



Grant Applications Update



Overall Project Concept

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY BROADBAND FOR ALL

\$9.6 million Champaign County ARPA funds:

- CONNECT Champaign County - \$9.4M to Volo and Nextlink as matching funds for fiber internet to all rural unserved/underserved premises within the County, and
- VCHAP - \$195,000 to Volo as matching funds for "next generation" WiFi devices, equity, and education activities, for all those living in units managed by the Housing Authority of Champaign County



Volo Champaign Housing Authority Project (VCHAP) Action Plan

- Current WiFi is expensive but MUCH better -- a critical component for being able to really use true broadband, and out of reach for low-income families today
- VCHAP will impact 1,360 people, including 610 children, 394 seniors, and nearly 400 disabled residents of Champaign County:
 - Supply, install, and configure next-gen WiFi 6E (or 7!) Wireless Local Area Networks in 924 individual HACC units
 - Provide hands-on educational, training, and digital inclusion activities to teach and demonstrate best practices for use and maintenance of devices.
 - Support the system for five years or longer with security and routine maintenance upgrades as needed to preserve the system's value.

VCHAP Budget



\$720 K

- 19.4% County Board
- 19.4% Volo
- 6.2% HACC



VCHAP Project Timeline

(Assuming March 1st start date)

JUNE '23 MARCH '24 APRIL '24 MAY '24 JUNE '24 MAY '25

APPLICATION SUBMITTED

Round 3 application submitted prior to the June 30, 2023 deadline. Volo plans to renegotiate the use of County ARPA funds should an award not be made by March 31, 2024.

PROCUREMENT

Volo will begin bulk ordering Ubiquiti WiFi 6E Access Points for all 924 units OR use \$195,000 in ARPA funds to procure APs and connect as many units as possible with available funds.

WIRING RFP

Volo has prepared and is ready to make public, upon award, a Cat5e wiring RFP. This will allow us to find a good wiring contractor with a track record of completing this type of work well and on-time.

HACC PLANNING

HACC will assist in communications with tenants, access to units, and coordination with the resident ISPs to schedule installations. Inclusion, equity, and educational activities will also be initiated.

DEPLOYMENT

Volo will begin coordinated approach of completing wiring activities within each property, while starting AP installs. Installs are estimated at 200 units per quarter.

PROJECT COMPLETION

If awarded within Q1 2024, anticipated completion of all installations and resident outreach activities will be completed within 18 months.

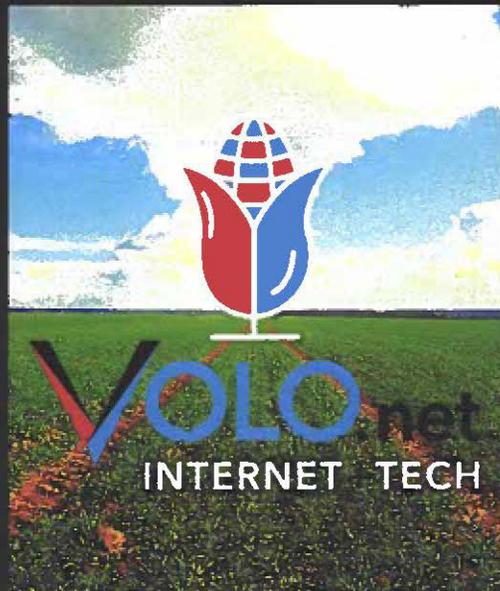
CONNECT Champaign County - Rural Fiber Network Action Plan - Volo

Phase 1:

- Connect 350 unserved residents and businesses to gigabit fiber optic internet service.
- 110 Miles of new fiber deployed.
- Provide an additional 528 unserved & underserved parcels and premises (e.g. farms, ag operations, etc.) access to true broadband.
- Critical fiber backbone for Phase 2

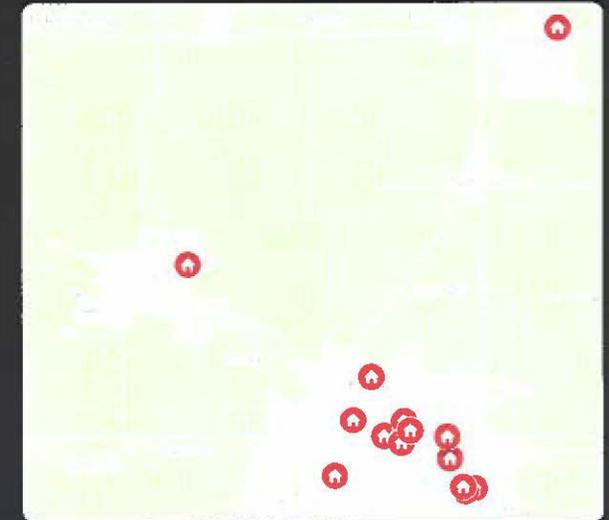
Phase 2:

- Bring fiber internet to the remainder of the 2,086 unserved residents and businesses and pass nearly 6,000 additional unserved & underserved parcels in central Champaign County



VCHAP Project Map

- 17 HACC managed communities all within Champaign County
- 1,360 people impacted, including 610 children, 394 seniors, and nearly 400 disabled residents of Champaign County



Volo CONNECT Champaign County Budgets

PHASE 1



\$13.04 M

- 36% County Board (\$4.7m ARPA funds utilized by EOY 2025)
- 9.5% Volo \$1.2M

PHASE 2



\$31.66 M

- 11% Volo \$3.5M

CONNECT Champaign County Phase 1 Timeline

(Submitting Applications for Grant Award)

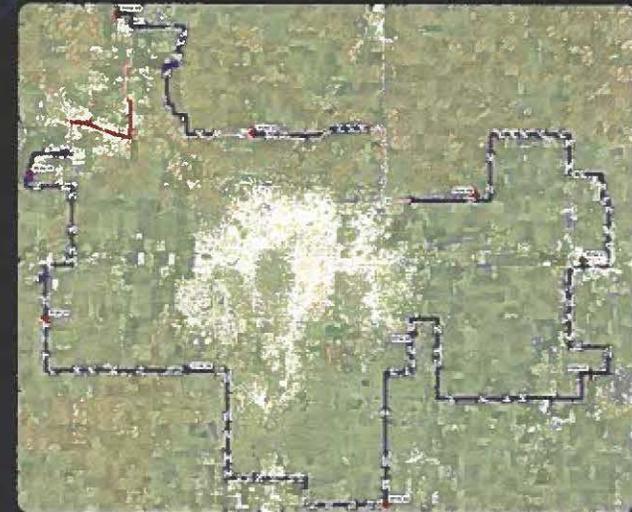
DEC '23 JAN '24 FEB '24 MARCH '24 OCT '24 DEC '25

- PHASE 1 SUBMITTED**
Connect Illinois Round 3 Application for Phase 1 of Volo's CONNECT Champaign County submitted prior to December 2023 Cohort deadline.
- TAX ACT**
Volo has been communicating with State and Federal legislators in support of the Broadband Grant Tax Treatment Act, and UC2B about potential NFP status.
- PROJECT AWARD**
In recent discussions with the Illinois Broadband Office Director, Matt Schmitz, we anticipate awards for Round 3 to be announced by the end of February.
- GRANT CONTRACT**
With anticipated award and grant contract in place by end of March 2024, Volo will begin making preliminary supply orders to "hold our spot in line" for critical materials.
- START CONSTRUCTION**
With procurement of easements and material and construction contracting ongoing since time of award, anticipated construction start no later than October 2024.
- PHASE 1 COMPLETE**
Phase 1 ring completed, most connections to premises completed by end of 2025.



Phase 1 Project Map

- 124-mile backbone ring to serve over 2,000 existing locations
- 110.3 miles of new fiber
- 13.6 miles of existing Volo infrastructure



CONNECT Champaign County Phase 2 Timeline

(Submitting Applications for Grant Award)

DEC '24 OCT '25 DEC '25 MARCH '26 OCT '27 DEC '27

- PHASE 2 APPLICATION**
Connect Illinois Round 4 Application for Phase 2 of Volo's CONNECT Champaign County submitted prior to December 2024 anticipated submission deadline.
- PROJECT AWARD**
State of Illinois BEAD implementation proposal is due Q3 2025, so we can expect contracts completed around October 2025.
- START CONSTRUCTION**
With easements, contractor relationships, and interest from Phase 1, first hook-ups will be completed in concert with completion of Phase 1 in Dec 2025.
- MARKETING**
Marketing and sales to all impacted areas will begin in earnest in January 2026, and continue through October 2027.
- LAST SIGN UPS**
All phase 2 premises will have been offered grant-funded installation and will have connection completed to the home or business.
- PHASE 2 COMPLETE**
Phase 2 lateral installation complete and grant-funded FTTP connections for all premises within Volo footprint will be complete by EOY 2027.



Phase 2 Project Map

- 428 miles of fiber deployed to serve remainder of Volo project footprint
- 7.85 miles of existing Volo infrastructure
- 551.9 miles of fiber combined between phase 1 & 2



Community Support

SPECIAL THANKS!

Volo is proud to partner with the Champaign County Board, Champaign County Farm Bureau, Housing Authority of Champaign County, and the hundreds of residents, businesses, and anchor institutions that wrote letters of support for these incredibly important projects for Champaign County residents and businesses!

A look at the numbers and support provided for the combined projects:



\$6,389,316

Dollars and "in-kind" match contributed to Volo's applications to bring digital equity to all of Champaign County!



200+

Individual residents, institutions, businesses, and community leaders provided signatures and/or letters of support for both projects!

Questions?



VOLO.net
INTERNET+TECH



HACC
Housing Authority of
Champaign County
Growing & Moving Forward Together

NEXTLINK
INTERNET & PHONE

Looking forward to our partnership to build a stronger and better connected Champaign County!