**Assistance Programs**

**Lifeline**
The ORS provides administrative oversight for the Federal Lifeline Program. This program provides a discount on home or cell phone service for qualifying low-income consumers to ensure that all Americans have the opportunities and security that phone service brings, including being able to connect to jobs, family, and emergency services.

**Affordable Connectivity Program**
Congress created the Affordable Connectivity Program, a new long-term program to replace the Emergency Broadband Benefit Program. The purpose of this program is to help ensure that we citizens can afford the connections needed for work, school, health care and more. The maximum monthly benefit will change from $50 per month to $30 per month for households not located on qualifying Tribal lands. The monthly benefit will remain at $75 per month for households on qualifying Tribal lands.

**County Resources**
Counties that are interested in receiving grant funding for broadband projects in their area should work with surrounding Internet Service Providers (ISPs) to develop a partnership. Within the partnership the ISP will need to apply for grant funding through the ORS. The ORS will NOT provide funding to individual counties. Funding MUST be awarded through the grant process to qualifying ISPs.

**Surveys, Access Forms, and Sites**

**I Need Internet Survey**
Survey to reflect need for broadband access at the consumer level

https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/a79de0eacc1f48098d03f1a35a770670?portalUrl=https://SCORS.maps.arcgis.com

**Yes to Connect Survey**
Survey to inform perspectives on broadband adoption and use

https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/263530aa0de74ea98e32d6058d5b430c

**Data Access Request Form**
Form for stakeholders and ISPs to request access to Broadband Office GIS data and results from the I Need Internet Survey

https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/68bc66c8d7d4913b58489dc27d2a729

**Upload a Project Form**
Form for counties and municipal governments to upload broadband projects to minimize risk of overbuilding in an area already funded for construction

https://arcg.is/GfqK8

**SC Digital Drive**
Source for data and resources around broadband in South Carolina

Forms and surveys can be found on the SC Digital Drive website.

SCDigitalDrive.org

**Challenges and Barriers Survey**
Survey for stakeholders to share challenges and provide suggested solutions

https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/595be82ad0fa46659155d3dfb249a653

**About the Broadband Office**
The Broadband Office, housed within the South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff (ORS), serves as the central broadband planning body for South Carolina and coordinates with federal, state, regional, local, and private entities, to the extent practicable, to encourage the continued development of access to broadband.

ORS.SC.GOV/Broadband
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