

## **Virginia Telecommunications Initiative (VATI) Letters of Support for Loudoun County Application**

Loudoun County, in partnership with All Points Broadband and their partners Dominion Energy and NOVEC, are collaborating on a proposal for the FY 2022 VATI grant. VATI is the grant vehicle for last-mile broadband deployment programs within the Commonwealth of Virginia. The VATI program is state-funded and administered by the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD). The goal of VATI is to create strong, competitive communities throughout the Commonwealth by enabling communities to build, utilize, and capitalize on telecommunications infrastructure. DHCD allocates grant funding to eligible applicants to provide “last-mile” services to unserved areas of Virginia.

As part of the application, we are seeking letters of support from you and other stakeholders throughout the County explaining how universal broadband through this project would benefit you. Endorsement of the grant application does not obligate your organization to a future service with All Points Broadband. Letters of support help paint a picture of how the project, which will provide universal broadband, will address the needs of the community.

We are asking that letters of support be provided no later than August 27, 2021 to Gwen Kennedy, Legislative Liaison, at [gwen.kennedy@loudoun.gov](mailto:gwen.kennedy@loudoun.gov).

Below are general talking points about the project.

- The project will address the unserved areas of the County, providing universal broadband services to over 8,800 homes and businesses in Western Loudoun County.
- Universal broadband coverage will expand educational, health services (telemedicine), business and public safety opportunities, improving the quality of life of all in the community. Specific examples as part of your letter would be helpful in supporting the application.
- The project will provide 100 MBPS upload and download speeds. The solution provided is a fiber/wired solution with no monthly data caps.
- If the grant is received, the project is estimated to begin construction in summer of 2022.
- The estimated total cost of the project is \$72,025,000 million. The County and All Points Broadband are requesting a total of \$17,750,000 or 24.6% of the total project costs as part of the VATI application. The remainder of the funding will be provided by the County (\$12,425,000 in American Rescue Plan Act funds) and All Points Broadband/Dominion/NOVEC (\$41,850,000). The Loudoun County Board of Supervisors unanimously approved the local match amount at their July 20, 2021 Board Business Meeting.