



Virginia Office of Broadband: Closing the Digital Divide in the Commonwealth

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VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING
AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
Partners for Better Communities



Agenda

- Office of Broadband Responsibilities and Programs
- Served and Unserved Locations in Virginia
- Landscape of Funding and Coverage in Virginia
- Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment Program (BEAD)
- Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment Program (BEAD) Non-Deployment Initiatives
- Virginia Telecommunication Initiative (VATI)

Virginia Broadband Expansion in National Context

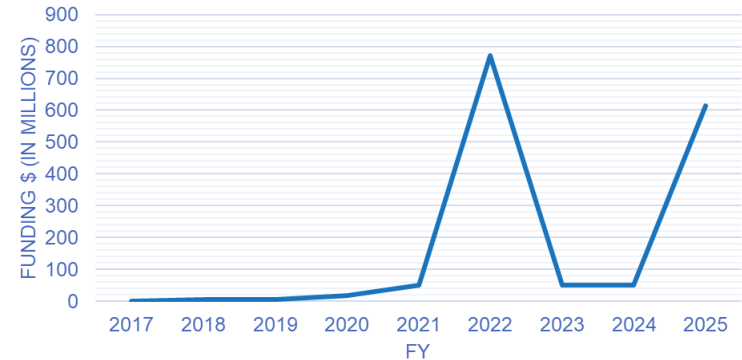
Key Takeaways

Virginia was ahead of the curve nationally in investing in the expansion of broadband infrastructure, which placed unprecedented demand on the utility locate system. Early action and broad collaboration here allowed the Commonwealth time to develop a strong partnership with incumbent providers critical for achieving universal broadband access.

ARPA and IIJA combined allocated more than \$70 billion to states to fund broadband expansion nationally. Virginia was able to allocate more than \$720 million in ARPA funds in 2022 thanks to VATI experience and strong partnerships.

The BEAD program and its \$1.4 billion allocation is the last step for the Commonwealth to reach functionally universal broadband access, and utility partnerships will be essential to the program's success.

Funding for Broadband Infrastructure Expansion in VA





Office of Broadband Responsibilities

- Assist communities with Broadband Planning efforts
- Provide technical assistance to stakeholders on accessing Tribal and Federal broadband programs
- Oversight of the State Broadband Map
- Develop and manage the Broadband Project Dashboard
- Staff the Broadband Advisory Council
- Technical Assistance, Grants Management
- Administer the following programs:
 - Virginia Telecommunication Initiative (VATI)
 - Line Extension Customer Assistance Program (LECAP)
 - *Forthcoming* Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program



Office of Broadband Programs

Deployment Programs

Virginia Telecommunication Initiative (VATI)

VATI extends broadband service to currently unserved areas by preparing communities to build, utilize, and capitalize on telecommunications infrastructure to create strong, competitive communities.

Line Extension Customer Assistance Program (LECAP)

The Line Extension Customer Assistance Program is designed to support the extension of existing broadband networks to low-to-moderate income residents.

Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program (BEAD)

The Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program is Virginia's opportunity to finish the job on extending broadband access and also make long-term, transformational investments into broadband affordability and adoption.

Non-Deployment Programs*

Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program Non-Deployment Initiatives (BEAD ND)

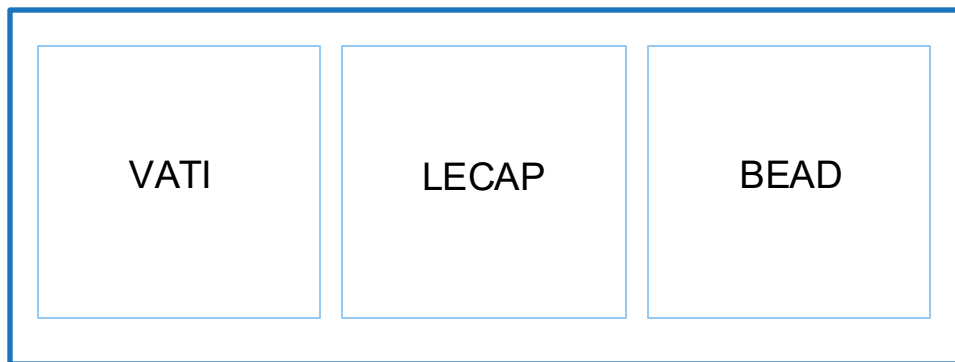
Virginia's work to build on the momentum of addressing broadband access to close the whole digital divide.

* Pending revised guidance from the Department of Commerce on allowable uses of non-deployment funds.

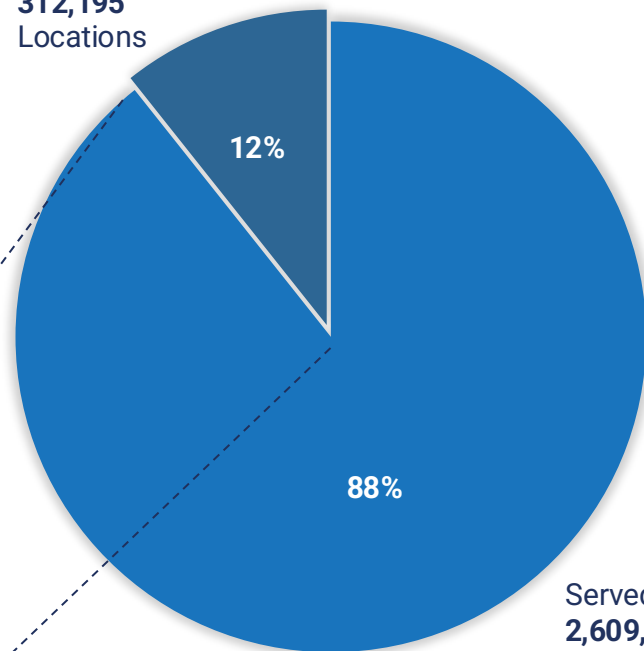


Served and Unserved Locations in Virginia

- Nearly 90% of locations (homes, businesses, and community buildings) in Virginia already have access to broadband.
- The Virginia Office of Broadband aims to achieve universal connectivity in the Commonwealth through the administration of three broadband deployment programs:



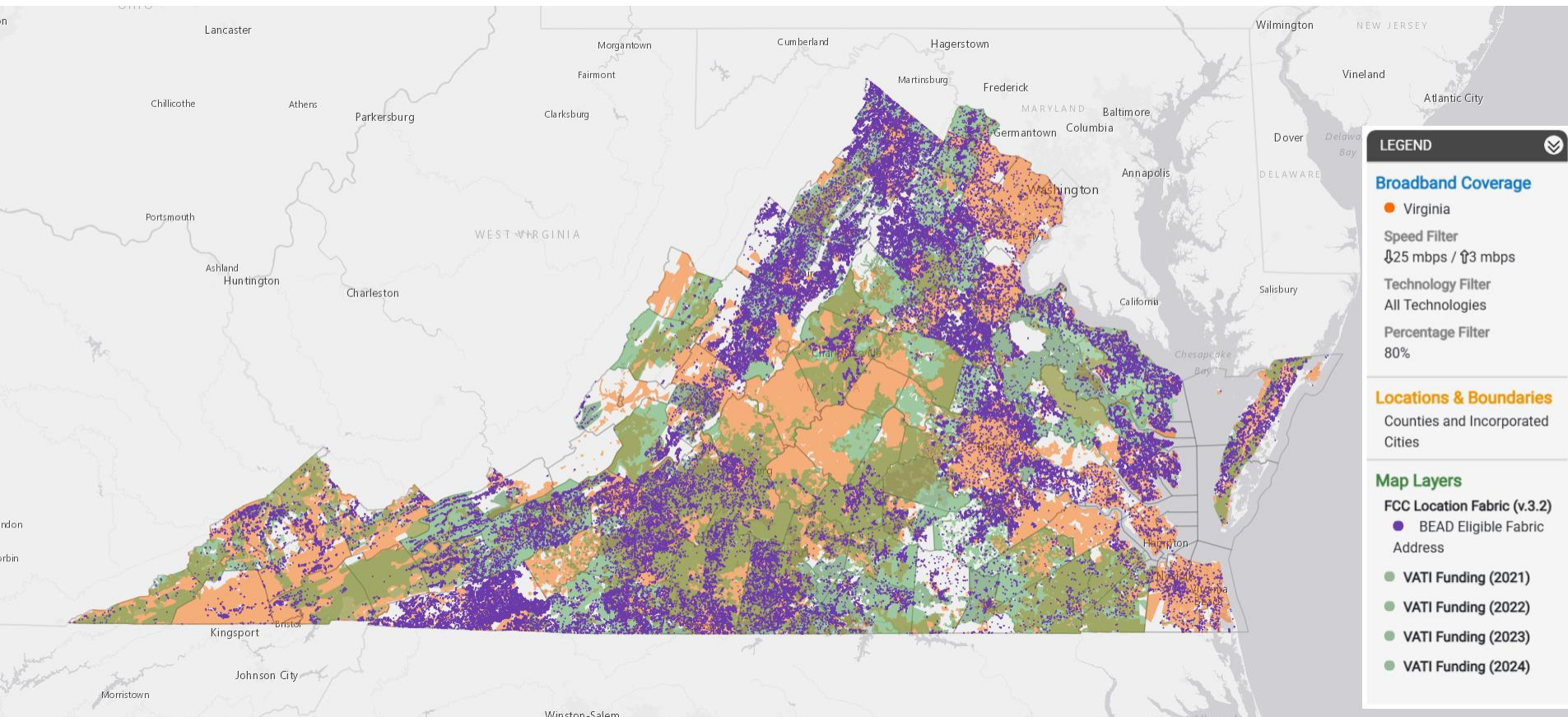
Unserved
312,195
Locations



Served
2,609,169
Locations



Landscape of Funding and Coverage in Virginia





Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program (BEAD)

Virginia was allocated \$1.48 billion of federal investment under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act to reach universal broadband coverage in the Commonwealth. On August 29th, the Commonwealth recommended **\$613.3 million** in grant awards for deployment projects to the U.S.

Department of Commerce for final approval of Virginia's BEAD Final Proposal. **This funding will be used to deploy broadband service to the remaining 133,472 unserved locations in the Commonwealth.**

The remaining funding from Virginia's BEAD allocation is reserved for broadband-related, non-deployment initiatives.

BEAD Timeline in Virginia

June 2023
Virginia is allocated \$1.48 billion from the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) program under the Biden Administration.



September 2023
Virginia submits their 5-Year Plan and Initial Proposal Volume 2 under the BEAD program, detailing how the Commonwealth plans to spend their BEAD allocation and allowing Virginia to formally request access to its BEAD funding allocation.



July 2024
The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) approves Virginia's 5-Year Plan and Initial Proposal Volume 2.



June 6, 2025
NTIA publishes the BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice that halts all non-deployment program development and activities until further guidance is provided.



August 2025
Virginia submits their BEAD Final Proposal which only includes information on broadband deployment activities, per the NTIA policy notice.



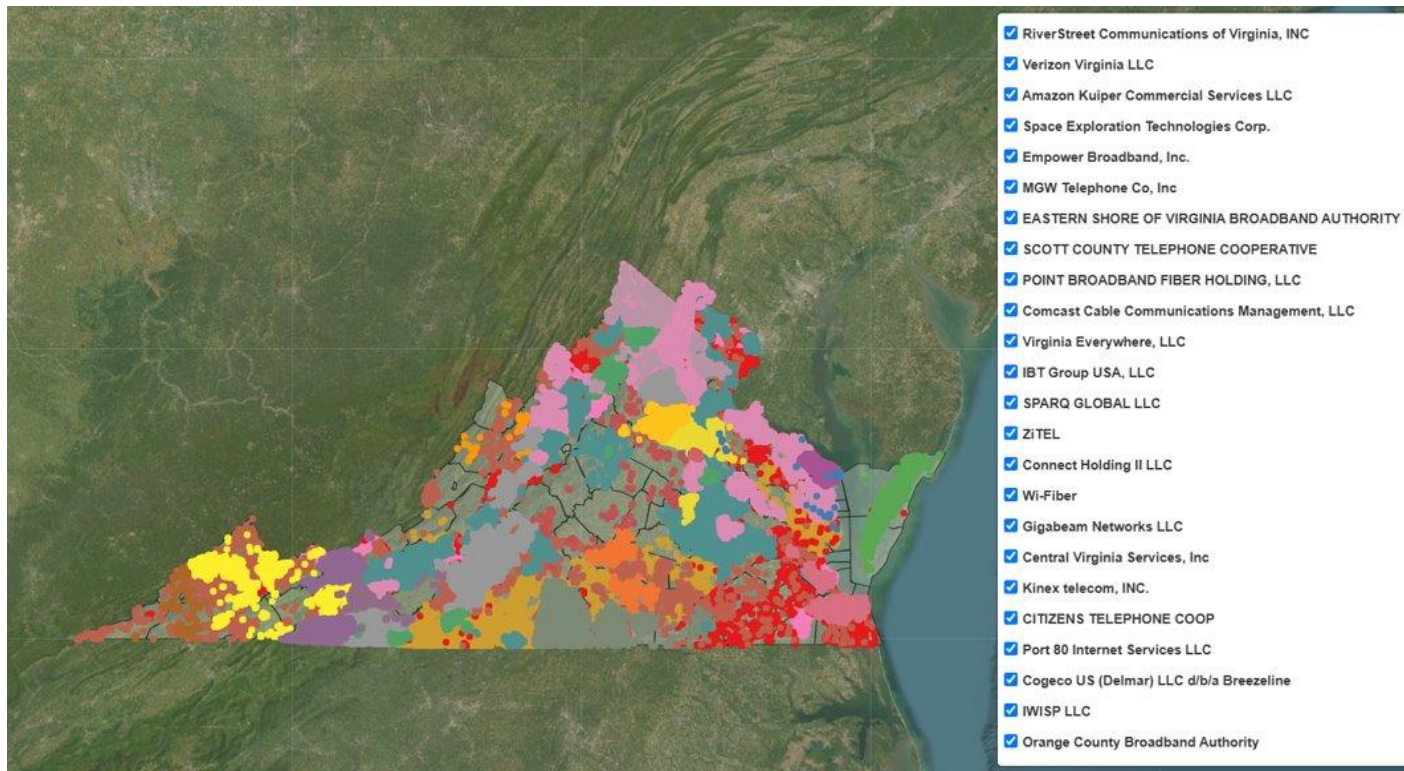
Winter 2025
Anticipated time NTIA will approve Virginia's Final Proposal and issued deployment award under BEAD program.



Spring 2026
Anticipated time Virginia will be able to start deployment construction under BEAD program.



Proposed BEAD Awards





Proposed Uses for BEAD Non-Deployment Funding

The Commonwealth of Virginia was awarded \$1.48B in BEAD funds and DHCD is finalizing plans to extend broadband infrastructure to the remaining unserved locations. Virginia could have over \$800 million in remaining BEAD funding to design non-deployment programs to meaningfully address broadband affordability and adoption.

Non-deployment programs address the digital divide beyond access to broadband infrastructure, after deployment projects have been funded.

Category	Description
Cellular Connectivity*	Identify gaps in cell coverage and build infrastructure through private sector partnerships to serve regions without voice and data cell coverage.
Multi Dwelling Unit (MDU) Connectivity*	Identify MDUs that don't have unit level broadband availability and extend connectivity to units.
Gap Fill Long Term Connectivity Barriers*	Utilize innovative technologies to reach locations that will be inevitably mis-mapped under BEAD.

** Pending revised guidance from the Department of Commerce on allowable uses of non-deployment funds.*

Virginia Telecommunication Initiative (VATI)

FY17-FY24 Overview



Applications Received
260



Funding Requested
\$1.3 billion



Funding Awarded
\$976.6 million



Match Leveraged
\$1.3 billion



Total Projects
111

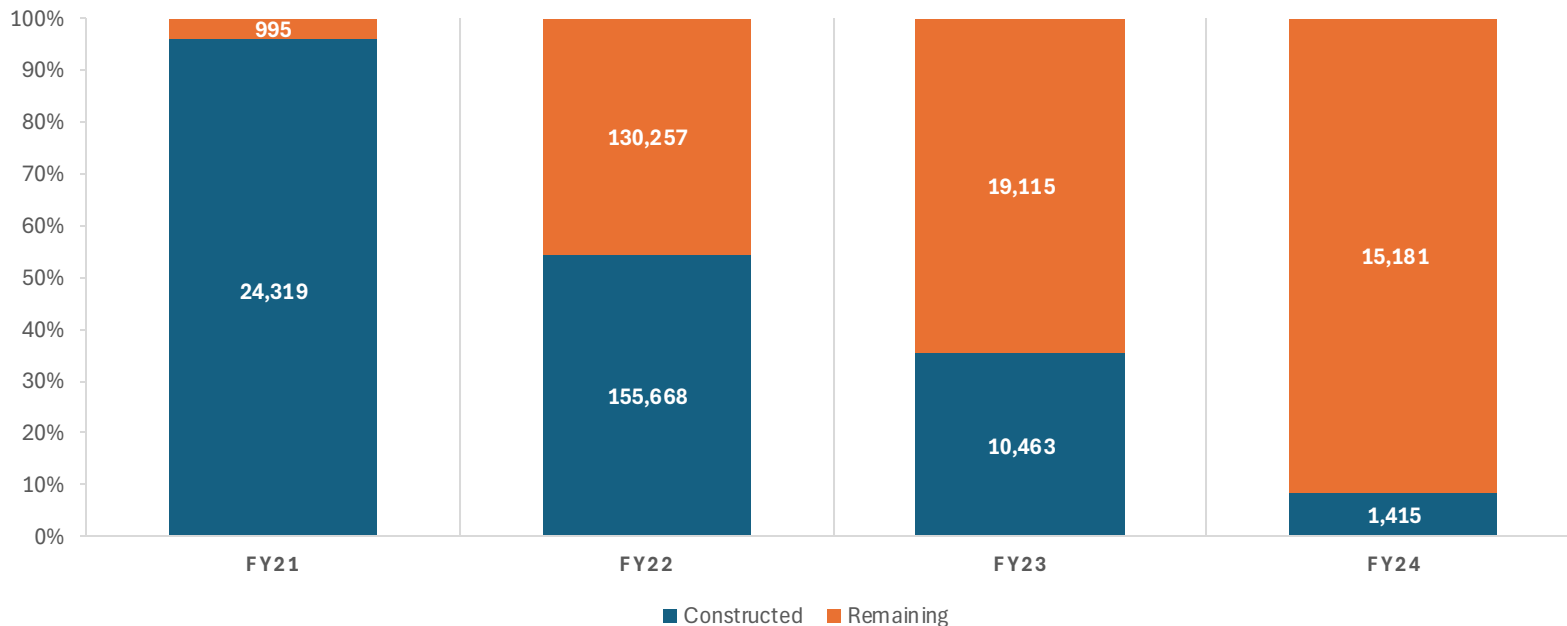


Serviceable Locations
406,554



Virginia Telecommunication Initiative (VATI)

VATI PROJECT PROGRESS – PASSINGS CONSTRUCTED VS. REMAINING AS OF SEPTEMBER 2025

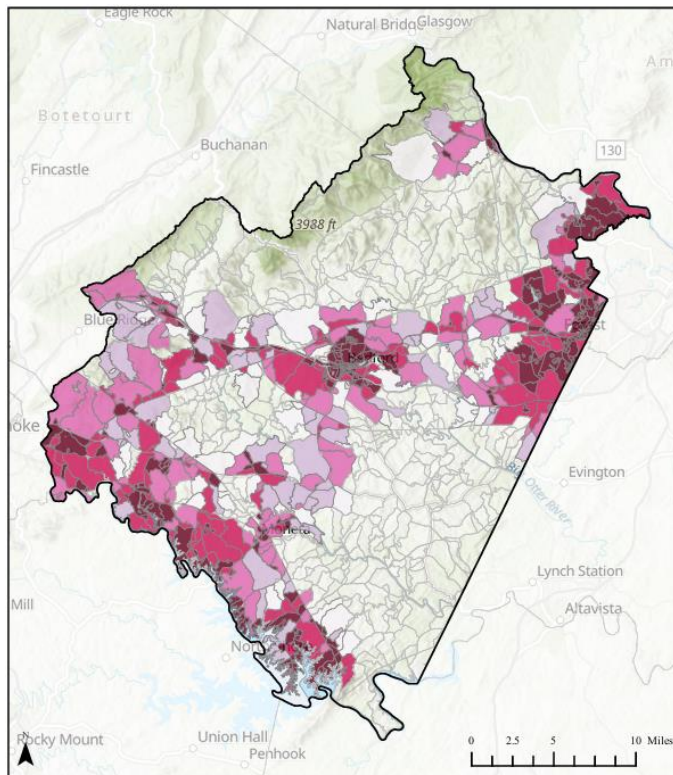




VATI Build Progress Map – Bedford County

Left Map represents
coverage as of June
30, 2022

Right Map represents
coverage as of June
30, 2025

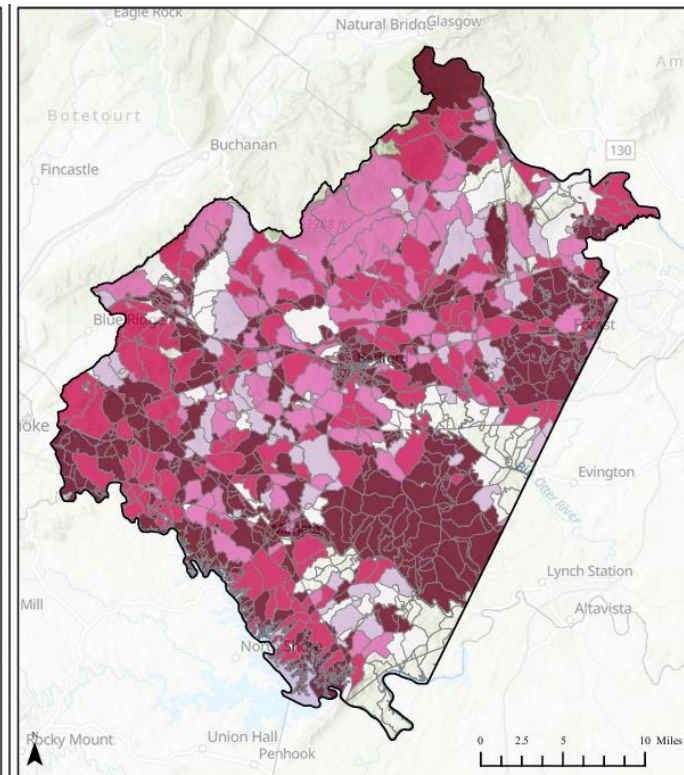


Coverage as of 6/30/2022

Percent of Census Block Served by Cable/Fiber



Basemap service: Esri, CGIAR, USGS, VGIN, Esri, TomTom, Garmin, SafeGraph, FAO, MET/NASA, USGS, EPA, NPS, USFWS



Coverage as of 12/31/2024 (supplemented with preliminary 6/30/2025 submissions)

Percent of Census Block Served by Cable/Fiber

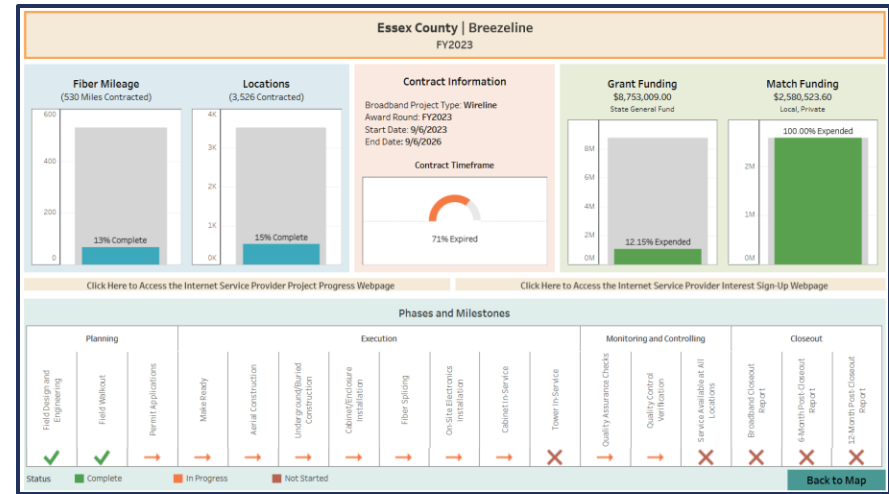
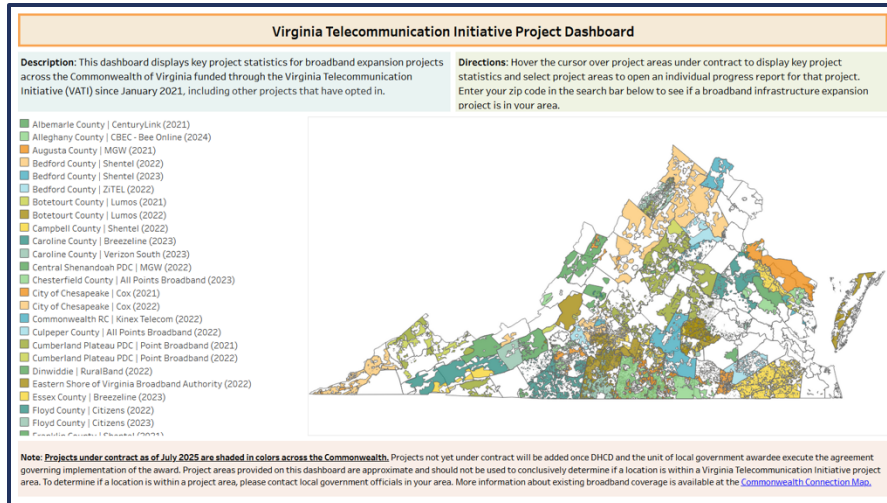




VATI Progress Dashboard

The VATI Progress Dashboard tracks the progress of VATI projects. The dashboard is updated quarterly.

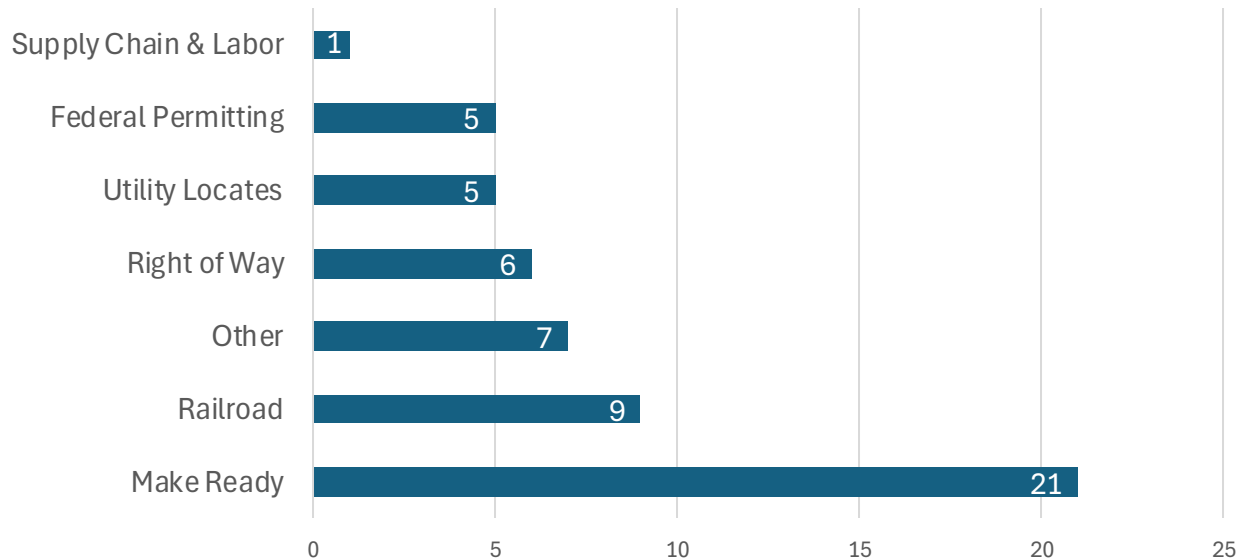
<https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/viriniadhcd/viz/VATIDashboard/Overall>





VATI Project Delay Data

Reasons for Project Delay
as of April 2025 Monthly Reports





VA811 and Office of Broadband Partnership

Virginia 811 has brought on two BEAD-funded Broadband Support Specialists to assist with the unprecedented level of underground utility activity in the Commonwealth driven by broadband expansion.

These specialists are already assisting broadband expansion in VA:

- Review and improve locate request accuracy for broadband projects.
- Support excavators with best practices and compliance with the Virginia Damage Prevention Act.
- Coordinate with telecommunications companies to anticipate locate needs up to six months in advance.
- Communicate directly with Local Damage Prevention Committees (LDPCs) and Advisory Committees to share updates and provide on-the-ground assistance.



Areas for Improvement

- Office of Broadband staff will soon engage with provisional BEAD awardees to get projects started.
- VATI projects are active across the Commonwealth, with some FY23 and FY24 projects just beginning or nearing construction.

What can we do in our regular dialogue with ISPs and other project stakeholders to improve collaboration and ultimately speed deployment?



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THANK YOU

Contact Us

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QUICK REMINDER

Share Your Feedback While It's Fresh!

DHCD Bead and VATI Updates
Wednesday | October 29, 2025
1:30 PM – 2:30 PM | Albermarle Hall



- Take a minute to complete surveys after session completion.
- Your thoughts help us improve future sessions.
- Filling it out right after the session means you don't have to worry about it later!



SCAN FOR SURVEY

Your feedback matters — **help us improve.**

