Source	Purpose	Total	Expended	Available
	to the internet backbone. The State participated in this program but was unsuccessful in receiving funds.			
NTIA – Broadband Infrastructure Program	The NTIA announced the availability of $288m in grant funding for the deployment of broadband infrastructure. Grants will be awarded to partnerships between a state, or political subdivisions of a state, and providers of fixed broadband service. South Carolina was not a recipient of these funds.	$0	$0	$0
IIJA – Internet for All Planning Grant	Preparing BEAD and DEA plans for the deployment and adoption of affordable, equitable and reliable high-speed internet service throughout the state.	$5,953,479 $5,000,000 BEAD $953,479 DEA	Fully committed to contractors and ORS internal staff	$0
Total Funding Available				**$247,314,269**

3.2 Partnerships

Partnership, coordination, and engagement across all sectors of government, academic institutions, nonprofits, and private industry are vital to connecting residents and businesses to affordable, reliable broadband. The SCBBO has leveraged many important partnerships with various organizations throughout the state to achieve the goals outlined in Section 2.2, *Goals and Objectives*, by conducting relevant activities and programs.

Table 6 describes such partnerships and the role these partners play in broadband deployment and adoption in the state.

Table 6: Partners

Partnerships*	Description of Current or Planned Role in Broadband Deployment and Adoption
State and Local Government	
SC Department of Social Services (DSS)	Through its Division of Economic Services, DSS administers economic assistance programs, including the federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program, which provides employment and training for people receiving cash assistance, and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). SCBBO partners with DSS to gain data regarding social service program recipients eligible for the FCC's ACP.

Partnerships*	Description of Current or Planned Role in Broadband Deployment and Adoption
SC Department of Transportation (SCDOT)	The SCDOT supports permitting and coordination on construction, particularly with "Star" initiatives. The SCBBO has worked with the SCDOT to develop a utility right-of-way guidance document that evaluated permitting workflows to enable a more seamless integration of broadband infrastructure along state-owned roadway easements. The SCBBO plans to continue coordinating with the SCDOT and other entities, such as the Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC), to ensure a streamlined and compliant permitting process for future broadband projects.
SC Office of Resilience	SCBBO plans to partner and coordinate with the Office of Resilience, which oversees federal funds provided for damage due to natural disasters. The Office plans to leverage the Office of Resilience's flood vulnerability modeling and other resources to support long-term planning, including the resiliency planning efforts required as part of the Initial and Final Proposal.
SC Emergency Management Division	SCBBO plans to partner with the Emergency Management Division, which manages recovery and response efforts, to support resilient broadband expansion and planning.
SC Department of Education (SCDE)*	The SCDE supports initiatives expanding broadband access and adoption for students in the state. The SCDE collaborates with SCBBO by sharing data on schools and households with K–12 students, ensuring broadband expansion efforts and programs reach students who rely on access to broadband. The SCCBO will work with the SCDE to identify opportunities to pair BEAD dollars with the FCC's E-Rate dollars to strengthen broadband options for schools across the state.
SC Department of Commerce (SCDOC)*	The SCDOC promotes economic development, workforce development and SC attractiveness to industry. As part of those efforts, the SCDOC supports the development of a ubiquitous highly reliable world-class communications network designed and engineered to meet the requirements of industry for wireless high-speed internet access and voice service. This is best exemplified by SCDOC's collaboration with SCBBO in deploying grants under the RBGP.
SC Rural Infrastructure Authority (RIA)	The RIA assists communities with financing for qualified infrastructure projects for water and wastewater systems as well as storm water drainage facilities. RIA was initially offered grants for projects in rural and distressed counties, but the programs have expanded to make grant and loan assistance available statewide. RIA will oversee ARPA SLFRF funds ($1.3b) and will be a key partner with the SCBBO. In particular, the offices will work together in identifying "dig-once" opportunities for broadband deployment.
Commission for Minority Affairs (CMA)	CMA provides constructive solutions and approaches to support the policy and socioeconomic development of ethnic minority communities in SC through activities such as community engagement and awareness; collecting data; and acting as a liaison between communities, government agencies and other organizations. CMA serves as the single point-of-contact for tribal broadband issues. CMA supported survey development, distribution, and collection, as well as asset mapping activities.

Partnerships*	Description of Current or Planned Role in Broadband Deployment and Adoption
SC Department on Aging (SCDOA)	SCDOA focuses on enhancing the quality of life for seniors in South Carolina. The SCDOA works with a network of regional and local organizations to develop and manage services that help seniors remain independent in their homes and in their communities, which includes facilitating access to broadband and broadband-enabled services like telehealth. To achieve this, the SCDOA partners with community-based organizations and CAIs from healthcare providers to hospitals.
Santee Cooper*	Santee Cooper, the state-owned electric and water utility, has developed a broadband program in accordance with the Broadband Accessibility Act that will enable broadband providers to improve statewide accessibility quicker and cheaper. As one example, on April 26, 2021, the Santee Cooper Board of Directors approved rates and terms that allow broadband providers to build out retail service to unserved areas of South Carolina by accessing Santee Cooper's transmission infrastructure and 1,200 miles of excess fiber. The program began the following month, when the new rates for transmission pole attachments and the leasing of excess dark fiber went into effect.
SC State Library System*	The South Carolina State Library System is the primary administrator of federal and state support for the state's libraries. Many libraries throughout SC support access to broadband as well as adoption and use through digital literacy resources. For example, students rely on their SC public libraries to keep them connected while attending virtual classes. SC libraries provide technological resources, including Wi-Fi, laptops, and Chromebooks, to keep students connected. SC libraries also use Wi-Fi extenders to share their Wi-Fi in more public spaces, like parks and community centers.
	During the height of the pandemic, many libraries in South Carolina expanded broadband access by extending Wi-Fi. Library parking lots were often full of families, students and workers logging on to use the free internet available. Examples include Florence Library, which had two SmartBus hotspots parked in public spots to provide internet access. Marlboro, Colleton, Chester, Berkeley, and Dillon Libraries used bookmobiles as roving hotspots, visiting housing sites and rural locations.
	Many libraries check out hotspots to help bridge the digital divide. Additional examples include Union Library, which has partnered with the Union County Detention Center to expand Wi-Fi reach, and Richland Library, which placed Wi-Fi devices in all of the Columbia Housing Authority areas.
South Carolina Department of Agriculture (SCDA)	SCDA will support SCBBO's ability to understand broadband needs related to the SC agriculture ecosystem and farming communities.
	According to the American Farm Bureau Federation, access to broadband is essential for farmers and ranchers for accessing commodity markets, communicating with their customers, gaining access to new markets around the world and increasingly for regulatory compliance.
	SCDA and SCBBO will work to support economic development related to precision agriculture and practices supported by access to broadband.
SC Housing Authority (SCHA)	SCBBO plans to partner with SCHA on targeting and expanding broadband coverage in MDUs throughout the state.

Partnerships*	Description of Current or Planned Role in Broadband Deployment and Adoption
SC Department of Veteran Affairs (SCVA)	The SCVA works with SCBBO to improve broadband access and skills for veterans. SCVA supported survey distribution and collection.
SC Department of Employment and Workforce (DEW), Office of Statewide Workforce Development (OSWD)	DEW's mission is to promote and support an effective, customer-driven workforce system that facilitates financial stability and economic prosperity for employers, individuals and communities. The agency's primary goal is to match jobseekers with employers quickly, efficiently, and effectively, and offers a variety of services to assist both groups. As of June 2023, under the Statewide Education and Workforce Development Law, DEW is responsible for the Coordinating Council for Workforce Development (CCWD) and the Regional Workforce Advisors (RWAs), two initiatives formerly with the S.C. Department of Commerce. CCWD duties include engaging in discussions, collaboration, and information sharing concerning the ability of the State to prepare and train workers to meet current and future workforce needs. RWA duties include coordinating and facilitating the delivery of information, resources, and services to students, educators, employers, and the community regarding opportunities available to students in industries and businesses across the State. Additionally, the law creates the Office of Statewide Workforce Development (OSWD) within DEW that will provide management and oversight for these new functions of the agency. These new responsibilities allow the agency to improve accountability, broaden its efforts in addressing obstacles unique to rural areas, and enhance responsiveness to industry needs. In partnership with DEW and OSWD, SCBBO will work to implement workforce development programs and initiatives strengthening the positive economic impact of BEAD funding and broadband expansion across the State.
SC Department of Public Safety (SCDPS)	SCDPS includes Highway Patrol, State Transport Police, Bureau of Protective Services, and Office of Highway Safety and Justice Programs. SCBBO plans to work with SCDPS to expand broadband to connect emergency services providers and to help target broadband along emergency corridors and facilities.
Colleges, Universities and School Systems	
Allen University	Allen University is an HBCU and supported SCBBO with survey distribution and collection.
Benedict College	Benedict College is an HBCU recipient of NTIA Connecting Minority Communities grant funding for the purchase of broadband internet access and eligible equipment or to hire and train IT personnel. Benedict College supported SCBBO with survey distribution and collection.
Claflin University	Claflin University is an HBCU recipient of NTIA Connecting Minority Communities grant funding for the purchase of broadband internet access and eligible equipment or to hire and train IT personnel. Claflin University supported SCBBO with survey distribution and collection.
Clemson University*	Clemson supported CBBO with asset mapping as well as survey distribution and collection.

Partnerships*	Description of Current or Planned Role in Broadband Deployment and Adoption
Clinton College	Clinton College is an HBCU and supported SCBBO with survey distribution and collection.
Denmark Technical College	Denmark Technical College is an HBCU and supported SCBBO with survey distribution and collection.
Morris College	Morris College is an HBCU and supported SCBBO with survey distribution and collection.
The Medical University of South Carolina Medical Center (MUSC)	MUSC is a health sciences university comprising four hospitals and a National Cancer Institute-designated cancer center. It is home to South Carolina's only solid organ transplant center, as well as one of only two National Telehealth Centers of Excellence. As a patient care provider throughout South Carolina, its reach and increasing reliance on patients with reliable high-speed broadband aligns MUSC with SCBBO's broadband expansion goals. MUSC supported SCBBO with broadband survey distribution and collection.
South Carolina State University	SC State University is an HBCU and supported SCBBO with survey distribution and collection.
SC Technical College System	The SC Technical College System consists of 16 technical colleges offering industry-specific training and education to more than a quarter million South Carolinians each year. ReadySC is a division of the SC Technical College System with a mission to promote economic development in South Carolina by providing customized recruiting and training solutions to companies bringing new jobs to the state through relocation or expansion. SCBBO works with ReadySC in advancing broadband-related workforce development efforts. Apprenticeship Carolina is a division of the SC Technical College System that works to ensure all employers in South Carolina have access to the information and technical assistance they need to create demand-driven registered apprenticeship programs, including in IT and other sectors that require digital skills. The SCBBO will work with the Apprenticeship Carolina program to help expand offerings related to the broadband sector to help ensure that South Carolina citizens have opportunities to gain the skills needed to explore a career in this industry.
University of South Carolina (USC)*	USC supported survey development, distribution, collection, and data analysis. In addition, the SCBBO worked with USC to host career fairs and serve as an intermediary between students looking to gain experience in the broadband sector through internships and jobs.
Voorhees College	Voorhees College is an HBCU and supported SCBBO with survey distribution and collection.

Partnerships*	Description of Current or Planned Role in Broadband Deployment and Adoption
Nonprofits, Associations and Other Organizations	
SC Association of Counties (SCAC)*	SCAC is the only statewide organization representing county government in South Carolina and works to empower county officials through advocacy, education and collaboration. SCAC supported SCBBO with survey distribution and collection.
TogetherSC*	TogetherSC serves the thousands of South Carolinians dedicated to community service, leadership, and caring through nonprofit and philanthropic organizations. It comprises 700+ member organizations.
	TogetherSC is a broadband expansion advocate that convenes and aligns community leaders in support of broadband expansion. On March 15, 2023, TogetherSC joined with the SCBBO to host a conference with community members and nonprofits that are working to aid communities with broadband adoption. The event supported broadband survey distribution and knowledge sharing with residents regarding broadband expansion programs.
Councils of Governments (COGs)	SC COGs are a network of 10 councils working to positively influence quality of life and economic development in South Carolina, including increasing access to broadband. They supported distribution of broadband surveys and act as key coordinators of broadband resources, advocacy and programs in communities throughout the state.
	COGs are partnerships of – and provide resources to – the local counties, cities and towns in their regions. In addition to local and regional partnerships, COGs partner with numerous federal and state agencies, obtaining and administering grants for a variety of community-based programs and economic development initiatives.
	COGs' focus on workforce development, economic development, transportation planning and other government services will provide connection across state and local activities where broadband deployment and digital inclusion are core components.
Municipal Association of SC (MASC)*	MASC represents and serves the state's 271 incorporated municipalities and is dedicated to empowering municipal officials with the knowledge, experience and tools to enable the most efficient and effective operation of their municipalities. For example, MASC advocated for a law to enable cities and towns to not only lay but also to light the fiber to expand broadband service.
Palmetto Care Connections (PCC)*	PCC is a telehealth network that assists healthcare providers in connecting rural and underserved South Carolinians to quality services through broadband, technology, and telehealth programs.
	PCC helps healthcare providers receive broadband savings through the FCC's Healthcare Connect Fund Program by assisting them with the internet service provider bidding process and filing the appropriate information, invoices and supporting documentation to the USAC.
SC Institutes of Innovation and Information (SCIII)	SCIII is a nonprofit that provides resources and support for the Institutes of Innovation and Information established at South Carolina's eight HBCUs.
	SCIII supported SCBBO with survey distribution and collection.

Partnerships*	Description of Current or Planned Role in Broadband Deployment and Adoption
SC Cable Television Association (SCCTA)*	SCCTA was formed in 1997 to support educational opportunities in communications and communication technology. SCCTA's membership comprises South Carolina's major cable companies, including Time Warner Cable, Charter Communications, Comcast Cable Communications and Atlantic Broadband, which collectively serve over 1m cable households in the state. The SCCTA foundation has sponsored seminars and forums that bring together leaders in education and technology to advance the use of technology in education. With ISPs as members, the SCCTA supports broadband expansion initiatives throughout the state and can provide direct support to SCBBO broadband data and programming activities.
SC Association for Community Economic Development (SCACED)*	SCACED is a coalition of individuals and organizations that support the development of healthy and economically sustainable communities throughout South Carolina. The members work collaboratively to create economic opportunity for all SC residents, with many efforts focused on minority communities and other groups that have been left out of the economic mainstream. SCACED will support broadband expansion efforts by providing advocacy and specific assistance with digital equity and inclusion activities.
SC Council on Competitiveness*	The SC Council on Competitiveness manages multiple industry clusters in South Carolina, including tech, cybersecurity, aerospace, and other broadband-enabled industries. Clusters are economic ecosystems of linked industries and other entities important to competition, like suppliers of components, machinery, and services. The Council's priorities are to 1) provide actionable research, 2) support industry clusters, and 3) provide education and workforce development. The Council works in developing science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education and workforce pipelines to strengthen South Carolina's economic competitiveness. This work also supports SCBBO's economic and workforce development strategy and planning.
Electric Cooperatives of SC (ECSC)*	ECSC is the statewide service and trade association for electric cooperatives. The consumer-owned electric cooperatives operate the largest electric distribution system in the state, serving more than 1.5m South Carolinians. ECSC actively supports broadband expansion initiatives and activities through advocacy and deployment. Several cooperatives string fiber optic cable for high-speed services, connecting electricity substations and control rooms to provide real-time communications, which helps to improve the electricity delivery system. Some electric cooperatives have internet businesses, while others have partnered with ISPs to deliver broadband service. The cooperatives provide electricity to many rural areas, and the existing power poles in those areas can also hold the fiber optic cable. Examples: • Central Electric Power Cooperative, Inc. (Central) owns over 800 miles of electric transmission lines in the state. Pursuant to the South Carolina Broadband Accessibility Act, Central is authorized to lease its excess fiber and license certain facilities, including its transmission poles, to communications service providers

Partnerships*	Description of Current or Planned Role in Broadband Deployment and Adoption
	for the purpose of facilitating the provision of retail broadband services. Central is not a retail broadband provider. Rather, Central has been developing a broadband program in accordance with the Act that will enable broadband providers to improve statewide accessibility quicker and cheaper. • In 2021, Aiken Electric announced a three-year broadband work plan to install 350 miles of 288-strand fiber optic cable to connect its four offices, 27 substations and all down-line devices. Through the partnership with the ISP CarolinaConnect, Aiken Electric will bring affordable high-speed internet to the unserved and underserved in its service territory.
South Carolina Telecommunications and Broadband Association (SCTBA)*	SCTBA is an association of telecommunications companies helping connect SC regions, such as the Lowcountry, Upstate and Midlands. Founded in 1934, the purpose of the organization is to pursue statewide strategies that encourage the deployment of technologies that will enable SCTBA members to be the best providers of telecommunication and broadband products and services to South Carolina. Each month the SCTBA hosts conferences and educational seminars to help prepare small businesses for success in telecommunications.
Palmetto Agribusiness Council	The Palmetto Agribusiness Council supports broadband deployment, adoption and use related to agribusiness economic development, workforce development and precision farming. The Council is an influential voice for agribusiness in South Carolina promoting sustainability and the advancement of the agribusiness industry through collaboration of the diversified partners within the agribusiness community. The Council provides legislative support and advocacy on behalf of its community and develops studies and strategic economic impact assessments that can contribute to the SCBBO economic and workforce development planning.
SC Educational TV (SCETV)*	SCETV is the state's public educational broadcasting network. It provides national and local content to classrooms via internet services. SCETV also provides teacher training and re-certification through in-person and online settings. The network comprises 11 TV stations, eight radio stations and a statewide tower network that serves schools, hospitals and emergency management teams.
Individual Private Sector Companies	
Technology and mapping partners	IBM, Esri and Ookla are private companies that provide SCBBO technology services to support broadband expansion activities, including tracking, compliance and controls systems, mapping, and speed test capabilities.
SpaceX/Starlink Pilot Program	The SCBBO coordinated with the SCDE to acquire 10 angel (sponsored) subscriptions for Starlink as part of a pilot program to be installed in 10 locations throughout the state. The subscriptions included all equipment, professional installation, and 12 months of service for each household.

Partnerships*	Description of Current or Planned Role in Broadband Deployment and Adoption
Dominion Energy South Carolina*	Dominion is a power utility servicing South Carolina. It is working to help close the digital divide through delivering reliable power.
ISPs in SC	ISPs deploy broadband-enabling technology and services to businesses and residents across the state. They work with SCBBO as well as county and municipal governments to implement projects and programs supporting increased broadband access and adoption. From providing information to customers on the federal ACP to supplying devices and affordable service options to communities, ISPs are a primary private partner in broadband expansion and in bridging the digital divide in South Carolina. ISPs will continue to leverage grant opportunities, match funding, and partner with SCBBO and others to provide reliable high-speed internet throughout the state. Feedback on BEAD planning was provided in and documented in Section 5.1.
Federal Partners	
USDA SC	USDA SC managed the ReConnect Loan and Grant Program for SC.
Savannah River Site	Savannah River National Laboratory and related facilities offer opportunities for planning future collaboration and broadband-related expansion support.
US Department of Defense (USDoD)	USDoD SC assets and facilities, such as Naval Information Warfare Systems Command (NAVWAR), US Army Fort Jackson and Shaw Air Force Base, represent opportunities for broadband deployment and expansion to surrounding areas, as well as opportunities for additional broadband-related technologies (e.g., sensitive compartmented information facility (SCIF)) supporting economic development by attracting government and defense industry companies and contractors to the State.

*Member of the BBAC.

3.3   Asset Inventory

South Carolina has worked to identify a list of its existing assets, both hard and soft, that can be leveraged to implement this Plan to expand high-speed broadband and assist in closing the digital divide. This asset inventory development process included the following outreach activities:

- Questionnaires distributed by Clemson University to 72 school districts, public libraries across 46 counties, 77 institutions of higher education and other organizations

- Market outreach to individual ISPs and organizations representing groups of providers, such as SCTBA, SCCTA and ECSC

- Data sourcing and discussion on hard assets, particularly from partners such as SCBBO and Santee Cooper

- Results from the three Better-Internet Surveys: Residential, Business and Organizations, and Government and Municipality

- Interviews with organizations, such as the Office of Rural Health and AmeriCorps

- Review of existing plans, organizational websites, and general research