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Tamarah Holmes, Ph.D, is the director for the Office of Broadband at the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD). She has spent over 18 years in the public sector in the field of community and economic development in New York, New Jersey, Chesterfield, Virginia and now working state-wide in Virginia. Dr. Holmes has played an instrumental role in the creation of the Virginia Telecommunication Initiative (VATI) having served as the lead in the development of the program that has grown from a \$1 million to a \$50 million (now proposed at \$700 million) appropriation since 2017. In addition to serving as director, she also serves as the Virginia Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) program manager and oversees the administration of the Virginia Telecommunication Initiative. She holds a master's degree in urban policy analysis with a concentration in community development. She received her doctorate in public policy and administration from Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA.

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