BROADBAND OFFICE

Last Mile Grant Program

Information Session

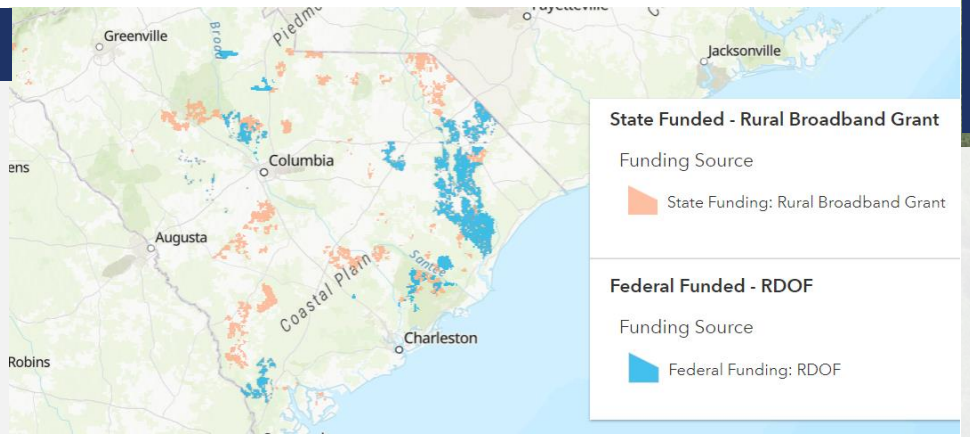
South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff | May 2, 2022

Objectives

- Introduction
- LMGP explained
- Insights about the ***I Need Internet*** data
- Key Considerations, Grant Selection, and Important Dates
- Q&A
- Demonstration
  - Fill out the Application
  - Filter out records from I Need Internet
  - Upload Grant Application and Attachments to ORS

Broadband Investments

- **CARES Act:** Mapping, Broadband Infrastructure Program, Online Learning Initiative
- **CARES 2.0**
- **Rural Broadband Grant Program**
- **LMGP (Grant Closes May 6, 2022)**
- **ARPA (Coming Soon)**
- **IIJA (Planning begins Q3-2022)**



Current Total Housing Units With At Least 25↓ Mbps / 3↑ Mbps Service	Current Total Housing Units Without 25↓ Mbps / 3↑ Mbps Service	Current Total Housing Units Funded 100↓ Mbps / 20↑ Mbps Service
2,268,077*	221,731*	33,377*

Data current as of September 2021

Office of Broadband Coordinator

Serves as the central planning body to coordinate with federal, state, regional, local, and private entities to engage in the continued deployment of broadband in the state.

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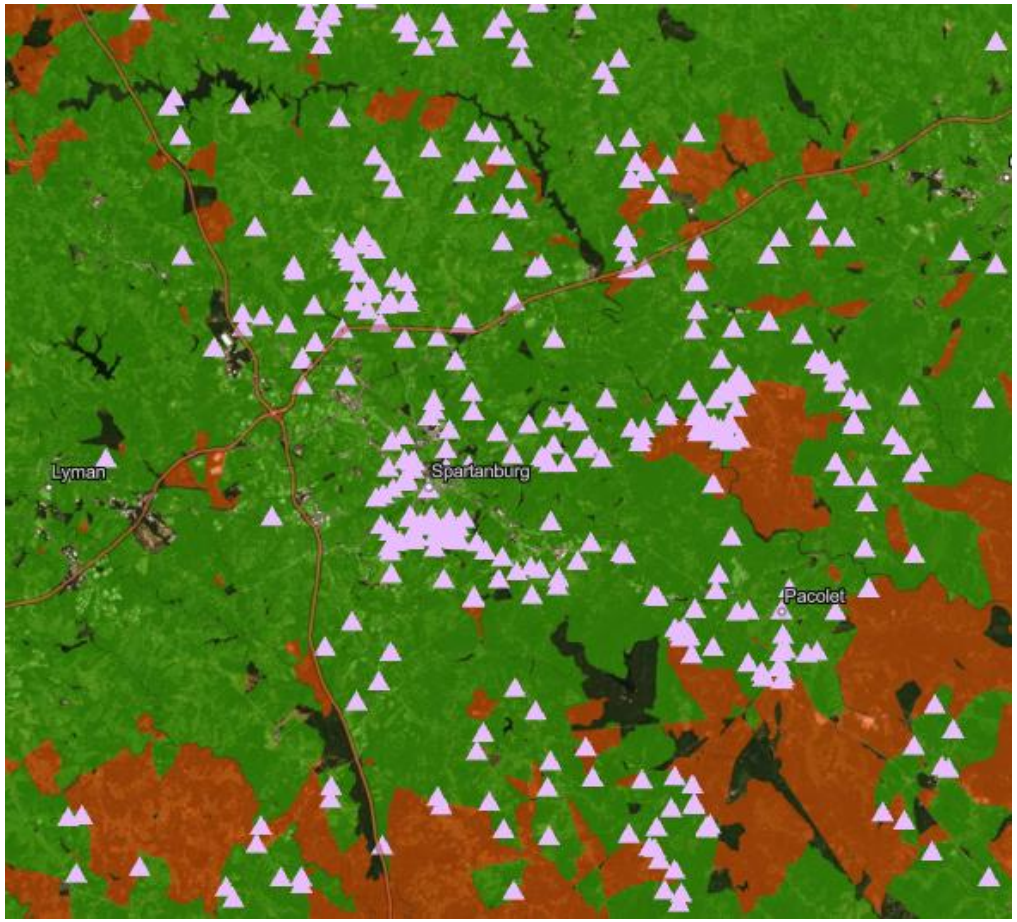
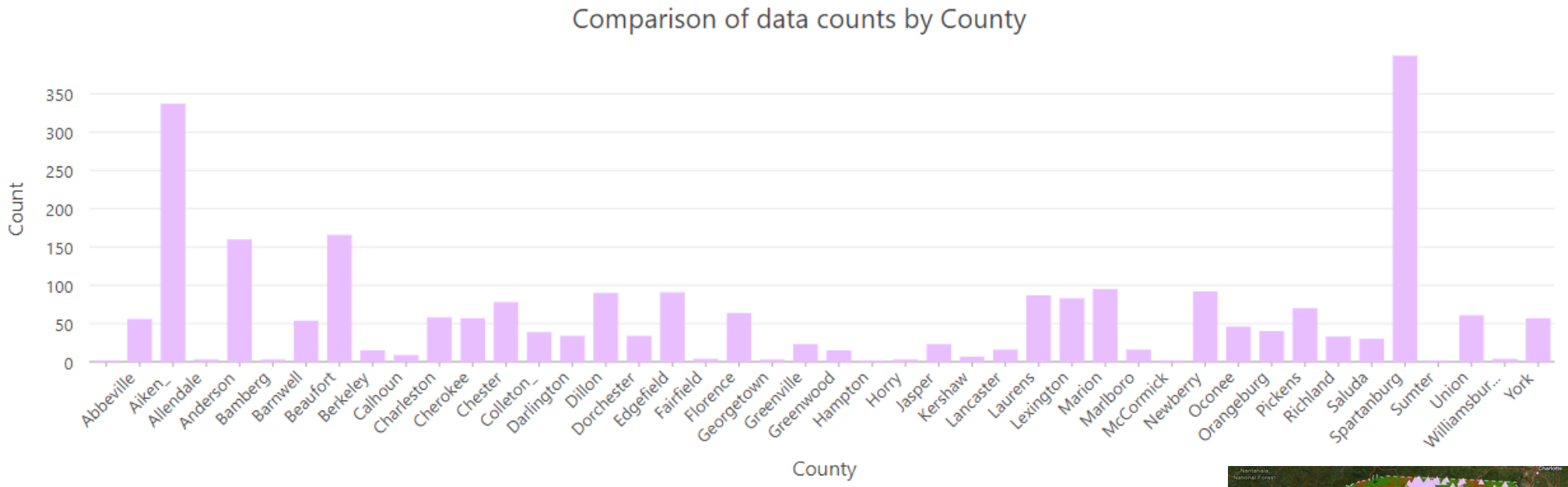
ORS.SC.GOV

LMGP Explained

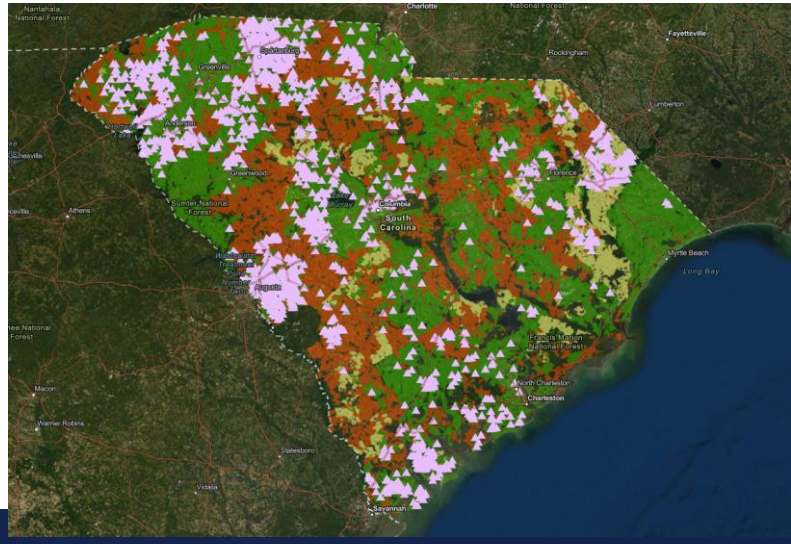
- Focus on served (**green**) areas
- ORS will fund up to $5,000 per home or 50% of the eligible expense, whichever is less.
- Private match contribution can be combined from multiple sources.
- ISP's must choose at least one record from the I Need Internet list
- ISP's may use their own address list, if so desired
- Must participate in the ACP
- 120-day Period of Performance from issuance of NTP



Distribution of I Need Internet Data



- ~6000 Survey Responses filtered to ~2500 Survey Responses
  - Removed Responses where citizen indicated they had Fiber/Cable
  - Removed Responses in Unserved (**red**) Areas
- **ORS will remove additional Housing Units which can be served NOW by an ISP – Must include no AIC costs to consumer and be in a Served Area according to Sept 2021 Eligibility Map**



Key Considerations

- Broadband@ors.sc.gov is for questions only - All Applications, Attachments, and Data MUST be uploaded – Emails will not be accepted
- Purpose of these projects are to fill in "donut holes" in served areas
- No limit on the number of applications an ISP can submit
  - Many small applications for each project would be better than one large project
- 120-Day project timeline requires quick builds
- Prioritize areas where consumers want service and Pre-K-12/Teachers reside
- ISP can add their own addresses, but one of the addresses in each project must be from the I Need Internet Survey. Along with all addresses must fall in a Served area according to the SC Broadband Office September 2021 eligibility map.

Selection Criteria

Category Type	Percent	Comment
Geography	20%	Relative to all applications received (Intent is to have a wide distribution of projects across the state)
Technology	25%	Fiber = 25 points Hybrid-Fiber Coax (HFC)= 20 points Fixed Wireless = 5 points
Total Number of Homes	20%	Relative to all applications received
Preference to Students	20%	¾ or more (housing units within project service area with students) = 20; ½ - ¾ housing units = 15; ¼ -½ housing units = 10; ¼ -1 housing unit = 5
Average Construction Cost per Housing Unit	10%	Relative to all applications received
Monthly Consumer Costs (recurring and unrecurring)	5%	Based on applications received and study of proposed consumer costs
Total	100%	

Important Dates

Event	Date/Deadline
List of Addresses sent to ISPs	4/15/2022
Applications Due	**5/6/2022**
Submitted Applications posted on ORS website	5/11/2022
Project Comment/Review Period	5/23/2022
Project Close-out	10/21/2022
Final Invoice and Affidavit Due	11/21/2022

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Q&A

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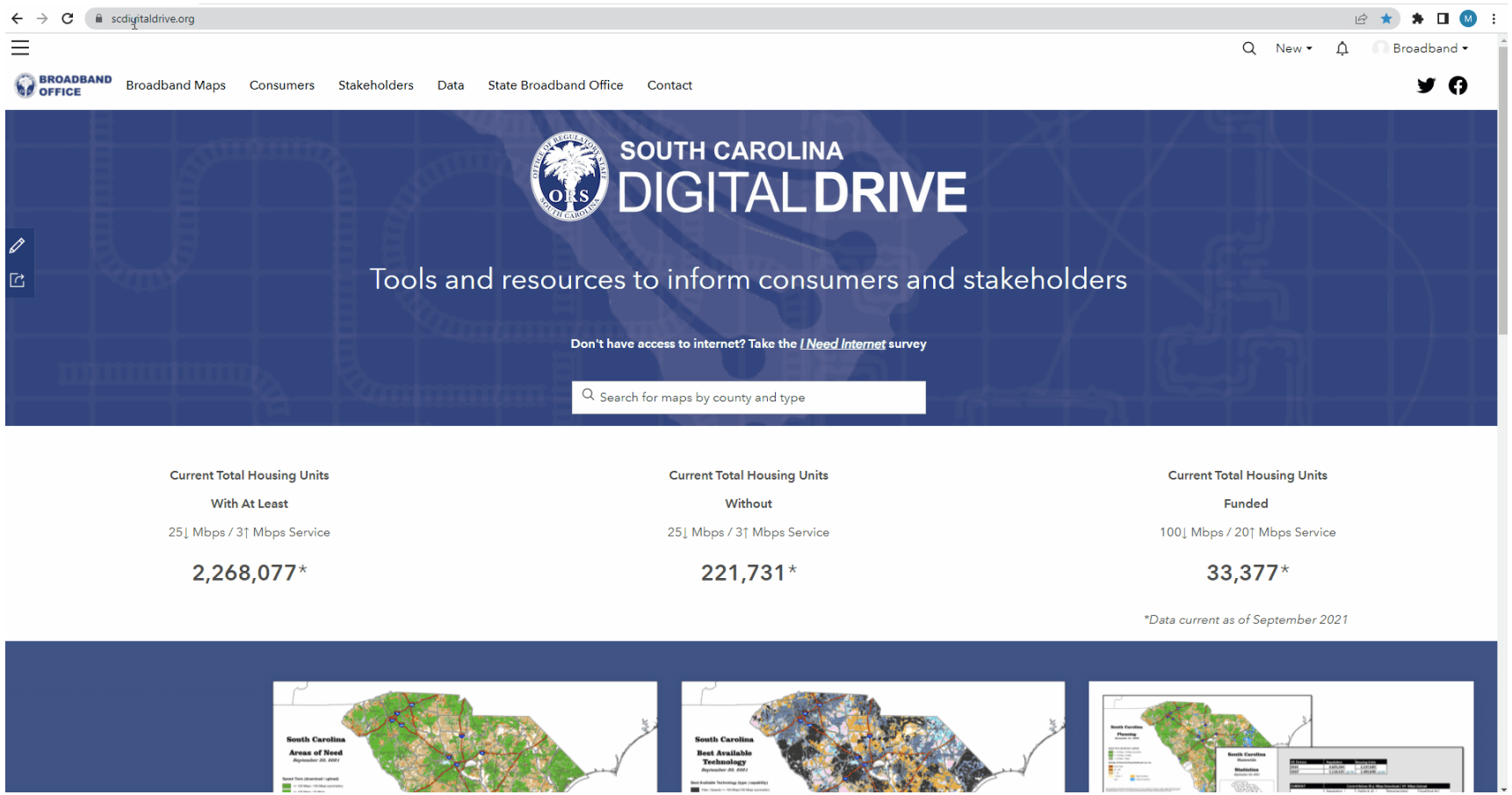
Download Broadband GIS Data

- Submit data access request form
- Accept invitation from ORS Broadband Office through AGO account
- Visit https://www.scdigitaldrive.org
- ***Login (top right corner of page)**
- Go to Data **Tab**
- **Click on button to download fully attributed GIS data**
- Once download is complete, **click on layer package**
- ***ArcPro will load with data symbolized to match maps and apps**
- ***Requires ArcGIS Online Login and ArcPro***



Demonstration Walk-Through

- Fill out the LMGP Grant Application
- Filter data out of the I Need Internet list
- Upload grant application and attachments to Citrix File Share Portal

Checklist

- ✓PDF of Completed Grant Application
- ✓Spreadsheet of the proposed housing units to be connected are in served areas as provided in the September 2021 eligibility map
- ✓PDF of Map of the project service area reflecting proposed housing units to connect
- ✓PDF of proof that the Applicant has secured necessary funds to meet its 50% financial match requirement
- ✓PDF of Certificates of Insurance