

ITSP Summary Biennium 2026-28

Agency Name: 948 Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center (SWVHEC)

Date Generated: 09-29-2025

Agency Mission, Goals and Objectives:

Agency Mission:

The mission of the Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center (SWVHEC) is to strengthen the regional economy of southwest Virginia by preparing its citizens for jobs of the 21st Century.

Agency Goals:

Prepare Southwest Virginia adult students for top jobs of the 21st Century.

Elevate the levels of educational preparedness and degree attainment of citizens in Southwest Virginia. Offer a comprehensive curriculum of undergraduate and graduate degree programs, with classes scheduled year round at times and locations that are convenient for adult students.

Ensure that academic courses are aligned with the current and future employment needs of business and industry in the region.

Market the benefits of higher education and lifelong learning.

Continue to be a model for collaborative off-campus higher education and conference services, both in-state and out-of-state.

Strive to be the most productive, creative, and efficiently managed Higher Education Center in Virginia.

The Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center is an innovative model of efficient, collaborative, off-campus higher education, conference facilities, and business support services. Communities, both in-state and out-of-state, use the SWVHEC as their benchmark of success for similar projects.

Agency Objectives:

Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center has established the following goals to provide the overarching direction to help steer long-term outcomes. Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center has established three to five agency objectives for the upcoming biennium.

Objective #1: Technology

The objective is to deliver innovative, secure, and reliable technology infrastructure and support that drives educational excellence, improves operational efficiency, and promotes regional collaboration. Aligned with the Center's mission to expand access to higher education and workforce development, the IT department is committed to supporting both instructional and administrative technology needs through responsive, customer-focused service. This includes ensuring the security and integrity of all systems, maintaining compliance with state and federal IT standards, and leveraging emerging technologies to improve teaching, learning, and remote connectivity.

SWVHEC also focuses on maintaining a scalable network that supports the Center's wide range of partners and events. By leading strategic initiatives that promote digital equity and innovation throughout the region, the team helps create opportunities for growth and advancement. Through careful planning, strong partnerships, and a commitment to continuous improvement, IT plays a vital role in positioning SWVHEC as a leader in educational technology and digital infrastructure for Southwest Virginia.

Objective #2: Student Engagement and Retention

The objective of the Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center (SWVHEC) is to strengthen student engagement and increase retention by offering meaningful, hands-on learning experiences and flexible access to instruction. By integrating advanced technologies like the Anatomage Tables, immersive room, science labs, and simulation lab, students gain

practical, SWVHEC provides students with immersive, practice-based education that ties classroom theory with real-world application. These resources support learning, skill development, and student confidence, particularly in health sciences and other high-demand fields.

To further improve engagement and accessibility, SWVHEC leverages video conferencing and hybrid learning tools to reach students across the region. This approach promotes consistent participation, collaboration, and ensures that students in rural or remote areas can remain connected and supported. By combining experiential learning with technology-enabled instruction, SWVHEC aims to improve academic success, boost student satisfaction, and support long-term retention and degree completion.

Objective #3: Workforce Development

Ensure employment opportunities are made available for students in their certification and degree programs

The Southwest Region is geographically removed from the more densely populated areas of the state where most colleges are located. The Higher Education Center provides a cost effective means by which citizens of the region can advance their career opportunities. With over 134 undergraduate and graduate degree programs, and credit certificates available through ten top ranked colleges and universities in the Commonwealth, location bound adults are able to excel beyond entry level jobs to ones with greater responsibility and higher pay.

The Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center does not confer degrees or employ academic faculty. Rather, the Center provides space, technology and equipment for top colleges and universities to offer classes. Students graduate with degrees conferred from these partner institutions. Because degree majors are aligned with employer needs, the outcomes are significant: graduates have employment opportunities in the region; employers have access to a talent pool of qualified professionals; and economic developers can recruit new companies.

The increased availability of on-line courses from across the globe presents a challenge for the Center. Students can register online and access instructional content from an offsite computer. To address this challenge, the center now offers more degrees and certificates that require some form of face-to-face instruction

Current IT State:

In this section, describe the high-level strategy the agency will use to manage existing operational IT investments over the next year to 6 years in support of the strategic objectives of your agency.

At this time, the agency anticipates that all Current Operational IT Investments will continue to meet agency business needs in the foreseeable future and will not need enhancement or additional investment.

Will any of the following areas require additional funding over the next 6 years beyond that currently forecast by your agency? (please check all that apply)

Looking ahead over the next 6 years, please list any IT initiatives needed to support the business Mission, Goals, and Objectives of your agency not addressed by application modernization (other than staffing levels and applications detailed elsewhere). These could include disaster recovery, network upgrades, radio communications etc.

External Factors Impacting IT:

In this section, describe changes or mandates from external sources to the agency's current IT investments. These are requirements and mandates from external sources, such as new federal or state legislation, executive orders, regulatory bodies, or legal requirements. The agency must identify the change, any important deadlines that must be met, and the consequences if the deadlines are not met.

At this time, the agency is not aware of any external factors, requirements or mandates that will require IT investments by the agency in the foreseeable future.

Are there any mandate driving changes in your current IT environment? (Yes/No)

No

Future IT Solutions:

This section will discuss how the agency's IT investments and investment strategies support the business strategies over the next 6 years. The agency does not need to discuss specific technologies at this time.

At this time, the agency does not have any Proposed IT Solutions or investments that will support agency strategic objectives, service area strategic objectives, commonwealth, enterprise, or secretariat-level strategic priorities, agency performance measures, or societal indicators.

IT Strategic Plan Budget Tables

Current IT Services				
	Costs Year 1		Costs Year 2	
Category	GF	NGF	GF	NGF
Projected Service Fees	\$13,000		\$13,500	
VITA Infrastructure Changes				
Estimated VITA Infrastructure	\$13,000		\$13,500	
Specialized Infrastructure	\$303,000	\$84,000	\$306,000	\$88,200
Agency IT Staff	\$290,000		\$305,000	
Non-agency IT Staff				
Cloud Computing Service	\$15,800		\$16,600	
Other Application Costs	\$36,750		\$38,600	
Total:	\$658,550	\$84,000	\$679,700	\$88,200

Proposed IT Investments				
	Costs Year 1		Costs Year 2	
Category	GF	NGF	GF	NGF
Major IT Projects:				
Non-Major IT Projects:				
Agency-Level IT Projects:	\$315,000		\$3,308,000	
Major Stand Alone IT Procurements:				
Non-Major Stand Alone IT Procurements:				
Agency-Level Stand Alone IT Procurements:				
Procurement Adjustment:				
Total:	\$315,000		\$3,308,000	

Projected Total IT Budget				
	Costs Year 1		Costs Year 2	
Category	GF	NGF	GF	NGF
Current IT Services	\$658,550	\$84,000	\$679,700	\$88,200
Proposed IT Investments	\$315,000		\$3,308,000	
Total	\$973,550	\$84,000	\$3,987,700	\$88,200

Commonwealth Projects >= \$250,000.00

There are no projects for this agency.

Commonwealth Procurements >=\$250,000.00

There are no stand alone procurements for this agency.