

RFP Addendum: COVID-19 Emergency Connectivity Initiative and Get Vermonters Connected Now Initiative

1: Proposals within Communications Union District territory, notifications

The following language was unintentionally omitted from the RFP document:

Pursuant to H.966, Section 13 (i)- If a proposed project under the Program is in the service territory of a communications union district, immediately upon receipt of the application for the proposed project, the Commissioner shall notify the affected communications union district of the proposed project and provide seven business days for the district to raise an objection to the proposed project. The Commissioner may award funding to the proposed project over the objection of a communications union district, provided he or she documents in writing the reasons for overriding the objection.

2: Attachments B, C, and D

Attachments are now linked on the [Connectivity Initiative Webpage](#).

Please take note of Attachment D which, in addition to other provisions, stipulates the following:

9. Public Information: The location and capacity of infrastructure funded through this Program shall be part of a permanent, public database maintained by the Department.

10. Provider Line Extension Costs: Funds under the Program shall not be used to support a provider's costs associated with line extensions otherwise required to be constructed pursuant to a certificate of public good granted under 30 V.S.A. chapter 13.

3: Clarification on locations eligible for the Get Vermonters Connected Now Initiative.

H.966 Section 13 (c):

There is established the Get Vermonters Connected Now Initiative. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, funds shall be distributed through the Connectivity Initiative established under 30 V.S.A. § 7515b, **and are available for projects in areas otherwise considered served under the Connectivity Initiative. The purpose of the Program is to provide financial assistance to Internet service providers to offset the customer costs of fiber-to-the-premises installations, which include underground conduit installations, where required, and service drops.** The Commissioner shall prioritize projects

involving installation of underground conduit, where required, that would result in broadband access to low-income households with remote learning, telehealth, and telework needs.

The Department's list of "eligible addresses" is developed by taking fiber and cable route maps and considering all homes along those routes as "served" at that level of service.

In many circumstances, such as homes with long driveways or homes where the previous owner declined service when it was offered, a home lacking service will appear in the Department's database as "served."

The Get Vermonters Connected Now Initiative is open to those locations where a line extension isn't necessary, but a potential customer still needs a drop to receive service.