678 Moneta Road. Nearly 50 people came out to support the company at its ribbon cutting event on September 18. The company is leasing a portion of the former Bunker Hill Foods building for manufacturing. Owner Calvin Lundeen is the former VP of Engineering of the well-respected Wexco on Dillard Drive in Lynchburg which opened in 1974 and closed in August of 2020 after the family

dissolved the company. [Read the full release here.](#)

Nanotouch recognized for Excellence in Manufacturing by the Lynchburg Regional Business Alliance

What better way to celebrate manufacturing week this week than to recognize a local company for its Excellence in Manufacturing. The Lynchburg Regional Business Alliance Director of Events, Denise Jackson, presented Dennis Hackemeyer and Mark Sisson with the Excellence in Manufacturing award for 2021. They will be recognized at the upcoming Salute to Manufacturing Breakfast virtual event on October 5, 2021, but received the award early at their headquarters in the New London Business and Technology Center park. To learn more about Nanotouch, [visit their website and see their new look!](#)



Disc Golf Tournament brings golfers from around the world to Bedford County

We are thankful for the perfect weather and for the players and spectators from all over the country who were here the weekend of September 18 for the three-day Battle for Bedford presented by Bluechip Technologies Disc Golf Tournament. People from three countries and 28 states were in town for this tournament to benefit the [Paul McBeth Foundation](#) and [Foundation Disc Golf](#).



Small Business Owners: Share your perspective!

The Virginia SBDC Network is partnering with the Federal Reserve Bank to conduct a Small Business Credit Survey. The findings will help determine needs, gaps and opportunities to support business owners in accessing capital.

The survey closes on November 19 and results will be published in early 2022. [Take the survey here.](#)

www.virginiasbdc.org

Are You Looking to Hire Job-Ready Employees While Supporting Your Community?
You may qualify to receive monthly stipends!

The Full Employment Program (FEP) is a subsidized employment program available through the Virginia Department of Social Services. FEP provides opportunities for participants to increase self-sufficiency by earning a living wage, increasing career-related work skills, and improving their competitiveness in the labor market.

FEP employers can receive a monthly stipend for up to 6 months for each FEP participant they hire.

Effective July 1, 2021, FEP employers will receive stipends based on tiers:

Tier I	Tier II	Tier III
\$500 per month Employers who hire FEP participants on average 20 - 29 hours	\$750 per month Employers who hire FEP participants on average 30 - 39 hours	\$1,000 per month Employers who hire FEP participants on average 40+ hours

How can an employer partner with the Virginia Department of Social Services and hire FEP participants?

- Employers must be a Virginia business.
- Employers must be a for-profit business.
- Employers must be a non-union business.
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Virginia Department of Social Services

Are you looking to hire job-ready employees while supporting your community?

You may qualify to receive monthly stipends!

The Full Employment Program (FEP) is a subsidized employment program available through the Virginia Department of Social Services. FEP is designed to provide an opportunity for participants to increase self-sufficiency by earning a living wage, increase career-related work skills, and improve their competitiveness in the labor market. The FEP Employer can receive a monthly stipend for a maximum of 6 months for each FEP Participant hired to work an average of 20 hours or more a week. Effective 7/1/2021, FEP Employers will receive stipends based on tiers:

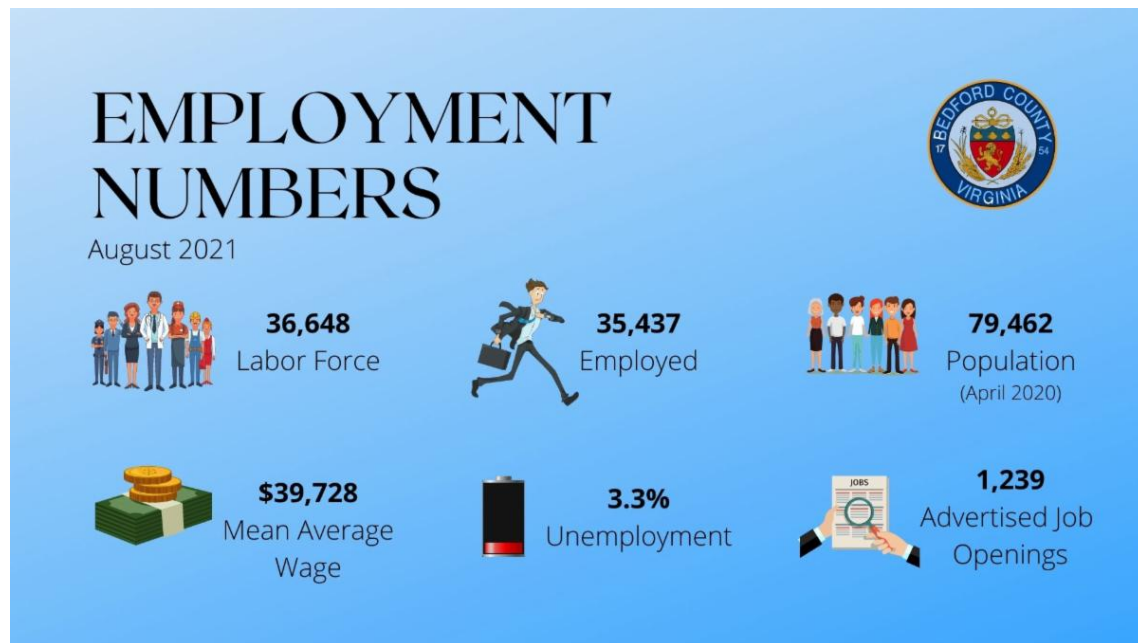
- Tier I - \$500 per month (When participants work on average 20 - 29 hours)
- Tier II - \$750 per month (When participants work on average 30 - 39 hours)
- Tier III - \$1,000 per month (When participants work on average 40 hours or more)

For more information, visit: <https://www.dss.virginia.gov/benefit/tanf/fep.cgi>

Disability Employment Awareness Month



The Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services (DARS) Business Services Team is hosting a series of events throughout the month of October that explore disability employment issues and the role they play in fostering a disability-friendly work culture. For more information and a link to the events, **visit the [DARS website](#).**



Read the latest [Community Profile](#) data as provided by the Virginia Employment Commission. Information includes population trends and demographics, commuting patterns, economic profiles, as well as employment and unemployment data.



Governor Northam Announces App That Makes Small, Women-Owned, and Minority-Owned Businesses More Accessible

Earlier this week, Governor Ralph Northam announced the launch of the Start Small app to connect app users and state government agencies with nearby vendors. **Start Small** is free, mobile-friendly, and can be used by anyone.

Keyword searches will match users with nearby businesses from the approximately 100,000 registered vendors. Searches can be further refined to only small businesses, including those owned by women, minorities (SWaM) or service-disabled veterans certified through the Department of Small Business and Supplier Diversity.

Expanding? We have Business Ready Sites for you.

Our premier [New London Business and Technology Center](#) park in Forest features pad-ready and cleared lots for sale ranging from 7.5 to 48+ acres for whatever size facility suits your needs. Prices are negotiable based on jobs and investment. [Download the flier here.](#)



The **Bedford Center for Business** has land ready for development including a graded lot, and it lies within the Town's Enterprise Zone and Virginia's Opportunity Zone. [Download the flier here.](#)



In **Montvale Center for Commerce**, two lots are available with nearly 20 combined acres ready for grading. Conveniently located on 460W and close to I-81. [Download the flier here.](#)

Call the Office of Economic Development to learn how we can help your business grow in Bedford County. 540-587-5670 BedfordEconomicDevelopment.com

Did you know we have other commercial listings available on our website?
[Check them out here.](#)

Like what you see?

We post regularly to keep you up to date on projects taking place in the community, continuing education opportunities, and more!



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Bedford County Office of Economic Development
540-587-5670