

Line-Extension Customer Assistance Program (LECAP)

Virginia's Unserved - All About Location, Location, Location

The Virginia Telecommunication Initiative (VATI) has drastically reduced the number of unserved Virginians, however for those living in the State's most isolated areas, thousands remain unserved.

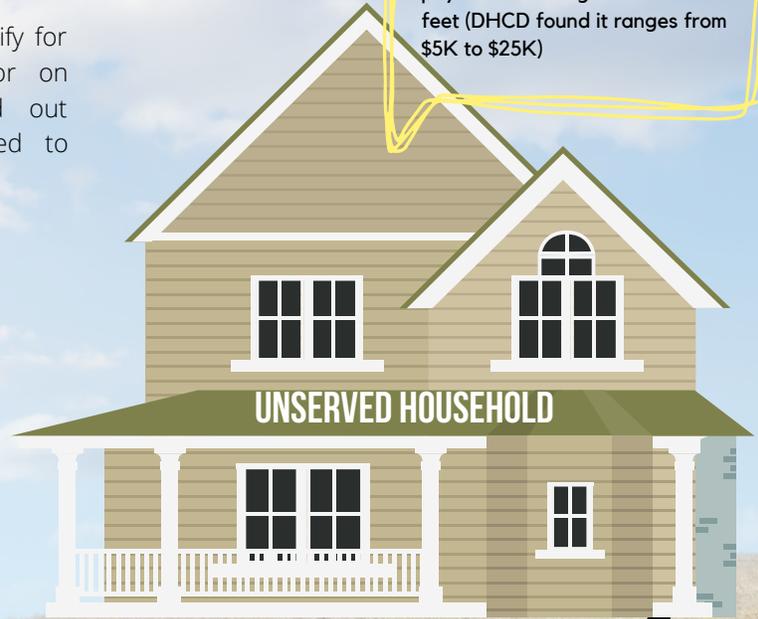
These addresses are one-offs or small groups, so they don't qualify for VATI. They are farms, houses that sit further back or on private roads, making it too expensive for ISPs to build out broadband to the address – and the cost to be connected to broadband is sometimes out of reach for these households.

The Solution - LECAP

To date, the General Assembly has allocated \$16 million to the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) for LECAP to support the extension of existing broadband networks to low-to-moderate income residents. LECAP is intended to bring last-mile broadband to households that typically live further back from the road (usually more than 300 feet).

The General Assembly limited LECAP to low-to-moderate income residents: 1) households with an annual income at or less than \$89,066 annually, or 2) if a household exceeds the annual income threshold, at or below 120% the Area Median Income for the Zip Code. This has disqualified many homes that could benefit from this program.

Household located far from the road or infrastructure unable to pay the remaining cost after 300 feet (DHCD found it ranges from \$5K to \$25K)



Pays out of pocket to connect an address from a roadway or easement containing telecommunication infrastructure (typically up to 300 feet)

How Can the General Assembly Support?

- **Have Eligible Constituents Apply**
(Visit: https://dmz1.dhcd.virginia.gov/C4P/LECAP/Create_IR)
- **Share Information About LECAP**
(Visit [VCTA.com](https://www.vcta.com) for Pre-Made Materials)
- **Continue to Fund LECAP**
(\$8 Million Each Fiscal Year)
- **Broaden LECAP Eligibility**
(Limited to Low-to-Moderate Income Residents)

• 2023 VATI guidelines increased the definition of unserved to 100/20 Mbps (previously 25/3 Mbps).
<https://www.dhcd.virginia.gov/sites/default/files/Docx/vati/public-input-draft-2023-vati-guidelines-and-criteria.pdf>
• LECAP Information: <https://dhcd.virginia.gov/lecap>