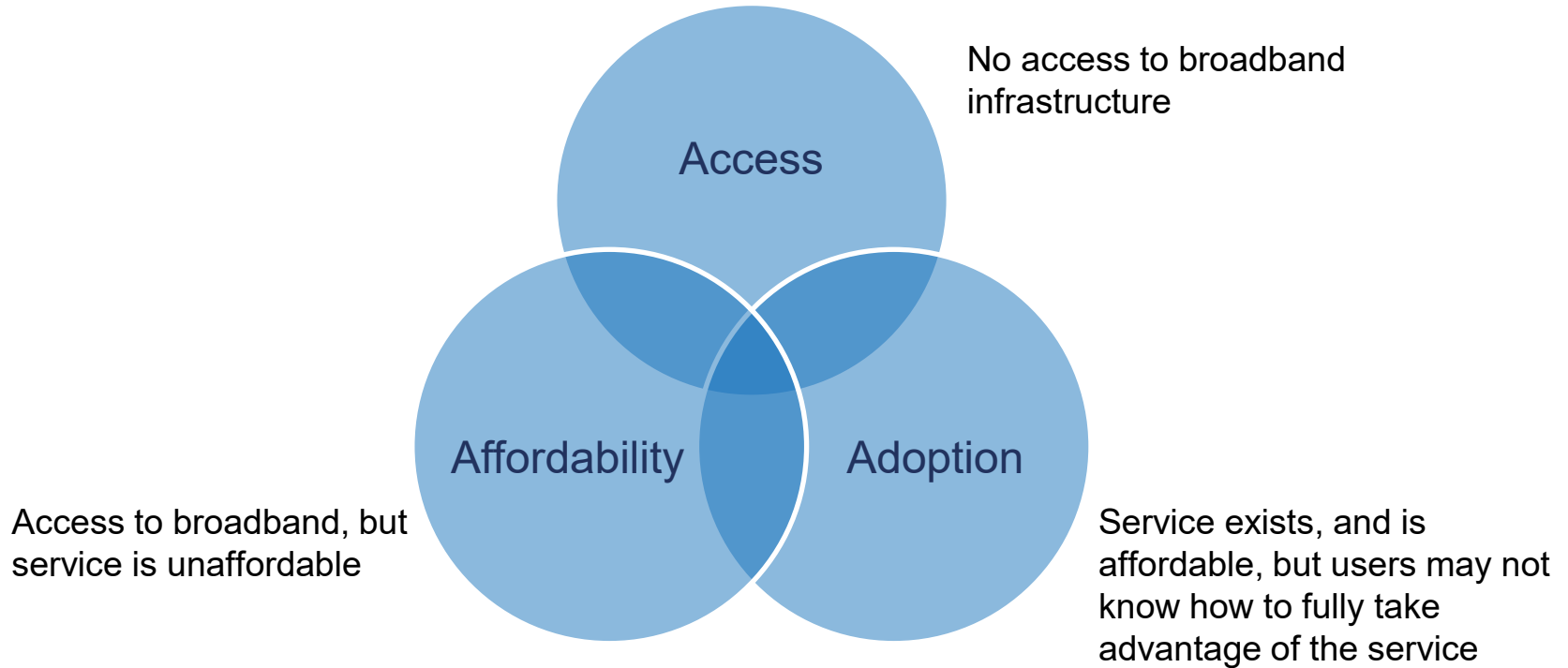# Closing the Digital Divide in Virginia

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Holistic Digital Divide

Access

No access to broadband infrastructure

Affordability

Adoption

Access to broadband, but service is unaffordable

Service exists, and is affordable, but users may not know how to fully take advantage of the service

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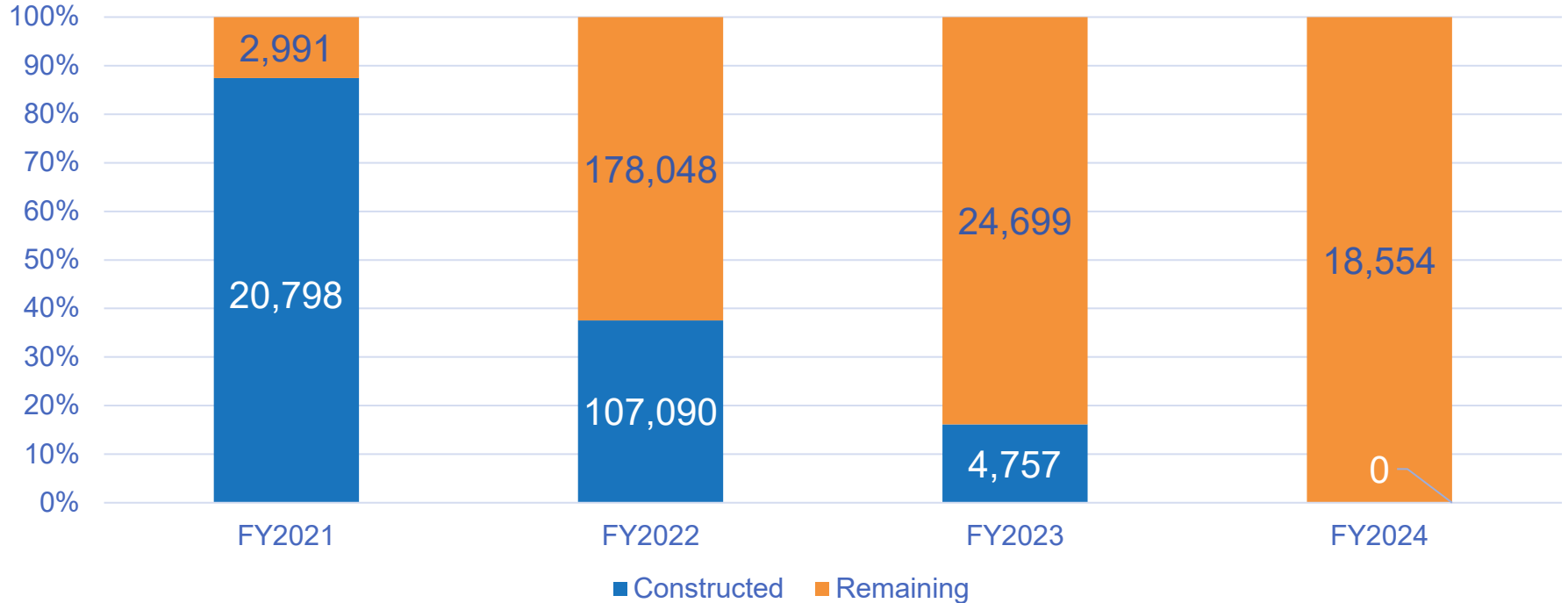
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Broadband Deployment across the Commonwealth

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Virginia Telecommunication Initiative Awards, FY2021 – FY2024

How are the Projects Going?

VATI Project Progress FY21-FY24 as of End of Sept. 2024

Stacked bar chart showing Constructed (blue) and Remaining (orange) values:

- FY2021: Constructed 20,798; Remaining 2,991
- FY2022: Constructed 107,090; Remaining 178,048
- FY2023: Constructed 4,757; Remaining 24,699
- FY2024: Constructed 0; Remaining 18,554

Legend: ■ Constructed ■ Remaining
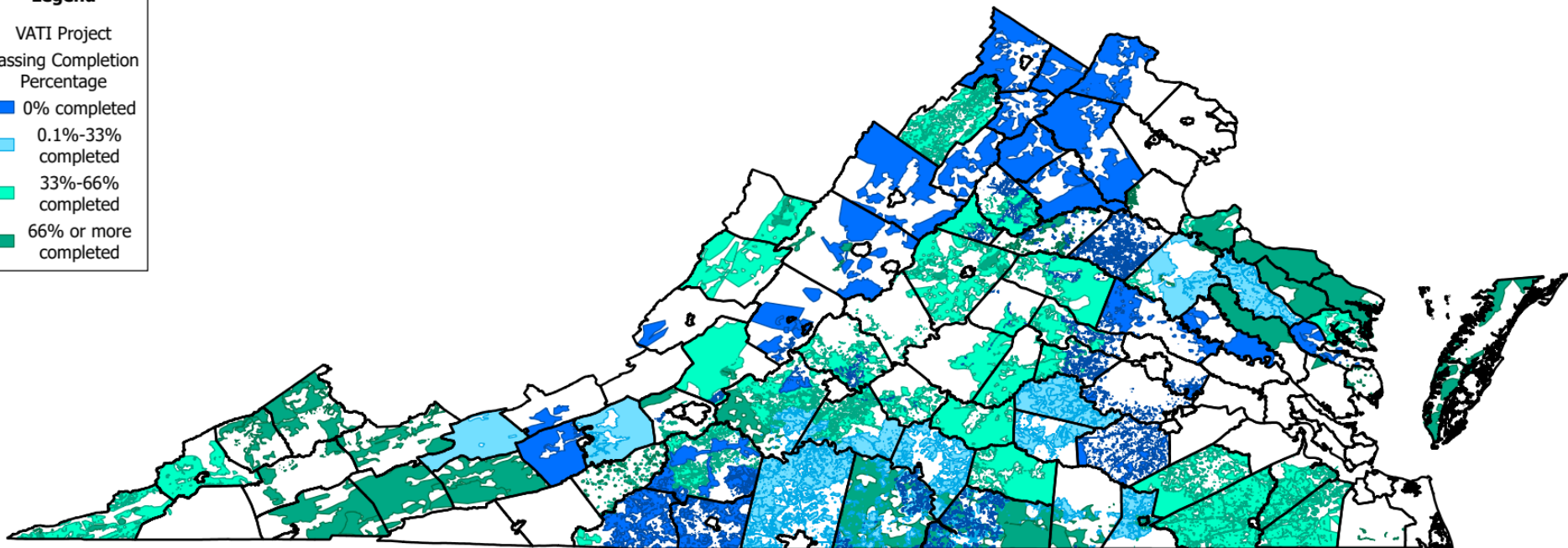
VATI Project Passing Completion Status

FY2021 Projects and Later, As of September 2024

Legend

VATI Project Passing Completion Percentage

- 0% completed
- 0.1%-33% completed
- 33%-66% completed
- 66% or more completed

VATI Spotlights

King and Queen County
- 1st large County to have fiber coverage throughout the County

City of Chesapeake/Cox
- 1st ARPA-funded project to close.

Stafford County/Comcast
- Contracted at 634 passings, closed with 682 passings.

Floyd County/Citizens Telephone Cooperative
- 1st County in Southwest VA to have fiber throughout the County.

Thomas Jefferson PDC/Firefly
- 13 counties, 36,225 total passings
- On track. 14,617 passings as of September

Eastern Shore of Virginia Broadband Authority | Eastern Shore of Virginia Broadband Authority
FY2022

Fiber Mileage
(269 Miles Contracted)

117% Complete

Fiber Completed: 314 Miles (117% of Contracted)

300
200
100
0

Locations
(11,091 Contracted)

5K

0K

Contract Information

Broadband Project Type: **Wireline**
Award Round: **FY2022**
Start Date: **6/1/2022**
d Date: **11/30/2024**

Contract Timeframe

97% Expired

Funding

Total Grant Funding
$12,310,777.25
Sources: | State Fiscal Recovery Fund |

$10M

71.78% Expended

$5M

$0M

Total Match Funding
$3,314,865.00
Sources: | Local |

$3M

45.888% Expended

$2M

$1M

$0M

Click Here to Access the Internet Service Provider Project Progress Webpage

Click Here to Access the Internet Service Provider Interest Sign-Up Webpage

Phases and Milestones

Planning			Execution										Monitoring and Controlling			Closeout		
Field Design and Engineering	Field Walkout	Permit Applications	Make Ready	Aerial Construction	Underground/Buried Construction	Cabinet/Enclosure Installation	Tower Erection	Telecom Equipment Installation on Towers	Fiber Splicing	On-Site Electronics Installation	Cabinet In-Service	Quality Assurance Checks	Quality Control Verification	Service Available at All Locations	Broadband Closeout Report	6-Month Post-Closeout Report	12-Month Post-Closeout Report
✔	→	✔	✔	→	→	✔	✔	→	→	→	→	✔	✔	✔	✘	✘	✘

Status ■ Complete ■ In Progress ■ Not Started

*Percentages rounded to nearest whole number.

Back to Map

Where is broadband in Virginia?

What's Ahead – The BEAD Program

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What is BEAD?

Infrastructure and Investment Jobs Act (IIJA) Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment Program

OVERVIEW

Official name: Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment Program

Funding pool: $42.45B

Type of program: State and Territory formula program

Program objective: to close the availability gap, as Congress finds that "access to affordable, reliable, high-speed broadband is essential to full participation in modern life in the United States."

PROGRAM PRIORITIES

1. Unserved locations
   No access to 25/3 Mbps

2. Underserved locations
   No access to 100/20 Mbps

3. Community anchor institutions
   Without gigabit connections

Eligible entity must also prioritize
- Persistent poverty / high-poverty areas
- Speed of proposed network
- Build time
- Demonstrated record on compliance with federal labor & employment laws

OTHER KEY FEATURES

Quality requirements
Specific network requirements are included e.g., speeds of at least 100/20 Mbps

Matching requirement
Eligible entities must ensure that they or a subgrantee provide at least 25% match *(unless waiver granted)*

Low-cost plan requirement
Required to offer a low-cost plan to eligible subscribers *(to be determined by NTIA)*

Contents from National Telecommunications and Information Association (NTIA)

BEAD Update- Deployment

Before we can begin the full application process in December 2024

- Challenge Process Results must be Certified by NTIA

    o +/- 135,000 BEAD Eligible Locations

        o Handful of Counties/Cities without VATI Project

        o Locations in and around existing VATI Projects

        o Scattered Locations in Urban Areas

        o Line Extensions

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Preliminary BEAD Eligible Locations
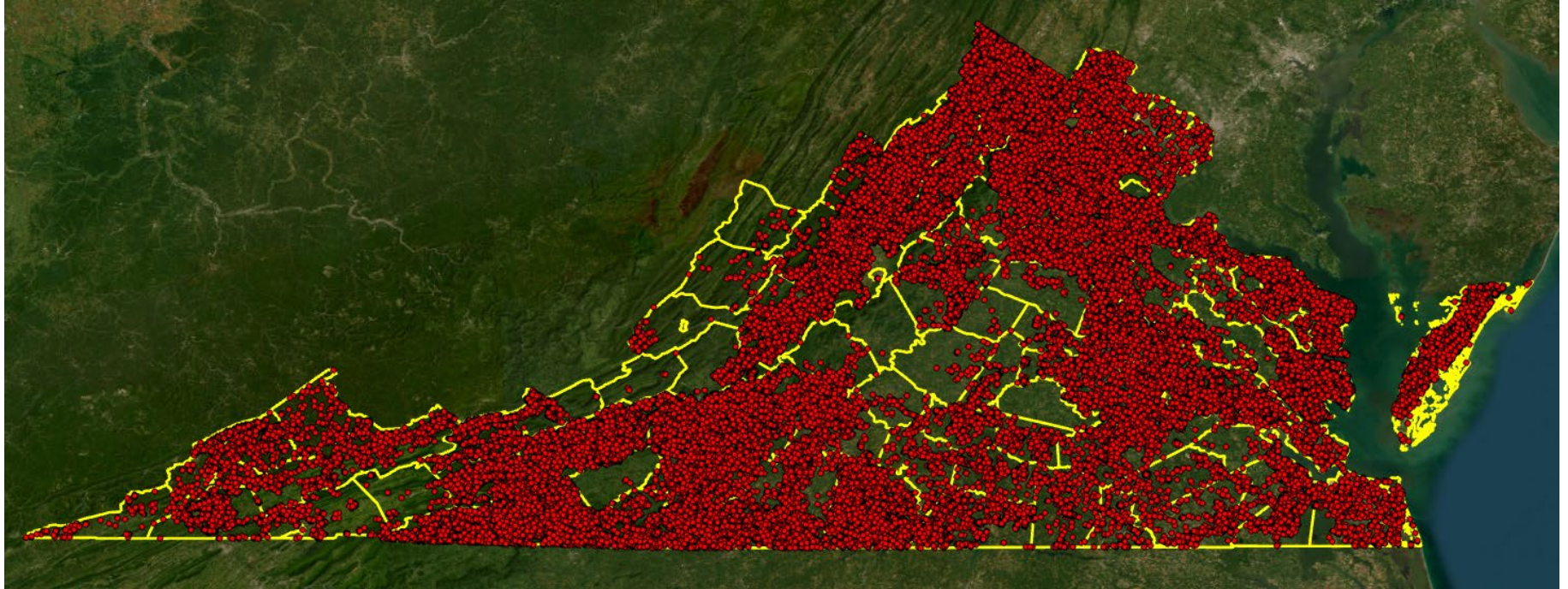
Location size exaggerated to show prevalence on statewide map.
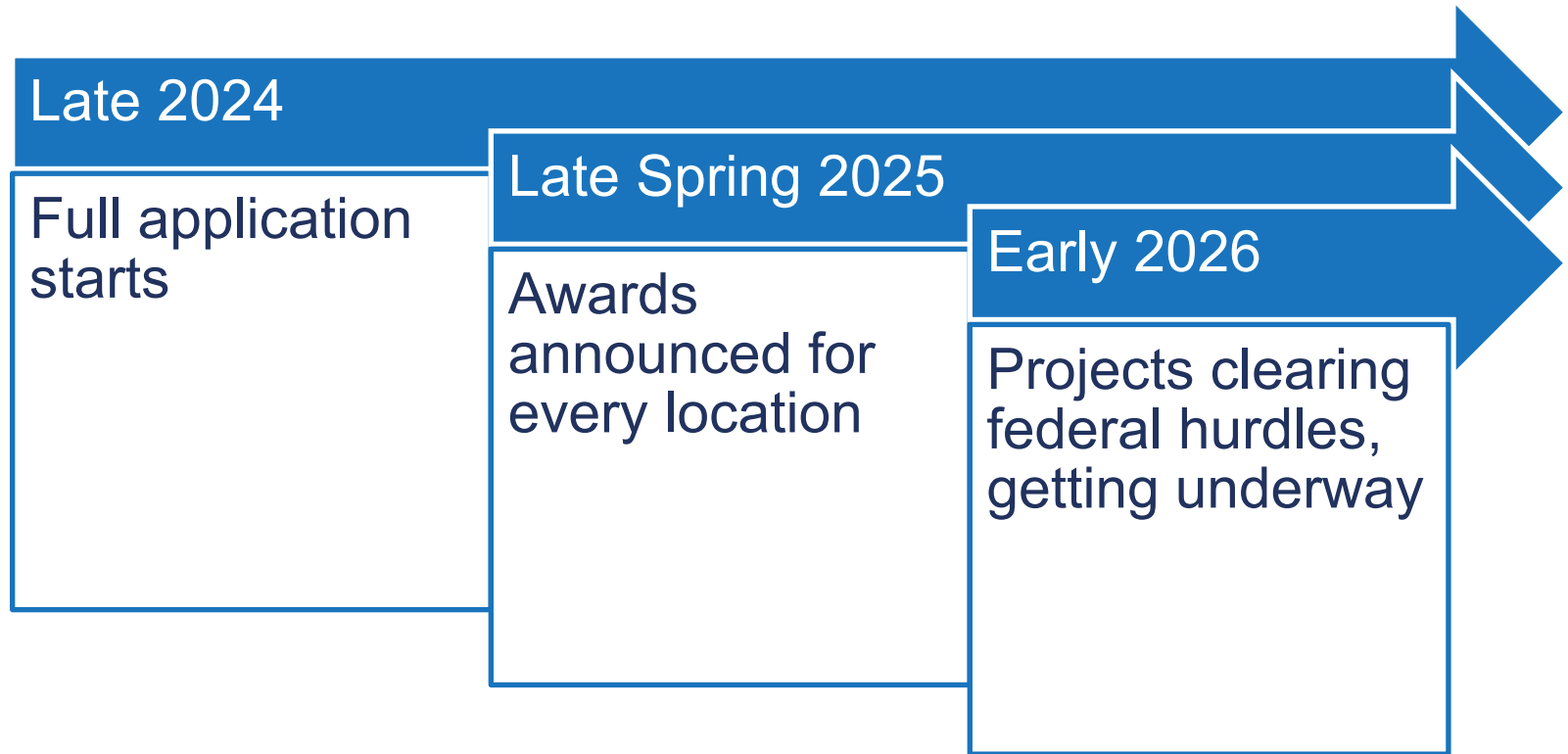
BEAD Update– What's Coming Next

Late 2024

Full application starts

Late Spring 2025

Awards announced for every location

Early 2026

Projects clearing federal hurdles, getting underway

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BEAD "Non-Deployment" Programs

- Virginia expected to have funds available for broadband adoption and digital literacy programs

- DHCD has met with over 25 other state agencies to develop innovative programs to invest in non-deployment uses, meaning broadband adoption and affordability

- Other initiatives being developed, but pending NTIA approval on concepts

BEAD Non-Deployment Funding in Virginia

Total VA BEAD allocation
$1.48B Total VA BEAD allocation

Funding to be first allocated to achieve universal broadband access, then remaining funds for non-deployment activities, including state agency partnerships

Virginia state agencies to administer grants to programs supporting the *11 types of non-deployment activities*

Eligible Uses of Funding

- Digital opportunity plan implementation
- Promoting Broadband Affordability
- Remote learning & telehealth services
- Multilingual outreach to support digital literacy
- Stakeholder engagement costs
- Broadband sign-up assistance & tech support programs
- Digital safety & cybersecurity user training
- Digital navigators
- Digital literacy & upskilling
- Prisoner education
- Computer science, coding, & cybersecurity education

Sample Use: *Administrative funding to support new and expanded digital opportunity programs*

Sample Program: *Device and smartphone trainings for English learners in libraries, schools, prisons, etc.*

Sample Program: *Cybersecurity, scam, & financial 101 trainings for aging adults*

Sample Program: *Developing smart agriculture technologies and capabilities for farming practices*

Sample Program: *Workforce development centers make Chromebooks available to the public in to facilitate their reentry into the workforce*
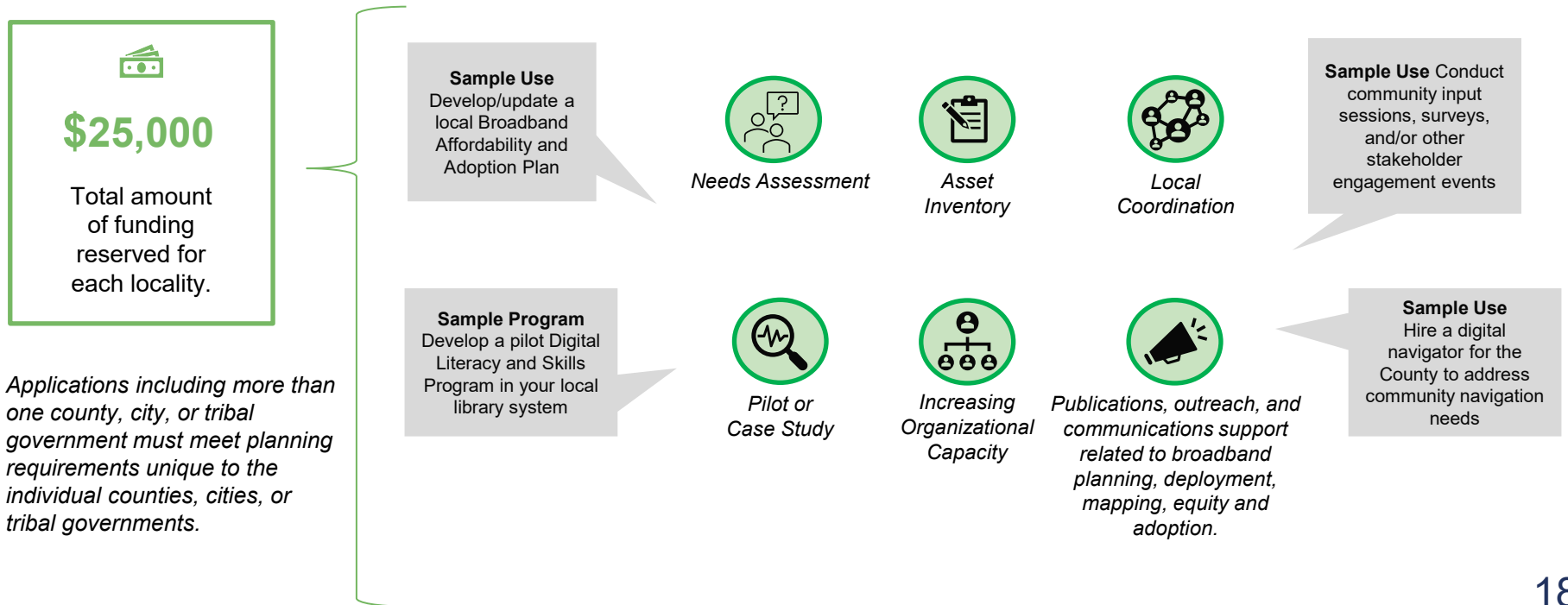
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Digital Opportunity Initiatives

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AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
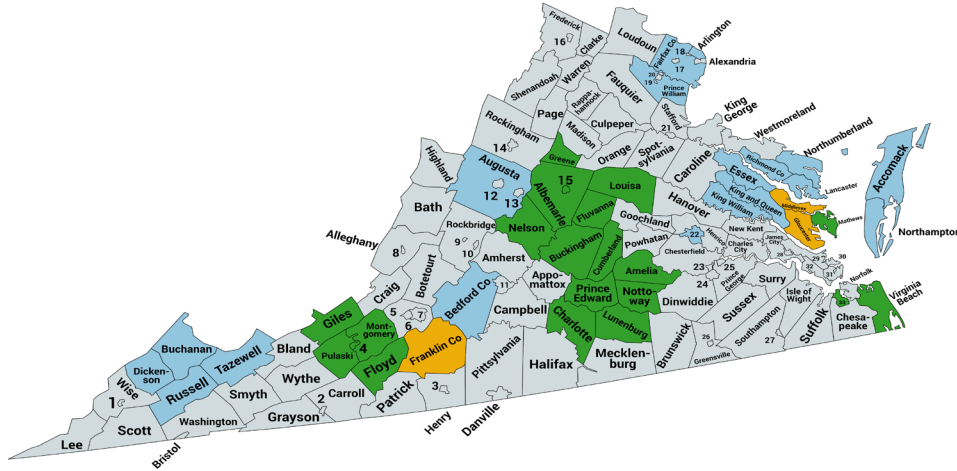*Partners for Better Communities*

Virginia Affordability & Adoption Planning Grant (VAAPG) Program

The VAAPG program is designed to help **cities, counties, and tribal governments** understand broadband affordability and adoption needs in their jurisdictions, better preparing them to address these needs with forthcoming federal funding.

$25,000

Total amount of funding reserved for each locality.

Applications including more than one county, city, or tribal government must meet planning requirements unique to the individual counties, cities, or tribal governments.

Sample Use Develop/update a local Broadband Affordability and Adoption Plan

Needs Assessment

Asset Inventory

Local Coordination

Sample Use Conduct community input sessions, surveys, and/or other stakeholder engagement events

Sample Program Develop a pilot Digital Literacy and Skills Program in your local library system

Pilot or Case Study

Increasing Organizational Capacity

Publications, outreach, and communications support related to broadband planning, deployment, mapping, equity and adoption.

Sample Use Hire a digital navigator for the County to address community navigation needs

VAAPG Program Status

1 **Norton**	12 **Staunton**	23 **Colonial Heights**
2 **Galax**	13 **Waynesboro**	24 **Petersburg**
3 **Martinsville**	14 **Harrisonburg**	25 **Hopewell**
4 **Radford**	15 **Charlottesville**	26 **Emporia**
5 **Roanoke Co**	16 **Winchester**	27 **Franklin**
6 **Salem**	17 **Fairfax**	28 **Williamsburg**
7 **Roanoke**	18 **Falls Church**	29 **York**
8 **Covington**	19 **Manassas**	30 **Poquoson**
9 **Lexington**	20 **Manassas Park**	31 **Hampton**
10 **Buena Vista**	21 **Fredericksburg**	32 **Newport News**
11 **Lynchburg**	22 **Richmond**	33 **Portsmouth**

- 🟩 Included in Active Project (21)
- 🟧 Pending Application (3)
- 🟦 In Conversation (18)

Created with mapchart.net

State Capacity Program

$18.3M — Total VA State Capacity First-Wave allocation

Approximately $3.5M of Capacity funding will be allocated for the **Administration**, **Virginia's Digital Opportunity Resource Tool** and **Digital Opportunity Awareness Initiatives.**

VA DHCD will administer the **Digital Skills, Literacy, and Distribution (DSLD) Subgrant Program** with remaining $14.5M for eligible entities *directly* supporting the following activities:

Digital Skills, Literacy, and Distribution (DSLD) Subgrant Program
Eligible Uses of Funding

Sample Program Cybersecurity, scam, & financial 101 trainings for aging adults through intergenerational learning

Sample Use Administrative funding to support new and expanded digital opportunity programs

Sample Program Device and smartphone trainings for English learners in libraries, schools, prisons, etc.

Sample Program Courses on using telehealth, applying for jobs online, or navigating online news and social media, etc.

Sample Program Digital device refurbishment training program to provide affordable devices for covered households

Sample Program Provide cybersecure digital devices in prisons for self-paced remote learning of incarcerated individuals

- Digital Skills and Literacy Programs
- Digital Navigation and Tech Support
- Device Refurbishment and Distribution Programs
- Targeted Efforts for Covered Populations

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Discussion, Question & Answer

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