



Support Broadband Funding Remove Barriers



Executive Summary

Broadband is a matter of geographic equity in access for government, education, economic opportunities, telemedicine, and voting information and services. Virginia needs broadband.

Quick Facts

- Approximately **306,000** Virginians do not have access to **any wired** Internet options at all.
- Approximately **660,000** Virginians do not have access to any **high quality** data connections.
- Almost half of Virginians (**47%**) live in a census block with **one or no high-speed** Internet service providers, leaving them with no option to switch.
- **48.7%** of Virginians do not have access to **affordable** broadband Internet, a modern necessity.

Solutions

- Many amendments to Budget Bills **HB 1800** and **SB 1100** would add much needed funding for broadband. We urge you to support such changes.
- We support broadband pilot programs such as **SB 1225**, SB 1334, and **HB 1923**.
- We urge you to ensure pilot capacity is provided at affordable rates.
- We urge you to eliminate **barriers to municipal broadband**, such as requirements to use private partners, or only build areas shown as served on **unreliable** maps, or to recoup investments rapidly.

Member Stories

From Fauquier. In rural areas like mine, broadband is provided often by satellite. A home must be within line-of-sight of the transmitter and invest in a dish. Service is costly, and we know people who cannot work from home because they cannot access a signal. Children in my area must go to a library (if it is even open) or a retail outlet providing wifi, such as a fast food restaurant, to go to school.

From Prince William. My husband and I have both had to have telemedicine services during the pandemic. Having an uncertain internet makes telemedicine visits difficult.

From Fairfax. Many, if not most, employers require job applications to be completed online now. I have had to direct people who want to apply for jobs to the library for broadband, and even before the libraries closed, they could only use the computer for 30 minutes. I can only imagine how difficult it is for residents of rural counties to find a way to apply for a job.