



APPLICATION FORM

All applications must include the following information. Separate applications must be submitted for each eligible program. **Deadline: July 1, 2020.** Please include this application form with electronic entry. If you do not receive an email confirming receipt of your entry within 3 days of submission, please contact [Gage Harter](#).

PROGRAM INFORMATION

County: Montgomery

Program Title: Regional Broadband Initiative

Program Category: Regional Collaboration

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Jennifer T. Harris

Title: Public Information Director

Department: Public Information

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SIGNATURE OF COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR OR DEPUTY/ASSISTANT COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Name: F. Craig Meadows

Title: County Administrator

Signature: 

Executive Summary | Broadband Study, Montgomery County, Va.

Montgomery County is a full-service inclusive community focused on the future where citizens and businesses benefit from a diversified economy, receive excellent public services and enjoy a superior quality of life while sustaining and protecting the county's natural environment and rural heritage for future generations. In an effort to meet the necessities of the growing demographically and geographically diverse community, Montgomery County partnered with the neighboring City of Radford, Va., and the New River Valley Regional Commission to develop a plan for addressing broadband needs in the winter of 2019.

The key objectives of the plan to address broadband needs were to identify areas that were underserved and unserved by broadband in an effort to address coverage gaps; analyze infrastructure needs; receive feedback from citizens and stakeholders; identify potential partnership agreements for the final broadband plan implementation. Funding for the comprehensive broadband plan was made possible by Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development through the Community Development Block Grant Program.

The goal of creating an initial plan to address identified broadband issues was realized by the fall of 2019. As a result, the localities are now able to act upon the recommendations for addressing the broadband needs of Montgomery County, while the City of Radford was found to have sufficient broadband services.

Overview | Broadband Study, Montgomery County, Va.

In February of 2019, Montgomery County partnered with the New River Valley Regional Commission to develop a plan for addressing broadband needs in the community. The goal was to identify areas that were underserved and unserved by broadband in an effort to address coverage gaps; analyze infrastructure needs; receive feedback from citizens and stakeholders; identify potential partnership agreements for the final broadband plan implementation. Funding for the comprehensive broadband plan was made possible by Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development through the Community Development Block Grant Program.

By May 2019, the New River Regional Commission began surveying citizens and businesses with both paper and electronic response options available. In the meantime, a diverse and cross-functional team was formed with local governments, community organizations, citizens, and businesses represented. Proposals from companies were submitted and in August, the identified team selected Thompson and Litton who collaborated with a regional telecommunications and broadband company, Blue Ridge Advisory Services, Inc.

By October 2019, the collaborating companies provided the initial report, which provided a plan to implement recommendations and address the broadband needs of Montgomery County.

Award Submission | Broadband Study, Montgomery County, Va.

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By May 2019, the New River Regional Commission began surveying citizens and businesses with both paper and electronic response options available. The electronic link to the survey was shared on various listservs, news stories, and websites. Paper copies of the survey and collection boxes were made available at the following eight locations in an effort to provide accessibility to those who did not have internet access.

- Blacksburg Municipal Building, 300 South Main Street, Blacksburg, Va.
- Blacksburg Library, 200 Miller Street SW, Blacksburg, Va.

- Lewis Gale, 3700 S Main Street, Blacksburg, Va.
- Town of Christiansburg, 100 E Main Street, Christiansburg, Va.
- Montgomery County Government Center, 755 Roanoke Street, Christiansburg, Va.
- Christiansburg Library, 125 Sheltman Street, Christiansburg, Va.
- Meadowbrook Library, 267 Alleghany Spring Road, Shawsville, Va.
- Carilion, 2900 Lamb Circle, Christiansburg, Va.

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By October 2019, the collaborating companies provided the initial report to the Montgomery County Board of Supervisors. The ultimate purpose of the project to develop a plan to ensure County residents and businesses have access to internet speeds that are capable and reliable to engage with the current and future needs of internet-based uses for all aspects of education, business, commerce, and entertainment was achieved. The next steps include identifying ways to implement the recommendations for addressing the broadband needs of Montgomery County.

This project is another prime example of regional collaboration with Montgomery County, community organizations, citizens, and private industry. The project was funded by a grant secured by the Montgomery County Economic Development office and the New River Valley Regional Commission. This broadband study was a crucial step in achieving the goal of providing broadband accessibility to all citizens in Montgomery County, a service that citizens both expect and appreciate.