



For Immediate Release

Westmoreland County Partners with Verizon to Bring Broadband to Four Early Action Areas

Westmoreland County, PA — The Westmoreland County Commissioners announced today that the County has partnered with Verizon to expand broadband services to four early action areas. 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.

The partnership between Westmoreland County and Verizon will bring broadband access to more than 400 locations that were identified as being unserved through the Westmoreland Broadband Program’s January 2023 [Data Collection and Feasibility Report](#). Verizon’s infrastructure construction is scheduled to begin Spring 2024 for the early action areas and will take approximately one year to complete. Impacted residents will receive communications directly regarding the upcoming broadband infrastructure construction. Questions regarding implementation and construction should be directed to feedback@westmorelandbroadband.org.

“We are excited to partner with Verizon to get the people of Westmoreland County the broadband access they so desperately need. Prioritizing the four early action areas allows us to construct and deploy affordable broadband access to those residents who need it the most,” said Planning Director Jason Rigone.

In addition to the early action projects, the County issued a Request for Proposal to partner with internet service providers (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. Awards are expected to be announced early Spring 2024.

The next step in the Westmoreland Broadband Program is to identify ISPs for the remaining Connectivity Opportunity Areas (COAs) through a competitive bid process and other grant opportunities. The COAs are locations with poor or no broadband connectivity that are within the new service areas. The four early action projects are part of the COAs and were identified as having the greatest need. Westmoreland residents can enter their address on the interactive [New Service Area Map](#) to see if their location falls within a COA or early action location.

“The early action areas are just the start of the broadband expansion program. We will continue to solicit ISPs to expand broadband services to additional COAs. Our goal is to get everyone fast and affordable internet access across the county.”

To learn more about the Westmoreland Broadband Program, visit westmorelandbroadband.org.

More Speed. More Access. More Affordable.

724.495.4350 | feedback@westmorelandbroadband.org | www.westmorelandbroadband.org



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.

Media Contact:

Jason Rigone, Director
Westmoreland County Planning and Development
Phone: 724-830-3601

Board of Commissioners

Sean Kertes, Chairman
Douglas W. Chew, Vice-Chairman
Ted Kopas, Secretary

More Speed. More Access. More Affordable.

724.495.4350 | feedback@westmorelandbroadband.org | www.westmorelandbroadband.org