Category	Question	ORS Response
Application	We would appreciate knowing which areas/locations are eligible, however it says "coming soon" on the application landing page under the "Eligibility Map" tab. Given that the application period opened yesterday, when will this be made available? Thank you!	The ARPA SLFRF 3.0 webpage has been updated with the eligibility map. Eligible BSL's have also been uploaded to the ORS Citrix ShareFile Platform.
Application	My question pertains to Scoring Criterion No. 2. How does the SCBBO determine the areas in SC that fully satisfy qualifications for No. 2, which the Application Guidelines state this may include, but not be limited to: "• Counties where availability of Broadband infrastructure has been limited and public investment in Broadband deployment projects have been minimal in contrast to neighboring counties • Rural areas where costs to deploy broadband infrastructure are higher with fewer concentrations of citizens • Areas with high concentrations of "I Need Internet" Survey Results"	Sub-bullets represent examples of scoring factors, which "may include, but not be limited to:" the examples referenced in the guidelines for this scoring category. An applicant may obtain full points for this category based on a combination of factors utilizing best available data from multiple sources relative to the pool of applications submitted as part of the grant program. A debrief may be requested for any application that does not receive an award at the close of the grant round.
Application	Regarding the "Geography" section of the scoring rubric, is there a threshold you are using to determine counties "where availability of broadband infrastructure has been limited and funding minimal in contrast to neighboring counties?"	Sub-bullets represent examples of scoring factors, which "may include, but not be limited to:" the examples referenced in the guidelines for this scoring category. An applicant may obtain full points for this category based on a combination of factors utilizing best available data from multiple sources relative to the pool of applications submitted as part of the grant program. A debrief may be requested for any application that does not receive an award at the close of the grant round.
Application	Are the max of 4 support letters per application or the grant as a whole?	Four letters of support are permissible per application.
Application	Can you get letters of support for ARPA 3.0 from community leaders and officials who have given support for previous grants?	Yes, but they need to be new letters of support and relate to project being applied for.
Application	So are partnerships considered a letter of support?	Yes, however the substance of the letter of support will dictate, in part, the score which may be obtained under the Collaboration, Adoption, Community Support score.
Application	Understanding that census blocks do not have to be contiguous and each project applied for cannot span more than 2 counties, is there any problem or prohibition if our project application stays in one county but the census blocks applied for are not contiguous but are dispersed?	The census blocks that are included in an application do not have to be contiguous.
Application	We have several instances within the areas we will be applying for where a competitor has built to some of the Eligible BSLs within blocks we are applying for but apparently hasn't reported them yet. The areas we are applying for are not served but we will have to build past BSLs that show as Eligible. Some of these in the same Census Blocks we wish to claim. I haven't been able to find the correct place on the application to indicate this so that it doesn't look like we are trying to claim Served locations that had not been reported at the time this map was created and don't want that to hurt our application. ORS supplies the list of Eligible BSLs and we just send back what is listed in the area we pass. Do we go ahead and count them all for now and wait for you guys to revise the list after submitted or is there a different avenue that can be taken to resolve this on the front end. Thanks	If the BSL is eligible, it is recommended they be included as part of your grant application. In the event it is determined through the course of due diligence another provider serves some of the BSL's, they will need to be removed from the project.

Application	What level of specificity is desired for Letters of Support?	Page 14 of the ARPA SLFRF 3.0 guidelines state: Demonstrated Partnerships via letters of support with a pledge of assistance and/or commitment with Local Government, Communities, and Non-Profit Organizations in Project Area. Letters of support do not need to include project level details (i.e. locations passed, fiber miles, etc.); however, they should make mention of specific communities within the project area that will be positively impacted.
Application	Eligible BSLs are now reflected on the ARPA 3.0 eligibility map in areas of recently awarded CPF grant funding. Are there any plans to reconcile the CPF awarded BSLs with the 3.2 version of the fabric being used for BEAD and ARPA 3.0?	All CPF awarded projects have been reconciled to version 3.2 of the FCC BDC fabric. In ARPA 3.0, eligible BSLs could possibly be located in awarded CPF project census blocks due to the fact that the SCBBO changed eligibility conditions (removing previous filters) in our final grant round in preparation for BEAD.
Application	The "Proposed_Line_Work" shapefile, should it include line work for long drops?	All proposed line work sould be included in the file.
Application	Can we the same county be in two different grant applications?	Yes the same county can be in multiple applications, but not the same census blocks or elgible locations.
Application	I understand that a single application cannot span more than 2 counties that are next to each other and we are allowed up to 5 applications. Can a county be used in more than one application? For example an application with County A and County B and another application with County A and County C (not reusing the same census blocks)	Yes the same county can be in multiple applications, but not the same census blocks or elgible locations.
General	With the deployment of ARP CPF 1.0 funds, what about residents that fall outside the ISP coverage area that remain unserved? Most are very rural.	Please refer to the guidelines, Item 4 under the section heading "Projects must meet the following criteria:" for details pertaining to structures an applicant proposes to exclude from a project area.
General	With the recent deployment of ARPA CPF 1.0 grants, my unserved rural community falls outside of the ISP's coverage area. Can ARPA SLRF 3.0 Funds be used to deploy broadband internet to those unserved residents? If so, how do citizens like myself get funding for their community?	Please refer to the guidelines, Item 5 under the section heading "Projects must meet the following criteria:" for details pertaining to eligible applicants for this grant program.
General	Where can I find the results of the "I need Internet" surveys for assessing locations for assessing geography associated with the 20% scoring criteria. Similarly, is there a database or dataset you are reviewing to assess whether an area has limited broadband investment or minimal investment compared to its neighbors?	Sub-bullets represent examples of scoring factors, which "may include, but not be limited to:" the examples referenced in the guidelines for this scoring category.

I need internet survey results will be published in the ARPA SLFRF 3.0 Map and Data folder. Applicants are encouraged to review and speak to any concentrations of I need internet survey results. |
General	Regarding the Geography section of the scoring rubric, is there a specific density/cost per premise threshold when defining "rural areas with low density and higher cost"?	Sub-bullets represent examples of scoring factors, which "may include, but not be limited to:" the examples referenced in the guidelines for this scoring category. An applicant may obtain full points for this category based on a combination of factors utilizing best available data from multiple sources relative to the pool of applications submitted as part of the grant program. A debrief may be requested for any application that does not receive an award at the close of the grant round.
General	Regarding the Average Cost per Structure and Financial Match scoring rubric and the lower percent of funding / lower average cost per structure elements of this rubric, how are these points allocated? Is there a metric the State is using to determine points awarded, or are applicants scored against each other?	Applicants will be scored against each other.
General	Can you email the ARPA SLFRF 3.0 informational session PowerPoint out to attendees?	The slides are posted on ORS ARPA SLFRF 3.0 webpage in PDF format.
General	Can you please repeat where to find the ARPA 3.0 data	The ARPA SLFRF 3.0 data is located in the ARPA SLFRF 3.0 Maps and Data folder on Citrix.
General	are reimbursements paid monthly, when customers are turned on or after the project is 100% completed.	Reimbursements are paid at the end of the project only for eligible expenses.

General	Can you talk about the permitting process?	All permitting is the responsibility of the grantee and are deemed an eligible expense under the ARPA SLFRF 3.0 grant program.
General	If a private landowner or resident refuses to allow ISPs to perform construction during the buildout phase, are these BSLs exempt from the Universal Service Broadband requirement?	Issues where established utility easements do not exist and a private easement is necessary to complete the project but not granted by the land owner must be discussed on a case by case basis with the SCBBO.
General	There are Eligible BSLs under ARPA 3.0 that we wish to claim in our projects that may require little to no build. This is because they were not eligible under ARPA 1.0 and CPF, but we had to build past them in order to get to the Census Blocks/BSLs that we were awarded under those previous grants. They need to be accounted for since they will be served, but claiming the BSLs and not having consistent fiber lines to show for them may look strange on our GIS submission. We looked for a place within the application to explain these but didn't find an appropriate place to give an explanation. How should we address these situations so that there is an understanding as to how we will be serving them?	If the BSL is eligible, it is recommended they be included in your grant application.
General	What process should an ISP follow if, after reviewing the map reflecting BSLs for ARPA 3.0, the ISP realizes that the location is not a serviceable location? For illustrative purposes the location is a decommissioned plant or a bathroom facility that is separate and apart from a main building that is served with high speed internet. Should the ISP inform the SCBBO that the location is not actually a serviceable location and the reason why?	Applicants need to document each ARPA 3.0 eligible BSL, in the census blocks they are applying for, which they believe are not true broadband-serviceable locations. Please include a detailed reason for each of these BSLs why they should be submitted as a map challenge to the Federal Communications Commission.
General	Can your provide or post a list of the county contacts for this program?	https://www.sccounties.org/county-directory-pages
General	Can we include the costs for providing free community Wi-Fi, from section 1.7, in our application. Specifically equipment and labor costs, as well as monthly service costs?	The costs for the equipment and installing is eligible. Recurring monthly expenses are ineligible.
General	For the required signed affidavit, does it have to be a President, CEO, or CFO that signs, or can it be a Vice-President?	Page 13 of the guidelines state: All applications will require certification and signature through execution of an affidavit by the President, CEO, or CFO. A senior and/or regional Vice President with corporate signing authority will be accepted.
General	Do you have a list of the "specific" individuals within each SC County that are working with the SC Broadband Office? The hyperlink list provided in an earlier response to a question does not work. Moreover, I am looking for a list with the "specific" individual(s) in each SC County that are working with the SC Broadband Office and understand the broadband construction grant programs happening in SC (not looking for the entire County Directory of all County employees/representatives). Thank you for your assistance on this.	Users must select and copy the URL into a web browser to view the directory published by the South Carolina Association of Counties. URL: https://www.sccounties.org/county-directory-pages

General	If we discover after signing a grant agreement that some of the owners of the BSL refuse service and access to the property, how does this impact our grant? If we document the refusal for service, will that protect us from an obligation standpoint? How will this scenario be treated from a financial standpoint? For example, let's say we include 50 locations in our grant application for a total cost of $500,000, with a 30% grant funding request. If we find that only 10 of these locations are serviceable or want service and our total cost goes from $500,000 to $250,000, will ORS honor the 30% - 70% grant match structure on the lower amount? Will ORS want to evaluate other location opportunities and signing an amendment before landing on a lower total cost amount?	SCBBO will honor the match percentage in the grant agreement, and will reimburse based on actual costs incurred, so if the project comes in under budget, the reimbursement will be the percentage in the grant agreement based on the total of actual eligible costs. Grantees are protected from an obligation if they provide suitable documentation that physical access to the real estate involved is prohibited by the land owner. SCBBO may consider amendments to add BSL's where grantees are under budget on a case by case basis.
GIS	what about those residents that live in unserved areas and were previously designated as an RDOF funded area? Are they eligible for any ARPA or BEAD Funds?	Only the ARPA 3.0 eligible locations are available for funding.
GIS	If there are eligible BSLs that we don't have power to the location, should we challenge these as eligible BSLs?	According to the FCC, a broadband serviceable location is defined as "a business or residential location in the United States at which fixed broadband Internet access service is, or can be, installed." Therefore, the SCCBO recommends making contact with the landowner to determine whether access is desired. If the ISP feels the BSL should be removed, they should submit a challenge to the FCC and also share the results of the challenge to the SCBBO.
GIS	We have some BSL locations within blocks that we are applying for that we would like to exclude from our application. This is either due to high cost or not being a serviceable location. Question is - should we include these locations we wish to exclude in our GIS data of BSL locations, or just list them in a CSV file with an explanation of why they are being excluded. Just need to know if you want to show these excluded locations in our GIS data.	Point locations an applicant proposes to exclude should be provided as a separate GIS data layer from the eligible BSL's an applicant proposes to serve in their project. To track this, SCBBO requests a shapefile representing the subset of BSLs that were eligible in the Census Block, but not chosen by the Applicant. Two additional attributes for each BSL should be provided including: 1. The cost to provide access (assuming it's believed to be an actual BSL) 2. Comment describing a justification for its exclusion Applicants must submit adequate justification in their grant application if they are not providing access to 100% of the structures in the project area. SCBBO maintains sole discretion as to whether any such justification is deemed acceptable.
Guidelines	Regarding the financial match required by the applicant, we see that the required match is "not to exceed a maximum of 75% for each project submitted". Is there a minimum required match?	1% is the minimum match requested amount or $100,000, whichever is greater. Applications with no financial request will not be considered.

Guidelines	We noticed the eligible BSL list includes some enterprise businesses. If we pass an enterprise business with fiber, it normally takes more than 10 business days to do the install upon receiving a service order. May we include eligible enterprise businesses in our project even though it will take more than 10 business days to do an install?	Applicants may include suspected enterprise businesses under the condition the applicant will meet all requirements for the suspected business location as outlined in the grant guidelines and grant agreement. In the event the applicant cannot meet all requisite requirements for the suspected enterprise location (e.g. cannot provide service within 10 business days) the location will need to be removed from the proposed project and must include a written justification for SCBBO approval.
Guidelines	Many of the Eligible Census Blocks have BSLs that are Unserved as well as BSLs that do have at least 25/3 or greater available to them. If I understand the requirements correctly, we are required to build to all BSLs in the Census Blocks we cover in our projects and not just the ones that are listed as Eligible Locations. Is this correct? I am good with doing that but didn't want it to be held against us for building to a location that already has access to 25/3 or greater service, since the requirements also say we are not to overbuild an existing network.	Only those eligible BSLs indicated as unserved or underserved may be awarded funds for deployment. Grantees must provide access to all remaining unserved and underserved BSLs in a given Census block for which they apply. Instances where an applicant chooses to remove an unserved or underserved BSL requires justification at the point of their application submission and subsequent approval by the SCBBO.
Guidelines	If we are building ARPA blocks now under a different grant program, and we are passing ARPA 3.0 eligible locations but planning to serve the 3.0 block, wouldn't the fiber passing 3.0 be covered under a different grant program? How would the ARPA 3.0 funds cover this if at that point only a drop is then needed to serve the ARPA 3.0 BSL?	An applicant could submit a grant application for the drops under ARPA 3.0 reducing the overall average cost per structure resulting in a more competitive grant application. Applicants are encouraged to explain when instances like this may occur describing that the proposed application would extend service from a previous grant award.
Guidelines	What if the ARPA 3.0 block is built by someone else while we were designing but they haven't reported that it is served yet?	If Applicants are designing projects ahead of any grant award, they do so at their own risk with no guarantee of reimbursement through a grant award. If awarded a ARPA 3.0 grant, Grantees will be required to disclose instances where facilities may exist within their funded area as soon as possible. Eligible engineering expenses may be reimbursed. Applicants are reminded Funded Project Register submissions may exclude BSL's from consideration.
Guidelines	We noticed that some of the arpa 3.0 blocks have numerous addresses (even included in BSL fabric) but then there are only a few out of the total number of addresses included in the arpa 3.0 eligible addresses. are we still required to be able to serve everyone in the block or just the arpa 3.0 eligible addresses?	Applicants are only required to serve the eligible locations in the census blocks.
Guidelines	On pg. 7 of the guidelines under the Universal Service Requirement, it appears to require the build out of all BSLs in a partially served project area census block - including the already served BSLs. Is that correct, or does that requirement only apply to the unserved and underserved BSLs in the partially served census block?	Applicants are only required to serve the eligible locations in the census blocks for which they apply.
Guidelines	Will the funds pay for middle mile?	Yes, under the condition the middle mile fiber/cable is used to provide last mile connections/serve eligible BSLs awarded as part of the ARPA SLFRF 3.0 grant program.
Guidelines	does the design need to be submitted in 30 days or just the blocks and bsl?	The four GIS elements (Eligible Locations, Eligible Census Blocks, Fiber/Cable Lines, Network Junctions) are all REQUIRED for application submission. Line work can be conceptual design.
Guidelines	If an ISP has drop only locations spread across more than two counties, could you combine into a drop only application?	Applicants are permitted to submit a deminimus grant wherein most of the project BSLs are for drops only. However, the application must still include at least one priority census block and may not cross more than 2 counties.