

**Vermont Community Broadband Board Meeting**  
**Friday, August 25, 2023, 12:00pm – 1:00pm**  
**AGENDA**

The Meeting is being held virtually.

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Join by Phone; +1 802-828-7667,,445429835#

*Note: there may be executive sessions as needed.*

12:00 1) Meeting Call to Order, Roll Call, Approval of Agenda

12:05 2) Consideration of [BEAD 5-Year Plan](#) for submission to NTIA – *Christine Hallquist*

1:00 3) Confirm Next Regular Meeting 9/11 & Motion to Adjourn

Press inquiries: please contact Heryn Herzog, [heryn.herzog@vermont.gov](mailto:heryn.herzog@vermont.gov) (802) 522-3396.

## **Comments on Draft BEAD 5-year Action Plan received from:**

- VCUDA
- Mac Mountain
- Human I-T
- New England Connectivity and Telecommunications Association
- Vermont Access Network
- ECFiber
- Maple Broadband
- Federal Program Officer, NTIA

## **Summary of changes from rough draft incorporated into final version of plan:**

*\*\*\*\* Please note that the final version of the plan linked in the agenda and available [here](#) has not yet been proofread or gone through an accessibility check. The proofread and accessibility checked version of the plan for final submission to the NTIA will be posted on the VCBB website and the link sent to board members on Thursday morning, August 24\*\*\*\**

Section	Description of change
Executive director's note	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Added this section</li></ul>
Overview of 5-Year Action Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Vision updated to express that the goal of universal, reliable, high-quality, affordable, fixed broadband applies both <i>now</i> and <i>in the future</i></li><li>• Goals updated to reflect ongoing commitment to universal service</li><li>•</li></ul>
Workforce development references throughout document	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Updated to reflect current work and reflect the change in grant from VTC to VCBB</li></ul>
Existing funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Added lines for ACAM and E-rate</li><li>• Changed categorization of USDA ReConnect funding from "available" to "committed," since the deployment area will be removed from eligibility for BEAD funding</li></ul>
Partnerships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Highlighted VCBB's intent to grow our collaboration with VT Department of Health and VT Agency of Education</li><li>• Updated descriptions to add detail and accuracy</li></ul>
Assessment: Assets, Needs, and Gaps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Entire section restructured and reordered to help with readability and flow</li><li>• Added information to more thoroughly and accurately highlight the work that has been done prior to the commencement of the BEAD planning process</li></ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Took out reference by name to one specific national digital equity nonprofit, and instead generally described the resources available from various national digital equity nonprofits</li> </ul>
Issues to overcome for successful implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Removed “legal and regulatory” category and issue</li> <li>• Expanded on the current state of broadband buildout and the challenges posed by this current state</li> </ul>
Implementation Plan: Stakeholder Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expanded on stakeholder engagement that has occurred throughout Vermont prior to commencement of the BEAD planning process</li> <li>• Updated section on Community Anchor Institutions to add general stores, government buildings, and educational programming locations, and revised descriptions to more precisely depict how these categories fit into the Community Anchor Institution definition from the NTIA</li> </ul>
Public outreach and survey references throughout document	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Updated to reflect additional input and responses since the release of the initial draft</li> </ul>
Estimated Timeline and Cost for Universal Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Updated to more accurately reflect the scope of addresses that are and are not included in the cost estimate, and the other plans in place to fill the gap and connect all addresses</li> <li>• Added appendix to show methodology on reaching this cost estimate</li> </ul>
Various locations throughout document	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Corrected typos, grammatical errors, and minor content errors</li> <li>• Reworded certain sections for clarity</li> <li>• Fine-tuned formatting</li> </ul>