Virginia Telecommunication Initiative: FY24 VATI Guidelines Input Session

Office of Broadband

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
Partners for Better Communities

Office of Broadband

Tamarah Holmes, Ph. D, Director
Caroline Luxhoj, VATI Program Manager
Chandler Vaughan, Senior Policy Analyst
Cole McAndrew, Policy Analyst

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Virginia Telecommunication Initiative

The Virginia Telecommunication Initiative (VATI) extends broadband service to currently unserved areas. VATI prepares communities to build, utilize, and capitalize on telecommunications infrastructure with the goal of creating strong, competitive communities.

FY2017 – FY2023

235 Applications
Over $1.2 billion requested

$935 million awarded
$1.2 billion leveraged
Over 388,000 Locations in Project Areas
87 projects awarded across 80 localities

FY2023 VATI

35 Applications from 50 localities
$302.1 million requested

$59.5 million awarded (including letter of intent)
$118.6 Million leveraged
5 Localities with No Previous VATI
27,771 connections

VATI Funding Availability & Sources
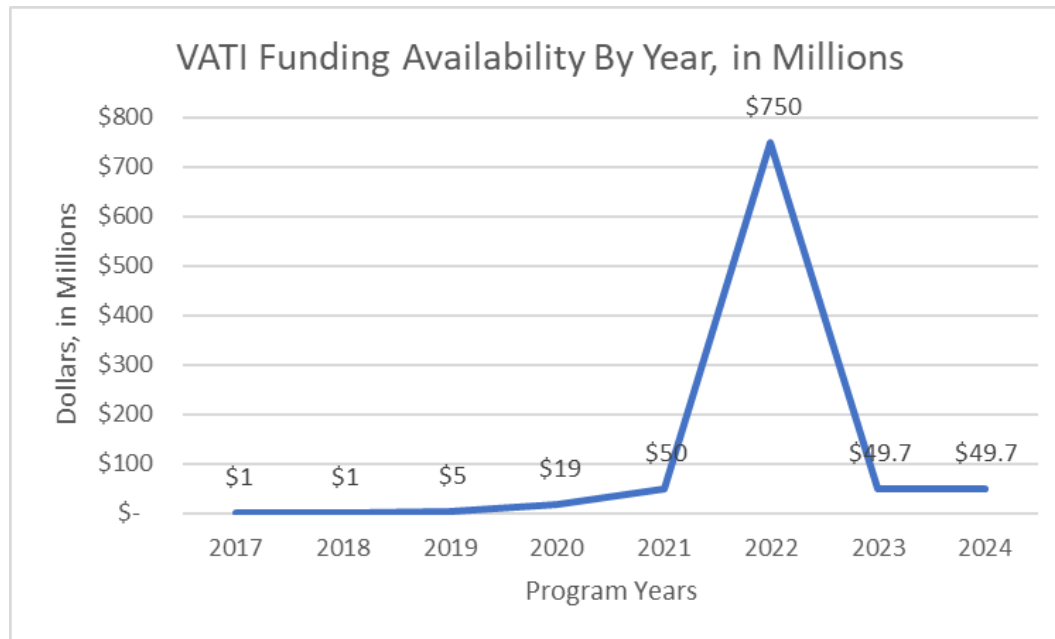
FY2017 – FY2021
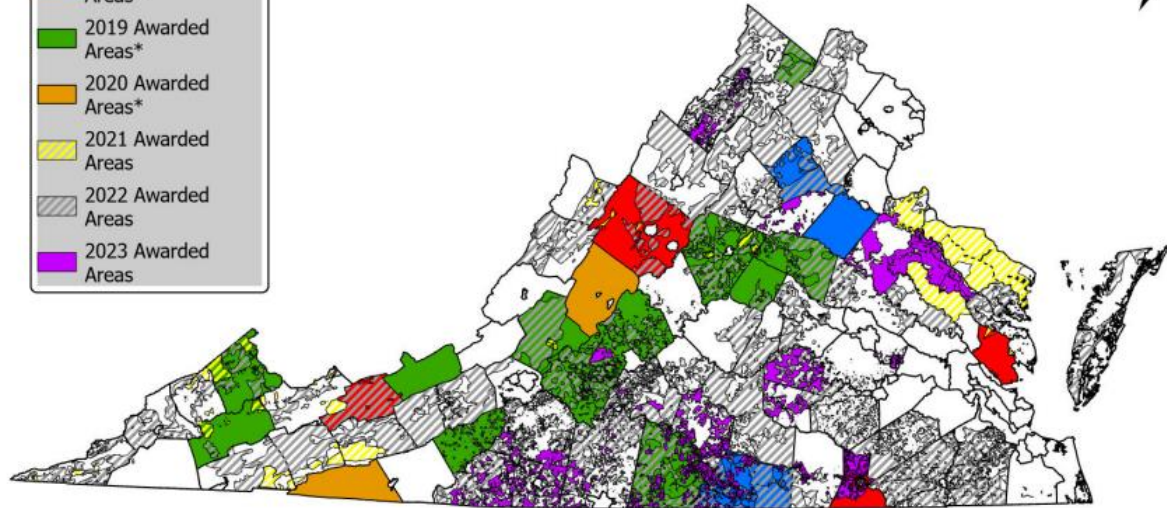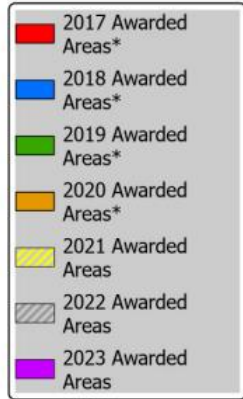
- State General Funds

FY2022

- State General Funds
- American Rescue Plan Act
  - State Fiscal Recovery Fund
  - Capital Projects Fund

FY2023 and FY2024

- State General Funds

VATI Funding Availability By Year, in Millions

Program Year	Dollars, in Millions
2017	$1
2018	$1
2019	$5
2020	$19
2021	$50
2022	$750
2023	$49.7
2024	$49.7

Virginia Telecommunication Initiative (VATI) Grant Awards 2017-2023

Legend:
- 2017 Awarded Areas*
- 2018 Awarded Areas*
- 2019 Awarded Areas*
- 2020 Awarded Areas*
- 2021 Awarded Areas
- 2022 Awarded Areas
- 2023 Awarded Areas

*Exact project area shapefiles were not collected prior to the 2021 award cycle. VATI awardees prior to 2021 are highlighted in their entirety; however, these award areas do not cover the entire County.

Published Date: June 2023
Sources: US Census, DHCD
For details, please contract DHCD staff at vati@dhcd.virginia.gov

VIRGINIA DHCD

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Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program Funding

The Department of Housing and Community Development's Office of Broadband has been designated by Governor Youngkin to serve as the recipient of, and administering agent for, any BEAD Program funding for the Commonwealth of Virginia. Both BEAD funding utilized for broadband deployment and state general funds will be regarded as under the umbrella of the Virginia Telecommunication Initiative; however, the Office of Broadband will invite proposals for funding under the BEAD program separate of those proposals for state general funds. Proposals received for BEAD funding will be scored, governed, and administered via BEAD and subsequent federal guidance. Proposals received for state general funding will be scored, governed, and administered via FY24 VATI Guidelines and Criteria.

Eligible applicants to each program are encouraged to apply for both funding sources. DHCD reserves the right to make administrative determinations and recommendations on VATI awards of state general funds based on capacity of the internet service provider to accommodate federal requirements of BEAD funds, the funding feasibility of the technology type under BEAD, as well as funding eligibility of areas for state general funding when compared to BEAD, among other factors. DHCD reserves the right to partially award any application and may request applicants provide information for a subset of an area within their original application area during the application process for state general funding.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to contact DHCD prior to submitting applications for BEAD or state general funds to discuss alignment, as well as incongruence, between each program.

Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program Funding

Key Points

- Proposals received for BEAD funding will be scored, governed, and administered via BEAD and subsequent federal guidance. Proposals received for state general funding will be scored, governed, and administered via FY24 VATI Guidelines and Criteria.

- Eligible applicants to each program are encouraged to apply for both funding sources.

- DHCD reserves the right to partially award any application and may request applicants provide information for a subset of an area within their original application area during the application process for state general funding.

- Applicants are strongly encouraged to contact DHCD prior to submitting applications for BEAD or state general funds to discuss alignment, as well as incongruence, between each program.

VATI State General Fund and BEAD General Guidance

Key Points

- Local governments should apply for VATI funding with their preferred ISP partner
- ISPs should also seek BEAD funding in the same areas, if they are able
  - Note: ISPs are the only eligible applicants under BEAD
  - Note: Multiple ISPs can apply for the same area under BEAD
- Local governments should meet with and issue letters of support to their preferred ISP partners under BEAD
  - See Volume 2 of BEAD Initial Proposal
- (If prior guidance is adopted) The Office of Broadband will channel the appropriate funding to specific locations based on BEAD eligibility, technology type, and ISPs ability to meet federal BEAD requirements.

Evaluation Criteria

- **Commonwealth Priorities**
  - Added additional criterion to Commonwealth Priorities section:
  - "F. The co-applicant's efforts to mitigate make-ready and other permitting requirements anticipated for network deployment."

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Virginia Telecommunication Initiative
Draft Guidelines and Criteria Input Sessions

Evaluation Criteria – Totals Unchanged

Category	2023 Points	2024 Points
Project Description and Need	75	75
Project Readiness	40	40
Budget and Cost Appropriateness	135	135
Commonwealth Priorities	50	50
Total	300	300

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Questions & Answers

Contact Us

600 East Main Street, Suite 300

Richmond, VA 23219

804-371-7000

www.dhcd.virginia.gov

Email: vati@dhcd.virginia.gov

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Is the Virginia Telecommunication Initiative (VATI) and Broadband Equity Access and Deployment (BEAD) Program the same thing?

How do the timelines line up between VATI and BEAD?

Should local governments and broadband providers apply for both?

How will the Office of Broadband decide between proposals across both programs?