



Department of Corrections

WiFi Installation Efforts

Background



- DOC facilities currently have limited cellular service and no WiFi, with the exception of an education network for classroom spaces and access to services through the tablets
- WiFi in facilities would benefit both staff and the incarcerated population:
 - Increased educational opportunities, ie. remote courses from living units
 - Increased vocational training opportunities
 - Increased language access
 - Modernizes the workplace
 - Reduce paperwork
 - Online equipment and staffing logbooks

Installation Efforts Timeline



May 2022	2023	2023-2025	Spring 2024-2025	2025-Present
Heat Mapping Study DOC worked with ADS to source a vendor for a heat mapping study of all six correctional facilities. Cost: \$106,698 (DOC funds)	WiFi Installation Estimate Received Initial project cost was \$3,279,276 for install and equipment costs. Note: Cost likely higher now due to inflation	External Funding Advocacy DOC met with Vermont Community Broadband Board and USAID to explore external funding options through BEAD funding.	Continued External Funding Advocacy House Corrections & Institutions and Agency of Digital Services sent letters of support to Community Broadband Board.	Continued External Funding Advocacy DOC reengaged VCBB in January about new federal guidance on use of remaining BEAD funds.



Questions?

Contact



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Appendix

BEAD Funds Background



Through the \$65-billion Infrastructure, Investment, and Jobs Act (IIJA), signed into law by President Joe Biden in 2021, the federal government authorized [broadband funding for Vermont](#) totaling more than \$474 million. Managed by the Vermont Community Broadband Board (VCBB), these dollars [will support](#) infrastructure deployment, mapping, planning and community outreach, and broadband adoption statewide.

In November 2024, the federal government [awarded](#) Vermont an initial \$5.3 million to implement its [Digital Equity Plan](#), which identifies eight [federally designated](#) “covered populations” who will benefit from targeted broadband investment. The plan names incarcerated individuals as one of the vulnerable groups in the covered populations.