



FUNDING ALERT!



Professional Assistance for Today's Unprecedented Funding Opportunities

Program Name

South Carolina Broadband Office (SCBBO) Accelerated Deployment Program

Funding Amount

Up to \$214,234,345 million from American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) State Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

- No single award to an applicant shall exceed \$9,999,999

South Carolina

\$214+ Million

Key Dates

- **January 23** - Eligibility Map, Grant Application, and Guidelines Published on the ORS Website
- **January 30** - Application Period Opens
- **February 2** - ADGP Webinar
- **February 28 - Application Period Closes**
- **March 3** - Submitted Applications Posted on the ORS Website / Comment Period Opens
- **March 17** - Comment Period Closes
- **March 31** - Application Review / Selection
- **April 7** - Funding Agreements Sent to the Companies
- **April 21** - Funding Agreements Returned to the ORS
- **April 28** - Grant Award
- **May 11** - Submit all backup to ORS for review
- **June 30** - Project Completion/Submit Application for Disbursement to ORS
- **June 30** - US Treasury Reporting Due

Eligible Applicants

- Eligible Internet Service Providers must:
 - Have existing customers and provide retail residential service directly or in combination with a partner
 - Only submit one (1) grant application, one application may contain multiple projects
 - Currently offer, directly or with a partner, the FCC Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) for the life of ACP
 - Provide an affordable high-speed Internet plan option separate from ACP that does not include an income threshold requirement
- Applicant has complied with all requirements and is willing to comply with all federal funding and future reporting requirements as set forth in ARPA and associated requirements by U.S. Treasury

Eligible Areas

- **Served Area** - broadband service at reliable speeds of 25/3 Mbps is available to residences or businesses at no additional construction charge
- **Unserved Area** - broadband service at reliable speeds of 25/3 Mbps is unavailable to the residence or business without additional charge for aid in construction cost

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Eligible Projects

- Must make service available to unserved areas as identified by the SCBBO broadband maps [eligibility map](#)
- Must make available wireline service capable of 100/100 Mbps
- Must not have received funding from other state, local, or federal source (excluding state or federal universal service funds)
- Must include costs for new construction incurred beginning March 15, 2021, and fully functional by June 30, 2022, including receipts and proof of payment
- Provide proof that new construction was functional by June 30, 2022
 - Examples, billing statements, georeferenced date/time stamped speed tests, or other documentation
- Provide to the SCBBO on a confidential basis:
 - (1) mapping information, including fiber or cable lines accurately depicting the location of the project
 - (2) residential and commercial addresses passed by the project based on the January 2023 FCC Broadband Serviceable Location Fabric
- Projects beyond extent of eligible unserved areas for funding will be reimbursed based on the percentage of fiber and/or cable installed within the eligible area, relative to the total linear miles of fiber and/or cable installed for the entire project
- Does not include request for reimbursement of the applicant's general overhead and/or operating costs Includes equipment designed to reliably deliver broadband that meets or exceeds symmetrical 100/100 Mbps service
- Did not overbuild another provider's existing wired network as of June 30, 2022, currently delivering service at sustainable speeds equal to or greater than the 25/3 Mbps to all requesting customers without additional charges
 - Networks that cannot deliver/sustain reliable 25/3 Mbps or cannot deliver service without additional construction charges may be overbuilt
- Must adhere to the South Carolina Universal Service Broadband Requirement

Application Contents

1. Applicant Information
 - 1.1. Primary Applicant Descriptors
 - 1.2. Secondary Contact
 - 1.3. Confirmations - Yes/No answers to confirm applicant acceptance of key elements associated with ARPA ADGP
 - 1.4. Broadband Infrastructure Information
 - 1.5. Low-Cost Plan – Applicant's affordable high-speed Internet plan
 - 1.6. Attachment Checklist
 - 1.6.1. GIS Shapefiles
 - 1.6.2. Signed Affidavit
2. Budget Summary
 - 2.1. Project Name/Number
 - 2.2. Construction/Installation Period
 - 2.3. Additional Information
 - 2.4. Project Costs

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Selection Criteria

- Projects will be evaluated based on the September 2021, SCBBO [eligibility map](#)
- SCBBO reserves the right to award grants that are in the public interest and accelerated internet deployment in eligible areas
- A complete application submission will include:
 - a. Grant application
 - b. GIS fiber or cable linework reflecting new construction between March 15, 2021 – June 30, 2022
 - c. FCC BSL Fabric Location data of all structures that can be connected within 10 business days of request for service
- Signed affidavit regarding completeness and accuracy of all data and associated documentation provided to the SCBBO as part of submission
- A portion of project is geographically coincident with an unserved area
- Project capable of producing speed tests for all homes, business, and community anchor institutions that have access and subscribed to service
- Participate in the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP)
- Provide a low-cost broadband plan with no income requirement advertised and available to end users in funded area (separate from ACP)

Eligible Costs

- Construction and materials (e.g., fiber, conduit, photonics, electronics, etc.)
- New and rehabilitative construction contracts
- Architect and engineering services (subject to ORS approval)
- Permitting fees
- Validation of service expenses
- Equipment related to broadband infrastructure
- Equipment installation

Ineligible Costs

- General broadband planning not associated with the project
- Expenses related to providing broadband services
- Ongoing overhead, operating costs, or staff costs
- Political activities, lawyer fees, or lobbying
- Expenses related to administering the Grant
- Supply and material markups
- Operating and maintenance expenses not directly related to construction (including, but not limited to, leases or franchise costs)
- Expenses related to the provision of customer devices (handsets, laptops, tablets, etc.)
- Bandwidth or spectrum expenses
- Salaries, interest, or overhead
- Expenses related to purchase or construction of towers, land, or buildings, or for building renovations, tower upgrades, or acquisition of facilities or companies
- Purchase of depreciable equipment that has a useful life after project completion, unless it is part of facilities used to deliver broadband service (fiber, conduit, electronics, etc.)

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Links & Emails

- [Program Guidelines](#)
- [Program Application and Budget Summary](#)
- [Program Eligibility Map](#)
- [Program Webinar Materials](#)
- [Broadband Office | Office of Regulatory Staff \(sc.gov\)](#)
- Please submit questions and final application to Broadband@ORS.SC.GOV

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funding@nrtc.coop

Contact us for Funding Assistance. NRTC's Funding Practice offers key benefits including:

- Opportunity Evaluation
- Effective Grant Writing
- Track Record of Success

Electric Cooperatives: Contact Brad Kusant at 908-507-7941 or bradley.kusant@nrtc.coop

Telecom Companies: Contact Chick Kennedy at 919-770-8732 or ckennedy@nrtc.coop