

# *Town of Independence*



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**Press Release:**

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In the town of Independence's continued efforts to create partnerships for the construction of the Independence Farmers Market and to begin the development of the first municipal park in Independence the Virginia Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission (TRRC) has committed \$150,000 toward the project. In the TRRC Financial Viability Assessment, TRRC staff stated; "This is perhaps the strongest farmers market request seen by the Commission to date, as evidenced by a long track record of operations, site control, well-designed construction plans, committed funding from the Town and USDA, experienced market management, a large producer base, a strong schedule of events to attract customers to the market, and arguably the best tracking system of producer participation, sales and customers seen in any TRRC-region market."

The TRRC grant application was a collaborative effort between the town of Independence, the Mount Rogers Planning District Commission, and members of the Independence Farmers Market. The town of Independence appreciates the efforts of these collaborating organizations as we move forward with the construction of a permanent structure for the Independence Farmers Market. The farmers market has operated on the vacant lot located on the corner of Highway 21 and Highway 58 since 2013.

As reported in a press release in November 2019, USDA has committed \$175,000 toward the project and the town of Independence has committed \$130,000. Other partner agencies for this downtown economic development project include the Appalachian Regional Commission, the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, and the Virginia Department of Transportation.

Mayor Butch Reeves and the Independence Town Council appreciates the partnerships with these agencies and the collaborative efforts with the Mount Rogers Planning District Commission and the Independence Farmers Market. The town of Independence would like to thank the staff and members of the Virginia Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission for this generous appropriation and more importantly their dedicated partnership as this project moves forward in 2020.