



CIT Releases Virginia's 2016 RUOnlineVA Broadband Demand Report
Demand Survey Finds Nearly a Quarter of Respondents Still Lack Internet Access

December 15, 2016 (HERNDON, VA) – The Center for Innovative Technology (CIT) announced today the release of the report from Virginia's 2016 RUOnlineVA initiative – the statewide broadband demand survey. Based off of the responses received from citizens throughout the Commonwealth, the survey found many respondents still lack fixed Internet access.

[RUOnlineVA](#), which was officially announced by Governor McAuliffe on May 24, 2016 and closed in August, was a statewide survey designed to provide Virginians an opportunity to log their need for Internet service. The goal of the initiative was to identify where broadband is needed most in the Commonwealth.

The RUOnlineVA initiative received strong support from multiple agencies, associations and local governments and collected more than 15,000 responses from residents and businesses from 129 Virginia localities. The report provides details and analysis of the data collected as well as recommendations for the Commonwealth. The resulting recommendations were developed based on the findings of the survey as well as CIT's expertise and work with providers to determine the barriers to access. The recommendations highlight policies and programs that are considered integral to expanding broadband throughout Virginia.

Among other findings, the data indicates almost one quarter (23% which could represent as many as 782,745 homes) of the respondents have no options for fixed Internet access. Also, almost half (48%) of the respondents are relying on technologies that are too expensive and/or too slow to support critical applications.

In addition to highlighting areas in need, the RUOnlineVA campaign has helped to bridge the gap between the Internet service providers and the citizens. CIT collaborated with some of the incumbent providers to address inquiries about the lack of service reported within coverage areas which resulted in a number of providers identifying and solving some of the issues.

Sandie Terry, Vice President of Broadband at CIT said, "This survey provided us crowd-sourced broadband demand that gives us a view of unserved areas beyond the provider reported coverage. We are grateful for the providers that worked with us to investigate clusters of unmet demand. Those efforts identified policy and process changes that can eliminate barriers to expansion."

The RUOnlineVA report can be found here:

<https://www.wired.virginia.gov/sites/default/files/RUOnline%20Virginia%202016%20Report.pdf>

Any locality interested in viewing its data or interested in learning how CIT can help it identify and achieve its broadband goals should contact Sandie Terry (Sandie.Terry@cit.org).

About the Center for Innovative Technology, www.cit.org

Since 1985, CIT, a nonprofit corporation, has been Virginia's primary driver of innovation and entrepreneurship. CIT accelerates the next generation of technology and technology companies through commercialization, capital formation, market development and revenue generation services. To facilitate national innovation leadership and accelerate the rate of technology adoption, CIT creates partnerships between innovative technology start-up companies and advanced technology consumers. CIT's CAGE Code is 1UP71. To learn more, please visit www.cit.org. Follow CIT on Twitter [@CITorg](https://twitter.com/CITorg) and add the Center for Innovative Technology on [LinkedIn](#) and [Facebook](#).

###

Contact: Kevin May
(703) 689-3064
kevin.may@cit.org