# Broadband Pole Replacement Program Webinar

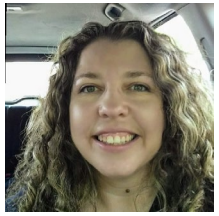
NCDIT Broadband Infrastructure Office

Feb. 22, 2024

NCDIT NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

## ANGIE BAILEY

DIRECTOR, BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE OFFICE



## GRETCHEN RAMIREZ

PROGRAM ANALYST, BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE OFFICE

## STEPHANIE JANE EDWARDS

MAPPING LEAD, BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE OFFICE

# Today's Agenda

- Program Overview and Reminders
- Application Processes
- Pole Replacement Program Map
- Data Templates
- NCBIO Data Exchange
- Tracking and Reporting
- Questions and Next Steps

# Broadband Pole Replacement Program Overview

- Purpose: to speed and facilitate the deployment of broadband service to individuals, businesses, agricultural operations, and community access points in areas unserved with broadband
- Funding under this program is available to communications service providers that have incurred eligible pole replacement costs in connection with qualified projects to provide qualifying internet access service in unserved areas of the state
- Applicants for the program must be approved under the Statewide IT Convenience Contract (09 NCAC 06B.0701 (c)) resulting from the Broadband Expansion and Access RFP
- The RFP and Convenience Contract set out the state and federal terms and conditions for this program

# High-Level Reminders

- American Rescue Plan Act – SLFRF funding - $100M (Revenue Replacement)
- Reimbursement – 50% of eligible pole replacement costs paid by the applicant or $10,000, whichever is less
- Eligible costs incurred after June 1, 2021
- S.L. is conflicting – General Fund authorized until Dec. 30, 2026, but also says program language expires on Dec. 31, 2024
- ARPA SLFRF funds must be obligated by Dec. 31, 2024
- Processing on a first-come, first-served basis
- Once 70% of funding disbursed, NCDIT will release additional guidance on evaluation and prioritizing of remaining reimbursement requests
- Asking prequalified vendors to provide projections on numbers of eligible poles

# Key Definitions

- Eligible applicants: “Communications Service Providers” as defined in N.C.G.S. § 62-350(e)
- Pole owner: a city or cooperatively organized entity that owns utility poles
- Qualifying internet access service: Fixed, terrestrial internet access service that is capable of speeds of 100 Mbps or faster (upload and download), pursuant to ARPA guidelines
- Qualified project: A project undertaken by a communications service provider, that is not affiliated with a pole owner, seeking to provide qualifying internet access service on a retail basis to one or more households, businesses, ag operations or community access points in an unserved area
- Broadband service: terrestrially deployed internet access service with transmission speeds of at least 25 Mbps download and at least 3 Mbps upload.
- Unserved area: An area in which fixed terrestrial broadband service at speeds of at least 25/3 Mbps is unavailable. A pole shall be presumed to be located in an unserved area if the pole is located in an area that is the subject of a federal or state grant to deploy broadband service, the conditions of which limit the availability of a grant to unserved areas

# Areas with Federal or State-funded Broadband Projects

- For qualified project areas that receive federal or state funding, the following requirements must be met:
  - The rules or terms of the state or federal program funding broadband deployment in that area must not disallow these complementary pole replacement costs to be funded through the program
  - The eligible reimbursement costs submitted for reimbursement under the program must not be reimbursed or otherwise included in the underlying broadband deployment grant award costs or matching funds for that program
  - Providers are responsible for compliance with underlying funding programs, including but not limited to ensuring that the rules of the program do not prohibit reimbursement for pole replacement costs
  - Certifications required within the application form, including certification that all costs submitted are eligible and have not been funded by any other broadband grant programs

# Public Dashboard on Application Information

Items to publish at www.ncbroadband.gov:

- Number of applications received, processed, rejected – including reasons applications were rejected
- Amount of each reimbursement, total number of reimbursements, and status of pending reimbursements
- Estimated remaining balance in the program special fund

Information will be updated monthly

# Broadband Pole Replacement Program

## Steps to Participate

- Visit ncbroadband.gov/polereplacement for full details
- Use Pole Replacement Map to reference eligible areas
- Ensure your data team has credentials to access NCBIO Data Exchange
- Email broadbandmapping@nc.gov with data contact info to request credentials
- Use Project Area and Reimbursement Form to submit eligible project info to us for approval
- Use Project Area and Reimbursement Form to submit pole data for reimbursement for approved projects, on a rolling basis

# Broadband Pole Replacement Program

## Application Information

See Application and Reimbursement Instructions at ncbroadband.gov/polereplacement

One-Time Application Materials:

- Application Form
- Updated Corporate Organizational Chart
- Documentation of Affordability Program
- Byrd Anti-Lobbying Form
- Substitute W-9
- Vendor Electronic Payment Form

Once application is approved, applicants can submit requests for reimbursement

# Broadband Pole Replacement Program

## Application Lifecycle

- Application submitted with Project Area and Reimbursement Form
- Suggest that applicants submit small reimbursement first
- Project area approved
- Pole locations verified (must be within the approved project area)
- Application packet considered "complete" and moved to the review team
- Verification of pole ownership and costs reviewed
- Back-up documentation required
- Application considered "reimbursable" and moved into the fiscal process
- Payments issued

# Reimbursement Requests – Back-up Documentation

In addition to the reimbursement form, request must include back-up documentation for all costs.

Documentation may include items such as invoices, agreements with pole owners or contractors, copies of checks, etc.

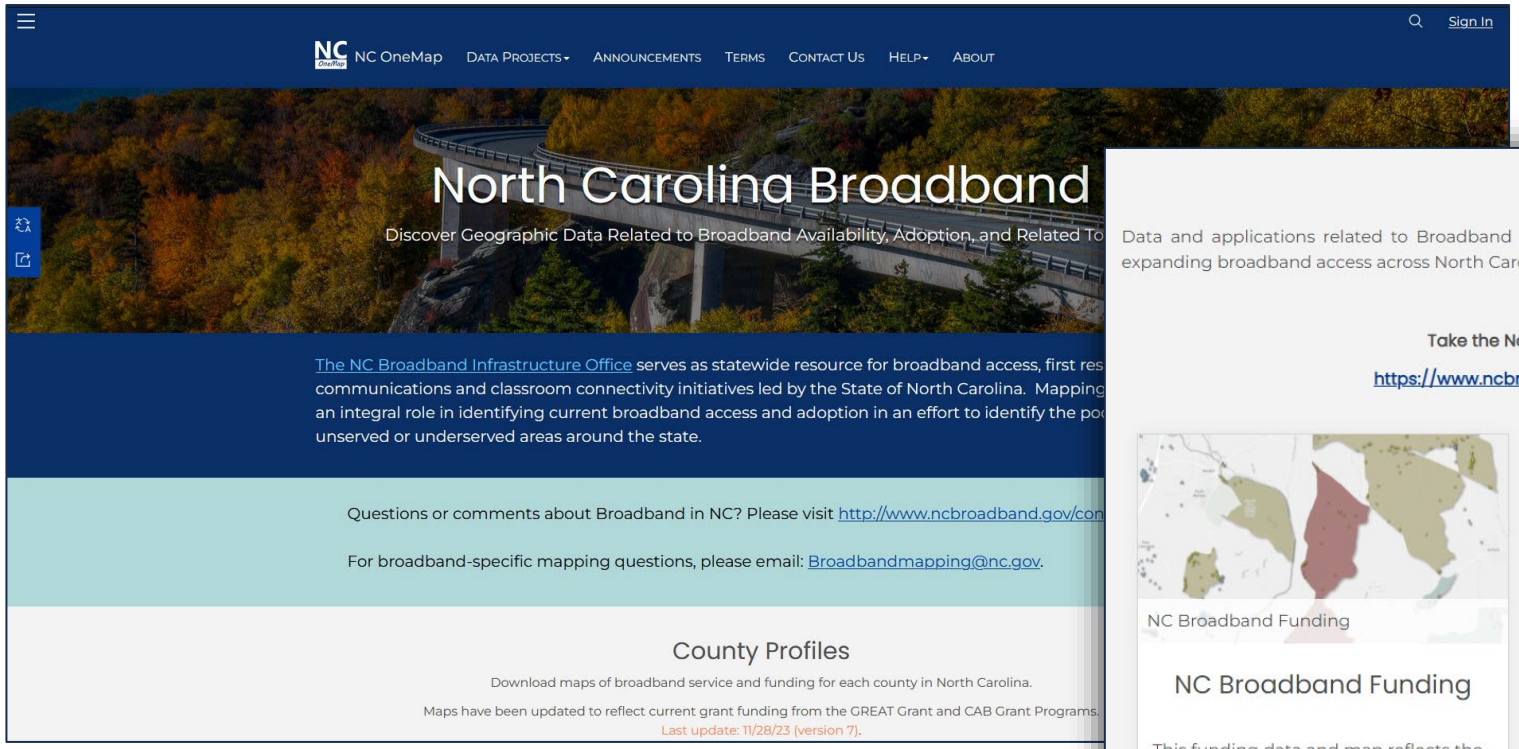
Documentation must reflect:

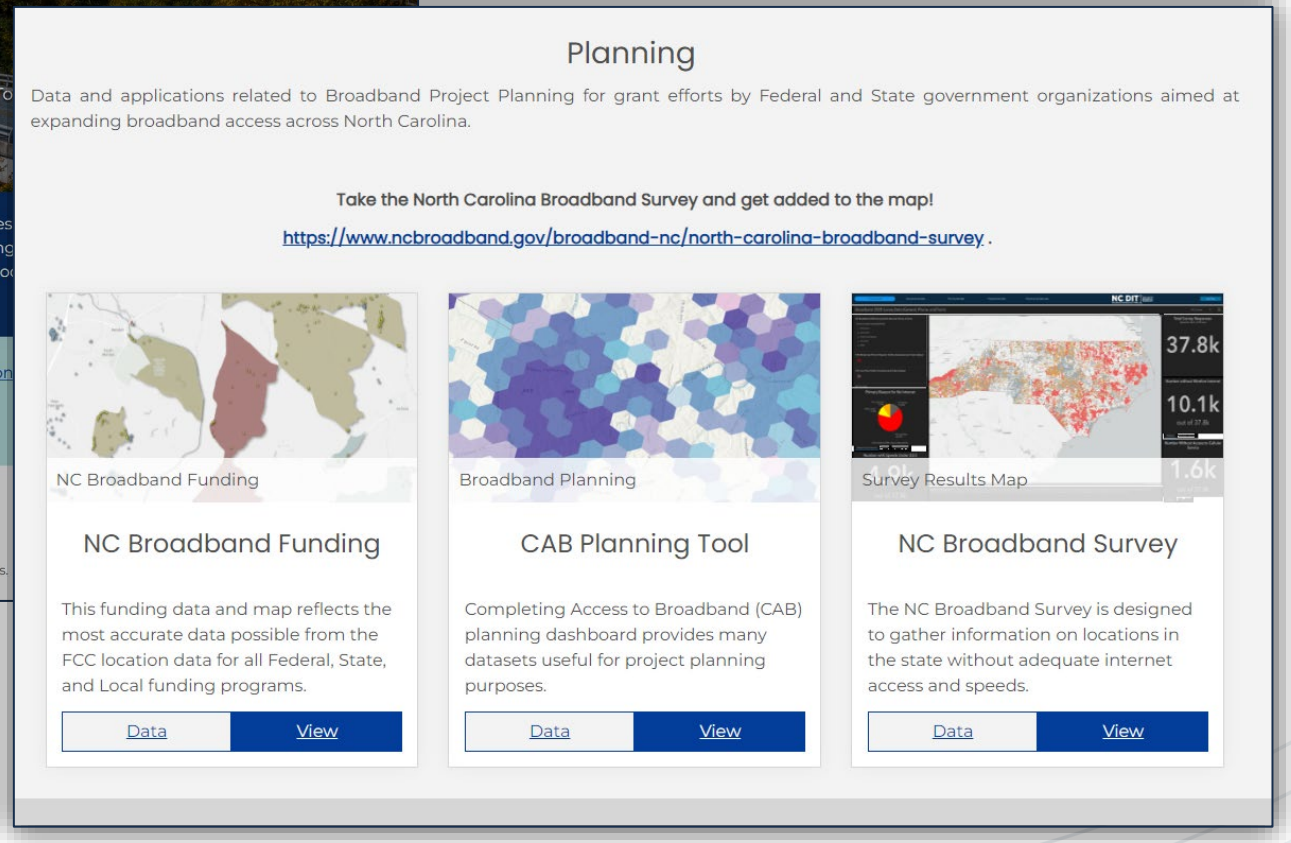
- Costs incurred
- Evidence showing pole replacement costs have been paid by the applicant
- Completion of pole replacement and dates of work completed

# NC OneMap Broadband Page

## Broadband Program Maps & Data

nconemap.gov/pages/broadband

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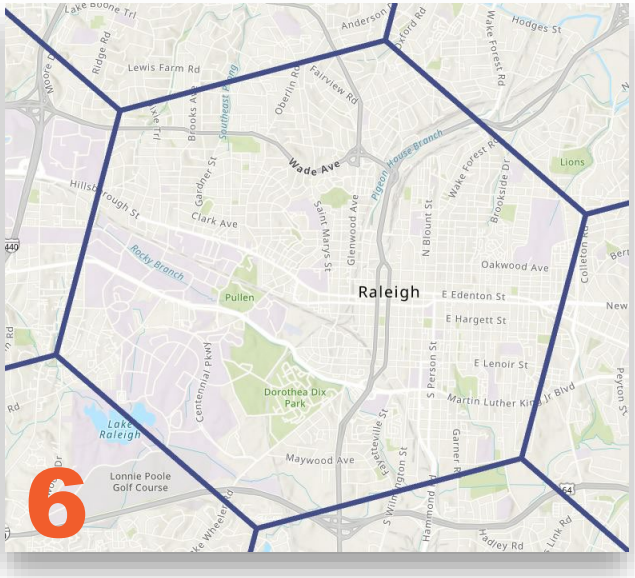
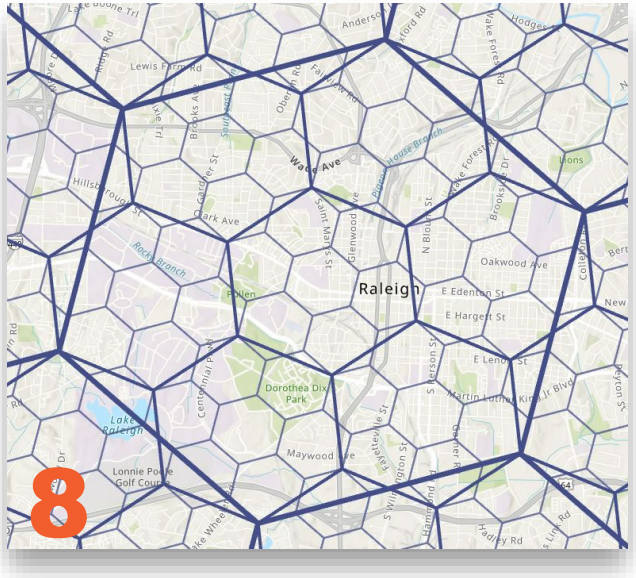
# How H3 Hexbin Sizes Work






Broadband Pole Replacement Program

| H3 Hexagon Size | Average Diameter | Approximate Area |
|---|---|---|
| Level 6 | 4.41 $mi^2$ | 14 $mi^2$ |
| Level 7 | 1.67 $mi^2$ | 2 $mi^2$ |
| Level 8 | 0.63 $mi^2$ | 0.28 $mi^2$ |

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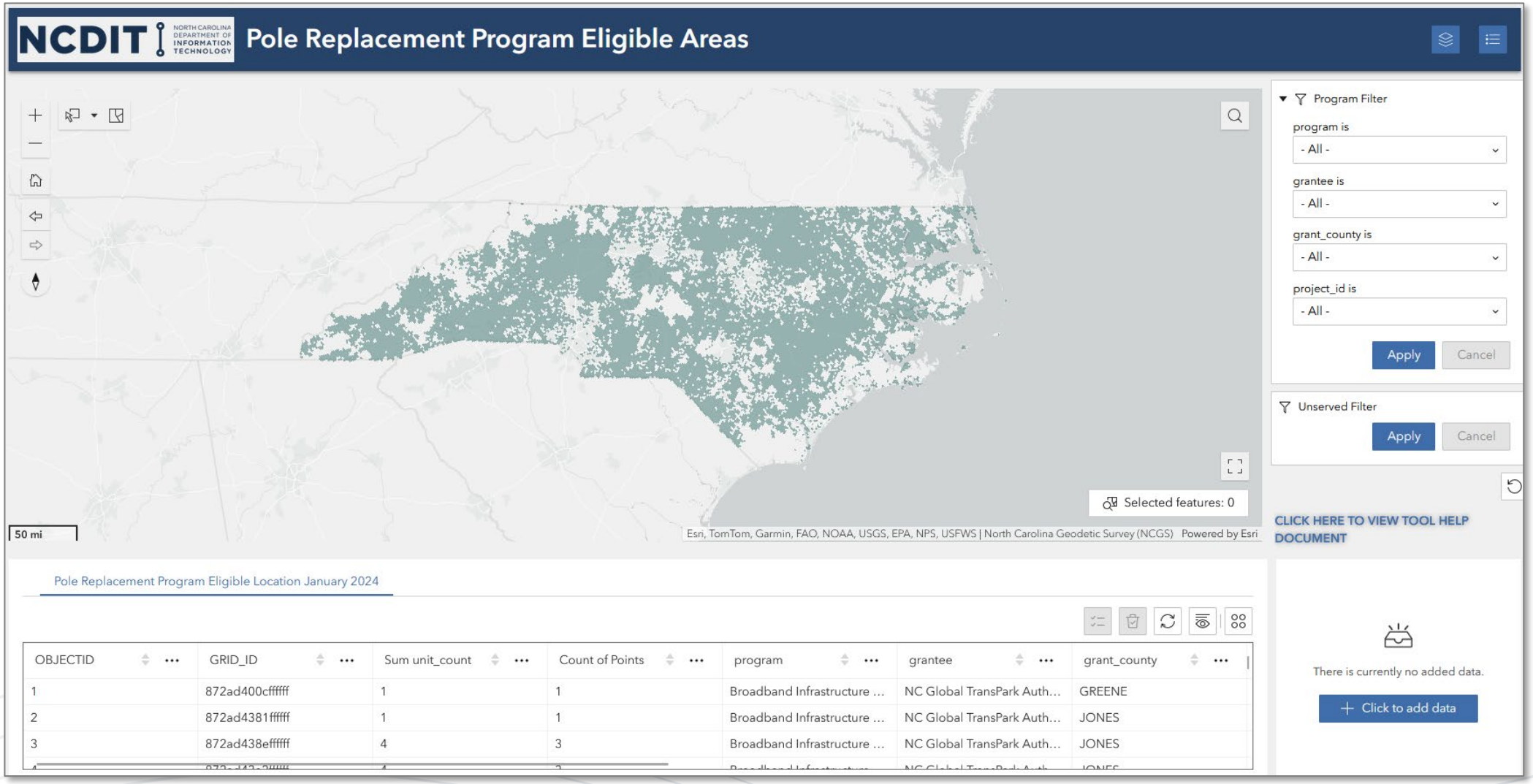
# Pole Replacement Program Map




https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/46181323f9304eb995f9194ba270f693

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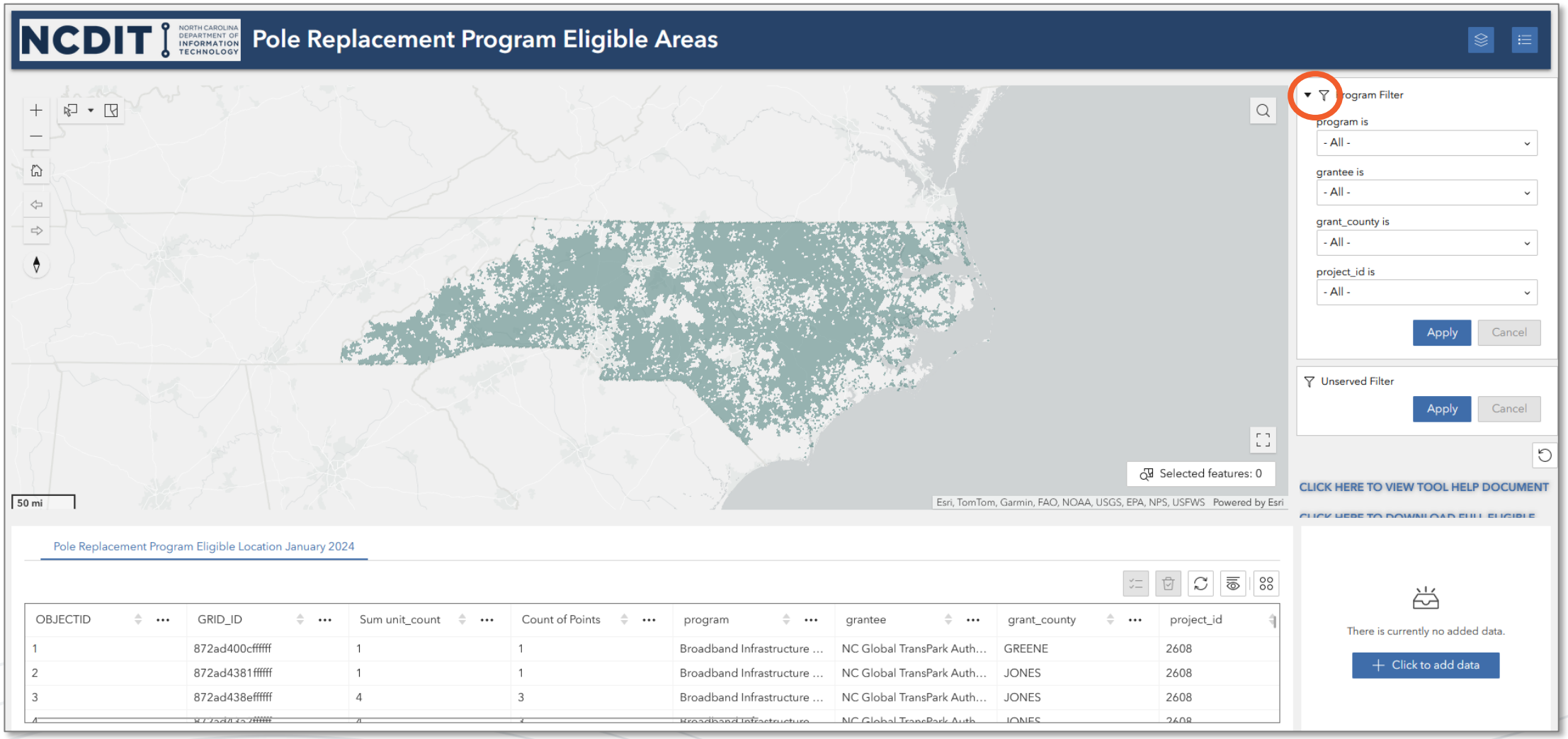
# Pole Replacement Program Map

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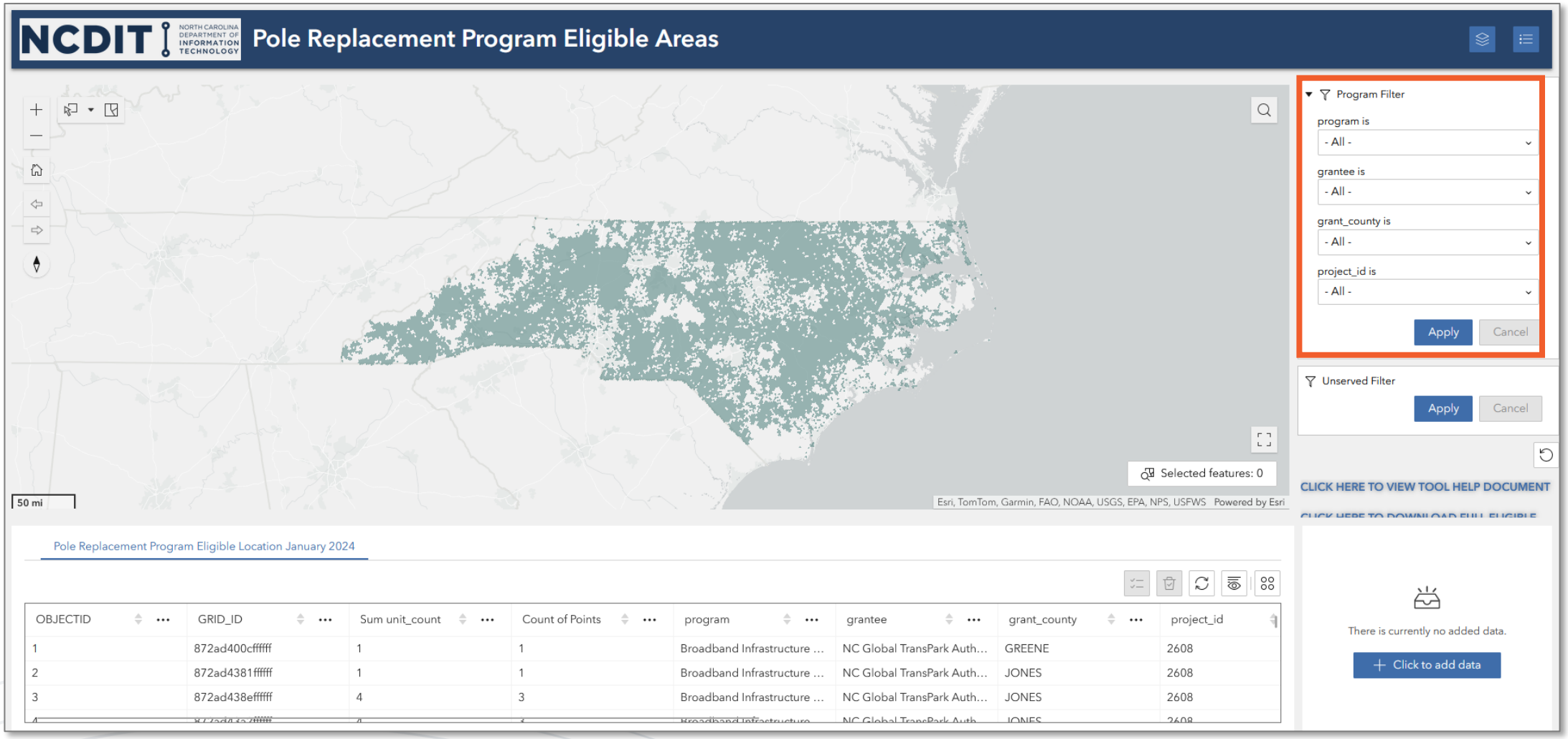
# Pole Replacement Program Map

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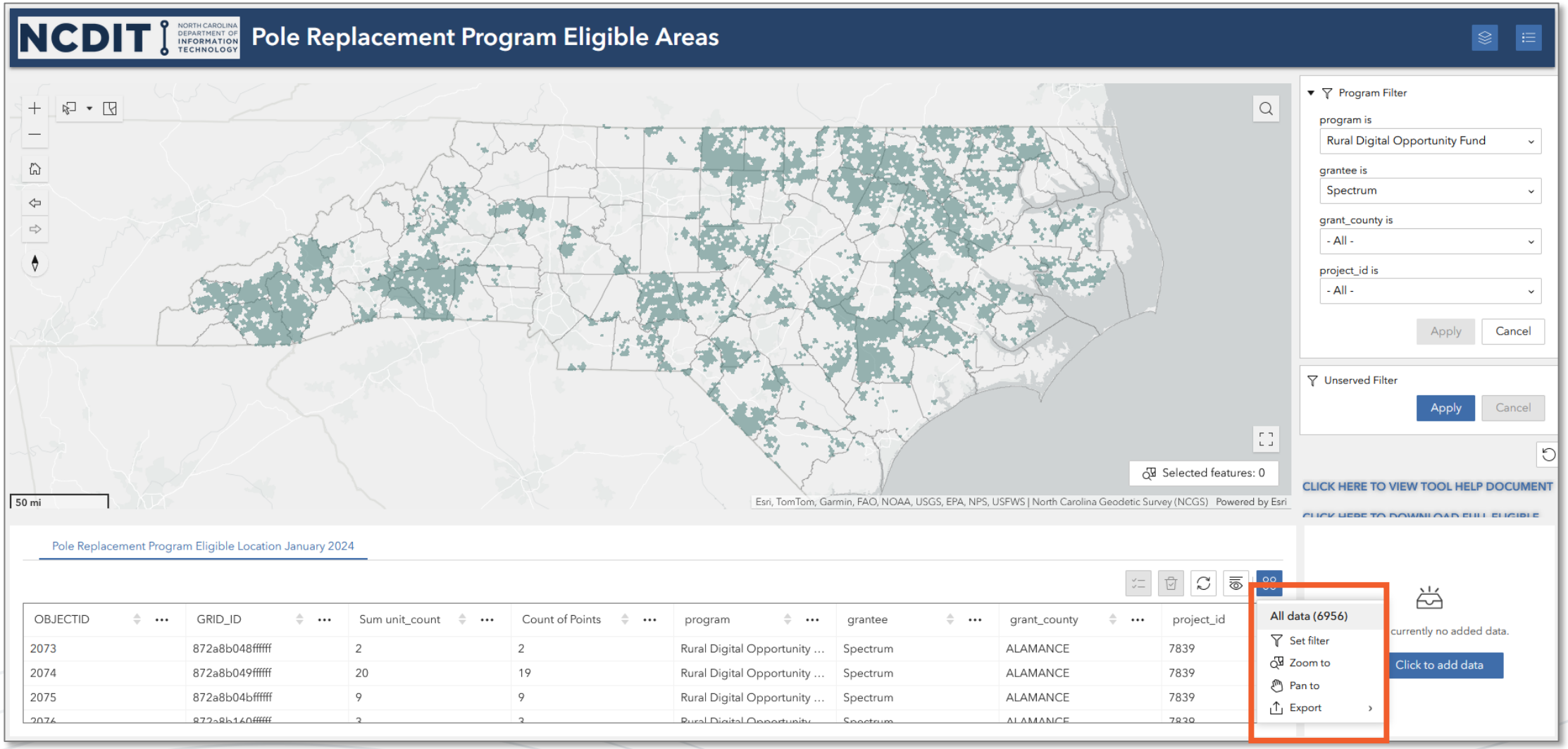
# Pole Replacement Program Map

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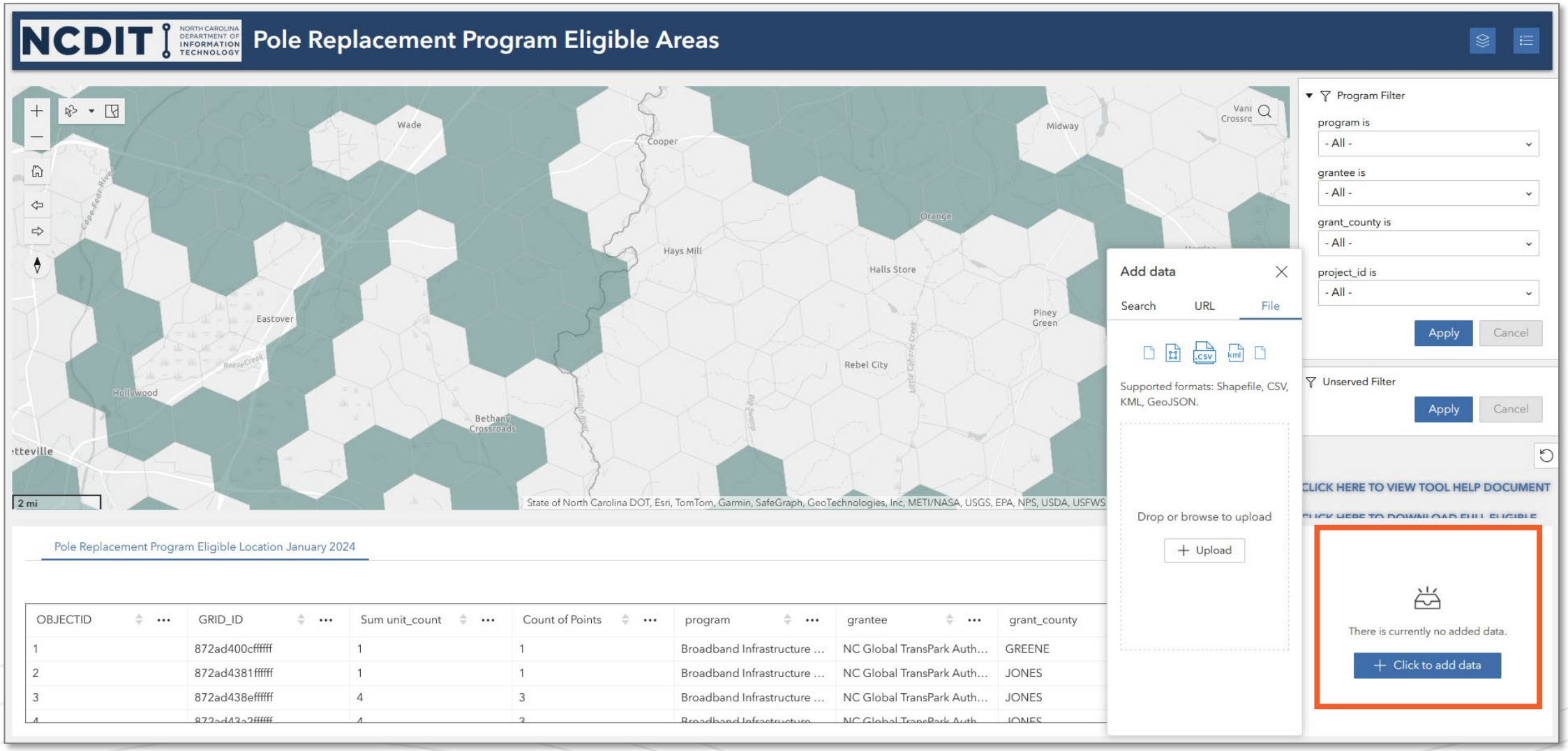
# Pole Replacement Program Map




| OBJECTID | GRID_ID | Sum unit_count | Count of Points | program | grantee | grant_county |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 872ad400cffffff | 1 | 1 | Broadband Infrastructure ... | NC Global TransPark Auth... | GREENE |
| 2 | 872ad4381ffffff | 1 | 1 | Broadband Infrastructure ... | NC Global TransPark Auth... | JONES |
| 3 | 872ad438effffff | 4 | 3 | Broadband Infrastructure ... | NC Global TransPark Auth... | JONES |

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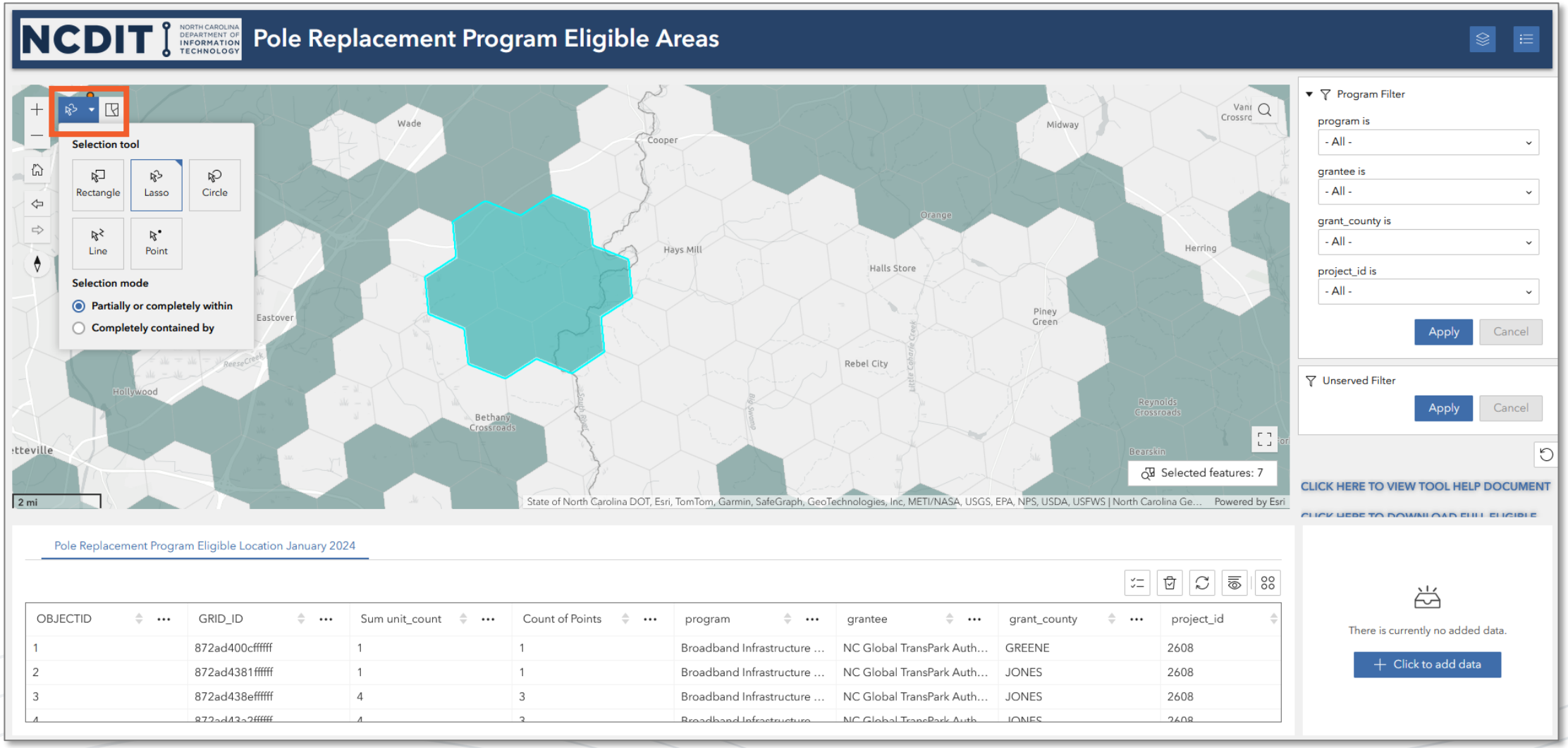
# Pole Replacement Program Map

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# Project Area and Reimbursement Form Instructions

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***Instructions for submission of Project Area Data**: Complete the ProjectAreaData tab and save it as a CSV file, using the Project Area Data Dictionary below as reference. Project Areas must be approved as eligible projects before pole data for that project will be reviewed. In your CSV filename, the word "Template" should be replaced with "ProjectArea[ID]" where [ID] = the ProjectID or equivalent (see ProjectID description below).*

***Instructions for submission of Pole Data**: You may submit pole data simultaneously or at any time once you have submitted data for the associated Project Area, and NCBIO will review pole data after it has approved any eligible project areas. Enter the data on the PoleData tab following the instuctions for each field in the Pole Locations Data Dictionary below. Once the PoleData tab is complete, save it as a CSV file to be submitted to the NCBIO Data Exchange Plaform. Simply replace the word "Template" in the filename with the ProjectID or equivalent (see ProjectID description below), Please submit a separate CSV file for each separate project, represented by a value in the ProjectID field (this value should therefore be the same for all pole locations within an individual CSV file).*

*For all completed CSV files, please replace the "YYMMDD" in your CSV filename with the date on which the file is being submitted. The first two digits are for the year, the second two for the month and last two for the day. This will assist us in correctly capturing the most current file if multiple files are submitted over time.*

*All completed CSV files, whether exported from the ProjectAreaData tab or the PoleData tab of this template, should be uploaded to the NCBIO Data Exchange Platform at https://assets.gis.nc.gov/apps/ncbio-data-exchange/index.html. There you will find a subfolder named "BPRP" (for Broadband Pole Replacement Program) in which to place these files.*

***This template was last updated: 2/21/2024***

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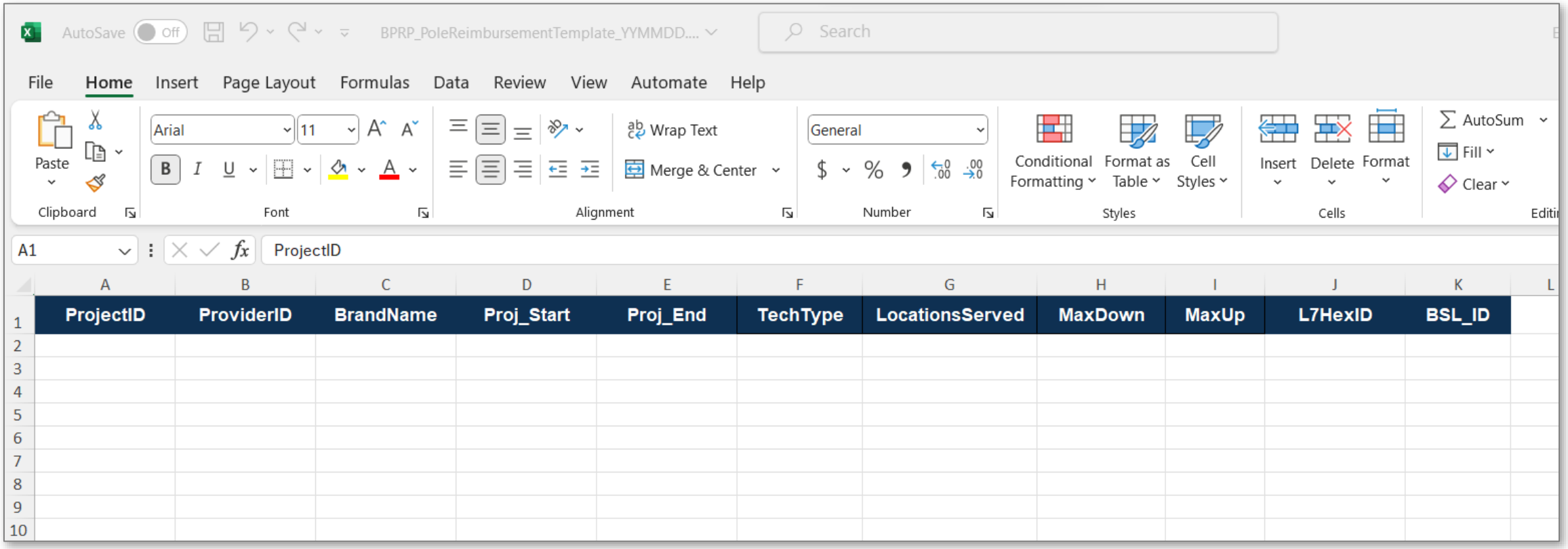
# Project Area and Reimbursement Form

| Project Area Data Dictionary | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Field Name** | **Example** | **Description** |
| **ProjectID** | 2608 | Enter the project ID if available. For federally funded projects, this value is the Project ID assigned to the project by the FCC in the national broadband funding map, and is found in the NCBIO Pole Replacement Map found at https://www.nconemap.gov/pages/broadband. For NCBIO state funded projects, this value is the contract number, also found in the Pole Replacement Map. For locally or privately funded projects, please enter "LF-" or "PF-"" respectively, followed by a number or text string of your choosing (no spaces, 25 character maximum). Otherwise, a project ID will be assigned by NCBIO for locally or privately funded projects. |
| **ProviderID** | 123456 | FCC-issued ID for broadband provider that aligns with the entity that files or will file BDC data for the project area that contains this pole location. Must match the ProviderID found in PoleData tab. |
| **BrandName** | Acme Broadband | A name the broadband provider uses to offer service to the public |
| **Proj_Start** | 1/31/2023 | The date when funding for the broadband Project was first committed (contract execution or public announcement) |
| **Proj_End** | 12/31/2023 | The date by which all deployment was/is to be completed for the Project. |
| **TechType** | 50 | The primary wireline technology used by the Provider to make service available in this project area. These values match those used in BDC reporting. - Value is one of the following codes: 10 – Copper Wire, 40 – Coaxial Cable/HFC, 50 – Optical Carrier/Fiber to the Premises, 70 – Unlicensed Terrestrial Fixed Wireless, 71 – Licensed Terrestrial Fixed Wireless, 72 – LBR Terrestrial Fixed Wireless, 0 – Other |
| **LocationsServed** | 25 | Estimated number of unserved locations where broadband access was/will be made available as a result of this project. |
| **MaxDown** | 50 | Maximum download speeds in Mbps that was/is to be available as a result of this project |
| **MaxUp** | 10 | Maximum upload speeds in Mbps that was/is to be available as a result of this project |
| **L7HexID** | 872ad2874ffffff | **(For locally or privately funded projects only)** The GRID_ID value for each relevant project area hexagon, found on the NCBIO Pole Replacement Map. These hexagons are Uber H3 level 7 hex cells, which are approximately 2 square miles in area. A hexagon can be included if any part of it overlaps with the original project area or project locations. |
| **BSL_ID** | 1140909527 | **(For locally or privately funded projects only)** Numeric location ID's, from the CostQuest Broadband Serviceable Location (BSL) fabric, which comprise the locally or privately funded project locations. The BSL fabric dataset is available to broadband providers through a CostQuest Tier D license. All other fields in this template should speak as accurately as possible to the unique location ID's listed in this field, and may repeat as project area details are applicable to many individual BSL's. |

# Project Area and Reimbursement Form




| ProjectID | ProviderID | BrandName | Proj_Start | Proj_End | TechType | LocationsServed | MaxDown | MaxUp | L7HexID | BSL_ID |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | | | | | |

Organize Project Area Data into these fields and export to CSV, per the template instructions.

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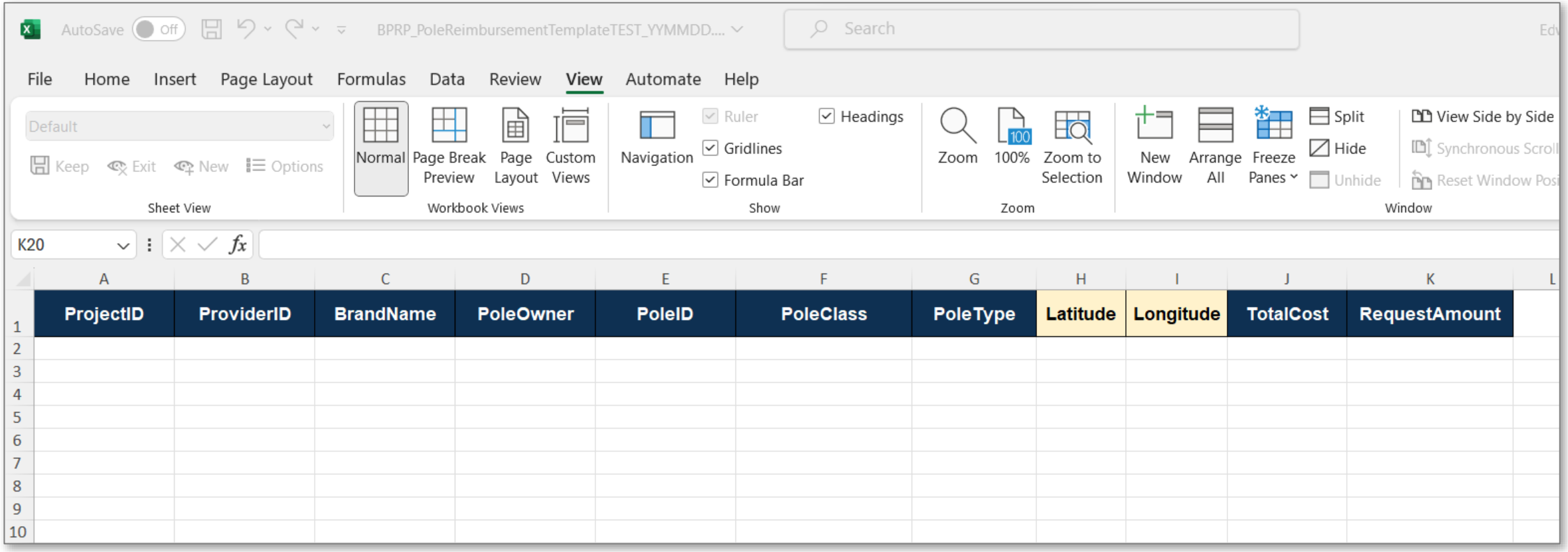
# Project Area and Reimbursement Form

| Pole Locations Data Dictionary | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Field Name** | **Example** | **Description** |
| **ProjectID** | PF_2608 | Enter the project ID if available. For federally funded projects, this value is the Project ID assigned to the project by the FCC in the national broadband funding map, and is found in the NCBIO Pole Replacement Map found at https://www.nconemap.gov/pages/broadband. For NCBIO state funded projects, this value is the contract number, also found in the Pole Replacement Map. For locally or privately funded projects, please enter "LF-" or "PF-"" respectively, followed by a number or text string of your choosing that corresponds to this project specifically (no spaces, 25 character maximum). Otherwise, a project ID will be assigned by NCBIO for locally or privately funded projects. |
| **ProviderID** | 123456 | FCC-issued ID for broadband provider that aligns with the entity that files or will file BDC data for the project area that contains this pole location |
| **BrandName** | Acme Broadband | A name the broadband provider uses to offer service to the public |
| **PoleOwner** | Candy Mountain EMC | The company who owns each individual pole |
| **PoleID** | CMEMC-1299 | The unique identifier for each individual pole, such as the tag number |
| **PoleClass** | 6 | The class for each individual pole, such as codes 1-10 or H1-H6, defined by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) |
| **PoleType** | Metal | The type of each individual pole, such as wood, metal, concrete, or other (if other, please desribe in one or two words) |
| **Latitude** | 35.461258 | The latitude for the pole in Decimal Degrees, WGS84 coordinate system |
| **Longitude** | -71.880975 | The longitude for the pole in Decimal Degrees, WGS84 coordinate system |
| **TotalCost** | 5000.86 | The total eligible costs to replace each individual pole, in dollars, and cents if necessary, as a decimal |
| **RequestAmount** | 2500.43 | The reimbursement request amount for each individual pole. IMPORTANT: The sum of all values in the reimbursement request amount column should match the total reimbursement request amount on the application form. *A communications service provider that pays for or incurs the costs of removing and replacing an existing utility pole in connection with a qualified project may be reimbursed an amount equal to 50% of eligible pole replacement costs paid or incurred by the applicant or $10,000, whichever is less, for each pole replaced.* |

# Project Area and Reimbursement Form




Organize Pole Location Data into these fields and export to CSV, per the template instructions.

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# NCBIO Data Exchange

- Amazon Web Services “buckets”
- Upload files securely from browser
- Broadband providers each have a private folder, and a “BPRP” subfolder
- Data contacts = authorized representative(s) from application form
- If other data contact, send data contact’s name, email and phone number to broadbandmapping@nc.gov
- Secure credentials issued to each provider data contact (shared credentials)
- Instructions are provided to data contacts

amazon web services™ | S3

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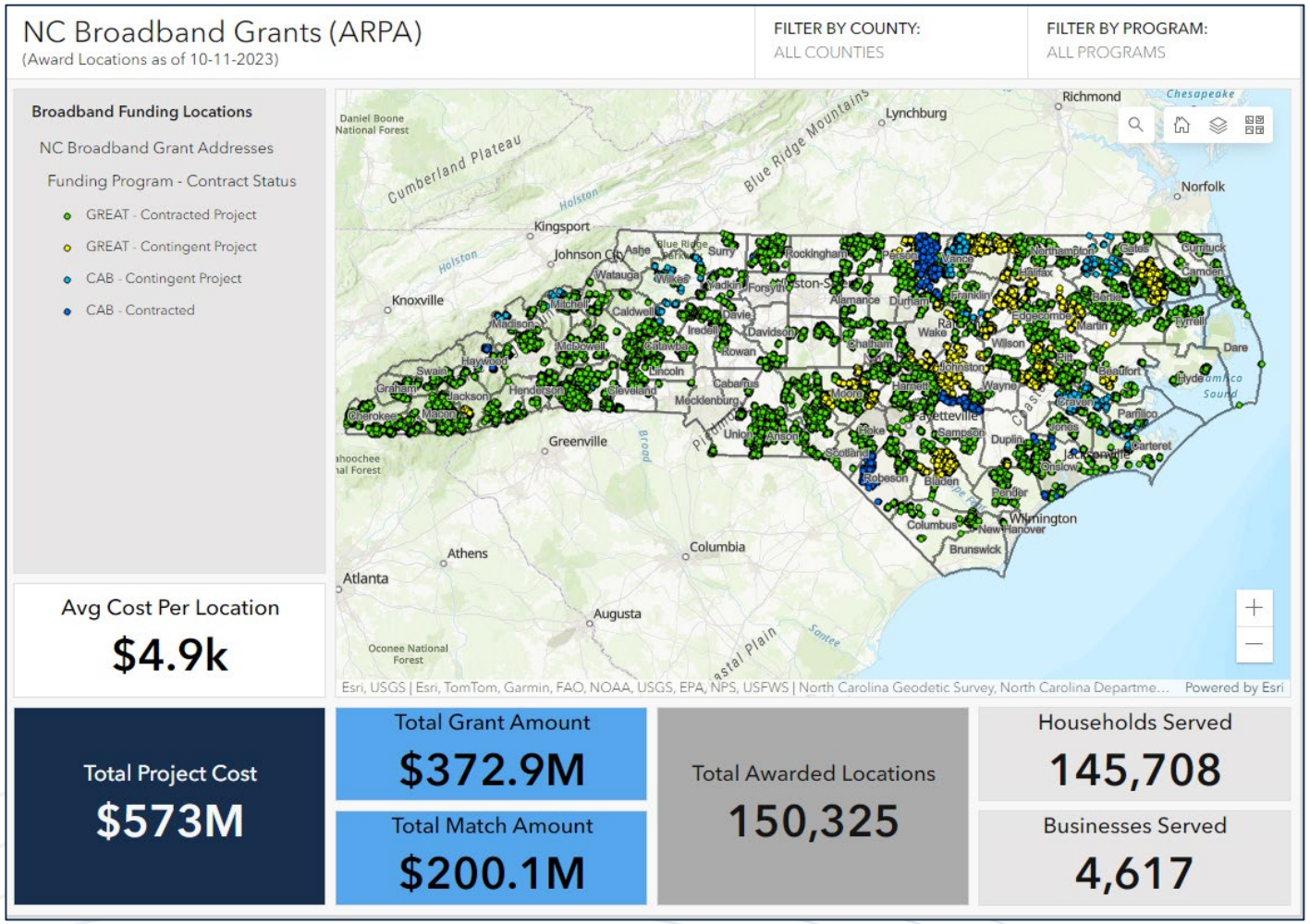
# Accountability & Transparency

## Broadband Project Tracking and Reporting




### Pole Replacement Tracking

- Project areas approved for reimbursement
- H3 level 7 hexagons where one or more pole replacements are approved for reimbursement
- Stats on fund dispersal statewide
- Stats on total pole replacements reimbursed

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# Next Steps and Questions

Please add your questions in the chat feature.

If you have additional questions later, email us at polereplacement@nc.gov.

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