CIT Community Broadband Assistance Program

Interested in better broadband connectivity in your community? The Center for Innovative Technology (CIT) and partner Virginia Tech can help by hosting a one-day workshop in your community or region which will focus on educating community leaders on how to overcome broadband access obstacles in order to expand broadband access options and increase adoption for improved overall quality of life.

Workshop content includes:

An update on Broadband in Virginia

What is happening at the state level to facilitate broadband access, what we are doing with the state broadband projects and our plans after these projects end (2015)

Options for broadband in Virginia communities

We cover the various broadband technologies and models of successful community broadband access expansion initiatives

A public-private partnership case study

It really is all about **partnerships**. We can explain how to leverage partnerships to reduce the costs of broadband deployments.

Steps every community needs to take

There are steps every jurisdiction can take today that cost little to no money and can facilitate broadband deployments. Additionally there are steps every community should take now to be prepared for any future funding opportunities – you cannot wait until these funding options are announced. We provide an action list and we can provide many of the components you will need.

Virginia's updated Broadband Toolkit

Virginia has a proven methodology for communities to use to guide them through the process of identifying needs, evaluating options (including funding) and pursuing actions to expand broadband access. Additionally our state broadband initiative has built many web-based tools to be leveraged throughout the process to make this planning much easier. This toolkit is so comprehensive it has been copied by a national organization. We explain how you access it and what it provides.

Accelerate Virginia Speed Test Campaign

This campaign is run by Virginia Tech's e-Corridors program in partnership with our state broadband initiative and is used to identify all broadband providers serving citizens in a locality or region and to record "unmet demand" – citizens that need/want broadband and have no options for access. The data is shared and mapped at the end of the campaign and provides valuable information for your planning efforts.

Virginia's broadband deployment planning tools

Tools have been developed through the state broadband initiative projects to be used in concert with the Virginia Broadband Toolkit methodology. They are web-based tools that provide communities with a plethora of information, mapping and data needed to plan broadband deployments.

Broadband Awareness & Adoption

Broadband access is important for expanded education options, job opportunities, lowering costs of living, business growth, improved healthcare and public safety. Once access is provided to a community there are still many citizens and businesses that are not leveraging the access to realize these benefits. The people and businesses not getting online either feel they cannot afford the access, do not know how to use the Internet, do not see the relevance to them or fear security issues. Communities need to implement support programs to educate citizens and businesses and help eliminate these barriers to adoption to ensure everyone benefits from broadband access. Everyone is focusing energy on broadband to improve overall quality of life, however, providing access alone will not improve the economy or the community without these programs in place – this has been proven through research studies. We are building resources and information to guide communities through this transformation and we are able to assist every community in taking steps to increase broadband awareness and adoption.

We can customize the content based on your specific needs!

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Virginia is for *broadband* Lovers ♥