

Date Submitted: August 5, 2019

**LENOWISCO PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION
PUBLIC NOTICE OF AND REQUEST FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

Virginia Telecommunications Initiative (VATI) 2020 Application:

Effective immediately, notice is hereby given that the LENOWISCO Planning District Commission is requesting public comment on the proposed Virginia Telecommunications Initiative (VATI) Grant Application(s) for 2020. Comments will be accepted from August 5 through August 28, 2019.

Background / Summary:

The Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) has announced a competitive grant and application process to award \$19 million to eligible applicants to provide last-mile services to unserved areas in the Commonwealth. The primary objective of the VATI is to provide financial assistance to supplement construction costs by private sector broadband service providers, in partnership with local units of government to extend service to areas that are presently unserved by any broadband provider. Unserved areas are defined as having broadband speeds of less than 10 Mbps download and 1 Mbps upload or less. In addition, a proposed project area is considered eligible if 10% or less of serviceable units has access to service with no additional special construction costs from any provider as of the date of the application for the proposed project areas. Applications must be submitted by a unit of government (Towns, Cities, Counties, EDA/IDA, Broadband/Wireless Authorities, Planning District Commissions, etc.) with a private sector provider(s) as a co-applicant. Scott County Telephone Cooperative has agreed to collaborate as the private provider partner in the proposed project(s). This notice serves the localities of the LENOWISCO Planning District; Lee, Scott and Wise Counties and the City of Norton. Public comment is encouraged.

Submission of Comments:

Name: LENOWISCO Planning District Commission

Email: lenowisco@lenowisco.org

372 Technology Trail Lane

Suite 101

Duffield, VA 24244

Office Hours: 8:00 am to 4:30 pm

Phone: 276-431-2206 (For direct comment or to request assistance)

Virginia Relay Center for Voice/TTY service is available by calling 7-1-1