



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Wednesday, April 8, 2026
12:00 P.M. - 2:00 P.M.
National City-County Leadership Center

AGENDA

- 12:00 P.M.** **1. CALL TO ORDER**
Reuben Collins, COG Board Chair
- 2. CHAIR'S REPORT**
Reuben Collins, COG Board Chair
- A. COG Leadership Retreat – June 26-27
- 12:05 P.M.** **3. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**
Clark Mercer, COG Executive Director
- 12:15 P.M.** **4. AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA**
Reuben Collins, COG Board Chair
- 5. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM MARCH 11, 2026**
Reuben Collins, COG Board Chair
- Recommended Action: Approve minutes.**
- 6. ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**
Reuben Collins, COG Board Chair
- A. Resolution R20-2026 – Resolution authorizing COG to receive and expend Pathways to Removing Obstacles to Housing grant funds
- Recommended Action: Adopt Resolution R20-2026.**
- 12:25 P.M.** **7. 2025 STATE OF THE COMMUTE SURVEY RESULTS**
Dan Sheehan, TPB Transportation Operations Programs Director
- The board will be briefed on results of the 2025 State of the Commute survey, conducted every three years by COG's Commuter Connections program, to assess regional commuting trends. The results provide a comprehensive look at how people travel to and from work throughout the region.
- Recommended Action: Receive briefing.**

- 12:50 P.M.** **8. AMERICA’S 250TH ANNIVERSARY EFFORTS IN DC, MARYLAND AND VIRGINIA**
Scott Boggs, COG Homeland Security and Public Safety Managing Director
Delegate Gretchen Bulova, VA250 Commission Member
Michele Johnson, Maryland Two Fifty Commission Director
Lindsey Appiah, District of Columbia Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and Justice
- The board will be briefed on the upcoming programs and events in the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the United States.
- Recommended Action: Receive briefing.**
- 1:30 P.M.** **9. UPDATE ON TALENT CAPITAL AI**
William Lopez, BuildWithin Co-Founder
Paul Kihn, District of Columbia Deputy Mayor of Education
- The board will be updated on Talent Capital AI, an AI workforce agent launched in late 2025, designed specifically for a regional labor market. A partnership between DC, Maryland and Virginia, Talent Capital AI provides a single, centralized system for jobseekers to access job matching, career training, reskilling, credentialing, and coaching across state lines.
- Recommended Action: Receive briefing.**
- 1:55 P.M.** **10. OTHER BUSINESS**
- 2:00 P.M.** **11. ADJOURN**
The next COG Board Meeting will take place in-person on Wednesday, May 13 from 12:00 – 2:00 P.M. at the Goodwill Headquarters.

AGENDA ITEM #2

CHAIR'S REPORT

AGENDA ITEM #3

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

MEMORANDUM

TO: COG Board of Directors
FROM: Clark Mercer, COG Executive Director
SUBJECT: Executive Director's Report – March 2026
DATE: March , 2026

POLICY BOARD & COMMITTEE UPDATES

National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB) – On March 18, the Transportation Planning Board (TPB) approved the FY 2027 Unified Planning Work Program (nearly \$29 million, plus \$2.7 million carryover) and Commuter Connections (nearly \$8.4 million) budgets to advance regional mobility. The board also reviewed the Transportation Resilience Improvement Plan (TRIP) and leaders discussed regional transportation management, encouraging jurisdictions to sign mutual aid agreements to strengthen coordination and operations across the metropolitan Washington area.

Chesapeake Bay & Water Resources Policy Committee - On March 20, the Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Policy Committee (CBPC) reviewed federal and state water legislation, including legislation related to funding, PFAS forever chemicals, and storm drain safety updates across Maryland and Virginia. DC Water detailed its response and environmental remediation plans for the January Potomac Interceptor leak affecting the C&O Canal and Potomac River. Additionally, the committee approved the FY 2027 Regional Water Quality Monitoring Program Workplan and Budget, previewed the FY 2026 Stormwater Tax and Fee Table, and shared regional roundtable updates to advance environmental coordination across metropolitan Washington.

Food and Agriculture Regional Member (FARM) Policy Committee - One of FARM's Work Groups, the DMV Food Council Collaborative, held its bimonthly meeting. COG staff conducted outreach to member jurisdictions on the Local Food Procurement Challenge (LFPC) and will continue to do so.



Officials celebrate climate partnership

COG's Climate Energy and Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC) held its 100th meeting on March 25 at the National Press Club, where members celebrated 15 years of collaborative climate action and reviewed regional greenhouse gas inventories to track progress towards climate goals.

[View a video on regional climate action presented at the 100th meeting](#)

Chair Friedson introduced a Resolution at the Montgomery County Council to commit to participation in the LFPC. The Council adopted the Resolution unanimously on March 24.

Human Services Policy Committee - The Human Services Policy Committee met in-person on March 13 in Arlington County to better understand partnership models with faith-based communities to create affordable housing. Members learned about Enterprise Community Partner's Faith-Based Development Institute and its impact on the metropolitan Washington region as well as its national expansion. Affordable housing developers True Ground Housing Partners and Affordable Homes and Communities (AHC) provided local case study examples, shared lessons learned, and provided insights into how local governments can support these efforts.

OUTREACH & PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

DMVMoves Outreach - COG staff made presentations promoting the DMVMoves plan to Frederick and Prince William Counties.

Public Safety – On March 3, COG hosted a briefing with Verizon and local stakeholders to address recent network outages and plan communications redundancy. Additionally, on March 16, more than 300 public safety leaders participated in a coordination call to align operations ahead of severe weather.

Driving Government Efficiency George Washington University Panel – COG Executive Director Clark Mercer joined a GWU panel called Driving Government Efficiency: Delivering Measurable Results to discuss with other regional leaders actions to support efficiency in government.



2026 National Capital Region Fire Health and Safety Symposium

The 2026 National Capital Region Fire Health and Safety Symposium convened firefighters and experts on March 13 to share tactical insights and wellness resources. Through regional partnership, this biennial COG event provided critical cancer screenings and mental health support to strengthen the resilience of metropolitan Washington's first responders.

MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

Pipeline discussion at Board meeting – COG’s March Board meeting discussion regarding the Potomac Pipeline was covered by DC News Now, FOX 5, WTOP, WUSA9, WMAL, WAMU and NewsRadio 92.3.

[DC News Now](#)

Bike to Work Day 2026 – COG’s 25th Bike to Work Day announcement and registration launch was covered by My Montgomery County Media and The Alexandria Brief.

[My Montgomery County Media](#)

Regional Ticket Reciprocity – Clark Mercer was quoted in an article about speeding tickets and regional ticket reciprocity in the Washington Post.

[The Washington Post](#)

Loudoun Learners – COG’s Loudoun Learners program was highlighted in a featured article by Loudoun Now.

[Loudoun Now](#)



Collaboration in Action: Keeping and growing talent in the DMV

On the latest episode of Collaboration in Action, Clark Mercer explores COG’s workforce development initiatives, including the job training program Loudoun Learners and the job matching and training AI platform Talent Capital.

[Watch the Episode](#)

AGENDA ITEM #4

**AMENDMENTS TO
THE AGENDA**

AGENDA ITEM #5

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
777 North Capitol Street, NE
Washington, D.C. 20002

MINUTES
COG Board of Directors Meeting
March 11, 2026

BOARD MEMBERS AND ALTERNATES: See attached chart for attendance.

SPEAKERS:

Steven Bieber, COG Water Resources Program Director
Sakina Khan, COG Community and Economic Services Director
Jeff King, COG Climate Energy and Air Program Director

1. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

COG Board Chair Reuben Collins called the meeting to order at 12:05 P.M. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair's report included the following items:

- Recognition of new board members in attendance

3. EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS REPORT CHAIR'S REPORT

The Executive Director's report included the following items:

- National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB) – In February, the TPB approved \$12.5 million in federal Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside funding for seven projects that will improve walking, ADA access, and safe routes to schools in Fairfax, Loudoun, and Prince William counties; the cities of Alexandria, Manassas, and Manassas Park; and in the Town of Vienna.
- Food and Agriculture Regional Member (FARM) Policy Committee – The FARM committee met in February to address rising regional food insecurity, disruptions from the major winter storm, and integrating food systems into emergency planning.
- Virtual Briefing on Pipeline Collapse – COG convened officials and experts for a February 23 briefing on the Potomac Interceptor sewer pipeline collapse and response. DC Water reported containment is nearly complete; repairs will continue through mid-March.
- Electric Vehicle Planning – COG environmental staff participated in Arlington County's Climate Action Plan Kickoff Event in February. Staff co-hosted an Electric Vehicle Community Listening Tabling and EV Showcase with staff from Arlington County and the Greater Washington Region Clean Cities Coalition.
- Member Outreach – In February, COG staff provided presentations highlighting COG's work program and members benefits as well as the DMVMoves plan to the City of Falls Church, the City of Fairfax, the City of Rockville and the Washington Suburban Transit Commission.
- NCR Public Health and Preparedness Academy - The DHSPS Public Health Emergency Planners Subcommittee hosted the inaugural two-day NCR Public Health and Preparedness Academy that featured over 15 peer presentations and a full-day tabletop exercise to advance regional capabilities for over 75 medical and public health emergency preparedness attendees from 25 local, state, and federal government agencies and healthcare sector entities.

4. AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

There were no amendments to the agenda.

5. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 11, 2026

The minutes from the February 11th board meeting were approved.

6. ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

- Resolution R18-2026 – Resolution Authorizing COG to Receive a Grant to Combat the Unlawful Use of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) in the National Capital Region (NCR)

Action: The board adopted Resolution R18-2026.

7. DATA CENTERS IN THE DMV: OUTCOMES AND NEXT STEPS

The board was briefed on two data center focused meetings, on energy and water, hosted by COG this Spring. Speakers shared the main insights and next steps COG will be taking around data centers and a land use focused data center meeting planned for May 2026. Board members engaged in discussion on data centers and their impacts in the region.

8. UPDATE ON REGIONAL COORDINATION AND RESPONSE TO THE POTOMAC INTERCEPTOR PIPELINE COLLAPSE

The board was briefed and updated on the response to the January 2026 Potomac Interceptor Pipeline Collapse including actions taken to date, next steps, and regional coordination and communication.

9. 2025 STATE OF THE COMMUTE SURVEY RESULTS

This agenda item was moved to the April meeting.

10. EXECUTIVE SESSION/CLOSED MEETING

The Board had a closed meeting to discuss the annual evaluation of COG's Executive Director.

Action: The board adopted Resolution R19-2026.

11. OTHER BUSINESS

12. ADJORN

The meeting was adjourned at 2:05 P.M.

**COG Board of Directors
Meeting
March 11, 2026 Attendance**

Jurisdiction	Member	Y/N	Alternate	Y/N
District of Columbia				
Executive	Hon. Muriel Bowser		Ms. Beverly Perry	
	Mr. Kevin Donahue		Mr. Tomas Talamante	
Council	Hon. Phil Mendelson	Y	Hon. Brianne Nadeau	
	Hon. Charles Allen	Y		
Maryland				
City of Bowie	Hon. Dufour Woolfley	Y		
Charles County	Hon. Reuben Collins	Y	Hon. Thomasina Coates	
City of Frederick	Hon. Michael O'Connor	Y	Hon. Gayon Sampson	
Frederick County	Hon. Jessica Fitzwater	Y	Ms. Victoria Venable	
City of College Park	Hon. Denise Mitchell		Hon. Fazlul Kabir	Y
City of Gaithersburg	Hon. Robert Wu		Hon. Neil Harris	
City of Greenbelt	Hon. Emmett Jordan	Y	Hon. Kristen Weaver	
City of Laurel	Hon. Keith Sydnor		Hon. Brenis Smith	
Montgomery County - Exec	Hon. Marc Elrich		Mr. Richard Madaleno Ms. Fariba Kassiri Mr. Earl Stoddard	Y
Montgomery County - Council	Hon. Evan Glass		Hon. Maxene Bardwell	
Montgomery County - Council	Hon. Kate Stewart		Hon. Natali Fani-Gonzalez	Y
Prince George's County - Exec	Hon. Aisha Braveboy		Mr. Maxene Bardwell	
Prince George's County - Council	Hon. Krystal Oriadha	Y	Hon. Tom Dernoga	
Prince George's County - Council	Hon. Wala Blegay			
City of Rockville	Hon. Monique Ashton	Y		
City of Takoma Park	Hon. Talisha Searcy		Hon. David Eubanks	Y
Maryland General Assembly	Hon. Brian Feldman			
Virginia				
City of Alexandria	Hon. Alyia Gaskins	Y	Hon. Sarah Bagley	
Arlington County	Hon. Takis Karantonis	Y		
City of Fairfax	Hon. Catherine Read	Y	Hon. Stacey Hardy-Chandler	
Fairfax County	Hon. Rodney Lusk	Y	Hon. Daniel Storck	
Fairfax County	Hon. Jeff McKay		Hon. Andres Jimenez	
Fairfax County	Hon. James Bierman		Hon. Walter Alcorn	
City of Falls Church	Hon. David Snyder	Y	Hon. Marybeth Connelly	
Loudoun County	Hon. Laura TeKrony	Y		
Loudoun County	Hon. Phyllis Randall	Y	Hon. Koran Saines	
City of Manassas	Hon. Mark Wolfe	Y	Hon. Sonia Vasquez Luna	
City of Manassas Park	Hon. Darryl Moore	Y		
Prince William County	Hon. Deshundra Jefferson		Hon. Kenny A. Boddye	
Prince William County	Hon. Andrea Bailey	Y	Hon. Tom Gordy	
Virginia General Assembly				

Y = voting member present

P = present alternate in addition to member

Total voting present: 23

AGENDA ITEM #6

ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS
April 2026

A. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING COG TO RECEIVE AND EXPEND PATHWAYS TO REMOVING OBSTACLES TO HOUSING GRANT FUNDS

The board will be asked to adopt Resolution R20-2026 authorizing the Executive Director, or his designee, to receive and expend grant funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Pathways to Remove Obstacles to Housing Program in the amount of \$3,509,112. Grant funding will be distributed to COG for overall project management and consultant costs to expand staff capacity, to participating local governments to advance local initiatives, as well as work to be undertaken by regional partners to increase the production and preservation of affordable housing. No COG matching funds are required.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Adopt Resolution R20-2026.

AGENDA ITEM #7

2025 STATE OF THE COMMUTE SURVEY RESULTS

2025

State of the Commute Executive Summary

Photo by Pierre Gaunard/COG

FAST FACTS



Commuter Connections conducts a regional State of the Commute survey every three years—the 2025 survey is the ninth one.



The results provide a comprehensive look at how people travel to and from work, providing info to help shape Commuter Connections' free services and programs and informing area officials.

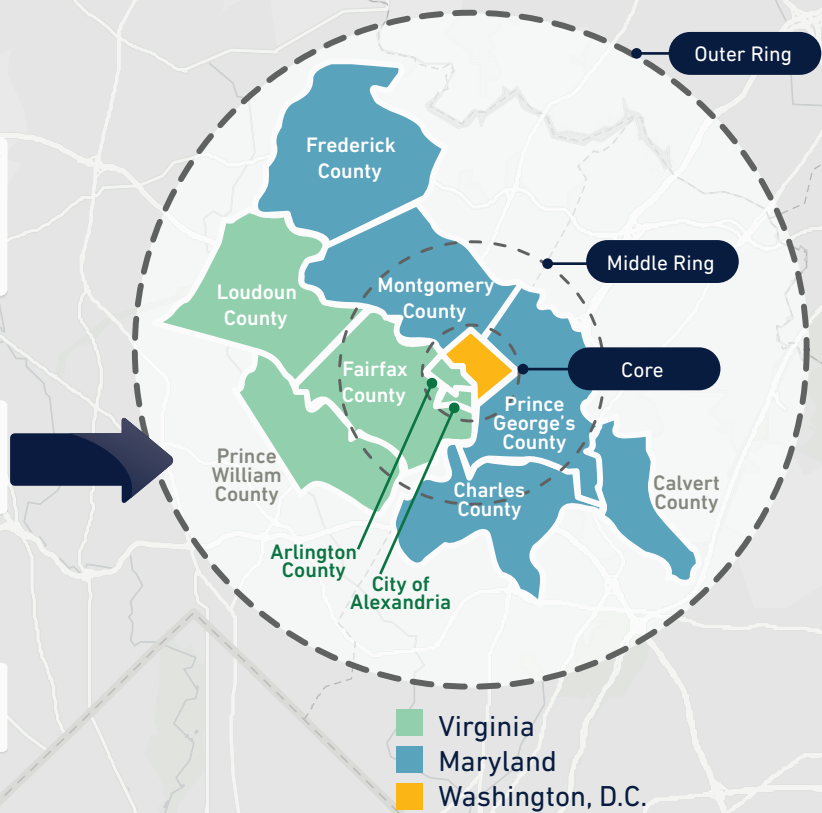


The survey randomly sampled households from each of the 11 jurisdictions in the Commuter Connections service area.



Over 7,500 completed surveys were received between April-June 2025.

Commuter Connections Service Area



HIGHLIGHTS

- Commuters' transportation modes have generally returned to pre-pandemic patterns, except for higher rates of telework in 2025.
- Almost half of the region's workers—48%—teleworked regularly in 2025, down from 65% in 2022 during the pandemic.
- Metrorail satisfaction increased by 16 percentage points from 2022 to 2025.

Photo by ART-Arlington Transit



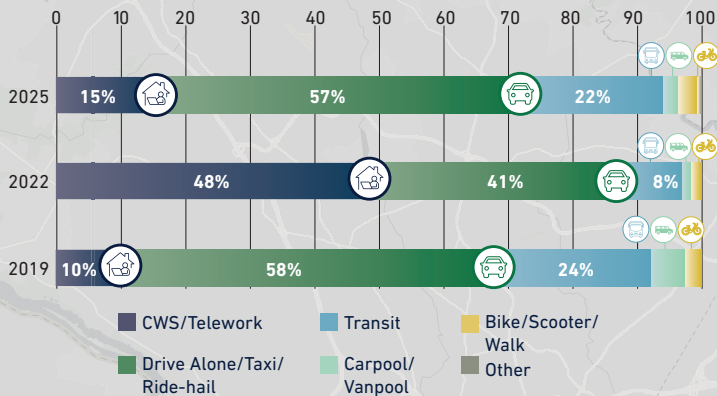
Point your phone's camera at the QR code and follow the link to the 2025 State of the Commute interactive dashboard and full report.

**COMMUTER
CONNECTIONS.**
A SMARTER WAY TO WORK

Commuting patterns have generally returned to pre-pandemic conditions

Photo by COG

Percentage of All Weekly Commute Trips



Driving alone to work (or using a taxi or ride-hail service) was the most prevalent commute mode in 2025 (57% of all weekly commute trips) followed by transit (22%)—similar to pre-pandemic mode usage.

In 2025, Core residents commuted via walking, biking, and scootering at a higher rate than residents outside of the Core—14% compared to 2%.

Average commute length and duration have remained consistent from before, during, and post-pandemic:

17 miles **40 minutes**



The longest commutes in 2025 were by:

- Those who primarily rode transit (52 minutes)
- Commuters age 35 or older (40-44 minutes)
- Non-Hispanic Black commuters (42 minutes)
- Commuters from households earning over \$180,000 per year (43 minutes)

50%

of commuters were satisfied or very satisfied with their commute to work in 2025, similar to 2022 (52%) and the same as 2019 (50%).



Between 2022-2025, Metrorail commuter satisfaction increased by...

16 Percentage Points



Other transit modes also saw increases in satisfaction rates: nine percentage points for commuter rail and...

6 Percentage Points for buses



Satisfaction with bike/walk/scooter commuting decreased slightly from 2022-2025 by...

4 Percentage Points



Commuters who drove alone were less satisfied with their commutes in 2025 compared to 2022—a decrease of...

7 Percentage Points

Almost half of the region's workers—48%—teleworked regularly in 2025, down from 65% in 2022 during the pandemic. Pre-pandemic (2019), 34% of workers teleworked.

- Full-time telework decreased from 37% in 2022 to 13% in 2025.
- Hybrid arrangements (teleworking some days) grew to 35% of workers in 2025, from 28% in 2022.
- Federal government employees had the highest rates of telework 2019-2022. In 2025, they had the lowest rates (even lower than in 2019), due to return-to-office mandates. In all other sectors, 2025 telework rates were notably higher than in 2019.

Percentage of Workers With Telework or Hybrid Arrangements

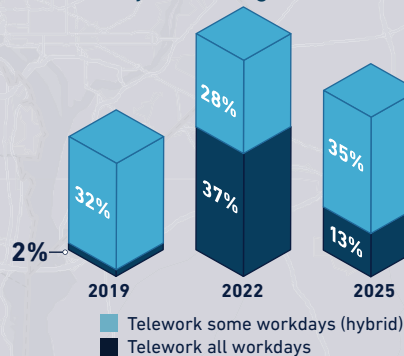


Photo by Freepik

OTHER KEY FINDINGS

Top commute-related factors considered by commuters who changed home or work locations:



77%

of commuters who drove alone (as their primary mode) in 2025 had free parking provided by their employers, compared to just 24% of transit riders.

89%

of toll/express lane users drove alone in 2025, while 12% of the lane users were in carpools/vanpools and 5% used transit.*

*Respondents could select multiple answers, so the results do not add to 100%



Highlights: Carpool/ Vanpool

- In 2025, 51% of carpool/vanpool users were satisfied or very satisfied with their commute. That's 7 percentage points higher than for driving alone (44%).
- Carpool/vanpool commuters cited companionship and saving time as benefits of their commute at much higher rates than users of other non-drive alone modes in 2025.
- Not knowing anyone to carpool/vanpool with was the most-cited reason for why people don't commute this way. Commuter Connections continues to help commuters find carpool/vanpool partners, helping reduce commuting costs, make commuting less stressful, and reduce vehicle miles traveled.

For questions, or media or data requests, please visit us at mwcog.org/contact

Commuter Connections is a program of the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board at the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments



AGENDA ITEM #8

AMERICA'S 250TH ANNIVERSARY EFFORTS IN DC, MARYLAND, AND VIRGINIA

AMERICA'S 250TH ANNIVERSARY COMMISSIONS IN DC, MARYLAND AND VIRGINIA

[DC America 250 Commission](#)

The DC America 250 Commission was established to lead Washington, DC's commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States in 2026. Chaired by Muriel Bowser, the Commission is responsible for planning and coordinating a range of events, educational programs, and partnerships that reflect the District's unique role as the nation's capital. Through collaboration with local communities, cultural institutions, and national organizations, it aims to promote public engagement, celebrate the city's historical significance, and encourage reflection on the nation's past, present, and future.

[Maryland 250 Commission](#)

The Maryland 250 Commission was established to lead and coordinate Maryland's commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States in 2026. The Commission is responsible for planning and promoting a statewide series of programs, events, and initiatives that highlight Maryland's historical contributions and engage communities across the state. Through partnerships, educational efforts, and grant opportunities, it aims to encourage public participation, foster civic pride, and create meaningful opportunities for reflection on the nation's history and its future.

[VA 250 American Revolution Commission](#)

Established by the General Assembly in 2020, VA250 serves to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution, the Revolutionary War, and the Independence of the United States in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

AGENDA ITEM #9

UPDATE ON TALENT CAPITAL AI

TalentCapital.Ai

February 25, 2026



WWW.BUILDWITHIN.COM

115,000

Total Visitors

82,127

Active Users

75,000+

Active Jobs

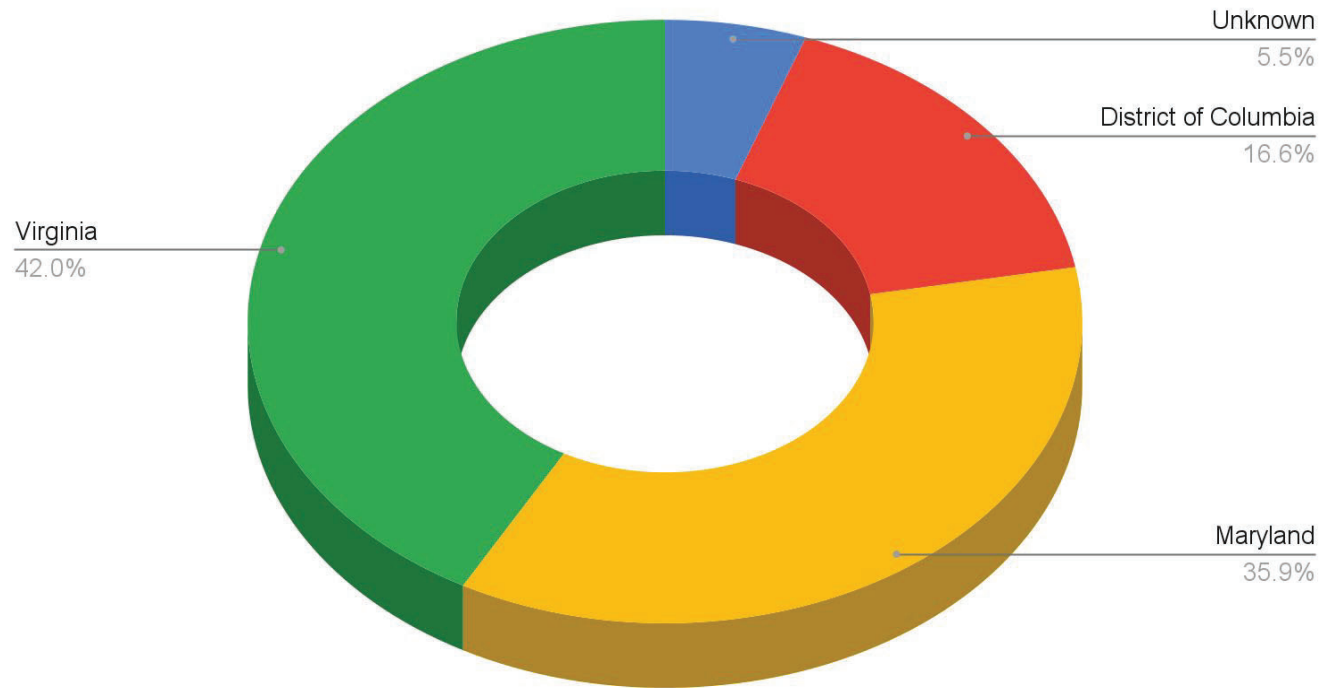
71%

Engagement Rate

User Distribution Across the DMV

This chart visualizes the Talent Capital regional reach, highlighting a high concentration of active users within our core target markets.

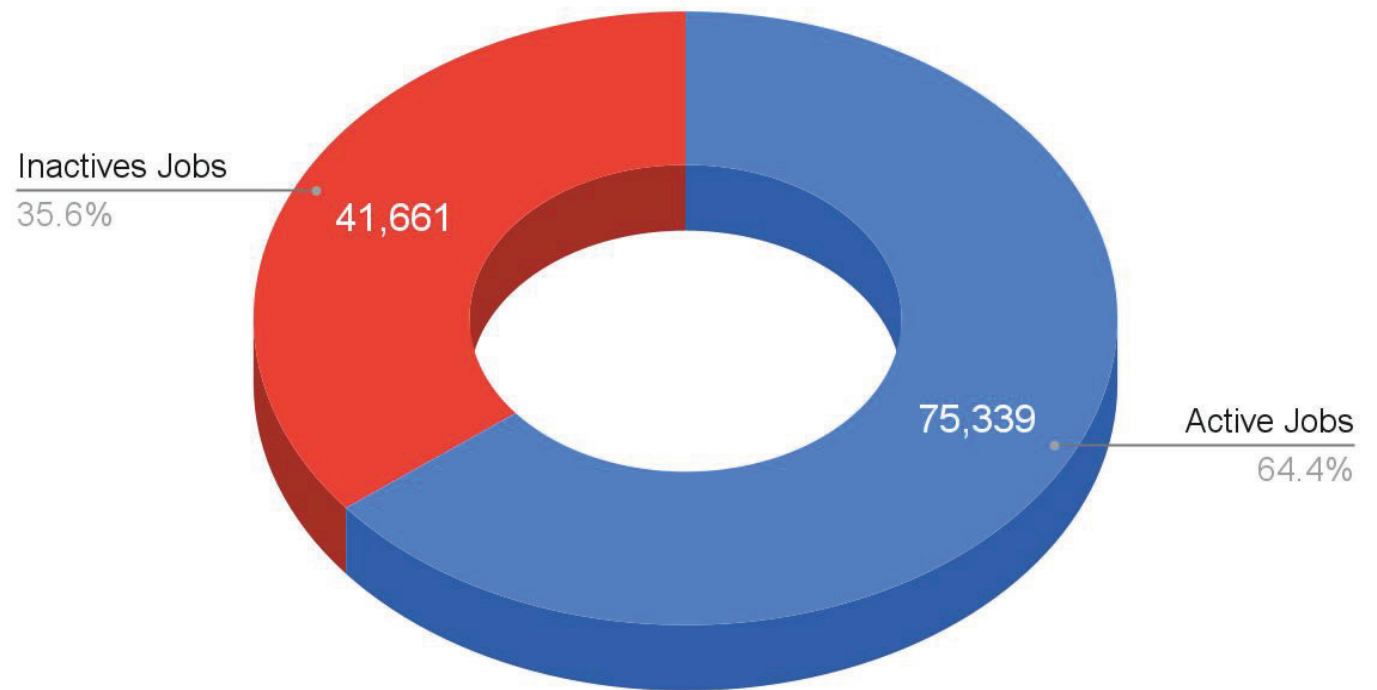
Users by State



Job Postings

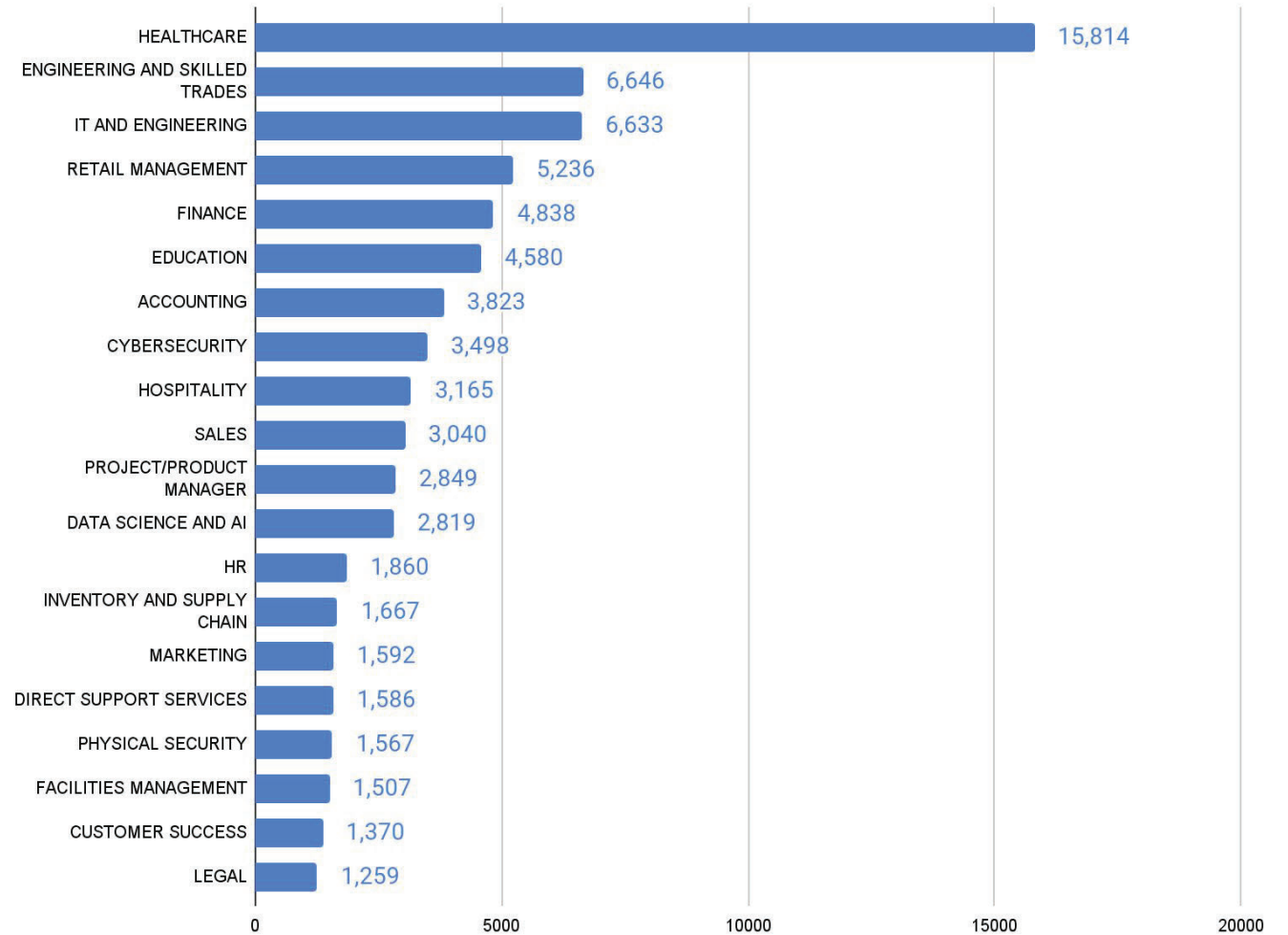
This chart provides a comprehensive snapshot of the Talent Capital database lifecycle, detailing the balance between currently Active and Inactive postings.

Total Jobs Postings 117,000



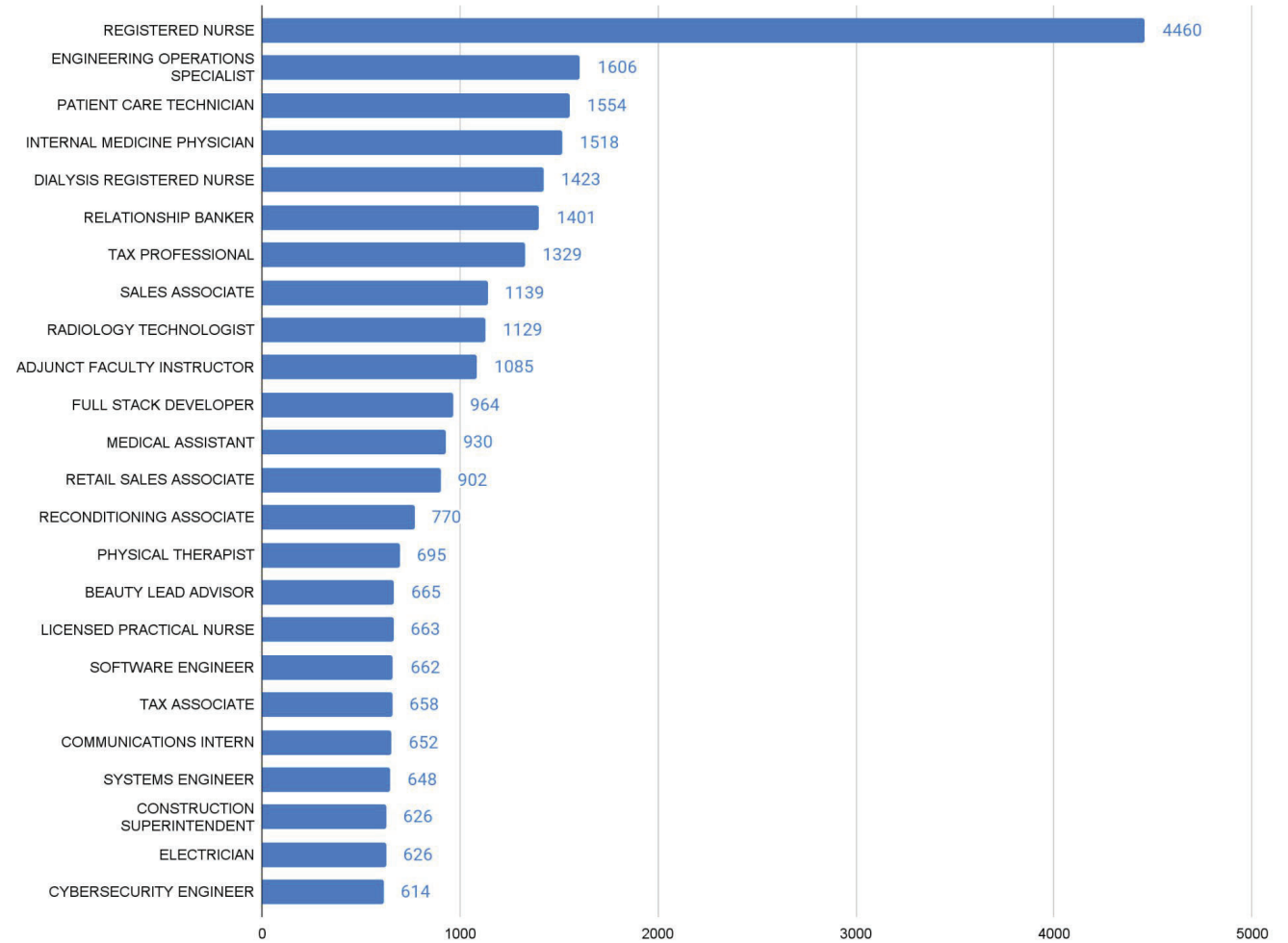
Real-Time Demand by Industry Sector

This chart illustrates the distribution of Talent Capital's live inventory across the region's primary economic sectors.



Leading Occupation Families

This graph breaks down the database into specific occupation families to pinpoint the individual roles with the highest current recruitment activity.



Top 10 High-Demand Occupation Families & Key Hard Skills (Feb 2026)

Occupation Family	Key Hard Skills Required
Registered Nurse / Healthcare Specialist	Patient Assessment & Triage, Phlebotomy, Infection Control, Electronic Health Records (EHR) Documentation, and Basic Life Support (BLS).
Engineering & Skilled Trades Technician	Technical Documentation, Mechanical Aptitude, Preventive Maintenance, Electrical Troubleshooting, and Construction Management.
Software Engineer / IT Professional	JavaScript, SQL, Java, Python, Containerization (Docker/Kubernetes), DevOps, and Agile Methodologies.
Retail Manager	Inventory Management, Product Knowledge, Sales Techniques, Merchandising, and Loss Prevention.
Finance Analyst / Banker	Financial Analysis, Accounting, Compliance Monitoring, Excel Proficiency, and Financial Modeling.
Educator / Instructional Designer	Curriculum Development, Classroom Management, Instructional Design, Learning Management Systems (LMS), and Assessment Design.
Tax Professional / Accountant	Tax Preparation Software, Knowledge of Tax Laws, Compliance, Regulatory Knowledge, and Cost Analysis.
Cybersecurity Engineer	Incident Response, Cryptography, Network Security, SIEM/IDS, Penetration Testing, and Python Programming.
Hospitality Manager	Health Compliance, Food Preparation, Menu Planning, Cash Handling, and Inventory Management.
Sales Associate / Representative	Product Knowledge, Negotiations, CRM Handling, Inventory Management, and Service Execution.

AGENDA ITEM #10

OTHER BUSINESS

AGENDA ITEM #11

ADJOURN