



Board Policy #8

TITLE: Use of GO Virginia Funds for Investments in Broadband

EFFECTIVE DATE: 12/10/2019

AUTHORITY: § 2.2-2486 - §2.2-2489 of the Code of Virginia

POLICY STATEMENT: It is the policy of the Virginia Growth and Opportunity Board that per capita and competitive funds may be used for projects supporting regional broadband planning efforts focused on private sector service provisions as localities prepare to use taxpayer dollars to incentivize private sector broadband infrastructure build out. The Board will require a 50% match on these awards (with no local match requirement) for regional broadband planning efforts given the exceptional economic opportunity of these projects.

Further, Virginia Growth and Opportunity per capita and competitive funds may be used for middle mile broadband infrastructure projects, including but not limited to fiber and conduit, which extend telecommunications networks, in partnership with the private sector, and focus on meeting the business needs of a community. The Board will consider future applications that leverage broadband deployment with digital literacy and internet relevance programming connected to business growth and expansion opportunities. Both of these funding opportunities should meet normal match requirements for per capita and competitive grants, \$1:1 total match (with 20% or minimum \$50,000 of this match required to be local match).

It is the policy of the Virginia Growth and Opportunity Board that shall not be used for broadband projects focused on providing residential broadband service to customers (also known as “last-mile”).

APPROVAL AND REVIEW: This Board policy was reviewed and approved on 12/9/2019.

SUPERSESSION: This revision includes technical amendments to Board Policy #8 approved 9/10/2019.

DHCD DIRECTOR: Erik Johnston