

AGENDA

Broadband Advisory Council Meeting

August 24, 2026

1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

In-Person Option:

Mid-Atlantic Broadband Summit and Fiber Expo
Marriott Richmond
500 E Broad St
Richmond, VA 23219

Virtual Option (via Microsoft Teams):

Join on your computer, mobile app or room device

[Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 265 414 358 404 546

Passcode: ou9kg3Ca

Dial in by phone:

[+1 434-230-0065,,289525649#](#) United States, South Hill

[Find a local number](#)

Phone conference ID: 289 525 649#

Join on a video conference device:

Tenant key: commonwealthofvirginia@m.webex.com

Video ID: 117 536 368 7

[More information](#)

- | | | |
|-------|---|--|
| I. | Opening | |
| | a. Call to Order | Chair |
| | b. Roll Call | DHCD Staff |
| II. | Consent Agenda | Chair |
| III. | Approval of Minutes: November 14, 2025 meeting;
February 6, 2026 meeting; May 13, 2026 meeting | Council Members |
| IV. | Overview of Discussion | Chandler Vaughan, Director,
Office of Broadband |
| V. | Office of Broadband Updates | Office of Broadband Staff |
| VI. | Public Comment | Chair |
| VII. | New Business | Council Members |
| VIII. | Adjournment | Chair |

BROADBAND ADVISORY COUNCIL
UNAPPROVED MINUTES
November 14, 2025
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM
General Assembly Building - Senate Committee Room B
201 N 9th St
Richmond, VA 23219
Virtual Option provided via Microsoft Teams

Members Present

Chair, Senator Boysko
Delegate Herring
Delegate Willett
Steve Sandy
Ray LaMura
Casey Logan
Rich Schollman
Gary Wood
Kristie Proctor
Jimmy Carr
Secretary Matthew Lohr

Members Absent

Vice Chair, Delegate Krizek
Delegate Leftwich
Lt. Governor-Elect Hashmi
Sen. Hackworth
Secretary Juan Pablo Segura

Call to Order	Senator Jennifer Boysko, Chair of the Broadband Advisory Council, called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m.
Roll Call	Chandler Vaughan, Associate Director of the Office of Broadband called the roll and stated that a quorum was present.
Approval of Minutes: May 14, 2025 Meeting	A motion was made and properly seconded to approve the May 14, 2025 meeting of the Broadband Advisory Council. The motion passed to adopt the minutes as presented.
Overview of Discussion	Maggie Beal, Director of the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD), provided remarks on upcoming grant awards and connections made by the Office of Broadband.
Office of Broadband Updates	Caroline Luxhoj, VATI Program Manager, presented on: Virginia Telecommunication Initiative (VATI) total passings made from FY21 through FY24; VATI project progress detailing passings constructed and remaining; risk determination statuses; an updated reporting on reasons for project delay; Line Extension Customer Assistance Program (LECAP) passings constructed and remaining. Mr. Vaughan provided the Office of Broadband's Broadband Equity Access and Deployment (BEAD) program updates and presented on: BEAD Timeline in Virginia; proposed awards by type of technology; proposed awards by internet service provider;

	proposed awarded funding by internet service provider including subsidy per location; differences in grants administration between VATI and BEAD; and proposed uses for BEAD Non-Deployment funding for the remaining \$800M of the \$1.48B state allocation. Council members shared their sentiments, interests, and questions on the continued work within the Office of Broadband.
Virginia Department of Transportation	Joshua Heslinga, Director of Governance and Legislative Affairs and Robert W. Hofrichter, Director of Land Use from the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) provided remarks on the implementation of JLARC Broadband report recommendations, three of which directly relate to VDOT: (1) VDOT created a fiber broadband checklist for the elements required for an acceptable permit application; (2) VDOT's permit application calls for the applicant to indicate whether the requested permit is related to a time-sensitive broadband project; (3) VDOT communicated internally for VATI projects with ARPA dollar expenditure deadlines of December 2026.
Joint Commission of Technology and Sciences Research Study Presentation: "Beyond Access Broadband Affordability & Adoption"	Chair Boysko informed the Council that the Joint Commission on Technology and Sciences (JCOTS) Research Study Presentation would not be held at today's meeting because of JCOTS staff illness. Ray LaMura recommended the Broadband Advisory Council send a letter to the Commission and Chair of JCOTS to respond to the draft recommendations and to clarify inconsistencies which may be present in reporting metrics concerning broadband affordability and adoption. Gary Wood made a motion to provide JCOTS with feedback on provisions on the study. It was properly seconded and the motion was passed to circulate and send a letter to JCOTS regarding their study's recommendations.
Discussion of 2026 Session Legislative Items	Chair Boysko structured this portion of the Council meeting consider support of conceptual legislative items that are coming before the 2026 General Assembly. The following members proposed items: Rich Schollmann proposed to eliminate state tax on broadband grants, citing the benefits for projects experiencing delay and constrained budgets. Mr. Schollmann mentioned this was not an issue until 2017, when the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA) which changed the tax treatment of federal grants including broadband grants

	Mr. LaMura is interested in expanding the permissible usage of VATI funds for reducing barriers to broadband deployment progress and forced relocation, such as for pole replacements and railroad crossings. Mr. LaMura spoke to internet service providers needing to reallocate assets due to other infrastructure projects, and since ISPs are non-utility, they cannot approach State Corporation Commission to cover costs for damage to fiber due to forced relocation. The proposal includes the ability for ISPs to submit costs incurred to DHCD for reimbursement. Mr. LaMura requests a modification of language in Virginia Code to include broadband as a telecommunication service when fiber is damaged. Individual motions calling for conceptual support for each item were made by Mr. LaMura and promptly seconded in concept for the above-mentioned four legislative items. A fifth was included, the JCOTS study letter. All motions passed by unanimous voice votes. Chair Boysko requested that the Office of Broadband prepares a Broadband 101 pamphlet which covers the logistics and progress of broadband deployment in the Commonwealth for state legislators in preparation for the 2025 General Assembly Session. It is asked this is prepared and presented prior to Session and be completed before the end of December. Mr. LaMura stated VCTA is already preparing a "Broadband 101 Bootcamp" and extends an invite to all Broadband Advisory Council members to present and attend.
Public Comment	No public comment was offered at the meeting.
New Business	Steve Sandy asked a question on the status for 2025 Virginia Telecommunication Initiative (VATI) funding. Dr. Tamarah Holmes, Ph.D, Director of the Office of Broadband, explained that, amidst BEAD, the VATI program has not yet opened but there is \$20M available and that remaining broadband serviceable locations will be reached with this VATI investment.
Adjournment	Upon a motion made and properly seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 11:19 a.m.

BROADBAND ADVISORY COUNCIL
UNAPPROVED MINUTES
February 6th , 2026
1:00 PM – 3:00 PM
Virginia State Capitol Building
Senate Room 3
1000 Bank Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219
Virtual Option provided via Microsoft Teams

Members Present

Steve Sandy
Ray LaMura
Gary Wood
Rich Schollman
Jimmy Carr
Secretary Katie Frazier
Secretary Carrie Chenery

Members Absent

Chair, Senator Boysko
Delegate Herring
Vice-Chair, Delegate Krizek
Delegate Willett
Kristie Proctor
Delegate Leftwich
Senator Hackworth
Christian Goodwin

Call to Order	Ray C. LaMura, Acting Chair of the Broadband Advisory Council, called the meeting to order at 1:17p.m.
Roll Call	Chandler Vaughan, Ph.D. Director of the Office of Broadband, called the roll and stated that a quorum was not present.
Approval of Minutes: November 14, 2025 Meeting	With no quorum present, the November 14, 2025 unapproved meeting minutes will be voted on next Broadband Advisory Council meeting.
General Remarks	Secretary Frazier and Secretary Chenery, the two newest members of the council, introduced themselves and described their roles in the Broadband Advisory Council.
Overview of Discussion	Maggie Beal, Director of the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD), provided remarks on upcoming grant awards and connections made by the Office of Broadband. Additionally, Secretary Chenery provided brief remarks on future collaboration between the Office of Governor Spanberger and the Broadband Advisory Council.
Office of Broadband Updates	Dr. Tamarah Holmes, Ph.D., shared achievements in broadband deployment: over 200,000 locations have reached access to broadband services since 2022. Mr. Vaughan provided the Office of Broadband's Broadband Equity Access and Deployment (BEAD) program deployment updates and

	presented on: BEAD deployment timeline and general status in Virginia; notable contractual requirements of DHCD in General Terms and Conditions under BEAD's federal contract, including the establishment of permitting roundtable. A request for consideration was presented asking for BAC to form a sub-committee to serve as the permitting round table members. It was proposed to bring back this request as a vote to the next BAC meeting when quorum is present. Cole McAndrew, Senior Policy Analyst, provided the Office of Broadband's BEAD non-deployment updates and presented on: President Trump's executive order, '<i>Ensuring a National Policy Framework for Artificial Intelligence</i>,' and its impact on BEAD non-deployment funding. Caroline Luxhoj, VATI Program Manager, presented on: Virginia Telecommunication Initiative (VATI) total passings built since 2021; VATI project progress detailing passings constructed and remaining; risk determination statuses; an updated reporting on reasons for project delay.
Joint Commission on Technology and Sciences Referred Broadband Affordability Study Items	Chandler informed the Council that the Joint Commission on Technology and Sciences (JCOTS) Research Study Presentation would not be held at today's meeting and instead be presented the next BAC meeting because of the lack of a quorum.
Public Comment	No public comment was offered at the meeting.
New Business	Steve Sandy asked a question on BEAD deployment – curious on coordination with utilities – issues of delays working with utilities and asked Mr. Vaughan to speak on it and if any efforts have been made to streamlining project deployment. Mr. Vaughan stated that BEAD permitting roundtable is a good opportunity to elevate issues and recommend best practices related to delays in broadband deployment projects. Jimmy Carr expressed his support for the development of a BEAD permitting roundtable. Additionally, he brought awareness to the FCC's order through the Rural Broadband Acceleration Taskforce which ordered that, in Virginia, investor-owned utilities are now subject to FCC's rules and policies on pole attachments. Mr. Carr

	requested that such guidelines are made very clear to stakeholders at the beginning of the BEAD process.
Adjournment	Upon a motion made and properly seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

Unapproved

BROADBAND ADVISORY COUNCIL
UNAPPROVED MINUTES
May 13th, 2026
4:30 PM – 5:15 PM
Virginia Guesthouse
2017 Ivy Road
Studio IV
Charlottesville, Virginia 22903
Virtual Option provided via Microsoft Teams

Members Present

Ray LaMura
Rich Schollman
Secretary Katie Frazier – *Represented by Ben Rowe, Deputy Secretary, Agriculture and Forestry*
Secretary Carrie Chenery – *Represented by Turner Widgen, Chief of Staff, Commerce and Trade*
Chair, Senator Jennifer Boysko
Delegate Charniele Herring
Vice-Chair, Delegate Paul Krizek
Delegate Rodney Willett
Kristie Proctor
Members from the Virginia State Telehealth Plan Advisory Committee

Members Absent

Senator Travis Hackworth
Delegate James Leftwich
Steven Sandy
Gary Wood
James Carr
Christian Goodwin

Call to Order	Senator Boysko, Chair of the Broadband Advisory Council, called the meeting to order at 4:39 p.m.
Roll Call	Chandler Vaughan, Acting Director of the Office of Broadband, called the roll and stated that a quorum was present.
Overview of Discussion	Mr. Vaughan provided a brief verbal update on the Office's work, providing further context on broadband deployment progress in the Commonwealth and how it relates to the need for broadband adoption initiatives in the Commonwealth. Sandra Serna, Director of the Office of Health Equity, provided updates on the approval of the revised Virginia Telehealth Plan and shared various opportunities and next steps that multiple sectors can leverage to implement telehealth initiatives across the Commonwealth. Dr. Karen Rhueban also expressed a need for data on telehealth need and usage gaps.
Facilitated Discussion: The Intersection of	Lawrence Roberts, Director of the Sorenson Institute, led a facilitated discussion on the intersection of broadband and telehealth in Virginia. The discussion addressed topics like how

Expanding Broadband Access and Telehealth	telehealth will help move broadband adoption forward; how geography and income levels affect broadband adoption; the benefits and challenges of free clinics; the erosion of trust in public health and how to restore it; challenges in broadband deployment; success stories in behavioral health; and member priorities in broadband and telehealth.
Public Comment	A representative from Firefly emphasized additional challenges in deployment including the of public utility easements, especially in rural areas; delays in permitting processes; and costly security bond requirements.
New Business	No new business was introduced at the meeting.
Adjournment	Upon a motion made and properly seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 11:50 p.m.

Broadband Advisory Council
Office of Broadband
August 24, 2026



 VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING
AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
Partners for Better Communities

1

Call to Order

2

2

Roll Call

3

3

Consent Agenda

4

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Approval of Minutes
November 14, 2025 Meeting
February 6, 2026 Meeting
May 13, 2026 Meeting

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Overview of Discussion
Presented by Chandler Vaughan, Director, Office of Broadband

- Office of Broadband Updates
- Referred Broadband Affordability and Adoption Study Items
- Public Comment
- New Business

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Office of Broadband Updates

Virginia Telecommunications Initiative (VATI)

Presented by Kayla Bravo, Policy Planner, Office of Broadband and Lonnie Hamilton III, Broadband Planner, Office of Broadband and Caroline Luxhoj, Program Manager, Broadband Deployment

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

Presented by Caroline Luxhoj, Program Manager, Broadband Deployment

Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program: Non-Deployment

Presented by Kayla Bravo, Policy Planner, Office of Broadband

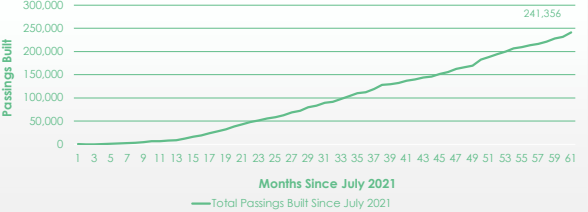
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Progress on Project Passings

241,356 Passings Built in VATI Grants since FY21,
+14,985 Passings Built in VATI Grants prior to FY21

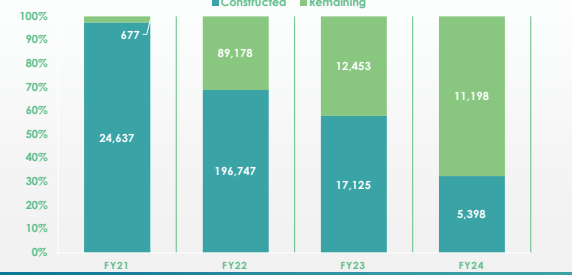
Total Passings Built Since July 2021



Months Since July 2021	Total Passings Built
1	0
3	0
5	0
7	0
9	0
11	0
13	0
15	0
17	0
19	0
21	0
23	0
25	0
27	0
29	0
31	0
33	0
35	0
37	0
39	0
41	0
43	0
45	0
47	0
49	0
51	0
53	0
55	0
57	0
59	0
61	241,356

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Progress on Project Passings: Constructed VS. Remaining
As of August 2026



Fiscal Year	Constructed	Remaining
FY21	24,637	677
FY22	196,747	89,178
FY23	17,125	12,453
FY24	5,398	11,198

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Progress Across the Commonwealth

Broadband Build Status

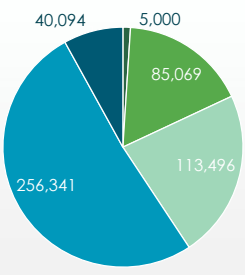
Not Funded, Unbuilt (Est. 5,000)

BEAD Funded, Unbuilt (85,069)

VATI Funded, Unbuilt (113,496)

VATI Funded, Built (256,341)

Other Federal Funding, Built (40,094)



Category	Count
Not Funded, Unbuilt (Est. 5,000)	5,000
BEAD Funded, Unbuilt (85,069)	85,069
VATI Funded, Unbuilt (113,496)	113,496
VATI Funded, Built (256,341)	256,341
Other Federal Funding, Built (40,094)	40,094

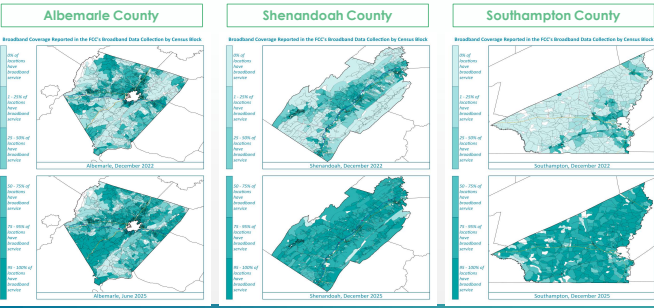
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Progress Maps

Albemarle County

Shenandoah County

Southampton County



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Virginia Telecommunication Initiative:
Program Redesign

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VATI Funding Round: Funding Appropriations

FY2017 – FY2021

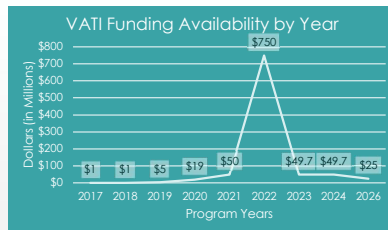
- State General Funds

FY2022

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

FY2023 – FY2026

- State General Funds



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VATI Alignment with BEAD Program

With the federally funded, state-administered Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program providing access to the remaining 85,069 unserved locations in the Commonwealth, Virginia is now positioned to lead the nation in maintaining universal broadband connectivity. However, challenges remain. New homes constructed without broadband access, inaccuracies in federal location-level mapping, and gaps from prior funding rounds have left some homes and businesses unaccounted for in existing deployment projects.

This new round of VATI will allow submissions for smaller project areas to streamline broadband deployment to any overlooked or new unserved addresses.

Updated draft guidelines are posted on the VATI webpage for public comment! Email all comments to vati@broadband.dhcd.gov. Public comment period closes September 18, 2026.

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Deployment Projects

Deployment projects under the VATI support the construction of broadband telecommunications infrastructure.

APPLICATION INFORMATION

Applications are accepted and reviewed on rolling basis for **whole program year**.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Units of local government (towns, cities, counties, PDCs, school divisions, etc.) with a private ISP as a co-applicant.

ELIGIBLE AREAS

Suggest locations to consider for deployment projects will be identified by DHCD and published on the Open Project Data Portal prior to the opening of the application process.

PROJECT FINANCING

VATI funding shall not exceed 80 percent of the total project cost. The private co-applicant must contribute a minimum of 10 percent cash or in-kind match to the total project cost.

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Deployment Projects: Evaluation Criteria

Scoring Criteria	Points
Cost Efficiency, based on criteria including:	50
Requested Funds, Number of Serviceable Units and Passings, Matching Funds, Documentation of Cost Estimates, Relative Build Costs of an Area	
Build Timeline, based on criteria including:	25
The commitment to a construction completion sooner than 18 months, with more points awarded for shorter construction timeframes	
Project Readiness, based on criteria including:	25
- Track record under existing state and federal grant initiatives - Mitigation of known project hurdles	
TOTAL	100

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Additional Eligible Uses

In accordance with authorizing budget language, the VATI fiscal year 2026 (FY26) funding round will incorporate "Broadband Deployment Awards" and other additional eligible uses, referred to in these guidelines as additional eligible uses (AEUs).

- EXCERPT FROM BUDGET LANGUAGE**
- The Department may establish a program to provide grants for unexpected costs incurred by broadband providers related to the expansion of broadband throughout the Commonwealth. Such "Broadband Deployment Awards" are intended for reimbursement of **unexpected make ready costs** incurred by providers of broadband service expanding service to unserved areas pursuant to a state or federal grant. For purposes of this paragraph "unexpected make ready costs" shall be limited to related **utility pole replacements and mid-span pole installations; railroad crossings; and, where cost-effective, undergrounding of broadband lines.**
 - The Department may restore telecommunications infrastructure damaged by a storm that was subsequently approved for a major disaster, as defined in § 44-146.16, Code of Virginia. This authorization shall only be permitted as a last resort and until such time that federal or additional state funds are available for such purpose.
 - The Department may establish a program to reimburse broadband providers for costs associated with **relocating facilities located in public rights-of-way** when such relocation is mandated by the Commonwealth or the federal government and such relocation includes **infrastructure supported by a state general fund grant from the Virginia Telecommunications Initiative or federal funds.** For purposes of this subparagraph 7, relocation expenses shall include, without limitation, relocation of broadband-related lines and facilities located **along or across rights of way controlled by the Virginia Department of Transportation...**

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AEU: Make - Ready

Make-ready projects under VATI support broadband providers with unexpected make-ready costs including utility pole replacements and mid-span pole installations; railroad crossings; and, where cost-effective, undergrounding of broadband lines.

APPLICATION INFORMATION

Applications are accepted on rolling basis beginning **six months from the start of the VATI FY26** program year and **reviewed every three months** until the end of the program year (two application review periods).

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Current or prior VATI co-awardees for fiscal years 2021, 2022, 2023, or 2024.

ELIGIBLE AREAS

Areas within boundaries of a current or prior VATI project from fiscal year 2021, 2022, 2023, or 2024.

PROJECT FINANCING

ISPs must contribute a minimum of 20 percent match to the total project cost.

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AEU: Mandated Relocation

Mandated relocation projects under the VATI support the relocation of broadband facilities located in public rights-of-way when such relocation is mandated by the Commonwealth or the federal government and such relocation includes infrastructure supported by a state general fund grant from VATI or federal funds.

APPLICATION INFORMATION

Applications are accepted on rolling basis beginning **six months from the start of the VATI FY26** program year and **reviewed every three months** until the end of the program year (two application review periods).

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

ISPs with broadband facilities 1) supported by state or general funds; 2) located in public ROW owned by VDOT and 3) mandated to be relocated by the Commonwealth or federal government.

ELIGIBLE AREAS

Broadband facilities must be 1) within a prior or current project area under VATI or another federal broadband-related program and 2) located in public ROW controlled by VDOT

PROJECT FINANCING

ISPs must contribute a minimum of 10 percent match to the total project cost.

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AEU: Restoring Storm-Damaged Telecommunications Infrastructure

Project restoring storm-damaged telecommunications infrastructure under the VATI support the restoration of telecommunications infrastructure damaged in a major disaster.

APPLICATION INFORMATION

Applications are accepted on rolling basis beginning **six months from the start of the VATI FY26** program year and **reviewed every three months** until the end of the program year (two application review periods).

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

ISPs with telecommunications infrastructure damaged in a major disaster.

ELIGIBLE AREAS

Infrastructure that was damaged in a major disaster.

PROJECT FINANCING

ISPs must contribute a minimum of 10 percent match to the total project cost.

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AEU Projects: Evaluation Criteria

Scoring Criteria	Points
Cost Efficiency, based on criteria including: Requested Funds, Matching Funds, Documentation of Cost Estimates, Relative Build Costs	40
Project Information, based on criteria including: - Applicant provides all requested information for applicable AEU application - Quality and accuracy of information/ documentation provided	35
Build Timeline, based on criteria including: The commitment to expedient completion of the AEU activity.	25
TOTAL	100

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Office of Broadband Updates

Virginia Telecommunications Initiative (VATI)

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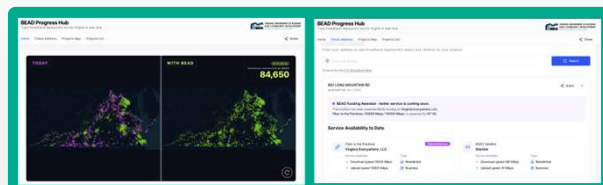
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BEAD Progress Hub

The BEAD Progress Hub is an interactive tool that allows users to track BEAD-funded projects across the Commonwealth.

On the hub, you can see:

- ISPs in your area
- Available and planned service at address level
- BEAD project details and estimated construction timelines



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BEAD Deployment Projects: Updated Timeline

DHCD Signs BEAD Contracts with ISPs

- General Terms and Conditions
- Notice of Award

Construction Begins as early as Fall 2026

- Monthly Reports
- Location Level Updates
- Monitoring and Compliance Measures

Continued Pre-Construction Activities

- Environmental and Historical Review
- Milestone Timelines and Payment Schedules
- Reaffirming Federal Requirements (BABA, Cybersecurity, etc.)

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Pre-Construction Activities


Environmental and Historical Permitting

- Partnering with FDCs to streamline environmental review
- Expected to be complete in late winter/early spring


Establish Milestone Timeline and Payment Schedule

- All BEAD subgrantees will be paid by milestone completion
- Up to 30% Pre-Construction for Engineering and Design
- Remaining 70% tied to passings completion


Re-Affirm Federal Requirements

- Build America, Buy America
- Cybersecurity & Cyber Supply Chain Risk Management
- New Items of General Terms and Conditions

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Establishment of Permitting Roundtable

 Organized as a subcommittee of the Broadband Advisory Council

 Facilitated by OoB, operated throughout the duration BEAD program

 High-level coordination forum for organizations involved in the permitting process

 **1 Bring Issues Forward**

- Permit application and approvals
- Outstanding authorization needs
- Risks, delays, and constraints
- Issues affecting construction schedules
- Issues requiring OoB outreach or escalation

 **2 Adhere to Guiding Principles**

- Timely & predictable** broadband permitting
- Coordinated & well-supported** permitting workflows
- Respect subgrantees' selected construction methods**, unless deemed unsafe
- Streamlined permitting**
- Fair & Cost-Based permitting** by ensuring fees reflect reasonable governmental costs

 **3 Deliver Outcomes**

- Clear Actions, Owners, Dates.**
- Confirm permitting-related action items, responsible parties, and target completion dates

 **Cadence**
Quarterly

 **When**
Last Friday of the quarter

 **Format**
Virtual 60-90 min

 **Participants**
BAC, DHR, utilities, railroads, VA 811, VDOT, VMADAC, UtilityQuest, and BEAD awardees

Next Meeting Scheduled for TOMORROW, August 25th, 2026 9:30AM – 10:20AM

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Office of Broadband Updates

 **Virginia Telecommunications Initiative (VATI)**
Presented by Kayla Bravo, Policy Planner, Office of Broadband and Lonnie Hamilton III, Broadband Planner, Office of Broadband and Caroline Luxhoj, Program Manager, Broadband Deployment

 **Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program: Deployment**
Presented by Caroline Luxhoj, Program Manager, Broadband Deployment

 **Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program: Non-Deployment**
Presented by Kayla Bravo, Policy Planner, Office of Broadband

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BEAD Non-Deployment: Awaiting Updated Guidance on \$800M+ in Remaining Federal Funding

 **President Trump Signs A.I. E.O.**
In addition to barring states from BEAD Non-Deployment funds if they adopt "sensitive" AI laws and regulations, the order included a directive to NTIA to issue guidance on BEAD non-deployment of funds in 90 days.

 **March 11, 2026**
90-Day Window Expires

 **Secretary Lutnick States Guidance to be Released over the "Next Two Months"**
In a Senate Appropriation Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies, Secretary of Commerce, Howard Lutnick, mentions BEAD Non-Deployment guidance will be released in the next two months.

 **June 30th, 2026**
NTIA Director, Arielle Roth, States Guidance to be Released "this summer".
In an Energy and Commerce subcommittee on Communications and Technology hearing discussing NTIA's work, Assistant Secretary of Commerce and NTIA Director, Arielle Roth, states that BEAD Non-Deployment Guidance will be released "this summer."

 **December 11th, 2025**

 **April 22nd, 2026**

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Joint Commission on Technology and Sciences (JCOTS) Referred Broadband Affordability and Adoption Study Items

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JCOTS Broadband Affordability and Adoption Report: Referred Items to Broadband Advisory Council

In November 2025, staff of the Joint Commission of Technology and Sciences (JCOTS) shared a report to the Commission on broadband affordability and adoption. On December 3rd, 2025, the Commission reviewed the report's recommendations and voted as to whether the Commission would endorse them on an individual basis. **Four of the six recommendations were referred to the Broadband Advisory Council for consideration.**

 **Require accessibility for low-cost internet plans**

 **Require ISPs to offer a basic 100 Mbps plan for \$30 per month**

 **Offer targeted tax credits to help ensure near-universal affordability**

 **Require independent longitudinal data collection on broadband quality (speeds) and pricing**

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Public Comment

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New Business

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Adjournment

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Appendix

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JCOTS Broadband Affordability and Adoption Report:

Recommendation 2 - Require accessibility for low-cost internet plans

The findings from this study indicate that it may be difficult for consumers to find low-cost plans or plans targeted at low-income customers when they are shopping for broadband. These plans may not be readily advertised, they may be hosted on separate sub-pages of an ISP's website, or they may not be suggested to consumers when they enter their address into ISP's broadband address tool to find availability and cost information. In some cases, consumers need to take extra steps, such as calling the ISP customer service number to find out about plan pricing. Making this information more readily available would help consumers make informed choices about available plans.

What this may look like:

- Requiring Internet Service Providers (ISPs) to prominently display and actively promote low-cost broadband options.
- Including clear internal site search functionality that returns low-income plan information when users enter common search terms like "affordable," "low-cost," "discount," or "assistance."
- Having low-cost plans be displayed to consumers who enter their address into ISP websites' broadband address tools to identify broadband availability at their address.
- Ensuring that it is not required for customers to enter their service address before viewing low-cost plan options.
- Implementing point-of-sale requirements that would require low-cost plan options to be displayed at all physical retail locations with signage of equal size and prominence to advertisements for standard plans and disclosed during all sales interactions such as phone conversations, online chats, in-store consultations, and door-to-door sales.

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JCOTS Broadband Affordability and Adoption Report:

Recommendation 3 - Require ISPs to offer a basic 100 Mbps plan for \$30 per month

Broadband connectivity is most commonly defined—by the FCC, in the BEAD program, and in other literature—as a service that offers consumers download speeds of 100 Mbps and upload speeds of 20 Mbps. Broadband access is generally considered affordable when it is priced at less than 2% of a household's income. The study's findings indicate that 93% of households in the Commonwealth would be able to afford broadband internet access offered at \$30 per month. Moreover, the study finds a significant gap between this threshold of affordability and the current offerings in the market. Other states facing analogous gaps have enacted legislation requiring that ISPs offer low-cost broadband plans that meet prescribed price and service standards.

What this may look like:

- Requiring Internet Service Providers (ISPs) to offer a low-cost broadband plan, offering download speeds of 100 Mbps and upload speeds of 20 Mbps, at no more than \$30 per month.
- Mandating a periodic review, overseen by the DHCD, of the price and service standards set out in this low-cost broadband plan requirement.

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JCOTS Broadband Affordability and Adoption Report:
Recommendation 4 - Offer targeted tax credits to help ensure near-universal affordability

If the previous recommendations were to be implemented, such price and service standards for basic broadband connectivity, alongside easier consumer access to such low-cost plans, would ensure affordable broadband internet access for 93% of the Commonwealth's population. Nevertheless, such standards would still leave 7% behind—and that 7% may be geographically clustered, leading to exaggerated economic effects on particular communities and locales. Some regions, such as Albemarle County, implemented supplemental programs to address gaps between existing affordability policies and local affordability needs. Such programs offer a model for ensuring near-universal affordability. A tax credit of \$360 for broadband-subscribing households whose disposable income falls below \$18,000 can ensure affordability for practically 100% of the Commonwealth's residents.

What this may look like:

- Legislating a \$360 tax credit for broadband-subscribing households with a disposable income under \$18,000 to bring the net cost of broadband connectivity within the affordability.
- Policymakers may consider a different price standard for basic connectivity (see Recommendation 3), in which case the specifics of the tax credit (i.e., credit amount, qualifying income threshold) may be adjusted to maintain near-universal affordability.

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JCOTS Broadband Affordability and Adoption Report:
Recommendation 6 - Require independent longitudinal data collection on broadband quality (speeds) and pricing

This study has surfaced a need for comprehensive, longitudinal data collection on dimensions of the digital divide beyond access, and it has arguably only scratched the surface by collecting data using the BQT method across just ten localities in the Commonwealth. Every data collection method has distinct limitations, pointing to a need to triangulate findings across both quantitative (e.g. surveys, BQT, speed tests, etc.) and qualitative (e.g. interviews, document analysis, etc.) data. Most data collection efforts to date at the state and federal level have focused on tracking broadband infrastructure deployment and collecting data reported by ISPs. These data sources can be bolstered by additional, independently collected and analyzed data on issues related to quality, affordability and adoption of broadband to provide a more comprehensive picture of progress on closing the digital divide.

What this may look like:

- Funding an expansion of the Commonwealth Connection mapping project to include data on pricing and adoption, with some funding allocated to independent research conducted with research partners (such as universities) to collect data on consumer experiences, which could include: crowd-sourced data collected from members of the public, bottom-up data collected using tools like the Broadband-Plan Query Tool, surveys, and additional data reported by ISPs, such as plan pricing.

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