

FACT SHEET

VILLAGE POST OFFICES

The U.S. Postal Service announced the concept of the Village Post Office in July 2011 as a way to continue providing convenient access to postal products and services in the more rural communities across the nation.

The first Village Post Office (VPO) opened in Malone, WA, one month later (Aug. 2011). Since then, more than 50 VPOs have begun providing postal services in communities from coast to coast.

- VPOs are located within existing communities in a variety of locations — convenient stores, local businesses, libraries, etc. — and are operated by the management of those locations.
- VPOs offer a range of popular products and services — the ones most used by customers — including PO Boxes, Forever stamps, Pre-paid Priority Mail Flat Rate envelopes and a mail collection box.
- By being located inside established businesses and other places consumers already frequent, VPOs offer Postal Service customers time-saving convenience, and in most cases, longer hours than regular Post Offices.
- VPOs provide operators — in most cases, the local business owners — with opportunities for increased customer foot traffic and revenue, as well as the opportunity to provide additional services for their customers and clients.
- VPOs are being negotiated with a wide-variety of third parties across the country.
- The Postal Service will consider establishing a Village Post Office in any location where there is no existing Post Office or where the Post Office will have reduced operating hours.
- The Village Post Office is an example of how the Postal Service is changing to better meet America's needs.

Village Post Offices are part of the Postal Service's "Approved Postal Provider" network — retail outlets for postal products and services that include Contract Postal Units, Approved Shippers, Stamps on Consignment locations and Community Post Offices. Approved Postal Providers are operated by third parties and complement the Postal Service's own network by offering customers expanded retail access to postal products and services at convenient hours and locations.