

Ralph S, Northam Governor

R. Brian Ball Secretary of Commerce and Trade

COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Erik C. Johnston Director

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

December 15, 2021

Brandon Davis Executive Director Northern Shenandoah Valley RC 400 Kendrick Lane Front Royal, VA 22630

RE: 2022 Virginia Telecommunication Initiative Grant Offer

Dear Mr. Davis:

On behalf of Governor Northam, it gives me great pleasure to inform you the Northern Shenandoah Valley Regional Commission has been offered a grant through the Virginia Telecommunication Initiative (VATI) grant making process in the amount of \$95,303,000.00 in support of the region's partnership with All Points Broadband. This funding is offered through the 2022 VATI program.

Your application received a challenge by Shentel based on their Phase 1 Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF) award from the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). DHCD conditionally removed the overlap areas on the basis that the VATI grantee and the RDOF awardee enter into an agreement to provide broadband access within three (3) years of the VATI announcement. In the event the RDOF awardee forfeit any area(s) included in your original VATI application or, if the RDOF awardee(s) and the VATI grantee do not enter into a MOU prior to the issuance of the contract from DHCD, we reserve the right to fund the original grant request, including the RDOF funded area that has been conditionally removed. DHCD reserves the right to increase this award in the amount of \$1,570,500. The increase in funding will connect an additional 4,333 serviceable units.

Ammar Al Omari, Project Manager in the Department of Housing and Community Development's Office of Broadband, will contact you to schedule a contract negotiation meeting and discuss next steps. We are pleased to be of assistance to the Northern Shenandoah Valley Regional Commission in expanding broadband service to unserved areas of the region.

Sincerely,

Erik C. Johnston

Eil C. Johnston

Director

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c: Timothy Fitzgerald, County Administrator Christopher Boies, County Administrator Paula S. McCulla, County Administrator Mike Bollhoefer, County Administrator Amity Moler, County Administrator Gary W. Curry Jr, County Administrator Stephen G. King, County Administrator Edwin Daley, County Administrator Tamarah Holmes, Ph.D., DHCD Tommy Hill, DHCD