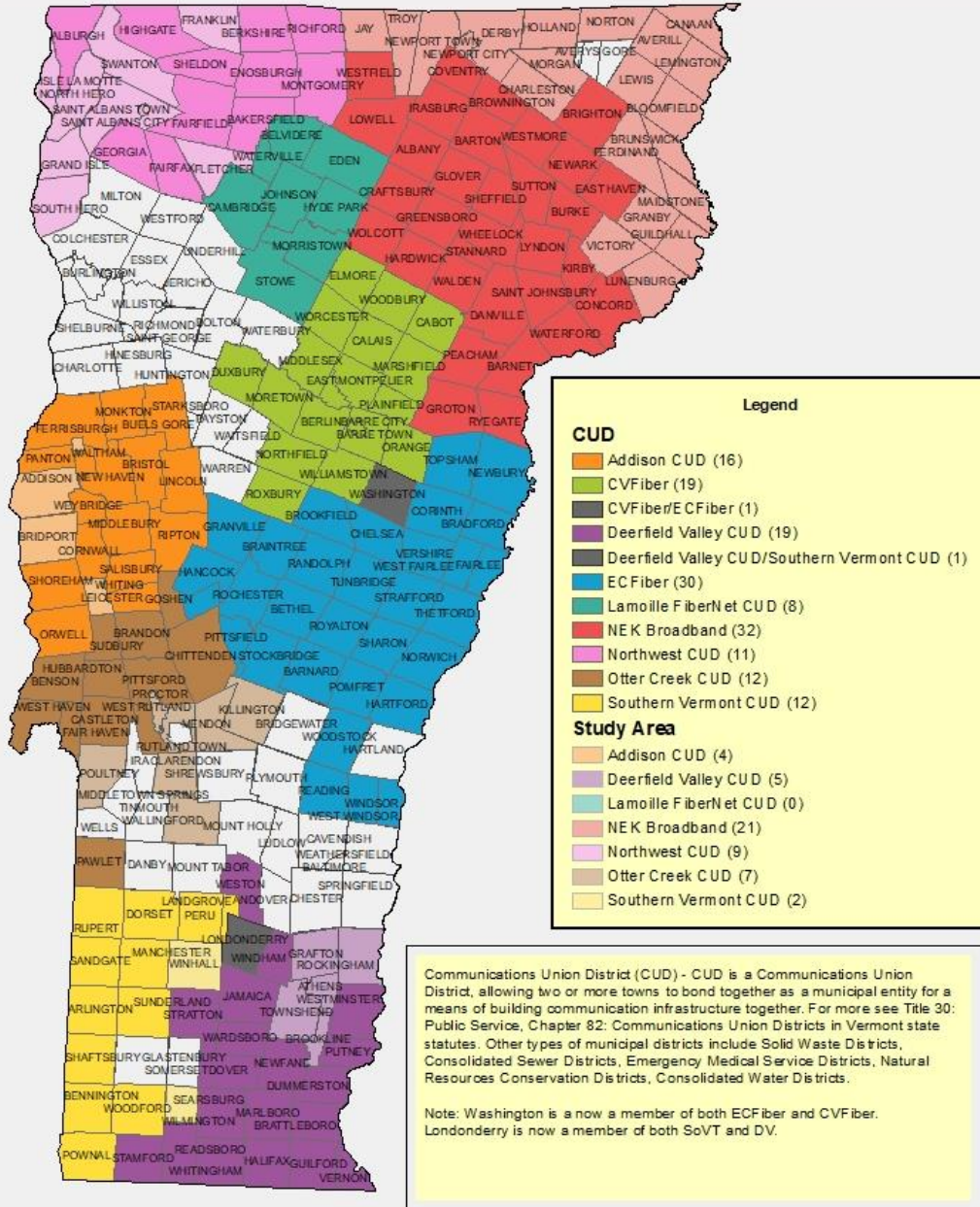


Overview: Communications Union Districts



Winter 2021

- 9 Districts
- 162 Member Towns
- 57 Towns in Study Areas
- 324 Volunteer Board Reps & Alternates)

CURRENT CHALLENGE: Adapting the ECFiber Model to current realities and doing it in 1/10 the time

Immediate Needs

- **Pre-Construction (pole studies, high level designed, engineering, etc) – at least \$1.5M**

The most immediate need for the CUDs is to develop at least one shovel-ready project ready in expectation of an influx of federal funds.

Detailed plans and data that can be leveraged in negotiations with private-providers, a contribution that can be used to access a VEDA loan, and creates a binder of shovel-ready projects that can be massaged quickly to meet federal guidelines in any new program.

Immediate Needs

- **Administrative and Project Management Support (~\$50k/CUD/YR)**

These funds would support from the Regional Planning Commissions or other contracted administrative support that is about to or has already ended. This support has been essential to the CUDs efforts to respond to connectivity needs during the pandemic, including evaluating needs and accelerating build-outs.

Immediate Needs

- **Professional Expertise (\$100k-\$200k)**

Programs related to the pandemic have resulted in an ongoing need to continuously update feasibility and business plans. There is also increased interest and opportunities for collaboration between CUDS and between CUDS and private providers.

Immediate Needs

- **Support for Grant Writing - Assist the state and CUDs in identifying and applying for federal funds (~\$60k)**

Applying for federal funds and managing those grants is a specialized skill.

With additional federal funds available and/or expected for telehealth, remote learning, affordability, and infrastructure, funding a single temporary position would assist the State and the CUDs in capturing these federal funds. This role would complement the Broadband Project Developer role funded by the Northern Borders Grant.