

What areas of Hanover County do not have high-speed internet service?

The Virginia Tech Center for Geospatial Information Technology, the Virginia Center for Innovative Technology and the Virginia Telecommunication Initiative (VITA) program have mapped Virginia to identify various levels of internet service. Based on that map, these areas in Hanover are unserved: the Greenwood Church Road corridor between Blanton Road and Cedar Creek Lane; Doswell; Rockville; and the northern boundary of Hanover adjacent to the North Anna and Pamunkey Rivers, extending to Old Church.

What is the definition of unserved?

Areas that do not have access to at least 10 megabits per second (mbps) downstream (download) and 1 Mbps upstream (upload) are considered unserved.

Why are these designations important?

The grant programs created by the federal government (USDA ReConnect program) as well as the state government (VATI program) rely upon these maps to make decisions on grant awards. Addresses in the areas listed above are the ones in Hanover County that would be eligible for grant funding, if a provider was willing to provide the service.

Can Hanover County apply for these grants on behalf of residents in unserved areas?

Hanover County alone is not eligible to apply for the grants. To be eligible, the organization that is applying for the grant must provide retail internet service, meaning that service would be made available to each address within each new service area. Hanover County government does not provide internet service. In the case of the federal Re-Connect program, for-profit corporations such as Comcast, Verizon or CenturyLink are eligible to apply for the grants without the County's involvement. The County has approached several providers about partnering with the County on a grant, with no success to date.

An important fact to note is that these programs are not intended to foster competition between providers. Overlapping service territories are not allowed.