



BROADBAND OFFICE

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MEMORANDUM

TO: South Carolina Internet Service Providers

FROM: Jim Stritzinger
Director, Office of Broadband Coordinator (“Broadband Office”)

DATE: January 20, 2023

RE: Spring 2023 Data Request

To maintain efficient deployment of federal funding and prevent duplication of facilities, the SC Broadband Office (SCBBO) requests that all residential wireline and/or fixed wireless Internet Service Providers (ISPs) submit their most recent information by **March 1, 2023**, so the next set of SC broadband maps can be developed. This is the first data request for 2023. ISPs that deliver satellite, middle-mile, or exclusively commercial service are not required to submit data.

This request is made pursuant to Section 10 of Act 142 that provides as follows:

The SC Office of Broadband Coordinator (a.k.a. SC Broadband Office) is required to contact the appropriate entities to provide information necessary to compile the statewide county-by-county mapping plan that shows the location and broadband facility capabilities. Proviso 73.7 of 2021 further clarifies that to facilitate the provision of information necessary to this task, all information provided by a broadband service provider or other entity providing information for the purpose of creating a South Carolina broadband map shall be maintained by the Office of Broadband Coordinator and any other agency as confidential, proprietary, and a trade secret as defined in Section 30-4-40 of the 1976 Code, and subject to exemption from disclosure under state and federal law. The information shall not be subject to disclosure under Chapter 4, Title 30 of the 1976 Code, except in the form of a map where information that could be used to determine provider-specific information about the network of the broadband service provider or other providing entity is not disclosed. Except as otherwise provided in this provision, such broadband provider-specific information shall not be released to any person other than to the broadband service provider or other entity providing information, employees of the Office of Broadband Coordinator, agents designated to assist in developing the South Carolina broadband map, entities contracting with the Office of Broadband Coordinator, and other state agencies administering funds for broadband deployment without express permission of the submitting broadband service provider or other entity providing information. Such information shall be used solely for the purposes stated under this provision. The Office of Broadband Coordinator shall ensure that any such agents, entities, or agencies with whom the information is shared are aware of the confidential nature and restricted purposes for which the information may be used and that any such agents or entities that are not state agencies execute an appropriate nondisclosure

agreement protecting the information from public disclosure before receiving the information. Entities providing broadband service or middle-mile infrastructure in South Carolina shall, on an annual basis, provide to the Office of Broadband Coordinator deployment data in a format specified by the office to provide the most accurate and granular representation of currently available broadband infrastructure. These same entities, when they serve residential or business customers, shall also provide the type of technology deployed together with the sustainable download and upload speeds available at each serviceable location. Entities failing to provide such data on an annual basis may be disqualified from state funding opportunities for the current fiscal year. Annually, the office shall compile this information, analyze, and update statewide broadband deployment information.

This data request requires the use of **Census 2020** geography. **Improperly coded data will not be accepted.** Pursuant to Section 10 of Act 142 of 2020, timely data submission is required to participate in fiscal year funding opportunities and/or challenge processes.

The following data elements are required:

1) FCC Broadband Data Collection (Dec. 31, 2022) – Submit your most recent Broadband Data Collection (BDC) information in the same format as you submit to the FCC. Per FCC [instructions](#), each BDC filing must include information about the filer and:

Broadband Availability Data

- *Fixed wireline broadband service providers* must submit either a list of locations (preferred by SCBBO) or polygon shapefiles that constitute the service area of the provider. See [BDC Availability Data Specifications](#) Sections 6 and 7 for more info.

NOTE: If polygons are submitted to SCBBO, they must be carefully rendered to properly detail a service area. This includes providing a separate polygon for each technology type and the removal of unserved donut holes.

- *Fixed wireless broadband service providers* must submit either a list of locations (preferred by SCBBO) or propagation maps and propagation model details that constitute the service area of the provider. See [BDC Availability Data Specifications](#) Sections 6 and 7 for more info.

Broadband Subscription Data

- *Facilities-based fixed broadband service providers* must report connections to end-user premises -- by census tract, technology code, advertised downstream speed, and advertised upstream speed -- that the service provider (including affiliates) equips to enable an end user to receive information from and/or send information to the internet at information transfer rates exceeding 200 kbps in at least one direction.

The FCC Form 477 file format continues to be used for reporting broadband subscription data. The SCBBO only accepts subscription data in properly formatted Comma Separated Value (CSV) files. Web forms will not be accepted.

See [BDC Availability Data Specifications](#) Section 5 for more info.

Subscription Audit: The SCBBO will be auditing FCC Form 477 Subscription Data against BDC Broadband Deployment Data. This is needed to create the most accurate residential Access maps. As a result, commercial-only deployments will not reflect on residential maps.

Our subscription audits are performed by verifying that there are **a minimum of 10 residential customers, receiving service levels that meet or exceed 25/3** in each **Census Tract**. All Census Blocks within the Census Tract will be marked as unserved when audit conditions are not met. Challenges to this audit will not be accepted.

FCC Confirmation Documents

- In addition, you must provide a copy of your BDC timestamped submission confirmations (PDF) from the FCC to the SCBBO.

2) ISP Contact Form – Please update or create a detailed ISP contact form using the attached template. This will help the SCBBO maintain contact with appropriate personnel and communicate with your team on a variety of issues.

Submit all required information to your **assigned Citrix Sharefile location** (“March 1 2023 Data Submission\[ISP Name]”) as soon as possible but no later than **March 1, 2023**. The SCBBO would be grateful if all respondents would submit the ISP contact form as soon as possible.

If you have not previously reported to the SCBBO, please send an email to broadband@ors.sc.gov to request that a secure folder be created.

The SCBBO is coordinating with the FCC with the goal of building the most accurate Broadband Service Location Fabric for the State of South Carolina. We will inform the FCC whenever we identify material errors in reported data.

All data that was acquired in the Fall of 2022 has been analyzed and aggregated and is now featured on www.scdigitaldrive.org. This data will serve as the foundation for future eligibility maps.

Thanks to the efforts of all parties that submitted data, the website now features a comprehensive set of broadband maps for all 46 counties and interactive tools that were made possible by your data in combination with nearly 11 million Ookla® Speedtest® records.

Please email broadband@ors.sc.gov if there are any questions or need further clarification.

Thank you, in advance, for your support and cooperation.