

Partnerships

Partnerships and collaboration with other agencies and organizations are important to the VCBB's work to advance broadband access and digital equity. Table 8 lists relevant community-based organizations and CAIs that have helped to inform broadband deployment and adoption planning. Further details on

partners are discussed in subsequent sections including Implementation Plan and External Engagement. The VCBB intends to continue its collaboration with these organizations, and to expand its partnership with others, particularly Vermont's Agency for Education and the Department of Health.

TABLE 8: BROADBAND DEPLOYMENT AND ADOPTION PARTNERSHIPS

Partners	Description of Current or Planned Role in Broadband Deployment and Adoption
Adult Education and Literacy Network	VCBB Digital Equity Core Team Member and network of non-governmental organizations serving adult learners throughout Vermont.
Association of Area Agencies on Aging	VCBB Digital Equity Core Team Member and non-governmental organization supporting aging Vermonters statewide.
Association of Planning and Development Commissions	VCBB Digital Equity Core Team Member and statewide association of local regional planning commissions.
Chittenden County CUD	Vermont's youngest CUD, serving eight municipalities in the State's most densely populated county.
Community Action Partnership	VCBB Digital Equity Core Team Member and non-governmental organization focused on community development.
CVFiber CUD	A CUD made up of 20 Central Vermont communities that is deploying fiber-based broadband starting in 2023 and has an operations partnership with Waitsfield/Champlain Valley Telecom.
Department of Corrections	VCBB Digital Equity Core Team Member and governmental organization overseeing correctional facilities.
Department of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living	VCBB Digital Equity Core Team Member and government department supporting older Vermonters and Vermonters with disabilities.
Department of Labor	The Vermont Department of Labor has worked with the VCBB to develop its Fiber Optic Broadband Apprenticeship program, and has provided grant funding to plan for and establish the program. The VCBB will continue to consult with the Department of Labor on workforce planning activities.
Department of Libraries	VCBB Digital Equity Core Team Member and government department overseeing State libraries.

Partners	Description of Current or Planned Role in Broadband Deployment and Adoption
Public Service Department	The Telecommunications and Connectivity Division within the PSD works to ensure that every Vermonter has access to quality, reliable, and affordable communications services. As a regulator, they provide oversight of companies' compliance with Vermont Laws and Public Utility Commission orders and rules governing their operations.
DVFiber CUD	A CUD made up of 24 towns in mostly Southeastern Vermont that is deploying fiber-based broadband and has an operations partnership with Great Works Internet.
ECFiber CUD	Vermont's original CUD, formed in 2008 with 23 member towns. It now has 31 member towns, over 8,000 customers, 1,700 miles of network, and has issued \$64 million in revenue bonds.
Equal Access to Broadband	(No longer in operation) VCBB Digital Equity Core Team Member and non-governmental organization focused on affordable access. Offered consulting to broadband providers on digital inclusion and provided direct support in ACP enrollment.
Lamoille FiberNet CUD	A CUD made up of nine towns in Lamoille County, working to expand high-quality Internet access to the county's underserved homes.
Maple Broadband CUD	A CUD comprised of 20 towns in Addison County that is building out universal fiber-based broadband through a partnership with Waitsfield/Champlain Valley Telecom.
NEK Broadband CUD	A CUD comprised of 56 towns in the northeastern part of Vermont, covering the most rural population with the lowest median income in the State.
Northwest FiberworX CUD	A CUD comprised of 22 towns, working to expand fiber-based broadband in Northwestern Vermont.
Office of Racial Equity	VCBB Digital Equity Core Team Member and government department focused on racial equity.
Otter Creek CUD	A CUD comprised of 18 towns, working to expand fiber-based broadband in and near the Rutland region.
Southern VT CUD	A CUD comprised of 14 towns, partnering with Fidium Fiber to bring universal broadband service to Southwestern Vermont.
US Committee on Refugees and Immigrants (VT)	VCBB Digital Equity Core Team Member and government committee supporting refugees and immigrants.
US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)	VCBB Digital Equity Core Team Member and US government agency.
Vermont Center for Independent Living	VCBB Digital Equity Core Team Member and non-governmental organization supporting Vermonters with disabilities to live independently.



Partners	Description of Current or Planned Role in Broadband Deployment and Adoption
VT Communications Union District Association (VCUDA)	VCUDA is the association of the ten CUDs, and serves to unite CUDs around shared services, policy, and other areas of collaboration. VCUDA is a VCBB Digital Equity Core Team Member.
Vermont Council on Rural Development	VCBB Digital Equity Core Team Member and non-governmental organization supporting rural economic development.
Vermont Veterans Outreach	VCBB Digital Equity Core Team Member and government organization supporting Veterans.

Assessment: Assets, Needs, and Gaps

Vermonters are diverse, predominantly rural, and most consider themselves part of one or more underrepresented community (Figure 2). Data show that many of these communities experience lower rates of broadband availability and adoption (as well as diminished access to other socio-economic resources and opportunities).^{14 15}

FIGURE 2. DEMOGRAPHICS OF VERMONTERS

