Broadband Resources

Assistance Programs

Lifeline

The ORS provides administrative oversight for the Federal Lifeline Program. This program provides a discount on home or cell phone service for qualifying low-income consumers to ensure that all Americans have the opportunities and security that phone service brings, including being able to connect to jobs, family, and emergency services.

For more information and eligibility requirements, visit: ORS.SC.GOV/consumers/telecommunications/lifeline

Affordable Connectivity Program

Congress created the Affordable Connectivity Program, a new long-term program to replace the Emergency Broadband Benefit Program. The purpose of this program is to help ensure that we citizens can afford the connections needed for work, school, health care and more. The maximum monthly benefit will change from $50 per month to $30 per month for households not located on qualifying Tribal lands. The monthly benefit will remain at $75 per month for households on qualifying Tribal lands.

For more information and eligibility requirements, visit: www.fcc.gov/acp

County Resources

Counties that are interested in receiving grant funding for broadband projects in their area should work with surrounding Internet Service Providers (ISPs) to develop a partnership. Within the partnership the ISP will need to apply for grant funding through the ORS. The ORS will **NOT** provide funding to individual counties. Funding **MUST** be awarded through the grant process to qualifying ISPs.

For county resources, visit: www.sccounties.org

Surveys, Access Forms, and Sites

SC Digital Drive
Source for data and resources around broadband in South Carolina

Forms and surveys can be found on the SC Digital Drive website.

SCDigitalDrive.org

I Need Internet Survey
Survey to reflect need for broadband access at the consumer level

https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/a79de0eacc1f48098d03f1a33a707670?portalUrl=https://SCORS.maps.arcgis.com

Yes to Connect Survey
Survey to inform perspectives on broadband adoption and use

https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/263530aa0de74ea98e32d6058d5b430c

Challenges and Barriers Survey
Survey for stakeholders to share challenges and provide suggested solutions

https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/595be82ad0fa46659155d3dfb249a653

Upload a Project Form
Form for counties and municipal governments to upload broadband projects to minimize risk of overbuilding in an area already funded for construction

https://arcg.is/GfqK8

Data Access Request Form
Form for stakeholders and ISPs to request access to Broadband Office GIS data and results from the I Need Internet Survey

https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/68bc66c8d7dd4913b58489dc27d2a729

About the Broadband Office

The Broadband Office, housed within the South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff (ORS), serves as the central broadband planning body for South Carolina and coordinates with federal, state, regional, local, and private entities, to the extent practicable, to encourage the continued development of access to broadband.

ORS.SC.GOV/Broadband

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