is to extend middle mile capacity to reduce the cost of serving unserved and underserved areas and enhance network resilience. Middle Mile awards are expected by Q2-2023.
https://broadbandusa.ntia.doc.gov/resources/grant-programs/enabling-middle-mile-broadband-infrastructure-program

If you have any questions or need additional information,

please contact the SC Office of Broadband Office staff at Broadband@ors.sc.gov or (803) 737-0800, or Anna Berger with SCAC at aberger@scac.sc or (803) 252-7255.

Dorchester County's Data-Driven Culture

By Jordyn M. Baker, Dorchester County Budget Analyst

As data analytics has swept the nation in recent years, the public sector is just waking up to the potential of analytics to improve the delivery of public services and build transparency and trust with citizens. While the concept of big data analytics in the public sector is not new, it has yet to be uniformly adopted at the local level. Dorchester County has embraced a data-driven culture by deploying one of the first analytic pilot projects in the Lowcountry.

The Dorchester County American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Dashboard was recently launched on the county's website to enhance financial transparency and engage with citizens on current funding initiatives. The county spearheaded this project to enhance public trust in the allocation and spending of federal funding received as part of the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds program (SLFRF). The SLFRF program provided governments across the country with the resources needed to recover from the economic impacts related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Dorchester County has allocated $24.9 million of the roughly $31.6 million in funding received for various recovery efforts. As a

result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the push for digital transformation in government has been accelerated as citizens expect larger scales of transparency and outcomes. With increasing availability of low-cost tools, such as Microsoft's Power BI, and large volumes of data for analytics, the Business Services Department worked diligently to launch this project.

Microsoft's Power BI is a low-cost business intelligence software that provides user-friendly analytical tools, such as dashboarding and visualization, to allow for pattern analysis and interactive data insights. The county's overarching goal of the pilot project is to create an active dialog with council and citizens on an innovative platform that can track financial outcomes across various initiatives and increase the county's open data.

Power BI is utilized internally by the Business Services Department to assist in the creation of accurate financial forecasts by combining multiple data sources, which has proven successful. The successful internal application inspired the department to explore further application of the software, which led to the creation of the ARPA Dashboard.

Data science relies on experimentation, and the best organizations allow for creativity and innovative efforts. While Dorchester County has embraced the potential of data analytics, we have only begun to scratch the surface of possible applications in the public sector.

American Rescue Plan Funding Initiatives

DIRECT ASSISTANCE | CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS | CAPITAL ACQUISITION | COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT PROJECTS | COVID-19

$24.94M
ARPA FUNDING ALLOCATED

$6.68M
AVAILABLE FOR ALLOCATION

20
ARPA FUNDING INITIATIVES

ARPA Projects by Type

$1.68M (6.73%)
$7.61M (30.49%)
$14.92M (59.81%)

Projects by Type
- Community Enhancement Projects
- Capital Acquisition
- Capital Improvement Project
- Direct Assistance
- County COVID-19 Expenditures

Project Name	Approved Funding	Expended to Date	Balance Remaining
Quick Response Vehicle (QRV) Program	$535,063	$76,639	$458,424
Purchase Building Occupied by Alcohol and Drug Commission	$2,038,400	$2,038,400	$0
Purchase Ambulance for Infection Control Unit	$258,000	$0	$258,000
Purchase & Upfit of Building on Hwy 17 for Central Health & Human Services Complex	$3,050,000	$0	$3,050,000
Mobile Command Post	$573,913	$5,662	$568,251
Medical Facility in Western Dorchester County	$1,540,000	$0	$1,540,000
Matching Funds for Infrastructure Projects	$3,625,000	$3,625,000	$0
Law Enforcement Center Renovation Project	$1,044,741	$0	$1,044,741
Ladson Road Fire/EMS Station	$634,306	$117,518	$516,788
Funding for Future COVID-19 Materials/Supplies	$200,000	$28,421	$171,579
EMS Type II Ambulances	$214,868	$198,011	$16,857
Dorchester County Community Outreach - Construction of New Men's Shelter	$1,255,000	$0	$1,255,000
Community Resource Center	$40,000	$23,869	$16,131
COBRA Premium Assistance	$40,000	$5,402	$34,598
Coastal Crisis Chaplaincy and Department of Mental Health Partnership	$81,177	$19,508	$61,670
Clinician for Mental Health	$45,952	$0	$45,952
Total	**$24,944,753**	**$6,138,430**	**$18,806,324**