Academic Areas of Focus

Technology and Cyber Security

Engineering and Advanced Manufacturing

Healthcare and Human Services

Education and Community Leadership
Broadband Connectivity is a moral imperative if we are to have equity in opportunity

• Rural Virginians: 1,050,000
• 64% of rural Virginians without broadband: 660,000
  • 440,000 flat
  • 220,000 mountains
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 network connectivity, improve digital inclusion and accessibility.
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, Virginia 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 Availability Map.
Percentage of Households with Broadband Access above 25 by 3 Mbps

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.
44 Counties
Questions and Contact

- **Evan Feinman**
  - efeinman@revitalizeva.org
  - o: 804-225-2027
  - c: 434-509-8522

- **Courtney Dozier**
  - courtney.dozier@dhcd.virginia.gov
  - o: 804-371-7020
  - c: 703-402-6079
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:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Request #</th>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Project Title</th>
<th>Requested Amount</th>
<th>Matching Funds</th>
<th>Proposed Project Budget</th>
<th>Co-Applicant</th>
<th>Premises passed</th>
<th>TRRC cost per premise passed ($)</th>
<th>speeds upload/download (Mbps)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3389</td>
<td>Appomattox County</td>
<td>CVEC Members' Fiber Project</td>
<td>$979,850</td>
<td>$2,599,550</td>
<td>$3,919,400</td>
<td>CVEC</td>
<td>1,650</td>
<td>$594</td>
<td>100/100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3387</td>
<td>Appomattox County</td>
<td>Shentel Broadband Expansion to Vera</td>
<td>$465,000</td>
<td>$48,000</td>
<td>$53,000</td>
<td>Shentel</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>$430</td>
<td>10/1 T-1 2 Gbps / 2-3 Gbps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3392</td>
<td>Bedford, County of</td>
<td>Comcast Broadband Project in Southern Bedford County</td>
<td>$4,600,000</td>
<td>$5,327,534</td>
<td>$9,372,634</td>
<td>Comcast</td>
<td>6974</td>
<td>$573.56</td>
<td>8-10X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3394</td>
<td>Dinwiddle County</td>
<td>Regional Broadband Initiative: Dinwiddle and Amelia Counties</td>
<td>$1,708,000</td>
<td>$1,708,000</td>
<td>$3,416,180</td>
<td>StraightUpNet LLC</td>
<td>15,000</td>
<td>$114</td>
<td>8-10X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3385</td>
<td>Halifax County</td>
<td>Halifax County Broadband Initiative</td>
<td>$208,202</td>
<td>$866,823</td>
<td>$1,073,026</td>
<td>SCS AcadiaNet</td>
<td>2,977</td>
<td>$69</td>
<td>10-152-8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3378</td>
<td>Mecklenburg County</td>
<td>EMPower Project</td>
<td>$2,611,391</td>
<td>$2,611,391</td>
<td>$5,222,782</td>
<td>Meck Elec Co-op</td>
<td>2,909</td>
<td>$898</td>
<td>25/3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3391</td>
<td>Pittsylvania County</td>
<td>Pittsylvania County Broadband Initiative</td>
<td>$491,000</td>
<td>$491,000</td>
<td>$982,000</td>
<td>SCS AcadiaNet</td>
<td>6362</td>
<td>$77</td>
<td>10-152-8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3379</td>
<td>Sussex County</td>
<td>Sussex County High Speed Broadband Initiative</td>
<td>$1,250,000</td>
<td>$1,250,000</td>
<td>$2,500,000</td>
<td>Prince George Elec Co-op</td>
<td>2,300</td>
<td>$543</td>
<td>30/30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTALS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>$11,291,533</strong></td>
<td><strong>$15,287,488</strong></td>
<td><strong>$26,579,021</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>31,298</strong></td>
<td><strong>$415</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2017 VATI Locality/Co-applicant</th>
<th>Award</th>
<th>2018 VATI Locality/Co-applicant</th>
<th>Award</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Augusta County/Lingo</td>
<td>$278,880</td>
<td>Albemarle County/Comcast</td>
<td>$473,366</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Albemarle County/CenturyLink</td>
<td>$118,400</td>
<td>Mecklenburg County/Buggs Island Telco</td>
<td>$217,173</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bland County/WVVA.net</td>
<td>$192,141</td>
<td>Spotsylvania County/Comcast</td>
<td>$167,260</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gloucester County/Cox</td>
<td>$193,094</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greensville County/Telpage</td>
<td>$162,334</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$944,849</td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$857,799</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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
Model Programs
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Funding</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accomack County</td>
<td>$200,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northampton County</td>
<td>$66,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Planning Phase Funding</strong></td>
<td><strong>$266,000</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Backbone Construction

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Funding</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EDA/DHCD Funding</td>
<td>$4,509,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NASA 2008</td>
<td>$1,786,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NASA 2009</td>
<td>$2,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Backbone Funding</strong></td>
<td><strong>$8,295,800</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Community Network Construction

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Community</th>
<th>Funding</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Town of Parksley</td>
<td>$450,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town of Cape Charles</td>
<td>$489,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town of Onancock</td>
<td>$200,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town of Chincoteague</td>
<td>$479,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CDBG-R Grant</td>
<td>$1,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Community Funding</strong></td>
<td><strong>$2,619,800</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total ESVBA Grant Funds**: $11,181,600
In 2013, at the 21st annual Eastern Shore of Virginia Harvest Festival, ESVBA made its first, non-mandatory, installment payment to reimburse the two counties for their initial investment.

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 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
~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
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 - $3.4 \times 10^{38}$)
- Virtual and physical network monitored 24/7/365
- Proactive network threat and mitigation monitoring
- Speeds up to 100 Gbps and wavelength services
The ESVBA’s network consists of two major components:

1. **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.

2. **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

Eastern Shore of Virginia Broadband Authority Expands Wireless And FTTH Coverage

What's next for broadband internet on Virginia's Eastern Shore?

UPDATE: High speed internet comes to more Accomack Co. communities

Free Broadband Latest Edition to Exmore Town Park

Virginia
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
- Self-Provisioned Fiber Solution Demonstrated by OCPS: “...an organization’s ability to self-construct and own their own high-speed networks independent of specific service providers.”
Orange County Public Schools & Orange County “Open Access” Fiber Optics Network Project

- 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):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Strand Count for Network</th>
<th>Schools</th>
<th>General Government</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>288</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>204</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Orange County Public Schools
Fiber Optics Funding Sources

- Selected Vendor: Computer Cabling & Telephone Services, Inc.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Project Cost</th>
<th>$1,772,754</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>USAC E Rate Funding (80%)</td>
<td>$1,005,403</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional County USAC Match Funding + 10% VPSA Match</td>
<td>$330,423</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional County Capital Funding (to increase strand count)</td>
<td>$436,928</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total County Capital Investment</strong></td>
<td><strong>$767,351</strong> (general fund dollars)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Orange County Public Schools
~33 Mile Fiber Build
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 Federal Engineering Corporation

- Professional Telecommunications Engineering Services (inside plant):
  - Network configuration and hardware support conducted by GCR Communications

- Fiber Optics Installation:
  - Fiber installation awarded through cooperative procurement to Computer Cabling Telephone Services Inc.

- Fiber Installation Oversight (outside plant):
  - Inspection and construction management conducted by GranCo Diversified

- Broadband Consulting:
  - Professional broadband business consulting services provided by Blue Ridge Advisory Services Group, Inc.
  - 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 cross-section 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
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.
We’ve Got It Covered

LIT Networks is a partnership of seven regional fiber networks from Virginia to Georgia that provides seamless optical transport to the major peering points in the southeast. This unique partnership of regional networks offers a high level of diversity for enterprise customers looking to connect with US Carriers, International Carriers, and wireless tower sites. LIT Networks is a dark fiber network that utilizes a common transport platform, which increases the value of its member networks by extending their ability to reach unserved and underserved markets.
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.
Broadband Toolkit

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

1. **My Goals**
   - To get started to bring broadband to your area, figure out your goals.
   - What Are My Goals?
   - Applications of Broadband Interest Procedures

2. **My Leader**
   - Determine who is going to spearhead your broadband initiative.
   - Identify Time Saving ChampsTips

3. **My Needs**
   - Figure out what your needs are in order to determine best solutions.
   - Determine Demand Assets
   - Technology Types

4. **Partnerships**
   - Learn from past proposals and create your own.
   - RFP/RFI from Others
   - PPAA Get
   - Evaluate Service Options
   - Negotiate

5. **Get Funding**
   - How to get your broadband initiative funded to get going.
   - Reallocate Funds
   - Grantees
   - Funding Models

---

Office of Telework Promotion and Broadband Assistance
Grants

**View HRSA Funding Opportunities**

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

**News & Announcements**

SAMS.gov has instituted new requirements to their registration and renewal practices due to fraudulent activity identified in their system. Learn more about these requirements.

**Manage Your Grant**
Access information, resources and tips on how to properly manage your HRSA grant.
## Rural Health Funding Opportunities

### Opportunity Name
- **Small Rural Hospital Improvement Program (SHIP)**
- **Rural Health Network Development Planning Program**
- **Rural Residency Planning and Development - Technical Assistance**
- **Rural Communities Opioid Response Program - Technical Assistance**
- **Rural Communities Opioid Response Program - Planning**

### Announcement Number
- HRSA-19-020
- HRSA-19-025
- HRSA-18-117
- HRSA-18-124
- HRSA-18-116

### Program Category
- Office of Rural Health Policy

### Opportunity Status
- Open
- Closed

### Application Deadline
- 01/03/2019
- 11/30/2018
- 08/22/2018
- 08/10/2018
- 08/03/2018

### Related
- Grants.gov Application Help
- HRSA Electronic Handbooks (EHB) Support
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.
Ensuring that all people in the United States have access to quality, affordable connectivity services through these four universal service programs:

**Schools and Libraries**
Keeping students and library patrons connected to broadband and voice services

**Rural Health Care**
Supporting healthcare facilities in bringing world class medical care to rural areas through increased connectivity

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

**High Cost**
Providing funding to companies working to expand connectivity infrastructures in unserved or underserved areas
ABOUT THE COMPANY
Universal Service
USAC's Open Data
Appeals & Audits
Leadership
Trainings & Outreach

RESOURCES & TOOLS
Careers
Latest News
Procurement
Publications
FCC Filings
FCC Orders
Contact USAC

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.
FUNDING COMMITMENTS

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 and FAQ sheet.

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.
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.
2018 Funding Cap Order Released
Find Out How Your FY2017 Funding Commitment is Affected
CLICK HERE

INDIVIDUAL HCFPs
CONSORTIA
SERVICE PROVIDERS

LATEST NEWS
Newsletter for November 2018 (11/1/2018)
Register for the HCF Program Invoicing Webinar November 18th (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)

QUICK LINKS
Letter of Agency Information – Download a Sample LOA
Third Party Authorization Information – Download a Sample TPA
Urban and Rural Rate Information – Telecom Program
FY2018 Request for Services Best Practices Webinar – Watch Now!
Funding Request Best Practices Webinar – Watch Now!
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

Consortia
- Consortium 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

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
Welcome To The Rural Health Care Program

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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
- Eligibility
- Competitive Bidding
- Documentation
- Evergreen Contracts

**Service Providers**
- The 5-Step Process for Service Providers
- Search Posted Services
- Invoicing
- Information Changes
Discussion
Thank You!

Broadband Access: Opportunities for Rural Telehealth

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