



Annual Report

Short Form 2020

Central Vermont Internet (CVFiber) is a Communication Union District (CUD) representing twenty Central Vermont communities. CVFiber's mission is to ensure everyone in its member towns has access to internet speeds of at least 100 Mbps (megabits per second) for both uploading and downloading data. Currently, many Central Vermont residences and businesses located outside more populous areas have limited access to high-speed broadband. This limited broadband availability has been highlighted by the Covid-19 pandemic as students and employees shifted to remote learning and working. Slow internet access stifles economic development, creates public safety risks, limits access to telehealth services, reduces property values, and hampers residents' abilities to access common online services.

Beginning in 2019 and culminating in 2020, CVFiber conducted a community survey regarding the current state of broadband, experiences with internet providers, and future interest in offerings. Through the survey, CVFiber collected valuable information on a wide variety of topics to help guide its high-speed broadband planning. A more detailed breakdown of a number of the questions we asked across all communities can be found here: <http://bit.ly/CVFiberSurvey2020>

CVFiber completed a Feasibility Study and Business plan using grant funding from USDA Rural Development and the State of Vermont. The purpose of these documents is to facilitate an application for a \$4-million VEDA loan to allow CVFiber to begin network construction in 2021. This money will enable CVFiber to begin the design and build out of high-speed broadband.

CVFiber is committed to making affordable high-speed broadband available to Central Vermont in the coming years. We welcome your engagement and feedback to help us achieve this goal. Please reach out to your respective community representative or visit our website for the latest developments and progress toward accomplishing this momentous goal.

Respectfully submitted,

The CVFiber Governing Board

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Providing Central Vermont residents, businesses, and civic institutions with universal access to a reliable, secure, locally-owned and -governed communications network able to grow to meet future community needs.

Barre City • Barre Town • Berlin • Cabot • Calais • Duxbury • East Montpelier • Elmore • Marshfield • Middlesex
Montpelier • Moretown • Northfield • Orange • Plainfield • Roxbury • Washington • Williamstown • Woodbury • Worcester