

BREAKOUT SESSION



12TH
ANNUAL
TELEHEALTH
SUMMIT
OF SOUTH CAROLINA

OCTOBER 28-30, 2024

Technology and Innovation Track:

Digital Opportunity in SC

Wednesday, October 30
10:00 PM - 10:45 PM



Cami Aull

South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff



Tom Allen

South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff



Digital Opportunity in SC

South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff | Digital Opportunity Department

ORS Mission

The South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff (ORS) was created with the enactment of Act 175 in 2004.

The Office of Regulatory Staff represents the public interest in utility regulation by considering the concerns of the using and consuming public with respect to public utility services, regardless of the class of customer, and preservation of continued investment in and maintenance of utility facilities so as to provide reliable and high-quality utility services.

Investor-Owned Utility Regulators

- Electric & Natural Gas
- Water & Wastewater
- Transportation
- Telecommunications
- Safety Programs—
Pipeline, Rail Safety



Other ORS Services

- Consumer Services
- Equipment Distribution Program (EDP)
- Energy Policy
- Solar Leasing and Emerging Technologies
- Emergency Support Function 12
- **Broadband**
- **Digital Opportunity**



Office of Regulatory Staff

Tom Allen
Chief Technology Officer



Digital Opportunity Department

Cami Aull
Program Assistant
Mary Dell Hayes
Staff



BROADBAND OFFICE

Cedric Keitt
Senior Director of Broadband Infrastructure
Jim Stritzinger
Director of Broadband Office
Michael Herzberger
Deputy Director of Broadband Office
GIS Specialists
Project Managers

SCBBO & DOD

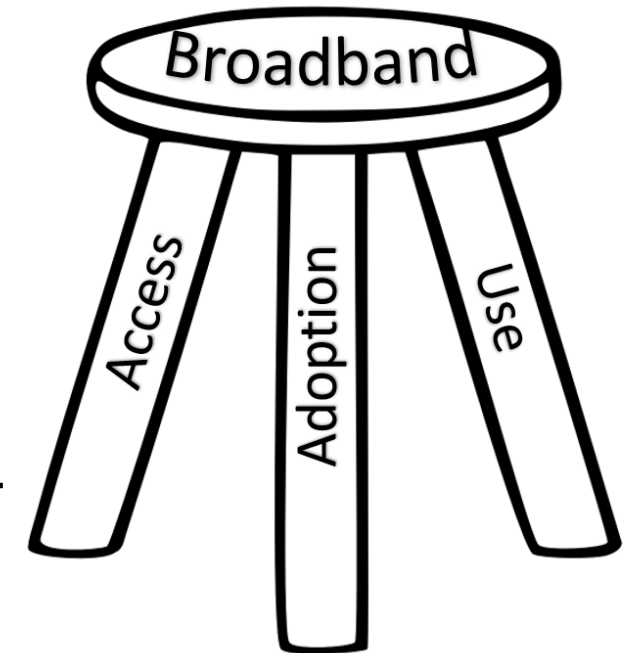
“Our vision is for all South Carolinians to have access to affordable, reliable, highspeed internet, and to gain the necessary skills to benefit from this technology.”

South Carolina Broadband Office (SCBBO)

- Focused on expanding **access**

South Carolina Digital Opportunity Department (DOD)

- Focused on **adoption** and **use**

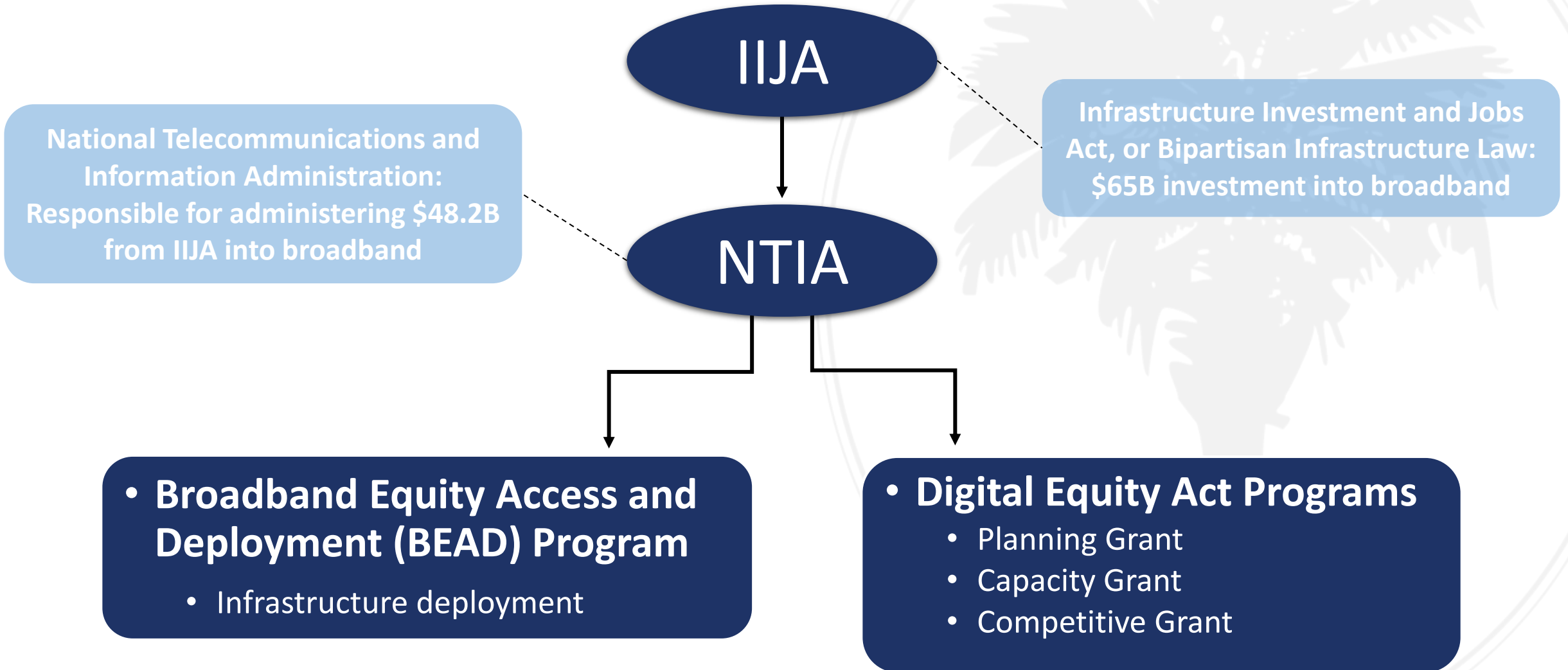


Broadband & Digital Equity Outcomes

- **Economic and workforce development**
 - Receiving employment updates, digital skills needed to perform jobs
- **Education**
 - Online assignments, virtual school, online continuing education
- **Health**
 - Telehealth appointments, access to online records
- **Civic and social engagement**
 - Community engagement and message delivery
- **Delivery of other essential services**
 - Dissemination of critical information in emergency settings



BroadbandUSA



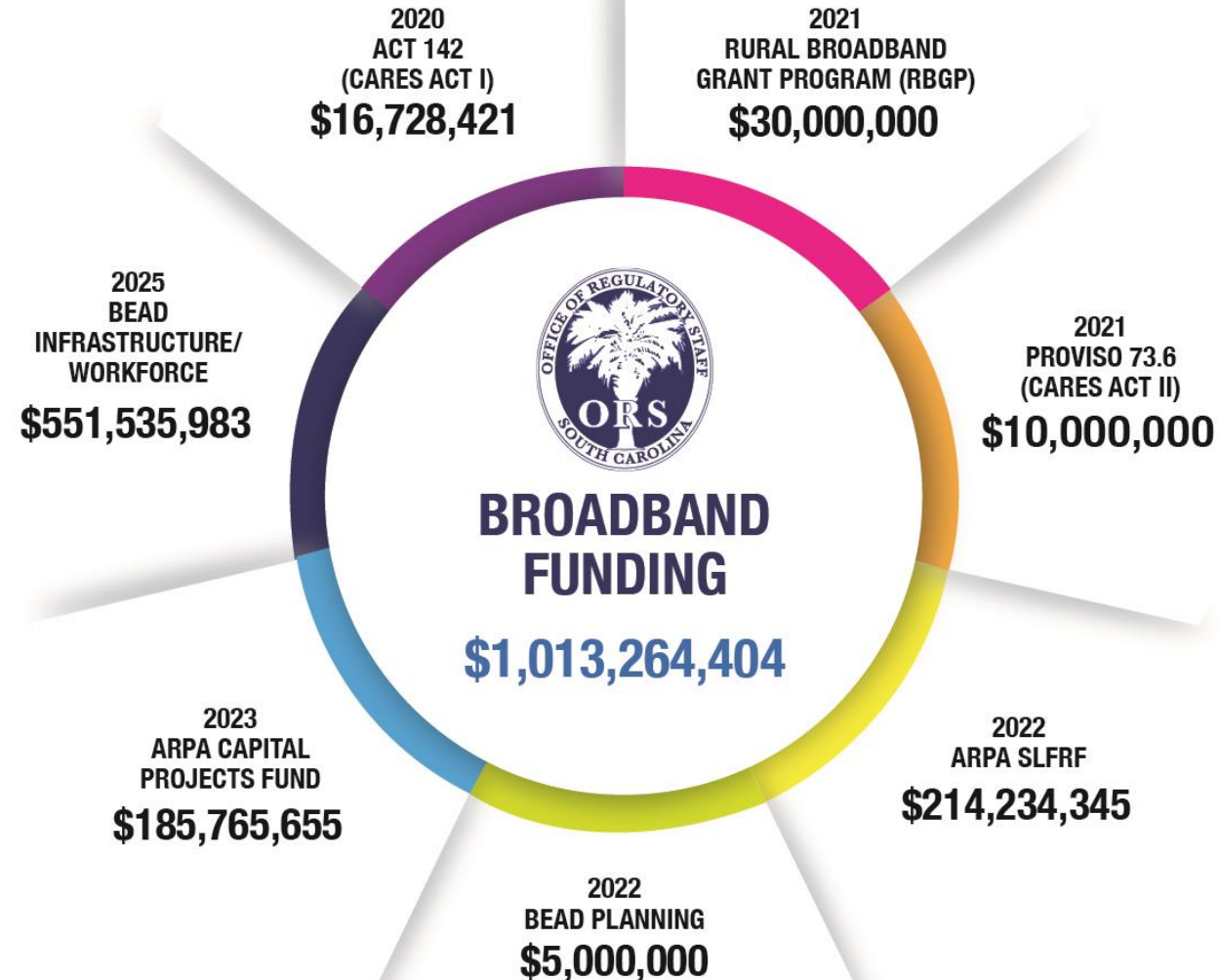
SC Broadband Office (SCBBO)



About the SCBBO...

- ✓ **Office created July 2021**
 - ✓ 2021-22 Budget Proviso Ratified by SC General Assembly Sections 73.6-73.7
- ✓ **Administering Broadband Deployment Grants**
 - ✓ Established Broadband Advisory Council (BBAC)
 - ✓ Map/Model statewide broadband availability annually
 - ✓ Evaluate grant applications, issue grant awards
 - ✓ Provide management and oversight of funded projects
 - ✓ Eligible Applicants are Internet Service Providers (ISPs)
 - ✓ Financial match is required by the ISP
 - ✓ Prioritize Fiber to the Premise (FTTP)

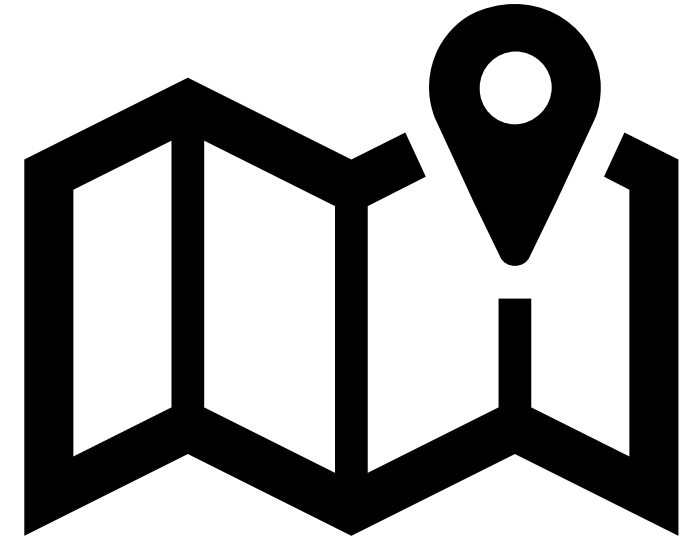
<https://ors.sc.gov/broadband>

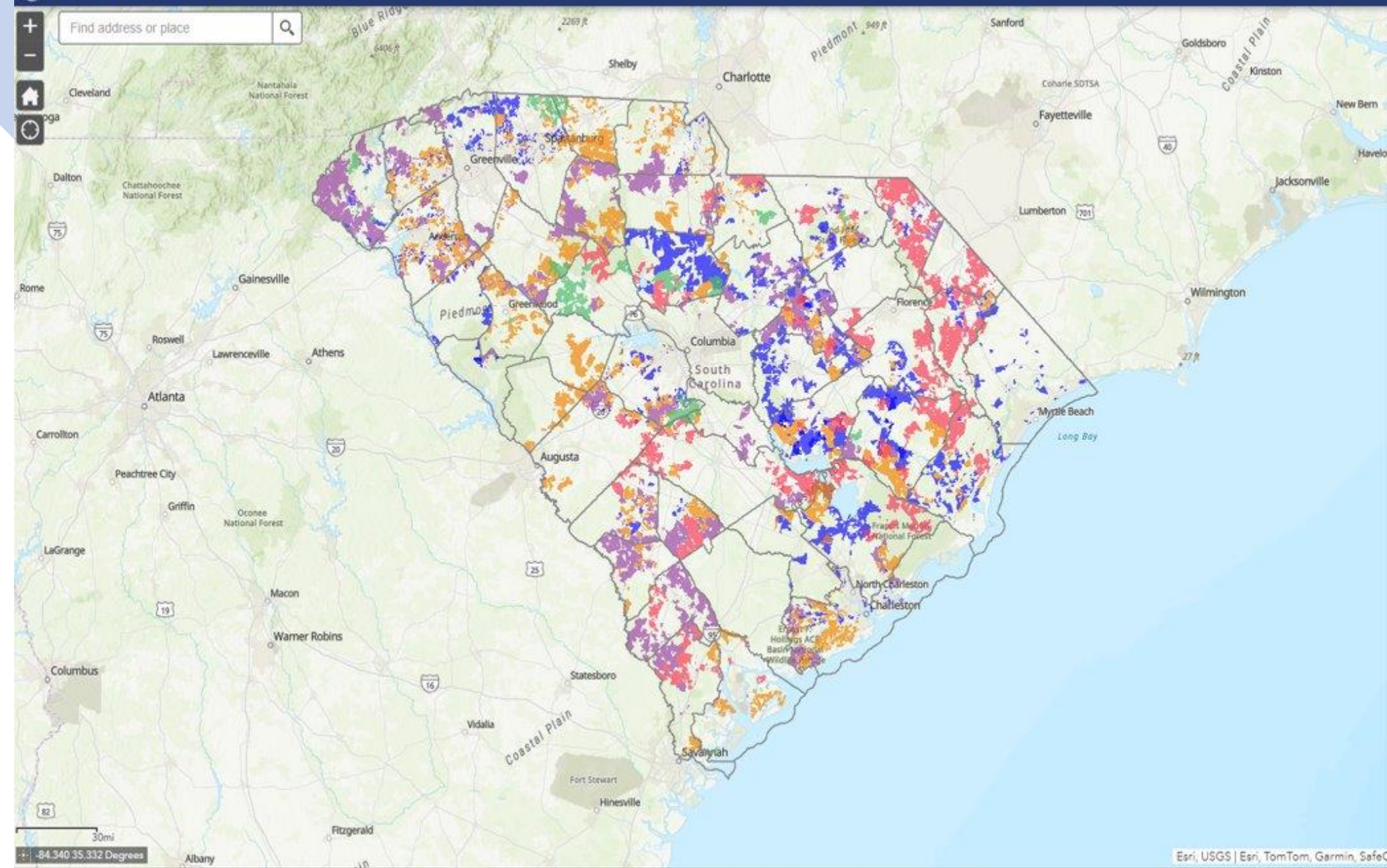


SCBBO Resources

SCBBO Investment Map

- This tool can be used to identify if an address is in an area awarded state grant funds for broadband deployment
- Upon clicking a project area, additional information on the project is available
- <https://www.scdigitaldrive.org/pages/stakeholders>



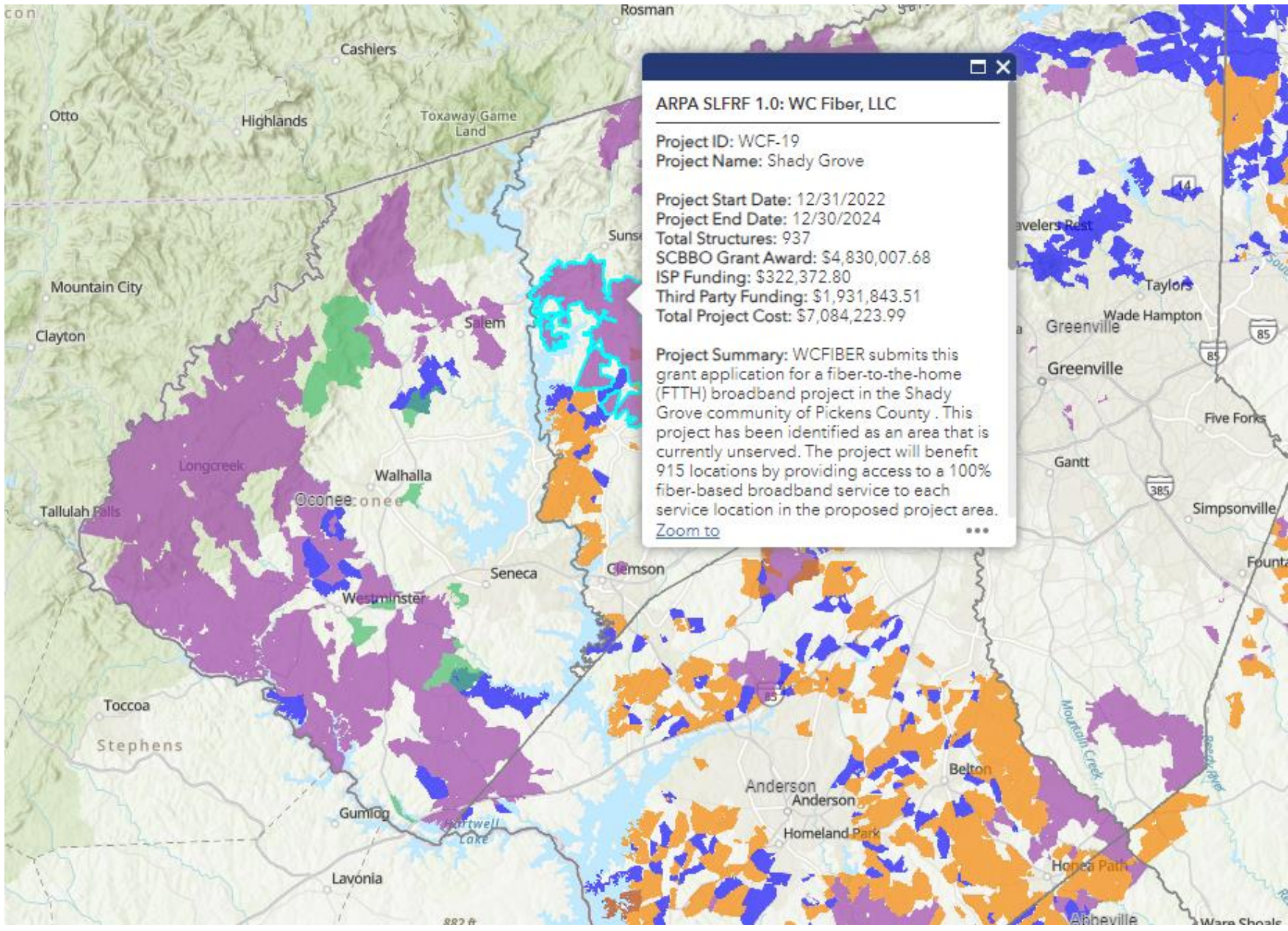


Layer List

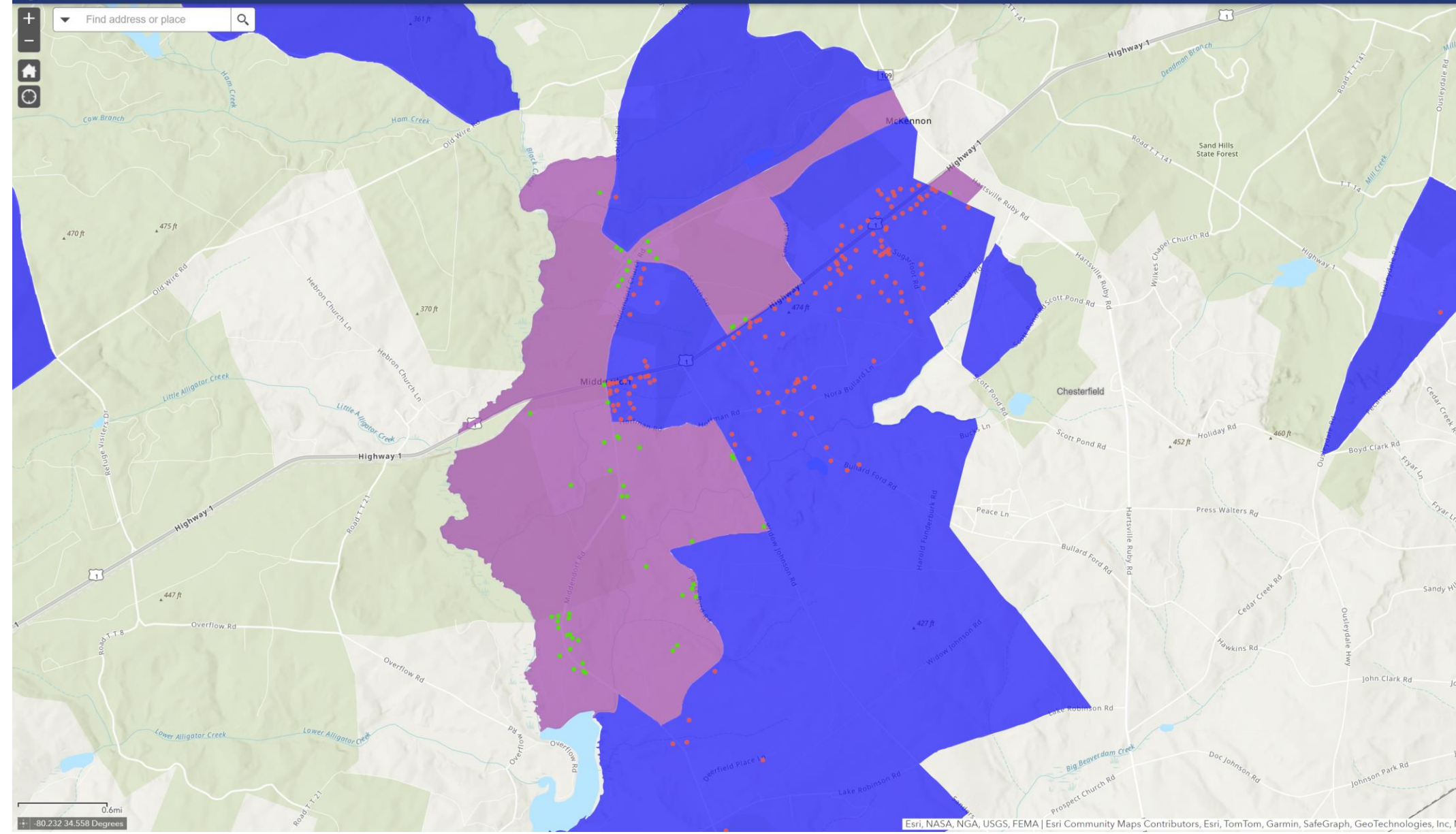
Layers

- South Carolina Counties
- CARES II
- Rural Broadband Grant Program (RBGP)
- ARPA SLFRF 1.0
- ARPA CPF 1.0
- ARPA SLFRF 3.0





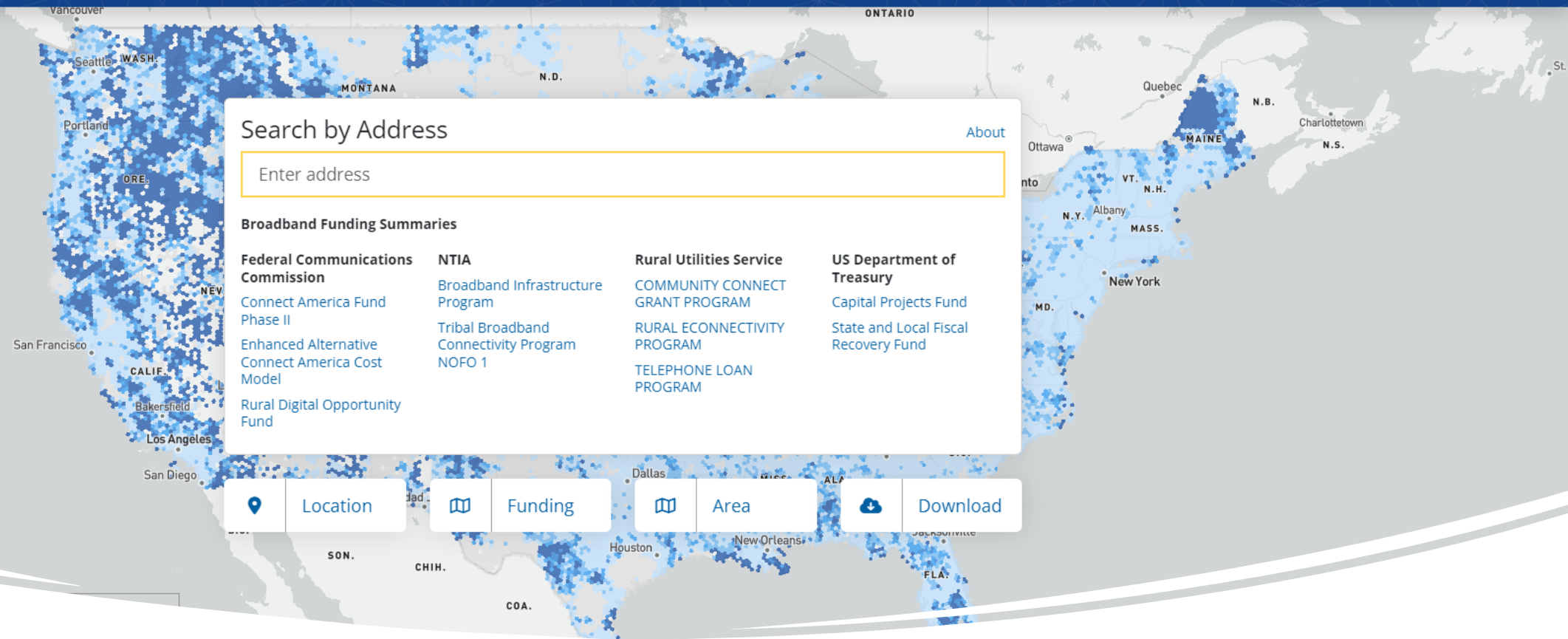
- The details provided include:
 - The Grant Round
 - The internet service provider
 - The projected end date
- SCBBO plans to publish location/address specific data, currently waiting on NTIA to review and approve the BEAD Map Challenge Data



Layer List

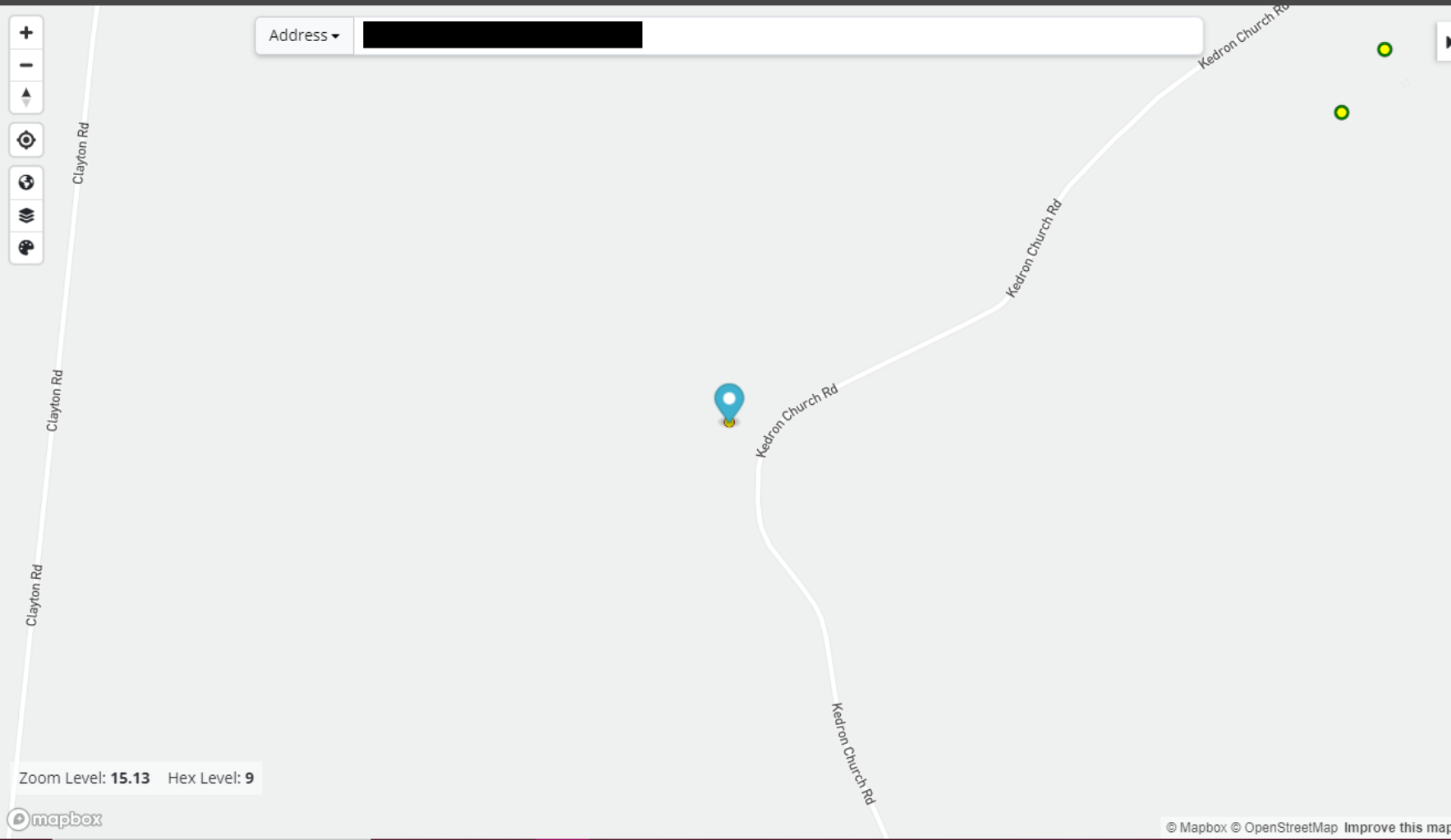
- ARPA SLFRF 3.0 BSLs
 - No
- ARPA SLFRF 1.0 BSLs
 - No
 - Yes
- South Carolina Counties
- CARES II
- Rural Broadband Grant Program (RBGP)
- ARPA SLFRF 1.0
- ARPA CPF 1.0
- ARPA SLFRF 3.0

*Pending NTIA approval



FCC Broadband Map

- Addresses can be searched to determine if an address is funded to receive broadband and any details on current internet availability
- <https://fundingmap.fcc.gov/home>



Residential | Unit Count: 1

Service Filters

Broadband Funding Funded

Program Name	Provider	Tech.	Down (Mbps)	Up (Mbps)	Buildout Req. Pct.
Rural Digital Opportunity Fund	[Redacted]	Fiber	1,000	500	100%

Availability Not Served

Provider	Technology	Down (Mbps)	Up (Mbps)
[Redacted]	GSO Satellite	100	5
[Redacted]	NGSO Satellite	220	25
[Redacted]	GSO Satellite	150	3
Business-only Service			
[Redacted]	GSO Satellite	150	4

Map Legend

- Coverage available (no funding)
- Coverage and funding available
- Funding available (no coverage)
- Funding available (no coverage data available)
- No coverage or funding available
- Not a mass market location
- ✕ Buildout Complete ⓘ

© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap Improve this map

- After searching an address, information about approved funding and current availability is visible in a side bar

FCC Address Corrections

- If an address seems to have incorrect information or doesn't appear at all, consumers can file a dispute through the FCC's website
- Detailed instructions can be found at <https://help.bdc.fcc.gov/hc/en-us/articles/10475216120475-How-to-Submit-a-Location-Challenge>
- Reasons for challenging include
 - **Missing Location**
 - **Misidentified Location**
 - **Incorrect Information**
 - **Incorrect Placement on the Map**

Digital Opportunity Office (DOD)



Digital Equity Act Grant Programs

- Planning Grant - *Complete*
 - DOD was the Eligible Entity; \$953,478
 - DE Plan was developed and approved by NTIA in April 2024
- Capacity Grant
 - DOD is the Eligible Entity; \$12.8 million
 - Currently awaiting approval from NTIA, will be used to carry out the DE Plan
- Competitive Grant – National level
 - Open to other Eligible Entities to submit applications, \$1.25 billion nationally
 - Due to NTIA Sept. 23, 2024

Digital Equity Plan

- Outlines goals for Digital Opportunity in SC
- Identifies target populations in SC
- Categorizes existing resources for digital literacy in SC
- Develops framework for DOD initiatives



DIGITAL OPPORTUNITY

DIGITAL EQUITY PLAN

South Carolina
Office of Regulatory Staff:
Digital Opportunity Department

ORS Digital Opportunity Website

Digital Opportunity Department



DE Plan

On October 1, 2023, the Digital Equity Office was [transferred](#) from the South Carolina Department of Administration to the South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff (ORS) and re-named the Digital Opportunity Department (DOD). The DOD focuses on opportunities to educate South Carolinians on how broadband access and adoption can enhance the state's workforce and individuals' lives.

Additionally, the ORS houses the South Carolina Broadband Office, whose mission is to serve as the central broadband planning body to coordinate with federal, state, regional, local, and private entities, to the extent

Digital Opportunity Department Quick Links

- > [Digital Equity \(DE\) Plan as approved by NTIA on April 2, 2024](#)



- > [Broadband Tools & Resources](#) [↗]
- > [Sign Up for Digital Opportunity Email Updates](#) [↗]

Proposed Digital Equity Plan Initiatives



1. Secure SC



2. Digital Navigators



3. Minigrants



4. Device Recycling



SecureSC – \$1.25mil

- Cybersecurity month in October
- SecureSC website and media campaign
- Toolkits and funding for community organizations to host events
- Cybersecurity and privacy resources for South Carolinians
- Digital literacy resources for South Carolinians

Pending NTIA Approval



Tanto si eres estudiante como si eres padre o mayor, comprender la ciberseguridad es más importante que nunca en la era digital actual.

¿QUÉ ES?

La ciberseguridad es la práctica de proteger sus dispositivos digitales, redes y datos de accesos no autorizados, ciberataques y violaciones de datos.

¿POR QUÉ ES IMPORTANTE?

Sin las medidas de ciberseguridad adecuadas, podría correr el riesgo de sufrir pérdidas financieras, daños a su reputación y violaciones de la privacidad.

CONOZCA LAS MEJORES PRÁCTICAS Y CÓMO PROTEGER SU INFORMACIÓN DURANTE LA SEMANA DE LA CIBERSEGURIDAD DE SECURESC.

ASEGUREMOS CAROLINA DEL SUR JUNTOS



PROTECT YOUR **TEEN'S PRIVACY ONLINE** WITH AN EXTRA LAYER OF SECURITY; LEARN ABOUT **MULTI-FACTOR AUTHENTICATION** AND **PASSWORD SAFETY** TO KEEP ACCOUNTS SAFE FROM CYBER THREATS.

LEARN MORE AT SECURESC.COM



DRAFT ONLY



Digital Navigators - \$2mil

- “Trusted guides who assist community members with ongoing, individualized support for accessing affordable and appropriate connectivity, devices, and digital skills” (NDIA)
- Train the trainer programs
- Individual support, online courses, and group sessions

Pending NTIA Approval



Digital Navigators - \$2mil

DOD Plans:

- Provide stipends to 25 organizations providing digital literacy services to create a cohort of Digital Navigators
- Create statewide “best practices” to certify existing programs
- Create an online learning module to become a Digital Navigator
- Create a database of trusted Digital Navigators

Pending NTIA Approval

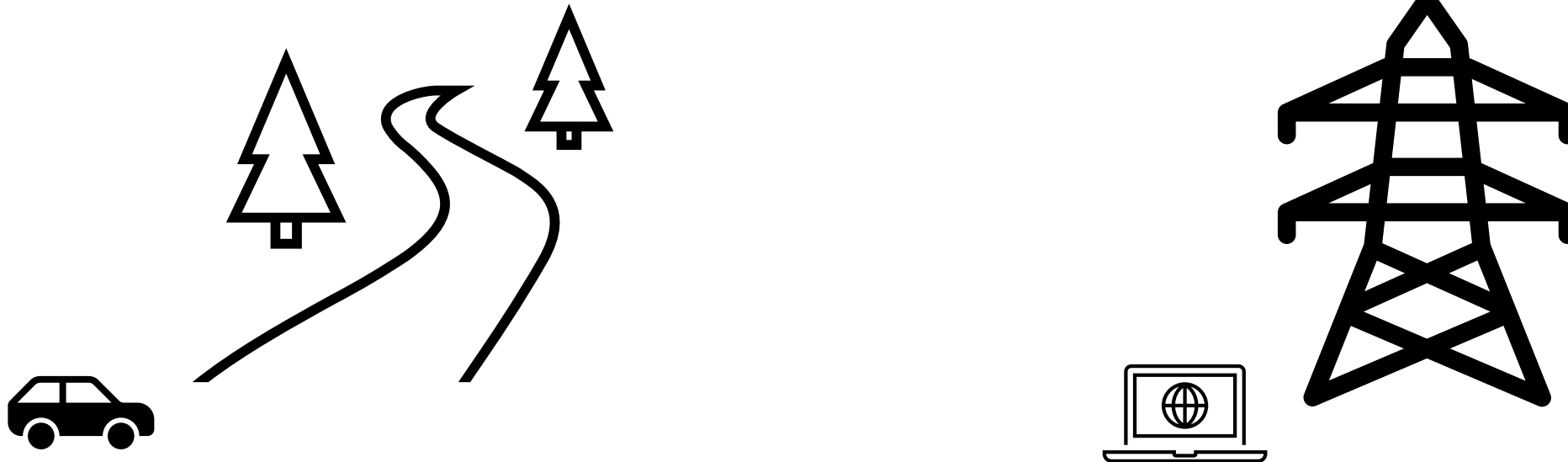
Digital Navigators can help you...

- Learn how to use your device (basics)
- Log onto telehealth appointments
- Navigate online bills
- Provide basic tech support
- Create online resumes
- Access virtual job posting boards
- Connect you to online communities
- Provide info on virtual education





Device Recycling - \$2mil



Without cars, you cannot use the roads.
Without devices, you cannot access networks.



Device Recycling - \$2mil

- Device availability at low or no cost
- Partnership with existing programs to expand capacity to cover all of South Carolina
- Establish best practices of receiving devices, restoring devices, and distributing devices

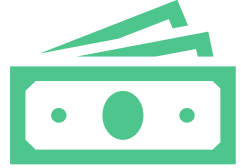
Pending NTIA Approval



Minigrants - \$5mil

- Small funding pools for programs led by trusted community organizations
- Simple and navigable application process even for small teams
- Funding across every part of South Carolina
- Recipients will be named in first 9 months of project period and will receiving continual funding over 4-year project period as long as key metrics are met

Pending NTIA Approval



Minigrants - \$5mil

- Waiting for approval from NTIA before releasing framework
- Expected timeline is early 2025
- **Stay up to date on timeline, eligibility requirements, and application process by subscribing to the DOD newsletter**
- For now, start thinking about programs your organization has or wants to start surrounding digital equity

Pending NTIA Approval



Apprenticeships – SCBBO BEAD

- Program through SCBBO BEAD Non-Deployment Funds, being administered by DOD
- 6-month salary + benefit reimbursement stipend for fulltime positions in South Carolina working in Broadband and Digital Equity related fields
- Requirements, eligibility, and timeline is still being developed

Pending NTIA Approval



Virtual Primary Care – SCBBO BEAD

- State Managed Program
- Program through SCBBO BEAD Non-Deployment Funds
- Address the need for telehealth technology and devices
- Intended to extend virtual health care offerings
 - Virtual primary care, specialty care, and remote patient monitoring services
- Requirements, eligibility, and timeline is still being developed

Pending NTIA Approval

Broadband Advisory Council (BBAC)

- Community organizations, government agencies, and related companies working together to address digital literacy concerns, align resources, and serve as a trusted voice between Digital Equity programs and the communities they serve
- Quarterly meetings in-person in different parts of SC
- Meetings are open to the public and are posted on our [website](#) in advance

Timeline and next steps

- For DOD projects, we are awaiting approval on the Capacity Grant proposal.
- For SCBBO projects administer by DOD (Apprenticeships), we are awaiting approval on the BEAD Specific Award Conditions.
- The best way to stay informed on our grant progress, join conversations surrounding DE, and receive updates on funding opportunities is to [sign up for our newsletter.](#)

Resources

- [ORS Broadband](#)
- [Digital Equity Plan](#)
- [BEAD IPV2](#)
- [DOD Newsletter](#)
- [SCBBO Grant Notifications](#)
- [FCC Funding Map](#)
- [SCBBO Digital Drive](#)

Subscribe to
the DOD
Newsletter

The screenshot shows the ORS SC.GOV website. At the top, there is a navigation menu with links for ABOUT, CONSUMERS, REGULATED UTILITIES, SAFETY, BROADBAND, and NEWS. A search bar is located on the right. Below the navigation, there is an information banner with a link to 'Sign Up for Digital Opportunity Email Updates' and a notice about the Vehicle Registration Portal. A dropdown menu is open, showing options for Broadband Office, State Managed Programs, Broadband Grant Notifications, Digital Opportunity Department (circled in red), and Broadband Advisory Council. The main content area features the ORS logo and the title 'Digital Opportunity Department'. Below this, there is a video player for 'ORS / SC Broadband Office Impact Video' and a 'Digital Opportunity Department Quick Links' section. The 'Sign Up for Digital Opportunity Email Updates' link in the quick links section is circled in red.

<https://ors.sc.gov/broadband/digitalopportunity>

Thank you! Questions?

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