

# Capital Improvements Joint Bond Review Committee

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**F. RICHARD HARMON, JR.**  
DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH  
SFAA LIAISON  
803-212-6682

**MARY KATHERINE ROGERS**  
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT  
803-212-6677  
FAX: 803-212-6690

## JBRC BROADBAND OVERSIGHT SUBCOMMITTEE

Senator Thomas C. Alexander, Representative Gilda Cobb Hunter, Co-Chairs  
Senator Paul G. Campbell, Jr., Representative J. Gary Simrill, Members

Tuesday, August 4, 2020 10:00 a.m.  
Zoom Video Conference

### AGENDA

### PAGE

1. Charge of the Subcommittee.....1  
Introductory Remarks of the Co-Chairs and Members
2. Presentation of SC Office of Regulatory Staff .....2  
Overview of Act 142 of 2020; Status and Next Steps  
Ms. Nanette S. Edwards, Esquire, Executive Director  
Mapping and Infrastructure Deployment  
Mr. Chris Rozycki, Broadband Project Administrator
3. Discussion of Next Steps
4. Future Meeting

Live-streaming of this meeting will be available at [www.scstatehouse.gov](http://www.scstatehouse.gov).

Joint Bond Review Committee  
JBRC Broadband Oversight Subcommittee

Subcommittee Charge

Both the Joint Bond Review Committee and the General Assembly as a whole view access to broadband as a necessary part of participation in modern life and business. The General Assembly recognized this in authorizing \$50 million for the purpose of “Broadband Mapping and Planning, Infrastructure and Mobile Hotspots” in the recently passed CARES Authorization Act (H. 5202).

While these funds are specifically appropriated to deal with broadband access during the COVID-19 response, it fits within the bigger picture of broadband access or lack thereof facing many parts of our state. It is important for the Joint Bond Review Committee to ensure the funds are expended appropriately and in a timely manner.

The Subcommittee’s charge is to provide oversight of implementation and expenditure of the CARES broadband funds and any other broadband related funding that may come before the Committee.



Act 142

# Broadband

*Joint Bond Review Subcommittee | August 4, 2020*



# Act 142



- Procure mobile hotspots and monthly service through December 2020 for distribution to a minimum of one hundred thousand households.
  - Annual income of two hundred fifty percent or less of federal poverty guidelines
  - Individual attending a public or private K-12 school or a public or private college, university, or technical college
  - Schools responsible for distributing hotspots and ensuring that appropriate security measures are installed
  - *Priority schools:* counties that contain a school district that has been defined by Department of Education as having a poverty rate greater than or equal to eighty-six percent
- Secure vendor(s) for the development of broadband statewide county-by-county mapping plan and broadband infrastructure plan
- Emphasize infrastructure expansion to rural communities and communities at risk or with a high prevalence of COVID-19
  - Reimbursable expenditures are necessary for COVID-19 public health emergency and increase capacity for distance learning, telework, or telehealth



# THE OFFICE OF REGULATORY STAFF

Act 142

Report Date: 7/29/2020



Max Authorized Spend \$ 50,000,000

Funds Committed - Wireless & Wired Service		
	<b>Allocation</b>	<b>\$ 20,000,000</b>
Wireless Service	\$	4,408,875
Wired Service	\$	177,478
Total Funds Committed		\$ 4,586,353
<b>Funds Remaining</b>		<b>\$ 15,413,647</b>

Statistics	
Number of Participants	
Public K-12	27
Private K-12	2
Charter	
Higher Ed Institutions	24
	53

Funds Committed - Broadband Infrastructure & Mapping		
	<b>Allocation</b>	<b>\$ 30,000,000</b>
Planning	\$	6,000
Mapping	\$	-
Broadband Infrastructure	\$	-
Total Funds Committed		\$ 6,000
<b>Funds Remaining</b>		<b>\$ 29,994,000</b>



## ONLINE LEARNING **Initiative**

- MOU
- Order Forms
- Monthly Reporting
- Communication Material
  - [Press Release](#)
  - [Program Overview](#)
  - [Tutorial](#)

# Mapping and Infrastructure Deployment

- The ORS is reviewing bids for statewide broadband availability mapping
- RevolutionD mapping is helping to identify unserved areas for infrastructure deployment
- Guidelines and application forms developed
- The ORS prepared to receive challenges:
  - To unserved area designations
  - To bids to serve unserved area

**Nanette S. Edwards**

Executive Director

South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff

*nedwards@ORS.SC.GOV*

(803) 603-7810

**Chris Rozycki**

Broadband Project Administrator

South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff

*crozycki@ORS.SC.GOV*

(803) 737-0819







# ONLINE LEARNING Initiative

## Mobile Hotspots and Monthly Internet Service

The South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff is working with the South Carolina Department of Education, the Commission on Higher Education, and private school associations on an Online Learning Initiative.

\$50 million of the Coronavirus Relief Fund for South Carolina included in the CARES Act has been allocated for broadband initiatives related to COVID-19. A portion of this funding will be used to procure mobile hotspots and monthly internet service for qualifying student households through December 31, 2020.

### → Program Overview

- One mobile hotspot or internet service per qualifying student household
- Paid monthly service through December 31, 2020
- Minimum of 100,000 households

### → Eligibility

Individuals that believe their household is eligible should contact their local school

- Households with an annual income of 250 percent or less of federal poverty guidelines
- An individual in the household attends a school
- The household does not have existing internet service
- The mobile hotspot is necessary as a result of the public health emergency caused by COVID-19
- The cost of mobile hotspots and related service was not accounted for in a school's budget as it existed on March 27, 2020
- Priority will be given to households in counties that contain a school district that has been defined by the South Carolina Department of Education as having a poverty rate greater than or equal to 86 percent

### → Mobile Hotspot Distribution

Schools are responsible for distributing the mobile hotspots to eligible households

- Schools – public school districts as well as private schools, special schools, charter schools, private colleges, universities, and technical colleges – must complete a Memorandum of Understanding and submit an order form to the ORS
- Schools need to provide the ORS addresses of eligible households as soon as possible to help determine the best available option such as a mobile hotspot or wired internet access
- The ORS has secured 200,000 hotspots for South Carolina in anticipation of demand
- For all school districts and educational institutions, paperwork will be sent out on or before July 27, 2020, with a deadline for orders being returned by August 5, 2020

### → Monthly Internet Service

In some cases, wireless service may not be available or sufficient to meet an eligible student's needs.

Depending on the location, wired internet service may be available, and the ORS has received quotes from multiple wired providers offering competitive pricing. Schools will need to provide the ORS addresses of those qualifying households in order to consider wired internet service as an alternative.

## Questions?

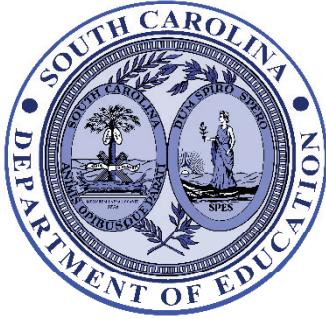
**Casi Sims**

CSims@ORS.SC.GOV  
(803) 737-0817

**Tom Allen**

TAllen@ORS.SC.GOV  
(803) 737-0974

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



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: DATES ANNOUNCED FOR SCHOOL MOBILE HOTSPOT ORDERS**

COLUMBIA, SC – July 22, 2020 – The South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff in cooperation with the South Carolina Department of Education and the Commission on Higher Education has begun the process of engaging school districts and higher education institutions across South Carolina to implement the distribution of mobile hotspots and monthly internet service through December 2020 to a minimum of 100,000 households.

For all school districts and educational institutions, paperwork will be sent out on or before July 27, with a deadline for orders being returned by Aug. 5. Priority is being given to households in counties that contain a school district that has been defined by the South Carolina Department of Education as having a poverty rate greater than or equal to 86 percent.

Already, the ORS has worked with wireless providers to secure up to 200,000 hotspots for South Carolina in anticipation of demand. As part of the agreement reached with providers, each hotspot will have security measures installed in compliance with the Children’s Internet Protection Act (CIPA). Schools themselves also will have the ability to block or unblock certain sites.

In some cases, wireless service may not be available or sufficient to meet an eligible student’s needs. Depending on the location, wired internet service may be available, and the ORS has received quotes from multiple wired providers offering competitive pricing.

As part of the authorization of the CARES Act funding, schools – public school districts as well as private schools, special schools, charter schools, private colleges, universities, or technical colleges – are responsible for distributing the mobile hotspots to eligible households.

To the extent schools can provide the addresses of qualifying households, the best available option can be determined, such as a hotspot or broadband internet access.

For media inquiries or more information, contact the following individuals at their respective agencies:

**South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff**

Ron Aiken, Media Relations Manager

w: (803) 737-0609 c: (803) 530-5393

[raiken@ors.sc.gov](mailto:raiken@ors.sc.gov)

**South Carolina Department of Education**

Ryan Brown, Chief Communications Officer

w: (803) 734-5080 c: (803) 206-5254

[rybrown@ed.sc.gov](mailto:rybrown@ed.sc.gov)

**South Carolina Commission on Higher Education**

Bunnie Lempesis Ward, Director, Governmental Affairs & Communications

w: (803) 737-1397 c: (803) 351-3978

[bward@che.sc.gov](mailto:bward@che.sc.gov)

(07/30/2020)

## **Companies the ORS has Contracts with for Broadband Service**

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### **Wireless Companies**

AT&T Mobility LLC

Farmers Telephone Cooperative, Inc.

Verizon Wireless

### **Wireline Companies**

Home Telephone ILEC, LLC DBA: Home Telecom (Berkeley Cable)

Horry Telephone Cooperative, Inc.

Sandhill Telephone Cooperative

West Carolina Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc.