



What is Broadband?

Broadband is high-speed internet. Virginia's broadband expansion programs define broadband as internet speeds at or above 100 Megabits per Second (Mbps) Download and 20 Mbps Upload (100/20).

Why is it Important?

Broadband access is essential in today's digital world. It allows us to access learning opportunities, grow our businesses, attend telehealth appointments, and stay connected with our communities.



100/20 Mbps is enough to run 6-7 seamless virtual meetings simultaneously for things like telehealth appointments, online education, and connecting with loved ones remotely.

What is the State of Broadband in Virginia?

Over 100k homes and businesses still need sufficient broadband access. Virginia is working toward **universal broadband access**, meaning every resident can get reliable internet. Two key programs -the **Virginia Telecommunications Initiative (VATI)** and the **Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program**- lead this effort.

Virginia Telecommunications Initiative (VATI)



Funded **federally and by the state**. VA's budget includes **\$10M** each year in 2025 and 2026



Over **400,000 locations** have gained broadband access since 2022



Gives **grants to localities** partnered with internet providers to build broadband

Broadband, Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program



Funded **federally**. Virginia has **\$1.48B in federal funds** to spend on expanding internet



BEAD will reach **the remaining locations** that need broadband by 2030



Gives **grants to internet providers** that meet federal requirements to build broadband

Expected Timeline

2017

VATI construction began

2026

VATI construction complete

2027

BEAD construction begins

2030

BEAD construction complete



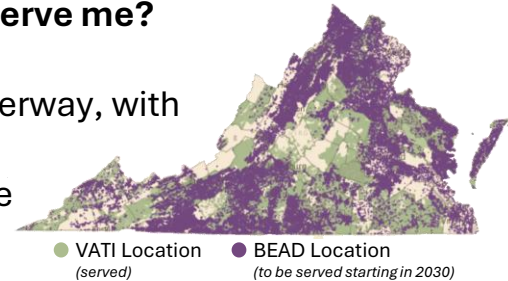
VIRGINIA BROADBAND 101

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) and Resources

FAQ

When will I get internet? How will I know which program will serve me?

BEAD projects are expected to begin rolling out in 2026, with all infrastructure completed by 2030. VATI projects are already underway, with many expected to finish by 2026. You can check where each program will provide broadband at the links below provided in the “Additional Resources” section.



Do I need to apply to get internet through BEAD or VATI?

No. Providers will begin offering service in your area once construction is complete.

Will I be able to choose my internet provider?

Not usually. If your area is getting broadband through BEAD or VATI, the provider is chosen by the state or local government through a competitive process. That means one provider is selected to build and offer service in your neighborhood.

Why will my neighbor have a different kind of internet provider than me?

Internet service provided through VATI and BEAD may vary depending on which provider won which locations in the state or federal application process. Providers may use different technology types to provide broadband, but all must meet the same internet speed and performance standards. See the winning provider and technology type for any BEAD projects in your area [here](#).

Will people with existing internet be impacted?

No. If you already have internet, you can continue using it like normal. The BEAD and VATI programs are focused on bringing broadband to places that don't currently have reliable internet.

Who can I contact if I have questions?

For more information, please contact the Office of Broadband at broadband@dhcd.virginia.gov or visit www.dhcd.virginia.gov/broadband.

Additional Resources

[Planning VATI Project Dashboard](#)

Dashboard to view the progress of specific VATI projects across Virginia.

[Commonwealth Connection](#)

Virginia's Broadband Service Availability Map, based on Virginia-collected service data.