

State of Vermont**Department of Public Service**

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April 26, 2019

The Honorable Ann Cummings, Chair
Senate Committee on FinanceThe Honorable Tim Briglin, Chair
House Committee on Energy and TechnologyThe Honorable Christopher Bray, Chair
Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Energy**Re: Connectivity Fund Apportionment Report; 30 V.S.A. § 202f(h)**

Dear Honorable Senators and Representatives:

I am pleased to submit this Connectivity Fund Apportionment Report, pursuant to 30 V.S.A. § 202f(h).

If you have any questions about this report, please do not hesitate to contact me or Clay Purvis, Director for Telecommunications and Connectivity.

Very Truly Yours,


June E. Tierney
Commissioner

Connectivity Fund Apportionment Report:

A Report to the Vermont General Assembly on the Department of Public Service's Plan for Apportioning Funds to the Connectivity Initiative and High Cost Program Pursuant to 30 V.S.A § 202f(h).

Connectivity Fund Apportionment Report

The Connectivity Fund (“Fund”) is a special fund that supports two broadband expansion programs: the High Cost Program and the Connectivity Initiative. The High Cost Program provides ongoing financial support to “Vermont Eligible Telecommunications Carriers” that provide broadband services within their traditional telephone territories.¹ The Connectivity Initiative is a grant program aimed at extending broadband service to underserved and unserved locations.² The fund receives its monies from the Vermont Universal Service Fund (“VUSF”).

Each year, on or before September 1, the VUSF fiscal agent determines the amount of funding available to the Connectivity Fund.³ State law requires this money to be apportioned 55% to the Connectivity Initiative and 45% to the High Cost Program.⁴ Each year, the Telecommunications and Connectivity Division is required to “submit a report to the relevant committees of jurisdiction a plan for apportioning such funds to the High-Cost Program and the Connectivity Initiative,” pursuant to 30 V.S.A. § 202f(h).⁵ The Connectivity Division produced this report after consulting with the Connectivity Advisory Board.

The VUSF fiscal agent determined that there is no money available to the Connectivity Fund for Fiscal Year 2019. A letter from the fiscal agent is attached for reference.⁶ Since there are no funds to disburse, it is not necessary to develop a plan for apportioning funds this year.

¹See 30 V.S.A. § 7515

²30 V.S.A. § 7515b

³30 V.S.A. § 7516

⁴Id.

⁵The Connectivity Division submits an annual report to the Legislature on January 15. The annual report provides additional detail on the Connectivity Fund, including summaries of the grant awards. Therefore, information on the balance and activity of the Connectivity Fund is not addressed here. See 30 V.S.A. § 202e(e).

⁶ The annual audit of the Fund can be found on the Department’s website here:
<https://publicservice.vermont.gov/telecom/vusf>

Greg DiSarno
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October 31, 2018

State of Vermont
Department of Public Service
Clay Purvis - Director, Telecommunications and Connectivity
112 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05620-2601

Dear Mr. Purvis,

Solix re-evaluated the amount of funds available for the Connectivity Fund at the conclusion of the external audit of the financial statements of the Vermont Universal Service Fund (VUSF) for the year ended June 30, 2018. Solix as the fiscal agent has determined that no monies are available to the Connectivity Fund as of June 30, 2018.

If you have any questions, please contact us.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "GD", is written over a light gray circular watermark that contains the word "SOLIX".

Greg DiSarno

cc: Monique Robinson

cc: Jean Snopkowski

Greg DiSarno
Manager, Client Relations
Vermont Universal Service Fund

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August 30, 2018

State of Vermont
Department of Public Service
Clay Purvis - Director, Telecommunications and Connectivity
112 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05620-2601

Dear Mr. Purvis,

Pursuant to 30 V.S.A. Section 7516, Solix as the fiscal agent has determined that no monies are available to the Connectivity Fund as of June 30, 2018.

Solix will re-evaluate the amount of funds available for the Connectivity Fund at the conclusion of the external audit of the financial statements of the Vermont Universal Service Fund (VUSF) for the year ending June 30, 2018.

If you have any questions, please contact us.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "GD", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Greg DiSarno

cc: Monique Robinson

cc: Jean Snopkowski