



BROADBAND OFFICE

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MEMORANDUM

TO: South Carolina Internet Service Providers

FROM: Jim Stritzinger
Director, Office of Broadband Coordinator (“Broadband Office”)

DATE: February 2, 2024

RE: Spring 2024 Data Request

To maintain efficient deployment of federal funding and prevent duplication of facilities, the SC Broadband Office (SCBBO) requests that all residential and commercial wireline and/or fixed wireless Internet Service Providers (ISPs) submit their most recent information by **March 1, 2024**, so the next set of SC broadband maps can be developed. This is the first data request for 2024 and broadband maps using this information are expected to be published in July 2024.

ISPs that deliver exclusively satellite or middle-mile service are not required to submit data.

This data request requires the use of **Census 2020** geography. **Improperly coded data will not be accepted.** Pursuant to **Section 10 of Act 142 of 2020**, timely, accurate data submission is required to participate in fiscal year funding opportunities and/or challenge processes.

The following data elements are now required:

1) FCC Broadband Data Collection (Dec. 31, 2023) – Submit your most recent Broadband Data Collection (BDC) information in the same format as you submit to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). Per FCC [instructions](#), each BDC filing must include information about the filer and:

Broadband Availability Data

- *Fixed wireline broadband service providers must submit **both**, a **polygon shapefile** that constitutes the service area of the provider **and** the **list of locations served** as calculated by the FCC’s BDC portal after the polygon shapefile is imported. See [BDC Availability Data Specifications](#) Sections 6 and 7 for more info.*

NOTE: *Even though the FCC BDC provides the option for a list of BSL locations to be reported as served by an ISP, the SCBBO recommends that all ISPs report to the FCC using carefully rendered shapefiles at this time. This is because we have observed that the BSL Fabric is being modified substantially in early iterations – including many new locations, lat/long modifications, and street address corrections. By carefully rendering and reporting shapefiles (with unserved donut holes removed), ISPs will likely be insulated from underlying fabric changes. This is particularly important because, any unserved BSL Location ID that*

you may mistakenly miss in your FCC BDC filing, will consequently shows as unserved and likely be made available for investment in future competitive grant rounds.

All South Carolina ISPs that have received funding from the SCBBO or participated in the Funded Projects Register (FPR) are required to verify that all project locations which are construction complete are included in their December 31, 2023, BDC filing.

Unless you have an open grant agreement, the SCBBO assumes that all the following project-specific locations **are now complete** per agreed upon construction schedules **and must be included** in Dec. 31, 2023, BDC filings:

- CARES Act
- Rural Broadband Grant Program (RBGP)
- Last Mile Grant Program (LMGP)
- Funded Project Register (2021, completed by Oct. 31, 2022)
- Funded Project Register (2022, completed by Jun. 30, 2023)
- County Funded/ Administered ARPA Projects

Since most ARPA SLFRF and some CPF Notices to Proceed were issued in 2023, the SCBBO understands that only a subset of these locations will be complete and reported in December 31, 2023, BDC filings. However, each ISP should carefully review their list of ARPA SLFRF funded locations and make sure that December 31, 2023, BDC filings are as accurate as possible.

- *Fixed wireless broadband service providers* must submit either a list of locations (preferred by SCBBO) or propagation maps and propagation model details that constitute the service area of the provider. See [BDC Availability Data Specifications](#) Sections 6 and 7 for more info.

Broadband Subscription Data

- *Facilities-based fixed broadband service providers* must report connections to end-user premises -- by census tract, technology code, advertised downstream speed, and advertised upstream speed -- that the service provider (including affiliates) equips to enable an end user to receive information from and/or send information to the internet at information transfer rates exceeding 200 kbps in at least one direction.

The FCC Form 477 file format continues to be used for reporting broadband subscription data. The SCBBO only accepts subscription data in properly formatted Comma Separated Value (CSV) files. Web forms will not be accepted.

See [BDC Availability Data Specifications](#) Section 5 for more info.

FCC Confirmation Documents

- ISPs must provide copies of BDC timestamped submission confirmations from the FCC to the SCBBO.

2) ISP Contact Form – Please update or create a detailed ISP contact form using the attached template. This will help the SCBBO maintain contact with appropriate personnel and communicate with your team on a variety of issues.

3) FCC BDC Amendments – If, for any reason, an ISP files amendments to their December 31, 2023, information with the FCC, the ISP is required to share these modifications with the SCBBO at the same time.

Submit items 1 through 4 to your **assigned Citrix Sharefile location:**

Mar 1, 2024 Data Request\[ISP Name]\FCC Dec 31 BDC

as soon as possible but no later than **March 1, 2024**. The SCBBO would be grateful if all respondents would submit the ISP contact form as soon as possible.

If you have not previously reported to the SCBBO, please send an email to broadband@ors.sc.gov to request that a secure folder be created.

PLEASE BE AWARE: The SCBBO collaborates closely with the FCC with the goal of building the most accurate Broadband Service Location (BSL) Fabric for the State of South Carolina. We will require amended filings and **may inform the FCC if we identify material errors in reported data**. ISPs that do not accurately account for all funded and FPR-committed locations (as described above in Broadband Availability Section above) will be required to amend their filings with the FCC. If, for any reason, the SCBBO requires an amended filing with the FCC, grant processing will be paused until revised confirmation pages and location information from the FCC are received and verified.

The SCBBO analyzes and aggregates all submitted data and features that information on www.scdigitaldrive.org. This data continuously serves as the foundation for future grant eligibility maps.

We are grateful for the efforts of all parties that participate in our data collection. Please email broadband@ors.sc.gov if there are any questions or need further clarification.

Thank you, in advance, for your support and cooperation.