

# Broadband Budget Summary: FY 2021-2022 Appropriation Act

## SECTION 73.6 - 73.7 - R060 - OFFICE OF REGULATORY STAFF

The Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Appropriations Act establishes the basis for broadband expansion in South Carolina by creating the Office of Broadband Coordinator within the South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff (ORS), expanding mapping efforts, and extending funding opportunities to companies that deploy broadband in specific areas of need.



### Office of Broadband Coordinator

The Office of Broadband Coordinator will serve as the central broadband planning body for South Carolina and will coordinate with federal, state, regional, local, and private entities, to the extent practicable, to encourage the continued development of access to broadband. The Office of Broadband Coordinator will serve as a central resource to collect and publish information about state and federal programs to fund broadband expansion and will help maximize resources by coordinating with other state and federal programs.



### Broadband Planning

Through a collaborative stakeholder process, the Office of Broadband Coordinator will identify challenges to expediting broadband access. A report will be provided to the General Assembly with recommendations on actions that can be taken to promote broadband access.



### Funding for Broadband Infrastructure Projects

Broadband infrastructure projects, including those that were approved for funding pursuant to Act 142 of 2020, but not constructed by December of 2020, will be completed through the Broadband Infrastructure Program. Priority will be given to unserved homes, businesses, schools, health-care facilities, and other institutions in rural communities and communities across South Carolina with a lack of access to broadband.



### Broadband Mapping

The Office of Broadband Coordinator will collect information from broadband providers and other entities to update the State Broadband Map. All information provided will be confidential, proprietary, and a trade secret and subject to exemption from disclosure under state and federal law. The information is not subject to the Freedom of Information Act, except in the form of a map that does not reveal provider-specific information.

On an annual basis, entities providing broadband service or middle-mile infrastructure in South Carolina will provide deployment data to the Office of Broadband Coordinator. If an entity does not provide this data on an annual basis, it may be disqualified from state funding opportunities for the current fiscal year. Each year, the Office will compile this information, analyze, and update statewide broadband deployment information.

### AT A GLANCE

- Establishes the Office of Broadband Coordinator within the ORS
- Creates a central resource for information on state and federal programs to fund broadband expansion
- Maximizes resources by coordinating with other state and federal programs
- Directs the ORS to convene a collaborative stakeholder process for broadband planning and deliver a report to the General Assembly
- Provides funding to expand broadband infrastructure through the Broadband Infrastructure Program
- Introduces a framework for collecting the information necessary to update the State Broadband Map and safeguards broadband provider information



**UPDATE- OCTOBER 2021**

## **Broadband Infrastructure Funding in South Carolina**

To date, the ORS has developed and implemented 3 broadband infrastructure grant programs. These 3 programs include a total of 126 projects in 33 counties throughout the state. These programs represent a total broadband investment, including company match, in South Carolina of almost \$112 million.

Grant Program	Status	Start Date	End Date	Number of Projects	Number of Counties	Number of Companies*	Grant Funds Awarded	Broadband Investment in SC (with match)
Act 142	Completed	August 2020	December 2020	76	28	14	\$16,728,421	\$35,267,820
RBGP	In Progress	March 2021	October 2022	34	19	16	\$29,669,889	\$59,399,774
Proviso 73.6	In Progress	July 2021	March 2022	16	11	8	\$8,661,678	\$17,323,357
<b>TOTALS TO DATE</b>				<b>126</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>\$55,089,988</b>	<b>\$111,990,951</b>

*\* rolls subsidiaries into parent company*

### **Act 142- Broadband Infrastructure Program**

Governor McMaster signed Act 142 on June 25, 2020, authorizing broadband infrastructure expansion through federal funds disbursed to South Carolina through the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act). With these funds, the ORS launched the Broadband Infrastructure Program in August 2020 (along with a mapping effort and an online learning initiative).

### **Rural Broadband Grant Program (RBGP)**

In January 2021, the Joint Bond Review Committee approved the allocation of \$30 million from the SC Department of Commerce for a competitive grant program to be developed and implemented by the ORS to expand broadband access in rural parts of South Carolina.

### **2021-2022 Appropriations Act**

#### **Broadband Infrastructure Program- Continued**

Proviso 73.6 of the FY 2021-2022 Appropriations Act continues the funding for broadband infrastructure projects originating under Act 142.

#### **Office of Broadband Coordinator**

Proviso 73.6 also authorizes the ORS to establish the Office of Broadband Coordinator to serve as the central broadband planning body for the state.

To date, the ORS has hired a Director, a Deputy Director, and a Senior Geo Spatial Data Scientist to staff the Office of Broadband Coordinator.

### **Future Projects**

#### **Starlink Pilot Program**

The Office of Broadband Coordinator is coordinating with the SC Department of Education to acquire ten angel (sponsored) subscriptions to be installed in 10 locations throughout the state. The subscriptions will include all equipment, professional installation and 12 months of service for each household.

#### **American Rescue Plan Act**

The accelerateSC taskforce published the Final Report and Recommendations for Expenditure of Federal Funds on August 24, 2021. The resource component recommends an allocation of over \$490 million of American Rescue Plan Act funds to the ORS for broadband expansion.

#### **Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund**

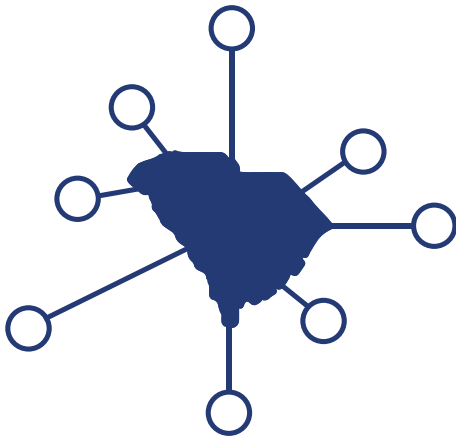
The Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund allows for investment in high-quality broadband infrastructure, as well as other initiatives. The current allocation to South Carolina is \$188 million.

#### **National Telecommunications and Information Administration**

In August 2021, the ORS applied for a broadband infrastructure grant through the National Telecommunications and Information Administration. If selected, these grant monies will fund six projects totaling over \$15 million. The ORS partnered with the SC Department of Education, the SC Department of Commerce, Prisma Health, and six Internet Service Providers on a proposal to bring fiber and rebuild the digital infrastructure of six main street communities: Denmark, Holly Hill, New Ellenton, Ridge Spring, Salley, and Saluda.



**More information can be found at [ORS.SC.GOV/Broadband](https://ors.sc.gov/Broadband)**



## SOUTH CAROLINA Broadband Analysis

Preliminary statistics around broadband in South Carolina



### Population

**5,218,040**

*new census total in 2020*

**401,185\***

*do not meet 25/3 minimum  
download/upload speeds*



### Structures

**2,386,385**

*new census total in 2020*

**189,757\***

*household units do not meet 25/3  
minimum download/upload speeds*

*\*does not include projects funded through the Rural Broadband Grant Program or other funding not yet completed*

Data: Based on ORS analysis of FCC Form 477, Jun. 30, 2020 (pub. 4/9/2021). In addition, multiple Internet Service Providers have contributed their FCC Form 477, Dec. 31, 2020, data to augment and update the base dataset. Satellite and mobile broadband services excluded. Demographic data based on US Census 2010 & 2020 information that was enhanced with E911 premise-level information through Jun. 30, 2020.



Speedtest Intelligence® data from Jan. 1, 2019 through Mar. 31, 2021 combined for analysis in the region. Ookla® trademarks used under license and reprinted with permission.

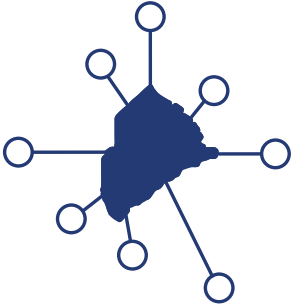
### Questions?

**Broadband Information**  
[Broadband@ORS.SC.GOV](mailto:Broadband@ORS.SC.GOV)



More information can be found at [ORS.SC.GOV/broadband](https://ORS.SC.GOV/broadband)

07/09/2021



## SOUTH CAROLINA Broadband Analysis

Preliminary statistics around broadband in South Carolina

Number of Housing Units Below 25/3 After 7/13/21 Investments	166,132
Private Investment	\$202,910,294
State Investment	\$436,251,403
Total Investment	\$639,161,698

USDA RUCA	Number of Housing Units Below 25/3 (as of 7/1/21)	Housing Units Above 25/3 After 7/13/21 Investments	Remaining Housing Units Below 25/3	Percent of Housing Units Below 25/3 in the RUCA	Cost to Connect (per housing unit)
1	32,868	179	32,689	19.7%	\$1,500
2	68,958	10,253	58,705	35.3%	\$2,000
3	14,805	2,749	12,056	7.3%	\$2,500
4	10,718	425	10,293	6.2%	\$4,745
5	27,705	2,284	25,421	15.3%	\$5,306
6	8,696	1,058	7,638	4.6%	\$5,500
7	8,641	2,307	6,334	3.8%	\$6,000
8	3,781	902	2,879	1.7%	\$7,000
9	2,749	815	1,934	1.2%	\$8,000
10	10,836	2,653	8,183	4.9%	\$10,000
	189,757	23,625	166,132		

**RUCA:** U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) rural-urban commuting area (RUCA) codes. RUCA codes 4-10 are classified by the USDA as “rural.”

Total Investment	Private Match	Private Investment	State Investment
\$49,033,500	1:1	\$24,516,750	\$24,516,750
\$117,410,000	1:1	\$58,705,000	\$58,705,000
\$30,140,000	1:1	\$15,070,000	\$15,070,000
\$48,840,285	40%	\$19,536,114	\$29,304,171
\$134,883,826	40%	\$53,953,530	\$80,930,296
\$42,009,000	30%	\$12,602,700	\$29,406,300
\$38,004,000	30%	\$11,401,200	\$26,602,800
\$20,153,000	20%	\$4,030,600	\$16,122,400
\$15,472,000	20%	\$3,094,400	\$12,377,600
\$81,830,000	0%	\$0	\$81,830,000
\$577,775,611		\$202,910,294	\$374,865,317

Broadband Awareness Campaign (5%)	\$28,888,781
ORS Admin (through 2026)	\$7,497,306
Last Mile Fund	\$25,000,000

**\$436,251,403**

TOTAL ORS ACTUAL (OR PROJECTED **) FUNDING - BY COMPANY				
Company	CARES Act	CARES Act II	RBGP	Grand Total
Aiken Electric Cooperative, Inc.	\$ 554,575		\$ 2,266,700	\$ 2,821,275
CenturyLink			\$ 1,503,135	\$ 1,503,135
Comcast Cable Communications, LLC			\$ 3,600,000	\$ 3,600,000
Comporium	\$ 3,501,706	\$ 1,771,937	\$ 3,179,698	\$ 8,453,341
Farmers Telephone Cooperative, Inc.	\$ 365,804	\$ 13,426	\$ 1,903,750	\$ 2,282,980
Hargray	\$ 1,411,656	\$ 147,771	\$ 1,418,666	\$ 2,978,093
Home Telecom	\$ 607,418		\$ 1,946,221	\$ 2,553,639
Horry Telephone Cooperative, Inc.	\$ 2,347,078		\$ 3,052,828	\$ 5,399,906
Lynches River Electric Cooperative	\$ 818,567	\$ 568,652	\$ 158,750	\$ 1,545,969
Newberry Electric Cooperative	\$ 1,297,750	\$ 1,800,000	\$ 639,061	\$ 3,736,811
OneTone	\$ 217,000			\$ 217,000
Orangeburg County Broadband	\$ 300,000		\$ 300,000	\$ 600,000
Palmetto Telephone Communications, LLC			\$ 3,557,500	\$ 3,557,500
Revolution D, Inc.			\$ 344,375	\$ 344,375
Sandhill Telephone Cooperative, Inc.	\$ 1,286,058		\$ 4,392,440	\$ 5,678,498
Spectrum Southeast LLC and Affiliates	\$ 342,875			\$ 342,875
Tri-County Electric Cooperative			\$ 1,319,660	\$ 1,319,660
TruVista Communications, Inc.	\$ 937,559	\$ 3,213,177	\$ 117,105	\$ 4,267,841
Upcountry Fiber		\$ 825,000		\$ 825,000
WC Fiber, LLC	\$ 2,740,376	\$ 321,715		\$ 3,062,091
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$ 16,728,421</b>	<b>\$ 8,661,678</b>	<b>\$ 29,699,889</b>	<b>\$ 55,089,988</b>

TOTAL ORS ACTUAL (OR PROJECTED **) FUNDING - BY COUNTY				
County	CARES Act	CARES Act II	RBGP	Grand Total
Aiken	\$ 359,352			\$ 359,352
Allendale			\$ 344,375	\$ 344,375
Anderson	\$ 851,948			\$ 851,948
Bamberg			\$ 3,557,500	\$ 3,557,500
Barnwell			\$ 112,240	\$ 112,240
Beaufort	\$ 1,223,166	\$ 131,099	\$ 783,275	\$ 2,137,540
Berkeley	\$ 113,970		\$ 1,946,221	\$ 2,060,191
Chester	\$ 874,049		\$ 742,775	\$ 1,616,824
Chesterfield	\$ 587,587	\$ 168,652	\$ 158,750	\$ 914,989
Clarendon	\$ 308,618		\$ 634,550	\$ 943,168
Darlington	\$ 43,355			\$ 43,355
Dorchester	\$ 493,448			\$ 493,448
Fairfield	\$ 63,510	\$ 3,460,677	\$ 117,105	\$ 3,641,293
Florence	\$ 4,775			\$ 4,775
Georgetown	\$ 645,932		\$ 1,081,607	\$ 1,727,539
Greenville	\$ 12,811			\$ 12,811
Greenwood	\$ 1,124,110	\$ 321,715		\$ 1,445,825
Hampton	\$ 188,490	\$ 16,673	\$ 3,600,000	\$ 3,805,162
Horry	\$ 106,348			\$ 106,348
Jasper			\$ 635,391	\$ 635,391
Kershaw	\$ 89,586			\$ 89,586
Lancaster	\$ 1,492,289	\$ 451,900	\$ 819,425	\$ 2,763,614
Laurens	\$ 897,757	\$ 243,750		\$ 1,141,507
Lee			\$ 640,000	\$ 640,000
Lexington	\$ 1,407,332	\$ 1,720,037		\$ 3,127,369
Marion	\$ 1,594,798		\$ 1,971,221	\$ 3,566,019
Marlboro	\$ 1,286,058		\$ 4,392,440	\$ 5,678,498
Newberry	\$ 1,297,750	\$ 1,308,750	\$ 639,061	\$ 3,245,561
Oconee	\$ 276,174	\$ 825,000		\$ 1,101,174
Orangeburg	\$ 495,223		\$ 6,894,753	\$ 7,389,976
Saluda	\$ 753,457			\$ 753,457
Spartanburg	\$ 79,343			\$ 79,343
Williamsburg	\$ 57,186	\$ 13,426	\$ 629,200	\$ 699,812
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$ 16,728,421</b>	<b>\$ 8,661,678</b>	<b>\$ 29,699,889</b>	<b>\$ 55,089,988</b>

\*\* Assumes funding requested and company match will come in at 100% for 'In Progress' projects

**TOTAL BROADBAND INVESTMENT ACTUAL (OR PROJECTED \*\*) FUNDING - BY COMPANY**

Company	CARES Act	CARES Act II	RBGP	Grand Total
Aiken Electric Cooperative, Inc.	\$ 1,389,505		\$ 4,533,400	\$ 5,922,905
CenturyLink			\$ 3,006,270	\$ 3,006,270
Comcast Cable Communications, LLC			\$ 7,200,000	\$ 7,200,000
Comporium	\$ 7,179,255	\$ 3,543,874	\$ 6,359,395	\$ 17,082,524
Farmers Telephone Cooperative, Inc.	\$ 731,607	\$ 26,852	\$ 3,807,500	\$ 4,565,959
Hargray	\$ 2,828,122	\$ 295,542	\$ 2,837,331	\$ 5,960,995
Home Telecom	\$ 1,214,837		\$ 3,892,442	\$ 5,107,279
Horry Telephone Cooperative, Inc.	\$ 4,693,694		\$ 6,105,656	\$ 10,799,350
Lynches River Electric Cooperative	\$ 1,643,170	\$ 1,137,304	\$ 317,500	\$ 3,097,974
Newberry Electric Cooperative	\$ 2,751,454	\$ 3,600,000	\$ 1,278,122	\$ 7,629,576
OneTone	\$ 472,407			\$ 472,407
Orangeburg County Broadband	\$ 642,372		\$ 600,000	\$ 1,242,372
Palmetto Telephone Communications, LLC			\$ 7,115,000	\$ 7,115,000
Revolution D, Inc.			\$ 688,750	\$ 688,750
Sandhill Telephone Cooperative, Inc.	\$ 2,695,956		\$ 8,784,880	\$ 11,480,836
Spectrum Southeast LLC and Affiliates	\$ 695,775			\$ 695,775
Tri-County Electric Cooperative			\$ 2,639,319	\$ 2,639,319
TruVista Communications, Inc.	\$ 1,875,117	\$ 6,426,355	\$ 234,209	\$ 8,535,681
Upcountry Fiber		\$ 1,650,000		\$ 1,650,000
WC Fiber, LLC	\$ 6,454,549	\$ 643,430		\$ 7,097,979
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$ 35,267,820</b>	<b>\$ 17,323,357</b>	<b>\$ 59,399,774</b>	<b>\$ 111,990,951</b>

**TOTAL BROADBAND INVESTMENT ACTUAL (OR PROJECTED \*\*) FUNDING - BY COUNTY**

County	CARES Act	CARES Act II	RBGP	Grand Total
Aiken	\$ 976,553			\$ 976,553
Allendale			\$ 688,750	\$ 688,750
Anderson	\$ 2,151,792			\$ 2,151,792
Bamberg			\$ 7,115,000	\$ 7,115,000
Barnwell			\$ 224,480	\$ 224,480
Beaufort	\$ 2,447,732	\$ 262,197	\$ 1,566,549	\$ 4,276,478
Berkeley	\$ 227,939		\$ 3,892,442	\$ 4,120,381
Chester	\$ 1,748,097		\$ 1,485,550	\$ 3,233,647
Chesterfield	\$ 1,175,100	\$ 337,304	\$ 317,500	\$ 1,829,904
Clarendon	\$ 617,236		\$ 1,269,100	\$ 1,886,336
Darlington	\$ 88,900			\$ 88,900
Dorchester	\$ 986,898			\$ 986,898
Fairfield	\$ 127,020	\$ 6,921,355	\$ 234,209	\$ 7,282,584
Florence	\$ 10,964			\$ 10,964
Georgetown	\$ 1,291,918		\$ 2,163,214	\$ 3,455,132
Greenville	\$ 29,695			\$ 29,695
Greenwood	\$ 2,472,060	\$ 643,430		\$ 3,115,490
Hampton	\$ 380,391	\$ 33,345	\$ 7,200,000	\$ 7,613,736
Horry	\$ 212,180			\$ 212,180
Jasper			\$ 1,270,782	\$ 1,270,782
Kershaw	\$ 187,630			\$ 187,630
Lancaster	\$ 3,030,582	\$ 903,800	\$ 1,638,850	\$ 5,573,232
Laurens	\$ 2,097,576	\$ 487,500		\$ 2,585,076
Lee			\$ 1,280,000	\$ 1,280,000
Lexington	\$ 2,915,302	\$ 3,440,074		\$ 6,355,376
Marion	\$ 3,189,596		\$ 3,942,442	\$ 7,132,038
Marlboro	\$ 2,695,956		\$ 8,784,880	\$ 11,480,836
Newberry	\$ 2,751,454	\$ 2,617,500	\$ 1,278,122	\$ 6,647,076
Oconee	\$ 590,755	\$ 1,650,000		\$ 2,240,755
Orangeburg	\$ 1,055,324		\$ 13,789,504	\$ 14,844,828
Saluda	\$ 1,536,115			\$ 1,536,115
Spartanburg	\$ 158,686			\$ 158,686
Williamsburg	\$ 114,371	\$ 26,852	\$ 1,258,400	\$ 1,399,623
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$ 35,267,820</b>	<b>\$ 17,323,357</b>	<b>\$ 59,399,774</b>	<b>\$ 111,990,951</b>

\*\* Assumes funding requested and company match will come in at 100% for 'In Progress' projects