



Vermont Community Broadband Board

Motion to Establish the Process for Allocating the \$30M Appropriated for Providing Matching Funds to Qualifying Eligible Providers for Federal Broadband Grant Programs

WHEREAS, the Vermont Community Broadband Board (Board) is the entity authorized by the Vermont General Assembly (General Assembly) to coordinate, facilitate, support and accelerate the development and implementation of universal community broadband solutions (Broadband Deployment) pursuant to 30 V.S.A. § 8081 (see generally Act 71); and

WHEREAS, Act 71 provides the Board with approval authority with respect to budget development, program design, grant awards and all other funding allocations for broadband with respect to Broadband Deployment pursuant to 30 V.S.A. §8084(a); and

WHEREAS, the General Assembly appropriated \$30,000,000 (thirty million dollars) to the Board for the purpose of leveraging federal grants for Broadband Deployment in Vermont pursuant to Act No. 3 of 2023 (Appropriation); and

WHEREAS, VCBB has determined that the Appropriation directs the Board to allocate the \$30M to Eligible Providers with an approved VCBB Universal Service Plan (USP) pursuant to Act 71; and

WHEREAS, the Appropriation will be allocated among Eligible Providers who have filed Letters of Interest with the VCBB as of July 1, 2024; seek matching funds for a qualifying federal program for Broadband Deployment (Federal Grant); have an existing Act 71 Construction Grant Agreement pursuant to 30 V.S.A. § 8086 (Existing Grant); and are in compliance with all Existing Grant conditions as certified by VCBB Staff to the Board (Qualified Eligible Providers); and

WHEREAS, VCBB has developed a data-driven process (Process) for allocating the Appropriation among Qualified Eligible Providers and to determine the estimated cost to complete construction of the remaining or a subset of the remaining eligible un/underserved addresses in the USPs of Qualified Eligible Providers; and

WHEREAS, the Process seeks to equitably allocate the Appropriation among Eligible Providers to provide the 25% matching funds required for Federal Grants; and

WHEREAS, if the Appropriation is insufficient to provide the match to all Qualified Eligible Providers, the Appropriation will be allocated using the highest percentage available.

NOW, therefore it is resolved that the Board authorizes VCBB Staff to issue grant amendments to the Existing Grants based on the following conditions:

1. As determined by the Process, each Qualified Eligible Provider receives 25% match for the cost of the project funded by the Federal Grant to the extent of the equitable proportionate share of the Appropriation; and
2. Providing each Qualified Eligible Provider:
 - A. Commits to apply for a Federal Grant on or before December 31, 2024 for construction to complete or support the completion of construction of remaining or a subset of the remaining un/underserved addresses in its USP; and
 - B. Agrees that no portion of the award is available until the Qualified Eligible Provider provides the VCBB with notice of the Federal Grant award; and
 - C. Agrees to relinquish any claim to the Appropriation in the event it does not secure the Federal Grant award identified in its Letter of Interest.

July 29, 2024

Signed: _____
Patty Richards, Chair

Approved by:

Patty Richards, Chair
Dan Nelson, Co-Chair
Holly Groschner
Brian Otley
Laura Sibia