



# State of Vermont Middle Mile Grant Program

The Vermont Community Broadband Board (VCBB) was established within the Vermont Department of Public Service (PSD) to accelerate community broadband deployment throughout the State. VCBB is committed to acquiring, building, maintaining, and operating a statewide fiber optic open-access middle-mile network (Vermont Middle Mile Infrastructure) that will interconnect with all Communications Union Districts (CUD) throughout the State to support delivery of high-speed broadband service to all Vermont residents.

Federal funding would enable VCBB to significantly expand and extend open-access middle-mile infrastructure throughout the State of Vermont. The Proposed Project will reduce the cost for CUDs to connect unserved or underserved areas and will promote broadband connection resiliency via network redundancy.

VCBB is committed to ensuring that the majority of the fiber in the network is reserved for public ownership; however, without federal funding, VCBB would not be able to maintain public ownership and maintenance of the network per the State of Vermont's values and prioritization of NTIA programmatic guidelines. The addition of this wholesale, open-access, and publicly managed capacity to the State will ultimately drive down consumer prices and facilitate competitive CUD and other ISP expansion. An open-access, publicly owned middle-mile project of this scope would not be feasible without federal funding at this time.

The middle-mile network proposed in this application would connect all existing CUDs in the State of Vermont. VCBB will deploy interconnection points across the proposed open-access network so that last-mile providers may interconnect and exchange traffic with the network at reasonable, non-discriminatory rates and terms. The project will also offer dark fiber leasing at reasonable rates.



## New Publicly Controlled Entity

Vermont Middle Mile Infrastructure will be managed by a new Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV). The VCBB and Vermont's CUDs along with private partners will work thru the SPV for public control for the purpose of constructing, owning, and operating the network.



## 2300 Miles

The currently designed Vermont Middle Mile network is approximately 2300 miles consisting of plan build, long term IRUs, and existing facilities.



## Funding

VCBB submitted the grant request for ~\$67,000,000.00, representing approximately 60% of the total application



## Design

The design incorporated routing to areas that had underserved / unserved populations, vulnerable communities, and community anchor institutes

