

Broadband Grant

Mrs. Tammy McCourt, Assistant Superintendent

August 18, 2020



Background

- School districts were informed on July 17th of the Broadband for Unserved Students Grant.
- Offered by the Governor's Office for Rural Broadband and the Department of Housing and Community Development.
- The application was collaboratively completed by the SMCPS and St. Mary's County Government IT departments. SMCPS will administer the grant.



Background (cont.)

- Funding opportunity provided under the Coronavirus Relief Fund of the CARES Act.
- Funding available through December 2020.
- The grant requires continued funding beyond December 2020 through the end of the school year.
- The funding from January through June 2021 will be made via an existing ESSER grant.

Identified Need

SMCPS Student Locations SY20-21	Qty
Total student locations	9,445
Total mappable student locations	9,383
Total serviceable locations	8,865
Not connected student locations	518



Identified Need (cont.)

Broadband Expansion	Qty
Not connected student locations	518
Urban - Total within 300 feet of an existing customer (likely able to get service)	173
Rural - Total beyond 300 feet but less than 1,000 feet of an existing customer (likely needing construction)	198
Rural - Total beyond 1,000 feet of an existing customer (likely needing extensive construction)	147

Grant Support

- Wifi Hotspots - \$101,820
 - 580 potential student locations to be served
 - September - December 2020 via Broadband Grant *
- Cable installation - \$1,584,000
 - 198 student locations to be served
 - Rural - beyond 300 feet, but less than 1,000 feet
- Total \$1,685,820

*January - June 2021 via ESSER Grant



Recommended Action

That the Commissioners of St. Mary's County approve this budget increase as presented.

