BROADBAND OFFICE

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MEMORANDUM

TO: South Carolina Internet Service Providers

FROM: Jim Stritzinger
Director, SC Office of Broadband Coordinator ("SC Broadband Office")

DATE: April 14, 2022

RE: Last Mile Grant Program – Pilot Project

The Broadband Office has approximately $1M in CARES II (state funds) available for disbursement. Our plan for these funds is to run a pilot **Last Mile Grant Program** that is focused on those residential homes with students that completed the "I Need Internet Survey." In this case, we are focusing our attention on census blocks that show as served on our broadband maps (green as of Sept. 30, 2021). These areas are commonly known as "donut holes" within served areas. We will be opening the Last Mile Grant application window the week of **April 18, 2022**.

This program will require that you include <u>at least one home</u> from the "I Need Internet Survey" in your proposed area and will require a 1:1 match with a maximum of $5,000 per home available in public funding. In addition, this program will require that at least 10% of proposed project homes are activated and overall construction completion must be done within 120 days of a Notice to Proceed.

In anticipation of the official announcement, today we are making a list of "I Need Internet Survey" respondents available to eligible South Carolina Internet Service Providers via our secure Citrix FileShare portal. This list represents consumers within existing served census blocks and is the target for this program. Interested parties must obtain secure login credentials from our office via the Data Access Request Form. It is located on the Contact tab of our SC Digital Drive web site.

While reviewing this list, if you see an address that you can easily connect within 10 days using your own funds, please let us know in writing so that we can avoid duplication in your service area.

Our goals for this program are to achieve wide distribution of available funds, demonstrate response to consumer feedback, and to rapidly provide access to as many student homes as possible.

Please email broadband@ors.sc.gov if you have any questions or need further clarification.

Thank you, in advance, for your interest in this program.