

Vermont Community Broadband Board (VCBB) 112 State Street Montpelier, VT 05620-2601 https://publicservice.vermont.gov/vcbb

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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VERMONT COMMUNITY BROADBAND BOARD CALLS FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON DRAFT BROADBAND PLANS

Montpelier, Vermont –The Vermont Community Broadband Board (VCBB) wants to hear from you. VCBB has released <u>Vermont's Draft BEAD (Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment) Five-Year Action Plan</u> and <u>Draft BEAD Initial Proposal Volume 1</u> and wants your comments. The drafts are the first set of plans to explain how the state will spend Vermont's \$229 million federal allocation to expand high-speed internet access.

It is a key priority, and federal requirement, for VCBB to incorporate public feedback into the plans. Input was gathered through listening sessions VCBB held in person throughout the state and virtually last month, as well as through a <u>public survey</u>, <u>emails</u>, phone calls, and letters.

"We've already heard thousands of Vermonters describe their situations and struggles with internet service. Now we want you to see that we've listened and built what you told us into these plans. We're connecting every Vermonter to broadband. We want a transparent process and to be held accountable," said VCBB Executive Director Christine Hallquist.

You can email your comments to vcbb.info@vermont.gov, write to VCBB, 112 State Street, Montpelier, VT 05620, or call (800) 622-4496. You have until August 2, 2023, to comment on the <u>Draft BEAD Five-Year Action Plan</u> and until August 18, 2023, to comment on the <u>Draft BEAD Initial Proposal Volume 1</u>.

VCBB will be releasing additional BEAD and digital equity draft plans for comment later this summer and into the fall. You can find this and more information on our website, <u>Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program and Digital Equity Act</u> <u>Department of Public Service (vermont.gov)</u>. Vermont Department of Public Service 112 State Street Montpelier, VT 05601-2601

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