



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



# 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.