BROADBAND OFFICE

ARPA SLFRF 3.0 Grant Program

Informational Webinar

South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff | February 29, 2024

State Investments

Grant Program	State Investment	Private Investment	Total Project Cost	Structure Count	Status of Completion
The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES I)	$ 16,728,421	$ 18,539,399	$ 35,267,820	18,121	Complete
The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES II)	$ 8,566,727	$ 10,186,188	$ 18,752,915	6,185	Scheduled April 2024
Rural Broadband Grant Program (RBGP)	$ 29,885,025	$ 37,089,754	$ 66,974,779	20,714	Scheduled December 2024
Last Mile Grant Program (LMGP)	$ 1,205,131	$ 2,028,452	$ 3,233,583	562	Complete
American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) State Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (SLFRF) 1.0	$ 154,684,526	$ 96,842,436	$ 251,526,962	40,079	Scheduled December 2024
American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Capital Projects Fund (CPF) 1.0	$ 185,121,661	$ 105,125,211	$ 290,246,872	31,591	Scheduled December 2025
American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Accelerated Deployment Grant Program (ADGP)	$ 24,924,199	$ 24,924,199	$ 49,848,398	19,070	Complete
*American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) State Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (SLFRF) 3.0	$ 35,000,000 (est.)	TBD	TBD	TBD	Scheduled June 2026
*Infrastructure Investments and Jobs Act (IIJA) Broadband Equity Access and Deployment (BEAD)	$ 546,535,983	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Total	**$1,002,651,673 (est)**	**$ 294,504,202**	**$ 715,851,329**	**136,322**	

Grant Programs Indicated with an Asterisk are Estimated Investment Costs

SLFRF 3.0 Timeline

- **Compressed Timeline!**
- Application period closes **3/25/2024**
- Applications Posted & Comment Period Opens **3/28/2024**
- Comment Period Closes **4/11/2024**

Event	Date
Funded Project Register (FPR) Submission Period Opens	1/10/2024
ARPA 3.0 Application Period Opens ***Publish Eligibility Map*** ***FPR Submission Period Closes***	2/12/2024
ARPA 3.0 Application Period Closes	3/25/2024
Submitted Applications Posted on the ORS Website ***Comment Period Opens***	3/28/2024
Comment Period Closes	4/11/2024
Internal Application Review / Selection	April 2024
Application Curing	May 2024
Notices to Proceed Issued	June 2024

** All dates are pending approval and are subject to change without notice.*

How much will ORS invest for SLFRF 3.0

Depending on the number of qualified applications, ORS may award approximately $35,000,000 of the allocated ARPA funds.

What are the match requirements?

- Applicant may define their own Match up to 75%
- 1% is the minimum match that can be requested (or $100,000), whichever is greater
- Applications with no financial request will not be considered

Eligible Applicants

Must:

- Be an Internet Service Provider (ISPs)
- Offer **residential service** and have previously **filed with the FCC**
- Provide an **affordable high-speed Internet plan for disclosed period of time**
  - Minimum 100/20 Mbps down/up service w/o income requirements
- Participate in the FCC's **Affordable Connectivity Plan (ACP)**

Eligible Project Criteria

Must:

- Contain **at least one high priority census block**
- Not span more than **two counties**
- **Serve 100%** of structures in project area (census blocks) upon completion
  - Partially served census blocks must pick up remaining unserved structures
  - Choosing to remove BSLs requires written justification and approval from SCBBO
- Utilize technology that **meets or exceeds 100/100** or provide documentation of scalability from 100/20
- Must **not overbuild** existing 100/20 networks
- All projects **must** utilize wireline technology that is capable of reliably meeting or exceeding 100/100 Mbps symmetric (download/upload) speeds

Things to note about SLFRF 3.0 Program

- ISPs may submit **up to 5 grant applications and must prioritize** – At any parent entity level
  - **BSL and Census Blocks must be mutually exclusive across the project applications**
- Comment period – No comments on availability / ISPs may comment on Grant Applications only
- Census blocks DO NOT have to be contiguous and cannot span more than 2 counties
- Must implement strategies to bolster Community-based Broadband Adoption and Use with an emphasis on enabling work, telehealth monitoring, education, and economic development
- Total grant award CANNOT exceed $9,999,999.00 per grant application
  - No Davis Bacon
- Reporting requirements may change, grantees will be required to comply
- Quarterly Reporting cadence follows Calendar year quarters
- Build America / Buy America Act
  - "[…. when SLFRF award funds are used on an infrastructure project in conjunction with funds from other federal programs that require compliance with the BABAA."

What are Priority Areas?

Unserved 2020 Census Blocks with:

1) **More than 20 public K-12 student households; or,**
   - ✓ Broadband maps include data from SC Department of Education

2) **No Internet Service Provider; or,**
   - ✓ FCC BSL Fabric data shows null value for ISP

3) **Difficult Development Areas as identified by US Housing and Urban Development (HUD) or,**
   - ✓ Defined geographies that are updated annually by HUD and are the basis for deploying Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) in the United States

Source: H.4408, Section 9: Priority must be given to unserved areas with no current Internet Service Provider, Difficult Development Areas as identified by U.S. Housing and Urban Development, and census blocks that have a high concentration of unserved public K-12 student households as documented by the South Carolina Department of Education.

How to read the Eligibility Map

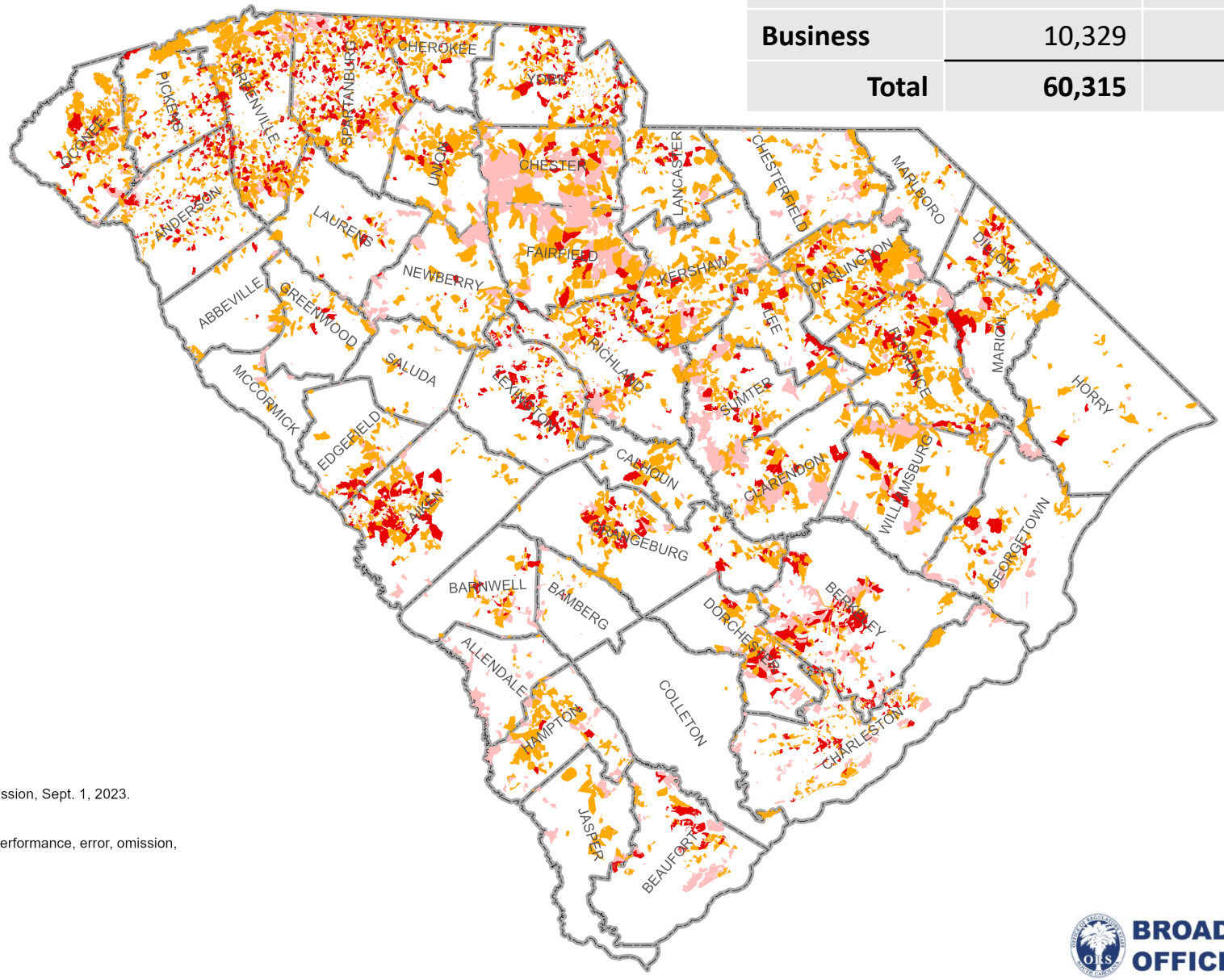
- Priority Areas (**red** color) – unserved K-12 concentration (20 or more), or Difficult Development Area, or no ISP providing any type of service
- Unserved Areas (**pink** color) – not served by cable or fiber
- Partially Served Areas (**orange** color) – census block contains at least one unserved or underserved BSL

South Carolina

ARPA SLFRF 3.0 Eligibility

Feb. 12, 2024

Eligibility	BSL	Units
Residential	49,986	64,633
Business	10,329	10,646
Total	**60,315**	**75,279**



Data Source: Based on SC Broadband Office analysis of FCC Broadband Data Collection (BDC) Submission, Sept. 1, 2023. Satellite and mobile broadband services are excluded.

The SC Broadband Office is neither responsible nor liable for damages or injuries caused by failure of performance, error, omission, inaccuracy, inaccessibility, incompleteness or any other errors in information or formatting on this map.

Additional information may be found at:
https://ors.sc.gov/broadband/office/investments/state/arpaslfrf3.0

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Developing Grant Applications, Attachments, and GIS Data

Application Highlights

- **Microsoft Excel Format**
  - ✓ Each tab corresponds to another section of the Grant Application
  - ✓ Will assist ORS with streamlining review process
  - ✓ DO NOT change or edit the grant application
- **ISP shall upload Microsoft Excel Document, GIS Data, Associated Attachments to Citrix**
- **ISP must provide signed affidavit certifying grant application is accurate, complete, and notarized**

Grant Application Components

1) **Applicant Information**
2) **Budget Summary**
3) **Confirmations**
4) **Additional Information**
    - Project Narrative (must be unique to each project, do not discuss past performance, company history, etc. only the project for which you are applying. Limit 750 Characters)
    - Needs of the Community (Refrain from discussing rates, structure counts, estimated dates, past work, etc. Limit 500 Characters)
    - Strategies for **Improving Adoption** and **Increasing Digital Literacy**
5) **Project Sponsors**
6) **Attachments**

Grant Financial Components

Section 2.1 – Project Construction Costs

‘Other’ Payroll and Fringe expenses are removed

Section 2.2 – Funding Details

Do not include cents - whole percentages only

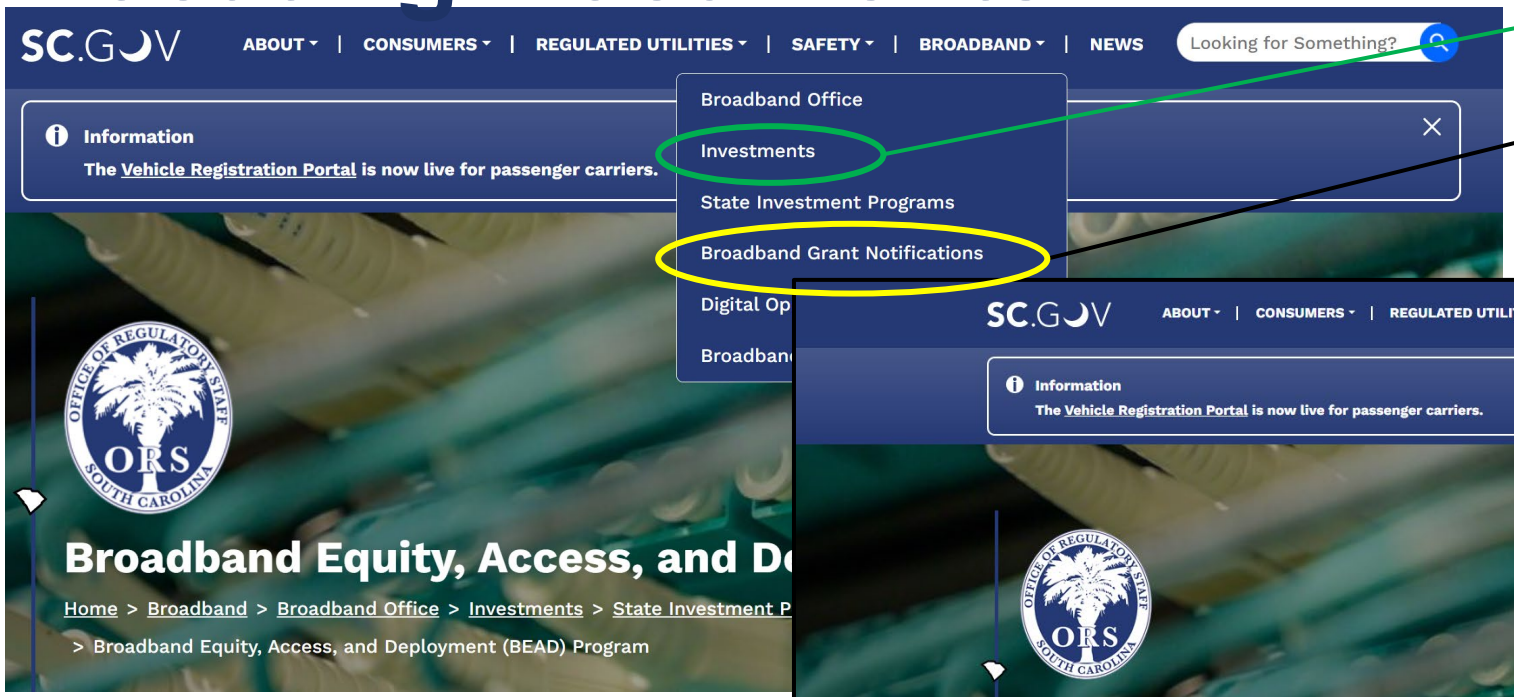
Attachments

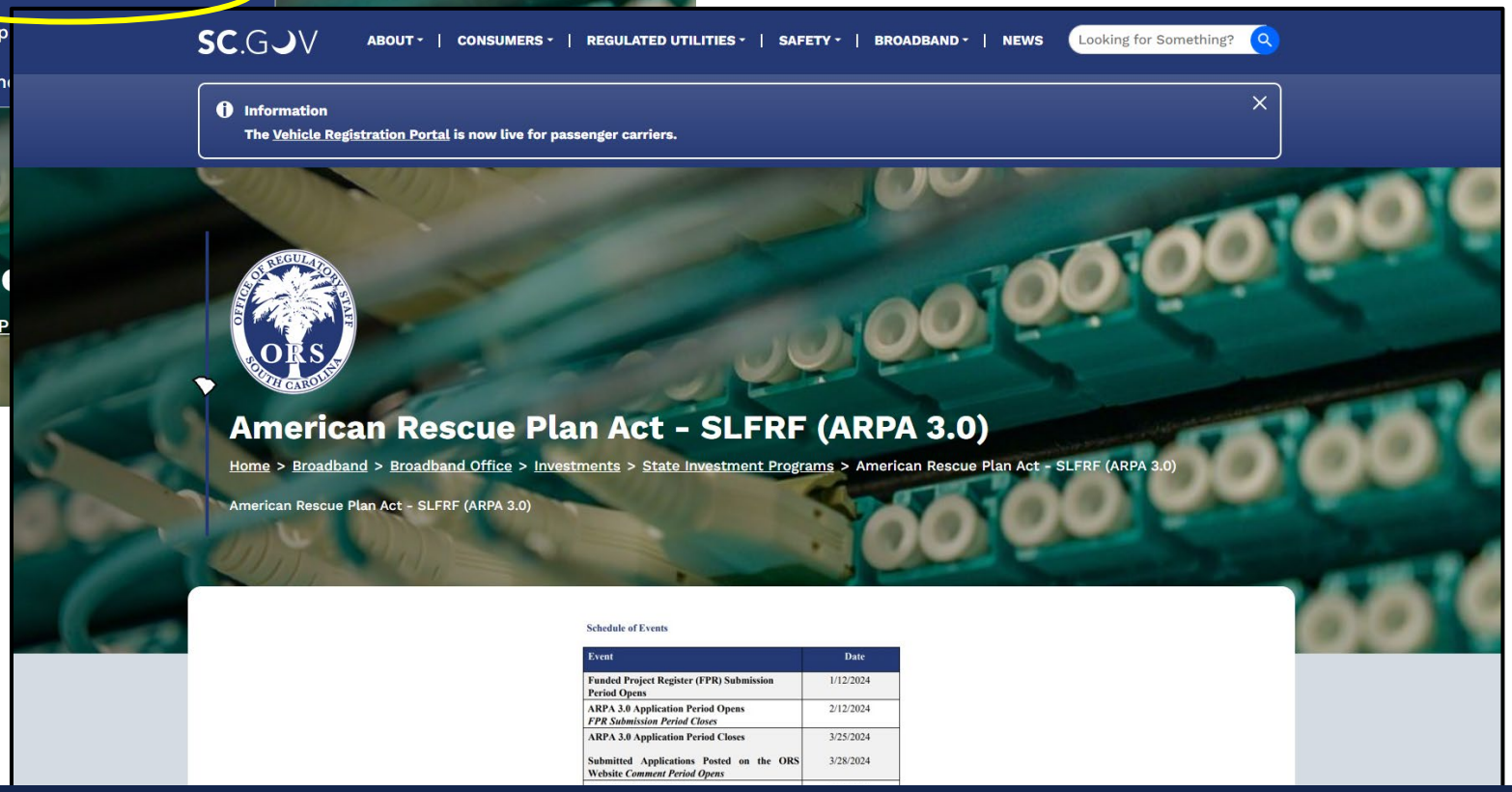
- Signed affidavit certifying grant application is complete, accurate, and notarized
- Proof of funding related to proposed project or non-cash support, provide associated documentation (e.g., yearly financial reports, bank statement, etc.)
- Letters of support and strategic partnerships - No more than 4!
- Copies of Applicant's Current Fee Structure for all Internet Speed Tiers
- Certificates of Insurance
- Any additional information evidencing community need for project

Locating Documents

Pathway for Grant Docs

Sign up for all notifications!





ORS.SC.GOV/Broadband

Required Template
for
Grant Application Submission

Access to Data for ARPA SLFRF 3.0

- **Applicant Must (if not previously provided)**
  - ✓ Fill out Broadband Data License form
    - ✓ https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/4ee66f13b3c4426fa363e4f31331142c
  - ✓ Fill out data access request form if you don't currently have access to Citrix
    - ✓ https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/68bc66c8d7dd4913b58489dc27d2a729
  - ✓ Upload Tier D CostQuest License
    - ✓ Citrix Upload (Access provided by SCBBO)

GIS Eligibility and Template Data

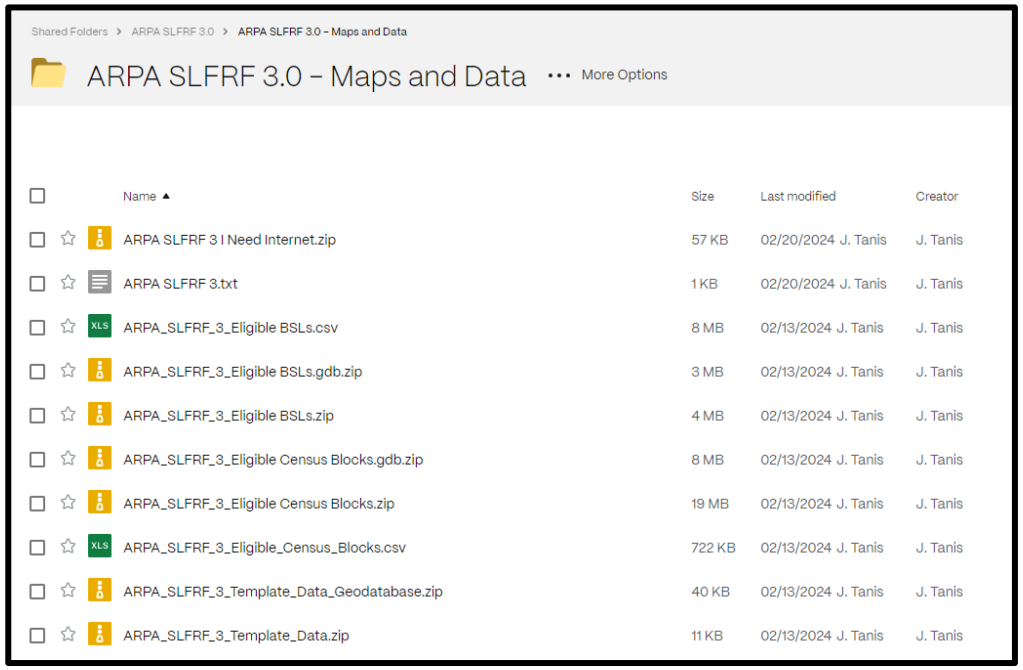
Data for Grant Submission:

ISP **MUST** use the data in the ARPA SLFRF 3.0 – Maps and Data folder.

1. Unserved BSL Locations
2. Eligible Census Blocks
3. Line Work Template
4. Network Junction Template
5. *I Need Internet Survey Responses

*** Not required**

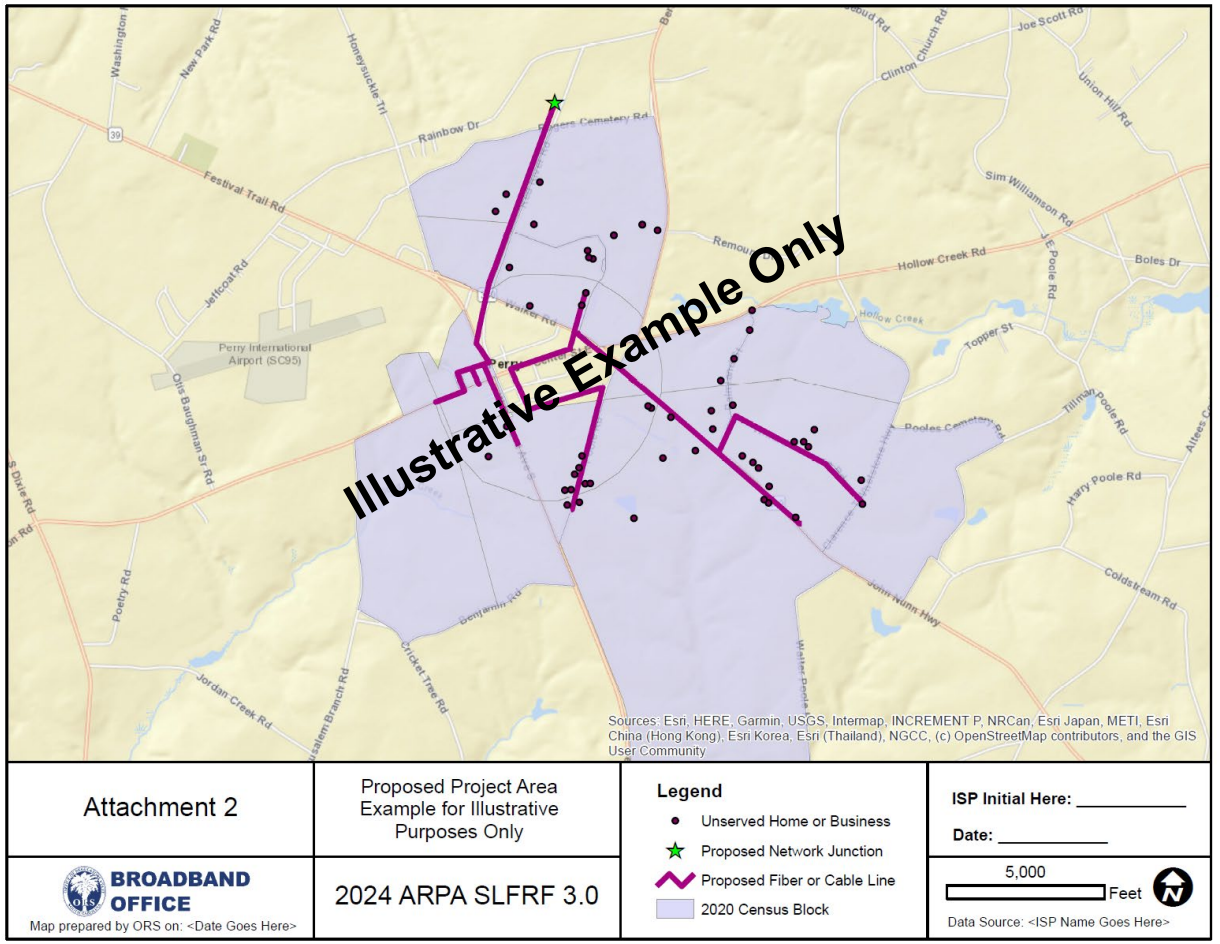
Citrix ShareFile



Ideal GIS Submission allows ORS to develop map exhibit for agreement

Four Key Layers

- 2020 Eligible Census Blocks (Project Area)
  - ISP Applicant Census Data will be published during comment period
- Fiber or Cable Routes
- Unserved FCC Broadband Serviceable Locations (BSLs)
- Network Junctions



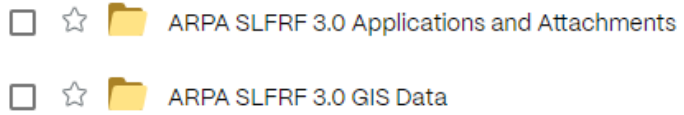
This map is sourced from data provided as part of ISP grant application which is produced by ORS and included as an exhibit in the ISP grant agreement.

GIS Data for Application Submission

Four Layers Needed for Application Submission

- **2020 Eligible Census Blocks (Project Area)**
  - Subset of Eligible Census Blocks published by SCBBO
- **Unserved FCC Broadband Serviceable Locations (BSLs)**
  - Subset of Unserved BSLs published by SCBBO
- **Fiber or Cable Routes**
  - ISP Created data using template GIS Layer (Line Work)
- **Network Junctions**
  - ISP Created data using template GIS Layer (Network Junctions)

Application and GIS Data is uploaded to Citrix
NO EMAILS OR KML/KMZ FILES WILL BE ACCEPTED



Eligibility Layer Data Dictionary

Attribute Name	Data Type	Definition	Values/Comments
GEOID 20	Text	2020 Eligible Census Block Field ID	GEOID Value from the US Census
CountyName	Text	County Name	South Carolina County Name
TotStruct	Integer	Total number of broadband serviceable locations (BSLs) from the July 2023 V2 FCC Fabric	SCBBO Derived
TotRStruct	Integer	Total number of Residential and Mixed use (building_type_code = R or X) locations from the July 2023 V2 FCC fabric	SCBBO Derived
TotBStruct	Integer	Total number of Business (building_type_code = B) locations from the July 2023 V2 FCC fabric	SCBBO Derived
Eligible_Struct	Integer	Total number of eligible broadband serviceable locations (BSLs) from the July 2023 V2 FCC fabric	SCBBO Derived
Eligible_RStruct	Integer	Total number of eligible Residential and Mixed use (building_type_code = R or X) locations from the July 2023 V2 FCC fabric	SCBBO Derived
Eligible_BStruct	Integer	Total number of eligible Business (building_type_code= B) locations from the July 2023 V2 FCC fabric	SCC Derived
K12	Text	Presence of K-12 Students sourced from State Department of Education. Value represents student counts by Census block	0 Students = 0, 5 students or less are summarized with a value of YES, 6+ students show the raw student count per census block

Eligibility Layer Data Dictionary, cont.

PA	Text	Priority Areas as defined by SC ARPA legislation. Areas of Priority include 1) unserved areas with no current ISP, 2) Difficult Development Areas as identified by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and 3) census blocks that have a high concentration of unserved public K12 student households as documented by the SC Department of Education	Yes, No
PA_DDA	Text	Difficult Development Areas as sourced by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).	Yes, No
PA_K12	Text	Concentrations of 20+ K-12 students in Census block.	Yes, No
PA_NoTech	Text	No wireline technology is present in the Census block	Yes, No
Mapping	Text	Field used to symbolize the eligibility map showing the following values at the 2020 census block level	Unserved, Partially Served, Priority Area

GIS Data Dictionary

Applicants must provide a subset of these layers back to SCBBO that represent their proposed project area and eligible structures which will be served

2020 Eligible Census Blocks

Layer Name	Layer Type	Definition	Values/Comments
Eligible 2020 Census Blocks for Proposed Project Area	Polygon	Eligible 2020 Census Block data depicting only those areas for which a proposed project may occur	This layer should be a subset of records reflecting the project area produced using the SCBBO Eligibility Map 2020 Census Block Data
Attribute Name	**Data Type**	**Definition**	**Values/Comments**
All Fields from SCBBO Eligible 2020 Census Blocks for Proposed Project Area (as outlined in previous two slides)			

SCBBO Unserved FCC BSL Points

Layer Name	Layer Type	Definition	Comments
Proposed Served Structures	Point	Projected Homes/Business/Other structures that will be passed upon completion of the project	Applicants must use all fields from the FCC BSL Fabric
All fields from July 2023 V2 FCC BSL Fabric			

GIS Data Dictionary

Proposed Line Work

Layer Name	Layer Type	Definition	Comments
Proposed Line Work	Line	Proposed broadband lines an ISP will construct	Digitized fiber/cable lines should be separated by segments, by technology type, and deployment type, snapped to vertices of adjoining fiber lines. Upon award and completion of the project, ISP must submit as-built update depicting actual locations of fiber lines that align with quantities outlined in expense reports prior to final payment.
Attribute Name	**Data Type**	**Definition**	**Values/Comments**
FCCTech Alias = FCC Technology Code	Integer	The FCC Technology code proposed for construction	50, 40
Length	Integer	Length in feet of a given line segment	Length in feet calculated from read-only length field
DepMethod Alias = Deployment Method	Text	The method for which Broadband technology will be deployed at a given line segment	Aerial, Buried

Network Junctions

Layer Name	Layer Type	Definition	Comments
Network Junction	Point	Point location where existing infrastructure will tie into the proposed project	An example of a Network Junction feature is a location where a fiber line will be spliced to extend services from an existing network
Attribute Name	**Data Type**	**Definition**	**Values/Comments**
Description	Text	Description of Connection Point Location	e.g., Optical Line Terminal (OLT) endpoint, splice point to extend services from existing network, etc.

This is the only GIS data ISP's must create as part of their grant application!

ISP Data Confidentiality

2021-2022 Provisions Ratified by SC General Assembly

- *Excerpt from Section 73.7 – "In order 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."*

2022 HB 4408 Section 12 Paragraph B

- *"(B) The Office of Broadband Coordinator shall maintain as confidential all individual company-designated proprietary information. All such individual proprietary information is exempt from the provisions contained in S.C. Code Sections 30-4-10, et seq., the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act."*

Selection Criteria

30% - High Priority Area
20% - Geography
20% - Collaboration/Adoption/Community Assistance/Wi-Fi – Applicant Strategy and Training Plan
15% - Average Cost Per Structure and Financial Match Percentage
5% - Additional Priority Areas containing concentrations of 20 or more K-12 student households
5% - Low-Cost Plan Duration
5% - Network Resiliency

All eligible applications will be reviewed and scored; however, ORS reserves the right to award grants that are in the public interest and accelerate internet deployment.

BEAD Registration Portal now Open

BEAD Challenge Process about to Commence

- **What is the challenge process?**
  - The challenge process gives South Carolinians an opportunity to correct inaccuracies in the state's broadband map so it reflects the most up-to-date broadband access across the state. The updated map will **determine which locations are eligible for funding** through the BEAD program.
- **Who is eligible to submit a challenge?**
  - NTIA rules allow units of **local government, non-profit organizations, and internet service providers** to submit challenges. Individuals in South Carolina can participate by coordinating with registered local governments to submit a challenge.
- **When is the challenge process happening?**
  - The SCBBO will launch its challenge process on **April 1st**, and the Challenge Phase, including the Challenge Portal, will open a week prior.
- **Pre-registration is required to participate in the challenge process!**
  - https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/0b105c7cad9e48caa522df9213ad8074

https://ors.sc.gov/broadband/office/investments/state/bead

Phase	Duration and Dates
Publication of Eligible Locations Public documentation shall be posted, including an explanation of the state's Challenge Process, the classification of all locations and CAIs, and the timeline for the full Challenge Process. The SCBBO informs units of local government, non-profits, and internet service providers about the challenge process timeline, deadlines, and how each will be notified of challenges.	7 days *March 25, 2024 – April 1, 2024
Challenge Phase The SCBBO reviews/accepts/rejects challenges on a rolling basis. Challengers will be notified by the SCBBO as to whether their challenge is sustained or rejected. Entities that were challenged will be pre-notified about any location challenges via email.	30 days *April 1, 2024 – April 30, 2024
Rebuttal The Rebuttal phase officially begins as set forth in the timeline. All service provider rebuttal information will be posted to Citrix for each respective party to officially rebut. Planned Service, Enforceable Commitment, and CAI challenges will be posted for all registered Challengers to submit a Rebuttal.	30 days *May 1, 2024 - May 31, 2024
Final Determination The SCBBO will post all submitted challenges and rebuttals before final challenge determinations are made. The SCBBO shall make final determinations and submit to the NTIA for their final review.	30 days *June 1, 2024 – June 30, 2024
Publication of Final Determinations The SCBBO publishes the final determinations after NTIA review.	*Early Summer 2024 based on approval from NTIA.

Help us make sure BEAD dollars go where they are needed most!

Key Themes for ARPA 3.0

- End of ARPA = Beginning of BEAD
- County ARPA Projects
  - ✓ Must be fully documented by April 30, 2024
  - ✓ NTIA Tier E licensing
- Extremely Cost Competitive
- Document Extremely High-Cost Homes

Questions and Answers

Please type questions in the Chat
Q&A's will be published on the ARPA SLFRF 3.0 webpage

https://ors.sc.gov/broadband/office/investments/state/arpaslfrf3.0

FAQ's

An FAQ form has been developed for any future questions related to the ARPA SLFRF 3.0 grant program, available at: https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/4001b34e7b17446cb7f81c98ee7253e8

**SCBBO will not respond directly in email, answers will be posted on the ARPA SLFRF 3.0 webpage via FAQ document.*

General Questions (not related to ARPA SLFRF 3.0), can be sent via email to: Broadband@ors.sc.gov

Thank you!

BROADBAND OFFICE