

FY 2021  
Virginia Telecommunication Initiative  
Input Sessions



VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING  
AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Tamarah Holmes, Ph.D, Director  
Office of Broadband

Partners for Better Communities

# Who is DHCD?

DHCD is committed to creating safe, affordable, and prosperous communities to live, work and do business in Virginia.

DHCD partners with Virginia's communities to develop their economic potential, regulates Virginia's building and fire codes, provides training and certification for building officials, and invests more than \$100 million each year into housing and community development projects throughout the state.

# Agenda

- I. Welcome.....Evan Feinman, Chief Broadband Advisor
- II. Purpose of Session.....Erik C. Johnston, Director-DHCD
- III. Presentation.....Tamarah Holmes, Office of Broadband
- IV. Q&A.....Tammy Breski, Telecommunication Specialist
- V. Next Steps.....Tamarah Holmes

# 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 propose \$35 million in funding

# 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

- April 14, 22 2020 and April 23, 2020-Interested Parties Input Session local government and citizens; open to all
- May 18, 2020 deadline for submission of Public Comments



**FY 2021**  
**Virginia Telecommunication Initiative**



# **Proposed Changes to the VATI Program Guidelines and Criteria**



# 2020 Proposed Change

## *Allowable Overlap*

- For a wireless project, a proposed area is considered eligible if 25% or less of serviceable units have access to service with no additional construction costs as of the date of the application.

# 2020 Proposed Change

## *Universal Coverage*

- Broadband universal service, or coverage, is referred to as ensuring all citizens have access to the internet. It is DHCD's goal that all VATI projects submitted are helping achieve universal coverage. DHCD encourages applicants to ensure all projects are fit into a larger plan to achieve universal broadband for the locality or region. Applicants are discouraged from submitting projects that focus on pockets of density while not including nearby unserved, less dense areas

# 2020 Proposed Change

## *Project Financing*

- Consistent with VATI's enabling budget language (Item 114L of the 2020 Appropriations Act), the private co-applicant must contribute cash match to the total project cost.
- If the private co-applicant match is below 10% of total project cost, applicants must provide financial details demonstrating appropriate private investment

# 2020 Proposed Change

## *Letter of Intent*

- Changed the Public notice requirement to a Letter of Intent.

# 2020 Proposed Change

## *Additions to the Challenge Process*

- Planned service to a proposed project area is not eligible for the purpose of a challenge unless state or federal funds have been awarded and the provider has committed to providing service to the areas using these state or federal funds within 3 years.
- Areas adjacent to state or federally funded areas may be eligible for a challenge if the challenger can demonstrate existing awards would cover the adjacent area and fulfill the aforementioned requirements.
- Using the project area map submitted by the applicant, create a map indicating where the challenger's serviceable units are located in the proposed project area.

# 2020 Proposed Change

## *Implementation Deadline*

- Changed the project completion timeline from 12 months to 18 months.
- DHCD will consider longer project timelines for larger project areas if applicants can sufficiently detail the reasoning for the extended timeline in their application

# 2020 Proposed Change

## *Organizational and Management Capabilities*

- Private co-applicants that have not submitted a FCC Form 477 on previous years must provide additional documentation. Applicants must provide a detailed reason for not submitting, information on business background including but not limited to number of customers, overview or assets or equivalent information.

# 2020 Proposed Change

## *Evaluation Criteria*

Category	2020 Points	2021 Points
Demonstrated Need	100	100
Project Readiness	50	65
Budget and Cost Appropriateness	40	80
Commonwealth Priorities	15	55
Total	205	300



# 2020 Proposed Change

## *Definitions*

Business – An organization or entity that provides goods or services in order to generate profit. Businesses based in the residential homes can count if they are a registered business (BPOL, LLC, etc.)

Challenge-a written objection of a proposed project area. The proposed project area encompasses a served area greater than the allowable percentage overlap at the prescribed VATI speeds or Federal or State funds have been committed for the proposed project area at the prescribed VATI speeds prior to the submission of the application. Please refer to the Challenge Process on page 9 for requirements.

Take rate-The number of subscribers to a service-typically expressed in a percentage of those taking service divided by the total number of serviceable units

# Wrap Up

## Q & A



# 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 workshop and webinar
- **July 13** – Deadline to notify DHCD intent of application
- **July 17** – DHCD posts potential applications on VATI website
- **August 17** – Application deadline
- **August 24** – DHCD posts applications on VATI website
- **September 23** – Challenge application deadline
- **November 9** – Deadline for responses to challenges

# Contact Information

Tamarah Holmes, Ph.D., Director of Broadband

(804) 371-7056

[tamarah.holmes@dhcd.virginia.gov](mailto:tamarah.holmes@dhcd.virginia.gov)

Tammy Breski

Telecommunications and Broadband Specialist

(804) 371-7067

[tammy.breski@dhcd.virginia.gov](mailto:tammy.breski@dhcd.virginia.gov)

VATI

[vati@dhcd.virginia.gov](mailto:vati@dhcd.virginia.gov)