

Broadband and Digital Opportunity in South Carolina

South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff



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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.



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Investor-Owned Utility Regulators

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

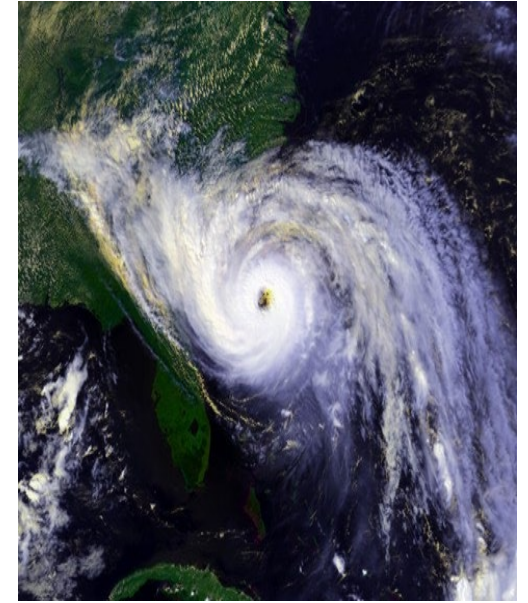


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Other ORS Services

- Consumer Services
- Equipment Distribution Program (EDP)
- Energy Policy
- Solar Leasing and Emerging Technologies
- Emergency Support Function 12 (ESF12)
- **Broadband**

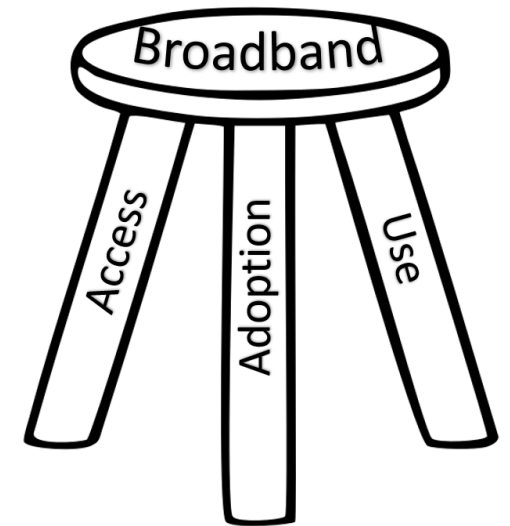


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South Carolina Broadband Office

"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."



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Broadband 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



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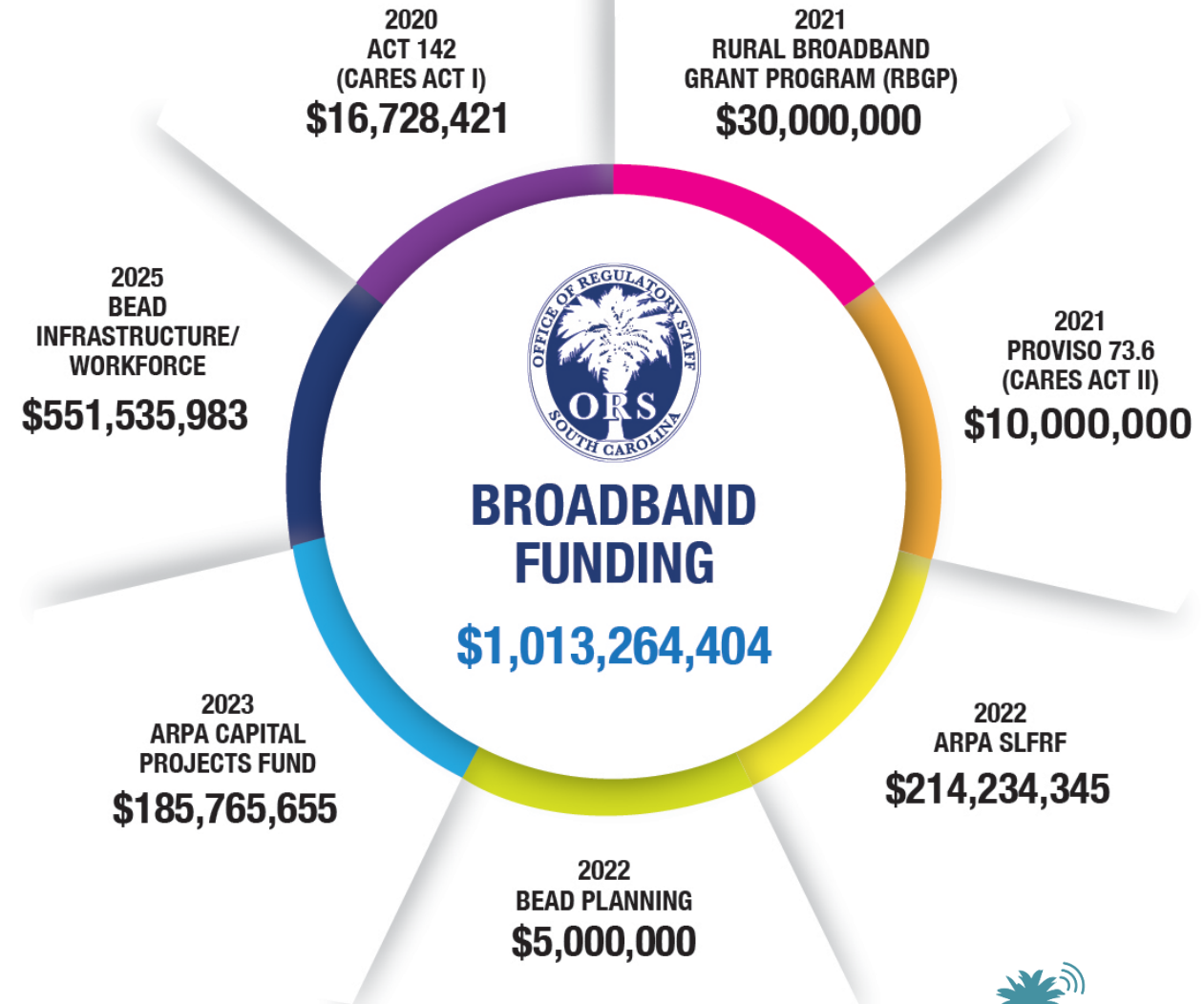
About the SCBBO

- ✓ **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>

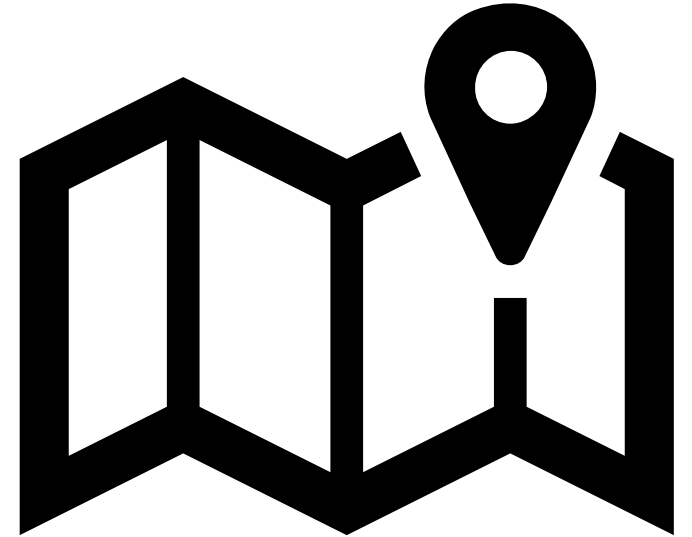
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SCBBO Resources

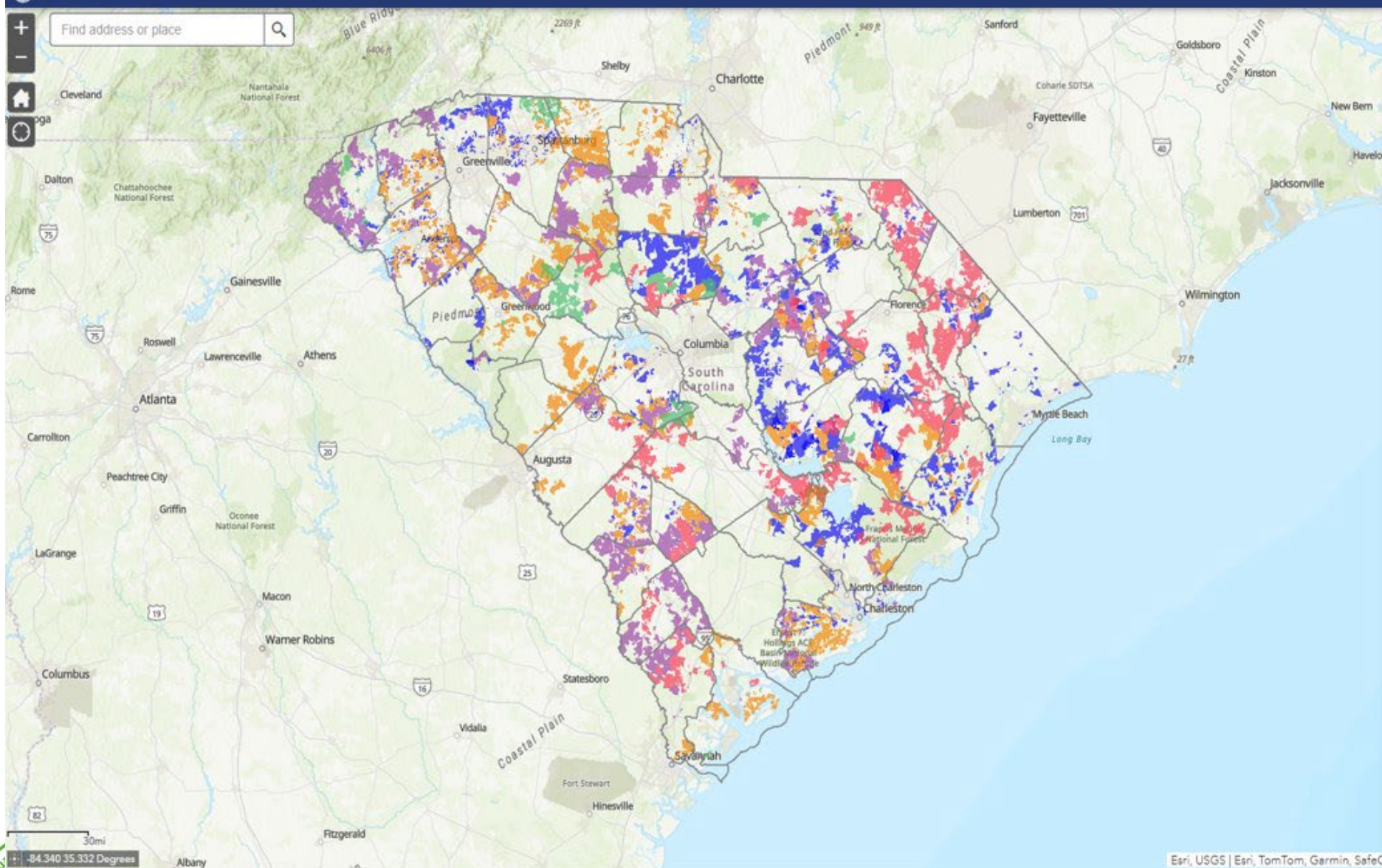
■ SCBBO Investment Map

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



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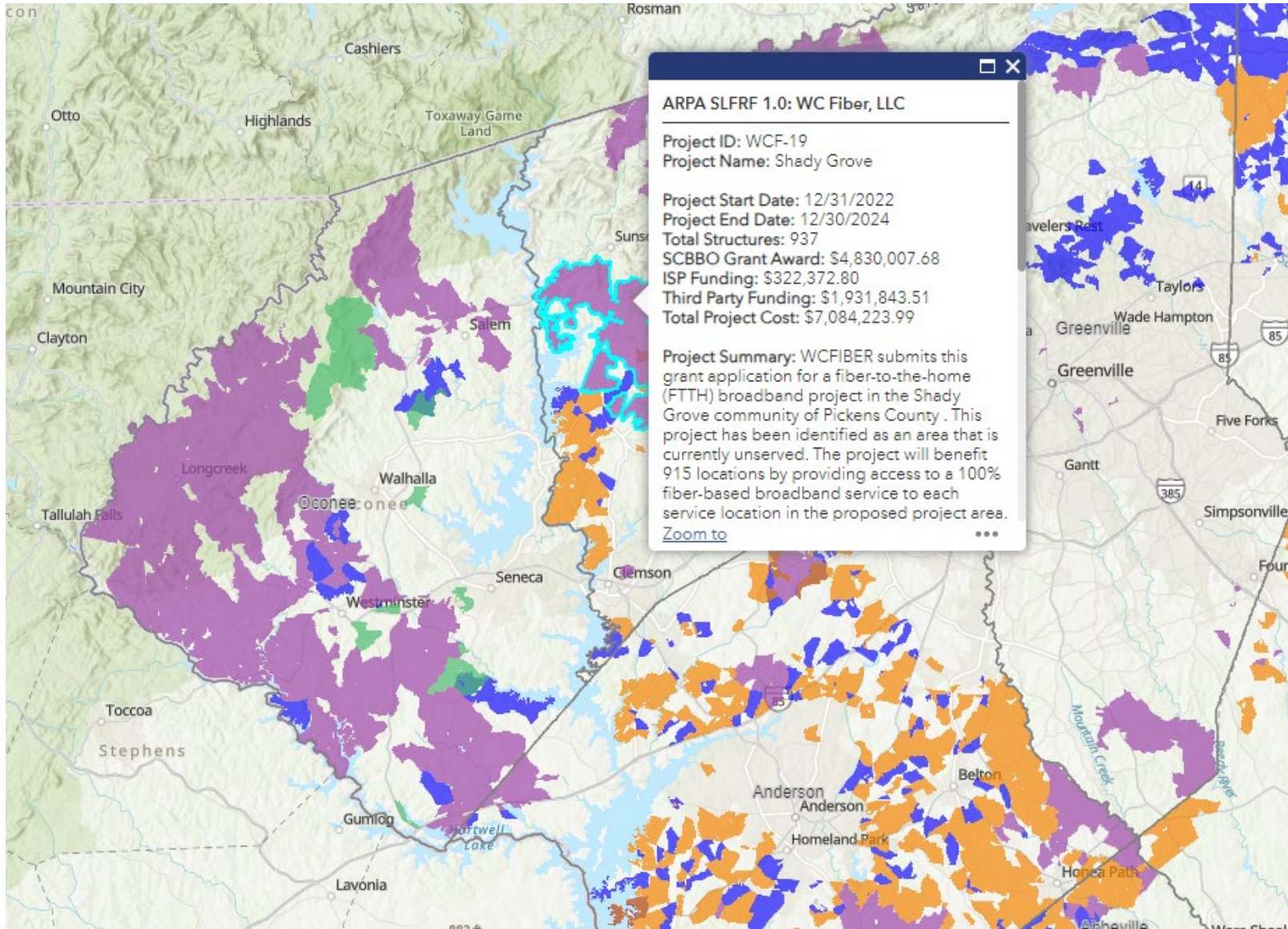




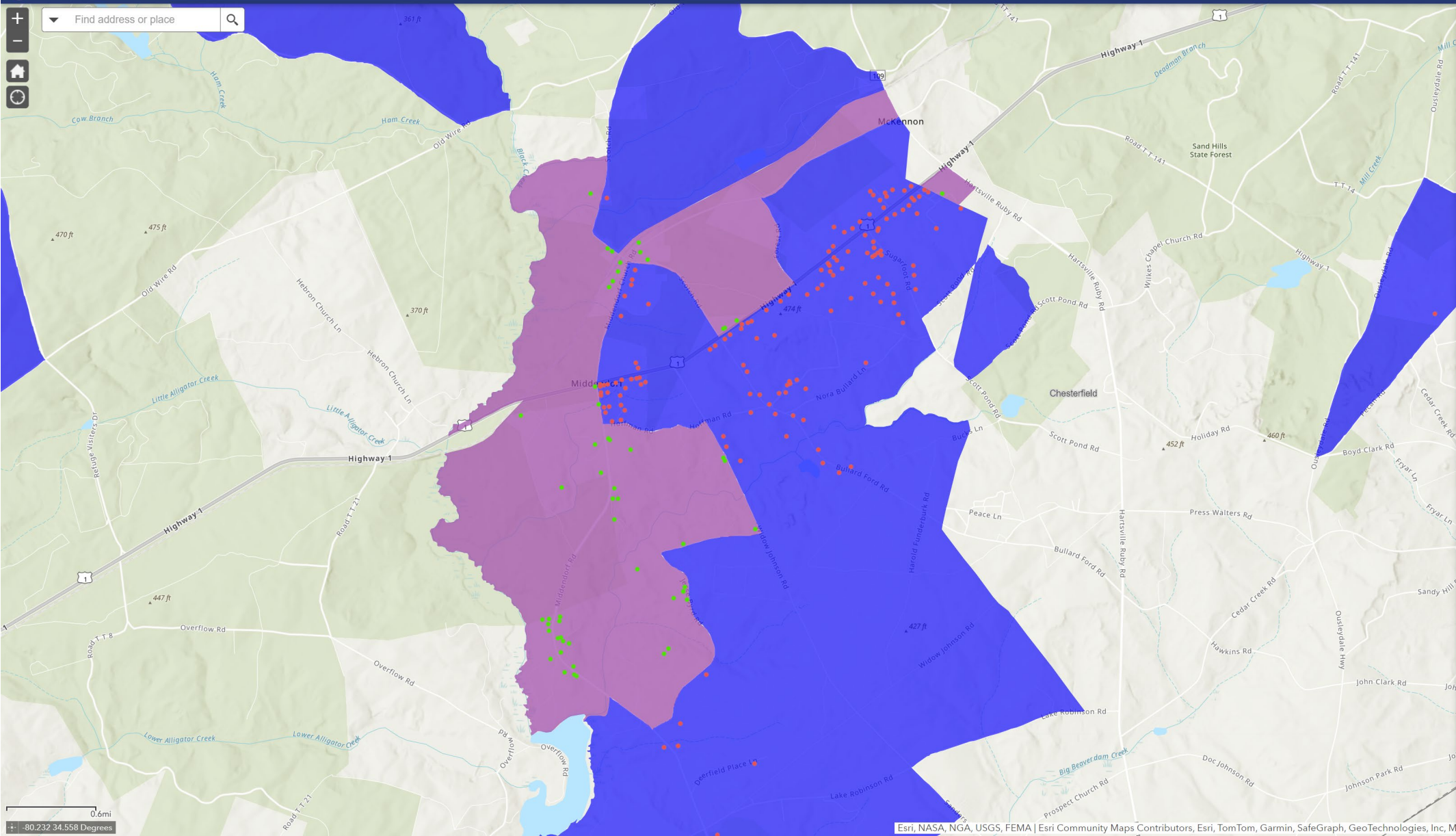
<https://www.scdigitaldrive.org/pages/stakeholders>

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- 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

Layers

☒ ARPA SLFRF 3.0 BSLs

No

☒ ARPA SLFRF 1.0 BSLs

No

Yes

☒ South Carolina Counties

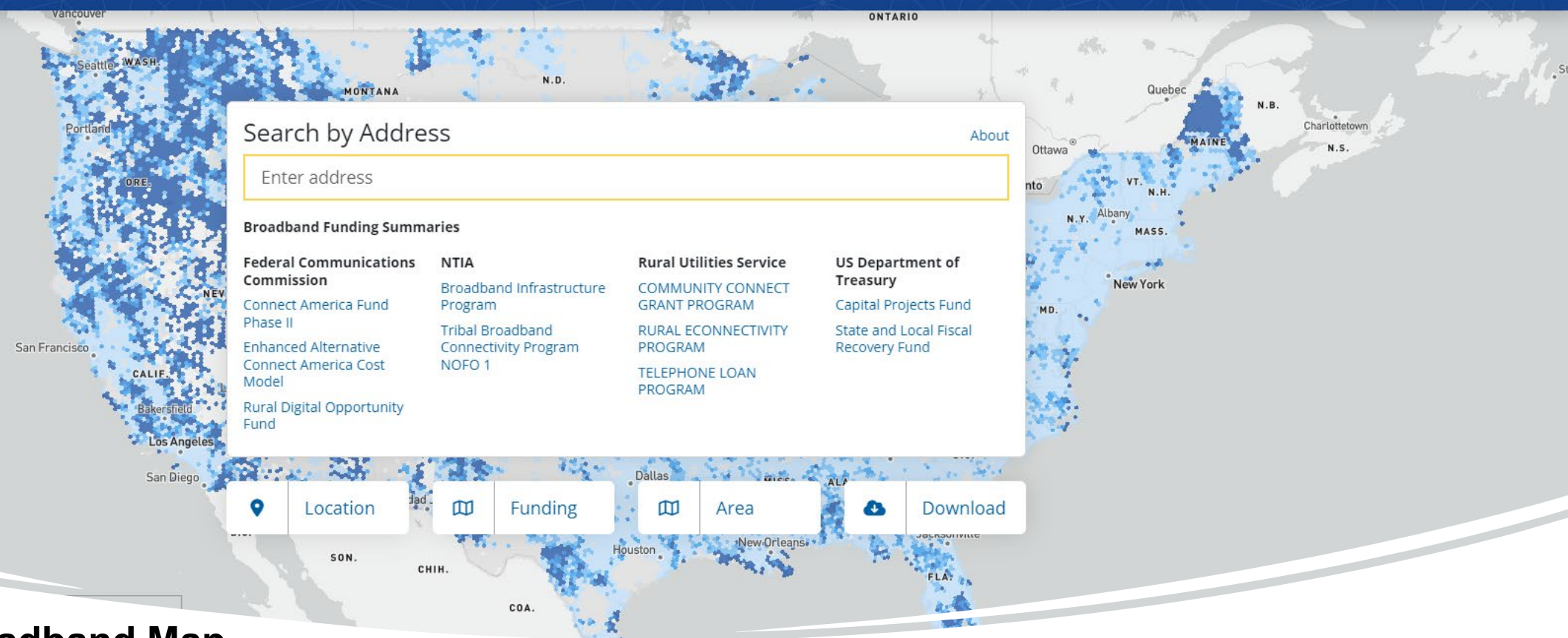
☒ CARES II

☒ Rural Broadband Grant Program (RBGP)

☒ ARPA SLFRF 1.0

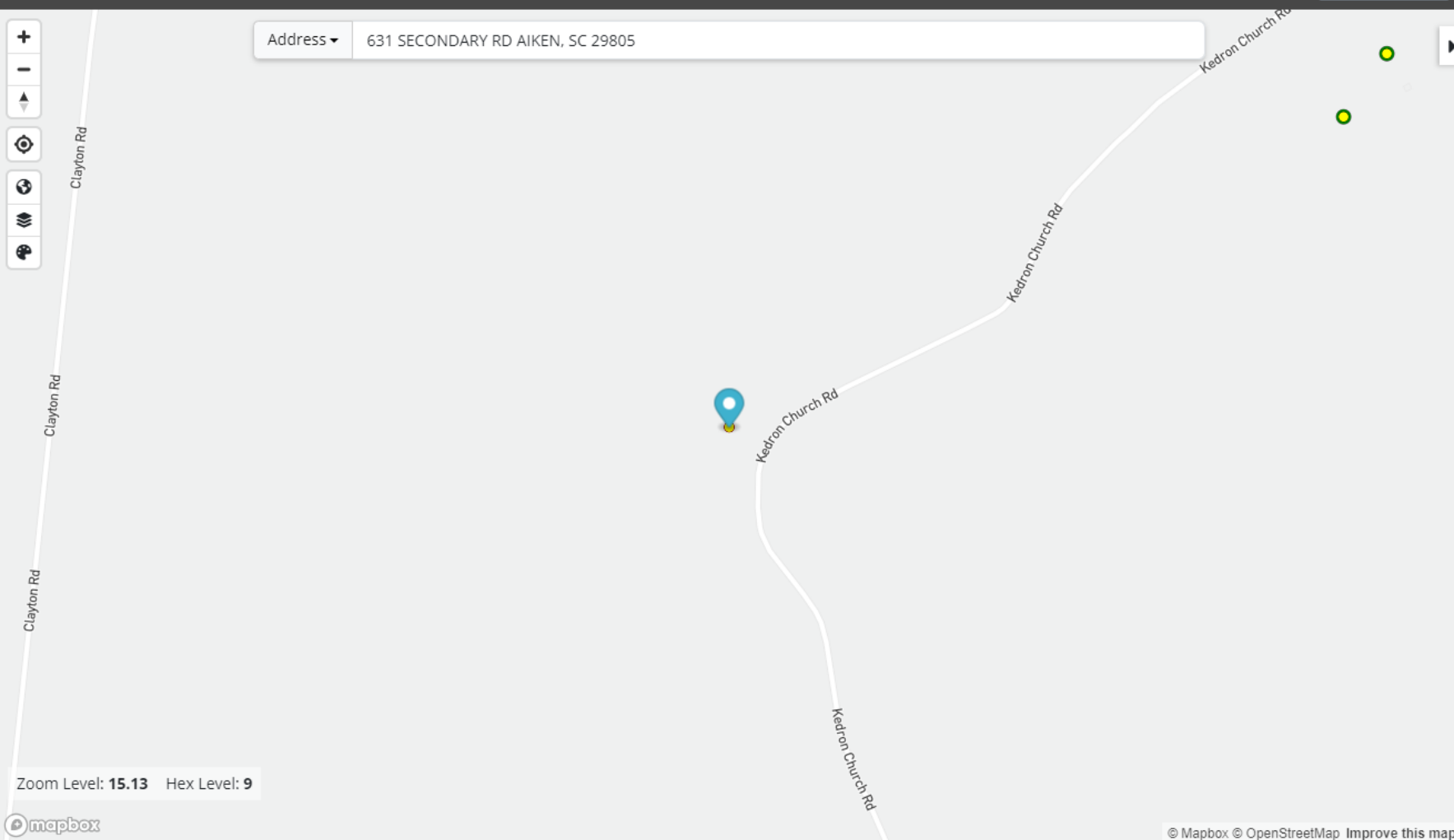
☐ ARPA CPF 1.0

☒ ARPA SLFRF 3.0



- **FCC Broadband Map**
- SCBBO reports all project locations to FCC to be added to this 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	Spectrum	Fiber	1,000	500	100%

Availability **Not Served**

Provider	Technology	Down (Mbps)	Up (Mbps)
HughesNet	GSO Satellite	100	5
Starlink	NGSO Satellite	220	25
Viasat	GSO Satellite	150	3
Business-only Service			
Viasat	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

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



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FCC Address Corrections

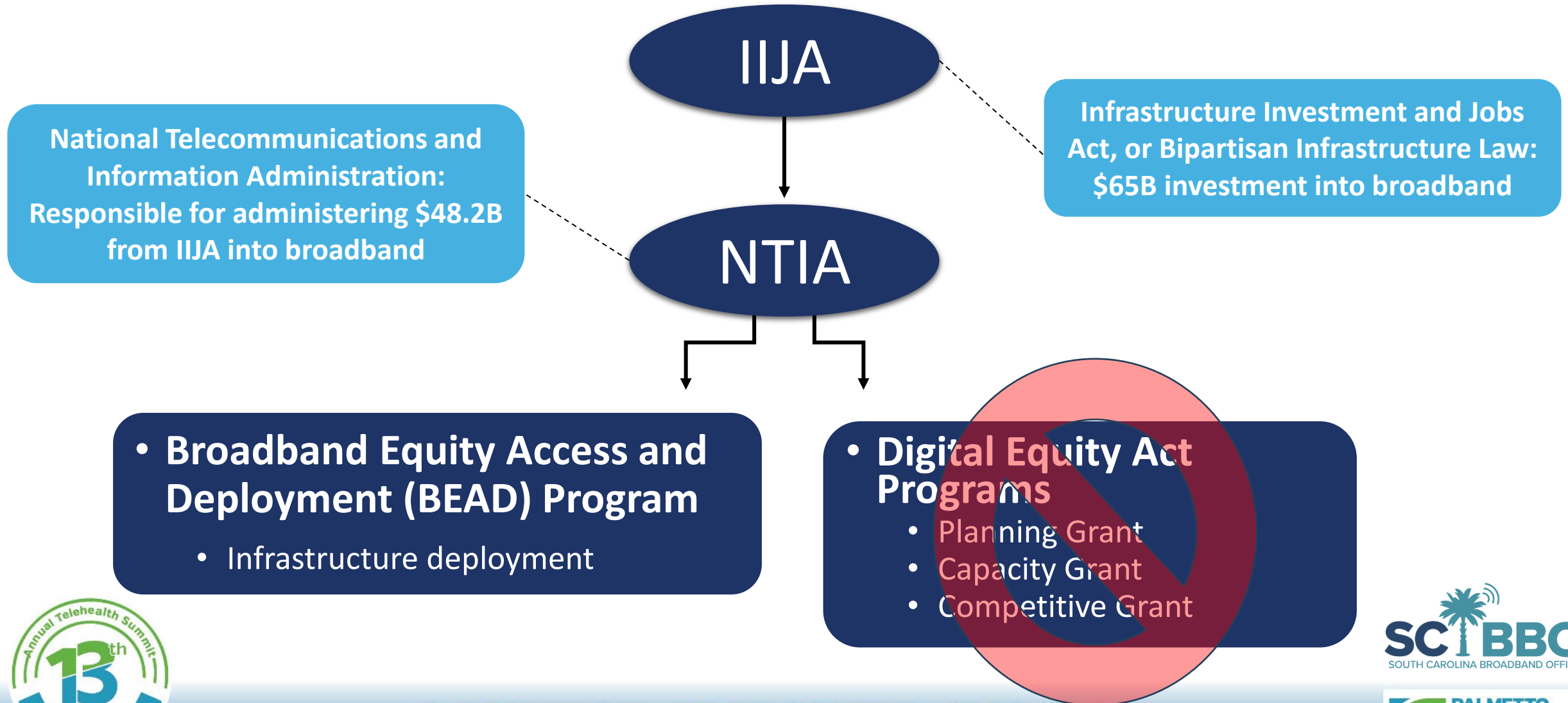
- If an address seems to have incorrect information or doesn't appear at all, consumers can file a dispute through the FCC's website
- Detailed instructions can be found at <https://help.bdc.fcc.gov/hc/en-us/articles/10475216120475-How-to-Submit-a-Location-Challenge>
- Reasons for challenging include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



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BroadbandUSA



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BEAD Preparation

- Early Summer 2025
 - SCBBO completed a BEAD Eligibility Clean-up phase to ensure location accuracy prior to determining BEAD eligible locations.
- Locational remaining entering BEAD:
 - 20,480 Residential
 - 341 Community Anchor Institutes
- In June, NTIA released updated guidance for BEAD
 - Main changes include adjusting eligibility to become more technology neutral and reducing additional requirements for ISPs.
 - Funding for allowable non-deployment purposes is under review and NTIA will issue updated guidance in the future
 - SCBBO restructured the program accordingly to prepare to open grant, you can review the letter explaining the changes on our website



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BEAD Rollout

- July 2025
 - July 7 – Application Submission Phase Opened
 - July 24 – Application Submission Phase Closed
- July – September 2025
 - Reviewing and gating applications
- September
 - Early September – worked with NTIA to satisfy Specific Award Conditions
 - Late September – Preliminary curing with ISPs was completed and the public comment period ended
 - September 30 – Final Proposal was submitted to NTIA with provisionally selected ISPs identified and is available on our website



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BEAD Next Steps

- Currently, SCBBO is undergoing curing with NTIA on the Final Proposal.
 - While SCBBO does curing, we continue to work through finalizing curing with the ISPs (Capital investment schedules, cyber security plans, supply chain risk management, etc.)
- After approval from NTIA, ISPs become officially conditionally accepted, SCBBO will work with ISPs to go through permitting processes (NEPA, Historic Preservation Act, etc.)
- Anticipate Final Proposal approval by the Q4 2025/Q1 2026, then will sign grant agreements with ISPs to begin work
 - All structures must be serviceable within 4 years of a signed grant agreement, but many providers are aiming to complete sooner



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For More Information:

- Visit our website: <https://ors.sc.gov/broadband>
- Look at the investment maps: <https://www.scdigitaldrive.org>
- Contact us with questions: broadband@ors.sc.gov



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