



**BOOK 38**  
**Page 924-928**



**AMHERST COUNTY**  
**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

**Board of Supervisors**

Tom Martin, Chair  
District 1  
Drew Wade, Vice-Chair  
District 5  
Claudia Tucker, Supervisor  
District 2  
David W. Pugh, Jr., Supervisor  
District 4

**MINUTES**

**December 5, 2023**  
Administration Building - 153 Washington  
Street - Public Meeting Room  
Amherst, Virginia 24521  
Meeting Convened - 3:00 PM

**County Administrator**  
Jeremy Bryant

**County Attorney**  
Mark Popovich

**I. Call to Order**

At a regular meeting of the Amherst County Board of Supervisors held on December 5, 2023 at 3:00 p.m., the following members were present:

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:**

Tom Martin, Chairman  
Drew Wade, Vice-Chair  
David W. Pugh, Jr., Supervisor

**ABSENT:** Claudia D. Tucker, Supervisor

**STAFF:**

Jeremy S. Bryant, County Administrator  
Stacey McBride, Deputy County Administrator/Finance Director  
Mark Popovich, County Attorney  
Kristen Freeman, Clerk

Chairman Martin called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

**NOTE: All Board of Supervisors' meetings are now being streamed live on Facebook and on YouTube.**

**II. Approval of Agenda**

By motion of Supervisor Pugh and with the following vote, the Board approved the agenda.

**AYE:** Mr. Martin, Mr. Wade, and Mr. Pugh

**NAY:** None

**ABSENT:** Mrs. Tucker

**III. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance**

Supervisor Pugh led the Invocation and Chairman Martin led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**IV. Citizen Comment**

David Hawkins, representing Narayan Properties, addressed the Board asking them to consider not going forward with the Spot Blight Abatement on the former Scottish Inn Motel and to postpone this action.

Norm Walton addressed the Board, representing Sam Patel. Mr. Walton is asking the Board for flexibility with setbacks thru an ordinance amendment regarding the Madison Heights Town Square Development.

Sam Patel addressed the Board to explain why he is asking for an Ordinance change regarding setbacks.

## **V. Ordinance - First Read**

### **A. Ordinance 2023-9 Zoning and Subdivisions**

This ordinance amends and reenacts Appendix A, Zoning and Subdivisions, Article III, Definitions of Terms Used in this Ordinance, Section 302, Specific Definitions; Article VIII, Use Requirements by Zoning Districts, Section 702, Agricultural Residential District A-1; and Article XII, Subdivision Platting Requirements, Section 1207, Administrative Review of Certain Plats. The purpose of this ordinance is to allow for recreational dwellings and for the spouse of a qualified family member to be added to a family division plat.

By motion of Supervisor Pugh and with the following vote, the Board instructed staff to advertise Ordinance 2023-9 as amended for a public hearing on December 19, 2023.

AYE: Mr. Martin, Mr. Wade, and Mr. Pugh

NAY: None

ABSENT: Mrs. Tucker

### **B. Ordinance 2023-10 Spot Blight Abatement**

On September 3, 2019, the County Administrator, in accordance with Sections 36-3 and 36-49.1:1 of the Code of Virginia (1950, as amended), made a preliminary determination that the property located at 4512 South Amherst Highway constituted spot blight as a result of the condition of the property which endangered the public health, safety and general welfare. On November 4, 2019, the property owner entered into a Rehabilitation Agreement with the County in an attempt to abate the blight conditions on the property. To date, the owner has failed to comply with the Rehabilitation Agreement and staff recommends the adoption of the attached ordinance setting forth the County's Blight Abatement Plan that will authorize the demolition of the structures on the property at the cost of the property owner.

By motion of Vice-Chair Wade and with the following vote, the Board directed staff to set a public hearing for December 19, 2023 to consider the adoption of Ordinance 2023-10 as presented.

AYE: Mr. Martin, Mr. Wade, and Mr. Pugh

NAY: None

ABSENT: Mrs. Tucker

### **C. Ordinance 2023-11 SE Multifamily Dwellings**

The Planning and Zoning division recently received a request from Perkins and Orrison on behalf of Rowan Holdings, LLC for a revision to the County's Mixed-Use/Traditional Neighborhood (MU/TND) Zoning District. The proposed change would allow for multi-family dwellings to exceed the 15' maximum front yard setback through a special exception in the residential subareas of the MU/TND zoning district. The proposed code change illustrates several standards, which the Commission and Board of Supervisors will use in making their recommendations and decisions. These standards include the following:

- Additional landscaping is provided on the frontage of the building to soften the building faced with a mixture of small and medium shrubs.
- No parking in the building frontage, except on-street parking.

- Pedestrian connectivity is provided to the adjoining streets.
- The buildings are arranged, and a layout is provided that is harmonious with the overall Mixed-use/Traditional Neighborhood masterplan for development in Neighborhood Residential subareas.

By motion of Chairman Martin and with the following vote, the Board directed staff to advertise Ordinance 2023-11 for a public hearing on December 19, 2023. Mr. Martin also asked staff to work with the applicant to discuss the potential for more standards regarding Ordinance 2023-11.

AYE: Mr. Martin, Mr. Wade, and Mr. Pugh  
 NAY: None  
 ABSENT: Mrs. Tucker

## **VI. Consent Agenda**

By motion of Vice-Chair Wade and with the following vote, the Board approved Items A, B, and C of the Consent Agenda for December 5, 2023. Item D. was discussed separately.

AYE: Mr. Martin, Mr. Wade, and Mr. Pugh  
 NAY: None  
 ABSENT: Mrs. Tucker

### **A. Minutes - November 21, 2023 Joint Meeting**

It was moved that the Board adopted the minutes of November 21, 2023, Joint Meeting.

### **B. Minutes - November 21, 2023**

It was moved that the Board adopt the minutes of November 21, 2023.

### **C. Recreation Department - Appropriation for water leak at Rivedge Park.**

It was moved that the Board appropriate \$1,552.41 of additional funds to the Recreation Department's operating budget to cover the cost of the water leak at Riveredge Park.

### **D. Holiday Leave Time Change**

**Item was discussed separately from the rest of the Consent Agenda.**

By motion of Chairman Martin and with the following vote, the Board voted that going forward, county staff will receive two full days of holiday leave for Christmas regardless of the leave dates set by the Governor of Virginia.

AYE: Mr. Martin, Mr. Wade, and Mr. Pugh  
 NAY: None  
 ABSENT: Mrs. Tucker

## **VII. New Business**

### **A. Firefly and TJPDC Application - VATI 2024 Funding**

Melissa Gay with Firefly addressed the Board with some updates on Firefly Internet progress in Amherst County. **(SEE ATTACHMENT 1)**

By motion of Vice-Chair Wade and with the following vote, the Board adopted Resolution 2023-18-R as presented.

AYE: Mr. Martin, Mr. Wade, and Mr. Pugh

NAY: None

ABSENT: Mrs. Tucker

### **VIII. County Administrator's Report**

#### **A. New Employee Introduction - Sarah Nichols**

For the Board's information.

### **IX. County Attorney's Report**

The County Attorney stated that the trial date for the Town of Amherst vs. Amherst County has been set for March 8, 2024 at 10:30 AM.

### **X. Liaison and Committee Reports**

#### **A. Planning Commission - David Pugh**

Supervisor Pugh reported the Planning Commission had a FEMA map update and all property owners that will be affected have been mailed the information regarding this. He also reported that Energex Solar has moved its appeal to February 20, 2024.

### **XI. Departmental Reports**

#### **A. Social Services Board-Annual Report**

The Board received an annual report from Jason Meador, Director of Social Services and Secretary to the Social Services Board. (SEE ATTACHMENT 2)

### **XII. Citizen Comment**

There was no public comment.

### **XIII. Matters from Members of the Board of Supervisors**

Chair Martin had no matter to discuss.

Vice-Chair Wade had no matter to discuss.

Supervisor Pugh had no matter to discuss.

### **XIV. Adjournment**

By motion of Vice-Chair Wade and with the following vote, the Board adjourned at 3:52 pm.

AYE: Mr. Martin, Mr. Wade, and Mr. Pugh

NAY: None

ABSENT: Mrs. Tucker



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Tom Martin, Chair  
Amherst County Board of Supervisors



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Jeremy Bryant, County Administrator



Attachment 1

# AMHERST COUNTY

Closing the Rural Digital Divide

PROJECT UPDATE | DECEMBER 2023

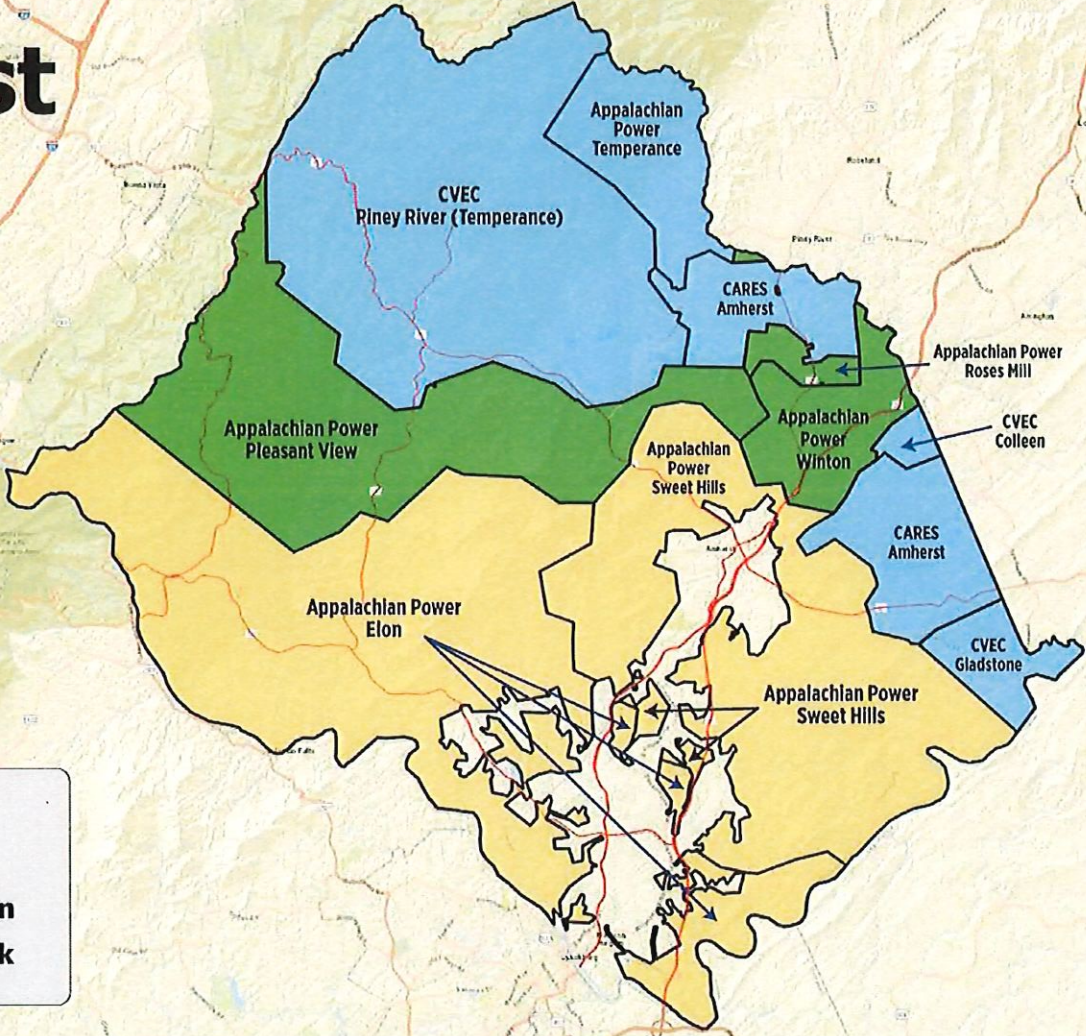


**firefly**  
FIBER BROADBAND<sup>SM</sup>

# Amherst County

**Legend**

- In-Service
- Fiber Construction
- Make-Ready Work





# Projected Timelines

SERVICE CONNECTIONS IN EACH PROJECT AREA ARE ANTICIPATED TO BEGIN WITHIN THE NOTED PERIOD AND INTO THE FOLLOWING PERIOD UNTIL ALL WHO PRE-REGISTERED FOR SERVICE ARE CONNECTED. (I.E. FIRST CONNECTIONS ARE MADE IN THE FALL AND WILL CARRY ON INTO THE WINTER UNTIL CONNECTIONS ARE COMPLETE)



Fall 2023  
ends 12/22/2023



Winter 2023-2024  
ends 3/19/2024



Spring 2024  
ends 6/20/2024



Summer 2024  
ends 9/22/2024



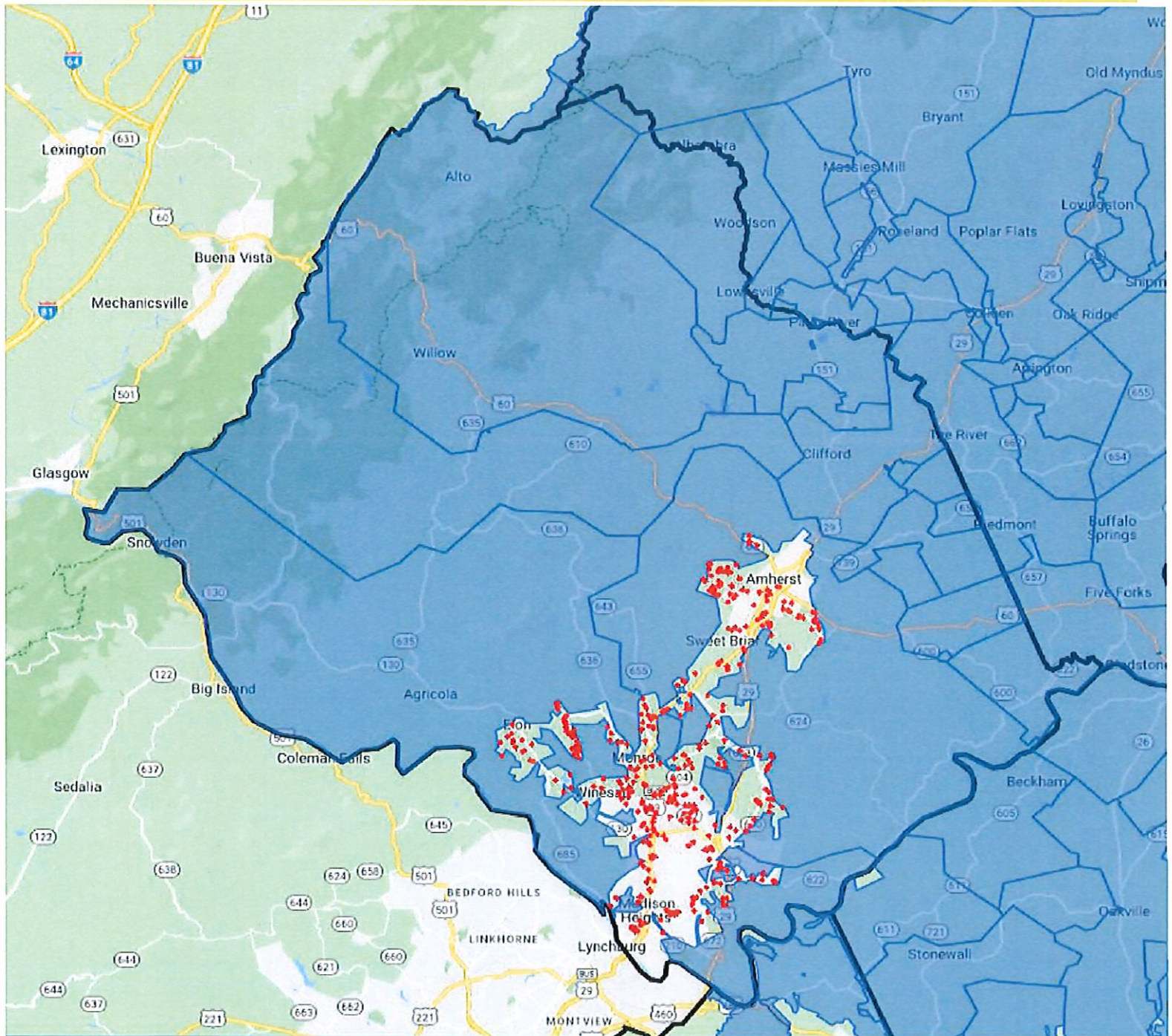
Fall 2024  
ends 12/21/2024

Partner/Area	Connection Status
<b>RISE - Appalachian Power</b>	
<b>Amherst County</b>	
Temperance	In-Service
Hartless Road/Roses Mill Road	Connecting Now
Pleasant View - Buffalo Springs Tnpk	Fall 2023
Winton - Alcock - Chestnut	Fall 2023
Elon	Spring 2024
Sweet Hills	Fall 2024

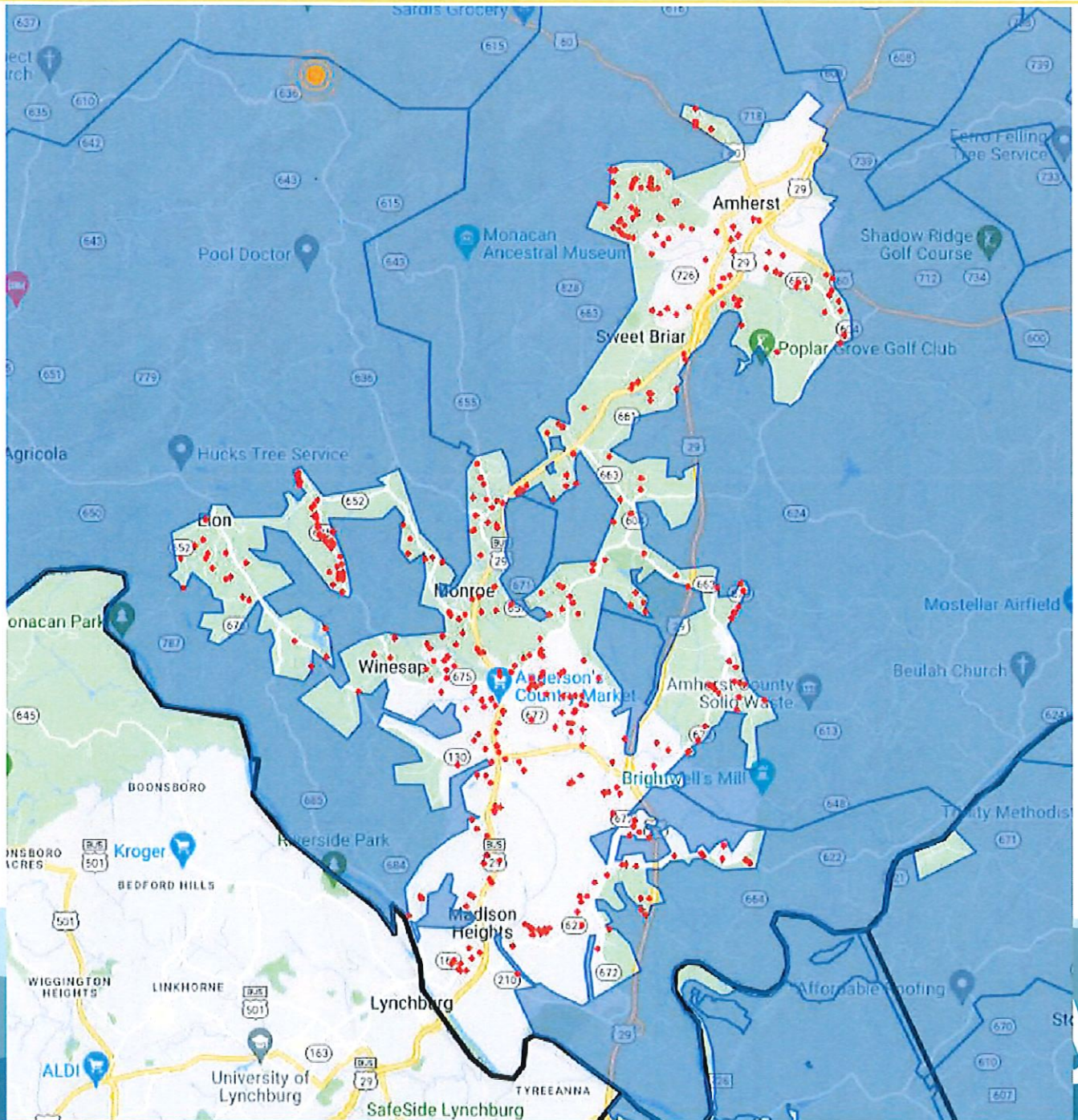


**firefly**  
FIBER BROADBAND.

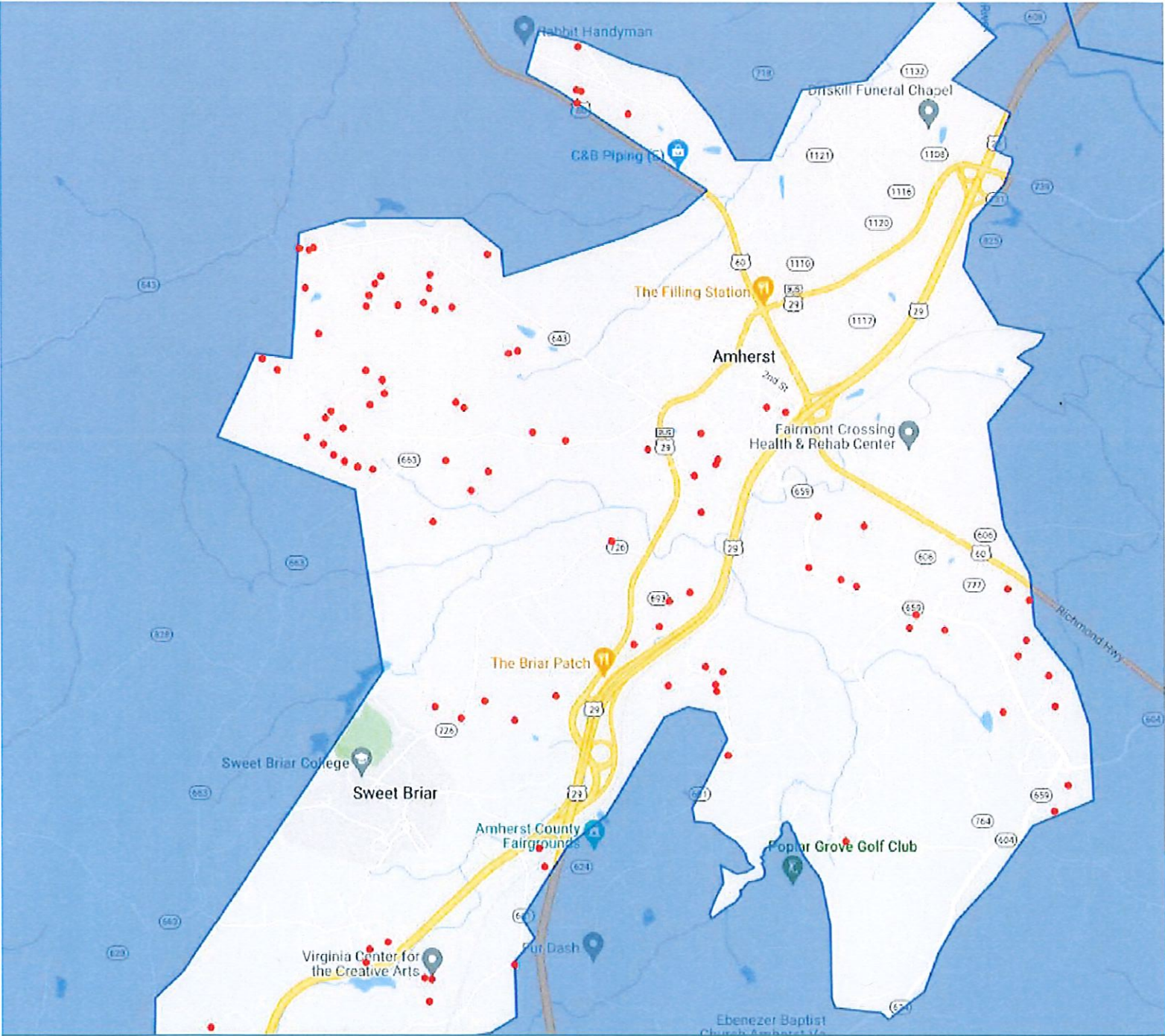
# VATI 2024 Project Area



# VATI 2024 Project Area

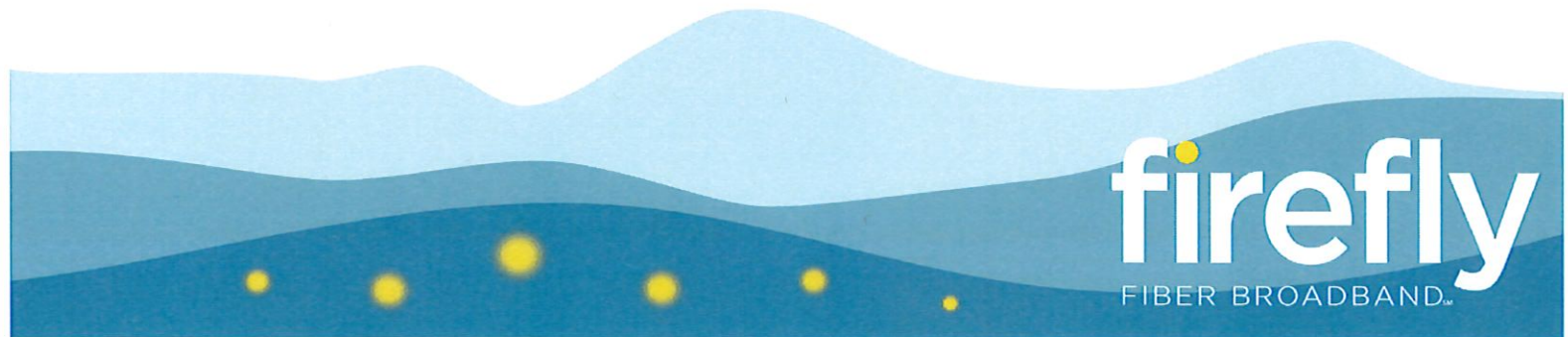
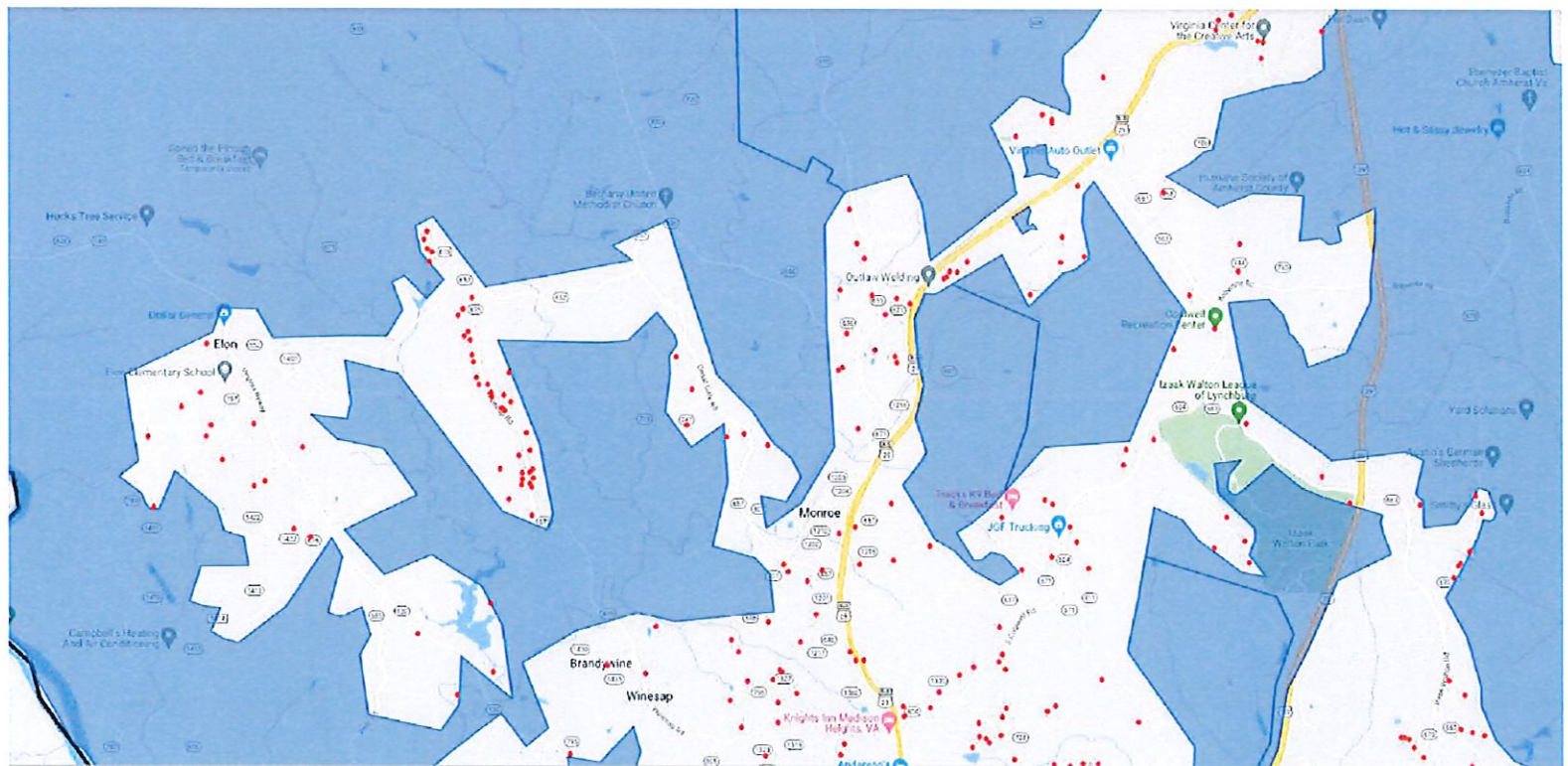


# VATI 2024 Project Area



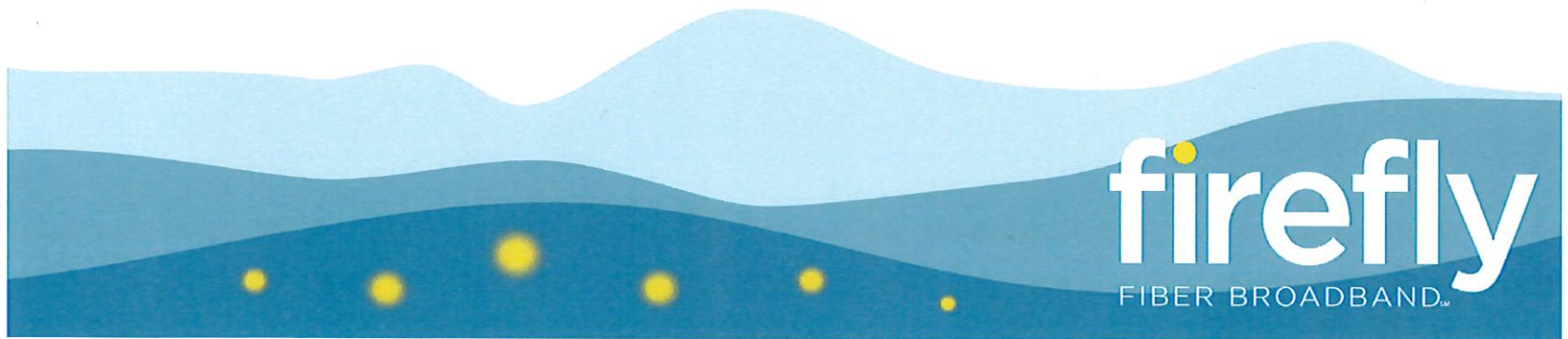
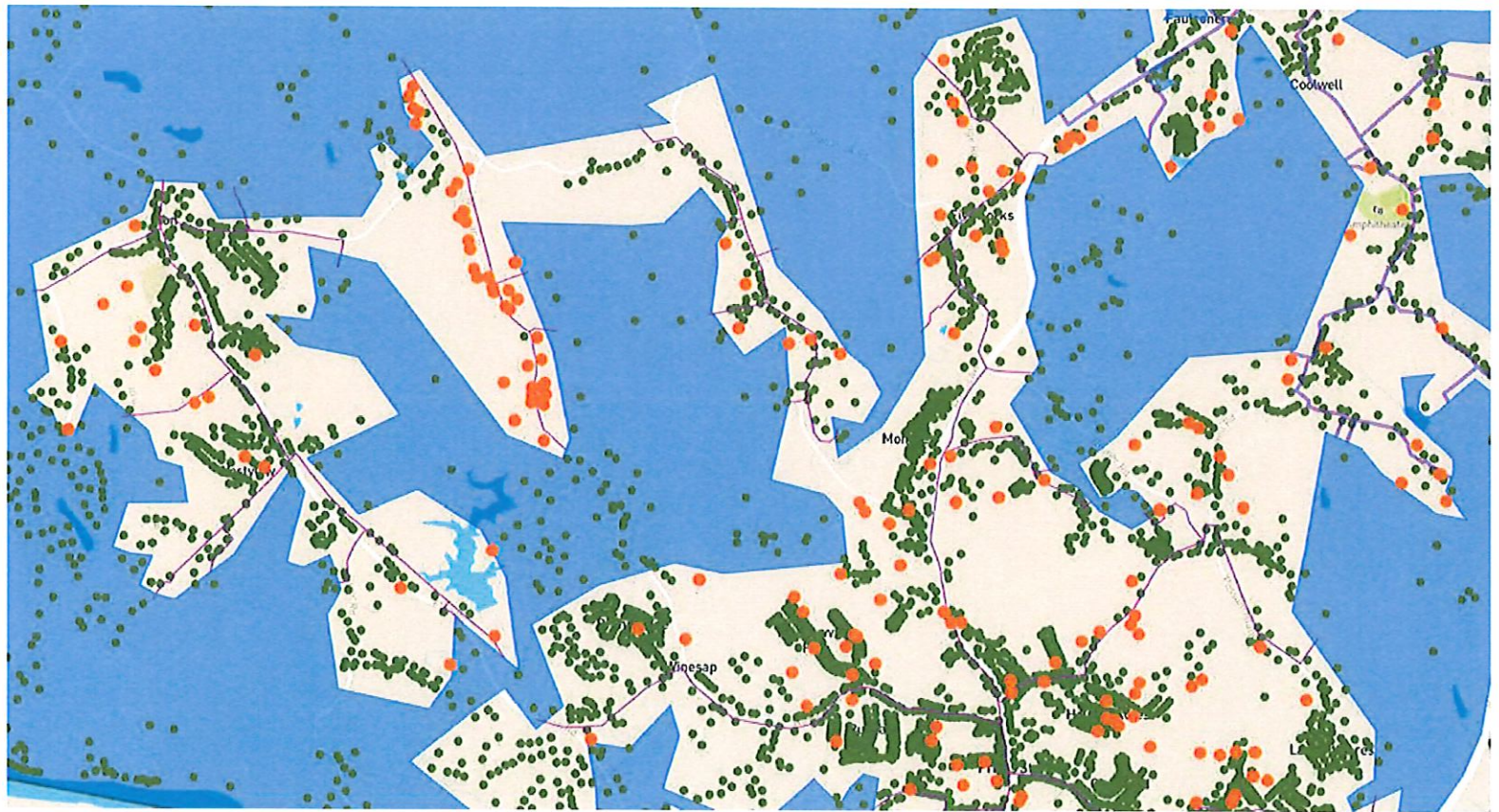
# VATI 2024 Project Area

## PROPOSED AMHERST PROJECT AREAS



# VATI 2024 Project Area

Example of unserved locations spread among served locations



# VATI 2024 Grant

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## PROJECT FIGURES IN AMHERST

- Total passings within VATI 2024 Grant project – 410
- Total Miles of Fiber in VATI 2024 Grant project – 32
- Total Investment in VATI 2024 Grant project – \$1,900,000
- Requested county match – \$0



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FIBER BROADBAND™

# Next Steps

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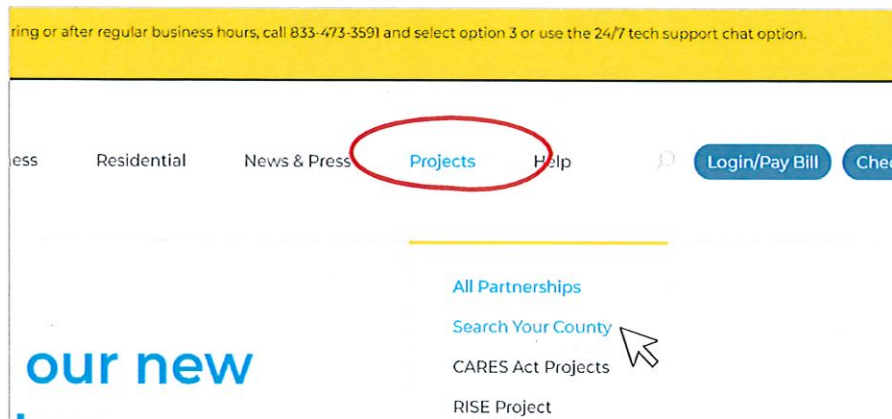
- Approve the resolution to support the inclusion of Amherst County in the VATI 2024 grant
- Send the letter of support to be included in the VATI 2024 application



# Visit our online resources

Have questions on whether your location is in our RISE Project?

Visit: <https://www.fireflyva.com/partners/#search-your-county>



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QUESTIONS?

**firefly**  
FIBER BROADBAND<sup>SM</sup>



# Amherst County

## Department of Social Services



Director – Jason Meador

Administrative Services Manager – Robin McFadden

Family Services Manager – Drew Coleman

## ***Mission :***

Offer timely, appropriate, quality services to individuals and families in order to promote self-sufficiency and to protect children and adults.

## ***Services Offered:***

Foster Care / Adoption  
Adult Protective Services  
Child Protective Services  
In home / Prevention Services  
Energy Assistance  
Emergency Assistance  
Emergency Shelter Operations  
Employment Services  
Family Access to Insurance Security (FAMIS)  
Family Partnership Meetings  
Home Based Care (Companion Services)  
Intake Services  
Medicaid  
SNAP (Food Assistance)  
State/Local Hospitalization  
Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)  
Volunteer Services

**ORGANIZATIONAL CHART**  
Amherst County Department of Social Services

Amherst County Department of Social Services  
Local DSS Board: Leon Parrish, John Marks, Glenda Hash, Todd Rodes, David Pugh

Jason Meador  
Director II (1)

<b>Drew Coleman</b> Family Services Manager (82)		<b>Kimberly Davis</b> Benefit Programs Supervisor (83)	<b>Sara Tomlin</b> Benefit Programs Supervisor (63)	<b>Cindy Walker</b> Benefit Programs Supervisor (71)	<b>Robin McFadden</b> Administrative Services Manager (12)
<b>Michael Chesser</b> Family Services Supervisor (65)	<b>Tonya Bradley</b> Family Services Supervisor (30)	<b>Intake Unit</b> Laura Smith Benefit Programs Specialist III (49)	<b>Ongoing Unit</b> Flo Duff Benefit Programs Specialist III (57)	<b>Self-Sufficiency Unit</b> Audrey Millner Self-Sufficiency Specialist II (19)	Mia Bell Administrative Program Assistant II (59)
<b>Adult Protective Services</b> Leanne Ragland Family Services Specialist II (85)	<b>Foster Care &amp; Adoption</b> Robert Pugh Family Services Specialist I (84)	Heather Mays Benefit Programs Specialist II (42)	Marlo Harris Benefit Programs Specialist II (9)	Kristy Ramsey Self-Sufficiency Specialist I (56)	Candace Wilson Administrative Program Assistant I (66)
Eric Divers Family Services Specialist II (4)	Cheyenne Mills Family Services Specialist I (26)	Sharon Hughes Benefit Programs Specialist II (61)	Shirley Collins Benefit Programs Specialist II (48)	Brooke Stanley Self-Sufficiency Specialist I (68)	Tracey Brown Administrative Program Assistant I (18)
<b>Child Protective Services - Prevention</b> Paula Harman Family Services Specialist III (58)	Megan Bodek Family Services Specialist I (25)	Daphne Gilchrist Benefit Programs Specialist II (15)	Robin Gunter Benefit Programs Specialist II (55)		Tabatha Terry Office Associate III (38)
Carmela Dyke Family Services Specialist II (67)	Leanne Serlis Family Services Specialist I (54)	Kristin Shockey Benefit Programs Specialist I (8)	Stacy Bowman Benefit Programs Specialist II (43)		VACANT Administrative Program Assistant I (86)
VACANT Family Services Specialist I (75)	Fran Patton Human Services Assistant III (69)	Kayla MacArthur Benefit Programs Specialist I (64)	Teresa Irving Benefit Programs Specialist II (74)		Autumn Paige IV-E Benefit Programs Specialist I (16)
<b>Child Protective Services - Investigations</b> Giovanna Rose Family Services Specialist III (81)			Casey Collins Benefit Programs Specialist II (73)		
Hannah Wasvary Family Services Specialist II (72)			Sarah Caddell Benefit Programs Specialist II (7)		
Angela Wheeler Family Services Specialist II (47)			Haylee Creamer Benefit Programs Specialist I (5)		
Allison Shiflett Human Services Assistant I (70)			Angel Wright Benefit Programs Specialist I (60)		
			Danielle Snyder (P/T) Human Services Assistant II (46)		

Recent Changes

Pink indicates positions that are vacant

Family Services Specialist vacancy in Prevention  
Admin Assistant in Admin

# Amherst County

## Department of Social Services

Local Profile Report

SFY 2023





# Local Department of Social Services Profile Report - Poverty

Year:  
2021

FIPS:  
009

Region:  
Piedmont

Agency Level:  
II (Two)

HR Policy:  
Non-Deviating

IT Support:  
Full

Type of Agency Board:  
Administrative

Poverty Rate (%)	Amherst		Piedmont		Statewide	
	All Ages	Children	All Ages	Children	All Ages	Children
2021	12.4%	17.4%	12.8%	17.8%	10.3%	13.3%
2020	11.2%	16.1%	11.6%	15.9%	9.2%	12.2%
2019	12.0%	16.9%	12.7%	18.1%	9.9%	13.3%
2018	13.0%	18.5%	14.4%	19.9%	10.7%	13.8%
2017	12.7%	18.3%	13.5%	18.8%	10.7%	14.0%
2016	14.3%	20.9%	14.1%	19.6%	11.0%	14.3%
2015	15.0%	20.6%	14.8%	20.9%	11.2%	15.0%
2014	13.7%	20.5%	15.4%	21.6%	11.8%	15.9%

Local Agency

Amherst

Year

Latest Available Year

3,742

Number of People (All Ages) living in Poverty in Amherst, 2021

12%

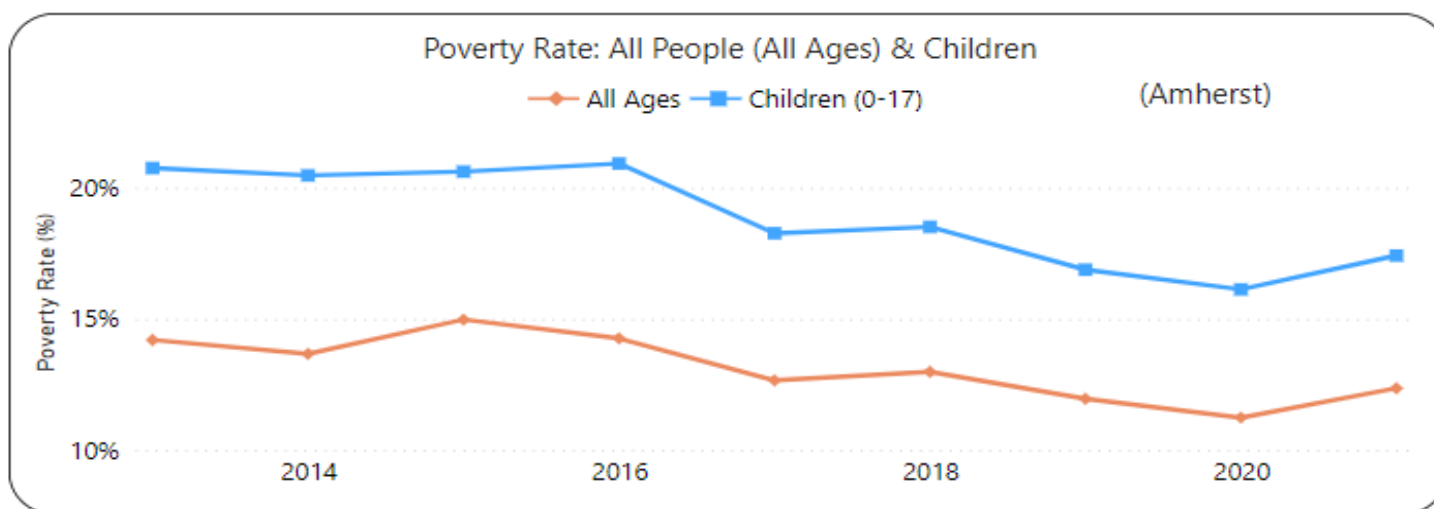
Percent of People (All Ages) living in Poverty in Amherst, 2021

1,063

Number of Children (< 18 years) living in Poverty in Amherst, 2021

17%

Percent of Children (< 18 years) living in Poverty in Amherst, 2021



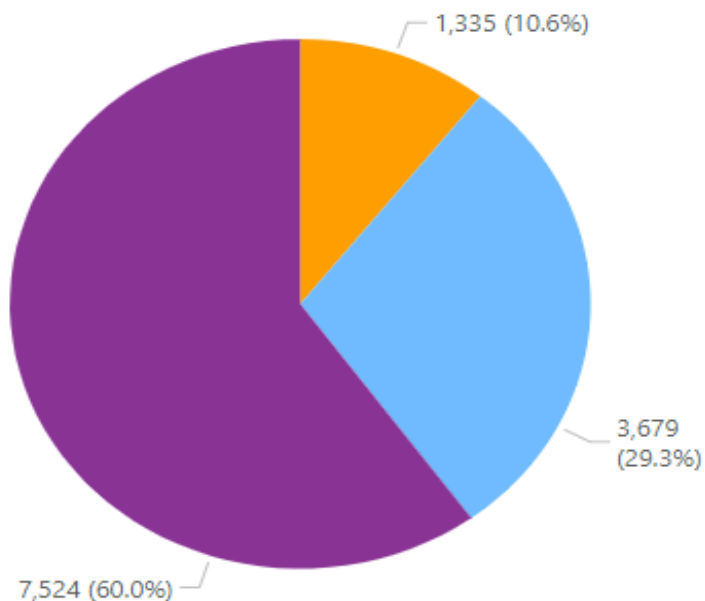


<b>Year:</b> 2021	<b>FIPS:</b> 009	<b>Region:</b> Piedmont	<b>Agency Level:</b> II (Two)	<b>HR Policy:</b> Non-Deviating	<b>IT Support:</b> Full	<b>Type of Agency Board:</b> Administrative
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**Local Agency:**

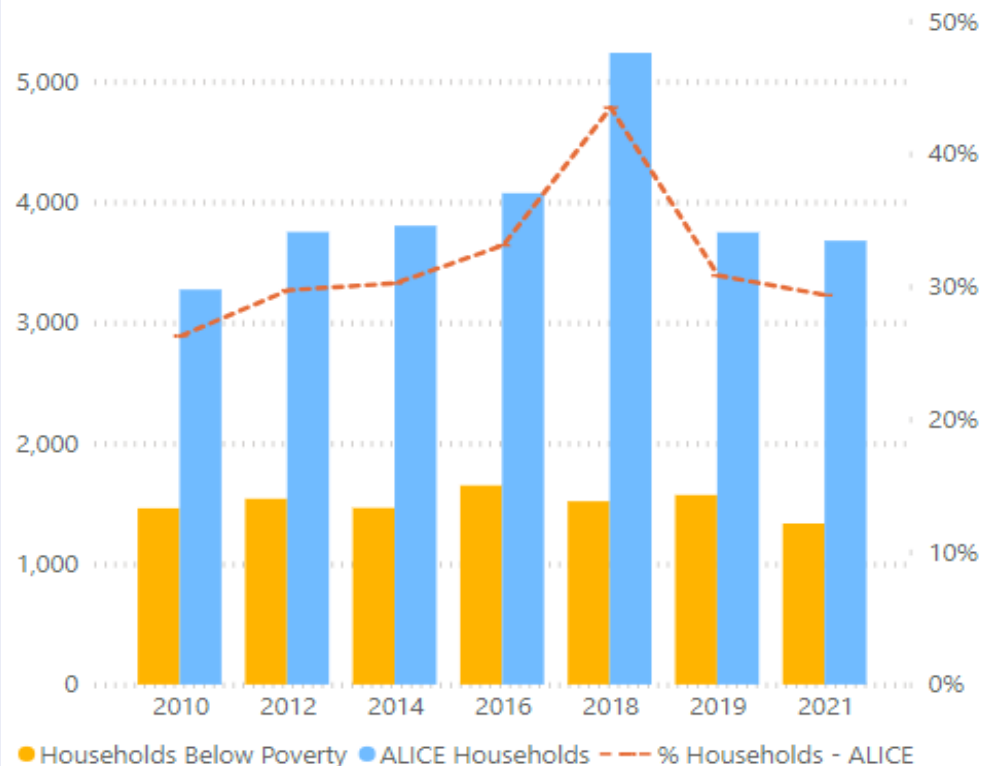
**Calendar Year:**

### Households by Income Group in Locality, 2021



● Households Below Poverty ● ALICE Households ● Households Above ALICE

### Households Below Poverty & ALICE Households in Locality



Source: United Way of Northern New Jersey, United for ALICE, – Virginia Data portal. "ALICE" (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) represent working family households that are struggling to meet basic living needs.

<https://www.unitedforalice.org/state-overview/Virginia>





**Year:**  
2020

**FIPS:**  
009

**Region:**  
Piedmont

**Agency Level:**  
II (Two)

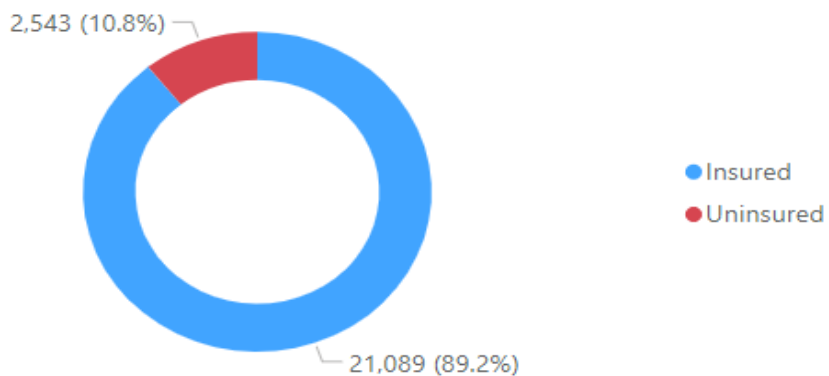
**HR Policy:**  
Non-Deviating

**IT Support:**  
Full

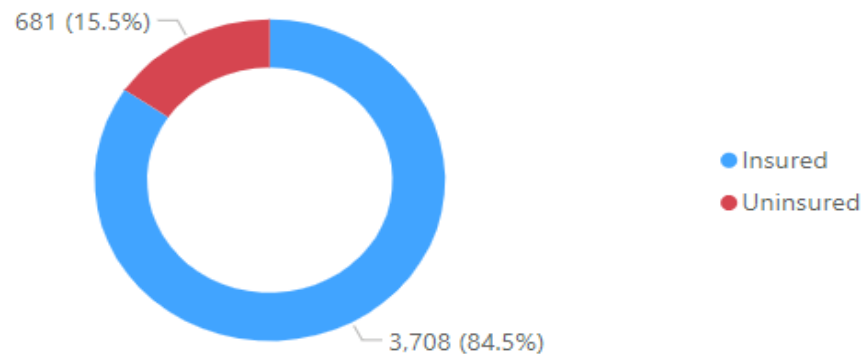
**Type of Agency Board:**  
Administrative

## Insurance Status of People Under 65 By Income Level (2020)

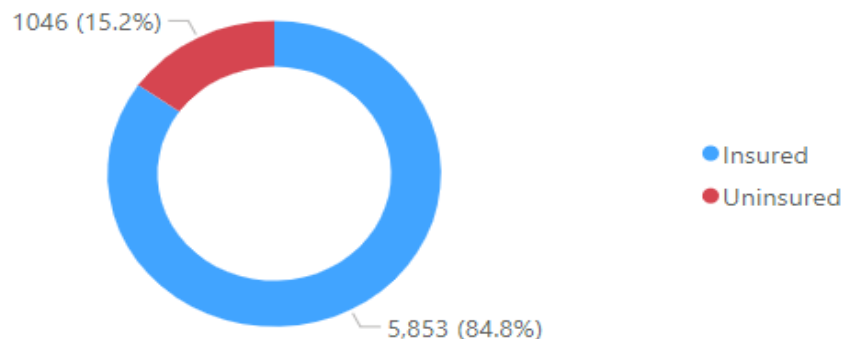
### All Income Levels (combined)



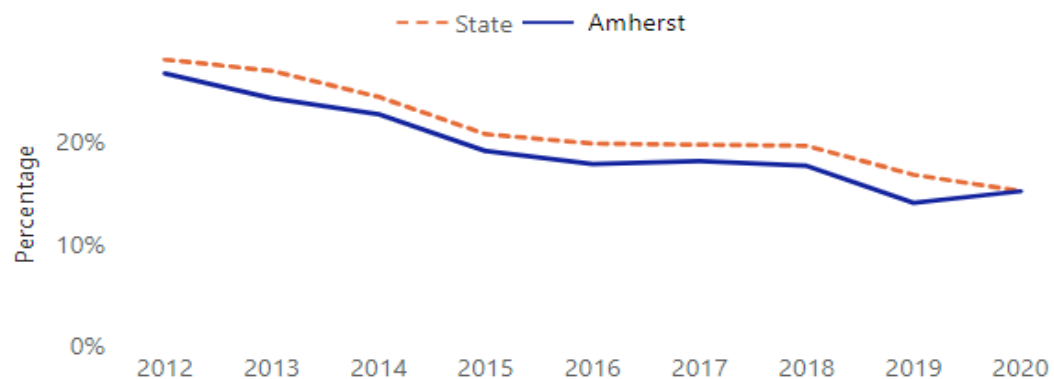
### Income Less Than 138% FPL



### Income Less than 200% FPL



### % Uninsured: People Under 65 With Income <200% FPL



**Local Agency:**

Amherst

**Calendar Year:**

Latest Available Year

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Small Area Health Insurance Estimates (SAHIE). "FPL" = Federal Poverty Level.



# Local Department of Social Services Profile Report - Births

Year:  
2021

FIPS:  
009

Region:  
Piedmont

Agency Level:  
II (Two)

HR Policy:  
Non-Deviating

IT Support:  
Full

Type of Agency Board:  
Administrative

Births	Non Marital Births				Teen Births			
	Amherst		Piedmont	Statewide	Amherst		Piedmont	Statewide
	Count	Percent	Percent	Percent	Count	Rate	Rate	Rate
Total	633	41%	42%	35%	76	9.7	8.2	6.9
White	430	35%	34%	26%	55	9.2	6.8	5.3
Black	183	69%	76%	64%	16	10.1	12.8	9.6
Other race	20	48%	32%	31%	5	19.8	7.7	11.7

(Source: Virginia Department of Health) : Total rates and rates by race are based on combined data from the last five years.

Local Agency:

Amherst

Year:

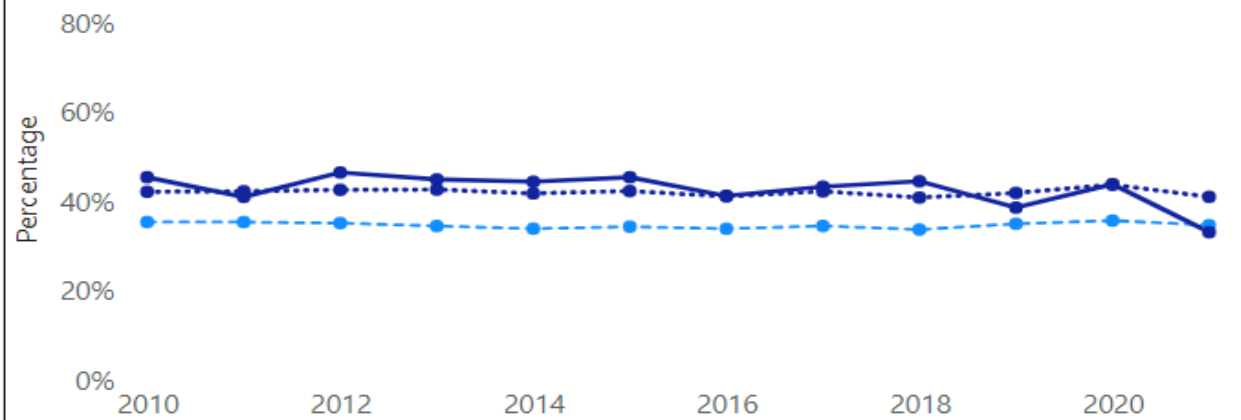
Latest Available Year

29%

Percent of Children living in a single-parent household (Last 5 Years)  
(Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey)

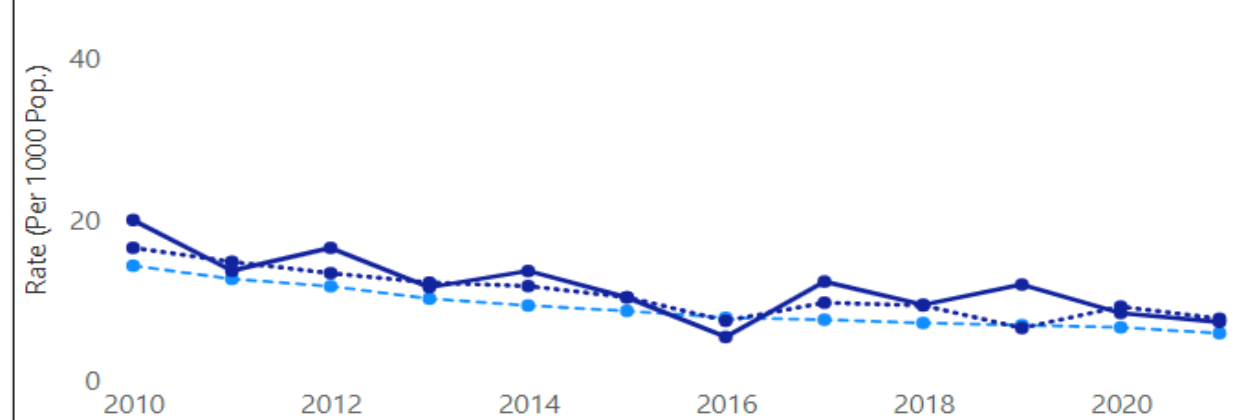
### Non-Marital Birth Rate in the Locality

--- State    .....Piedmont    — Amherst



### Teen Birth Rate in the Locality

--- State    .....Piedmont    — Amherst





# Annual Local Agency Profile - Benefits

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

**Year:**  
2023

**FIPS Code:**  
009

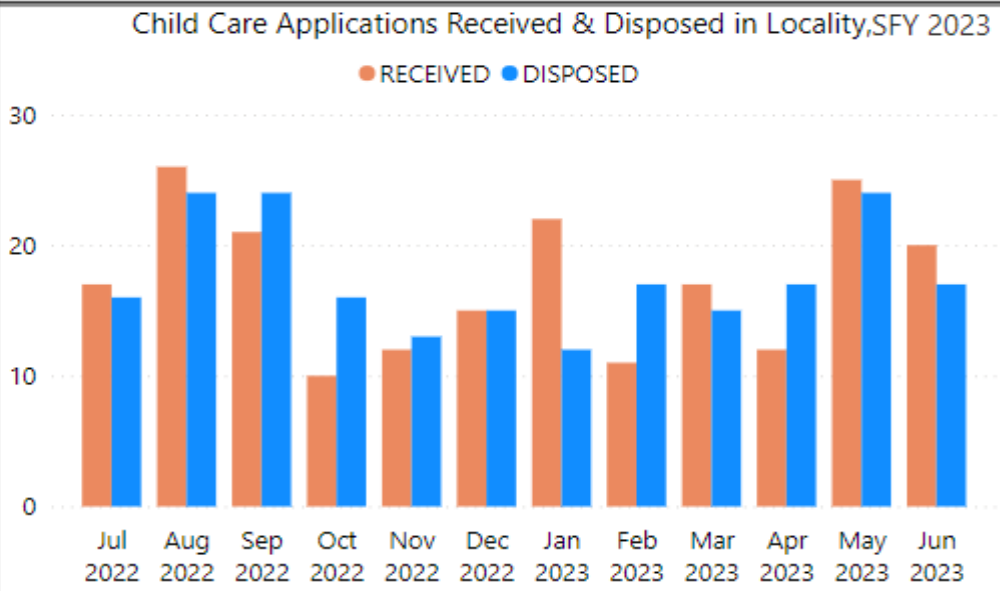
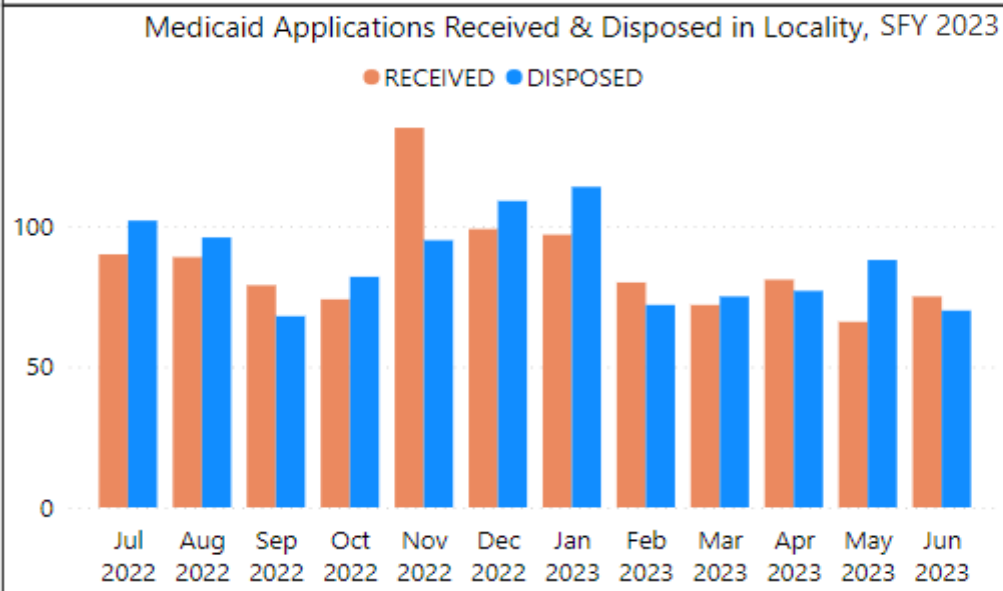
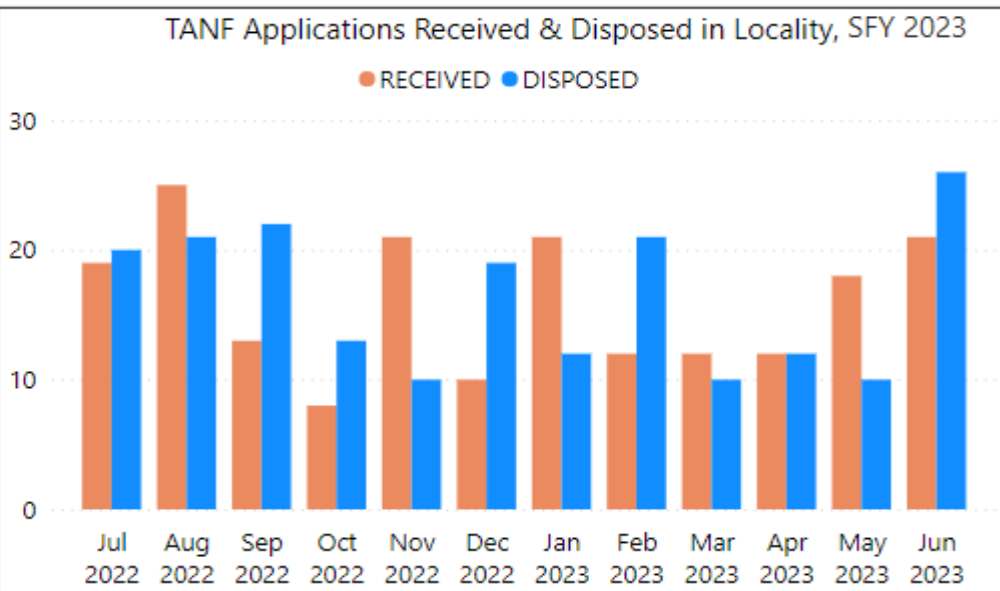
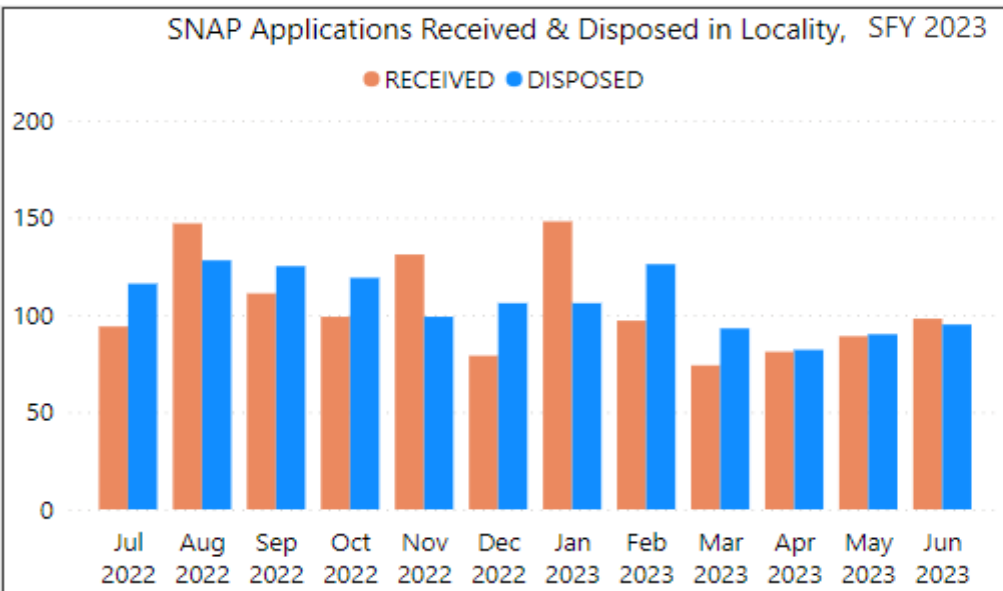

**Region:**  
Piedmont

**Agency Level:**  
II (Two)

**HR Policy:**  
Non-Deviating

**IT Support:**  
Full

**Type of Agency Board:**  
Administrative

**Region**  
All

**Local Agency**  
Amherst

**Year**  
Latest Available Year



**Year:**  
2023

**FIPS Code:**  
009

**Region:**  
Piedmont

**Agency Level:**  
II (Two)

**HR Policy:**  
Non-Deviating

**IT Support:**  
Full

**Type of Agency Board:**  
Administrative



Benefit Clients served by State Fiscal Year	Benefit Program				Child Care	
	SNAP	TANF	MA	Any Benefit	Families	Children
2019	4497	239	7689	8290	89	166
2020	4519	225	8565	8986	90	171
2021	5014	243	9275	9739	92	185
2022	5238	212	9919	10449	157	298
2023	5672	251	10622	11176	204	363

## 11176

Residents who received benefits (SNAP, TANF or Medicaid) in SFY 2023

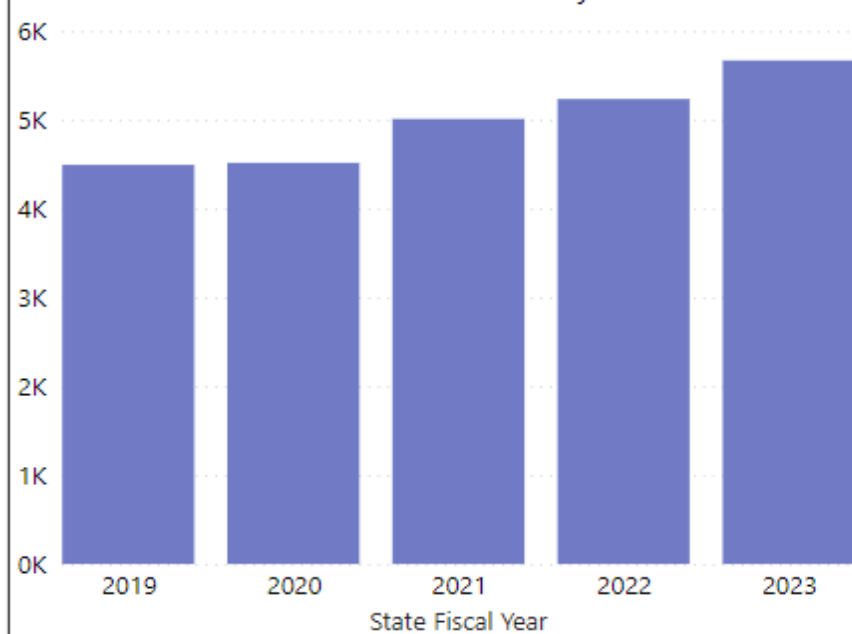
**Local Agency**

Amherst

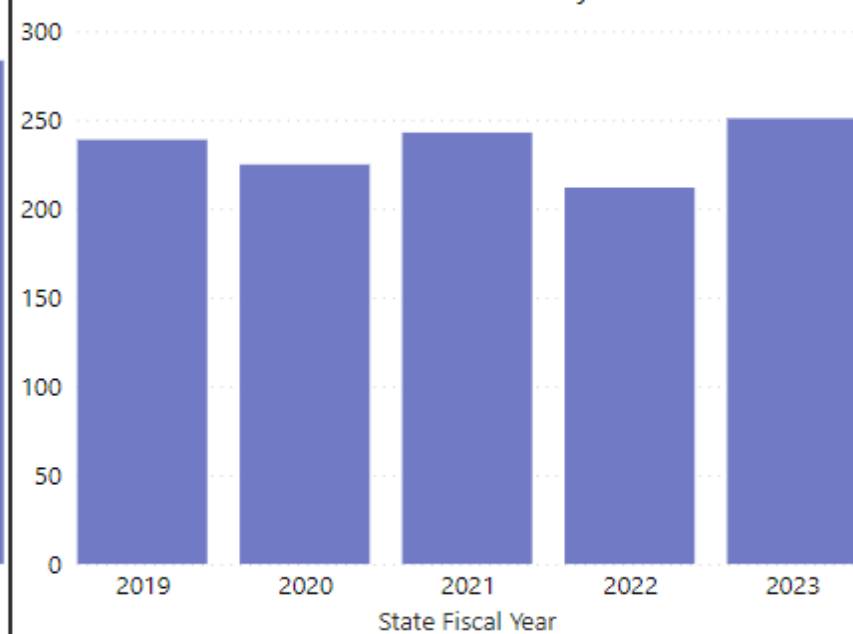
**Year**

Latest Available Year

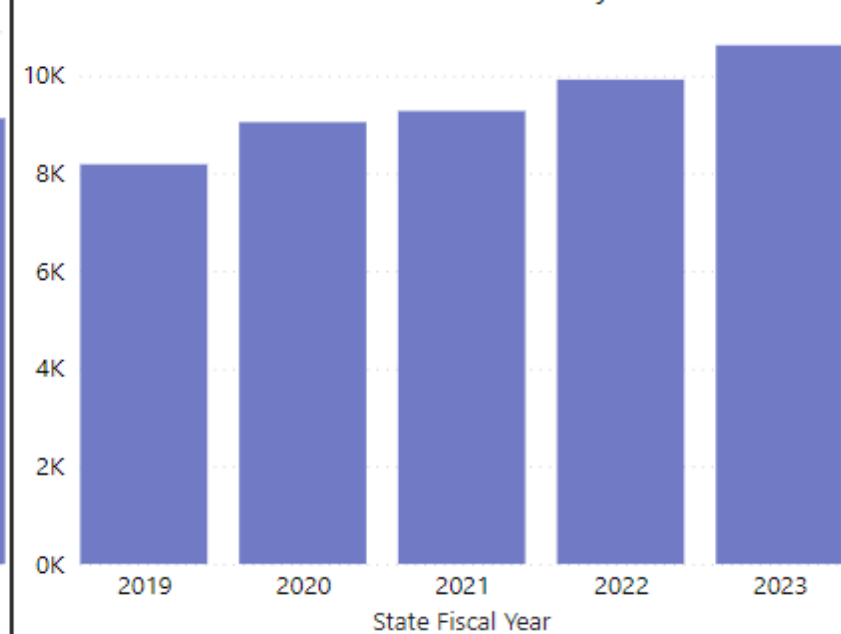
### SNAP Clients in Locality



### TANF Clients in Locality



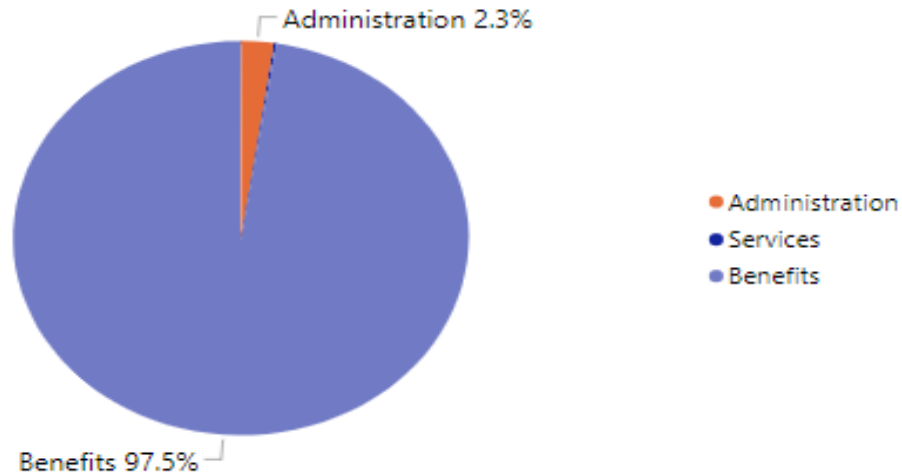
### Medicaid Clients in Locality





Year: 2022	FIPS: 009	Region: Piedmont	Agency Level: II (Two)	HR Policy: Non-Deviating	IT Support: Full	Type of Agency Board: Administrative
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Social Services Spending by Category in Locality, SFY 2022



Local Agency:

Year:

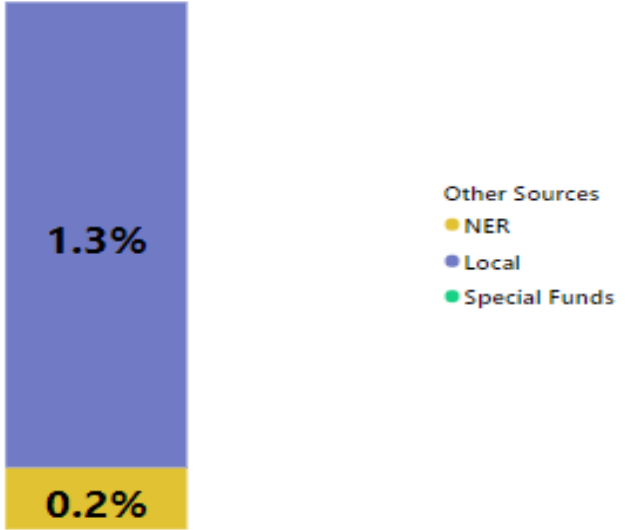
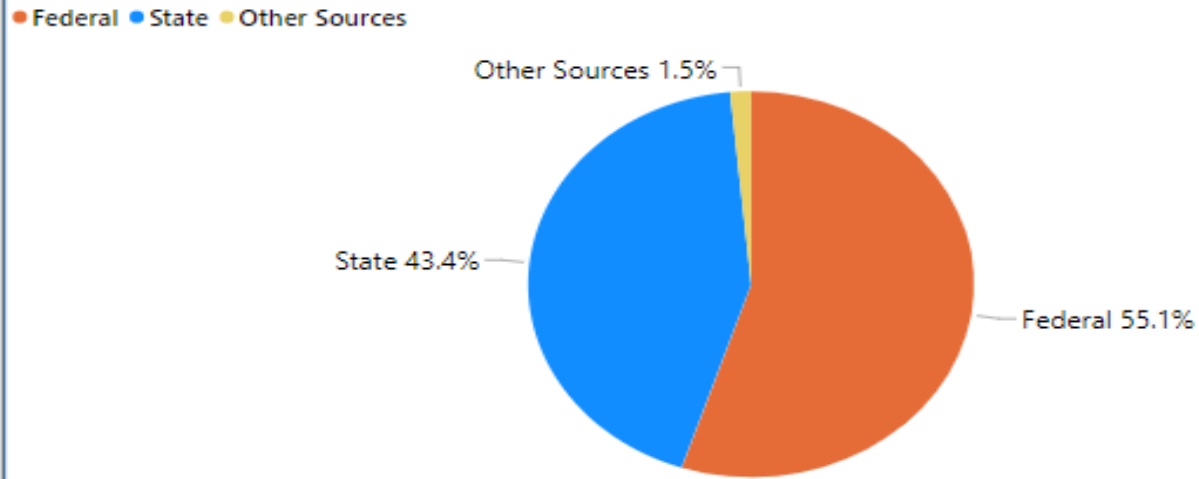
**\$107,306,560**

**Total amount (incl. NER costs & Special Funds) spent on Social Services in the Locality in SFY 2022**

**\$1,623,780**

**Total amount spent on Social Services contributed by the locality in SFY 2022 (incl. NER costs)**

Total Social Services Spending by Funding Source in Locality, SFY



Source: LASER, Statewide Summary. NER = Local non-reimbursable costs. Costs rounded to whole dollars.