Broadband 101

What is broadband?

Broadband is high-speed internet. Virginia's broadband expansion programs define broadband as internet speeds at or above 100 Megabits per Second (Mbps) Download and 20 Mbps Upload (100/20). Homes and businesses without access to these speeds are considered "unserved."

162,000

Projected number of remaining homes and businesses without broadband access and without a funded project to reach their location with broadband

1.1 Million

Projected homes eligible to participate in the federal Affordable Connectivity Program, which may struggle to afford access to broadband because of limited income

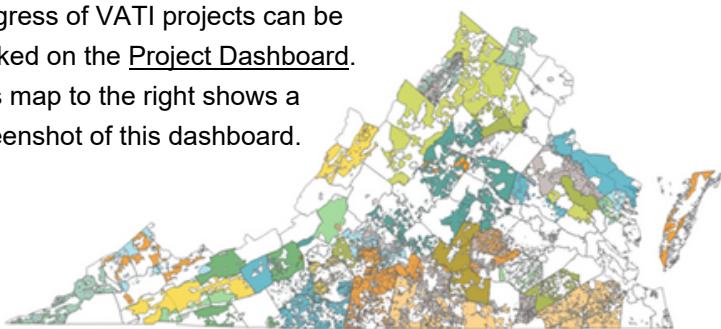## What do these internet speeds mean?

100/20 Mbps is enough run 6-7 seamless virtual meetings simultaneously for things like telehealth appointments, online education, and connecting with loved ones remotely. Virginia's investments in broadband access are providing access to speeds much higher, up to 1000/1000 Mbps!

What is Virginia doing about it?

Both state and federal funding programs are working to address the Digital Divide around access to broadband. Thanks to the support of both current and prior Governors and General Assemblies, the Virginia Telecommunication Initiative (VATI) has invested over $935 million in state and federal funds to extend broadband access to over 388,000 homes, businesses, and community anchor institutions in 80 Cities and Counties. This investment has been matched by another $1.2 billion in local government and broadband provider funds.

Progress of VATI projects can be tracked on the Project Dashboard. This map to the right shows a screenshot of this dashboard.

Resources

Commonwealth Connection
Virginia's Broadband Service Availability Map, based on Virginia-collected service data.

Planning VATI Project Dashboard
Dashboard to view the progress of specific projects across Virginia.

Locality Broadband Profiles
Outline of broadband expansion work in counties and cities with a VATI project.

Line Extension Customer Assistance Program (LECAP) Program to assist with special construction costs for low-to-moderate income residents.

Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP)
$30/month federal subsidy for the cost of broadband services.

The Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program is Virginia's opportunity to finish the job on extending broadband access and also make long-term, transformational investments into broadband affordability and adoption. With the $1.48 billion in BEAD funds for Virginia, DHCD is finalizing plans to extend broadband infrastructure to the remaining unserved locations without a funded solution for connectivity and designing programs to meaningfully address broadband affordability and adoption.

Access

Affordability

Adoption