



**BROADBAND
OFFICE**



ARPA CPF 2023 Grant Programs

Informational Webinar

South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff | May 23, 2023

Thanks to our ISPs!

BROADBANDNOW RESEARCH

Internet Providers Resources Our Research

Best and Worst States for Internet Coverage, Prices and Speeds

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Best & Worst States for Broadband, 2023

Written by Jason Shevik

May 9, 2023 | Published: February 8, 2023

Every year we use a combination of public and proprietary data to create a comprehensive report on the quality of internet in all 50 states and D.C., and this year we made some key changes to our ranking algorithm so that this report is the most comprehensive ranking yet. We explain more about what we changed and why in the methodology section at the end.

Key Findings

- Availability of low-priced broadband remains low across the US. In half of all states, less than 20% of the population has access to a broadband plan for \$60 per month or less, and Washington was the only state with over 50% of their population having access at 54%.
- The category with the largest geographic disparity in the country is latency ([round trip time](#)), with 18 states earning a score of 0 for that section.
- We support changing the [definition of broadband](#) from 25Mbps down and 3Mbps up to 100Mbps down and 25Mbps up, but we're a long way away from widespread access to those speeds. Nationally, 100Mbps down is in the 62nd percentile and 25Mbps up is in the 69th percentile.

<https://broadbandnow.com/research/best-states-with-internet-coverage-and-speed>

State Rankings

Below are the rankings for each state in the US based on access to broadband internet – including access to low price plans and fiber-optics – and the quality of their internet.

State	Rank	Wired / Fixed Wireless Broadband (%)	Wired Low-Priced Broadband (%)	Fiber-Optic Service (%)	Median RTT	RTT Score
Maryland	1	97	34.8	63.8	9.5	79.84496
New Jersey	2	98.5	18.8	69.7	6.5	100
New York	3	98.8	18.8	65.7	7.3	96.89921
Delaware	4	97.3	15.4	57.8	11.4	65.11627
Washington	5	96.7	54.2	45.2	10.3	73.64347
South Carolina	6	94.3	31	38	9	83.72093
Virginia	7	93.6	19	56.3	9.9	76.74418
Oregon	8	94.8	44	53.8	12.1	59.68992
Massachusetts	9	98.3	19	45.9	10	75.96899
Illinois	10	95.7	24.1	29.3	8.1	90.69767
Rhode Island	11	99.8	16.7	84.2	11.3	65.89147
Colorado	12	94	33.3	40.8	8.5	87.59689
California	13	96.5	33.3	37.7	7.7	93.79844
Connecticut	14	99.4	16.7	26.2	11.4	65.11627
Georgia	15	95.2	28.1	52.6	8.1	88.68767

CPF Timeline

- Submission for FPR closes **6/16/2023**
- Application period closes **7/17/2023**
- Applications posted **7/19/2023**
- Comment Period Opens **7/19/2023**
- Comment Period Closes **8/18/2023**

Event	Date
BSL Fabric Availability Challenge Period Opens	4/21/2023
Draft Eligibility Map Published on the ORS Website	5/1/2023
BSL Fabric Availability Challenge Period Closes	5/8/2023
Application Period Opens / Funded Project Register (FPR) Opens	5/15/2023
Availability Challenges accepted and posted to ORS Website as Final Eligibility Map	5/18/2023
CPF Webinar hosted by ORS	5/23/2023
Submission period for the FPR closes	6/16/2023
Application Period Closes	7/17/2023
Submitted Applications Posted on the ORS Website / Comment Period Opens	7/19/2023
Comment Period Closes	8/18/2023
Application Review / Selection	8/31/2023
Funding Agreements Sent to the Companies	9/29/2023
Funding Agreements Returned to the ORS	10/27/2023
Notices to Process Issued	11/17/2023

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

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)	\$ 7,873,282	\$ 9,754,788	\$ 17,628,070	6,116	Complete
Rural Broadband Grant Program (RBGP)	\$ 29,335,514	\$ 29,375,510	\$ 58,711,024	16,890	Complete
Last Mile Grant Program (LMGP)	\$ 1,289,093	\$ 1,436,568	\$ 2,725,661	569	Complete
American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) State Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (SLFRF) 1.0	\$ 154,574,542	\$ 131,638,637	\$ 286,213,179	43,582	Scheduled December 2024
*American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Capital Projects Fund (CPF) 1.0	\$ 185,000,000	TBD	\$ 185,000,000	TBD	Scheduled December 2025
*American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Accelerated Deployment Grant Program (ADGP)	\$ 25,000,000	TBD	\$ 25,000,000	TBD	Scheduled October 2023
*American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) State Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (SLFRF) 2.0	\$ 25,000,000	TBD	\$ 25,000,000	TBD	Scheduled December 2026
*Infrastructure Investments and Jobs Act (IIJA) Broadband Equity Access and Deployment (BEAD)	\$ 700,000,000 (est.)	TBD	\$ 700,000,000 (est.)	TBD	TBD
Total	\$ 1,144,800,852	\$ 190,744,902	\$ 1,335,545,754	85,278	

Grant Programs Indicated with an Asterisk are Estimated Investment Costs

How much will ORS invest for CPF

Depending on the number of qualified applications, ORS may award approximately \$100,000,000 of the allocated ARPA funds.

What are the match requirements?

- Applicant May Define Their Own Match up to 75%
- Up to 90% Match for Main Street Projects

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** (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**
- **Serve 100%** of structures in project area (census blocks) upon completion
 - Partially served census blocks must pick up remaining unserved structures
- Utilize technology that **meets or exceeds 100/100** or provide documentation of scalability from 100/20
- Must **not overbuild** existing 25/3 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 CPF Program

- ISPs may submit **up to 5 grant applications and must prioritize** – At any parent entity level
 - Main Street Grant Applications will not count toward 5
- Comment period – No comments on availability / ISPs may comment on Grant Applications only
- Census blocks DO NOT have to be contiguous
- Must implement strategies to bolster Community-based Broadband Adoption and Use with an emphasis on enabling work, telehealth monitoring, education, and economic development
- Davis Bacon Reporting triggered at \$5 million (the funds provided by SCBBO only)
- No “Final Rule” from US Treasury as of now – Reporting requirements may change, grantees will be required to comply
- Quarterly Reporting cadence – Offset from calendar year
- Build America / Buy America versus Domestic Preferences in Procurement
 - *Grantee shall, to the extent practicable and consistent with applicable law under the CPF award, provide a preference for the procurement or use of goods, products, or materials produced in the United States as described in 2 C.F.R. §200.322 and Executive Order 14005 Ensuring the Future is Made in All of America by All of America's Workers (January 25, 2021)*

What are Priority Areas?

ARPA SLFRF

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

ARPA CPF

Unserved 2020 Census Blocks with:

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- 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
- 4) **Main Street Eligible Service Areas**
 - ✓ **Defined geographies serving as main streets and their surrounding areas**

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.

More on Main Streets

- 2 Main Streets – (Just the Blueberry Census Blocks)
 - Norway
 - Ridge Spring
- Construction and network activation must be complete by November 30, 2024
- Up to 90% state match permissible
- 10% in-kind match option - Should Applicant choose a 75% or less financial match percent, in-kind match is not required.
- The nature of in-kind match must include item a. below, and may include but are not limited to any combination of the following additional activities identified in items b. through e.:
 - a. Staff resources for customer service and/or technical support, located within the main street ESA through the end of November 2025.
 - b. Provide hardware, software, and necessary broadband connectivity to conduct in-person trainings which focuses on enabling work, telehealth monitoring, education, and economic development on a quarterly basis and facilitate outreach events semi-annually within the main street ESA through the end of November 2025.
 - c. Provide free Wi-Fi connectivity to citizens within the main street ESA through the end of November 2025.
 - d. Purchase hardware (laptop, tablet) and free internet for students who are eligible for free and reduced lunch in the project area through the end of November 2025.
 - e. Other (subject to ORS approval).



How to read the Eligibility Map

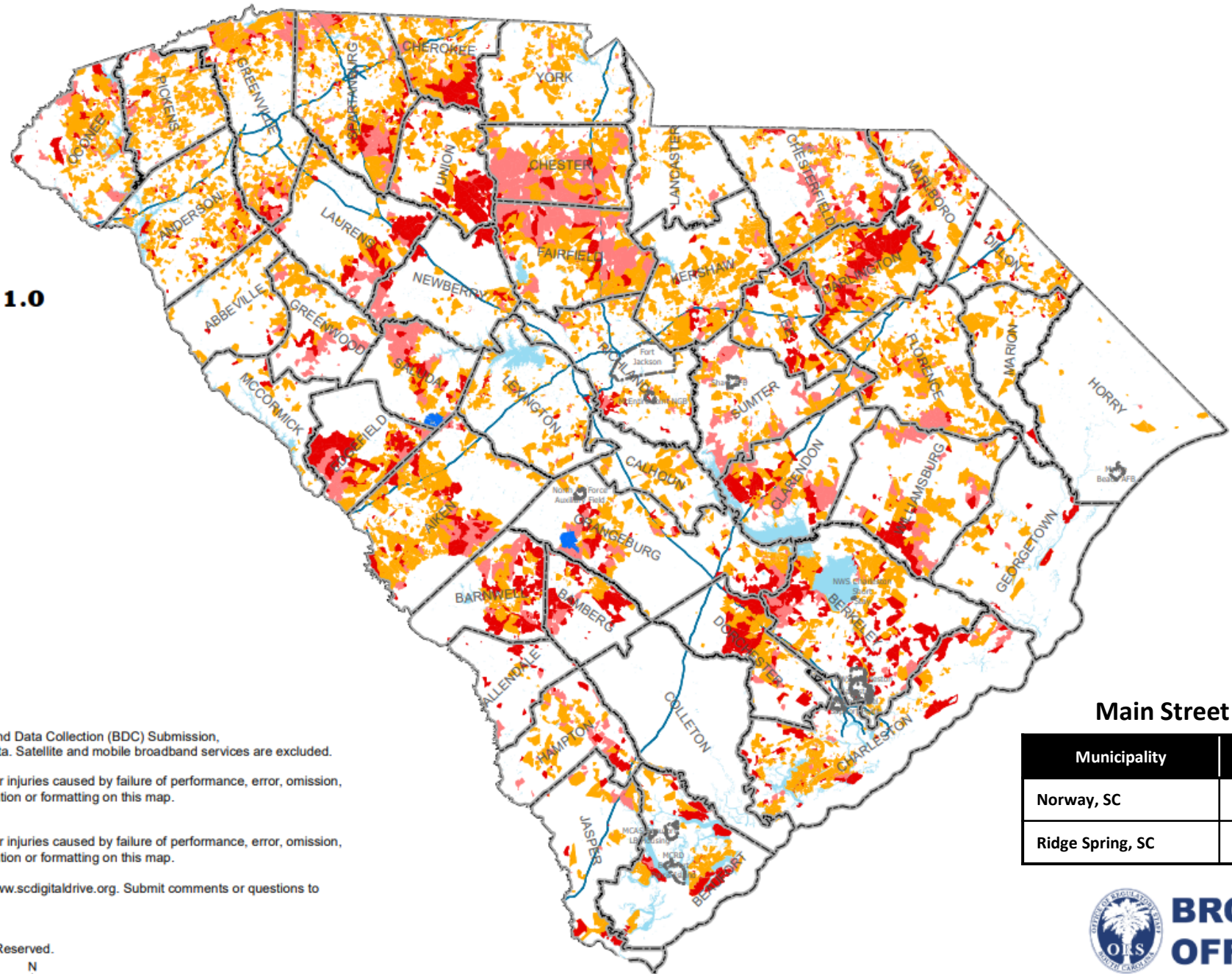
- Priority Areas (**red** color) – unserved K-12 concentration (20 or more), or Difficult Development Area, or no ISP providing any type of service
- Main Street Areas (**blue** color) – municipal main street and surrounding area currently unserved (not served by cable or fiber)
- Unserved Areas (**pink** color) – not served by cable or fiber
- Partially Served Areas (**orange** color) – 90% or more of the structures must be unserved (not served by cable or fiber), and at least one unserved residential structure

South Carolina ARPA Capital Projects Fund 1.0 Eligibility

May 18, 2023

ARPA CPF Eligibility Status

- Priority Area
- Main Street Priority Area
- Unserved
- Partially Served



Main Street Priorities

Municipality	County
Norway, SC	Orangeburg
Ridge Spring, SC	Saluda

Data Sources: Based on SC Broadband Office analysis of FCC Broadband Data Collection (BDC) Submission, Dec. 31, 2022. In addition to SCBBO May 2023 Availability Challenge data. 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. Satellite and mobile broadband services are excluded.

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Additional broadband information may be found at www.scdigitaldrive.org. Submit comments or questions to maps@ors.sc.gov

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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**
 - ✓ Fill out availability challenge form and upload Tier II CostQuest License
 - ✓ Fill out data access request form if you don't currently have access 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)
 - Needs of the Community
 - 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 – In-kind Match (for Main Street Projects only)

For Main Street Projects, must list each type separately, include a description

Section 2.3 – Funding Details

Do not include cents and ensure percentages are 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**
- **Copies of Applicant's Current Fee Structure for all Internet Speed Tiers**
- **Certificates of Insurance**
- **Main Street Work Plan**
- **Any additional information evidencing community need for project**

Locating Documents

The screenshot shows the ORS website navigation menu. The 'Broadband' menu item is highlighted, and a dropdown menu is visible. Within this dropdown, 'Investments' is circled in yellow, and 'State Investment Programs' is circled in green. A callout box points to the 'Investments' menu item with the text 'Sign up for all notifications!'. Another callout box points to the 'State Investment Programs' menu item with the text 'Pathway for Grant Docs'. Below the navigation menu, the breadcrumb trail reads 'Home » Broadband » Investments » State Investment Programs'. The main heading is 'State Investment Programs'. Underneath, there is a section for 'Capital Projects Fund' with a paragraph of text and a 'Learn more' link. To the right, there is a blue button that says 'Take the I Need Internet Survey' and a 'Broadband Quick Links' section with a link to 'State Broadband Office'.

Sign up for all notifications!

Pathway for Grant Docs

Required GIS Project Template for Grant Application Submission

Where do I find GIS Eligibility and Template Data?

Accessing the Data:

Step 1. Fill Out Broadband Data License Access form

Step 2. Upload CostQuest Tier 2 license to Citrix

Step 3. Access will be granted to Citrix CPF Folder

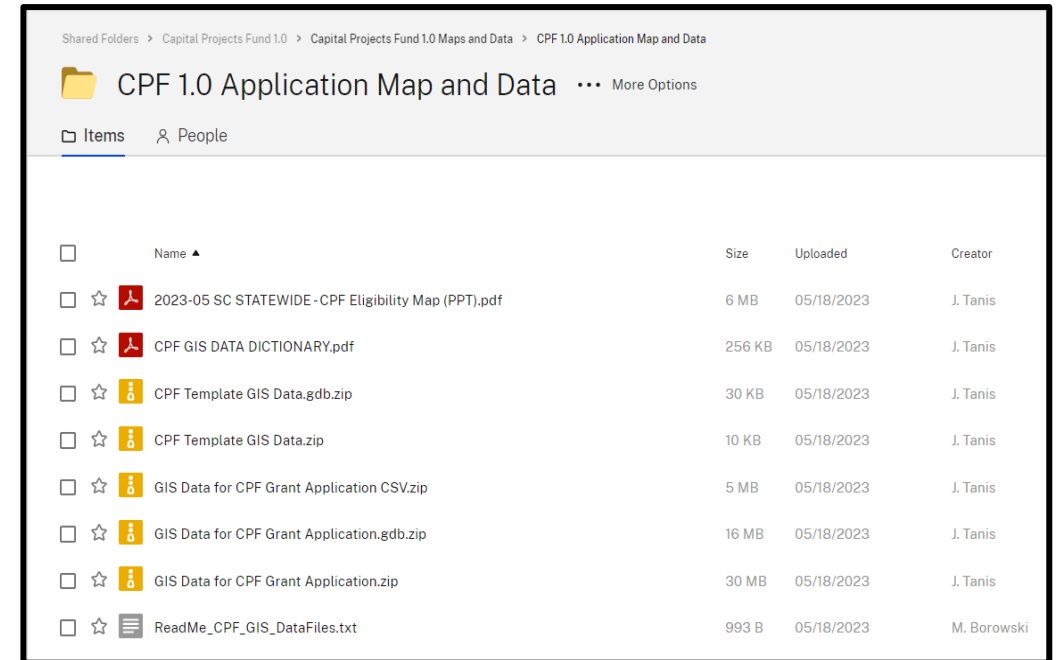


Data for Grant Submission:

ISP **MUST** use the data in the CPF 1.0 Application Map and Data folder. This data includes any availability challenges that were accepted by the SCBBO.

- 1.Unserved BSL Locations
- 2.Eligible Census Blocks
- 3.Line Work Template
- 4.Network Junction Template









Citrix ShareFile



Shared Folders > Capital Projects Fund 1.0 > Capital Projects Fund 1.0 Maps and Data > CPF 1.0 Application Map and Data

CPF 1.0 Application Map and Data ... More Options

Items People

<input type="checkbox"/>	Name ▲	Size	Uploaded	Creator
<input type="checkbox"/>	☆  2023-05 SC STATEWIDE- CPF Eligibility Map (PPT).pdf	6 MB	05/18/2023	J. Tanis
<input type="checkbox"/>	☆  CPF GIS DATA DICTIONARY.pdf	256 KB	05/18/2023	J. Tanis
<input type="checkbox"/>	☆  CPF Template GIS Data.gdb.zip	30 KB	05/18/2023	J. Tanis
<input type="checkbox"/>	☆  CPF Template GIS Data.zip	10 KB	05/18/2023	J. Tanis
<input type="checkbox"/>	☆  GIS Data for CPF Grant Application CSV.zip	5 MB	05/18/2023	J. Tanis
<input type="checkbox"/>	☆  GIS Data for CPF Grant Application.gdb.zip	16 MB	05/18/2023	J. Tanis
<input type="checkbox"/>	☆  GIS Data for CPF Grant Application.zip	30 MB	05/18/2023	J. Tanis
<input type="checkbox"/>	☆  ReadMe_CPF_GIS_DataFiles.txt	993 B	05/18/2023	M. Borowski

GIS Eligibility Data Dictionary

GEOID20 - 2020 Eligible Census Block Field ID

CountyName - County Name

ResTech - Best available residential technology in the eligible census block

TotStruct - Total number of FCC broadband serviceable locations (BSLs) in the eligible census block from the Dec. 2022 FCC fabric.

TotRStruct - Total number of Residential and Mixed use (building_type_code = R or X) FCC broadband serviceable locations (BSLs) in the eligible census block from the Dec. 2022 FCC fabric.

TotBStruct - Total number of Businesses (building_type_code = B) FCC broadband serviceable locations (BSLs) in the eligible census block from the Dec. 2022 FCC fabric.

US_Struct - Total number of Unserved FCC broadband serviceable locations (BSLs) in the eligible census block from the Dec. 2022 FCC fabric.

US_RStruct - Total number of Unserved Residential and Mixed use (building_type_code = R or X) FCC broadband serviceable locations (BSLs) in the eligible census block from the Dec. 2022 FCC fabric

US_BStruct - Total number of Unserved Businesses (building_type_code = B) FCC broadband serviceable locations (BSLs) in the eligible census block from the Dec. 2022 FCC fabric

PriorityArea - Priority Areas as defined by South Carolina American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) legislation. Areas of Priority include 1) unserved areas with no current Internet Service Provider ("ISP"), 2) Difficult Development Areas as identified by 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 South Carolina Department of Education. Values include: Yes, No

K12Student - Presence of K-12 Students sourced from State Department of Education. Value represents student counts by Census block. Values include: 0 Students = 0, 5 students or less are summarized with a value of YES, 6+ students show the raw student count per census block.

DDA - Difficult Development Areas as sourced by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Values include Yes, No

PA_Type - All different combination types of priority areas combined into one field.

MESA - Main Street Eligible Service. All eligible census blocks for a main street that must be fully built.

Mapping - Field used to symbolize the eligibility map showing the following values at the 2020 Census block level. Values include Unserved, Partially Served, Priority Area, Main Street.

GIS Data Dictionary

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 Eligibility Map 2020 Census Block Data			

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

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 December 31, 2022 FCC BSL Fabric
All fields from December 31, 2022 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.”*

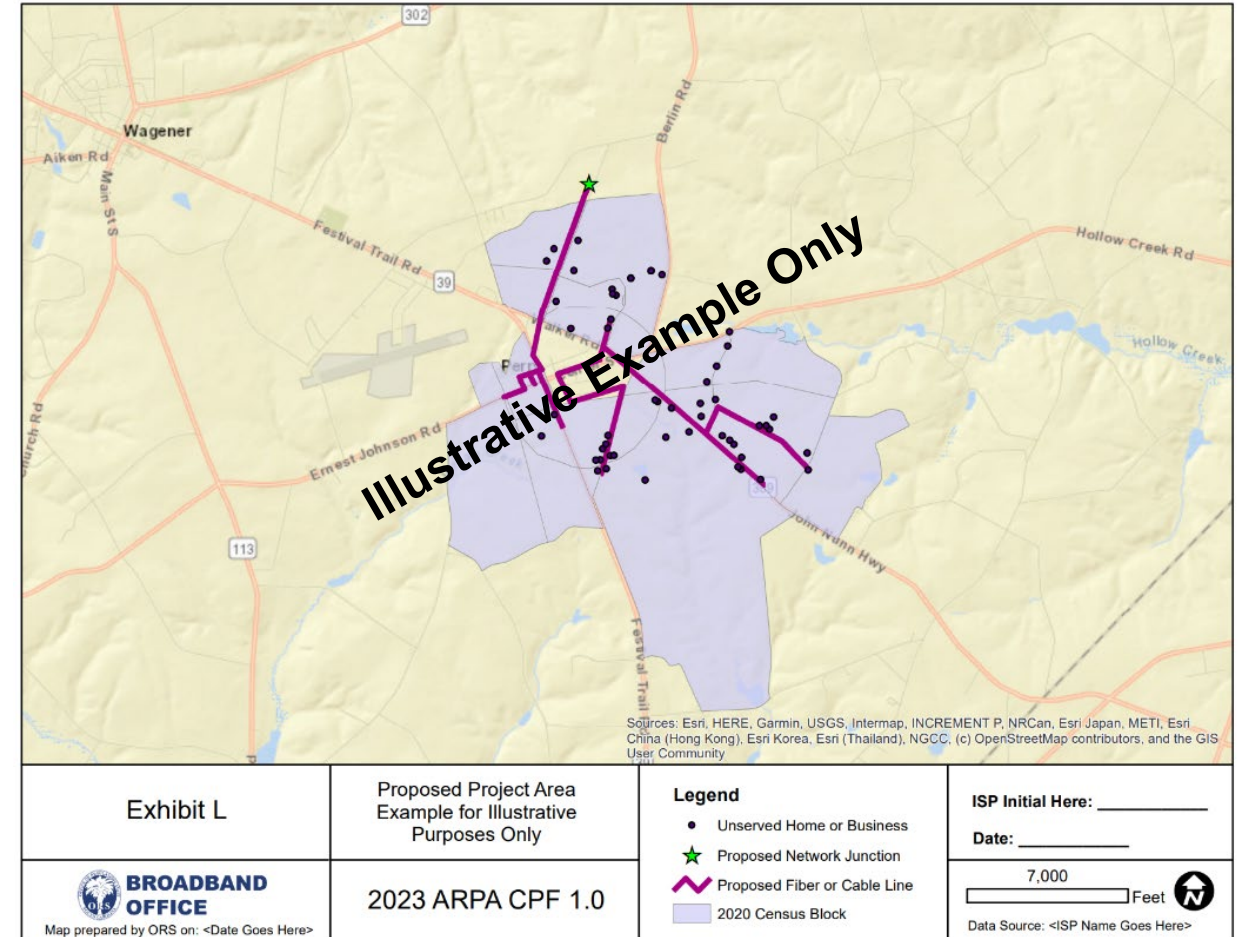
2022 HB 4408 Section 12 Paragraph B

- *“(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.”*

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



Eliminated Project Service Area Layer!





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 Data (Line Work)
- **Network Junctions**
 - ISP Created data using template GIS Data (Network Junctions)

**Application and GIS Data is uploaded to Citrix
NO EMAILS WILL BE ACCEPTED**

-   CPF 1.0 Applications and Attachments
-   CPF 1.0 GIS Data

Funded Project Register 2.0

For documenting future projects that are fully-funded due to:

- Private Funding
- FCC Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF)
- USDA ReConnect
- ARPA Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (LFRF, County/Municipal)
- Only for construction that will finish between **June 1st, 2023**, and **June 30, 2024**
- FPR submissions due by **June 16th, 2023**

This tool helps to avoid duplication of facilities!

Selection Criteria

30% High Priority Area

20% Geography

20% Collaboration/Adoption/Community Assistance - Applicant Strategy and Training Plan

15% Average Cost Per Structure and Financial Match Percentage

10% Network Resiliency

5% Availability - Broadband Infrastructure

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.

Questions and Answers

**Please type questions in the Chat
Q&A's will be published on the CPF webpage**

<https://ors.sc.gov/broadband/investments/state/arpacpf>

FAQ's

An FAQ form has been developed for any future questions related to the CPF grant program, available at:

<https://arcg.is/1uKXPX>

**SCBBO will not respond directly, answers will be posted on the CPF webpage via FAQ document.*

General Questions (not related to CPF), can be sent via email

to: Broadband@ors.sc.gov



Thank you!



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