



October 2024 Update



NRV Recovery Ecosystem Team tours NRVCS's 401 Peer Center

The NRV Recovery Ecosystem leadership team had the opportunity to meet in person this month and tour New River Valley Community Services' 401 Peer Center in Radford. The 401 Peer Center functions as a community center for those in recovery and had 400 participants last quarter. Participants have access to multiple models of recovery programming, social activities, wifi and computers, as well as food, showers and restrooms. The Peer Center is located next door to other NRVCS facilities such as mental health and crisis services. The Peer Center is run exclusively by people in long term recovery and gives participants in recovery a chance to train to become Peer Recovery Specialists themselves. The NRV Recovery Ecosystem Opioid Abatement Authority grant funds have been used to expand services at the Radford location in Year One and will fund continued growth and expansion to new Peer Centers in Floyd and Giles Counties.

For more information, contact Anna Champion at achampion@nrvc.org.

NRVRC Welcomes Emma Carroll!

Emma recently joined Regional Commission as our Regional Innovation Officer. In this role, she administers Virginia's Additive Manufacturing and Advanced Materials Tech Hub initiative. Supported by the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) and GO Virginia, the

AM2 Tech Hub aims to position Southwest Virginia as a global leader in additive manufacturing and advanced materials solutions.

Emma holds a B.A. in Environmental Policy and Planning and a Master's degree in Urban and Regional Planning from Virginia Tech, where she focused on economic and community development. Before joining the Commission, she worked as a Research Associate at the Virginia Tech Center for Economic and Community Engagement and as a Program Assistant for the Virginia Talent and Opportunity Partnership.



Outside of work, Emma enjoys hosting a weekly jazz radio show and exploring the region's natural beauty on hikes with her husband, Jack.

Emma can be reached at ecarroll@nrvc.org.

NRVRC Summer Community Engagement

This summer, Regional Commission staff members have been actively engaging with the New River Valley community to promote outreach for various local and regional projects. In Floyd County, the team connected with residents and visitors at the Floyd Farmers Market, Small Town Summer concerts, and the Agriculture Fair to gather feedback for the Comprehensive Plan. The RIDE Solutions program also attended farmers markets throughout the region, sharing information about alternative transportation options. Additionally, staff showcased the Radford East Main Downtown Plan at the Radford Community Fest. Community engagement is essential—not only for building connections, but also for shaping the future of local and regional projects!



October 2024 Broadband Updates

Montgomery County has two Virginia Telecommunication Initiative (VATI) grants that will benefit well over 12,000 residents. The VATI 2021 project includes the Allegheny Springs, Elliston, Lafayette, and Shawsville communities, and the VATI 2022 project includes the rural unserved/underserved areas of both Montgomery County and Bland County.

The two projects have been under construction for several months and we are happy to share that service is now available to 229 households in Montgomery County with more to come soon. GigaBeam, Gudenkauf, the construction contractor, and AEP have been diligently working at several sites throughout both counties.

To date, almost 100 miles of fiber has been placed and twenty-five (25) optical line termination (OLT) boxes, which serve as hubs for the Internet Service Provider (ISP), have been installed, and construction is ongoing in all twenty-five (25) service areas. More connections will become available as construction progresses throughout the project area in the fall of 2024.

There is still a significant amount of work to be done, however GigaBeam is continuing to build out the network and securing permits for several railroad and road crossings.

For more information contact Chris Owens (cowens@nrvc.org).

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