



Broadband Expansion

Federally Funded Projects Briefing for the Vermont Climate Council

Commissioner June Tierney

December 7, 2021

Broadband Expansion

- Act 71: *An Act Relating to Accelerated Community Broadband Deployment (6/8/21)*

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/Documents/2022/Docs/ACTS/ACT071/ACT071%20As%20Enacted.pdf>

- Universal Access to High-Speed (100/100 mbps) Broadband ASAP
 - Unserved = 4/1 mbps or less
 - Underserved = less than 25/3 mbps
 - Approximately 52,630 addresses in Vermont are either unserved or underserved
- Vermont Community Broadband Board
 - Housed “within” Public Service Department, but independent re: decisions
 - Executive Director on-boarded 7/26/21, reports exclusively to VCBB members
 - First VCBB meeting 8/6/21 – weekly for foreseeable future
- \$150M Appropriation to PSD to “administer” the VCB Fund
 - \$1.5M VCBB Operational Expenses
 - \$30M Preconstruction Grants for Communications Union Districts
 - \$118M Construction Grants

Broadband Expansion

4 Ts: Transparent, Tangible, Transformative, Timely Completion & Results

- **Transparent**

- Priority is fiber 100/100mbps bband service ASAP for 52,630 unserved/underserved addresses ASAP
- Funding is initial \$150M ARPA appropriation in FY22 Budget – more will be needed

- **Tangible**

- Act 71 Broadband expansion directed at one-time investment to build fiber networks throughout VT where private capital has failed to deliver such physical infrastructure

- **Transformative**

- Act 71 requires VCBB to prioritize projects that support low-income and disadvantaged communities and that promote geographic diversity

- **Timely Completion & Results**

- Act 71 requires VCBB to prioritize funding for grantees who demonstrate project readiness and establish terms for recoupment if grantee materially fails to meet grant terms and conditions

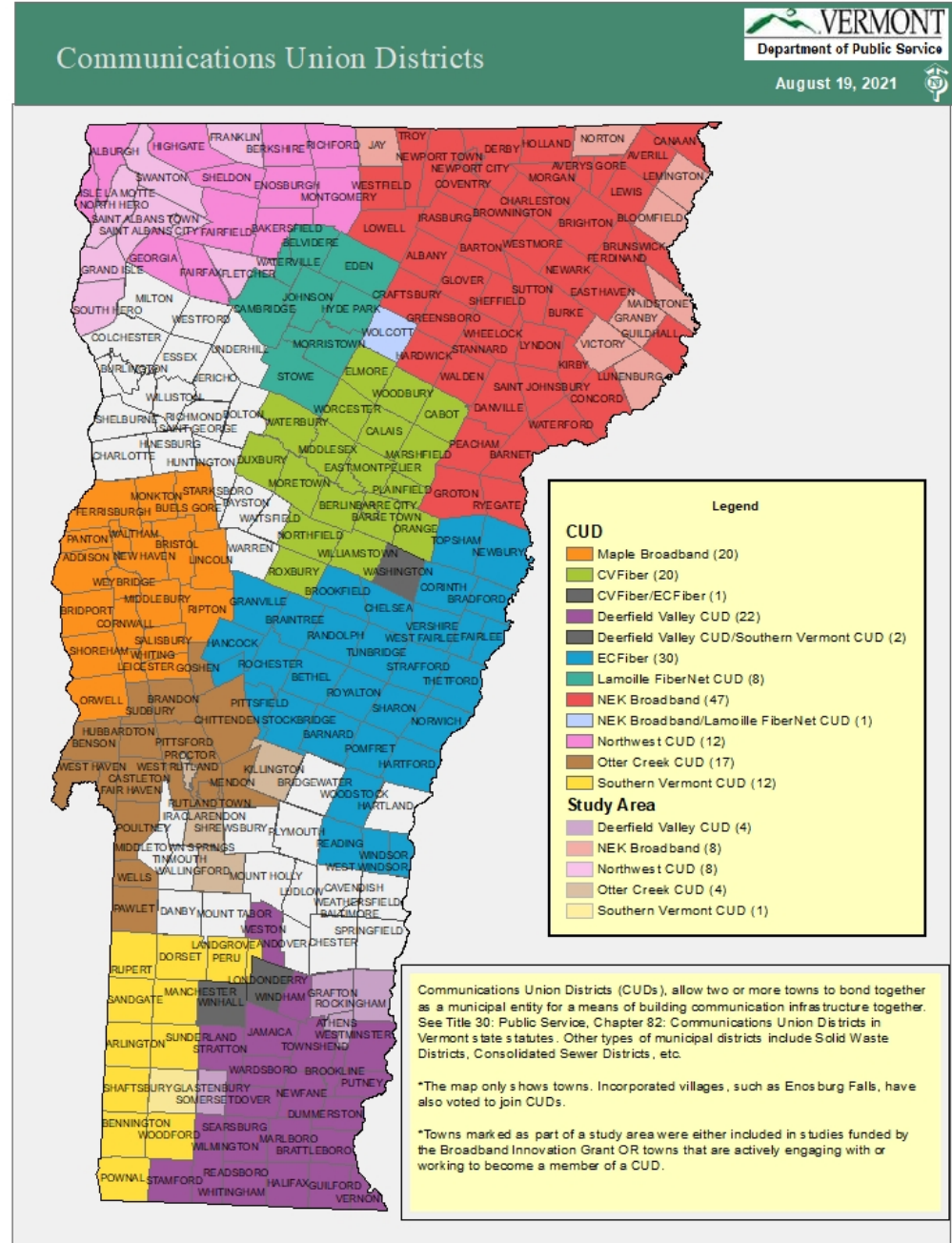
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Transformative:

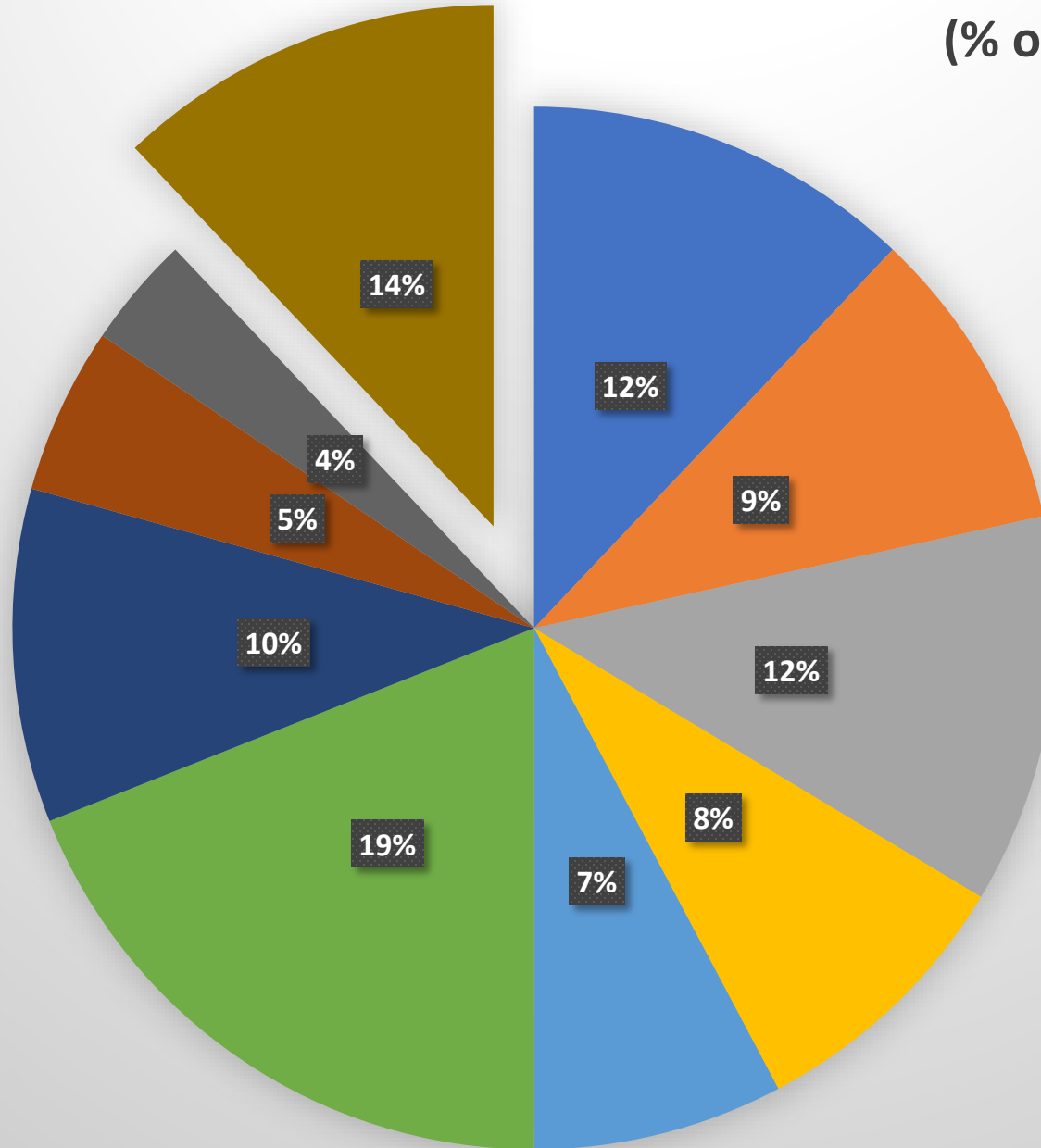
- Areas in color represent CUD territories in VT
- Act 71 requires **equitable** distribution of ARPA funding
- All CUDs are expected to receive VCBB grants for:
 - Pre-construction activities
 - * Engineering design
 - * Feasibility studies
 - * Data collection (pole studies)
 - * Make-ready and project mgt
 - * Operations, IT support, legal
 - Construction activities
 - * Contractors
 - * Materiel
- Act 71 allows CUDs to partner with ISPs and **Electric Utilities**

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<https://publicservice.vermont.gov/vcbb>



Unserved & Underserved Addresses Distributed Statewide (% of 52,630)



- Addison/Maple
- CVFIBER
- DVFIBER
- ECFIBER
- LAMOILLE
- NEKBAND
- NWCUD
- OTTER CREEK
- SOVT CUD
- NON CUD

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Pre-construction Time-line State-wide fiber design

