



Connect South Carolina Releases New Broadband Availability Figures

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***Research shows 93% of households now have access to fixed
broadband speeds of 3 Mbps download/768 Kbps upload***

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Columbia, SC – New research unveiled today by Connect South Carolina shows that the broadband availability gap in South Carolina is shrinking, with 93.02% of South Carolina households now having access to fixed broadband speeds of 3 Mbps download/768 Kbps upload, compared to 92.5% last April

Nonprofit Connect South Carolina has been working since 2009 to ensure that South Carolina residents have access to the economic, educational, and quality of life benefits derived from increased broadband access, adoption, and use.

Among the findings of the new broadband availability research are:

- 93.02% of South Carolina households can access fixed broadband at advertised speeds of 3 Mbps download/768 Kbps upload, meaning that 125,775 households are in areas eligible for Connect America Fund broadband deployment subsidies.
- 95.96% of rural households in South Carolina have access to fixed broadband.
- 35.66% of South Carolina households have access to fixed broadband speeds of at least 100 Mbps download/1.5 Mbps upload. In April 2012, only 25.63% of households in South Carolina had access to these fixed broadband speeds.
- Basic broadband is available to 96.82% of South Carolina households, up slightly from 96.75% last April, leaving 57,200 South Carolina households unable to connect to basic high-speed Internet.

- 75.65% of South Carolina households have the ability to choose fixed broadband service from two or more non-mobile broadband providers.
- **Note:** *The data in this report are subject to data validation.*

“We are excited that South Carolina’s broadband providers are continuing to invest in network build-out and upgrades and are particularly encouraged by the increased access to higher speed tiers which better support small business, telemedicine, and distance education possibilities,” said Corey Johns, Connect South Carolina stakeholder relations manager. “However, the remaining 57,000 South Carolina households lacking basic high-speed Internet access serve as a reminder that work remains and that some are still waiting to be connected to today’s digital economy.”

Last April, Connect South Carolina released an innovative new broadband mapping tool called [My ConnectView™](#) offering unmatched views of South Carolina’s technology landscape. Residents and businesses are encouraged to use the interactive map to find area providers and help validate the data.

Connect South Carolina’s research was conducted as part of the State Broadband Initiative (SBI) grant program, funded by the U.S. Department of Commerce’s National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA). The process begins by contacting all known providers in South Carolina and providing information about the broadband mapping project. Information on broadband service areas is collected from each provider through voluntary participation and is subject to confidentiality protections. The data is then independently verified through engineering studies, site visits, propagation models, and consumer feedback. The FCC is using this data to direct broadband subsidies. More information about the broadband mapping process is provided in the [Broadband Mapping FAQ](#).

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About Connect South Carolina: As the State Broadband Initiative, Connect South Carolina is leading the effort to increase high-speed Internet access, adoption, and use to ensure South Carolina’s competitiveness in the connected global economy of the twenty-first century. Connect South Carolina is a public-private partnership designated by the state to work with all broadband providers to create South Carolina’s first interactive map of broadband coverage. This work serves as a foundation for addressing remaining service gaps while also engaging state, regional, and local leaders in workforce development activities designed to bridge South Carolina’s digital divide. For maps, research or to get involved with efforts in your community please visit: www.ConnectSC.org.

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