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FY27 Virginia Wine Board Grants Begin Today

Richmond, VA (June 1, 2026) – Today, 13 Virginia Wine Board (VWB) competitively-awarded grants totaling \$421,271 begin their 2026-2027 activities. The VWB program funds research, education, and marketing projects that further a vibrant and sustainable Virginia wine industry, with grants that lay the foundation for growers, producers, and business teams in Virginia to create healthy vineyards, quality wine, and excitement within and beyond Virginia.

“Our priorities are clear in this year’s grants,” said Dr. Megan Seibel, VWB Chair. “We are standing on our investments to prepare Virginia for the future and adding select initiatives to raise our profile and build excitement.”

These select initiatives, 10% of awarded funds, advance two marketing projects. A series of micro-films will promote the documentary about Virginia wine’s history and diverse present, which was produced in the previous grant year and is in preparation for release. In addition, targeted outreach aims to put Virginia wine in Washington, DC trade markets.

However, the bulk of VWB’s grants go to research and even increased over last year’s share, to 71% of FY27’s awarded grant funds. All seven such grants maintain important research to impact quality and profitability of Virginia wine. Researchers continue to investigate vineyard pests (spotted lanternfly, downy mildew, and testing for fungicide resistance); compare under-vine cover crops to optimize production goals; and assess the impacts of variety, vineyard and vintage on phenolics to inform winemaker decisions. A Virginia-specific sustainability program enters its second pilot year, and observations of specific Virginia apples’ chemical and sensory characteristics generate valuable data for cidermakers.

Four education grants, 19% of awarded funds, continue to ensure Virginia’s wine industry benefits from the most current information and resources. These grants support Virginia Vineyards Association and Virginia Cider Association technical meetings, updates on regulations and winery resources, and the annual Commercial Grape Report.

More information on the grant program, including a complete list of funded projects, can be found at virginiawine.org/pages/grants. Final reports will be posted [here](#) when projects complete.

Created by the Virginia General Assembly in 1984 as part of Virginia's Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, and funded by the wine liter tax, the Virginia Wine Board promotes the interests of vineyards and wineries in the Commonwealth through research, education, and marketing.

For more information on the grant program, contact Jennifer Reichert at vwbgrants@stonywater.com. For media requests or more information on the Virginia Wine Industry, please contact the Virginia Wine Board Marketing Office at 804-344-8200 or information@virginiawine.org.

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