## Loudoun County, Virginia



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## Loudoun Receives Significant Grant in Support of County Broadband Initiative

Loudoun County has <u>received a grant</u> to help fund construction of a fiber network that will bring broadband internet service to approximately 8,600 residents and businesses in western Loudoun. The initiative is a public-private partnership between the Department of Information Technology and All Points Broadband.

The grant of more than \$17.5 million from the <u>Virginia Telecommunication Initiative</u> (VATI) will support construction of fiber-to-the-home in areas that are currently not served by a wired provider.

Residents and businesses can determine whether their address is included in the project area at <u>fiber.allpointsbroadband.com</u> and find more details about the project at <u>loudoun.gov/broadbandexpansion</u>.

Construction is expected to begin in the summer of 2022 and take 24-30 months to reach all addresses in the project area. The monthly price of service is expected to be comparable to other cable and fiber-optic internet service providers in the area.

"Loudoun County is extremely excited about the grant and working with our partners to bring expanded broadband coverage to western Loudoun," said Department of Information Technology Director John Bayliss. "This initiative is the single biggest broadband expansion project that the county and Board of Supervisors have undertaken, and we are very optimistic that our community will greatly benefit from this opportunity."

VATI is administered by the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development. The state-funded program was created to "enhance the sustainability and growth of communities throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia by preparing those communities to build, utilize, and capitalize on telecommunications infrastructure."

The county submitted the <u>grant application</u> on September 13, 2021. The application was one of 57 from localities across Virginia. Broadband expansion is a strategic initiative of the Board of Supervisors and the county provided \$12.425 million of American Rescue Plan Act funding as the local funding match. Overall project costs will total approximately \$61 million. Loudoun County will serve as the grant administrator and All Points Broadband will be responsible for constructing the network and providing service to individual addresses.