AGENDA

Broadband Advisory Council Meeting
December 6, 2024
10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

In-Person Option:
Meadow Hall (Meadow Event Park)
13111 Dawn Blvd
Doswell, VA 23047

Virtual Option (via Microsoft Teams):
Join on your computer, mobile app or room device
[Click here to join the meeting](#)
Meeting ID: 290 657 364 174

Passcode: j6VywC

[Download Teams](#) | [Join on the web](#)
Or call in (audio only)
[+1 434-230-0065,,65805920#](#)   United States, South Hill
Phone Conference ID: 658 059 20#

I. Opening
   a. Call to Order   Chairman
   b. Roll Call   DHCD Staff

II. Consent Agenda   Chairman

III. Approval of Minutes: August 16, 2024 Meeting

IV. Overview of Discussion   Bryan Horn, Director, DHCD
                                 Tamarah Holmes, Ph.D., Director,
                                 Office of Broadband

V. Office of Broadband Updates   Office of Broadband Staff

   a. Virginia Telecommunication Initiative (VATI)
       a. Virginia Make Ready initiative (VMRI)
   b. BEAD Deployment
   c. BEAD Non-Deployment
   d. Digital Opportunity

VI. Public Comment   Chairman

VII. New Business   Council Members

VIII. Adjournment   Chairman

BROADBAND ADVISORY COUNCIL
UNAPPROVED MINUTES
August 16, 2024
10:00 AM
Fredericksburg Branch Library Theater
1201 Caroline Street
Fredericksburg VA 22401
Virtual Option provided via Microsoft Teams

Members Present	Members Absent
Tamarah Holmes, Ph.D.	None
Delegate Herring	
Delegate Willett	
Delegate Srinivasan	
Senator Boysko	
Casey Logan	
Rich Schollman	
Senator Hackworth	
Steve Sandy	
Jimmy Carr	
Ray LaMura	
Delegate Leftwich	
Kristie Proctor	

Call to Order	Senator Jennifer Boysko, Acting Chair of the Broadband Advisory Council, called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m.
Roll Call	Chandler Vaughan, Associate Director at the Office of Broadband, called the roll and stated that a quorum was present.
Approval of Minutes: January 9, 2024 Meeting	A motion was made and properly seconded to approve the minutes of the January 9, 2024, meeting of the Broadband Advisory Council. The motion passed to adopt the minutes as presented.
General Remarks	Acting Chair Boysko provided an opportunity opening remarks, to come before the Broadband Advisory Council. Dennis Clark, Librarian of Virginia, advocated on behalf of the library system as a longstanding beacon and community institution which advances digital equity and access across the state.

	Bryan Horn, VA Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) provided remarks on the recognition Virginia has received in efforts to bridge digital divide (e.g. BEAD, Makeready, Digital Opportunity).
Overview of Discussion	Tamarah Holmes Ph.D., Director of the Office of Broadband provided brief verbal updates on the Office's work, including last-mile deployment program the Virginia Telecommunication Initiative (VATI), Broadband Equity and Access Deployment (BEAD) program, and Digital Opportunity. Detailed how we are moving slowly from infrastructure to affordability and adoption of broadband via Digital Equity administered through National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA).
Office of Broadband Updates	Caroline Luxhoj, VATI Program Manager, presented on: historical funding of the program (FY17-FY23), the risk determination process in light of new language added to FY2025 and FY2026 biennium budget, and the most recent round of awarded programs announced by Governor Youngkin this past July.
	Chandler Vaughan, Associate Director of the Office of Broadband presented on other initiatives to streamline federal project delivery. Utilizing FCC's 214 process to take defaulting projects under CAF-2 and RDOF and leverage the transfer process to keep federal dollars in Virginia and deliver connectivity to unserved regions.
	Chadler Vaughan, Associate Director of the Office of Broadband provided an overview of the Virginia Make Ready Initiative (VMRI) regarding key budget language for $30,000,000 to provide supplements to eligible FY2022 VATI projects for make-ready costs regarding those determined to be at-risk for completion by December 31, 2026. He also provided an overview of federal last-mile deployment program, BEAD, to close the availability gap because "access to affordable, reliable high-speed broadband is essential to full participation in society."
	Kalya Bravo, Intern in the Director of the Office of Broadband, provided a high-level overview of Virginia Digital Opportunity Initiatives: (1) Virginia Affordability and Adoption Planning Grant Program; (2) State Digital Equity Capacity Grant Program; (3) Digital Equity Competitive Grant Program. VAAPG helps cities, counties, and tribal governments understand broadband affordability and adoption needs in their jurisdictions, better preparing them to address these needs.

	Chris Glover, Asisstant Director for IT, at Central Rappahannock Regional Library presented on the technology timeline of early broadband extending to the contemporaneous moment.
Public Comment	EJ Scott, Chair of Virginia Economic Justice Committee of the NAACP, wants to inquire and ensure we are addressing equity in the advancement of broadband. Ms. Scott asked the following:
	Any demographics for the survey?
	Are there parameters set for low-cost options? What might be low-cost to you, may not be to others?
	Quality of connection to the home once established?
Adjournment	Upon a motion made and properly seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 12:01pm.

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Broadband Advisory Council Meeting

December 6, 2024

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING
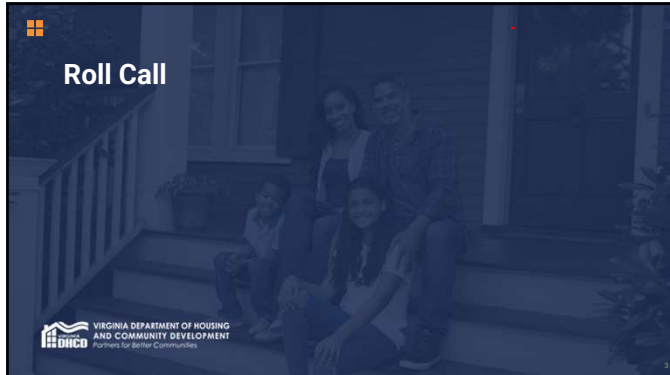AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
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Call to Order

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Roll Call

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Consent Agenda

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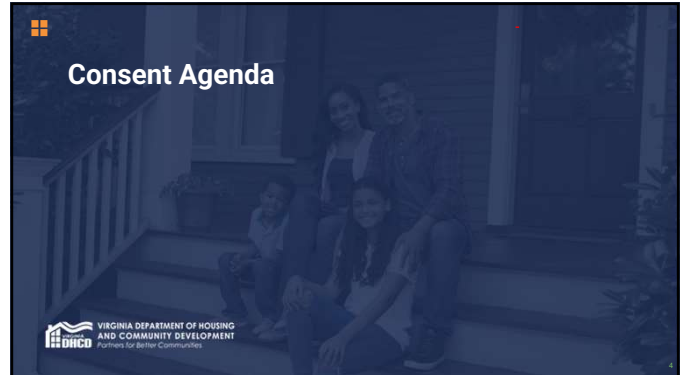
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Approval of Minutes:
August 16, 2024 Meeting

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Overview of Discussion

Bryan Horn, Director, VA Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD)

Tamarah Holmes, Ph.D, Director, Office of Broadband

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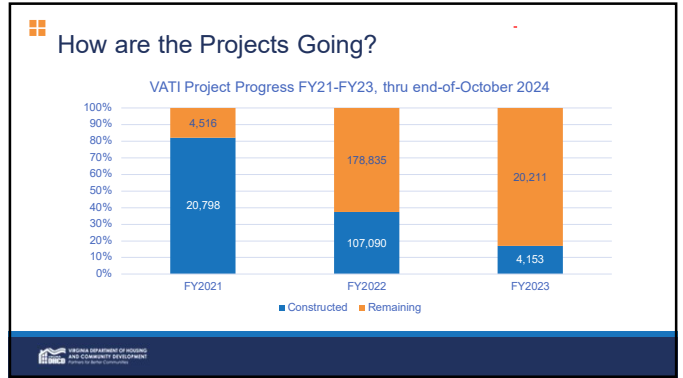AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
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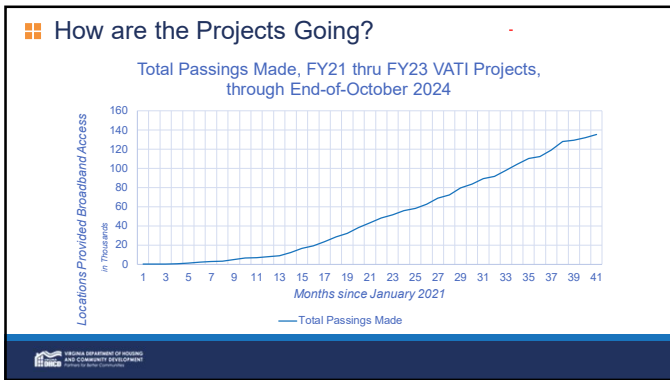
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Office of Broadband Updates

In Order of Presenting:

Caroline Luxhoj, Program Manager, Virginia Telecommunication Initiative
Chandler Vaughan, Associate Director
Tamarah Holmes, Director

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How are the Projects Going?

VATI Project Progress FY21-FY23, thru end-of-October 2024

	FY2021	FY2022	FY2023
Remaining	4,516	178,835	20,211
Constructed	20,798	107,090	4,153

■ Constructed ■ Remaining

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How are the Projects Going?

Total Passings Made, FY21 thru FY23 VATI Projects, through End-of-October 2024

Locations Provided Broadband Access (in Thousands)

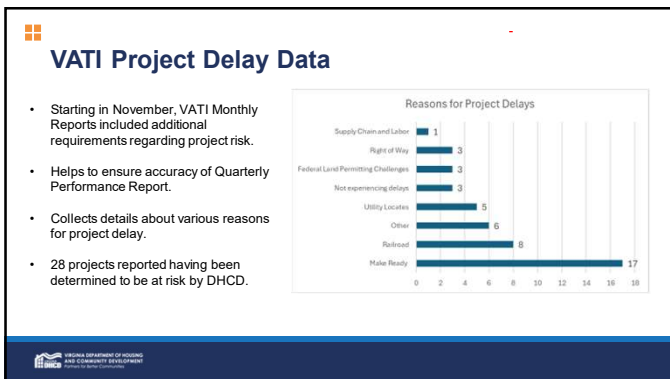Months since January 2021

—— Total Passings Made

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VATI Quarterly Performance Report

- In 2024, the General Assembly required DHCD to submit its VATI Performance Report quarterly.
- Includes:
  - # of passings
  - Grant dollars expended by funding source
  - Contract performance period
  - Progress towards project delivery
  - Max advertised speeds
  - Achievement of key project milestones.
- First quarterly report was submitted on October 30th. Next due date is January 31st.

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VATI Project Delay Data

- Starting in November, VATI Monthly Reports included additional requirements regarding project risk.
- Helps to ensure accuracy of Quarterly Performance Report.
- Collects details about various reasons for project delay.
- 28 projects reported having been determined to be at risk by DHCD.

Reasons for Project Delays

Reason	Count
Supply Chain and Labor	1
Right of Way	3
Federal Land Permitting Challenges	3
Not experiencing delays	3
Utility Locates	5
Other	6
Railroad	8
Make Ready	17

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Virginia Make Ready Initiative Overview

Summary of Key Budget Language:

- $30 million to provide supplements to eligible FY2022 VATI projects for make-ready costs
  - Applicants must be determined to be at-risk for completion by Dec. 31, 2026 to be eligible
- No more than $30,000 per mile may be awarded for pole replacements, mid-span pole installations, and undergrounding in certain instances
- Program must be up and running by September 2024
- Funds must be expended by June 30, 2025 by grantees

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Virginia Make Ready Initiative Awards to Date

September
- $2,656,961.10 in funding awarded
- $963,864.49 in leveraged funds
- 3,520 locations enabled to receive broadband access

October
- $6,587,744.14 in funding awarded
- $2,189,902.71 in leveraged funds
- 4,871 locations enabled to receive broadband access

November
- $9,792,544.18 in funding awarded
- $3,293,781.46 in leveraged funds
- 11,240 locations enabled to receive broadband access

December
- $10,962,750.58 in funding available
  - Application deadline yesterday

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Virginia Make Ready Initiative Awards to Date

VMRI Funds by Grantee

- Campbell County (8): $1,535,327.34
- Bedford County (5): $2,448,684.50
- Franklin County (4): $997,777.88
- Northern Neck PDC (2): $267,077.82
- King William County (1): $106,166.00
- Shenandoah County (9): $2,229,456.10
- Culpeper County (6): $7,388,710.47
- New River Valley Regional Commission (1): $797,739.00
- Loudoun County (2): $337,003.00
- Hanover County (5): $2,929,307.31

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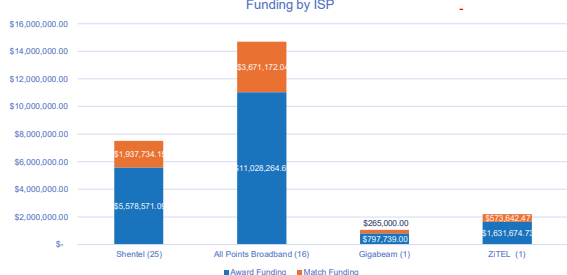
Virginia Make Ready Initiative Awards to Date

Funding by ISP

- Shentel (25): Award Funding $5,578,571.09, Match Funding $1,937,734.19
- All Points Broadband (16): Award Funding $11,028,264.6, Match Funding $3,671,172.04
- Gigabeam (1): $265,000.00, $797,739.00
- ZiTEL (1): $1,631,674.73, $573,642.47

■ Award Funding ■ Match Funding

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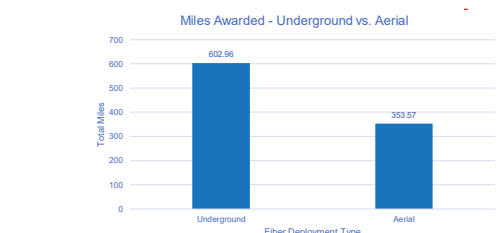
Virginia Make Ready Initiative Awards to Date

Miles Awarded - Underground vs. Aerial

- Underground: 602.96
- Aerial: 353.57

Total Miles / Fiber Deployment Type

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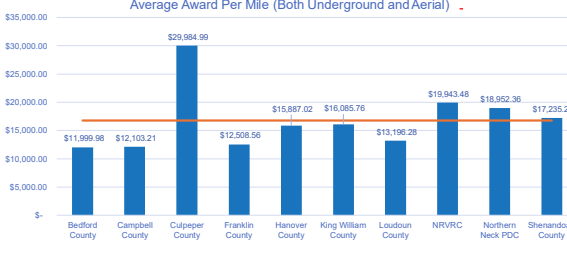
Virginia Make Ready Initiative Awards to Date

Average Award Per Mile (Both Underground and Aerial)

- Bedford County: $11,999.98
- Campbell County: $12,103.21
- Culpeper County: $29,984.99
- Franklin County: $12,508.56
- Hanover County: $15,887.02
- King William County: $16,085.76
- Loudoun County: $13,198.28
- NRVRC: $19,943.48
- Northern Neck PDC: $18,952.36
- Shenandoah County: $17,235.25

■ Funds Awarded Per Mile

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BEAD Update: Deployment

Before we can begin the full application process in December 2024:

Challenge Process Results must be Certified by NTIA

- o +/- 131,000 BEAD Eligible Locations
- o Scattered Locations in Urban Areas
- o Line Extensions

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DHCD's Approach to Non-Deployment Recommendations

Sustainability is an Unnegotiable
- The Commonwealth would waste this one-time opportunity by investing in programs that have short lifespans and no plans for long term sustainability.
- DHCD's approach is to ensure the are sustainable from the start and will not require ongoing funding.
  - Any connected device programs, must have a plan to refurbish those devices

The More Infrastructure, The Better
- While the title of "non-deployment" indicates broadband infrastructure cannot be deployed, NTIA staff have signed off on infrastructure programs, like cell coverage and multi dwelling unit connectivity.
- The more infrastructure that can be built under this program, the better, as these investment will be long term, transformational, and permanent.
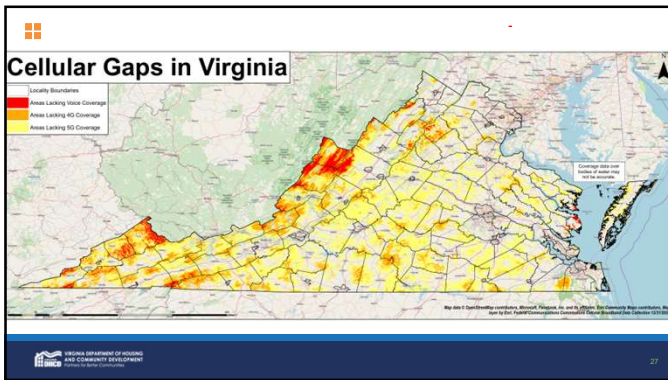
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Cellular Connectivity

- Preliminary mapping shows ~9,200 locations that can't make a phone call, and an additional ~45,000 locations can call and text, but nothing else.

- A cellular connectivity program would help cover the cost of cell towers and extend cell service to these locations, roads, and regions without baseline cell coverage

- Towers can be leveraged for emergency services, local government and private-sector needs

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Cellular Gaps in Virginia

Locality Boundaries
Areas Lacking Voice Coverage
Areas Lacking 4G Coverage
Areas Lacking 5G Coverage

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Multi Dwelling Unit (MDU) Connectivity

- While broadband service is usually available around MDUs and apartment buildings, units within those buildings sometimes don't have individual lines running to them

- Families and individuals within these buildings without individual connections often operate on sub-par, shared Wi-Fi networks that do not meet modern internet speed standards

- This program would work with broadband providers to provide unit-level connectivity to unserved MDUs, targeting low-income households first, then all such buildings

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State Agency & State Organization Partnerships

- DHCD is building capacity with state agencies regarding broadband adoption partnerships

- To date, conversations have been held with 25 agencies, with more to come

- Some example partnerships include: (not an all-inclusive list)
  - Partner with disability-oriented agencies for technology programs (DBVI, DARS, DDHH)
  - Partner with DVS for re-entry programs centered around technology and connectivity
  - Partner with Va Coop. Ext. for precision agriculture programs/smart farming adoption
  - Partner with Library of VA and DOE Adult Education to promote senior cybersecurity

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Broadband Equity Access and Deployment (BEAD) Program in the Commonwealth

Overview
The Commonwealth of Virginia was awarded $1.48B in BEAD funds and DHCD is finalizing plans to extend broadband infrastructure to the remaining unserved locations and **design non-deployment programs to meaningfully address broadband affordability and adoption.**

We are here.
Engagement with state agencies to finalize plans for non-deployment funds.

Timeline

2023	2024	2025	2026+
Initial Proposal Vol. 1	Initial Prop. Vol. 2	Non-Deployment Planning	Grants Application & Award Funding	NTIA Approval & Project Implementation

NTIA approved Volume 2 of the Initial Proposal July 25, 2024, establishing the Commonwealth's vision for the BEAD Program and enable Virginia to be awarded funds

VA DHCD and partners have **until July 2025 to present non-deployment projects in Final Proposal**

Timeline Consideration:
All BEAD timelines are dependent on ongoing federal guidelines and are subject to change

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Non-deployment projects allow flexibility and give the Commonwealth a chance to invest in core digital opportunity focus areas

The BEAD guidelines detail 12 eligible uses for non-deployment funds. Office of Broadband has aggregated project ideas into focus areas supporting the digital needs of residents.

- Education & Devices
- Digital Literacy & Accommodations
- Telehealth
- Digital Navigators
- Smart Farming & Precision Ag.
- Cybersecurity
- Digital Opportunity in the Outdoors

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The team reviewed and coordinated efforts, collecting 120 project ideas, refining to ~30 projects approaching $100M in costs. We will continue to refine this list to support digital opportunity across VA.

Methodology for Project Identification and Refinement

Initial Interviews (29 Agencies) — 120 Projects

Considered:
1. Fit with NTIA program requirements
2. Demonstrated interest and approach by agency

Workshops (18 Agencies) — 99 Projects

Considered:
1. Full suite of projects, and funds available
2. Capacity to develop detailed project materials

RFI Development and Project Refinement (15 Agencies) — 28 Projects

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The Commonwealth's non-deployment projects span across the digital opportunity categories, supporting a wide range of interventions

Education/Devices and Digital Literacy/Accomodations represents the category with the most projects

Project Count by Category:
- Education & Devices 7
- Digital Opportunity in the Outdoors 4
- Telehealth 3
- Digital Literacy & Accommodations 7
- Digital Navigators 2
- Cybersecurity 1
- Precision Ag. 1

66% of the budget is reflected in the top three categories

Project Budget by Category ($M):
- Connected Ag.
- Telehealth
- Digital Lit. & Accommodations
- Education & Devices
- Digital Navigators

Total Budget Requested ($M)

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The projects will impact Virginians across the state with most projects servicing more than one covered population identified in the Digital Opportunity Plan

Percentage of Projects Impacting Covered Population

Population	%
Covered Households	80%
Aging Individuals	76%
Incarcerated Individuals	20%
Veterans	72%
Individuals with Disabilities	80%
Individuals with a Language Barrier	72%
Racial or Ethnic Minority Individuals	88%
Rural Individuals	84%

Projects are anticipated to impact >4.1M Virginians

100% of cities and counties in Virginia will be served

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Projects will be unique, evidence based, and impactful

Sample Project Spotlights

Statewide Digital Navigator Program

This project would organize a statewide digital navigator program. Individuals would be staffed in libraries to provide 1:1 technical assistance to residents trying to access affordable internet plans, devices, and online resources. The program would improve digital literacy, assist with job readiness, and reduce the burden on existing library staff.

Agriculture Business and Innovation

This project would implement a multi-pronged approach to support broadband-enabled agricultural technology adoption. The project would fund 5 specialized digital navigators, provide cost-sharing fund for new technologies, and equip Agricultural Research Centers with demonstration equipment to showcase innovative agricultural practices.

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For the Specific Questions on State Agency Partnership Development

Please address additional questions to:

Chandler Vaughan
Associate Director, Office of Broadband | Virginia DHCD
804-801-7124 | chandler.vaughan@dhcd.virginia.gov

Colin Hood
Director, State and Local Government | Guidehouse
804-691-7268 | chood@guidehouse.com

Christiana Gurgick
Director, State and Local Government | Guidehouse
202-577-3412 | cgurgick@guidehouse.com

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Gap-Fill Long Term Connectivity Barriers

- Flaws in federal BEAD mapping will lead to gaps in connectivity, especially at recently built homes, secondary homes on a same parcel, and homes covered by dense tree canopies

- Deployment challenges, like railroad crossings and private easements will also lead to one-off locations without connectivity discovered during project build outs

- This program would fund innovative technology solutions – like low earth orbit satellite technologies - to reach these left behind locations

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Proposed Uses for BEAD Non-Deployment Funding

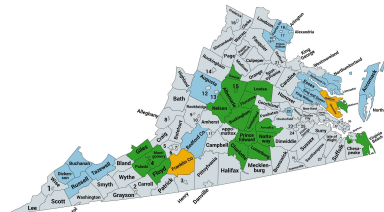| Category	Description
Cellular Connectivity*	Identify gaps in cell coverage and build infrastructure through private sector partnerships to serve regions without voice and data cell coverage.
Multi Dwelling Unit (MDU) Connectivity*	Identify MDUs that don't have unit level broadband availability and extend connectivity to units
State Agency Partnerships and Programs*	Partner with other state agencies to implement broadband adoption programs under the other agencies' respective missions and priorities.
Gap Fill Long Term Connectivity Barriers	Utilize innovative technologies to reach locations that will be inevitably mis-mapped under BEAD

* These programs have been verbally approved by NTIA administrators.

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Update on the VAAPG Program

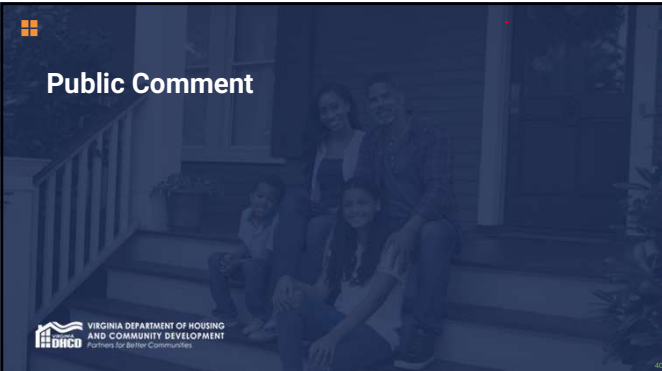|		
1 Norton	12 Staunton	23 Colonial Heights
2 Galax	13 Waynesboro	24 Petersburg
3 Martinsville	14 Harrisonburg	25 Hopewell
4 Radford	15 Charlottesville	26 Emporia
5 Roanoke Co	16 Winchester	27 Franklin
6 Salem	17 Fairfax	28 Williamsburg
7 Roanoke	18 Falls Church	29 York
8 Covington	19 Manassas	30 Poquoson
9 Lexington	20 Manassas Park	31 Hampton
10 Buena Vista	21 Fredericksburg	32 Newport News
11 Lynchburg	22 Richmond	33 Portsmouth

- Included in Active Project (21)
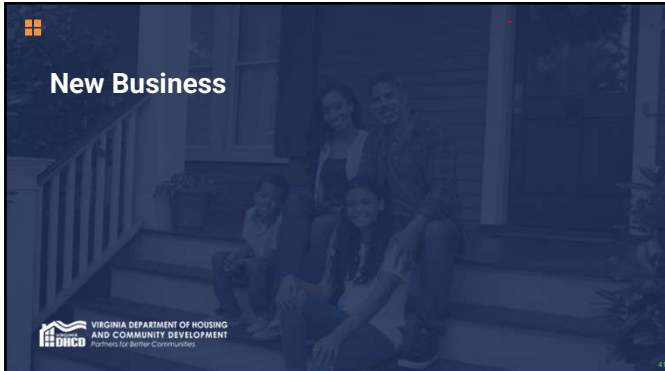- Pending Application (3)
- In Conversation (18)

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Public Comment

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New Business

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Adjournment

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