

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 NEW DRAFT BROADBAND PLAN

Montpelier, Vermont – The Vermont Community Broadband Board (VCBB) wants to hear from you. VCBB has released Vermont's Draft BEAD (Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment) Initial Proposal Volume 2 and wants your comments. This draft is the second part of the draft proposal to explain how the state will spend Vermont's \$229 million federal allocation to expand high-speed internet access. Volume 2 outlines the process Vermont will use to select the Internet Service Providers who will receive BEAD money to build out unserved and underserved addresses and details the requirements these providers must meet to be eligible for funding.

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 throughout the state in person and virtually, as well as through a <u>public survey</u>, <u>emails</u>, phone calls, and letters.

"Public input is at the heart of making a plan that works for every Vermonter. The more we know about your situation and hear your opinions, the more our broadband buildout and implementation plans will address what's really needed to get the whole state connected and bridge the digital divide," 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 October 15, 2023, to comment on the Draft BEAD Initial Proposal Volume 2.

VCBB is also gathering public comment on digital equity and will use the input to write a digital equity plan, which will be released for comment this fall. You can find this and more information on our website, <u>Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD)</u> <u>Program and Digital Equity Act | Department of Public Service (vermont.gov)</u>. ###

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