

Technology

The Governor’s proposed budget for Technology agencies contains a net increase of \$37.4 million GF over the adjusted appropriation for current operations. General fund support for technology operations and initiatives is more than double the amount approved in the previous biennium.

Initiatives include increased technology and telecommunications support services for state agencies generally, an expanded geographic information program, and implementation or coordination of a series of new technology programs. These new programs include a technology research grant initiative for the states colleges and universities, an expanded grant program to provide internet access through community organizations such as libraries, expansion of educational website services which support the Standards of Learning (SOL), and a technology worker training and retention initiative.

Technology Initiatives	
	<u>millions</u>
Higher Education Research Grants	\$ 20.0
Internet Access-Community Organizations	8.7
Geographic Information Systems	4.4
Technology Industry Internships	1.1
Assist State Agency Procurements	0.9
Other (Net) Adjustments	<u>2.2</u>
Total	\$ 37.4

- **Secretary of Technology**
 - **Added Position** Increases by \$35,648 GF and one position each year, based on current and projected workload growth.

- **Department of Information Technology**
 - **Expand State Agency Support** Proposes an increase of \$1.3 million NGF each year and twenty positions to expand services for state agencies and institutions. The source of the department’s nongeneral funds (NGF) are internal service fund charges to agencies based on specific projects and system utilization.

- **Expand Telecommunications Services** Adds \$114,553 NGF the first year, \$229,109 NGF the second year, and three positions to expand the agency's expertise and consulting services in telecommunication.
- **Information System Procurement** Proposes to transfer the responsibility for oversight of information systems procurement from the Department of General Services to DIT by adding \$633,344 GF the first year, \$313,673 GF and \$313,673 NGF the second year, and six positions. The proposal anticipates that the program will be fully supported by user charges beginning in the second year, and that general fund support can be phased out at that time.
- **Department of Technology Planning**
 - **Expand Geographic Information System Program** Increases by \$843,029 GF the first year, \$3.6 million GF the second year, and one position to expand geographic information system support for regional crime analysis, land use planning, economic development, disaster response and related activities, and to create a digitized map database.
 - **Increase Staffing** Adds \$896,162 GF the first year, \$765,787 GF the second year, and ten positions to expand technology planning, analysis and over-sight activities.
 - **Competitive Grant Program** Proposes the creation of a new competitive grant program and expansion of a Library of Virginia program titled "Empowering the Commonwealth." The initiative adds \$3.5 million GF the first year and \$5.2 million GF the second year for technology grants to local community organizations such as libraries.
 - **Technology Internship Program** Includes \$1.1 million GF and one position the second year to establish an internship program for students and potential long-term employers.
 - **Expand K-12 Website** Adds \$410,000 the first year to expand the Department of Education's website(s), and to provide increased access and information for parents and teachers related to the Standards of Learning (SOL).
- **Innovative Technology Authority**
 - **Higher Education Research Initiative** Proposes the allocation of \$20 million GF in the second year to create a "Technology Competitiveness Fund," to promote research and economic development through Virginia's public institutions of higher

education. The initiative is intended to leverage federal and private research dollars, help institutions recruit and outfit the labs of outstanding research faculty, and to help attract specific firms to locate or expand their operations in Virginia.

- **Reduce Advance Communications Fund** Reduces funding by \$500,000 GF each year for the Advanced Communications Assistance Fund. The program was established by legislation adopted in the 1999 session. The Fund makes direct grants or loans to communities to aid the development of telecommunications infrastructure.
 - **Technology Conference** Includes \$300,000 GF the first year to support a technology conference for business and industry officials.
 - **Adjust Technology Center Funding** Reduces funding by \$73,735 GF the first year, and \$117,247 GF the second year, to reflect projections for grants to existing technology centers.
- **Virginia Information Providers Authority**
 - **Expand State Agency Services** Includes \$1.3 million NGF the first year and \$1.5 million NGF the second year, which reflects increased utilization, and therefore user charges, to state and local agencies and institutions for web site design and maintenance services from VIPNet.