



# CENTRAL VIRGINIA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

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## For Immediate Release

**Date:** July 25, 2016

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### **Electric Cooperative Offers Million Dollar Broadband Incentive**

**(Lovingsston, VA)** Central Virginia Electric Cooperative (CVEC) announced a rural broadband initiative designed to incentivize qualified entities to deliver world class service throughout its 14-county electric distribution territory. As outlined in the just released Request for Information (RFI), the Cooperative is seeking to “partner with a proven, committed entity or consortium of entities to make affordable Gigabit-class broadband available to all CVEC members...”

Specifically, the Cooperative has offered to waive annual pole attachment fees, that totaled \$1.2 million in 2016 with expected increases over time, in exchange for the deployment of a fiber based broadband network that provides a minimum of 25 Megabits per second (Mbps) download speed with no cap on data usage to any of the 36,000 CVEC member service locations.

CVEC President and CEO Gary Wood explained the Cooperative’s motivation, “Without affordable, reliable broadband communication services, rural residents are being shut off from advancements in technology that would provide jobs, better education, and a higher quality of life. When CVEC was first formed in 1937, the members came together to share the cost to extend distribution lines and make central station electric service available to every home. Now, the members are willing to join together to offer this incentive.”

Wood compared the lack of rural broadband to a time when nine out of ten farms in Virginia lacked electricity, “Fifty years after Richmond residents first began to enjoy electric service, their country cousins were still using fire to heat and light their homes, cook food, and wash and iron clothes. The formation of member-owned electric cooperatives effectively resolved the basic disparities in economic opportunity and in quality of life. Today, the Cooperative will do all that it can to recruit a working partner in order to close the digital divide, for the benefit of our members-owners and our rural communities.”

In addition to targeting universal service for its members, CVEC envisions contracting for broadband connectivity to its offices, electric substations, and down line equipment to enhance control and reliability of the 4,500 mile electric distribution system. Interested broadband providers may view the Request for Information at [www.mycvec.com](http://www.mycvec.com) and should submit a letter of intent to respond to the RFI by September 2, 2016.

Headquartered in Lovingsston, Central Virginia Electric Cooperative is a member-owned electric-distribution utility serving 36,000 meters in 14 counties across central Virginia with an expressed mission of: “Improving the quality of your life in a quietly impressive way.”

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