FY 2021
Virginia Telecommunication Initiative
How to Apply Webinar

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Partners for Better Communities

Agenda

I. Welcome……Evan Feinman, Chief Broadband Advisor

II. VATI Program Overview……Tamarah Holmes
Director, Office of Broadband

III. VATI Application Components……..Tammy Breski
Telecommunication Project Manager

IV. Centralized Application and Management System (CAMS)……Tammy Breski

V. Tips, Q&A and Next Steps……Caroline Luxhoj
Telecommunication Project Manager

VATI Program Description

Provide financial assistance to supplement construction costs by private sector providers to extend services to areas that are presently unserved by any broadband provider.

Expansion of broadband is a priority of Governor Northam

FY2021 proposed at level funding of $19 million

Virginia Telecommunication Initiative

Year to date

- Awarded $25 million to 29 localities
- 53,254 Virginia residents, businesses and community anchors will have access to broadband speeds greater than 25Mbps/3 Mbps
- Actual implementation speeds range from 10Mbps/3Mbps to 2Gb

Stakeholder Involvement

- Held three (3) Input Sessions on April 14, 2020, April 23, 2020 and April 27, 2020
- Received ninety-two (92) comments from twenty-five (25) unique sources from Input Sessions and written comments

New for 2021

- Unserved areas are defined as having broadband speeds at or below 25 Mbps/ 3 Mbps.
- Due to inherent potential of overlap, wireless applicants are strongly encouraged to contact DHCD for assistance
- Private co-applicant must contribute a cash match (minimum 10%). If below 10%, must provide details demonstrating appropriate private investment in relation to the density and scope of project.
- Provide details on items being leveraged for project
- Changed Public Notice to VATI Notice of Application
- Challenge Process
  - Planned service is eligible for a challenge if state of federal funds have been awarded.
  - Challenger must use the project area maps submitted by the applicant in their submission of a challenger. Challengers are encouraged to submit additional maps.

FY21 VATI Timeline

- **April 14** – Guidelines stakeholder meeting #1:11:00am - 1:00pm
- **April 23** – Guidelines stakeholder meeting #2:1:00pm - 3:00pm
- **May 18** – Guidelines public comment deadline
- **June 9** – How-to-Apply webinar
- **July 13** – Deadline to submit the VATI Notice of Application
- **July 17** – DHCD posts VATI Notice of Application on the VATI website
- **August 17** – VATI Application deadline
- **August 24** – DHCD posts applications on VATI website
- **September 23** – Challenge application deadline
- **November 9** – Deadline for responses to challenges

FY 2021
Virginia Telecommunication Initiative

Eligible Applicants

- Units of local government (Towns, Cities, Counties, EDA/IDA, Broadband/Wireless Authorities, Planning District Commissions, School Divisions, etc.)
- Must have private sector provider as a co-applicant.

Application Components

- Demonstrated Need
- Project Readiness
- Budget and Cost Appropriateness
- Commonwealth Priorities

Definition of Unserved

An area with speeds of 25 Mbps/3 Mbps or less with less than or equal to 10% service overlap within the project area.

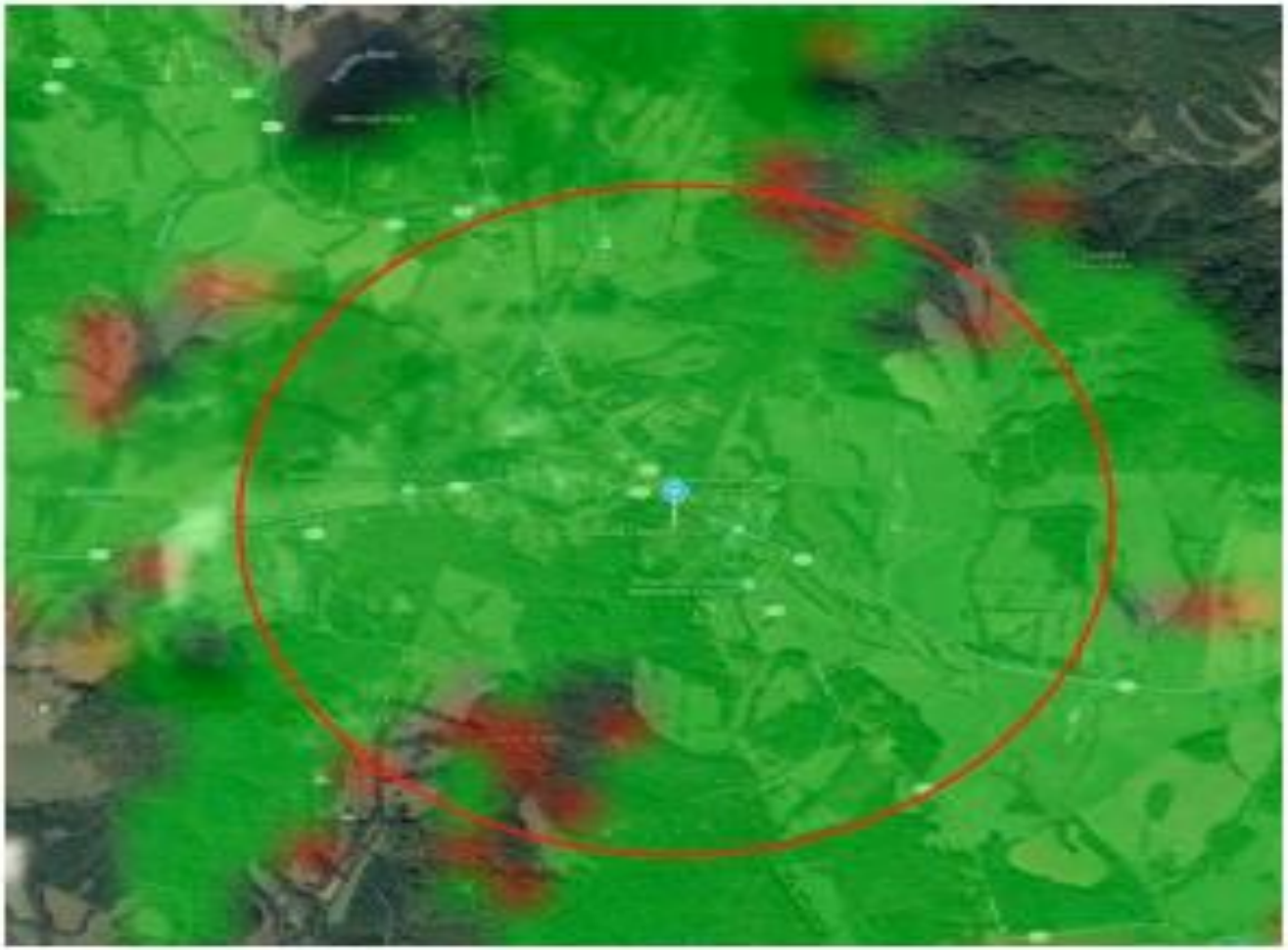
Areas lacking 10 Mbps /1 Mbps will be given significant priority in application scoring.

Demonstrated Need

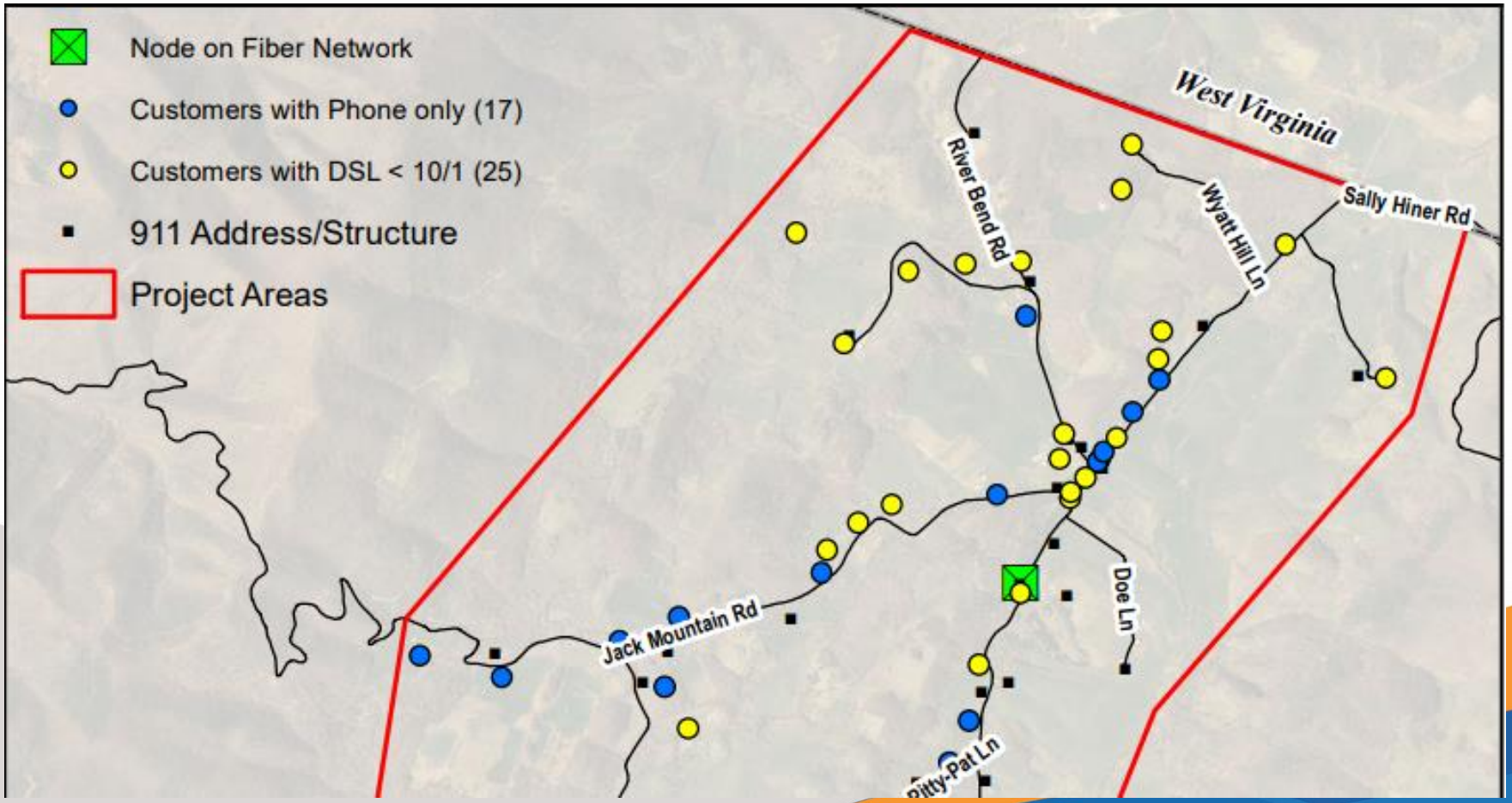
Project Area Description:

- Narrative Description, including a project area map
- Existing providers, including source of information
- Existing federal funds (CAF II, ACAM, Reconnect, and Community Connect) in or near the project area
  - Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF) eligible census blocks
- Determination of unserved and anticipated overlap
- Total number of passings in project area
- Deployment Speeds
- Network Design

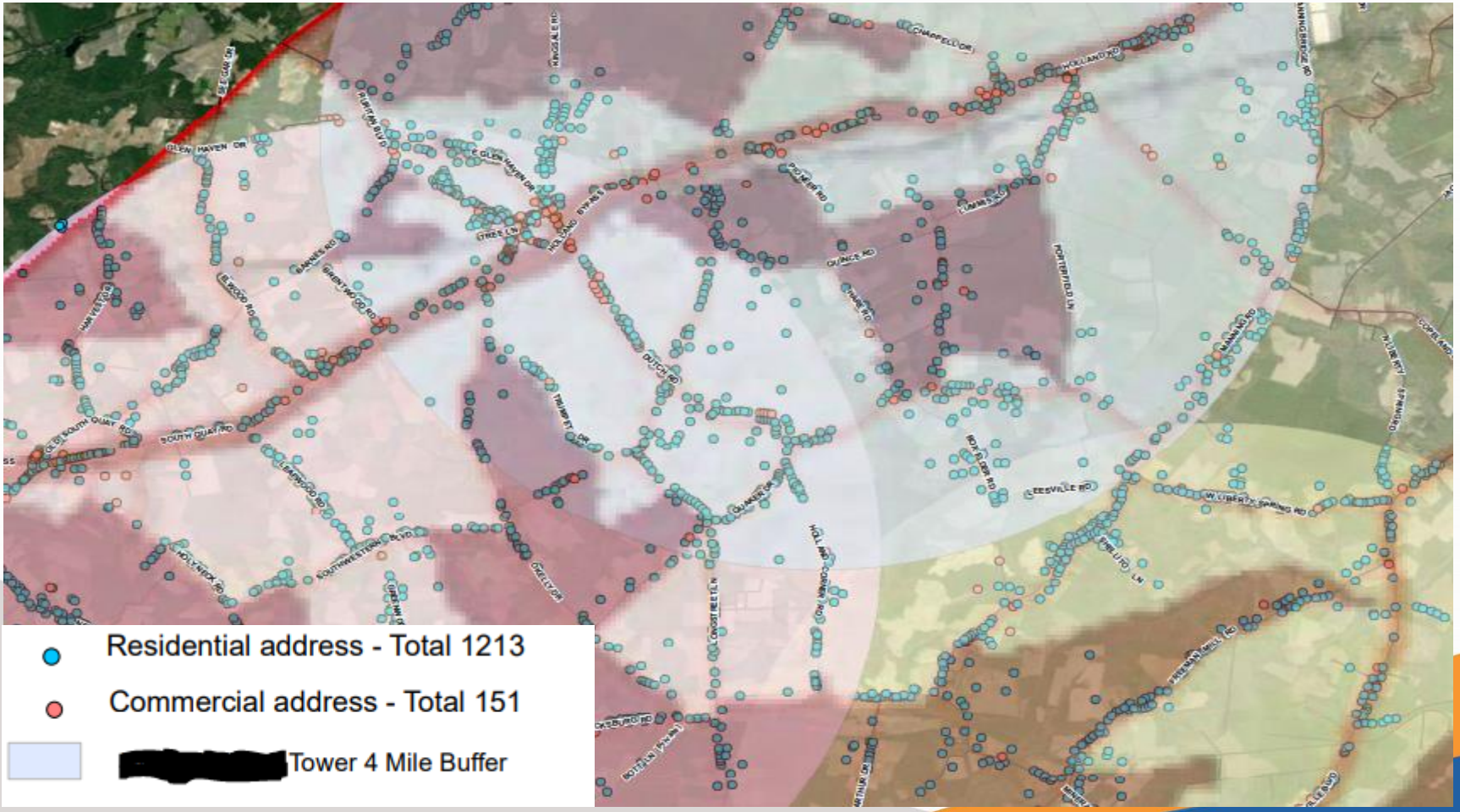
Map Example
Needed Improvement



Map Example
Detailed Wireline Map



Map Example
Detailed Wireless Map



New in 2021
Sample Passings Form

Type of Passings	Total Number in Project Area	Number with Speeds at 10/1 or below in Project Area
Residential		
Businesses (non-home based)		
Businesses (home-based)		
Community Anchors		
Non-residential		
Total Number of Passings		

Project Readiness

- Status of Development (planning, preliminary engineering report)
  - Draft MOU/MOA
- Project Timeline, including detailed construction schedule
- Status of Easements/Permits
- Details on matching funds (*Note: VATI cannot fund more than 80% of total project cost)*
- Details on leverage
- Marketing plan, including take rate and digital literacy efforts
- Details on project management team

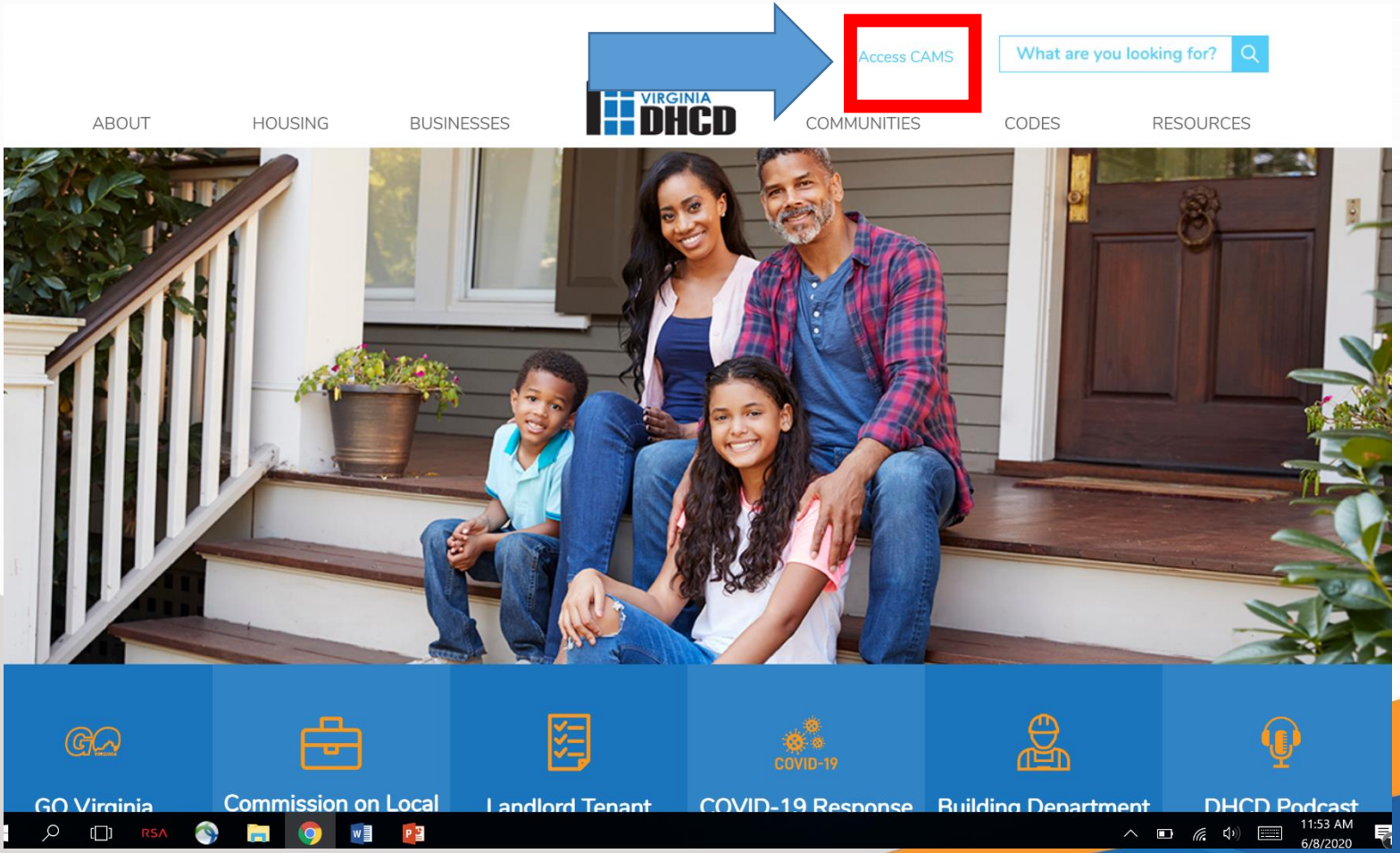
Project Budget and Cost Appropriateness

- Detailed narrative on how grant funds will be used
  - Derivation of Costs
  - Documentation on supporting cost estimates
- Cost Benefit Index

Commonwealth Priorities

- Details on how project fits in larger plan to achieve universal coverage
- Significant businesses, community anchors or other passings in the project area
- Details on unique partnerships
- Digital Equity efforts

CAMS


Access CAMS
What are you looking for?
ABOUT
HOUSING
BUSINESSES
VIRGINIA DHCD
COMMUNITIES
CODES
RESOURCES
COVID-19
11:53 AM
6/8/2020

Preparing Your Application in CAMS

- Create a Profile now.
- Locality must submit.
- Do not share your password / login.
- Assign staff to roles for assistance as needed.
- Internet Explorer or Chrome are the recommended browsers.
- Save often. Use Save this Tab before moving to another section.

CAMS PROFILE

Organization Dashboard

Back to Dashboard | To Org Detail | Back to Search

Organization Name: Albemarle Broadband Authority

Address: 401 Mcintire Road
Charlottesville, VA 22902

Phone Number: (434) 296-5891

Website: http://www.albemarle.org/broadband

Director: Bucky Walsh
bwalsh@albemarle.org
(434) 249-6565

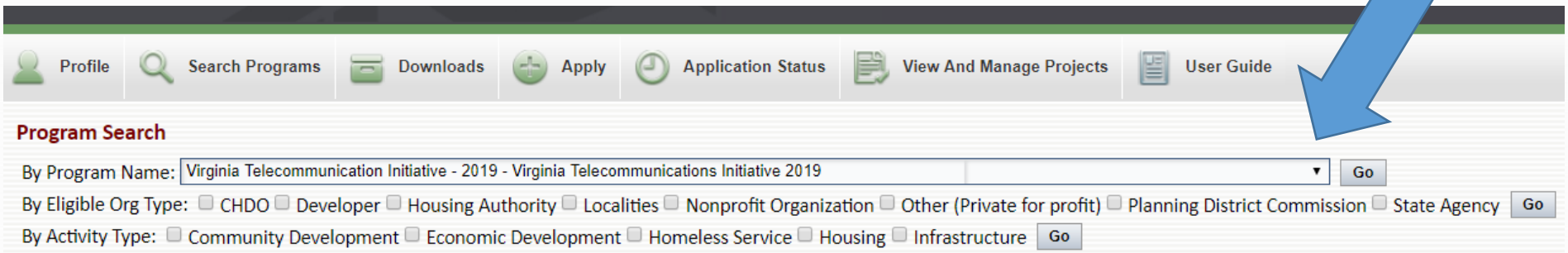
Organization Hold: Not on Hold

Staff Information

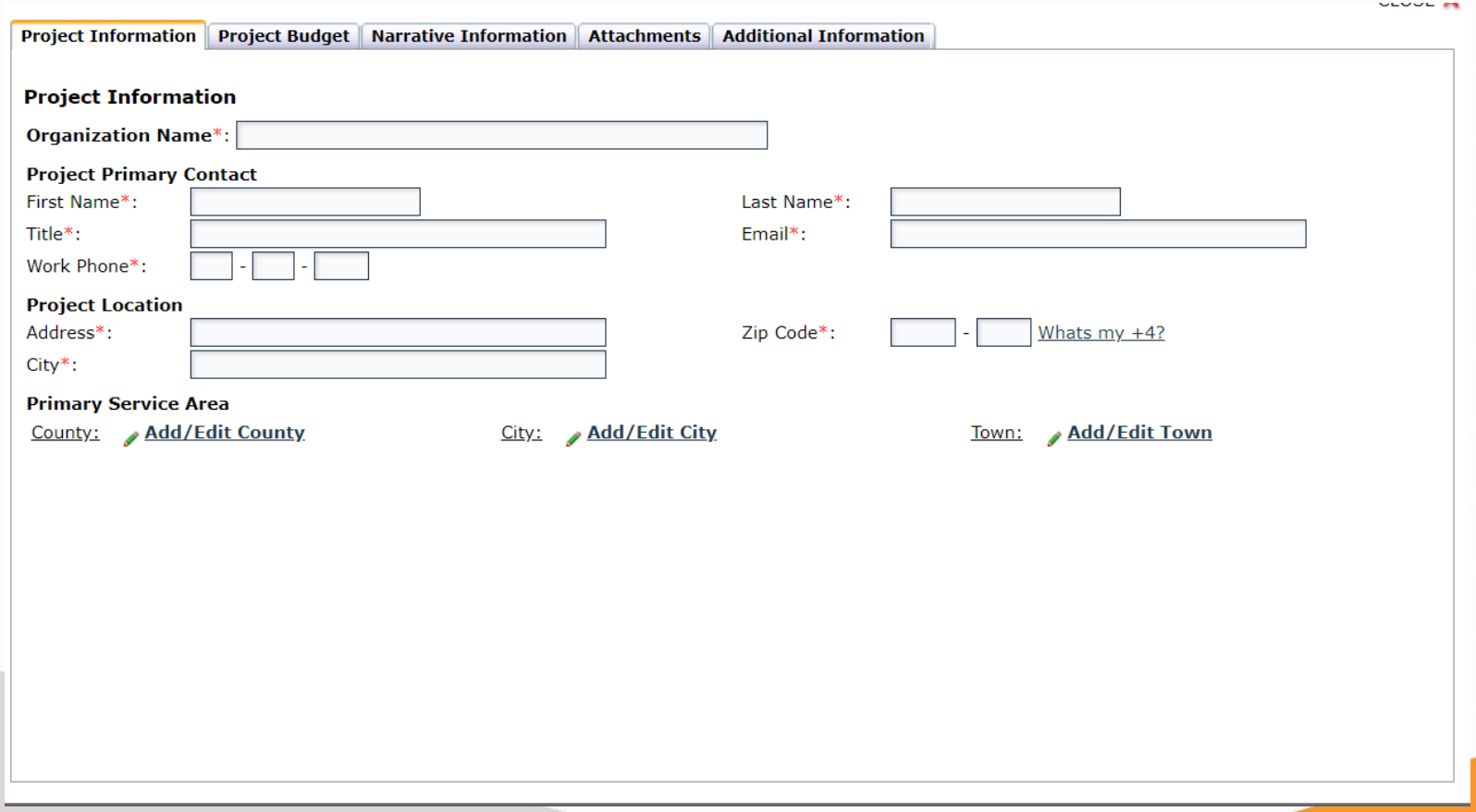
Name	Email	Work Phone	CAMS User Role
Breeden, Lisa	lbreeden2@albemarle.org	(434) 296-5818	Profile Manager
Culp, Michael	mculp@albemarle.org	(434) 296-5891	Profile Manager
Walsh, Bucky	bwalsh@albemarle.org	(434) 249-6565	Organization Head

Organization Financial Information

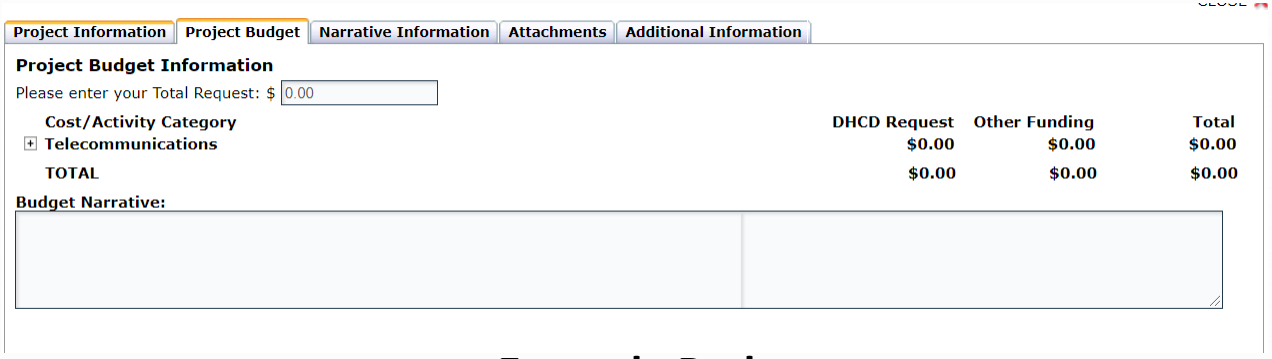
Accessing the Application



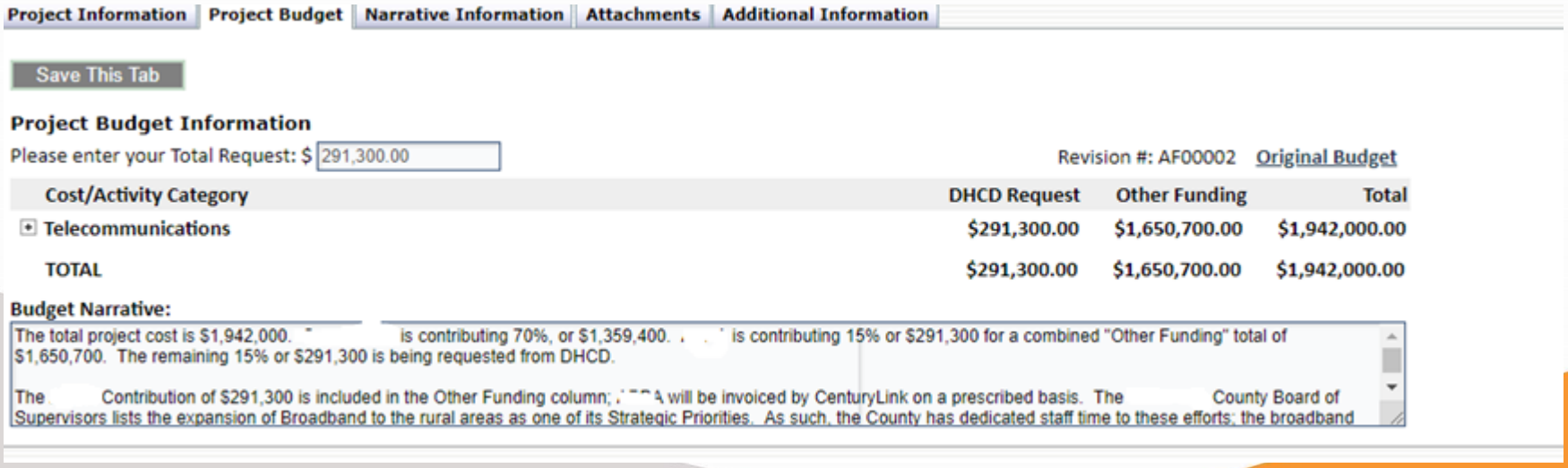
Starting Your Application



Completing Your Budget



Example Budget



Working on Your Narrative

Project Information | Project Budget | Narrative Information | Attachments | Additional Information

Please answer following questions:

Project Area

Explain why and how the project area(s) was selected. Describe theproposed geographic area including specific boundaries of the project area (e.g. street names, local and regional boundaries, etc.). Attach a copy of the map of your project area(s). Label map: Attachment 1 –Project Area Map.

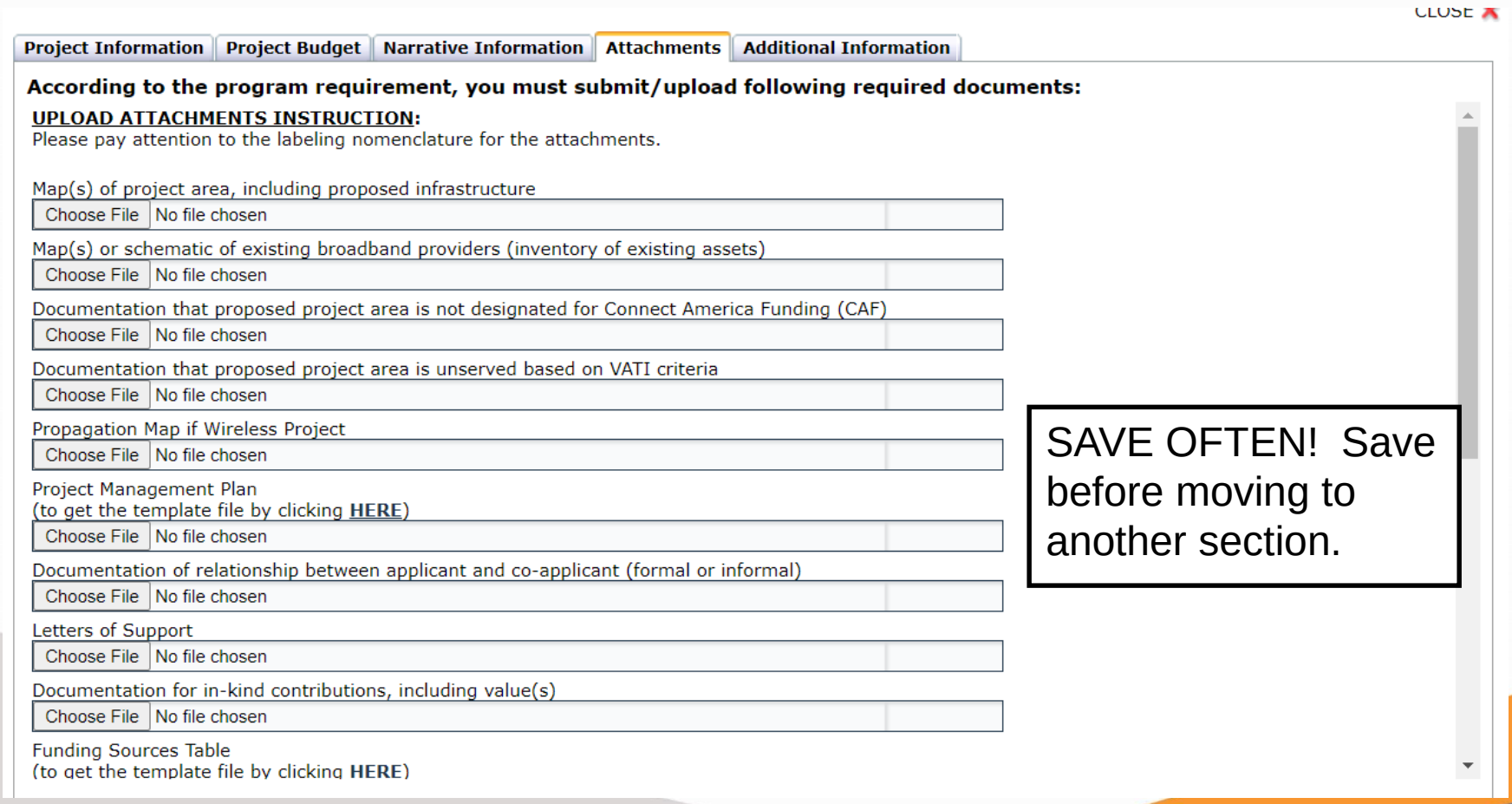
SAVE OFTEN! Save before moving to another section.

Describe your outreach efforts to identify existing providers in the selected project area. Provide a detailed explanation of how this information was compiled and the source(s). Provide a map and list of all existing providers (fixed and wireless) and speeds offered within the project area. Label Map: Attachment 2 – Existing Provider Map; label documentation: Attachment 3 – Documentation on CAF Funding Area.

Required Attachments

1. Map(s) of project area, including proposed infrastructure
2. Documentation of Federal Funding (CAF/ACAM/USDA, etc…) in and/or near proposed project area.
3. Documentation that proposed project area is unserved based on VATI criteria
4. Passings Form (Please use template provided)
5. Propagation Map if Wireless Project
6. Timeline/Project Management Plan
7. MOU/MOA between applicant/co-applicant (can be in draft form)
8. Funding Sources Table
9. Documentation for match funding
10. Letters of Support
11. Derivation of Cost (Project Budget)
12. Documentation supporting project costs (e.g. vendor quotes)
13. Two most recent Form 477 submitted to FCC

Uploading Attachments



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Submission Requirements

- Submit to DHCD by 11:59 p.m. on August 17, 2020
- Must use CAMS
- Include all required attachments – Please pay attention to the naming nomenclature of the attachments and file type.

Freedom of Information Act

Applications submitted through CAMS must only include information that is open to the public. Applicants may request to submit supplementary information to the application that includes a FOIA exemption, pursuant to "§ 2.2-3705.6" for information related to a grant application that may make the application more competitive.

- FOIA-exemption requests must be sent directly to vati@dhcd.virginia.gov.
- Applicants wishing to submit multiple FOIA exemption requests for multiple VATI applications must do so individually in separate requests.

The applicant shall make a written request to the Department:

a. Invoking such exclusion upon submission of the data or other materials for which protection from disclosure is sought;

b. Identifying with specificity the data, information, or other materials for which protection is sought; and

c. Stating the reasons why protection is necessary.

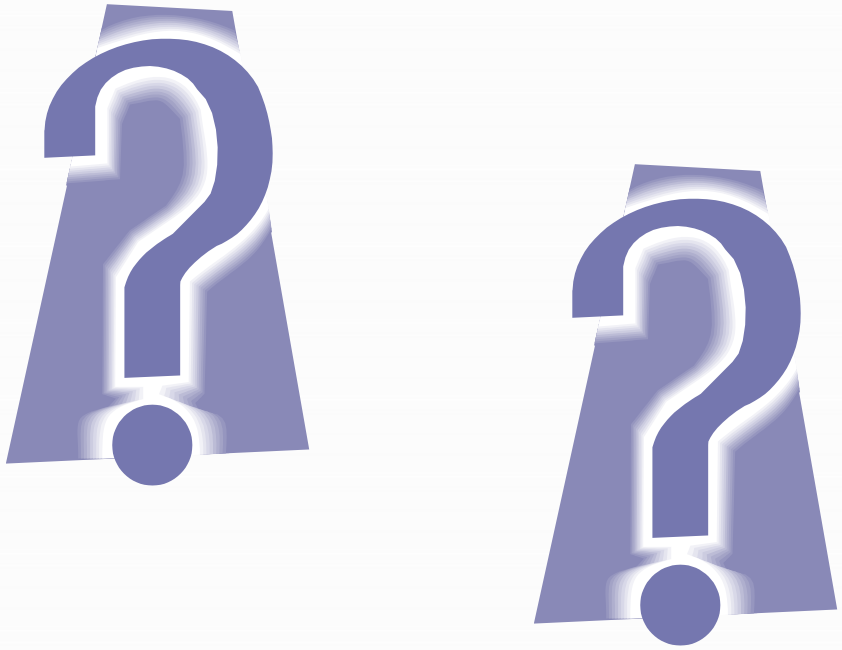
DO NOT SUBMIT ANY DOCUMENTS UNTIL DHCD HAS PROVIDED A WRITTEN DETERMINATION

Tips and Tricks

- Multiple applications
- Leverage federal funds, as well as local resources
- VATI Notice of Application
- Provide a thorough response to the narrative questions
- Name your attachments as specified
- Save Often while working in CAMS
- Call DHCD staff

Technical Assistance is Available

Wrap Up
Q & A



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