



## ***Westmoreland County Partners with Verizon to Bring Internet to Unserved Locations***

*The County partners with internet service providers to deliver strong broadband infrastructure and reliable internet*

### **For Immediate Release**

**Westmoreland County, Pa** - The Westmoreland County Board of Commissioners announced Thursday that the County has selected Verizon to deploy high-speed fiber-optic broadband service to the four Early Action Project areas and is working with additional internet service providers (ISPs) to expand service through the [Pennsylvania Broadband Development Authority's Capital Projects Fund](#).

The partnership between the County and Verizon will bring broadband access to more than 400 locations that were identified through the Westmoreland Broadband Program's January 2023 [Data Collection and Feasibility Report](#). The four early action projects – covering parts of Derry, Fairfield, and Ligonier Townships – represent the areas of the County with the greatest need and were prioritized to bring much-needed support to residents and businesses.

“We are excited to be working with Verizon to provide broadband access to so many residents, families, and businesses who have struggled to have reliable internet in their locations,” said Sean Kertes, Chairman of the Westmoreland County Board of Commissioners. “Internet access is no longer a luxury; it is a necessity for our community to grow and thrive and this partnership is a step in the right direction.”

Verizon was awarded the project after the County launched a competitive open Request for Proposals (RFP) to local and national internet service providers. Bids were received through April 2023, and a thorough, internal evaluation, interview, and negotiation process followed.

In addition to the Early Action Projects, the County issued another RFP to partner with ISPs and encourage participation in the Pennsylvania Broadband Development Authority's Capital Project Funds (CPF) grant program. The CPF grant provides [\\$200 million in federal funding](#) to businesses, nonprofits, local governments, and economic development organizations for the expansion of broadband services.

“I strongly support the broadband goals of the county's comprehensive plan, [Reimagining Our Westmoreland](#), which were developed to ensure affordable home broadband access and to invest in high-speed internet and technology to promote growth,” said Doug Chew, Vice-Chairman of the Westmoreland County Board of Commissioners. “The contingent partnership between Westmoreland and the ISPs for CPF funding and implementation will achieve both the short- and long-term planning goals and objectives.”

The Westmoreland Broadband Program is the culmination of extensive fieldwork, a public speed test survey, and stakeholder engagement serving as a roadmap for making broadband available throughout the County. It captures the current state of broadband availability, improvement goals, and implementation steps.

**To learn more about the Broadband Data Collection and Feasibility Study findings, visit the broadband program website at [westmorelandbroadband.org](http://westmorelandbroadband.org).**

*More Speed. More Access. More Affordable.*

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**About the Westmoreland Broadband Program**

Westmoreland County Planning and Development is taking steps to ensure that all residents and businesses in Westmoreland County can connect to high-speed and reliable broadband. Working together with countywide and regional agencies, Westmoreland County is seeking to bridge the gap areas within the County for future infrastructure expansion. This will result in resilient and competitive communities throughout Westmoreland County to ensure both urban and rural communities are properly connected.

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**Board of Commissioners**

Sean Kertes, Chairman  
Douglas W. Chew, Vice-Chairman  
Gina Cerilli Thrasher, Secretary

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