

COVID Response Accelerated Broadband Connectivity Program

1. Connectivity Initiative/Get Vermonters Connected Now

Round 1 awards were released on August 20, 2020 for \$3,926,650

- a. **5,842** underserved addresses targeted
 - i. **2,233** addresses lack 4/1 Mbps
 - ii. **465** “priority” Addresses
- b. 17 Projects –
 - i. Fiber-to-the-premises: **1,141**
 - ii. Wireless – **4,624**
 - iii. Cable - **77**
- c. Average cost per address: **\$1,540**
- d. The Department Received **\$22M** in Round 1 proposals
- e. All awarded wireless projects will offer a minimum of 1 Terabyte of data per month, as part of their most basic package
- f. **295** locations will see customer costs of conduit installation offset by the GVCNI program, including many in mobile home parks
- g. Department received feedback from six CUD’s in response to Round 1 proposals
- h. Six of eleven Round 2 proposals seek to build Fiber to the Home

2. Line Extension Consumer Assistance Program

- a. **125** applications passed preliminary screening as of 8/19/2020
- b. **10** awards issued as of 8/19.
- c. Comcast & Charter actively participating
- d. Communities have joined together to maximize the LECAP benefit.
- e. Meetings with community leaders have helped to inform consumers about the program and its benefits.
- f. The Department has created marketing material, that will be used for community outreach (attached).

3. COVID-Response Connected Community Resilience Program

- a. **Six** grants totaling \$535,000
- b. Outreach assistance for other COVID Connectivity Programs
- c. Legal assistance for developing public-private partnerships
- d. Project Management and Administrative assistance
- e. Wireless propagation studies
- f. Fundraising consultants
- g. Pole Collection efforts to accelerate required engineering studies.

4. Broadband Subsidy Program

- a. Offers \$20 credit for broadband service from March-December
- b. Soft launched 8/19, with hard launch expected Friday, August 28
- c. Applicants may apply for the arrearage program and broadband subsidy together

Round 1 Projects Proposed by Staff for Funding

Company / Location	Eligible Addresses	Technology	Basic Data Cap	Underserved (lacking 4/1)	Priority Addresses	Cost (\$)	Cost/#	Total Points	Price/Pt.	Points/ Location	Rank: Cost/#	Rank: Price/Point	Rank: Points/Loc	Rank: Average
MCFiber-Fletcher/Fairfax-GVCNI	10	FTTP	no	7	10	\$ 5,200	\$ 520	52.5	\$ 99	5.3	7	2	1	3.3
NEW Alliance	632	CBRS	no	455	101	\$ 171,770	\$ 272	2022	\$ 85	3.2	1	1	12	4.7
Vtel- St Albans 01	1347	Mixed Wireless	1TB	535	52	\$ 422,570	\$ 314	2847.5	\$ 148	2.1	3	3	27	11.0
VTel- Jay 02	509	Mixed Wireless	1TB	190	66	\$ 317,845	\$ 624	1149	\$ 277	2.3	8	7	21	12.0
MCFiber-Fletcher/Fairfax	676	FTTP	no	302	10	\$ 346,320	\$ 512	1456	\$ 238	2.2	6	6	24	12.0
VTel- Williamstown 02	642	Mixed Wireless	1TB	183	80	\$ 286,000	\$ 445	1299.5	\$ 220	2.0	4	5	28	12.3
VTel- Londonderry 01	369	Mixed Wireless	1TB	172		\$ 293,345	\$ 795	799	\$ 367	2.2	10	10	23	14.3
Duncan- Wilmington	22	FTTH	no	22	0	\$ 37,631	\$ 1,710	78	\$ 482	3.4	20	14	10	14.7
Vtel- Bolton 01	838	Mixed Wireless	1TB	197	116	\$ 420,595	\$ 502	1621.5	\$ 310	1.8	5	8	32	15.0
Duncan- Dover	13	FTTH	no	11	1	\$ 18,976	\$ 1,460	45	\$ 422	3.0	19	12	16	15.7
VTel- Marlboro 02	287	Mixed Wireless	1TB	90	10	\$ 223,875	\$ 780	537	\$ 417	1.9	9	11	31	17.0
Comcast- Jericho	44	DOCSIS	no	44	9	\$ 83,500	\$ 1,898	132.5	\$ 630	3.0	23	19	15	19.0
Comcast- Swanton	9	DOCSIS	no	9	2	\$ 38,000	\$ 4,222	36.5	\$ 1,041	4.1	34	23	4	20.3
ECFiber- GVCNI	285	FTTP	no	1	0	\$ 661,370	\$ 2,321	715	\$ 925	2.5	24	22	20	22.0
ECFiber-CI	109	FTTP	no	0	1	\$ 456,200	\$ 4,185	372.5	\$ 1,225	3.4	33	30	9	24.0
Comcast- Derby	24	DOCSIS	no	15	0	\$ 31,000	\$ 1,292	37.5	\$ 827	1.6	17	21	36	24.7
WCVT-Bolton	26	FTTP	no	0	7	\$ 112,453	\$ 4,325	82.5	\$ 1,363	3.2	36	34	13	27.7

Total lacking 25/3	Total lacking 4/1	Total Priority	Sum
5842	2233	465	\$ 3,926,650.29
		Balance	
		\$ 73,349.71	

A GUIDE TO THE LINE EXTENSION CUSTOMER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM



Hundreds of Vermonters without high speed Internet service live just beyond the reach of current cable and other Internet Service Providers' networks. The newly launched LECAP provides up to \$3,000 in assistance to qualifying and eligible consumers who need line extensions.

How to Apply

First -- customers request the line extension from the appropriate Internet Service Provider and obtain a written estimate from the provider.

Next -- Apply for financial assistance from the Department of Public Service. Consumers will need to download and complete an [application form](#).

Then -- Submit the application form online by accessing the [Telecom Contact Form](#), completing a few questions and uploading the form and written estimate.

Please review the program [guidelines](#) before applying.

Alternatively, copies of the application form and estimate may also be sent by email to psd.telecom@vermont.gov or by mail to 112 State Street, Montpelier, VT 05620-2601.

About the Program

Vermonters who can demonstrate a COVID-19–related need, such as remote learning/telehealth/telework, lack of a minimum of 25/3 broadband internet service, may apply for assistance for the costs of extending an Internet Service Provider's line to the customer's **residence**. The program covers up to \$3,000 to help pay for the line extension, with any costs beyond that amount paid by the customer.

Approval will be based on need, cost-effectiveness, and site-appropriateness of the line extension.

Payments from this program will be made by the Department directly to the service provider on behalf of the consumer.

For More Information

Vermonters interested in applying for a line extension are encouraged to visit the Department of Public Service's [Line Extension Customer Assistance Program webpage](#). Interested person may also call the Department at 800-622-4496 to ask questions or contact the Department by emailing psd.consumer@vermont.gov or by using the general consumer [online contact form](#).