**BROADBAND OFFICE**

June 27, 2022

# Funded Project Register

**To comply with the requirements of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), we are affording each ISP the opportunity to confidentially share their fully funded projects with the SC Broadband Office (SCBBO) so that we can accelerate broadband deployment in unserved areas of the State.**

For broadband infrastructure funds associated with ARPA State Fiscal Recovery Funds (SFRF), the 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 grant construction period. However, by accepting this information, SCBBO is not making any affirmation or commitment that it will not fund those unserved areas for which there is an identified need for additional broadband infrastructure investment, notwithstanding any existing state or federal funding commitments. Qualifying needs include, but are not limited to, more robust infrastructure that will provide broadband at higher speeds, accelerated deployment in rural areas, and 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 **Monday, August 1, 2022.**

2) Eligible projects must represent construction that will take place between **July 1, 2022** and **June 30, 2023**.

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 <u>fully funded wireline</u> 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 and/or KMZ file 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 and/or KMZ file that clearly shows the fiber routes and address point locations of every home, business, and community anchor institution that will be impacted by the project.

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.

9) At the time the project is filed, the ISP must present the SCBBO with a detailed, quarter by quarter, Census 2020 <u>Block Group</u> engineering timeline that demonstrates project completion by **June 30, 2023**. 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) The FPR only applies to ARPA SFRF-related grant programs.

14) 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.

15) 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.

16) 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.