



## COUNTY OF AMHERST

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### Public Information Officer

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**For Immediate Release**

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### **Broadband Update: Amherst County Awarded \$127,000 through Virginia Telecommunication Initiative**

Amherst County was recently awarded \$127,073 through the Virginia Telecommunication Initiative (VATI) grant, which provides targeted funding to extend broadband service to areas that are presently unserved or underserved. Providing internet access to its residents has been a top priority for the County. Through the VATI grant, Amherst County and SCS, the broadband provider partnered with the county, look to hasten this process. The \$127,073 awarded to the county is directed towards three of the seven towers being equipped for internet access. These towers are in Lowesville, Turkey Mountain, and Panther Mountain. This does not mean that the broadband project at the other four locations will be stopped. Instead, SCS will be able to more speedily service the three towers, allowing them to quickly move resources to the remaining four towers. All seven towers are set to be equipped with internet access beginning this summer and continuing through 2019. Exact completion dates are still pending. However, residents may call SCS at (434) 263-6363 to determine their access to broadband internet.

Additional information may be obtained from Tyler Creasy at [stcreasy@countyofamherst.com](mailto:stcreasy@countyofamherst.com) or (434) 946-9400.