

AGENDA

Broadband Advisory Council Meeting

February 6th, 2026

1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

In-Person Option:

Virginia State Capitol Building – Senate Room 3
1000 Bank Street
Richmond, VA 23219

Senate Room 3 is located in the underground walkway between the visitor's center entrance off Bank Street and the Capitol Building

Virtual Option (via Microsoft Teams):

Join on your computer, mobile app or room device

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Meeting ID: 245 725 343 913 10

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Phone conference ID: 970 013 533#

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|-------|--|--|
| I. | Opening | |
| | a. Call to Order | Chairman |
| | b. Roll Call | DHCD Staff |
| II. | Consent Agenda | Chairman |
| III. | Approval of Minutes: November 14, 2025 Meeting | |
| IV. | Overview of Discussion | Maggie Beal, Director, DHCD
Tamarah Holmes, Ph.D., Director,
Office of Broadband |
| V. | Office of Broadband Updates | Office of Broadband Staff |
| | a. Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program Deployment | |
| | b. BEAD Program Non-Deployment | |
| | c. Virginia Telecommunication Initiative (VATI) | |
| VI. | Joint Commission on Technology and Sciences Referred Broadband Affordability Study Items | Office of Broadband Staff |
| VII. | Public Comment | Chairman |
| VIII. | New Business | Council Members |

IX. Adjournment

Chairman

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	<p>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.</p> <p>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;</p>

	<p>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.</p> <p>Council members shared their sentiments, interests, and questions on the continued work within the Office of Broadband.</p>
<p>Virginia Department of Transportation</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>Joint Commission of Technology and Sciences Research Study Presentation: “Beyond Access Broadband Affordability & Adoption”</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
<p>Discussion of 2026 Session Legislative Items</p>	<p>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:</p> <p>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</p>


	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Mr. LaMura requests a modification of language in Virginia Code to include broadband as a telecommunication service when fiber is damaged.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
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.

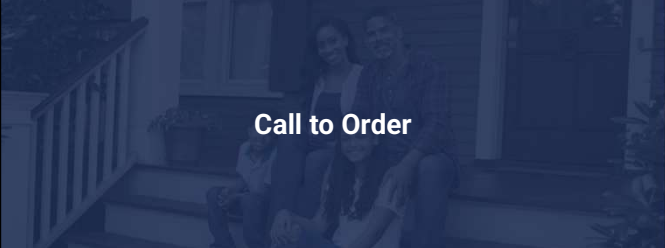
 **Broadband Advisory Council Meeting**
February 6, 2026




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 **Call to Order**




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 **Roll Call**




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 **Consent Agenda**



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Approval of Minutes
November 14, 2025 Meeting

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Overview of Discussion
Presented by Maggie Beal, Director, VA Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) and Tamarah Holmes, Ph.D, Director, Office of Broadband

Office of Broadband Updates

Joint Commission on Technology and Science (JCOTS) Referred Broadband Affordability and Adoption Report Items

Public Comment

New Business

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Office of Broadband Updates

Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program: Deployment
Presented by Chandler Vaughan, Associate Director, Office of Broadband

Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program: Non – Deployment
Presented by Cole McAndrew, Senior Policy Analyst, Office of Broadband

Virginia Telecommunication Initiative (VATI)
Presented by Caroline Luxhoj, Program Manager, Broadband Deployment

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BEAD Deployment: What's Coming Next?

- General Terms and Conditions
- Notice of Award
- DHCD Signed BEAD Contract, early January 2026**
- Monthly Reports
- Location Level Updates
- Monitoring and Compliance Measures
- Construction Begins, as early as Spring**
- Continued Pre-Construction Activities, until May 2026 at the latest**
 - Environmental and Historical Review
 - Milestone Timelines & Payment Schedules
 - Reaffirming Federal Requirements (BABA, Cybersecurity, etc.)


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BEAD Deployment: Notable NTIA Requirements

Notable Contractual Requirements of DHCD in General Terms and Conditions

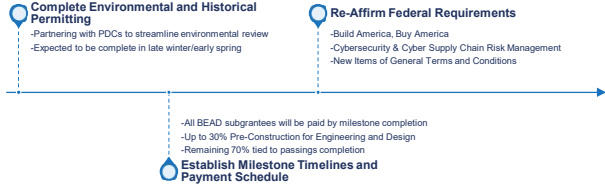
- DHCD must establish procedures to ensure that broadband-related permit applications are promptly accepted, and requests are approved or denied within 90 days (both public and private permitting partners)
- DHCD must establish permitting roundtables, including state and local government agencies, utility pole owners, railroads, communications providers, and BEAD subgrantees – for both coordination and issue escalation
 - Request for Consideration:** The Broadband Advisory Council form a subcommittee that meets quarterly to function as the permitting roundtable.
- DHCD may not enforce any law or obligation that directly or indirectly regulates the rates, terms, and conditions of broadband internet service against a BEAD subgrantee **anywhere it provides service in the Commonwealth** while that subgrantee is under the federal interest period (up to 14 years after signing BEAD subgrantee agreement).
- Subgrantees are prohibited from accepting any additional federal broadband service subsidies **at BEAD funded locations** while that subgrantee is under the federal interest period (up to 14 years after signing BEAD subgrantee agreement)




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BEAD Deployment: Notable NTIA Requirements

Pre-Construction Activities



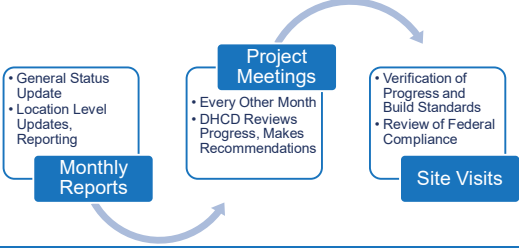
- Complete Environmental and Historical Permitting**
 - Partnering with PDCs to streamline environmental review
 - Expected to be complete in late winter/early spring
- Re-Affirm Federal Requirements**
 - Build America, Buy America
 - Cybersecurity & Cyber Supply Chain Risk Management
 - New Items of General Terms and Conditions
- Establish Milestone Timelines 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




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BEAD Deployment: Notable NTIA Requirements

Progress Reporting + Compliance and Monitoring



- Monthly Reports**
 - General Status Update
 - Location Level Updates, Reporting
- Project Meetings**
 - Every Other Month
 - DHCD Reviews Progress, Makes Recommendations
- Site Visits**
 - Verification of Progress and Build Standards
 - Review of Federal Compliance




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Office of Broadband Updates

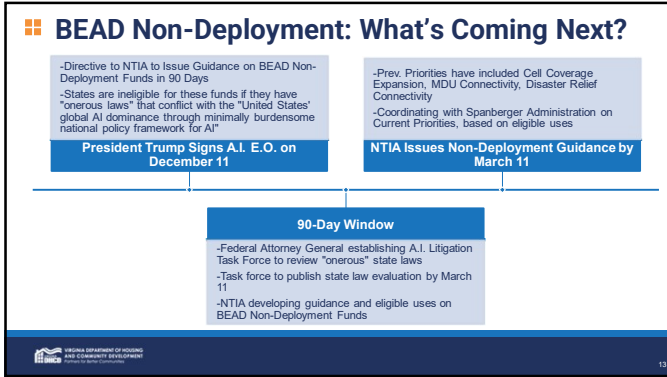
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Virginia Telecommunication Initiative (VATI)
Presented by Caroline Luxhoj, Program Manager, Broadband Deployment



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Office of Broadband Updates

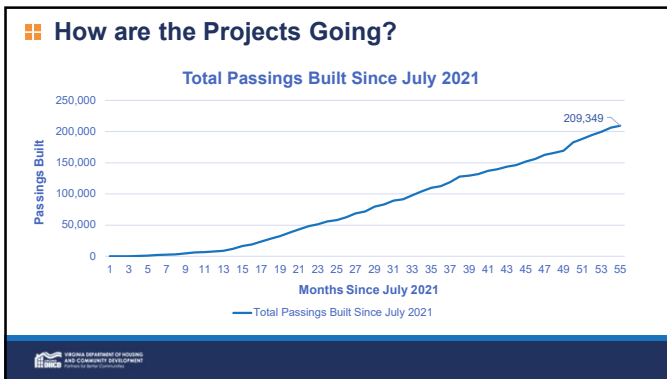
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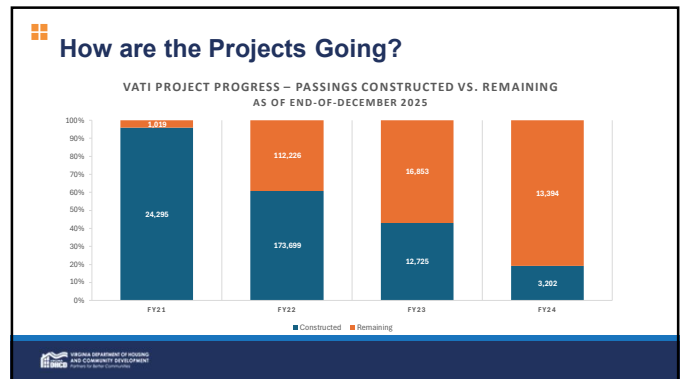
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Presented by Caroline Luxhoj, Program Manager, Broadband Deployment



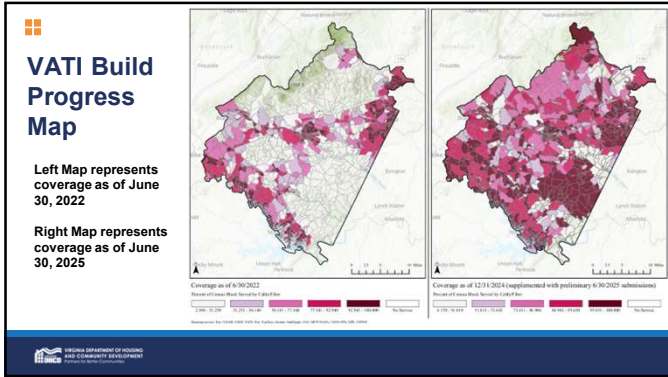
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**Joint Commission on Technology and Science (JCOTS)
 Referred Broadband Affordability and Adoption Report Items**

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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.**

Recommendations:

- Require mobile-responsive websites for essential services, starting with public sector and publicly funded services
- 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
- Establish a grant funding program to replace lost BEAD nondeployment and Digital Equity Act funding
- Require independent longitudinal data collection on broadband quality (speeds) and pricing

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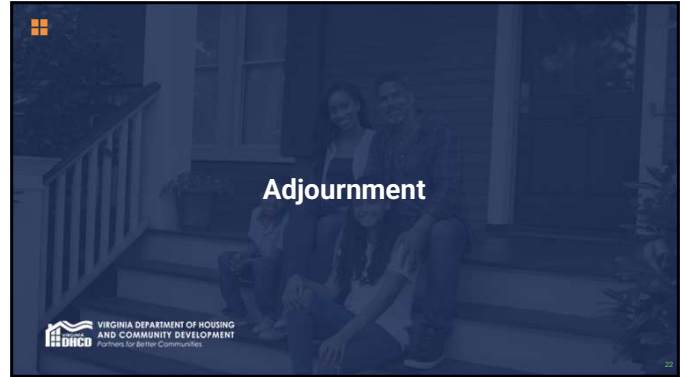
Public Comment

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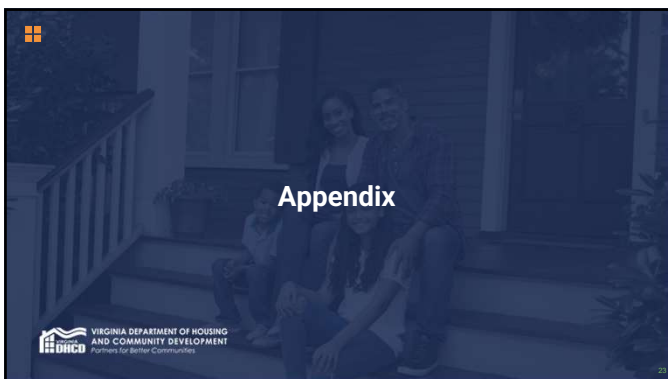
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Appendix Slides – JCOTS Recommendations

**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 ISPs' 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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Appendix Slides – JCOTS Recommendations

**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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Appendix Slides – JCOTS Recommendations

**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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Appendix Slides – JCOTS Recommendations

**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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