Commonwealth Connect

Update to VATOA Conference

July 12, 2019

VATI Program Description

- Public-Private partnership that provides financial assistance to supplement construction costs by private sector providers to extend services to areas that are presently unserved by any broadband provider

- "Unserved" is defined as having access to broadband speeds of 10Mbps per second download/1Mbps per second upload or less

Virginia Telecommunication Initiative

2017 VATI	
Locality/Coapplicant	**Award**
AlbemarleCounty/Century Link	$118,400
Augusta County/Lingo	$278,880
Bland County/WVVA.net	$192,141
Gloucester county/Cox	$193,094
Greensville County/Telpage	$162,334
Total	**$944,849**

2018 VATI	
Locality/Coapplicant	**Award**
Albemarle County/Comcast	$473,366
Mecklenburg County/Buggs Island Telco	$217,173
Spotsylvania County/Comcast	$167,260
Total	**$857,799**

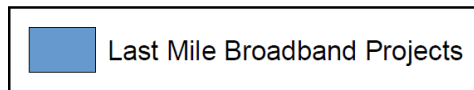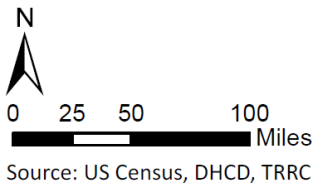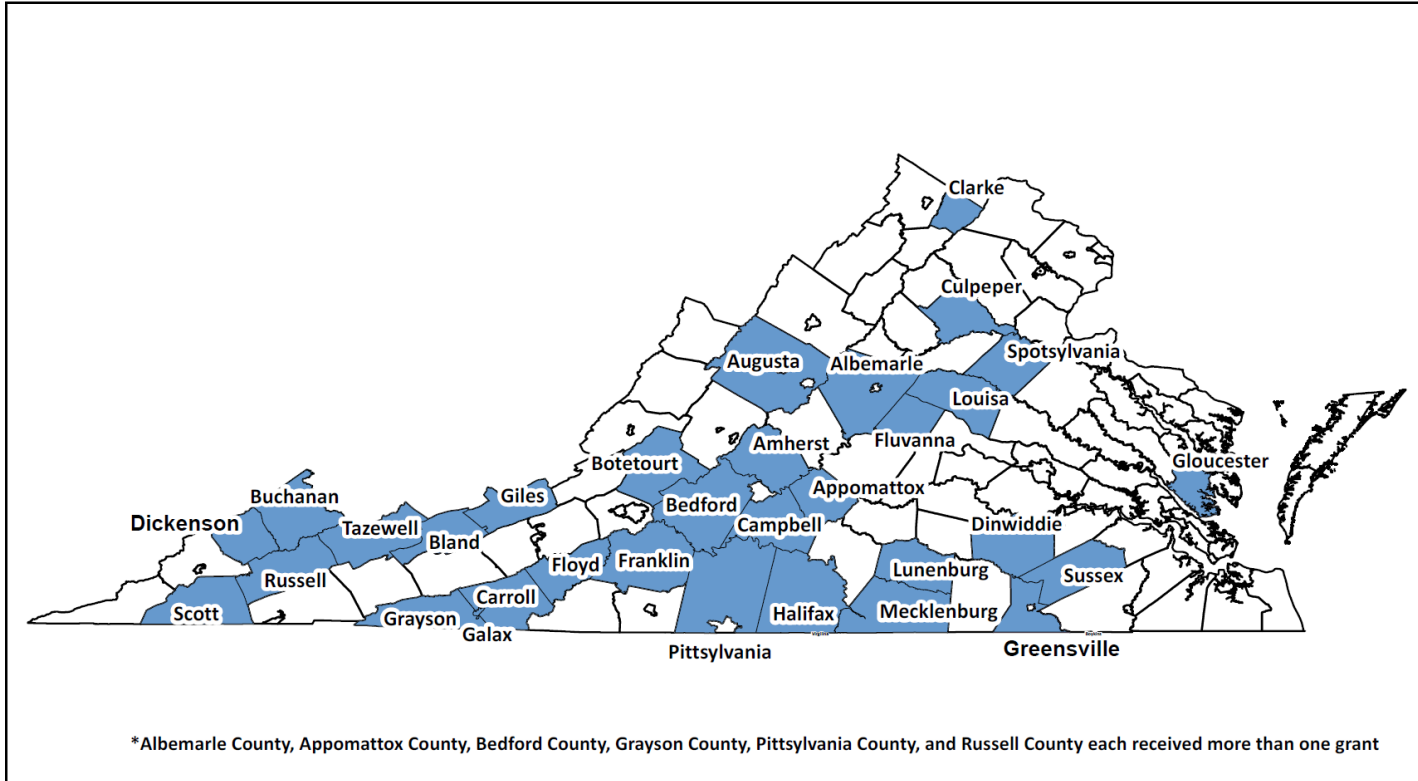| 2019 VATI	
Locality/Coapplicant	**Award**
Albemarle County Broadband Authority/CVEC	$301,748
Amherst County/SCS Broadband	$127,073
Bedford County/Blue Ridge	$1,040,000
Botetourt County/CBEC	$758,998
Clarke County/Comcast	$209,513
Floyd County/Citizens	$348,018
Giles County/Gigabeam	$589,444
Halifax County/SCS Broadband	$231,108
Louisa County/SCS Broadband	$233,905
IDA of Russell County/iGo	$455,581
Fluvanna County/CVEC (Letter of Intent)	$641,967
Total	**$4,937,355**

TRRC Last Mile

2018 TRRC

Locality/Project	Award
Appomattox County/CVEC	$979,850
Appomattox County/Shentel	$45,000
Bedford/Comcast	$3,500,000
Caroll, Grayson, Galax Regional Industrial Facility/The Wired Road	$300,000
Dinwiddie County/Regional Broadband Initiative	$1,708,090
Halifax County Broadband Initiative	$206,202
Mecklenburg County/EMPower	$2,611,391
Pittsylvania County Broadband Initiative	$491,000
Sussex County Broadband Inititiatve	$1,250,000
Total	**$11,091,533**

2019 TRRC

Locality/Project	Award
Appomattox County/Pamplin Area Broadband	$600,000
Bedford/Bedford County Project	$670,500
Campbell County/Southeast Project	$156,313
Carroll County IDA/Wired Road	$200,000
Cumberland Plateau/Cleveland Broadband Expansion	$544,137
Franklin County/Broadband Authority	$650,000
Grayson County/Connect Grayson	$325,000
Halifax County Broadband Initiative/Phase 2	$334,396
IDA of Dickenson County/Honey Camp Last Mile	$65,000
IDA of Russell/North Central Russell/South Buchanan Counties	$1,900,000
Lunenburg County/Kinex Telecom	$439,069
Pittsylvania County/MEC	$375,549
Scott County Telephone Cooperative/Weber City	$1,500,000
Tazewell County IDA/Wireless Authority	$150,000
Total	**$7,909,964**

Last Mile Broadband Projects: 2017-2019

*Albemarle County, Appomattox County, Bedford County, Grayson County, Pittsylvania County, and Russell County each received more than one grant

Last Mile Broadband Projects

Source: US Census, DHCD, TRRC

6/11/2019

Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development

- 31 applications received requesting **$10.3 million** in funding from 25 localities partnering with 17 different internet service providers; applications leveraged **$13.2 million** in private and local spending

- **$4.9 million** awarded, leveraging over **$9 million** in private and local match to 11 projects

- Connecting **14,923** Virginia residents, businesses, and community anchors

- Funded **14 projects** at a cost of **$7.9 million**
- Connecting over **16,000** new homes and businesses
- Leveraged **$15.1 million** in private and local matching funds

- **71,396** Virginia residents, businesses and community anchors will have access to broadband

- **$25.7** million awarded

- 86 applications received; $42.1 million in requests
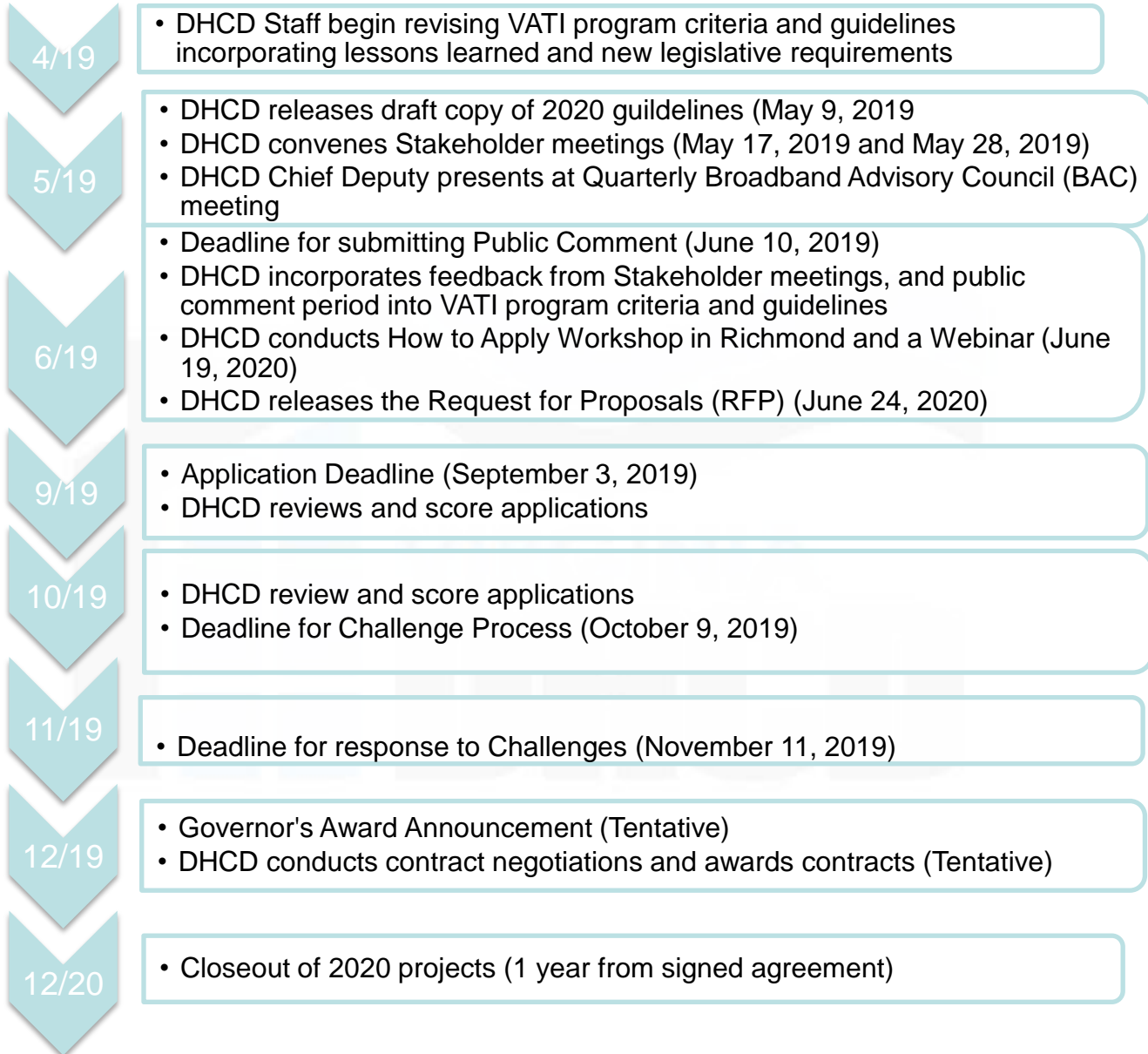
- 43 projects awarded across 31 localities

- $19 million in funding for FY2020
- Focused on unserved areas
- Cost-effective given the proposed technology and proposed speeds
- Challenge Process
- Additional Staff

FY20 VATI Timeline

4/19
- DHCD Staff begin revising VATI program criteria and guidelines incorporating lessons learned and new legislative requirements

5/19
- DHCD releases draft copy of 2020 guildelines (May 9, 2019
- DHCD convenes Stakeholder meetings (May 17, 2019 and May 28, 2019)
- DHCD Chief Deputy presents at Quarterly Broadband Advisory Council (BAC) meeting

6/19
- Deadline for submitting Public Comment (June 10, 2019)
- DHCD incorporates feedback from Stakeholder meetings, and public comment period into VATI program criteria and guidelines
- DHCD conducts How to Apply Workshop in Richmond and a Webinar (June 19, 2020)
- DHCD releases the Request for Proposals (RFP) (June 24, 2020)

9/19
- Application Deadline (September 3, 2019)
- DHCD reviews and score applications

10/19
- DHCD review and score applications
- Deadline for Challenge Process (October 9, 2019)

11/19
- Deadline for response to Challenges (November 11, 2019)

12/19
- Governor's Award Announcement (Tentative)
- DHCD conducts contract negotiations and awards contracts (Tentative)

12/20
- Closeout of 2020 projects (1 year from signed agreement)

Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development

Planning Efforts

- Providers to partner with localities/regions to engineer universal broadband coverage across a locality/region.
- Broadband team will provide guidance documents and technical support.
- Reduces "cherry picking"
- VATI projects will become larger as county-wide plans become ubiquitous.

Legislation

- HB 2691
  - Utility leverage program which will allow Dominion and Appalachian Power to build and lease excess fiber to internet service providers (ISPs) during their grid modernization.
  - Adding more middle-mile fiber throughout the state will increase competition and drastically improve economics for ISPs.
- HB 2141
  - Legislation allows localities and sub-localities to become special service districts for the purposes of broadband.
  - Allows especially neighborhoods and communities to "self-help" or raise their own taxes to finance broadband infrastructure.

Coalition of more than 90 organizations dedicated to bridging Virginia's digital divide, including: