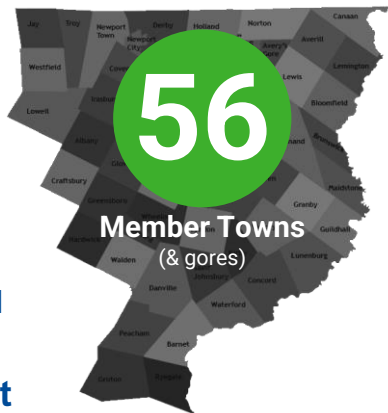




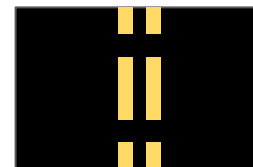
Legislative Testimony

Christa Shute
Executive Director
January 31, 2023



17,000+

Un/underserved addresses represent **32.3% of state total**
38.7% of state UNSERVED
only **10% of state population**



2800+

Miles of fiber to construct
\$196M

Accomplishments To Date

- Construction and Operator contracts
- Took on 170 miles of state fiber
- **Constructed fiber to over 500 premise**
- Completed over \$1 million in CARES and USDA RDBG pilots in Concord, Lunenburg, and Waterford
- Construction workers will be 95% NEK residents by contract
- 5 full-time employees
- Secured \$31M+ in Grant Funds

Current Activities

- 100+ volunteers
- Working groups - affordability, communications, technology,
- Executive and Finance Committee
- Building statewide capacity CFO and standardized reporting
- \$30M-\$44M in Construction grants
- \$23.5M ReConnect Application
- \$5 Million VEDA Loan
- Affordable Connectivity Program

2023 Goals

- Secure Additional Grant Funds
- Build 350 miles of infrastructure
- Pass 3000 customers
- Complete wholesale agreements
- Upgrade State Fiber & Northern Enterprise Asset Transfer
- Update Business Plan with New Financing Details
- Secure non-federal match for ReConnect and BEAD grants

8 STEPS TO BROADBAND

DISTRICT MAP
AND FUNDING

STEP
01

NEK
BROADBAND

DEVELOPING
INTEREST:
CROWDFIBER

STEP
02

MBI, NRTC,
AND WCVT

DESIGN AND
ENGINEERING

STEP
03

NRTC

PERMITS AND
LICENSES

STEP
04

NRTC
AND KK ROW

MAKE-READY

STEP
05

MBI

CONSTRUCTION
AND
INSPECTION

STEP
06

EUSTIS
AND NRTC

EQUIPMENT OLT
CABINET

STEP
07

NRTC
AND WCVT

HOME
INSTALLATIONS


STEP
08

WCVT

- **\$3.8M** in Material in St.J & Brighton warehouse
- **612 Miles of Make-Ready** in process
- 10 OLT Cabinets in Easement and Construction
- **150 miles under construction** and hired local
- 1,700+ CrowdFiber pre-registration

What we need to be successful

- Supporting strategies to build a reliable **WORKFORCE** to keep construction on track and sustained long term
- Ensuring **AFFORDABILITY** of service for every household
- **Public Infrastructure and Accountability** means we will reinvest profits into the community to build infrastructure and enhance affordability programs
- Affordability doesn't mean lowering everyone's price – it means **getting lower costs and education to those in need** by lowering construction and operational costs, securing grants, and creating quality programs.



“..we're very grateful for the opportunity to finally have broadband access. I honestly didn't think that we would have it for another 5 or 10 years.”

- **George, Concord, VT**
NEK Broadband Customer

