



VERMONT

VERMONT COMMUNITY BROADBAND BOARD

The VCBB was established by Act 71 (2021) to coordinate, facilitate, support, and accelerate the development and implementation of universal community broadband solutions.

Presentation to the House Committee on Appropriations January 3, 2024

Dan Nelson, *VCBB Board Vice-Chairperson*

Christine Hallquist, *Executive Director*

Herryn Herzog, *Communications and Outreach Manager*

Alexei Monsarrat, *Rural Broadband Technical Assistance Specialist*

Outreach/Marketing Video Trailer



[CONNECTED Documentary Trailer \(youtube.com\)](#)

Progress Update



- Only state committed to get fiber to every on-grid address
- 6/10 CUDs currently connecting previously underserved homes
- 800 miles built (approximately 15% of total)
- \$229 million federal allocation for BEAD (about \$100 million more than expected)
- Submitted BEAD plans for approval
- Draft Digital Equity Plan out for public comment

Budget Adjustment Act (2023)

*“\$30,000,000 to the Public Service Department for the Vermont Community Broadband Board to be used to **leverage federal dollars and programs**, including the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) broadband grant (Middle Mile), to reduce the overall cost of universal broadband access as described in 2021 Acts and Resolves No. 71.”*



Match Needed for BEAD Program



- Competitive program open to for-profits, non-profits, utilities, municipalities, co-ops
- BEAD Program has a 25% match gating requirement.
- Barriers to participation for public entities, small operators, and new market entities (CUDs) that are serving the least dense/least profitable addresses
- Goal of the VCBB/Act 71 and BEAD is Universal Service. Achieving this requires ensuring that any ISP, CUD, or town can compete for a BEAD grant.

VT BEAD Program

- \$229 million
- Requires a 25% match = \$57.25 million in additional funds
- Returning the \$20M is essential to achieve Universal Service for unserved regions.



Maple Broadband Connects a customer

Vermonters Benefit from Broadband

Reliable broadband is the essential backbone in our changing climate, including flood events.

Public Safety

Climate

Health

Workforce

Economy

Education

Farming

Social Connections and More...

