This is Lynchburg.

Welcome home.

A guide for business relocation in the City of Lynchburg.

OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM

CITY OF LYNCHBURG
Welcome Home.

The City of Lynchburg boasts a vibrant economy, nationally-ranked public schools, five colleges and universities, a world-class healthcare system, a business friendly environment and diverse shopping and dining options—all situated in historic and affordable neighborhoods.

When you’re part of the Lynchburg community, you don’t just get daily, unrivaled views of the James River and the Blue Ridge Mountains, but you also get a network of neighbors, colleagues and organizations who are ready to help you succeed.
Lynchburg, a business success story

In 1757, seventeen year old John Lynch, a Quaker, took over the family ferry business carrying people and goods across the James River. In 1786, Lynch petitioned the General Assembly of Virginia for a charter to establish a town on the bluffs above the ferry. The petition was granted and the town of Lynchburg was founded. Today, Langley Fountain marks the point where Mr. Lynch’s ferry landed on the Lynchburg side of the river.
Lynchburg by the Numbers

Population is 81,339 and growing

Median Age is 28.6

Millennial population is 45% larger than U.S. average

14.2% lower cost of living than national average

Forbes List Top 100
Best Small Places for Business and Careers

Forbes List Top 50
in Cost of Doing Business

More than 2,700 businesses, from Main Street to national headquarters

Median household income: $41,971

Unemployment Rate: 3.4%

Information updated as of Fiscal Year 2019 from local, state and federal sources
Located just 180 miles southwest of Washington, D.C., Lynchburg is centrally located within Virginia and a one-day drive to most major metropolitan areas on the east coast. With daily air service to and from Charlotte, NC from the Lynchburg Regional Airport and daily Amtrak service to Washington, D.C. and points north and south, Lynchburg is close and connected for travel, business and entertainment opportunities.

Sensible local and state tax codes in Lynchburg and Virginia help to foster business investment and expansion. In many instances, the rates below may be eligible for reimbursement or credits depending on your business, revenues or expenditures.

**Tax Rates**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tax Type</th>
<th>Rate/Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Real Estate Tax</td>
<td>$1.11 per $100 of Assessed Value</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business Personal Property Tax</td>
<td>$3.80 per $100 of Assessed Value 1-5 years old at 30%, 6+ years old at 25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Machinery and Tools Tax</td>
<td>$3.00 per $100 of Assessed Value 1-5 years old at 30%, 6+ years at 25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Local Retail Sales Tax</td>
<td>1%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Meals Tax</td>
<td>6.5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lodging</td>
<td>6.5% plus $1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amusement Tax</td>
<td>7%</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gross Receipts/Purchases</th>
<th>Business License Fee</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$0-$10,000</td>
<td>Not Subject to a License</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$10,000-$50,000</td>
<td>$30.00 Non Refundable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$50,001-$100,000</td>
<td>$50.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$100,001-$150,000</td>
<td>$160.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

“There is a vibe of creativity at our company now, and it’s due to the people who live and work in Lynchburg.”

Rex D. Geveden, President & CEO
BWX Technologies, Inc.
When your business is ready to invest in Lynchburg and our workforce, we are ready to support you through targeted investments that provide immediate returns and long-term benefits for your business and Lynchburg citizens. Below is a sample of incentives and programs available to eligible firms relocating to or expanding in Lynchburg.

Incentives and Programs Available

- Economic Development Authority Capital Investment Program
- Economic Development Authority Job Creation Grant
- Enterprise Zones
- Industrial Revenue Bonds
- James River Arts & Cultural District
- Opportunity Zones
- Real Estate Rehabilitation and Renovation Program
- Revolving Loan Fund
- Technology Zone

Commonwealth of Virginia Incentive Programs

The Commonwealth of Virginia is willing to support businesses through targeted investments that provide immediate returns and long-term benefits for Virginia citizens. The Office of Economic Development & Tourism works directly with each company seeking state support to navigate and support the process.

“The people I want to work with are here.”
“There is something about this area that calls people home. Those who do move away want to come back, and they have a tremendous work ethic I call blue-collar brilliance.”

Carroll Moon, Chief Technology Officer
Cloudfit Software, Inc.

All programs administered by the Office of Economic Development & Tourism and Economic Development Authority are subject to modification, availability of funds, review and approval by the Authority and staff. Please review the most currently available information at opportunitylynchburg.com and contact our office for clarification prior to beginning your project.
A diverse, highly-skilled workforce is the backbone of the City of Lynchburg’s business community. That’s why the Office of Economic Development & Tourism has created a network of resources available to those starting businesses, relocating them or simply seeking new career avenues.

Largest Employment Sectors

Lynchburg’s unique infrastructure, assets and workforce programs help to support the our largest growth sectors.

- Health Care & Social Assistance
- Retail Trade
- Advanced Manufacturing
- Accommodation & Food Service

Top Employers

Lynchburg is home to a diverse set of employers, from colleges and universities to large manufacturers to financial services.

- Liberty University
- Centra Health
- Framatome
- BWXT
- J.Crew
- University of Lynchburg
- Genworth
- Pacific Life
- Harris
- Delta Star
- Fleet Companies
- Randolph College
Learning in Lynchburg

Five colleges and universities in one city. It’s easy to see why we value education and investing in our citizens.

Of individuals ages 25 to 64 in our city, 34.5% have a bachelor’s degree or higher, which compares with 33.4% nationally. Last year, Lynchburg’s higher education institutions conferred more than 21,000 graduate and undergraduate degrees.

The Lynchburg Beacon of Hope, a local born non-profit, has launched the Stay Close, Go Far Promise Scholarship Program. This scholarship program gives all graduates of Lynchburg City High Schools—roughly 550 students—$8,000 per student over two years to attend Central Virginia Community College, and a like amount over four years to attend Liberty University, Centra College of Nursing, Randolph College, Sweet Briar College or the University of Lynchburg. We are proud to be one of only 200 communities in the country and the first in Virginia with such a program.

“When we align economic and human development – when we invest in our people – it yields incredible returns for our local businesses and our community. It is our responsibility to our citizens to prepare them for the jobs of today, not to mention tomorrow – right here, in our own City.”

- Marjette Upshur, Director
Living in Lynchburg

To live in the City of Lynchburg is to be surrounded by natural beauty with all the amenities of a large city but in a small package. Grab a coffee with little to no wait, enjoy a traffic free drive to work, or immerse yourself in the forests and streams of our urban trails meandering throughout the city.

Outdoor activity is plentiful with numerous parks and trails, athletic facilities for tournaments or just having fun. Lynchburg is a designated “Runner Friendly City” by the Road Runners Club of America and takes health and fitness seriously hosting the annual Genworth Virginia 10 Miler and Amazing Mile Kids Run. We also take our fun seriously, as Lynchburg is home to many wine and music festivals, bicycle treks, and cultural events.

The arts play center stage in Lynchburg starting with the venerable Academy Center of the Arts. Bringing names like Wynton Marsalis and Mavis Staples to their grande dame stage, the Academy is the heartbeat of our Downtown. We also support countless theater groups, opera and choral companies, symphony orchestra, art galleries and museums, and the Lynchburg Museum System. Plus, with six liberal arts colleges/universities in the area, opportunities for workshops, classes, camps, lectures, and exhibits abound.

Getting around Lynchburg is a breeze. You can arrive almost anywhere within city limits in less than 15 minutes. And shopping for those things you need to make your new house a home is easy with malls, boutique and antique shops, and most big box stores close at hand.

There are so many ways to engage with your new community, join a team or league through Lynchburg Parks & Recreation, volunteer for a non-profit organization, or take a workshop provided by a local business. It’s a great way to make new friends and support the community.

From the low cost of living, and safe neighborhoods, to the abundant natural beauty that surrounds and winds through the city, it’s no wonder over 80,000 people have chosen to call Lynchburg home.

- #10 Happiest City to Retire in U.S. (Source: Gallup-Sharecare Wellbeing Index)
- 28.6 — Median Age is 28.6
- 14.2% — Cost of living is 14.2% lower than national average
- 14.5% — 14.5% Retiree Population
- #1 — #1 City for Millennials to Live (Source: Reviews.org)
Housing in Lynchburg

Lynchburg offers many affordable housing options. Whether you’re interested in purchasing a house, or renting a gorgeous Downtown loft on the James River, our City has a perfect, comfortable home that’s ready for you!

Trendy Downtown Lofts

Lynchburg’s vibrant Downtown community is a cultural hotspot for restaurants, live music and beautiful, modern living accommodations. Blending contemporary architectural features with original wooden beams, brick walls and sky high ceilings, Lynchburg’s lofts offer warm spaciousness while hinting at the City’s industrial roots. With over 1,000 beautiful Downtown residential units, Lynchburg’s upbeat Downtown core offers lots of great living opportunities.

Popular Apartment Complexes

Due to the continuously rising population, brand new or recently developed apartments and townhouses can be found throughout the city.

Family Friendly Neighborhoods

Lynchburg is comprised of 10 core neighborhoods - all of which are family-friendly, welcoming communities where you will feel comfortable and at home. Downtown and along Rivermont Avenue, you will find historic districts, such as Diamond Hill, with homes that have character, interesting architectural features and spacious floor plans.

In other parts of the City, you’ll find more modern developments that back onto rolling hills, creeks, forests and pastures. Surrounded by parks, nearly every community in Lynchburg boasts unparalleled natural vistas.

One of the biggest perks of living in Lynchburg? Everything you need is conveniently within a 15 minute drive of your doorstep!

- Median gross rent: $835
- Median house value: $153,800
The City of Lynchburg is quintessentially known for our “Lynchburg Legacies” - locations, sights, and experiences that will give you an idea of who we are as a community.

The city’s relationship with the James River has long been one of commerce and recreation and that tradition continues today. Miles of urban trails meander through the city along the river and its tributaries providing nature breaks for walking, biking, and fishing. On the water, you can enjoy hours of kayaking and canoeing, or just splash around to cool off on a warm day.

The Blue Ridge Mountains provide a breathtaking backdrop for the city and it’s only a 35 minute drive to hop on the Blue Ridge Parkway, America’s most visited National Park. Stop at orchards and wineries along the way, there’s always something to uncover just around the bend.

To really get to know the city, explore our Downtown with its distinctive 19th and 20th century architecture now renewed into boutique shops, chef inspired eateries, and the third oldest continuously operating farmers market in the country, the Lynchburg Community Market.

Spend a day unplugged on the water, listen to a concert at Riverfront Park, ski or snowboard year-round, or venture deeper into the city and beyond to find must-see galleries and museums - and all roads lead to sites of historic importance to our nation.

We know you’ll find cozy corners and local haunts that will quickly become your favorites.

Go Team!

The Lynchburg Hillcats is our minor league baseball team, currently farm team for the Cleveland Indians.

Exploring in Lynchburg

16 - Parks
40 - Miles of Trail
20+ Major Historic Sites, Museums & Galleries in the area
20 - Streets & Country Roads Artisan Trail
Creating in Lynchburg

Lynchburg has always been a home to a diverse and supportive community of artists and artisans, helping to build a thriving creative and entrepreneurial workforce and a vibrant place to live.

The Americans for the Arts’ Arts & Economic Prosperity 5 study provides compelling evidence that our nonprofit arts and culture sector is a multi-million industry for the City of Lynchburg, and that these organizations spur additional spending by their audiences—pumping vital revenue into our local restaurants, hotels, retail, and other businesses.

Opportunities for amateur and professional artists, actors, and musicians are plentiful with many museums, galleries, theatres, and music venues offering ample ways to stretch creative muscles. Want to take your art to the next level? Lynchburg is home to create virginia, an annual arts + business conference for makers to learn from experts on how to build, grow, and sustain arts-based ventures.

Creativity is not just for the arts! The City’s CO.STARTERS program equips aspiring entrepreneurs with the insights, relationships, and tools needed to turn ideas into action and passion into sustainable, thriving businesses.

In Lynchburg, we know creativity is key to innovation and our artists, musicians, chefs, and entrepreneurs call this city home because of the appreciative and supportive community and the relaxed, affordable environment ripe for creative experimentation.
Stable, Flourishing Economy
Our industry makeup and workforce is made up of firms of all sizes, making our economy stable and diverse. This means more job security and peace of mind for our community. While employment is primarily driven by healthcare and retail, these jobs are complimented by higher education, energy, professional services and advanced manufacturing sectors.

Outstanding Education Opportunities
Lynchburg offers top-notch pre-school, Kindergarten to Grade 12 education in public, private, Montessori and special-needs schools. Furthermore, the City is home to six college, university and technical school campuses. Every year, more people in Lynchburg pursue higher education, and over 34.5% of the overall population has either a Bachelors degree or a Graduate degree. Our City is also home to many sought after post-secondary institutions, including: Liberty University, University of Lynchburg, Randolph College, Virginia University of Lynchburg, Central Virginia Community College, and Sweet Briar College nearby.

Connectivity
Strategically located with easy access to major markets, Lynchburg, Virginia, is a distinctive city with all the amenities and resources to live, learn, work, play and prosper. From two-hours to a days-drive from most major east coast cities, Lynchburg is easily accessed by Amtrak, air and car.

Low Cost of Living
Rent, food, transportation, goods and services, and other essentials are generally more affordable in Lynchburg. In fact, the average cost of living is 14.2% lower than the United States average, which gives our community members a higher disposable income to invest in what they love. Lynchburg is even rated one of the Best Value Cities in the U.S. by Kiplinger!

Fantastic Healthcare
Equipped with a world-class health care system, Lynchburg has many walk-in clinics, urgent care, dentists, orthodontists, two major hospitals, and even alternative healthcare consultants to keep you healthy.

Safe Neighborhoods
Lynchburg is one of the top 10 most secure mid-sized cities in the United States, according to Farmer’s Insurance and Sperling’s Best Places.

Beautiful Location
Ideally located in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains and alongside the James River, Lynchburg is a beautiful city that perfectly blends Victorian, Art Deco and Beau Arts architecture with modern developments and the natural surroundings. The City fosters artistic expression and entrepreneurship contributing to a vibrant yet relaxed environment and a community ready to welcome new people and ideas.

Top 7 Reasons

1. Stable, Flourishing Economy
2. Outstanding Education Opportunities
3. Connectivity
4. Low Cost of Living
5. Fantastic Healthcare
6. Safe Neighborhoods
7. Beautiful Location

Why people move to Lynchburg, Virginia
Let us know how the Office of Economic Development & Tourism of the City of Lynchburg can help you make the move to the best small city in America.

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CITY OF LYNCHBURG

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