

CHARLES CITY COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS NOTICE OF AND REQUEST FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

VIRGINIA TELECOMMUNICATIONS INITIATIVE (VATI) 2020 APPLICATION:

Charles City County intends to file a grant application with the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) under its 2020 Virginia Telecommunications Initiative (“VATI”). In accordance with VATI Program guidelines, Charles City County is requesting public comments regarding the proposed submission. Comments will be accepted from August 6 through August 21, 2019.

BACKGROUND/ SUMMARY:

Facilitating the expansion of broadband access across the unserved areas of Charles City County continues to be a top priority for the County’s Board of Supervisors. This grant submission will request the financial assistance necessary for carrying out the project, through a public/ private partnership.

The Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) announced a competitive grant and application process to award \$19 million to eligible applicants to provide last-mile services to unserved areas in the Commonwealth of Virginia. The primary objective of the VATI is to provide assistance to supplement construction costs by private sector broadband service providers, in partnership with local units of government to extend service to areas that are presently unserved by any broadband provider. Unserved areas are defined as having broadband speeds of less than 10 Mbps download and 1 Mbps upload or less. In addition, a proposed project area is considered eligible if 10% or less of serviceable units have access to service with no additional special construction costs from any provider as of the date of the application for the proposed project areas. Applications must be submitted by a unit of government (Towns, Cities, Counties, EDA/ IDA, Broadband/ Wireless Authorities, Planning District Commissions, etc.) with a private sector provider(s) as a co-applicant. Public comment is encouraged.

COMMENT SUBMITTAL:

Attn: Abbey Pemberton
Department of Finance
Charles City County
Post Office Box 128
Charles City, VA 23030
Email: apemberton@co.charles-city.va.us