



BROADBAND EQUITY NOW!



Broadband for the post-pandemic world

- Remote learning
- Work from home
- Streaming
- Telehealth



Equity

- Everyone
- Everywhere



NOW!

Broadband Equity NOW!

Equitable Rescue requires that EVERY Vermont family have an **opportunity** to be fully online within the next two years.

**Affordability is now the
main obstacle to
universal broadband in
Vermont**

Current status of broadband availability in Vermont

- **50%** of Vermont families live in areas have access to both adequate broadband and low-income plans from ISPs.
- **35%** have access at a high price with no low-income plans.
- **15%** have no current terrestrial service available.

New technology and Rescue funds can make it possible for 100% of Vermont families to access adequate broadband almost immediately!

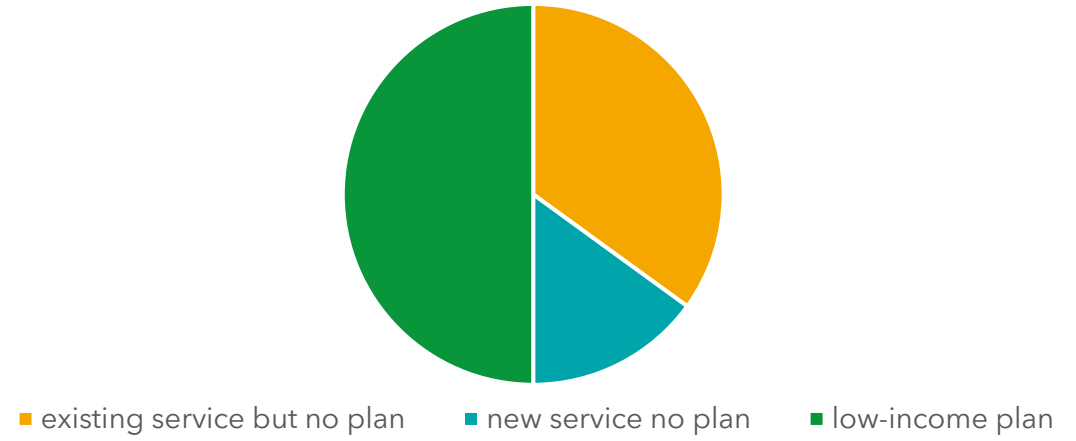
Temporary Rescue Resources for 50,000 Eligible Families:

- **Initial service grants** for equipment and setup (\$6m).
- **Continuing service subsidies** for the neediest with a copay of \$25 through fy2024 (\$15.5m) .
- **The Broadband Corps** (\$5m)
 - find qualified providers regardless of technology that can provide service within months.
 - assist families in obtaining access to funding and in getting service installed and running.

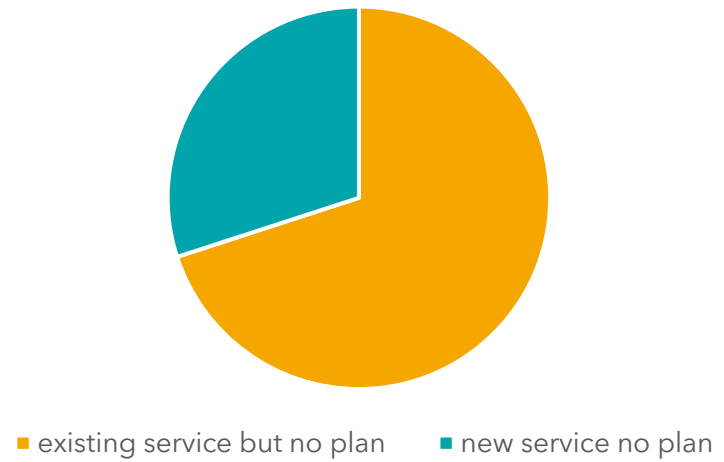
*Note: This is not a long term-plan nor a substitute for one. It is a short-term rescue equity plan.

50,000 families eligible for help

Where they live



% to receive subsidies



Broadband Mbps requirements in the post- pandemic world

- Zoom teleconferencing
 - Standard 1.0 down 0.8 up
 - High definition down 2.6 up
 - Ultra definition down 3.8 up
- Watching video
 - Standard 3.0 down
 - High definition 5.0 down
 - Ultra high definition 25 down

50 down and 5 up are needed today! The need will continue to grow in the future.

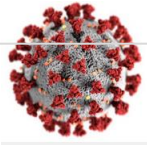
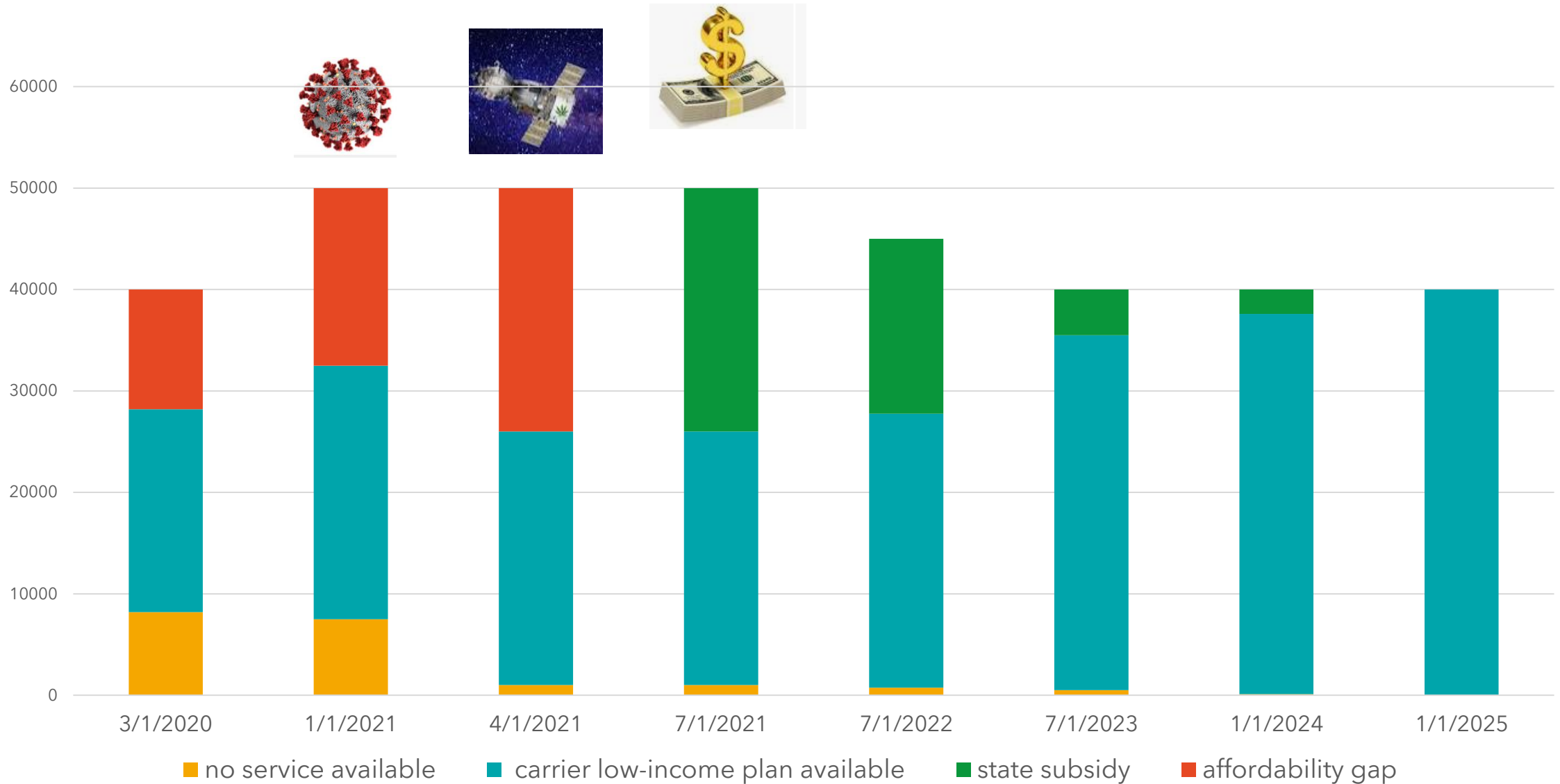
Accessibility Update

- Current Dept. of Public Service maps show 60,000 E911 addresses without a qualified provider.
- It will take a minimum of five years to reach all these addresses with a fiber buildout.
- Addresses at the end of the road can now be served within months with wireless services including new low earth orbit satellites (LEOS).
- **The problem of accessibility has become a problem of affordability.**

Sunset
subsidies by
replacing with
low-income
plans from ISPs
who build with
CARES and
ARPA funds

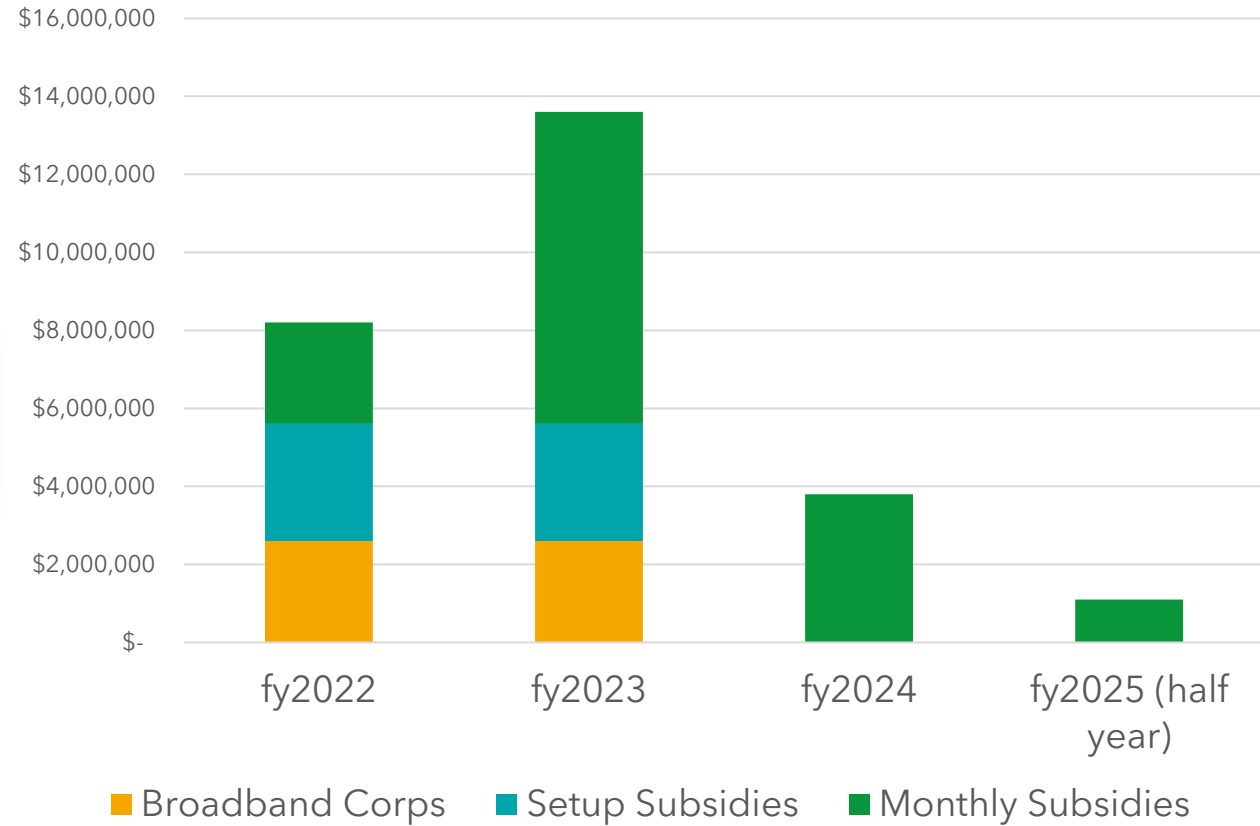
- ISPs who build with State support should be required to offer a low-income plan at no more than \$25/month and no hookup charge
 - Immediately in newly built areas
 - By the beginning of FY2024 in their current service areas
- ISPs gain by having low or no interest money for buildouts, more subscribers per mile of new buildout, and two years of full subscriber-subsidy on old footprint.

Closing the Broadband Affordability Gap



Broadband Subsidies Sunset at the End of 2024

State Expenditures from CARES and ARPA Funds





The timeline for low- income Vermonters assuming legislative approval

- July 1, 2021 - Rescue subsidies available.
- Aug 1, 2021 - Broadband Corps providing help in finding providers, accessing aid, and getting hooked up
- June 30, 2023- All who want access should have it. Hookup subsidies and Broadband Corps signup role end.
- July 1, 2023 - ISPs that took state funding for buildout required to provide low-income plan in their initial territory.
- December 30, 2024 - All Rescue-funded programs end.

Universal broadband has been promised for years. Why will it happen now?

- New technology makes it possible to get to the end of the road now.
- Lots of federal money.
- State control over allocation of Rescue funds.

Broadband Equity NOW! Working with Others

Partners



VERMONT TECH

Equal
Access to
Broadband Inc.
we're not connected
until everyone can afford broadband

Advisers



VT Chapter



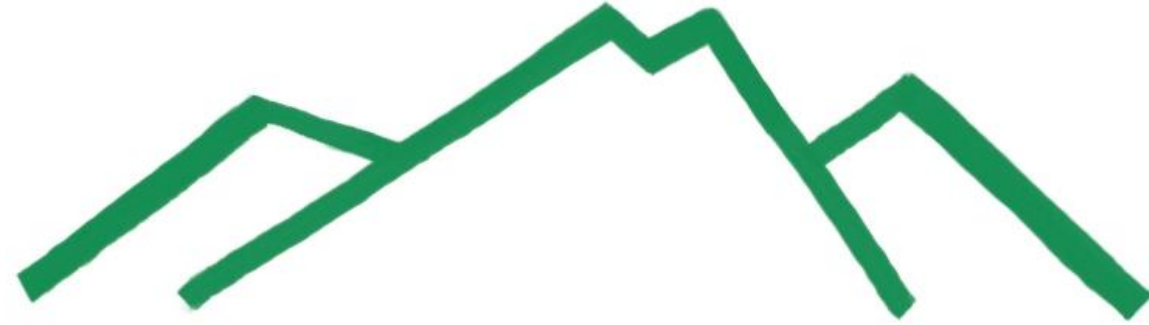


The New Vermont Needs Universal Broadband Now

“At CVOEO access to services and care is the most important thing we do. If we do not increase accessible, low-cost broadband, we cannot further our efforts to educate our Head Start students, create new businesses through our micro-business development program, educate and advocate in our housing programs or increase food access in the Champlain Valley.

“Without improving access for all populations, public health disparities and economic gaps will persist, widen and deepen. Access to broadband is a social justice and public health issue.”

Paul Dragon CEO of CVOEO



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Appendices

What is the organization Broadband Equity Now?

A special purpose Vermont nonprofit dedicated to achieving the goal of broadband equity for Vermont by the end of 2022.

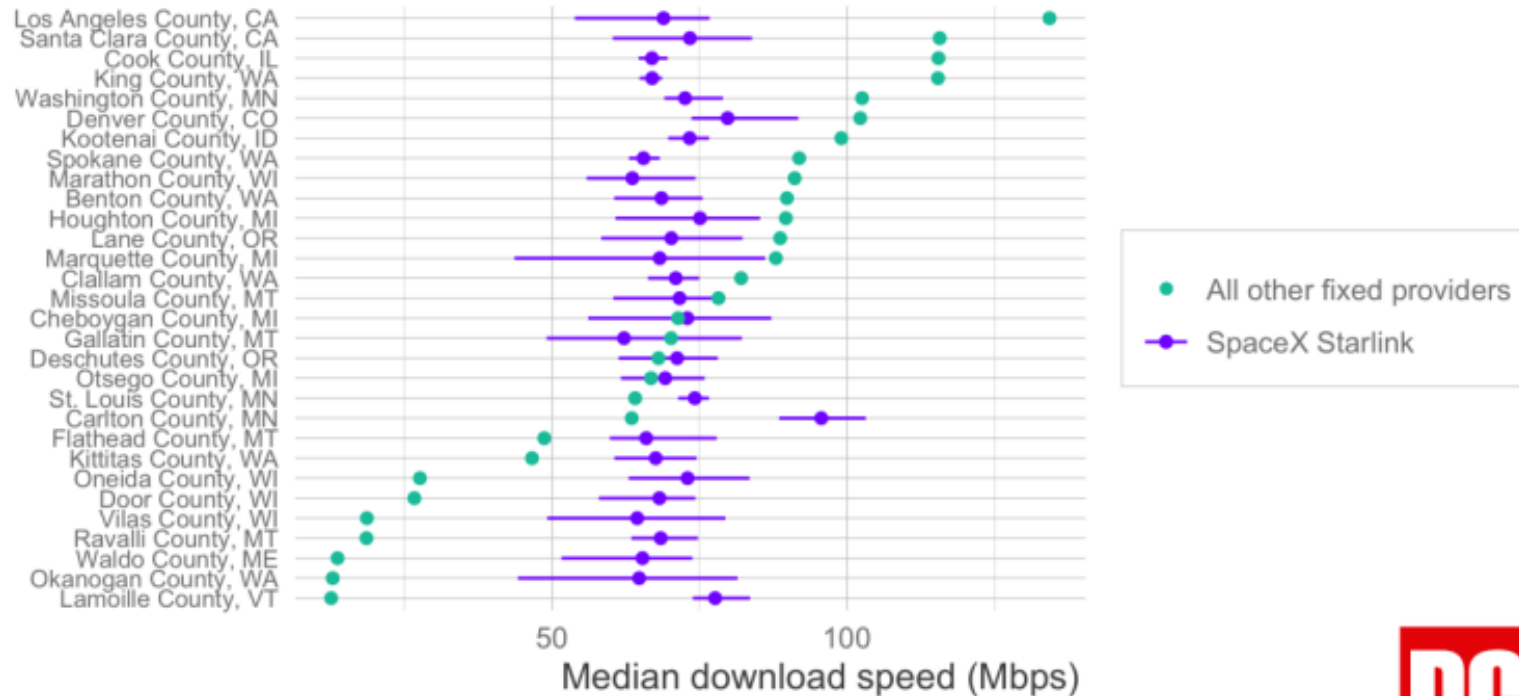
- Provides seed funding and organization for the Broadband Corps so it can be “shovel ready” by August 1, 2021 if further funded by the legislature.
- Coordinates with CCV, VTC, United Way of NW Vermont, Vermont 211, VT Community Foundation, Equal Access Broadband, Community Action agencies, and others for Corps training and support.
- Works with the administration and legislature to assure that CARES and American Rescue Funds are available to eligible families to achieve broadband equity now.

Broadband Equity Now is philanthropically funded and accepts no financial help from providers of broadband service, their owners, or their suppliers.

PC Magazine shows Lamoille, VT as the US county most benefitting from Starlink today

Starlink's 30 best counties

Speedtest® data, December 2020 to present (February 24, 2021)



95% confidence intervals v1.1



Well-to-do Vermonters are already benefitting from Starlink and mobile internet. The broadband equity gap will grow if needy Vermonters at the end of the road cannot afford access to new technologies like this.