

Broadband Access: Opportunities for Rural Telehealth

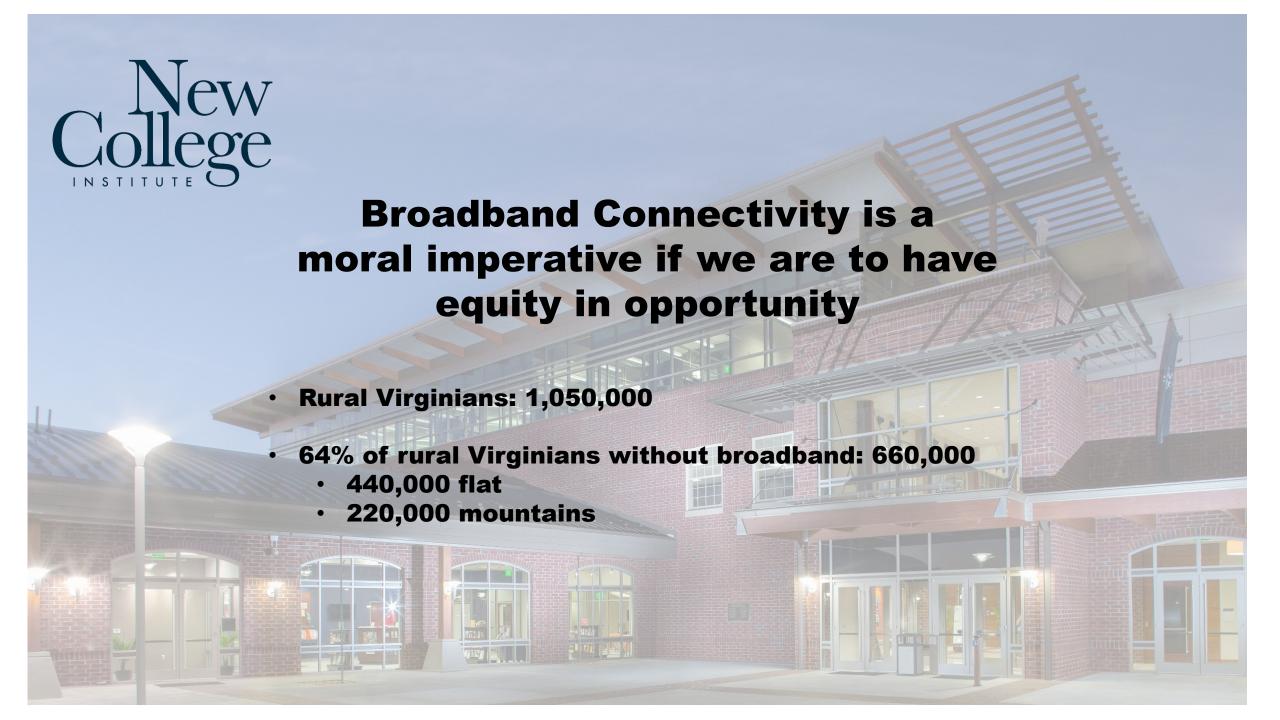
Leanna Blevins and John Maxwell Virginia Rural Collaborators Conference November 14, 2018



Academic Areas of Focus









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Announcements

CIT and NTIA to Host Virginia Broadband Summit

September 27, 2018

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration's BroadbandUSA Program and Virginia's Center for Innovative Technology are hosting the Virginia Broadband Summit at the South County Library in Roanoke, VA on Tuesday, October 30, 2018 from 8:30 am to 4:00 pm.

The summit will provide information to help accelerate



LOCALITIES

Locality looking to bring broadband to your area?

TOOLKIT #

Everything you need to get connected.

0 0 0 0

COVERAGE #

Check to see if you have coverage.

GRANTS #





Office of Telework Promotion and Broadband Assistance

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Home > Broadband > Virginia Broadband Availability Map

Virginia Broadband Availability Map

The Virginia Broadband Availability Map is an interactive map that allows users to search by address or locality to identify where broadband services may be available and which providers are providing service in the area. The data behind the map comes from the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) which receives data directly from the broadband providers.

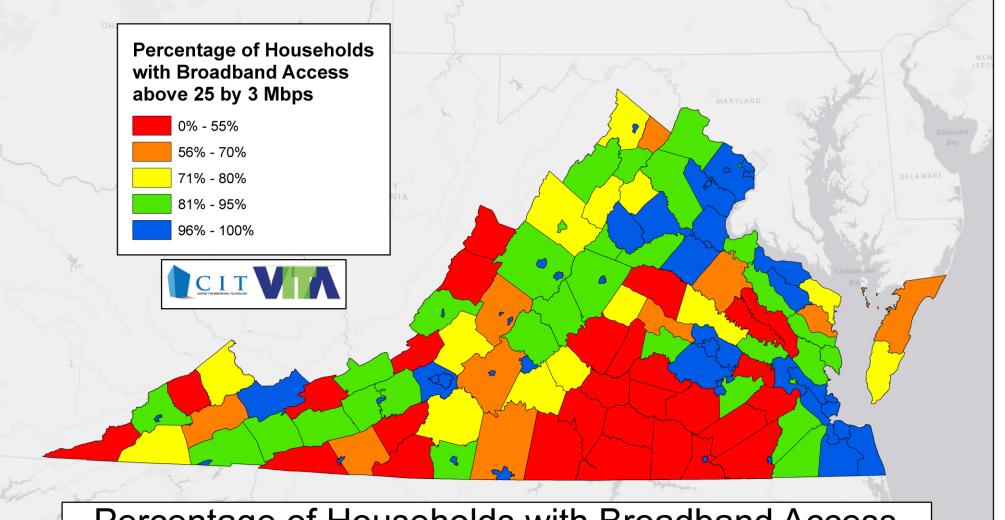
CIT and partners, Virgninia Tech's Center for Geospatial Information Technology (CGIT) and Virginia Information Technology Agency's Virginia Geographic Information Network (VGIN), maintain and update the map as part of an ongoing effort to provide technical assistance to local governments and state agencies to expand broadband capacity and access and improve utilization.

Launch the Virginia Broadband Availbility Map.

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Percentage of Households with Broadband Access

The FCC definition for broadband is an internet connection delivering at least 25 Megabits per second downstream and 3 Megabits per second upstream data transfer rates.

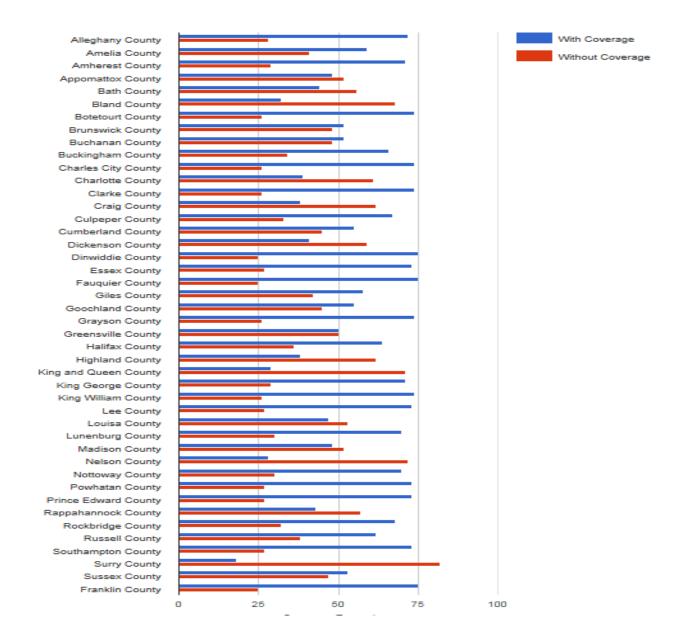
RESIDENTS WITH LESS THAN OR EQUAL TO 75% COVERAGE

RESIDENTS WITH 75% TO 85% COVERAGE

RESIDENTS WITH MORE THAN 85% COVERAGE

44 Counties

RESIDENTS WITH LESS THAN OR EQUAL TO 75% COVERAGE



Questions and Contact

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Necessity of Universal Broadband

- + Access to high-quality broadband, at school, at work, AND at home is critical to full participation in American life
- The divide in availability between urban and rural districts is a huge economic stumbling block for our rural localities
- + The divide is also a moral failing children's opportunities shouldn't be dependent on where they're born
 - School quality in rural Virginia is still high yet outcomes are worse
 - + The anecdotes are real, and reflected in data

Governor Northam's Directive

- + Governor built on the leadership from the General Assembly
- + Work of the office of Broadband Advisor will be robust
- + "Functionally Universal" broadband availability
- + Delivering a plan this year
 - + Iterative
 - + Multi-level
 - + Strong Stakeholder buy-in
- + Builds on the work that has gone before

Tobacco Commission Efforts To-Date

- + Longstanding investment: Over \$130 million to-date
- + Recent Last-mile program:

	Organization	Project Title	Requested Amount	Matching Funds	Proposed Project Budget	Co-Applicant	Premises passed	TRRC cost per premise passed (\$)	
	Appomattox County	CVEC Members' Fiber Project	\$979,850	\$2,939,550	\$3,919,400	CVEC	1,650	\$594	100/100
3387	Appomattox County	Shentel Broadband Expansion to Vera	\$45,000	\$48,000	\$93,000	Shentel	100	\$450	10/1
3392	Bedford, County of	Comcast Broadband Project in Southern Bedford County	\$4,000,000	\$5,372,634	\$9,372,634	Comcast	6974	\$573.56	1Gbps / 2- 35Mbps
3384	Dinwiddie County	Regional Broadband Initiative: Dinwiddie and Amelia Counties	\$1,708,090	\$1,708,090	\$3,416,180	StraightUpNet LLC	15,000	\$114	8-10/6
3385	Halifax County	Halifax County Broadband Initiative	\$206,202	\$866,823	\$1,073,025	SCS AcelaNet	2,977	\$69	10-15/2-8
3378	Mecklenburg County	EMPower Project	\$2,611,391	\$2,611,3 9 1	\$5,222,782	Meck Elec Co-op	2,909	\$898	25/3
3391	Pittsylvania County	Pittsylvania County Broadband Initiative	\$491,000	\$491,000	\$982,000	SCS AcelaNet	6362	\$77	10-15/2-8
3379	Sussex County	Sussex County High Speed Broadband Initiative	\$1,250,000	\$1,250,000	\$2,500,000	Prince George Elec Co- op	2,300	\$54 3	30/30
	T	OTALS	\$11,291,533	\$15,287,488	\$26,579,021		31,2 9 8	\$415	

VA Telecommunications Initiative (VATI)

- + VATI funds public/private partnerships in localities
- + Funded at \$1 million/year in 2017 and 2018 & Oversubscribed
- + 1666 residents, 32 businesses, and 2 community anchors connected

2017 VATI	2018 VATI				
Locality/Co-applicant	Award	Locality/Co-applicant		Award	
Augusta County/Lingo	\$ 278,880	Albemarle County/Comcast	\$	473,366	
Albemarle County/CenturyLink	\$ 118,400	Mecklenburg County/Buggs Island Telco	\$	217,173	
Bland County/WVVA.net	\$ 192,141	Spotslyvania County/Comcast	\$	167,260	
Gloucester County/Cox	\$ 193,094				
Greensville County/Telpage	\$ 162,334				
Total	\$ 944,849	Total	\$	857,799	

Future of VATI

- + Primary vehicle for state broadband incentives
- + Successful public/stakeholder engagement
- + Basic principals moving forward
 - + Public/private partnership
 - + Best leverage on core metrics
 - + Focus on unserved population
- + Needs your continued and increased support

Complementary Efforts within State Government

- + Broadband Advisory Council
 - + Key legislative partners & important means of coordination and idea generation
- + CIT
 - + Strong local planning support but limited scope needs to increase
- Tobacco Commission
 - + Continued funding and grant-making expertise
- + VDOT
 - + P3 office is a critical partner & significant physical assets and enabling ability
- + DHCD
 - VATI program & CDBG block grants
- + Other Secretariats on ad-hoc basis

Federal Partnerships

- + Federal Programs are numerous
 - + USDA
 - + NTIA
 - + EDA
 - + FCC
 - + ARC
 - + Etc.
- + Many have multiple programs that touch multiple sorts of projects
 - + Economic Development
 - + Public Safety
 - + Etc.
- + Alignment is key we will act as clearinghouse



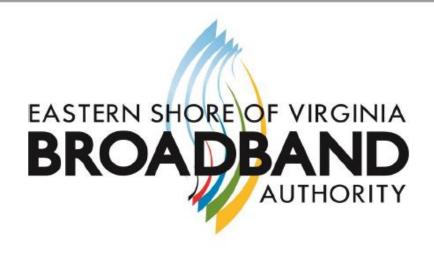
VIRGINIA BROADBAND SUMMIT





October 30, 2018





Start Up

An independent, not-for-profit public authority, originally formed by the Counties of Northampton and Accomack, to provide broadband services on the Eastern Shore of Virginia







ESVBA Grant Funding						
Accomack County	\$ 200,000					
Northampton County	\$ 66,000					
Total Planning Phase Funding	\$266,000					
Backbone Construction						
EDA/DHCD Funding	\$4,509,800					
NASA 2008	\$1,786,000					
NASA 2009	\$2,000,000					
Total Backbone Funding	\$8,295,800					
Community Network Construction						
Town of Parksley	\$ 450,400					
Town of Cape Charles	\$ 489,900					
Town of Onancock	\$ 200,000					
Town of Chincoteague	\$ 479,500					
CDBG-R Grant	\$1,000,000					
Total Community Funding	\$2,619,800					
Total ESVBA Grant Funds	\$11,181,600					



In 2013, at the 21st annual Eastern Shore of Virginia Harvest Festival, ESVBA made its first, nonmandatory, installment payment to reimburse the

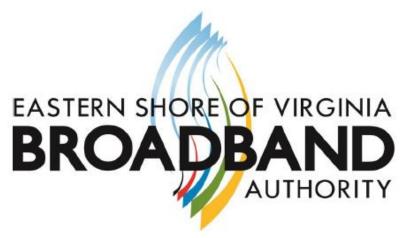
The ESVBA has since refunded 100% of initial start up contributions from the two counties and continues to operate from a strong financial position.

the two counties for their initial investment.

Payback



Pictured from left are Accomack County Supervisor Reneta Major, Broadband Executive Director Nicholas Pascaretti, Mike Zodun of the Broadband Authority, Delegate Lynwood Lewis, State Sen. Ralph Northam, Accomack County Administrator Steve Miner, Northampton Supervisor Willie Randall and Northampton Supervisor Rick Hubbard. / Chris Glennon image



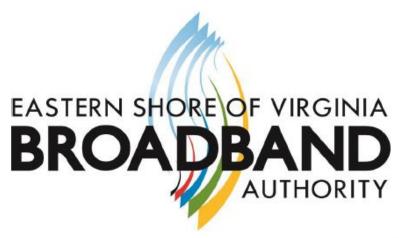
Governance



The ESVBA is still managed by a five member Board of Directors appointed by both Accomack and Northampton Counties.

The current Board of Directors members consists of:

- Elaine Meil, Chair
- Scott Webb, Vice Chair
- Mike Mason, Treasurer
- Charles Kolakowski
- Peter Lalor



Fast Facts

~320 mile carrier grade network

10 years of stable operation

Runs 85 miles from MD border to VA Beach

Serves a variety of industries:

- Education
 Commercial
- · Government · Healthcare
- Wholesale
 Residential

Hundred satisfied customers





History

April 2008

ESVBA was formed under a joint resolution between the Counties of Accomack and Northampton September 2016

ESVBA launches fiber to the home trial.

November 2017

ESVBA board officially adopts the region-wide expansion of FTTH.













October 2013

ESVBA begins repayment of public funds from authority start-up. April 2017

ESVBA expands residential FTTH trial. October 2018

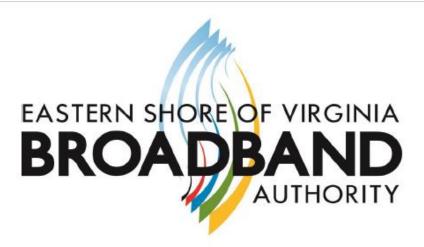
19 Eastern Shore Communities have access to Residential FTTH Service from the ESVBA.



High Quality Services



- All backbone electronics are NEBS compliant and engineered to Telcordia standards
- Offer Ethernet ELAN & ELINE Services, SONET services, WISP Services, Dedicated Internet, and FTTH
- IPV6 enabled network providing massive capability (340 undecillion addresses 3.4×10^38)
- Virtual and physical network monitored 24/7/365
- Proactive network threat and mitigation monitoring
- Speeds up to 100 Gbps and wavelength services



Network Anatomy

The ESVBA's network consists of two major components:

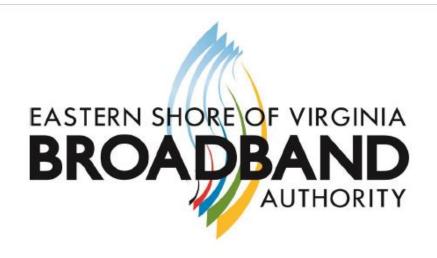
- The Backbone This part of the ESVBA's network begins at Wallops Island and runs south along the Eastern Shore of Virginia to Virginia Beach. Along this route, regeneration facilities are located in Wallops Island, Tasley, Exmore, and Cheriton.
- Community Networks regionalized networks that are connected to the backbone.

Examples include:

- a. Chincoteague
- b. Parksley
- c. Onancock
- d. Belle Haven
- e. Exmore

- f. Willis Wharf
- g. Nassawadox
- h. Eastville
- i. Cape Charles





Wholesale Partnerships









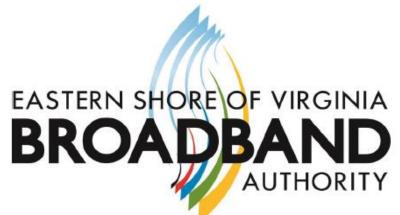












Informal Community Partners



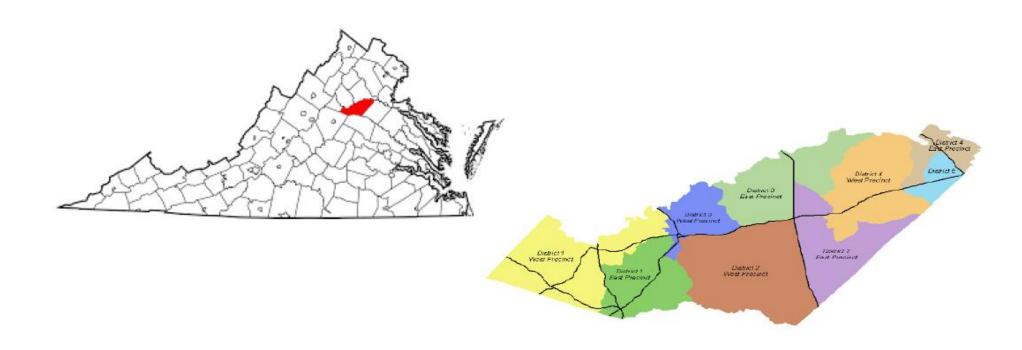


Orange County Rural Broadband Initiative

AUTUMN 2018



Orange County





Common Barriers and Opportunities

- The "death by distance----last mile" conundrum for under and unserved areas
- Not solved solely by private sector or public sector a public/private solution is needed much like rural electrification in the early 20th century
- Goal is to reduce capital costs and start-up operating expenses for telecommunications (broadband) companies to enter under and unserved markets
- Critical elements are use of publically owned or controlled vertical assets for wireless broadband; deployment of low cost, open-access fiber optics network and backhaul (the "middle mile"); and, leveraging local government capital expenditures for education and public safety.

Orange County Public Schools Fiber Project



- Why is fiber connectivity between facilities important?
- Reliable and secure transmission of voice, video, and data for testing, classroom instruction, administrative connectivity & communication, and security
- Federal Communications Commission's Second E-Rate Modernization Order – Universal Service Access Corporation (USAC) Grant Funding Opportunity- awarded to OCPS on June 30, 2017
- <u>Self-Provisioned Fiber Solution Demonstrated by OCPS</u>: "...an organization's ability to self-construct and own their own highspeed networks independent of specific service providers."



- Cooperatively procured pricing (design specifications, easements, fiber optic conduit and cabling, handholds, materials, and labor)
- Orange County increased the USAC funded 2 strands per school facility to approximately 10 strands per school facility
- Overall strand count for both OCPS and Orange County (majority of strands will remain dark and will be "lit" based on demand):

Total Strand Count for Network	Schools	General Government
288	84	204

Orange County Public Schools Fiber Optics Funding Sources

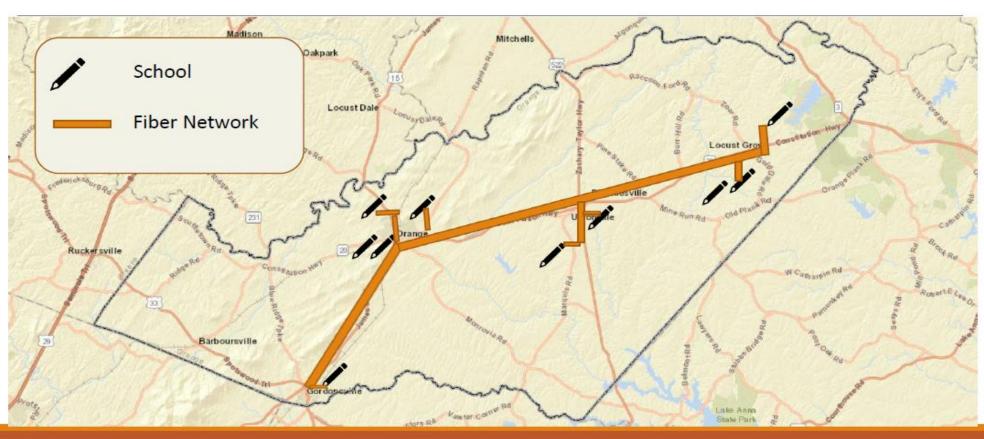


Selected Vendor: Computer Cabling & Telephone Services, Inc.

Total Project Cost	\$1,772,754
USAC E Rate Funding (80%)	\$1,005,403
Additional County USAC Match Funding + 10% VPSA Match	\$330,423
Additional County Capital Funding (to increase strand count)	\$436,928
Total County Capital Investment	\$767,351 (general fund dollars)

Orange County Public Schools ~33 Mile Fiber Build





Fiber Optics Network & Public Safety Tower Siting





Orange County Broadband Authority (OCBA)



- Organized under the Virginia Wireless Service Authorities Act, Chapter 54.1 of Title 15.2 of the Code of Virginia (modeled after Virginia Water and Waste Authorities Act)
- State Corporation Commission issued charter in June of 2016
- Board of Supervisors serves as the Board of Directors for OCBA
- OCBA operated as a component unit enterprise of the County empowered to contract network operations, maintenance, and consumer sales and service to private sector telecommunications providers; issue debt; and, otherwise use business-like practices similar to local or regional water/wastewater authorities, airports, landfills, etc.
- "Open Access" Fiber Optics Network and Rural Broadband Initiative transferred to OCBA for implementation and management
- OCBA will solicit private-sector WISP and FTTP partner(s) under the authority of the Public-Private Education Facilities and Infrastructure Act of 2002 (PPEA)



Professional Services

Professional Engineering Services:

- Fixed wireless broadband propagation analysis and public safety radio design conducted by <u>Federal Engineering Corporation</u>
- Professional Telecommunications Engineering Services (inside plant):
 - Network configuration and hardware support conducted by <u>GCR Communications</u>
- Fiber Optics Installation:
 - Fiber installation awarded through cooperative procurement to <u>Computer Cabling Telephone</u> Services Inc.

• Fiber Installation Oversight (outside plant):

 Inspection and construction management conducted by <u>GranCo Diversified</u>

Broadband Consulting:

- Professional broadband business consulting services provided by <u>Blue Ridge Advisory Services Group, Inc.</u>
- Needs assessment, business plan, organizational performance plan, dark fiber and tower lease business development, etc.
- Communications Plan and Web/Digital Platform Development:
 - Firm(s) to be procured



PROACTIVE BROADBAND PLANNING

VIRGINIA BROADBAND SUMMIT Partnerships for Connecting the Commonwealth

Roanoke South County Library October 30, 2018



Virginia Beach - Internal Workgroups

C.L.U.B. – City Attorney's Office

Communication – Land Use – Broadband

- Real Estate/Land Use/Contracts attorneys and staff
- Monthly meetings to discuss crosssection topic areas

S.C.O.R.E.

Smart City Organization for Regional Enhancement

- Created group within locality
- Weekly meetings at first, then as needed
- Provide framework for replication in each locality

Franchise Workgroup and Subcommittee

Initiated by Information Technology Dept.

- Review every franchise request for fiber or small cell placement
- Teach each other about our areas of expertise
- Coordinate projects and review route maps

5G Workgroup - City Manager

Initiated by City Manager

- Necessitated by industry's desire to attach to government-owned structures
- Include all areas libraries, schools, public safety, PW and PU, IT, attorney, administrators, Parks & Rec, Visitor's bureau, etc.

Smart City Organization for Regional Enhancement (SCORE)



SCORE is an organizational framework adapted by **HRPDC**

Smart City Organization for Regional Enhancement (SCORE)

Broadband Taskforce – Various city leaders, staff, council members, higher education, community leaders met to discuss regional effort

Hampton Roads Planning District Commission (HRPDC) coordinated and facilitated the efforts

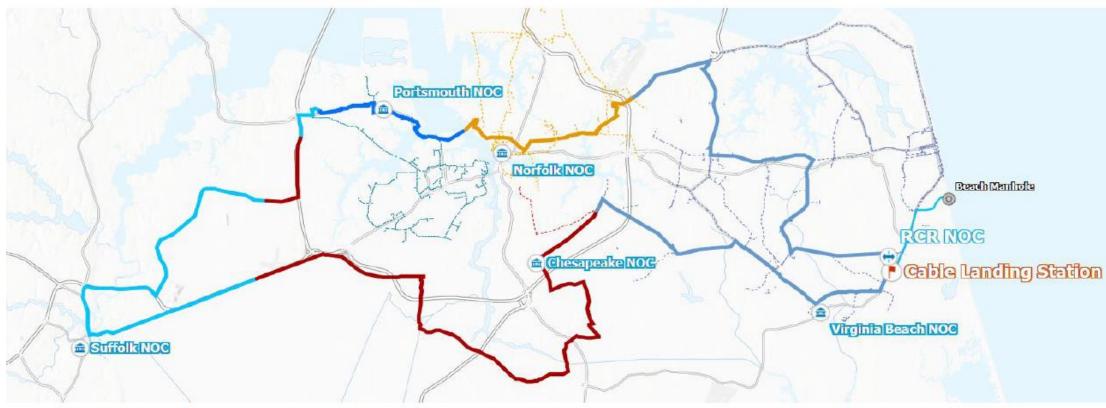
HRPDC established a Steering Committee, representing the region's 17 localities.

SCORE was introduced and presented as a replicable framework to evaluate, manage, track, prepare for smart city/region initiatives, and report to the Steering Committee.

A unified approach to:

- Evaluating best practices
- Managing smart city initiatives
- Tracking longitudinal progress
- Preparing for smart region initiatives starting with the five cities

REGIONAL CONNECTIVITY RING OVERVIEW



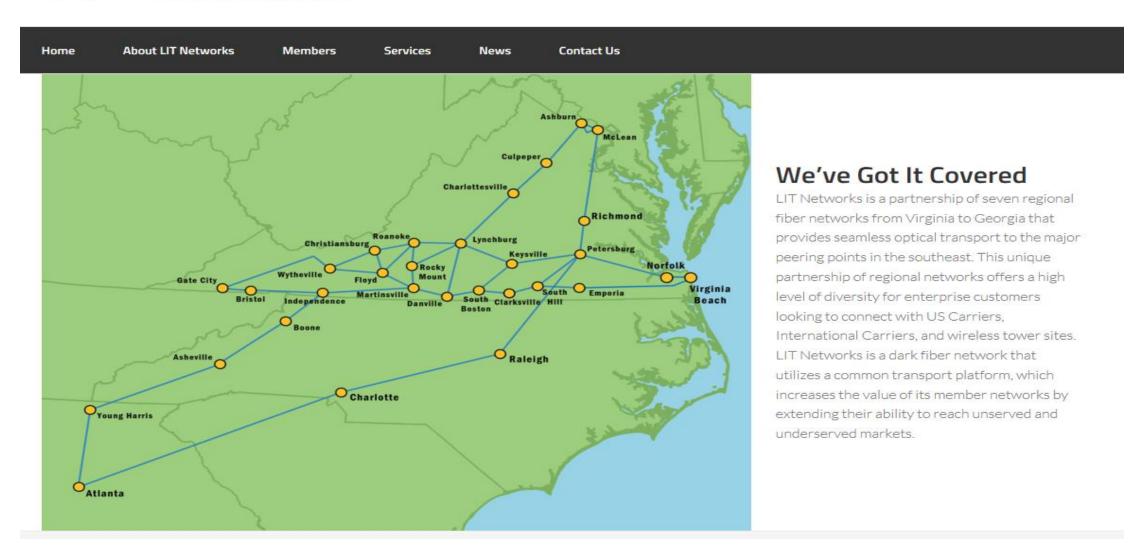
The Regional Connectivity Ring is a 103.11 mile dark fiber, open access ring, which will serve as the foundation for smart region development and digitally-empowered communities.

Each city will house a Network Operations Center (NOC) to manage their portion of the ring.









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My Goals

- What Are My Goals?
- Applications of Interest
- Policies & Procedures



My Leader

- Identify a Champion
- Time Saving Tips



My Needs

- Determine Demand
- Inventory Assets
- Existing Services

Telemedicine and Telehealth

Current State of Application

Deployed to many rural hospitals and clinics, the ease of use has enabled clinicians to readily embrace telemedicine and telehealth technology.

Minimum Technology Requirements

At present T1 (1.54Mbps) provides ample bandwidth for clinics and some of the smaller rural hospitals. As we move forward with High Definition Videoconferencing and transferring large radiology images, the minimum will increase to 5Mbps.

Business Aspects

There are grant programs available from the USDA and HHS that can help establish Telemedicine sites. Once the system is in place, Medicare, Medicaid and many private insurers will reimburse for Telemedicine encounters. The rural healthcare site can receive from Medicare a facility fee for each Telemedicine encounter that they pay for. For the patients there is a cost avoidance in travel expenses and lost wages. Additionally the broadband communications costs for the rural clinic are reduced by support from the Universal Service Fund. Using Teleradiology a rural hospital can keep its Emergency Room open and not have to have a Radiologist on staff 24/7.

Obstacles or Barriers to Further Deployment

Even with Universal Service Fund support, broadband communications is still expensive for many rural clinics and hospitals. To achieve the future goal of Home Health and Mobile Health, the Commonwealth needs further deployment of broadband, not just to the industrial/business locations but also to residential communities. Wireless broadband also needs to grow if we are to become a mobile society.

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Broadband Toolkit

Follow our easy 5-step guide below to bring Broadband to your area.











My Goals

To get started to bring broadband to your area, figure out your goals.

 What • ApplicatiBolicies 8 Are Mv Interest Procedures ChampioTips Goals?

My Leader

Determine who is going to spearhead your broadband initiative.

 Identify Time Saving

My Needs

Figure out what your needs are in order to determine best solutions.

- Determineventor∉xisting Demand Assets Services
- Technology Types

Partnerships

Learn from past proposals and create your own.

- Learn RFP/RF• Get from or Others PPEA
 - 8 Evaluate Options
- Initiate Negotiations

Get Funding

How to get your broadband initiative funded to get going.

- Responses Reallocat@alculateLeverage Funds Contributionsral Funds
 - Grants Funding Models Loans











Medical and Dental Students:

Reduce your student loan debt with the NHSC Students to Service Loan Repayment Program!



Now Open for Applications

The 2019 NHSC Students to Service (S2S) Loan Repayment Program (LRP) application cycle is open. Apply before December 20, 7 p.m. ET.

News and Announcements

HHS awards \$293 million to expand primary health care workforce (10/18/2018)

HHS Awards \$2.34 billion in grants to help Americans access HIV/AIDS care and Medication (10/11/2018)

HRSA releases new data on child health across the U.S. (10/1/2018)

More HRSA News

Funding Opportunities



Scholarships & Loan Repayment



HRSA Program Areas

- Health Centers
- Health Workforce
- > HIV/AIDS & Ryan White
- Maternal & Child Health
- National Health Service Corps
- > Organ Donation & Transplantation

- > Federal Office of Rural Health Policy
- > 340B Drug Pricing
- Injury Compensation
- data.HRSA.gov
- American Indian/Alaskan Native
- Poison Help





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Loans & Scholarships

Data Warehouse

No Fear Act Data

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Grants

Q VIEW HRSA FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES



News & Announcements

<u>SAM.gov</u> has instituted new requirements to their registration and renewal practices due to fraudulent activity identified in their system. <u>Learn more about these requirements</u>.



Apply for a Grant

Find out what you need to do to apply for a HRSA grant.



Manage Your Grant

Access information, resources and tips on how to properly manage your HRSA grant.





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Rural Health Funding Opportunities

View Funding Opportunities ● All Funding Opportunities ○ Open Funding Opportunities Go

Opportunity Name	Announcement Number	Program Category	Opportunity Status	Application Deadline
Small Rural Hospital Improvement Program (SHIP)	HRSA-19-020	Office of Rural Health Policy	Open 🥝	01/03/2019
Rural Health Network Development Planning Program	HRSA-19-025	Office of Rural Health Policy	Open 🥝	11/30/2018
Rural Residency Planning and Development – Technical Assistance	HRSA-18-117	Office of Rural Health Policy	Closed 😢	08/22/2018
Rural Communities Opioid Response Program - Technical Assistance	HRSA-18-124	Office of Rural Health Policy	Closed 😢	08/10/2018
Rural Communities Opioid Response Program - Planning	HRSA-18-116	Office of Rural Health Policy	Closed 😢	08/03/2018

Related

Grants.gov Application Help HRSA Electronic Handbooks (EHB) Support









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Small Rural Hospital Improvement Program (SHIP)

HRSA-19-020 | Office of Rural Health Policy

Application Accepted: 10/01/2018 to 01/03/2019

Projected Award Date: 06/01/2019

Estimated Award Amount: N/A

Program Description:

This notice announces the opportunity to apply for funding under the Small Rural Hospital Improvement Program (SHIP). This program supports eligible hospitals in meeting value-based payment and care goals for their respective organizations, through purchases of hardware, software and training. SHIP also enables small rural hospitals: to become or join accountable care organizations (ACOs); to participate in shared savings programs; and to purchase health information technology (hardware and software), equipment, and/or training to comply with quality improvement activities, such as advancing patient care information, promoting interoperability, and payment bundling.

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Application Guidance

Application guidance template

Contact Information

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imeyers@hrsa.gov

Phone: (301)443-2482



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High Cost

Contributors

Service Providers

Connect America Fund (CAF) Map

Bringing Broadband to Rural America

VIEW MORE INFO

Ensuring that all people in the United States have access to quality, affordable connectivity services through these four universal service programs:



Keeping students and library patrons connected to broadband and voice services



Supporting healthcare facilities in bringing world class medical care to rural areas through increased connectivity



Helping households obtain the communications services they need to participate and function in today's digital world



Providing funding to companies working to expand connectivity infrastructures in unserved or underserved areas



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Rural Health Care

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ABOUT USAC

The Universal Service Administrative Company is dedicated to achieving universal service. This important principle suggests that everyone in the U.S. deserves accessible, affordable, and pervasive high-speed connectivity.

Despite pervasive connectivity in most urban areas in the United States, millions of people across the country have no access to broadband services needed to work, learn, heal, and communicate. The funds we administer exist to fill these gaps in access. As an independent not-for-profit designated by the FCC, USAC administers the Universal Service Fund, almost \$10 billion available annually to the companies and institutions that make universal service possible.

Universal Service Programs

With the guidance of policy created by the FCC, we collect and deliver funding through four programs focused on places where broadband and connectivity needs are critical. These programs serve people in rural, underserved, and difficult-to-reach areas.

Schools and Libraries

 The Schools and Libraries (E-rate) Program provides discounts to keep students and library patrons connected to broadband and voice services.

Rural Health Care

 The Rural Health Care Program supports health care facilities in bringing world class medical care to rural areas through increased broadband capabilities.

Lifeline

 The Lifeline Program helps households obtain the voice and broadband connectivity services they need to participate and function in today's digital world.

High Cost

 The High Cost Program provides funding to companies working to expand connectivity infrastructure in unserved or underserved areas.





Tools Forms Payments My Portal

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USAC Home Rural Health Care Program Funding Commitments 2018 Funding Cap Order

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Process Overview
Appeals & Audits
Program Calendar (FY2018)
Funding Commitments
(FY2017)
2018 Funding Cap Order
Glossary of Terms (PDF)
FAOs

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FUNDING COMMITMENTS

Available Funding (FY2017) Fund Distribution (FY2017) Glossary of Terms FY2016 Funding Information Funding Commitments Archive

2018 Funding Cap Order

On June 25, 2018, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) issued an Order that adopts rules to: (1) increase the annual RHC Program funding cap to \$571 million and apply it to FY2017; (2) annually adjust the RHC Program funding cap for inflation, beginning with FY2018; and (3) establish a process to carry-forward unused funds from past funding years for use in future funding years. As noted in the FCC's RHC 2018 Funding Cap Order, the RHC Program funding cap for FY2018 will be \$581 million, adjusted for inflation.

Read and download the Order 7 and FAQ sheet 7

Informational Webinar on the FCC RHC 2018 Funding Cap Order



23:52 minutes | July 2018

What this means for FY2017

Due to the increase in the RHC Program funding cap for FY2017, all previously approved FY2017 funding requests will receive 100% of their approved funding amount. The proration that was previously applied to FY2017 funding commitments will be removed, and revised Funding Commitment Letters (FCLs) were issued via email.

What this means for FY2018

As noted in the FCC's RHC 2018 Funding Cap Order, the RHC Program funding cap for FY2018 will be \$581 million, adjusted for inflation. As a reminder, the FY2018 filing window closes on Friday, June 29, 2018. To be considered eligible for funding, you must submit your funding requests (FCC Forms 462 for the HCF Program and FCC Forms 466 in the Telecom Program) by the close of the FY2018 filing window on June 29, 2018 at 11:59 p.m. ET. Funding requests submitted after the close of the FY2018 filing window will not be accepted. Submit your funding requests as soon as possible to avoid experiencing any last-minute challenges.



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Welcome To The Rural Health Care Program



2018 Funding Cap Order Released June 25, 2018

More information here.

The Rural Health Care (RHC) Program supports health care facilities in bringing world class medical care to rural areas through increased connectivity. It supports reduced rates for broadband and telecom services. There are two subprograms in the RHC Program: the Healthcare Connect Fund (HCF) Program and the Telecommunications (Telecom) Program.

Notice: The FY2018 Filing Window Period will take place from February 1, 2018 through 11:59 p.m. EDT June 29, 2018. More information about filing window periods available here.



Receive a flat 65% discount on broadband expenses and network equipment

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Receive a discount based on the urban-rural price difference in your area on telecom expenses

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INDIVIDUAL HCPS



CONSORTIA



SERVICE PROVIDERS

PROCESS OVERVIEW

The Healthcare Connect Fund (HCF) Program provides a 65 percent discount on eligible expenses related to broadband connectivity to both individual rural health care providers (HCPs) and consortia, which can include non-rural HCPs, if the consortium has a majority of rural sites.

What do I need to know about the process?

Individual HCPs

Consultants

Step 1: Before You Apply

Step 2: Determine Eligibility

Step 3: Prepare for Competitive Bidding

Step 4: Request Services

Step 5: Evaluate Bids/Select SP

Step 6: Submit Funding Requests

Step 7: Initiate Invoicing

Service Providers

FCC Form 498

Step 1: Determine Eligibility

Step 2: Respond to Service Requests

Step 3: Sign Service Agreement

Step 4: Review FCL

Step 5: Invoice USAC

Consortia

Consortia 101

Consultants

Authorizations

Site and Service Substitutions

Step 1: Before You Apply

Step 2: Organize a Consortium

Step 3: Determine Eligibility

Step 4: Prepare for Competitive Bidding

Step 5: Request Services

Step 6: Evaluate Bids/Select SP

Step 7: Submit Funding Requests

Step 8: Initiate Invoicing

Step 9: Submit Annual Report



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Welcome To The Rural Health Care Program



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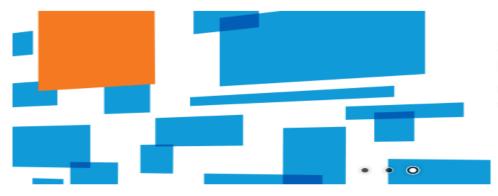
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Third Party Authorization Information - Download a

Newsletter for November 2018 (11/1/2018)

Register for the HCF Program Invoicing Webinar November 15! (11/1/2018)

Newsletter for October 2018 (10/4/2018)

Newsletter for September 2018 (9/6/2018)

FY2017 Annual Report for HCF & Pilot Program Consortia Due September 30 (8/31/2018)

Program 📆

Sample TPA

FY2018 Request for Services Best Practices Webinar – Watch Now!

Funding Request Best Practices Webinar – Watch Now!

Urban and Rural Rate Information - Telecom

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HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS



SERVICE PROVIDERS



PROCESS OVERVIEW

The Rural Health Care Program provides reduced rates to rural health care providers (HCPs) for telecommunications services related to the use of telemedicine and telehealth. This page provides you with the steps and topics that you need to know in order to navigate successfully through the Rural Health Care Program as either an HCP or a service provider.

The Process

Health Care Providers

The 5-Step Process for HCPs

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Competitive Bidding

Documentation

Evergreen Contracts

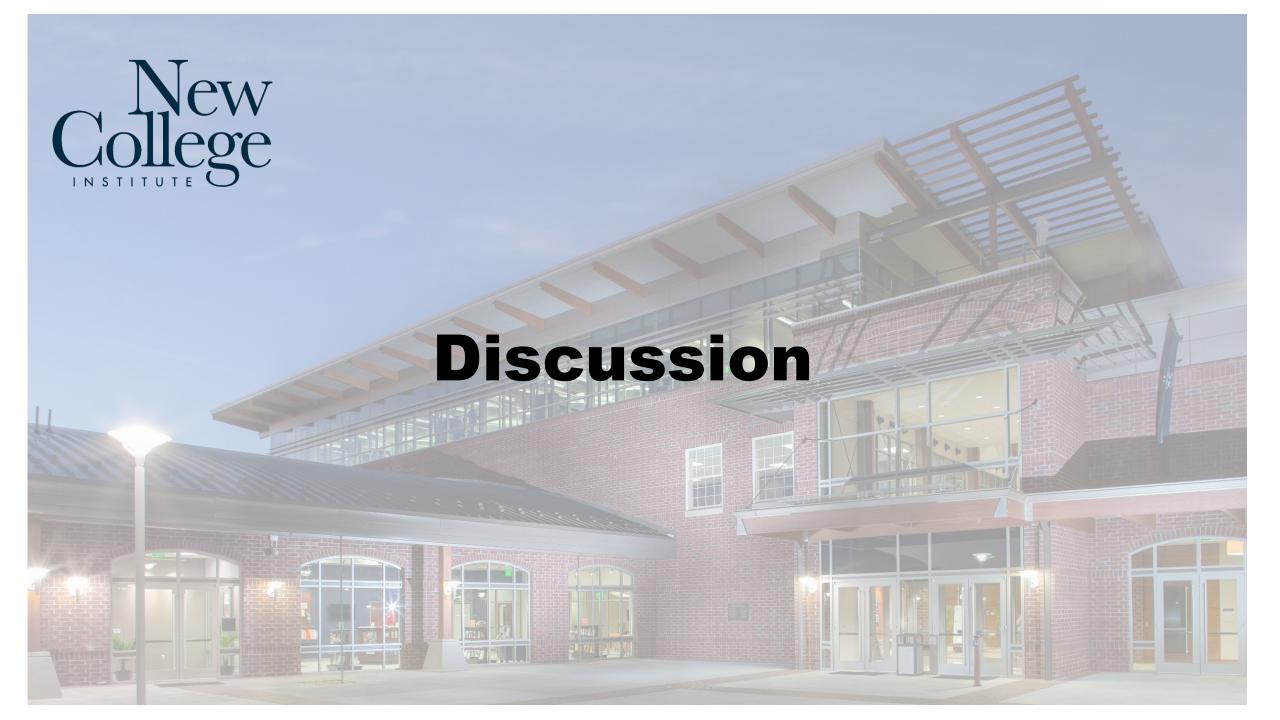
Service Providers

The 6-Step Process for Service Providers

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Invoicing

Information Changes





Thank You!

Broadband Access: Opportunities for Rural Telehealth

Leanna Blevins and John Maxwell Virginia Rural Collaborators Conference November 14, 2018