



# Northern Virginia

INNOVATION LIVES HERE

Welcome  
to America's  
Career Capital



FAIRFAX COUNTY  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY



# WELCOME TO NORTHERN VIRGINIA

Anchored by Washington, D.C., Fairfax, Arlington and Alexandria and encompassing 10 jurisdictions ranging from bustling metros to suburban oases, Northern Virginia is among the country's most diverse and educated regions. Innovation lives here. Across our five counties (Arlington, Fairfax, Fauquier, Loudoun, Prince William) and five cities (Alexandria, Fairfax, Falls Church, Manassas, Manassas Park), you'll find a common opportunity: success, stability and security.

Over the last two decades, we have undergone a transformation. We've flipped the script: once known as a suburb of Washington, D.C., Northern Virginia is now a thriving destination in its own right. In Northern Virginia, you can have it all: a lucrative job at a forward-thinking company—plus access to the country's greatest historical sites, a bustling café culture, active nightlife and concertgoing, a thriving wine region, seven professional sports teams, and a mild four-season climate with year-round kayaking, biking and hiking. We offer some of the best public and private schools in the nation and access to 60 colleges and universities. Here, there are no compromises.

Find out why Northern Virginia is one of the best places to live and work in the country.



Success,  
stability  
and security





# Up your career game in NOVA



## AMERICA'S CAREER CAPITAL

There's no better place in the country to up your career game than in the backyard of the nation's capital. Sure, we're the epicenter of government, but you don't have to work on the Hill to impact the world here. We're home to companies changing the face of technology, health care and some of the most advanced cyber security players in the country. There are 23 Fortune 500 companies in Northern Virginia, including Capital One, Hilton Worldwide, SAIC, Leidos and Gannett. Whether you want to serve the country, or build products that move the world, there's a job here for you here—and five other offers waiting in the wings.

Median income across the region is a case in point that Northern Virginia is a game-changer for careers. Home to the wealthiest county in the U.S., Northern Virginia's household income averages \$104,593—about 60% higher than the national median household income of \$60,293. Needless to say, we work hard, but reap the benefits—and in NOVA, you can too.



# FORGET THE CAREER LADDER—FORGE YOUR OWN PATH

Today's employees will make five to seven career changes over their working lives—and Northern Virginia is the center of modern career opportunity. Whether you simply need a change of pace or have yet to discover your passion, you can safely take the leap in Northern Virginia thanks to our ample resources dedicated to helping people upskill, retrain or switch industries altogether.

Virginia Career Works–Northern Region offers job seekers everything from career coaching to comprehensive assessments and skills upgrading. College students can apply for Capital Co-LAB's Digital Technology Credential, which allows students to learn essential tech skills while in school, and graduate qualified for tech jobs in the Capital Region, which have a median salary of \$104,300. SANS Institute, a leading provider of security training and certification, holds numerous training events throughout the year (both in-person and virtually) in NOVA. Security University, SecureNinja and The Academy of Computer Education are just a few other local resources to get trained up in this in-demand occupation.

It's never too late to change your career trajectory. Come be a part of something brand new and cutting-edge—we'll help you get there.

A nighttime photograph of a city skyline, likely Northern Virginia, featuring several illuminated skyscrapers and a bridge over a body of water. The lights from the buildings and bridge are reflected in the water. A large purple semi-circle is overlaid on the left side of the image, containing the text 'Take the leap in Northern Virginia' in white.

Take  
the leap in  
Northern  
Virginia





# Not all heroes wear capes

Courtesy L3Harris

## TECH THAT MAKES AN IMPACT

While startups in Boston and San Francisco meet consumer demands, tech companies in Northern Virginia are solving the country's most pressing needs. Take Aireon for example, a tech startup providing the first global air traffic surveillance system to the aviation industry. Or HawkEye 360, a Radio Frequency data analytics startup looking to change the world with its satellites. As the epicenter of public- and private-sector collaboration, Northern Virginia is uniquely positioned to make change on a national and even global scale. A case in point: Northern Virginia invented the internet and was the foundation of the telecom revolution. Today, NOVA is home to 23 Fortune 500 companies, 15,600 tech companies and more than 70 miles of automated corridors for connected and autonomous vehicle testing. The Tech Tribune listed the 2020 Best Tech Startups in Virginia, and spoiler alert: nine out of the 10 are located right here in Northern Virginia. All in all, the Capital Region expects to add more than 130,000 tech jobs in the next five years. Move to Northern Virginia and be at the center of it all.

## THE CENTER OF CYBERSECURITY

Not all heroes wear capes. In fact, some of our greatest heroes sit behind a monitor—well, a lot of monitors—warding off attacks on our computers, servers, networks and data. If you ask us, the best of these heroes call Northern Virginia home. And why wouldn't they? Livability.com called NOVA the cybersecurity epicenter of Virginia, "home of one of the nation's largest data center markets." Whether you see yourself protecting organizations from cybercrimes at Lookingglass Cyber Solutions or detecting early threats alongside the U.S. military at L3Harris, you'll find your place here. In fact, more than 14,500 cybersecurity jobs were posted in Northern Virginia in 2019—and Cybercrime Magazine included six Northern Virginian cybersecurity companies in its global list of The Hot 150 Cybersecurity Companies to Watch in 2020.





**Thirteen  
Fairfax County-  
based companies  
recently made  
Forbes' America's  
Best Employers for  
Diversity 2020 list.**

## **GLOBAL AND INCLUSIVE**

**We are one of the country's most racially, ethnically and internationally diverse regions, with a population that includes 27% international residents, representing more than 120 countries. Women are twice as likely and African Americans five times as likely to work in tech in NOVA than in Silicon Valley; and our communities are ranked among the most LGBTQ-friendly nationwide. Inclusive of all backgrounds, Fairfax County is also among the best counties in the nation when it comes to economic mobility.**

**Resources for international residents in Northern Virginia are plentiful, including Northern Virginia Family Service's Multicultural Center, which offers legal, social services and mental health services to our immigrant community. Socially, there are dozens of expat and international groups that gather throughout Northern Virginian and Greater D.C.**



## SMARTER FOR FAMILIES

While parents across the country move mountains (and across state and county lines) to get their children into high-quality school systems, in Northern Virginia, families have some of the best public education in the nation, no matter which district their home is in. Virginia—and Northern Virginia in particular—has some of the best public education systems in the country. The Fairfax County Public Schools system—one of the largest school systems in the U.S.—boasts one of the highest on-time graduation rates in the U.S., with three-quarters of graduates going on to some form of post-secondary education. Niche.com gives Fairfax County schools an academic grade of A—compare that to Seattle (A-), New York City (B+), Boston (C+) and Los Angeles (C+).

A testament to the region's K-12 school system, Fairfax County is among the best counties in the nation when it comes to economic mobility, meaning living in Northern Virginia has material benefit to a child's future, no matter the family's income level.

Of equal importance, parents can count on safety in Northern Virginia. Each Northern Virginia county has a lower violent crime score than the national average violent crime ranking. Fairfax County's crime index score of 45/100 (where 100 is safest) is more than twice as safe as New York City (23), Boston (17), Los Angeles (12) and Seattle (2). USA Today also ranked the state of Virginia as the 12th safest state in which to raise children. Plus, NOVA is home to a diverse range of housing options, whether you're looking for a picket fence or breathtaking skyline views. So, go ahead, take your next step in life and settle down, but never settle.







# Home sweet home in NOVA

## HIGH-VALUE LIVING

From urban condos to suburban Colonials to country estates, Northern Virginia has a wide range of housing options, and housing costs in the Washington, D.C., area are lower than most competitive tech hubs. Using the national cost of living composite, the indexed cost of living in Northern Virginia is ~141 (where the national average is 100), lower than many other competitor regions on both the east and west coasts, including New York (235), San Francisco (192.3), Seattle (146.9), and Boston (145). And unlike some of those other regions, many Northern Virginia neighborhoods benefit from a robust commuter rail network (which is expanding even more with \$3+ billion in investment), whether you choose a high-rise apartment right across the river from Capitol Hill or a family home in a cul de sac.



## A HOTBED FOR HIGHER ED

From prestigious historically black colleges and universities to among the nation's premier science and technical schools, Northern Virginia is a hotbed for higher ed. In fact, colleges and universities in the D.C. area produce more computer science graduates than any other metro area in the country, graduating ~6,300 computer science students with bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees each year. The region also produces the fourth-largest number of graduates in business disciplines (~20,000) and the second-largest number of legal graduates (~3,500) in the U.S.

In total, Northern Virginia boasts access to 30+ top-ranked colleges and universities within a four-hour drive.

**Colleges and universities in the D.C. area produce more computer science graduates than any other metro area in the country.**





## A CULTURAL EPICENTER

Consistently ranked among the “most livable” regions of the country, Northern Virginia is a paradise for culture vultures, history buffs and artists alike. From museums to murals, the region rooted in D.C.’s renowned arts and history scene is the best place to stimulate your creative and intellectual sides. In fact, the New York Times’ called D.C. the number one place in the world to visit, no big deal.

And when you’re not checking-off capital bucket list items, Northern Virginia offers an entire region of adventure—from picturesque vineyards to one of the largest shopping centers in the country (Tysons Corner). Fairfax County alone is home to 110 arts and culture venues, ranging from galleries, artisan centers and music and symphony halls to stages for performing arts, music, opera and dance.

Architecture aficionados will not be disappointed by Frank Lloyd Wright’s Usonian-style Pope-Leighey House. And if you’re a lover of all arts, the Torpedo Factory Art Center in Alexandria houses the largest group of working-artists’ open studios in the U.S. With some of the best restaurants in the country and a growing roster of breweries and wineries, taste buds are equally entertained.




Number  
one place  
in the world  
to visit? D.C.



## AN OASIS FOR THE OUTDOORSY

National parks, hiking trails, waterways and thousands of miles of bike paths keep Northern Virginia's pulse racing. Combined with NOVA's plethora of state-of-the-art facilities ranging from climbing walls, boxing rings, wellness centers, gyms and yoga studios, you can stay active with ease year-round in Virginia's four-season climate, all at little to no cost. In Great Falls Park, you can hike alongside the waterfalls of the Potomac River—you'll find it hard to believe you're just 15 miles from the capital. Grab a breath of fresh air from the away from the hustle to observe flora and fauna while wandering through the 95 acres of gardens at the Meadowlark Botanical Gardens in Fairfax County.

If you're more comfortable on the water, there are four boathouses in Georgetown offering kayaks and canoes for rent—or if you have your own boat, slips are available at the Marina whether you're passing through for a waterfront dinner or spending a day out on the water. In NOVA, recreation is accessible to all. Loudoun County's Adaptive Recreation Program offers individuals of all abilities and skill levels, including those with mild, moderate and severe disabilities and those who are medically fragile, a variety of recreation and leisure activities—from healthy cooking and bowling to bocce and tack.



National parks, hiking trails, waterways and thousands of miles of bike paths keep Northern Virginia's pulse racing.

Photo by Tom Stovall



## THE NATION'S BEST LARGE REGION FOR CONNECTIVITY

Situated between Washington D.C.—ranked the top city for public transportation—and Washington Dulles International Airport (IAD), Fairfax County marries connectivity with convenience. One of the nation's only metros with two top-30 airports—IAD and Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport (DCA)—Northern Virginia touts convenient access to 1,011 domestic and 103 international flights daily, including seven daily flights to Seattle; 14 daily flights to the Bay Area; and 49 daily flight to the New York area. While 45% of locals under 35 bus, train, carpool or walk to work, Northern Virginia is home to the second largest heavy rail transit system and the sixth largest bus network in the U.S. Plus, the soon-to-be-opened silver line will amplify that connectivity to jobs, commerce and the entire DMV's lifestyle offering.



Global  
access via  
two top-30  
airports



# NOVA is the new Silicon Valley



Courtesy CARFAX

## CALLING ALL SELF-STARTERS

If you're a self-starter with an entrepreneurial spirit, we've got good news for you. Northern Virginia is ripe with opportunities for startups: as *The Washington Post* puts it, "Forget Silicon Valley—the Dulles Tech Corridor is Cultivating Companies that Break the Mold."

NOVA has a multitude of programs solely dedicated to aiding startups and setting entrepreneurs up for success—several statewide and some at a county level. Startup Arlington along with its partners offers a lucky startup winner months of lodging, office space, mentoring and more. Loudoun County facilitates Loudoun Tech Startups, a group of entrepreneurs who meet regularly to network and socialize. Alexandria County's Alexandria Small Business Development Center offers workshops, advice and insider networking to startups and businesses in the county, totally free of cost.

You'll also find numerous cutting-edge federally funded research and development centers here including the Center for Advanced Aviation System Development, Homeland Security Systems Engineering and Development Institute, and the Center for Naval Analyses.

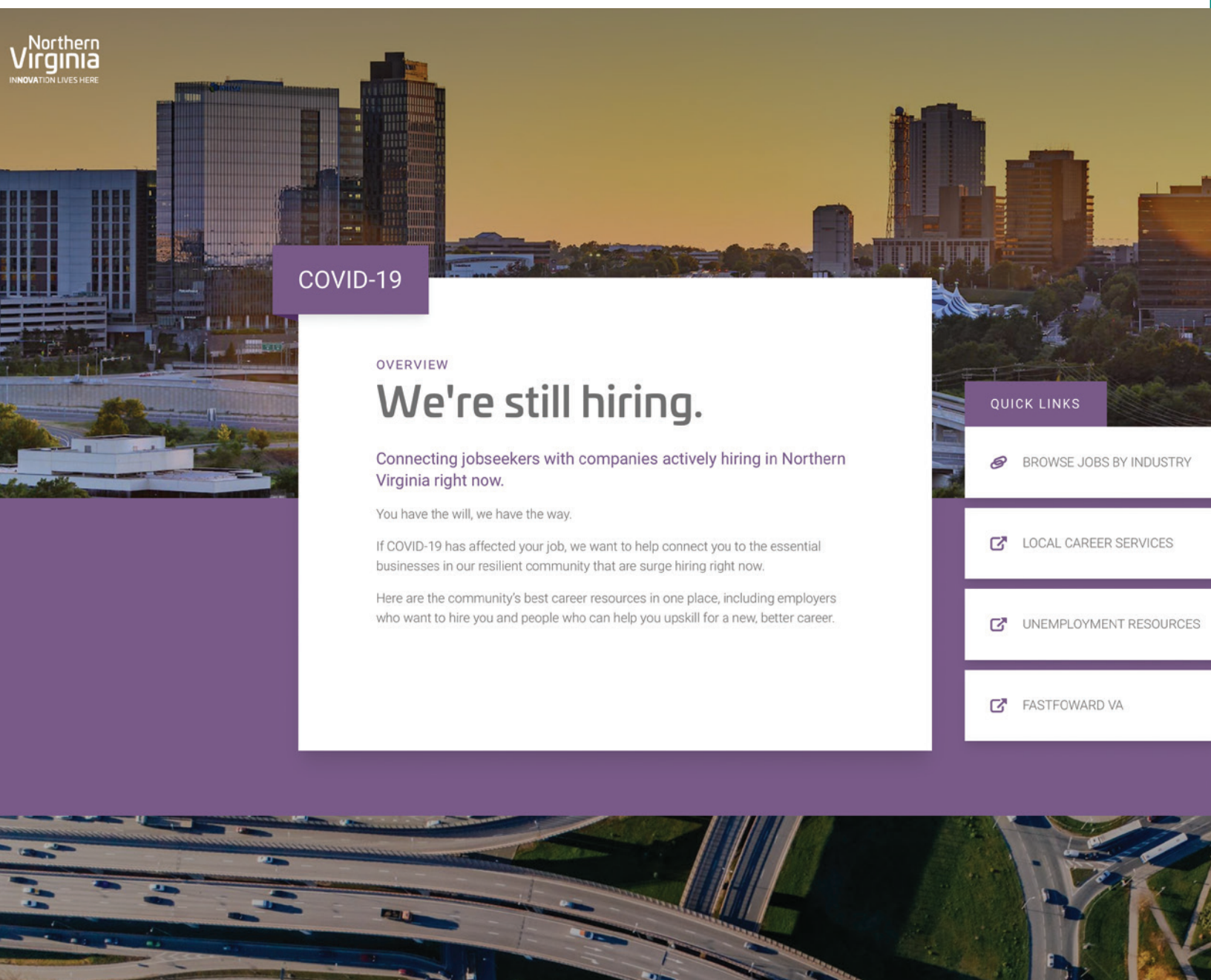


# NORTHERN VIRGINIA: WE'RE STILL HIRING

In the time of a global health crisis, little is certain—but one thing is for sure: Northern Virginia is a resilient region with diverse industries, ripe with resources to help job seekers.

From its role as the foundation of the telecom revolution to its status as the leading cyber-security hub in America, Northern Virginia is built by innovators committed to solving some of the world's most complex problems—and we continue to uphold this spirit in the time of COVID-19. Was your job affected by the pandemic? We have open jobs and training resources to help you upskill or shift your career path entirely. Looking for a stable home base? Northern Virginia is an economically robust region with some of the best health care and school systems in the country. For students currently earning their degree virtually via one of our region's 30+ colleges and universities, Northern Virginia is an ideal landing pad to start your career.

[workinnorthernvirginia.com](https://workinnorthernvirginia.com)



Northern  
Virginia  
INNOVATION LIVES HERE

COVID-19

OVERVIEW

## We're still hiring.

Connecting jobseekers with companies actively hiring in Northern Virginia right now.

You have the will, we have the way.

If COVID-19 has affected your job, we want to help connect you to the essential businesses in our resilient community that are surge hiring right now.

Here are the community's best career resources in one place, including employers who want to hire you and people who can help you upskill for a new, better career.

QUICK LINKS

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