

# Broadband Act 142 Update

## Online Learning Program

- Executed contracts with 13 companies wireless and wireline: AT&T, Farmers or FTC, T-Mobile, Verizon, Comporium, Hargray, Home, Horry Telephone Cooperative, OneTone, Palmetto Rural Telephone Cooperative, Sandhill Telephone Cooperative, TruVista, and West Carolina Rural Telephone Cooperative.
- ORS has received 94,775 orders from 114 schools/institutions at a projected cost of \$13,575,840 through December 2020 as of August 10, 2020. Funds remaining \$6,424,160. Shipments and service installation will occur through August and probably into September.
- We will know more by the end of August/first of September whether additional funds may be needed.
- These costs are eligible for reimbursement under CARES. We appreciate the assistance provided by the Executive Budget Office/Dept. of Administration and Guidehouse and that of the SC Dept of Education and Commission on Higher Education.

## Broadband Infrastructure Program

- To assist the ORS in launching this program at a cost of \$6000, Revolution D provided the ORS with a map that identifies areas that are unserved and further identified areas that are low to moderate income. We have received information that this cost is reimbursable.
- Application, guidelines, the map prepared by Revolution D with Program Target Areas and Priority Target Areas, and frequently asked questions are posted at this link: <https://ors.sc.gov/broadband/south-carolina-broadband-infrastructure-program>
- Deadline for Applications is August 14<sup>th</sup>.
- *ORS needs guidance on two issues:* (1) **Reimbursement.** Reimbursement is a concern based on a conversation with U.S. Treasury staff. The project must be completed **AND** be “used and useful” to address the public health emergency. A project completed in December may not be eligible for reimbursement or may be subject to challenge in a future audit because the project was completed too late. However, a project completed in October that is used and useful and addresses distance learning, telehealth or telework needs that are necessary due to the public health emergency could be eligible. (2) **Final Decision.** Who is the entity that makes the final decision to approve the applications?

## Mapping

- Two vendors submitted bids, and both are under \$300,000.
- Reimbursement** is a concern based on a conversation with the U.S. Treasury.