



BROADBAND OFFICE

Funded Project Register

To comply with the requirements of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), Capital Projects Funds (CPF) grant program, we are affording each ISP the opportunity to confidentially share their fully funded projects with the SC Broadband Office (SCBBO) so we can minimize overbuilding facilities while accelerating broadband deployment in partially served and unserved areas of the State.

For broadband infrastructure funds associated with CPF, the South Carolina Broadband Office (SCBBO), seeks to avoid duplicating investments and facilities by collecting geospatial information and construction-related detail for any **Privately Funded Projects**, the FCC's **Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF)**, the USDA's **ReConnect** Program, as well as any county or municipal **ARPA** Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (LFRF) investments. Properly documented projects will be maintained in the SCBBO **Funded Project Register (FPR)** for the duration of the indicated construction period. However, by accepting this information, SCBBO is not making any affirmation or commitment that it will not fund those unserved and partially served areas for which there is an identified need for additional broadband infrastructure investment, notwithstanding any existing state or federal funding commitments. Qualifying needs which may result in a potential overbuild include, but are not limited to, more robust infrastructure that will provide broadband at higher speeds, accelerated deployment in rural areas, and network resilience.

Subject to the provisions set forth below, the SCBBO will evaluate future grant applications against all projects in the FPR.

It is in the SCBBO's sole discretion to accept a project into the FPR and, if accepted, **no contract or agreement is made or implied by such acceptance.**

Submitting a project for the SCBBO Funded Project Register:

- 1) Eligible projects must be submitted by midnight eastern standard time **Friday, June 16th, 2023.**

- 2) Eligible projects must represent construction that will take place between **June 1, 2023** and **June 30, 2024**.
- 3) Separate applications must be submitted for each eligible project.
- 4) Applications must be submitted by an eligible ISP, and the ISP must present evidence to the SCBBO regarding an existing **fully funded wireline** broadband project that will be constructed at minimum speeds of 100 Mbps download / 20 Mbps upload, with no remaining contingencies, from one of the following sources:
 - a. **Private Investment**
 - b. **FCC's Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF); or,**
 - c. **USDA's ReConnect Program (ReConnect); or,**
 - d. **ARPA County or Municipal Broadband Funds**
- 5) The ISP must present the SCBBO with a shapefile that clearly shows the Census 2020 blocks that will be impacted by the project.
- 6) The ISP must present a list of Census 2020 blocks in an Excel worksheet.
- 7) The ISP must present the SCBBO with a shapefile that clearly shows the fiber/cable routes and FCC Broadband serviceable locations (BSLs) of every home, business, and community anchor institution that will be impacted by the project. Note: ISPs with a valid FCC/CostQuest Tier 2 License Agreement must use the SCBBO BSL Fabric Data available on the ORS Citrix Platform located in the FPR data and documents directory.
 - a. FCC BSLs must contain all fields from the fabric.
 - b. Digitized fiber/cable lines should be separated by segments, by technology type, and deployment type, snapped to vertices of adjoining fiber lines. Upon of the project, ISP must submit as-built update depicting actual locations of fiber lines.
- 8) An affidavit shall be provided by an officer of the ISP that the project is fully funded and has no remaining contingencies (e.g., environmental and/or historical preservation) that would impact construction schedules. See attachment 1.
- 9) At the time the project is filed, the ISP must present the SCBBO with a detailed, quarter by quarter, Census 2020 **Block Group** engineering timeline that demonstrates project completion by **June 30, 2024**. This report must be filed by the ISP's engineering/construction team leader and separately endorsed by an officer of the ISP (see attached example)
- 10) The existence of xDSL, fixed wireless, or satellite service in a Census 2020 block will not prevent the addition of properly documented projects to the FPR.
- 11) Each ISP must report on the progress of their projects in the FPR within 30 days of the end of each calendar quarter. The construction progress report must be filed by the engineering/construction team leader. Failure to report will result in the project being removed from the FPR.

- 12) The SCBBO has the option to inspect any project contained in the FPR with a 48 business-hour notice period to the engineering/construction team leader or officer of the ISP.
- 13) Failure of the ISP to complete reporting as described above, absent a force majeure event, shall result in future projects not being accepted by the SCBBO for subsequent entry to the FPR. At any time, if the ISP is deemed to be submitting false documentation, SCBBO will notify the ISP that the documentation is considered false, and SCBBO will release funds, if available, to deploy broadband infrastructure in the same area. The ISP acknowledges that submitting false or inaccurate data to the SCBBO may result in the exclusion of participation in current and future grant rounds, as well as the ability to submit future challenges and/or comments to the SCBBO.
- 14) To place a project into the FPR, an ISP must be current on all other reporting requirements of the SCBBO. This includes the obligation to submit their most-recent FCC submissions, served address locations, and other related detail as may be requested from time-to-time. In addition, any federal reporting as to construction timelines shall be provided to SCBBO at the same time it is provided to any federal agency. If the SCBBO learns that the construction timelines reported to the federal agency(ies) differ from that reported to SCBBO, SCBBO will consider using any available funding to deploy broadband infrastructure in the same area.
- 15) Regardless of entries in the FPR, where necessary to serve immediate and urgent public needs, the SCBBO retains the authority and flexibility to accelerate internet deployment consistent with ARPA requirements.
- 16) Approved FPR projects may be mapped at the 2020 census block level as either state, local, federal, or privately funded. All other aspects of data provided to the SCBBO as part of their FPR submission will remain confidential.
- 17) Copies of ISP's Current Fee Structure for all Internet Speed Tiers that will be offered in the project area.
- 18) All documents and/or data is to be placed into the CPF 1.0 FPR Folder on Citrix Sharefile. No emails containing documents or data will be accepted. All questions are to be emailed to broadband@ors.sc.gov.