

TATT CHAT – MARCH 4, 2021



WELCOME

Terence Roberts, TATT Chairman

SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKERS

Tom Allen, Director of Safety, Transportation, and Emergency Response, South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff

Jim Stritzinger, Founder, President & CEO, Revolution D, Inc.

Shannon Sears, Director of Commercial Operations, West Carolina Tel

UPSTATE INITIATIVE UPDATE

Dean Hybl, Ten at the Top

COUNTY UPDATES

Abbeville | Stephen Taylor, Economic Development Director

Union | Taylor Atkinson, Union County Library Executive Director

ADJOURN

Terence Roberts

NEXT TATT CHAT – MARCH 18, 2021

Thank You!

Ten at the Top Leadership Level Partners



MADDREY FOUNDATION





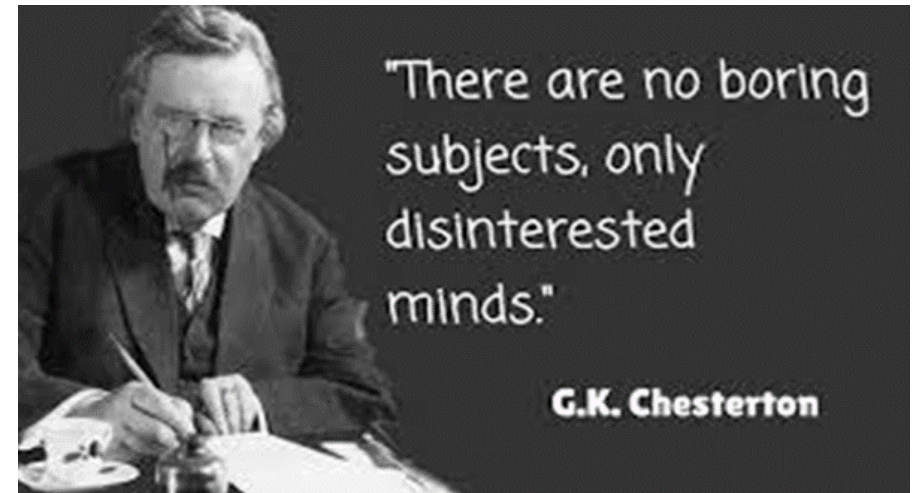
ORS

Broadband Update

TATT Chat | *March 4, 2021*

Purpose

- Provide an overview of ORS
- Discuss ORS role in Act 142 and future broadband projects
- Continue to build relationships
- Find out what you need from us



Agency Representative

Tom Allen, *Director of Safety, Transportation, & Telecommunications*

Oversight over rail and pipeline safety, transportation for hire, telecommunications, and emergency support function 12

tallen@ors.sc.gov

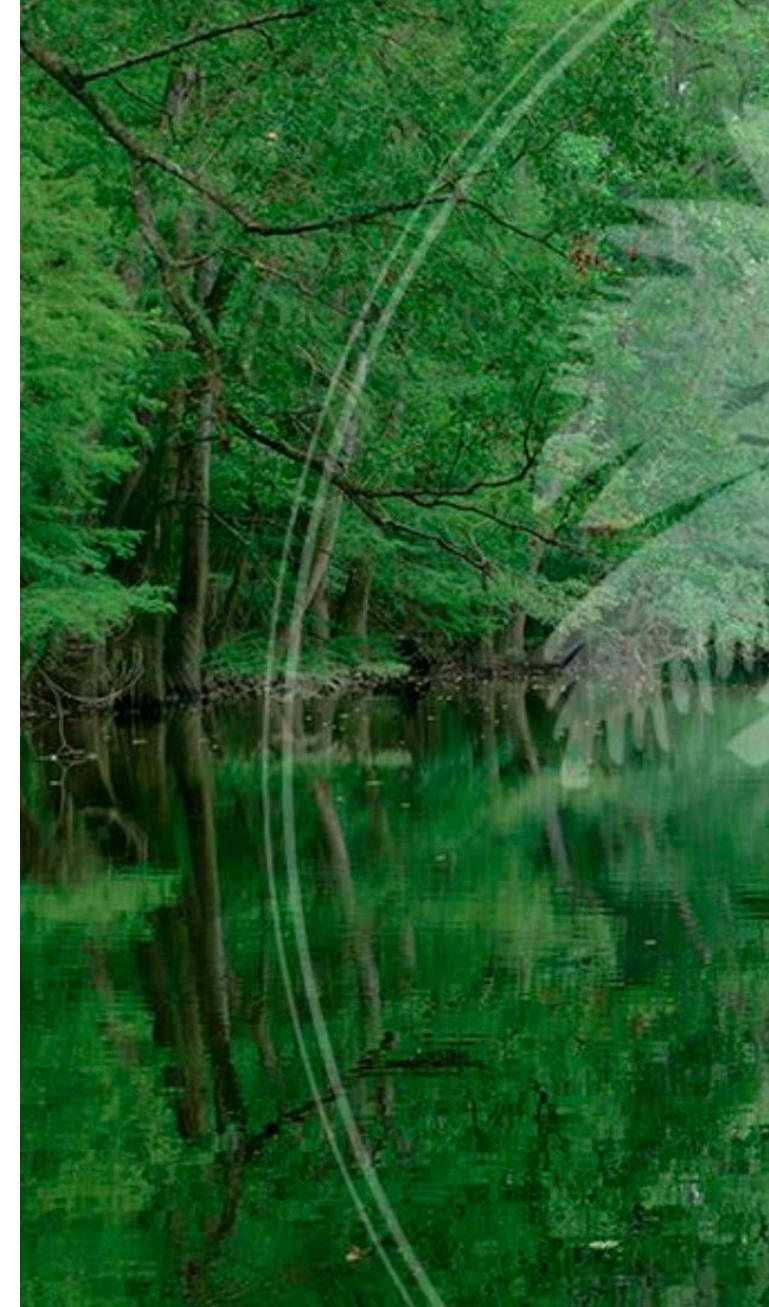
803-737-0974



About the ORS

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

The ORS represents consumers of investor-owned utilities in South Carolina before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (PSC). The PSC is the state agency that sets utilities' rates. The ORS must look at the impact to the consumer and utilities' continued investment in reliable and high-quality services.



Act 142

Act 142 allocated \$50 million of the Coronavirus Relief Fund for South Carolina included in the CARES Act to the South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff for broadband initiatives related to COVID-19.

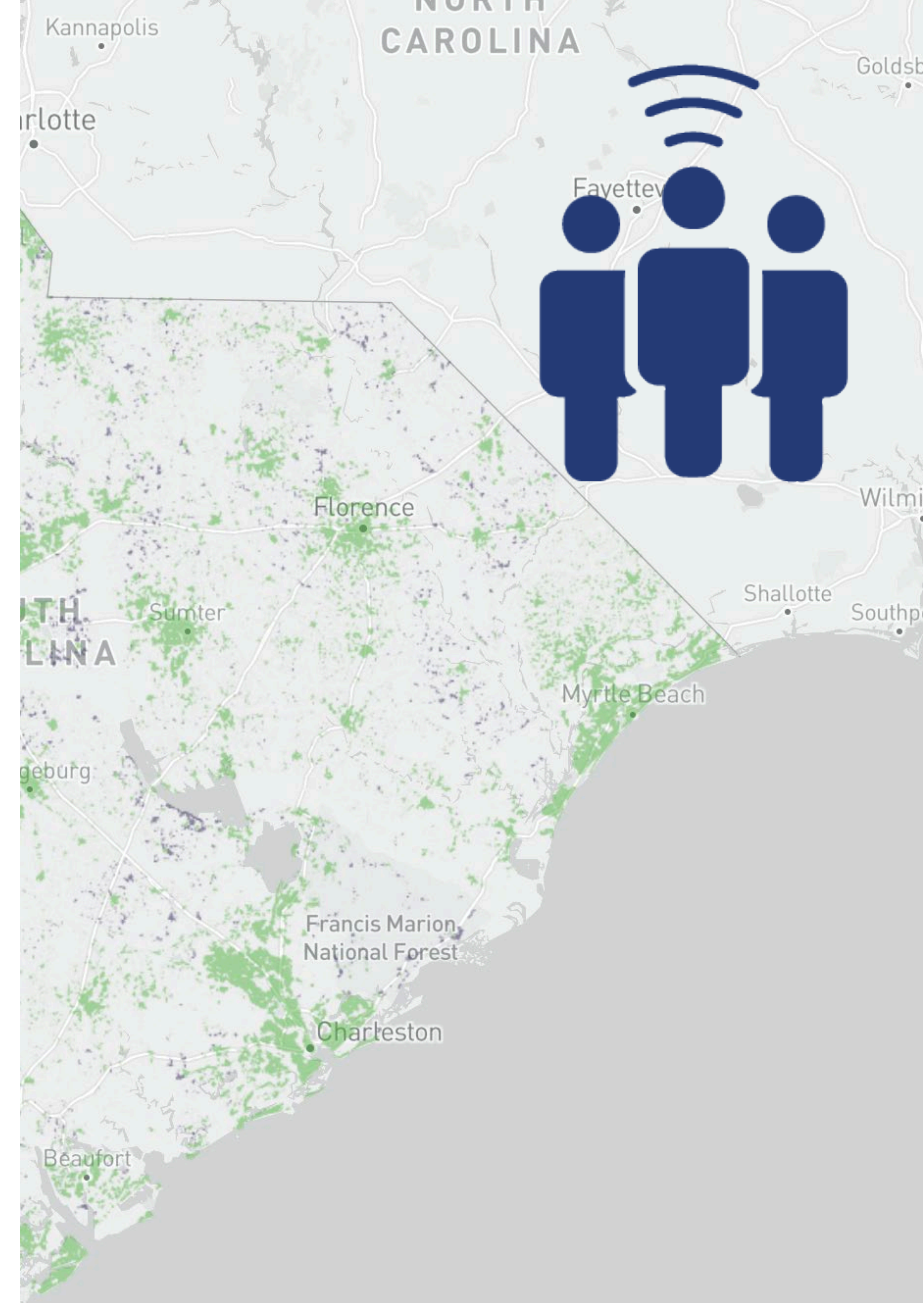


C.A.R.E.S. Act Funding Authorization

Hotspots and Monthly Service for Student Households	\$20,000,000
Mapping	\$300,000
Infrastructure	\$29,700,000
Total	\$ 50,000,000

Mapping

Secured a vendor for the development of a broadband statewide county-by-county mapping plan and statewide broadband infrastructure plan



Mapping

- Vendor: CostQuest Associates, Inc.
- Two surveys (retail and wholesale) went out to providers along with letters of support from leadership
- Maps completed and posted on December 18, 2020
- Continue to refine the maps in cooperation with the providers



Mapping

Allocation: \$300,000

Total Funds to Vendor: \$299,900

Total Funds to RFA: \$120,000

Total Funds Expended: \$419,900



Online Learning Initiative

- Procuring mobile hotspots and monthly internet service for qualifying student households through December 30, 2020
- Program transferred to SC Department of Education on December 30, 2020



ONLINE LEARNING
Initiative

Online Learning Initiative

- 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



Online Learning Initiative

- MOU
- Order Forms
- Monthly Reporting
- Communications Materials
 - [Press Release](#)
 - [Program Overview](#)
 - [Tutorials](#)



ONLINE LEARNING
Initiative

Online Learning Initiative

Statistics

Number of Participants

Public K-12	82
Private K-12	4
Charter	3
Higher Ed Institutions	26
	<hr/>
	115

Number of Hotspots / Wired Services Ordered

Verizon	60,059
AT&T	24,477
T-Mobile	1,377
Service Only	390
Wired	6,181
	<hr/>
	92,484



ONLINE LEARNING
Initiative

Online Learning Initiative

Allocation: \$20,000,000

Total Funds Expended: \$12,265,071

Funds Transferred to DOE: \$8,200,00



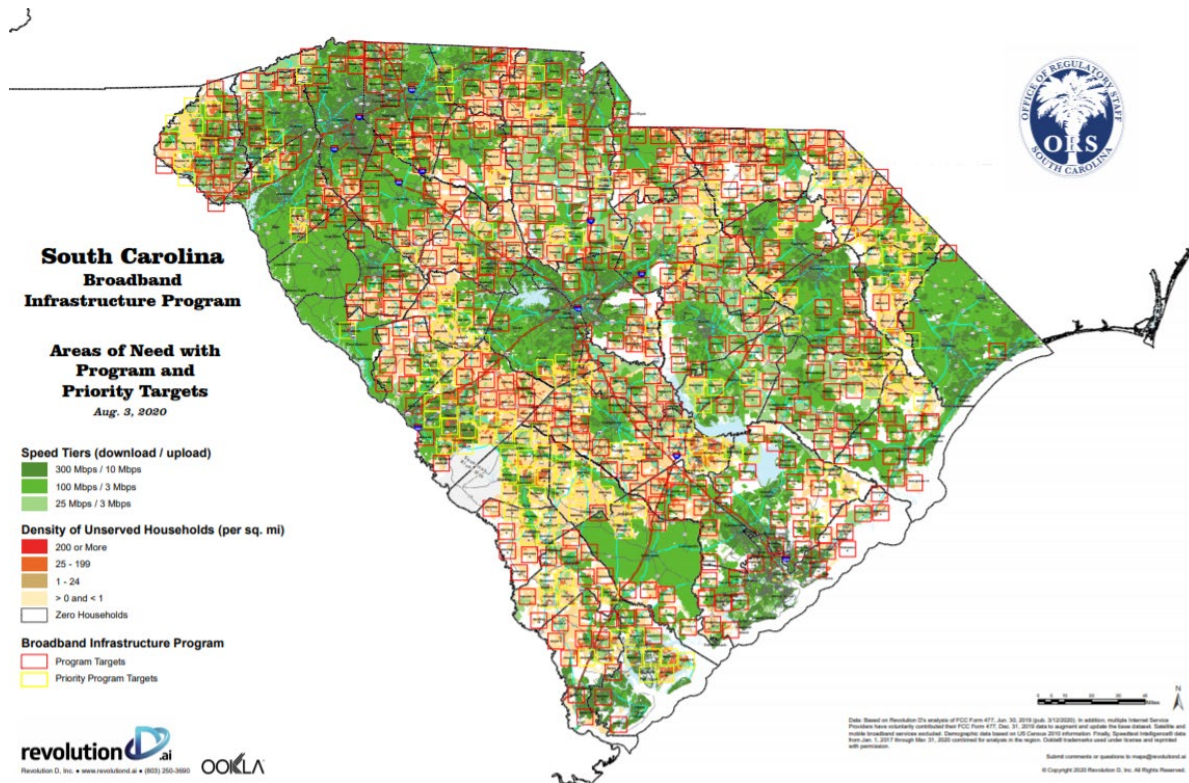
Broadband Infrastructure Program

Expansion of broadband infrastructure with emphasized services to rural communities and communities with a high prevalence of COVID-19 or with demographic characteristics consistent with risk factors for COVID-19



Broadband Infrastructure Program

RevolutionD mapping identified unserved areas for infrastructure deployment



Broadband Infrastructure Program

Created:

1. [Overview](#)
2. [Press Release](#)
3. [Application](#)
4. [Guidelines](#)
5. Funding Agreement
6. Reporting
 - Financial Progress Report
 - Construction Progress Report



Broadband Infrastructure Program

Event	Date/Deadline
Areas of Need published on ORS website	08/05/2020
Application Period Opens	08/05/2020
Challenge Period Opens	08/05/2020
Challenge Period Closes	08/12/2020
Application Period Closes	08/14/2020
Submitted Applications posted on ORS website	08/18/2020
Construction Progress Report Due	09/15/2020
Financial Progress Report Due	10/01/2020
Construction Progress Report Due	10/15/2020
Financial Progress Report Due	11/01/2020
Construction Progress Report Due	11/15/2020
Financial Progress Report Due	12/01/2020
Final Reporting Due	12/19/2020

Broadband Infrastructure Program

Applications Funded	78
Companies	14
Counties Served	27
Program Targets	59
Priority Targets	35
Homes and Businesses Passed	19,574
Total Funds Expended	\$17,157,488

Funding of these applications is subject to the completion of a funding agreement with the ORS and the evaluation of any duplication of infrastructure. More information can be found on the ORS website at ORS.SC.GOV/Broadband.

Broadband Infrastructure Program

Allocation: \$29,700,000

Planning: \$6,000

Total Funds Committed: \$25,572,967

Funds Expended: \$17,157,488



Rural Broadband Grant Program 2021

- Allocation of \$30,000,000 for a competitive grant program to expand broadband availability and access in South Carolina.
- The ORS and South Carolina Department of Commerce jointly developing guidelines
- Only certain counties will be eligible
- Applicant will be required to provide a 1:1 match of nonpublic funds



Rural Broadband Grant Program 2021

Event	Date/Deadline
Areas of Need Published on the ORS Website	3/15/21
Application Period Opens	4/1/21
Challenge Period Opens	4/15/21
Challenge Period Closes	5/14/21
Application Period Closes	5/14/21
Submitted Applications Posted on the ORS Website	5/18/21
Comments Due on Submitted Applications	6/1/21
Funding Agreements Sent to the Companies	6/18/21
Funding Agreements Returned to the ORS	6/30/21
Notices to Proceed Issued	7/15/21
3rd Q 2021 Financial and Construction Progress Report Due	10/15/21
4th Q 2021 Financial and Construction Progress Report Due	1/14/22
1st Q 2022 Financial and Construction Progress Report Due	4/15/22
2nd Q 2022 Financial and Construction Progress Report Due	7/15/22
3rd Q 2022 Financial and Construction Progress Report Due	10/14/22
Project Completion	10/31/22
Final Reporting Due	1/15/23



Wrap Up



- COVID-19 has amplified the need for broadband/internet access
- Millions of Americans are at an extreme disadvantage caused by limited broadband/internet access in their communities
- The shutdown of schools and businesses has magnified how dependent we have become on a reliable internet connection as part of our daily routine
- The focus has been on education because of school closings, but businesses can succeed with work-from-home plans only if their employees have high-speed broadband/internet access as well.

Tom Allen

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Nanette S. Edwards

Executive Director
South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff
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The Next, Next Greatest Thing

Rural Broadband

Jim Stritzinger, President & CEO

Revolution D, Inc.

jstritzinger@revolutiond.ai

Main: (803) 250-3690

Desk: (803) 792-9112

Cell: (843) 290-4149

Mar. 2021

revolution  .ai

THE NEXT GREATEST THING



50 Years of Rural Electrification
In America

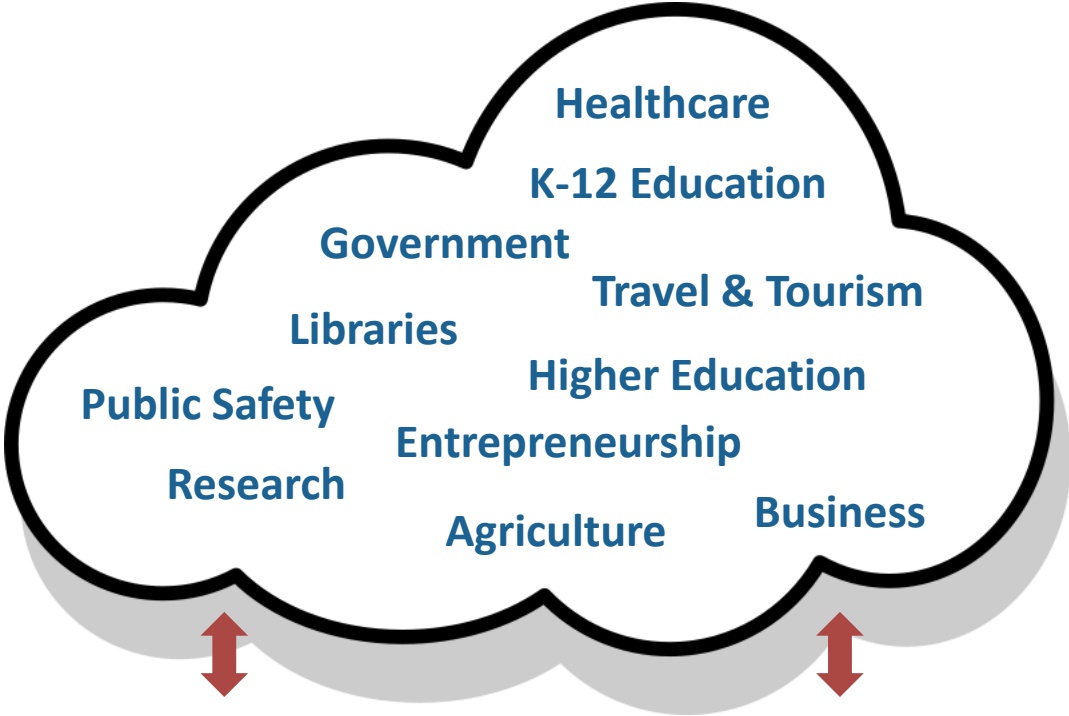
*“Brothers and sisters,
I want to tell you this.
The greatest thing on earth
is to have the love of God in your
heart, and the next greatest thing
is to have electricity
in your house.”*

Farmer giving witness in a rural
Tennessee church in the early 1940s

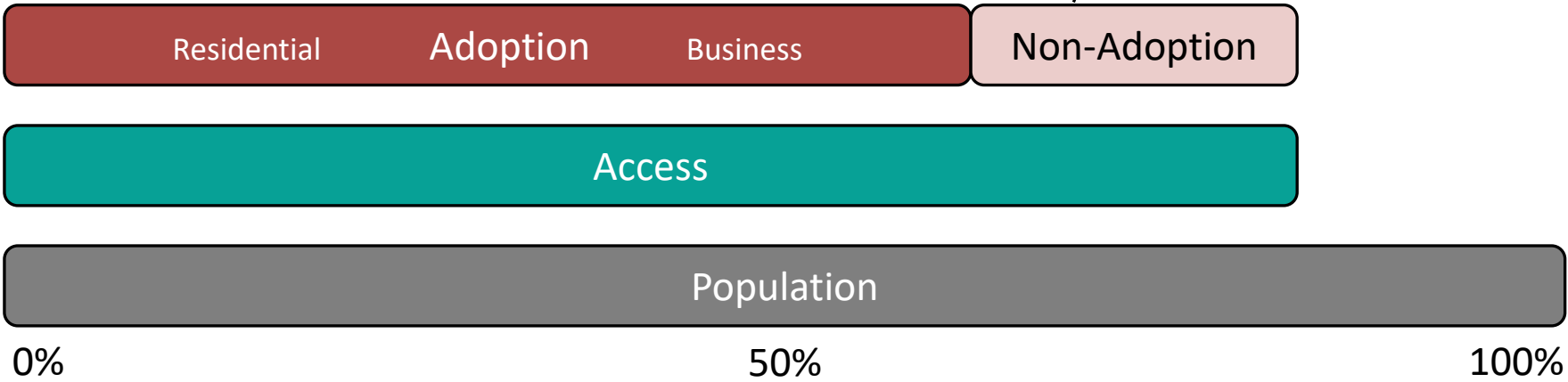
Use:
Skills and applications to leverage technology to improve quality of life and community/economic development

Adoption:
Recognizing the value in broadband and subscribing either at home, work, or via public institutions

Access:
The physical connection to high-speed infrastructure



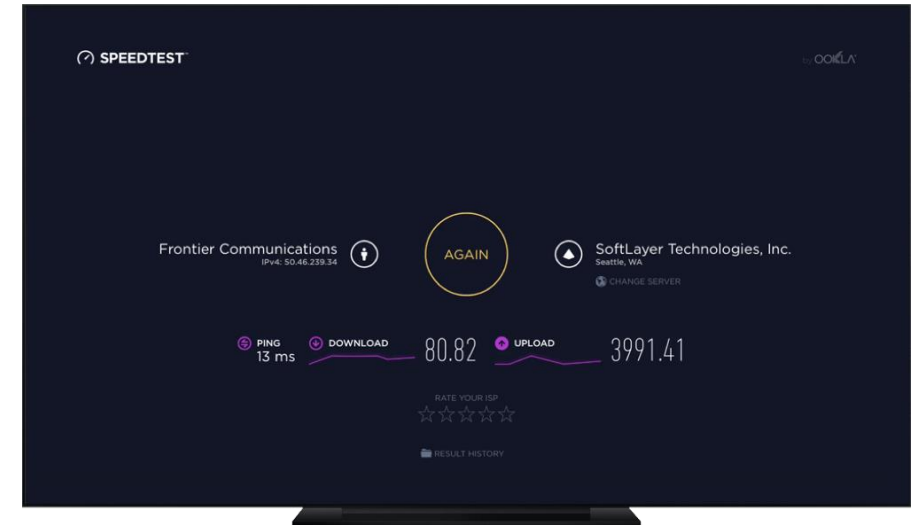
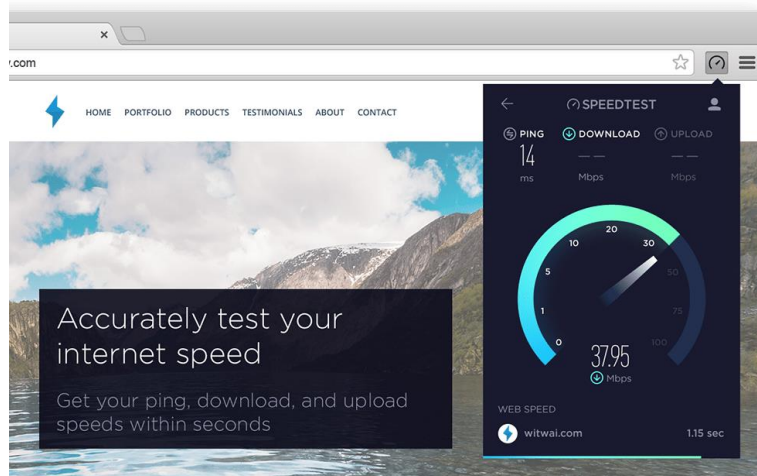
Digital Inclusion programs are required for motivation, especially when K-12 students are still living at home.



FCC Internet Benchmarks

Date Adopted	Minimum Download	Minimum Upload	FCC Commissioner
2015	25 Mbps	3 Mbps	Tom Wheeler, D
2010	4 Mbps	1 Mbps	Julius Genachowski, D
1996	200 Kbps	200 Kbps	William Kennard, D

Ookla's mission is to make the internet better, faster and more accessible for everyone



iOS

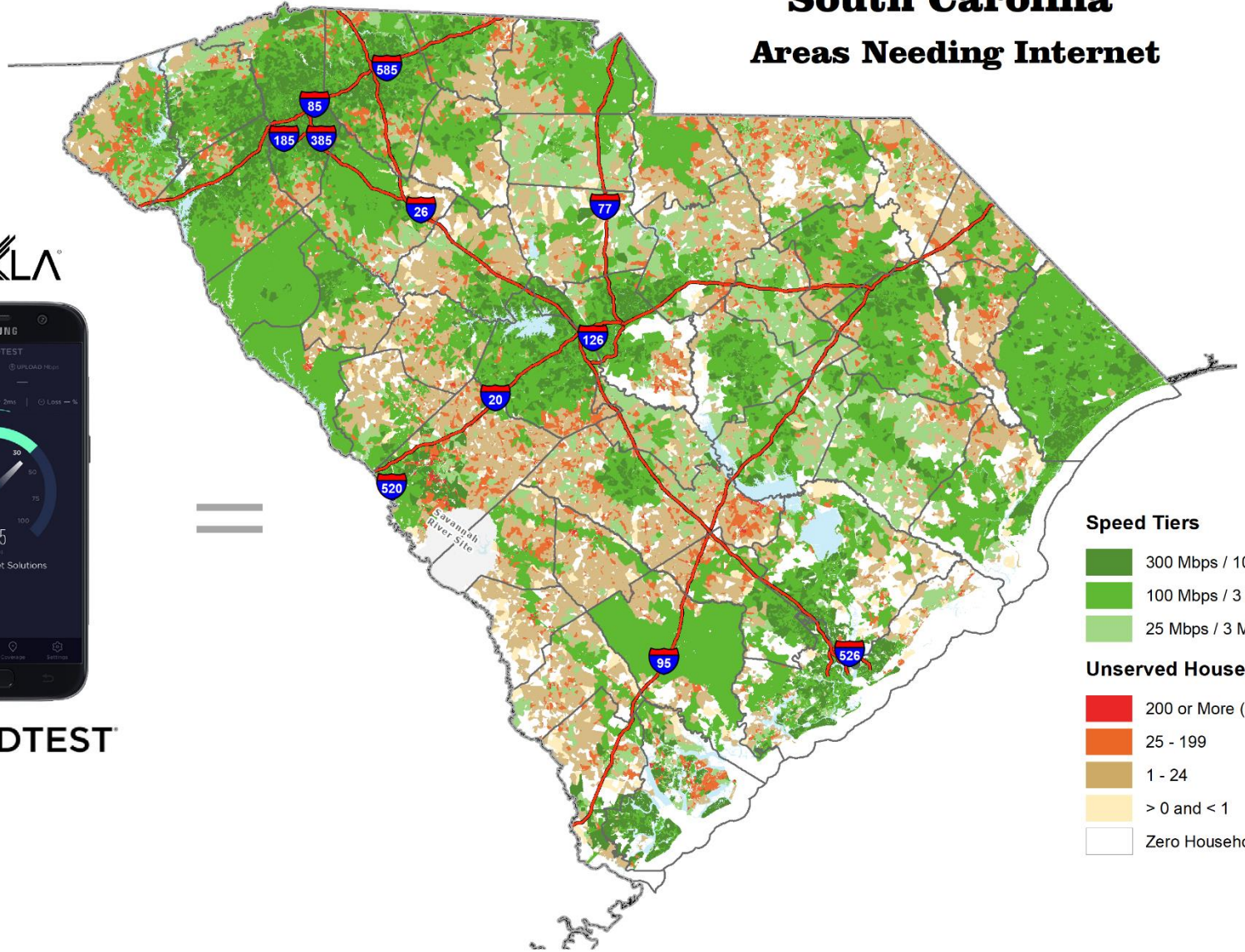


Speedtest is available for:
Web, Android, iOS, macOS, Windows, AppleTV, Chrome

**South Carolina
Areas Needing Internet**



SPEEDTEST



Speed Tiers

- 300 Mbps / 10 Mbps
- 100 Mbps / 3 Mbps
- 25 Mbps / 3 Mbps

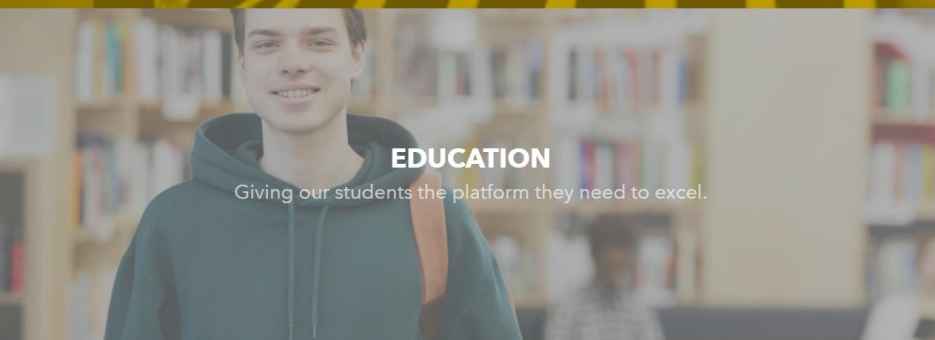
Unserved Households

- 200 or More (per sq. mi.)
- 25 - 199
- 1 - 24
- > 0 and < 1
- Zero Households

INTERNET FOR ALL

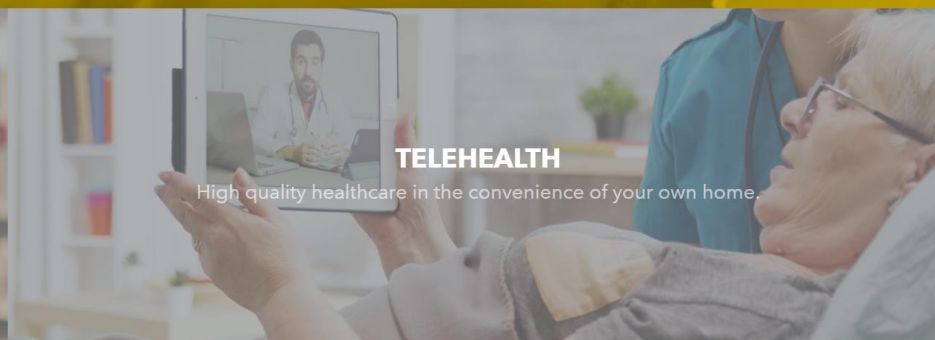
Dedicated to ensuring that every home has access to the Internet by 2025.

www.scdigitaldrive.com



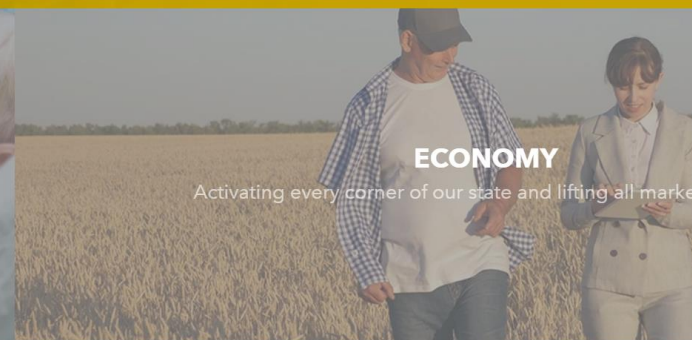
EDUCATION

Giving our students the platform they need to excel.



TELEHEALTH

High quality healthcare in the convenience of your own home.



ECONOMY

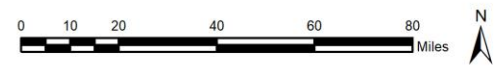
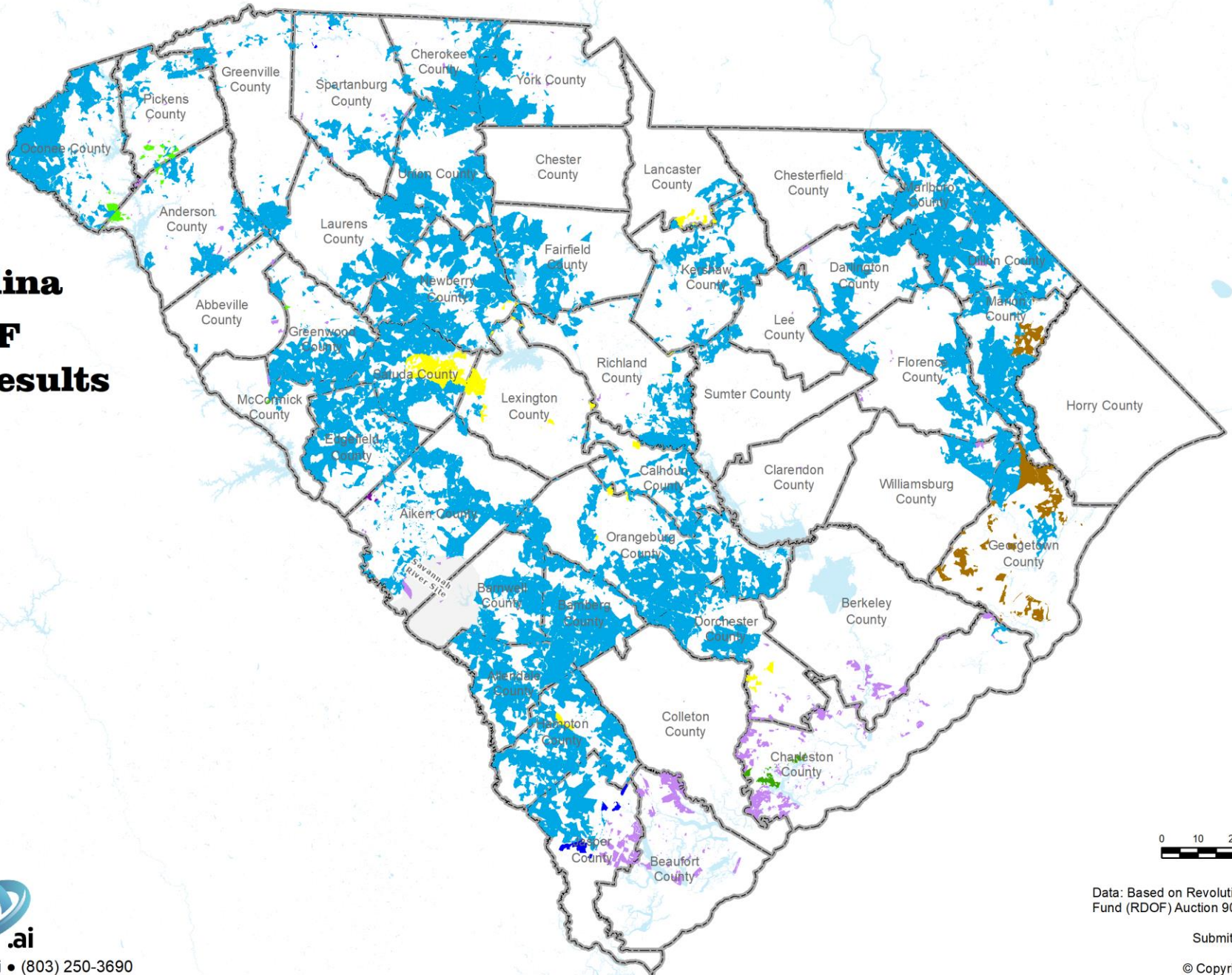
Activating every corner of our state and lifting all markets.

SOUTH CAROLINA OVERVIEW

High quality slides that you can use for your next presentation.

South Carolina FCC RDOF Auction 904 Results *Dec. 7, 2020*

- Legend**
- Charter Communications
 - SpaceX
 - Horry Telephone Coop
 - Rural Electric Coop Consortium
 - WestCarolina Tel
 - Palmetto Rural Telephone Coop
 - Windstream
 - National Rural Telephone Coop
 - Sandhill Telephone Coop



Data: Based on Revolution D's analysis of FCC Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF) Auction 904 Results (pub. 12/7/2020).

Submit comments or questions to maps@revolutiond.ai

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USDA ReConnect Investment

\$36.4M USDA Investment
\$52.7M Overall Investment

21,794 Households
56,445 Residents

SC Round 1 Funding Commitments (\$600M nationally):

- **Orangeburg County (10/22/19)**
USDA Invests \$9.75 Million in Rural Broadband for South Carolina Families
- **Berkeley/Charleston Counties (12/9/19)**
USDA Invests \$8.1 Million in Rural Broadband for South Carolina Families
- **Kershaw County (2/25/20)**
USDA Invests \$9.1 Million in Rural Broadband for South Carolina Families

SC Round 2 Funding Commitments (\$550M nationally):

- **Oconee County (9/17/20)**
USDA Invests \$7.5M in Rural Broadband for South Carolina Families
- **Lancaster/Chester Counties (1/8/21)**
USDA Invests \$16M in High-Speed Broadband in Rural Illinois, Oregon and South Carolina (\$1.6M)

Round 2 Announcement (Grants submitted by April 15, 2020, 5 remaining SC applicants under review):

USDA to Make \$550 Million in Funding Available in 2020 to Deploy High-Speed Broadband Internet Infrastructure in Rural America

Session 1

Understanding Internet Infrastructure

Session 2

Eliminating Gaps in K-12 Education

Session 3

Identifying Healthcare Opportunities



Broadband Community Champion Training Program

3 x 2hr Zoom Sessions over 3 Weeks