

APPLICATION

South Carolina Broadband Infrastructure Project



Applicant Information

Applicant Name/Organization **Farmers Telephone Cooperative, Inc.**

Applicant FCC Registration Number (FRN) **0001887025**

Primary Contact Name **F. Bradley Erwin**

Title **CEO**

Mailing Address **1101 E. Main Street**

Phone Number **843-382-1225**

City, State, Zip **Kingstree, SC 29556**

Email **erwinb@ftc.org**

Broadband Service Provider Experience

Date of Applicant's Initial FCC Form 477 Submission **12/31/19**

Date of Applicant's Most Recent FCC Form 477 Submission **12/31/19**

- Applicant and/or project Partner has experience delivering broadband service over fiber or hybrid fiber-coax infrastructure
- Applicant and/or project Partner has experience building and operating broadband networks in rural areas
- Applicant and/or project Partner has experience building and operating broadband networks in low-moderate income areas

Project Area Information

County **Clarendon**

Rural or Urban **Rural**



Nearest City/Town **Summerton**

Project Area Map Code **Clarendon 3**

145 Number of Households in Project Area (Target code)

1 Number of Businesses in Project Area

0 Number of Health Care Facilities in Project Area

0 Number of Community Anchor Points in Project Area

0 Number of Educational Institutions in Project Area

Broadband Infrastructure Information

Indicate the type(s) of broadband infrastructure technology to be deployed in the project area.

- Fiber to the Premises** Minimum Sustainable Download/Upload Speeds **25/3**
- Hybrid fiber-coax** Minimum Sustainable Download/Upload Speeds (symmetrical upload/download speeds)
- Hybrid fiber-coax** Minimum Sustainable Download/Upload Speeds (non-symmetrical upload/download speeds)
- Fixed wireless** Minimum Sustainable Download/Upload Speeds
- VDSL** Minimum Sustainable Download/Upload Speeds (25/3 Mbps or faster)

Broadband Pricing Schedules or Tiers

Indicate all rate tiers for broadband at speeds of 25/3 Mbps or faster will be offered to customers in the project area:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rates less than \$10/month | <input type="checkbox"/> Rates between \$20 - \$24.99/month |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rates between \$10 - \$14.99/month | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rates between \$25 - \$34.99/month |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rates between \$15 - \$19.99/month | |

Project Timeline and Milestones

Project Start Date 8/17/20	Customer Premises Installations Complete 12/10/20
Project Construction Activity Begins 9/1/20	Project Completion Date 12/18/20
Project Construction Activity Complete 11/1/20	

Project Cost Information

Total Project Cost 386,350.00	Average Cost per Housing Unit 2464.23
Upfront Cost Requirements 85,637.50	
Cost of Building and/or Extending Infrastructure to Customer Premises 300,712.50	Average Cost per Business 2464.23
Average Cost per Location Served (all locations or structures) 2646.23	

Project Funding Information

South Carolina CARES Act Funding Requested 193,175.00

Applicant-Provided Funding 193,175.00 - Farmers Telephone Cooperative, Inc.

Third-Party Funding Amount none

Source(s)

Additional Information

Describe Applicant's and/or project Partner's experience building and/or operating broadband networks.

Founded in 1951, Farmers Telephone Cooperative, Inc. was created as a means for those in the rural areas to receive communication services. In 1995, FTC was the first company in its five-county service territory to launch internet service which began as traditional dial-up systems. Just six years later in 2001, FTC established itself as an internet service provider and the first broadband connections were deployed starting with an internet speed of 1.5 Mbps downstream by 512 Mbps upstream. In 2006, the Cooperative began offering broadband over fiber and currently serves more 10,500 internet customers with a fiber connection. FTC has 19 years ' experience designing, building, and operating broadband networks.

Describe how your proposal meets CARES objectives as described in the "Guidelines." Use additional pages if necessary.

FTC ' s objective is to improve the data speeds and internet adoption in selected unserved areas (less than 25/3 Mbps) of the Cooperative by building fiber to the premise. Since the start of COVID-19, the need for additional bandwidth has escalated to meet the demand of eLearning requirements for the students we serve, work from home scenarios, telemedicine applications/virtual doctor appointments, and even customers searching for job opportunities via the internet.

Describe how your proposal meets the needs of the community to be served as described in the "Guidelines." Use additional pages if necessary.

The locations selected for our applications are considered by ORS as priority areas. With fiber to the premise, FTC will enhance the community and families it serves by future proofing their broadband connection providing unlimited capabilities for telemedicine opportunities, online learning, work from home applications, and the bandwidth capability to handle numerous devices working within the home network simultaneously. As a Cooperative, we are committed to bringing the most advanced technologies in the industry to improve the lives of our members/customers and building fiber to the communities we serve leads the way.

Describe any plans or programs you have developed to improve adoption in the community described in this proposal. Use additional pages if necessary.

Over the years, FTC has placed a significant focus educating our members/customers on the importance of having an internet connection. In addition, consistent messaging to educate the consumer on bandwidth requirements based on the number of devices being used in the home and the strain being placed on the home network when you are not on the right internet plan.

To also assist with adoption, the Cooperative has excellent internet plan pricing with multiple speed options. FTC ' s current internet plans include basic wi-fi at no additional charge and beginning October 1, 2020, our plans will include enhanced wi-fi coverage as well as parental controls guided by a new FTC Wi-Fi app. FTC has a very rewarding multi-service discount program that provides pricing incentives to assist customers with their respective monthly billing.

Our fiber internet plans are symmetrical. Please review the fiber delivered symmetrical speed options that are available:

- 50 Mbps/50 Mbps
- 100 Mbps/100 Mbps
- 500 Mbps/500 Mbps
- 1 Gig/1 Gig

See attached price sheet.

Provide documents to establish proof that your organization has the necessary funds (50% of total project cost) to complete this project/proposal. List documents here and attach documents to this proposal.

See attached Bank of America letter.

List any lease, franchise agreement, interconnection agreement, authorization, permit, or other items needed to complete this project.

Necessary highway permits

Attachments and Exhibits

Please attach the following items to Application:

1. Map of Project Area (PDF and Shapefile formats)
2. Letters of support evidencing community need for project
3. Any additional information evidencing community need for project

Certification and Signature

CERTIFICATION: The Applicant certifies that information included in this application is factual to their knowledge.

- Applicant agrees to comply with all applicable requirements and conditions contained in Subrecipient Agreement for Coronavirus Relief Funds

Signature: 

Print Name of Signature: F. Bradley Erwin

Title of Signatory: CEO

Date: 8/12/20

Renewal Terms. *Contingent upon extensions for the expenditure of CARES Act funds provided by the U.S. Department of Treasury and the State of South Carolina, this Agreement may be renewed as evidenced by written approval of both parties.*

All questions and completed applications should be submitted to Broadband@ors.sc.gov

Facsimile signatures and email signatures shall be as effective as original signatures to bind any party.

FTC CLARENDON 3 PROJECT



Legend

- FTC Clarendon 3 Project (7.2 Miles)
- 4 Meg Location
- 15 Meg Location
- Existing Fiber Cable
- SC/ORS Area

APPLICATION

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Email **erwinb@ftc.org**

Broadband Service Provider Experience

Date of Applicant's Initial FCC Form 477 Submission **12/31/99**

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Project Area Information

County **Clarendon**

Rural or Urban **Rural**



Nearest City/Town **Summerton**

Project Area Map Code **Clarendon 4**

94 Number of Households in Project Area (Target code)

7 Number of Businesses in Project Area

0 Number of Health Care Facilities in Project Area

1 Number of Community Anchor Points in Project Area

0 Number of Educational Institutions in Project Area

Broadband Infrastructure Information

Indicate the type(s) of broadband infrastructure technology to be deployed in the project area.

- Fiber to the Premises** Minimum Sustainable Download/Upload Speeds **25/3**
- Hybrid fiber-coax** Minimum Sustainable Download/Upload Speeds (symmetrical upload/download speeds)
- Hybrid fiber-coax** Minimum Sustainable Download/Upload Speeds (non-symmetrical upload/download speeds)
- Fixed wireless** Minimum Sustainable Download/Upload Speeds
- VDSL (25/3 Mbps or faster)** Minimum Sustainable Download/Upload Speeds

Broadband Pricing Schedules or Tiers

Indicate all rate tiers for broadband at speeds of 25/3 Mbps or faster will be offered to customers in the project area:

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Rates less than \$10/month | <input type="checkbox"/> Rates between \$20 - \$24.99/month |
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Project Timeline and Milestones

Project Start Date 8/17/20	Customer Premises Installations Complete 12/10/20
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Project Construction Activity Complete 11/1/20	

Project Cost Information

Total Project Cost 199,350.00	Average Cost per Housing Unit 1954.41
Upfront Cost Requirements 42,187.50	
Cost of Building and/or Extending Infrastructure to Customer Premises 157,162.50	Average Cost per Business 1954.41
Average Cost per Location Served (all locations or structures) 1954.41	

Project Funding Information

South Carolina CARES Act Funding Requested 99,675.00

Applicant-Provided Funding 99,675.00 - Farmers Telephone Cooperative, Inc.

Third-Party Funding Amount none

Source(s)

Additional Information

Describe Applicant's and/or project Partner's experience building and/or operating broadband networks.

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Describe how your proposal meets CARES objectives as described in the "Guidelines." Use additional pages if necessary.

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Our fiber internet plans are symmetrical. Please review the fiber delivered symmetrical speed options that are available:

50 Mbps/50 Mbps
100 Mbps/100 Mbps
500 Mbps/500 Mbps
1 Gig/1 Gig

See attached price sheet.

Provide documents to establish proof that your organization has the necessary funds (50% of total project cost) to complete this project/proposal. List documents here and attach documents to this proposal.

See attached Bank of America letter.

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Necessary highway permits

Attachments and Exhibits

Please attach the following items to Application:

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Signature: 

Print Name of Signature: F. Bradley Erwin

Title of Signatory: CEO

Date: 8/12/20

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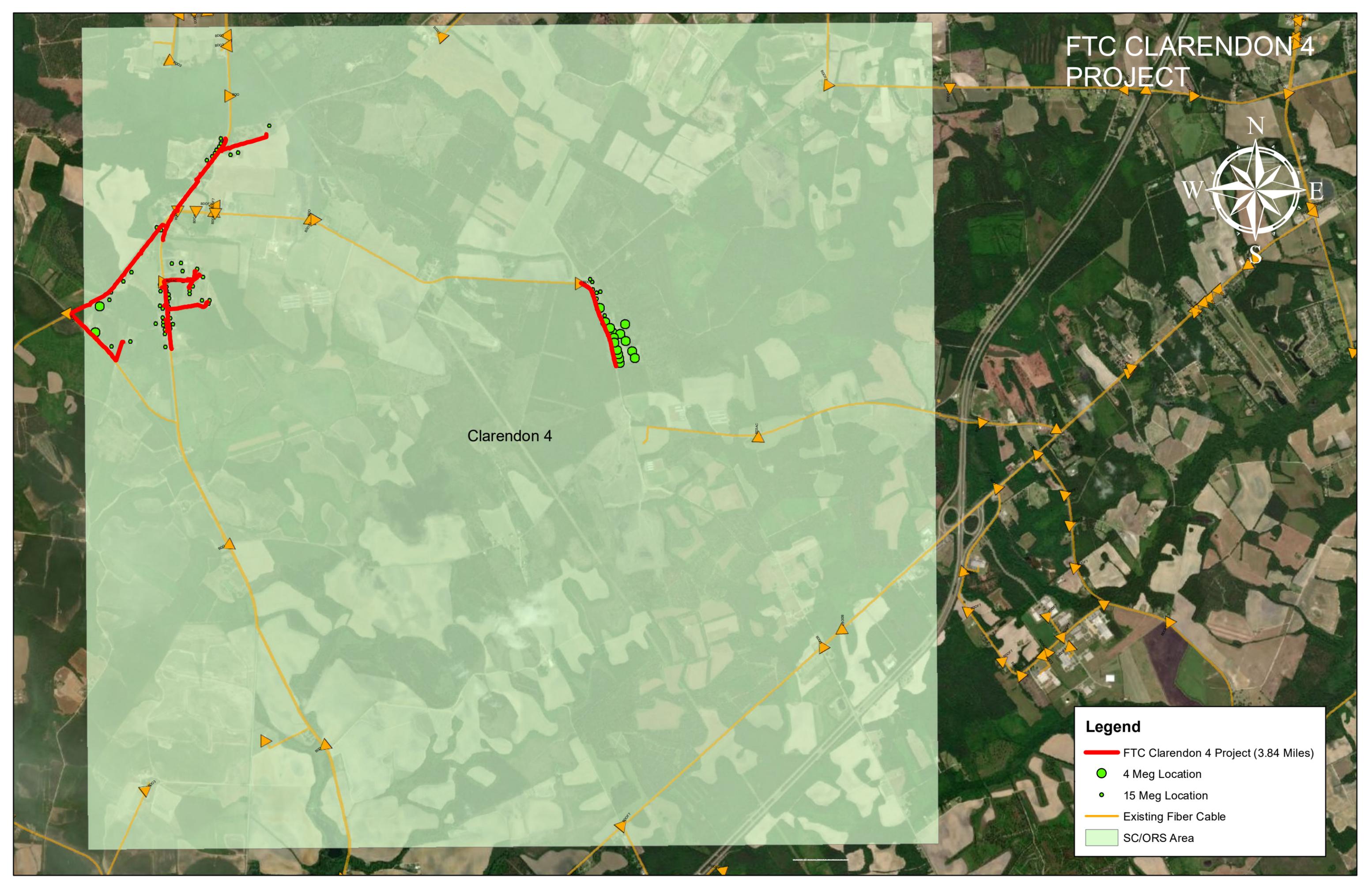
FTC CLARENDON 4 PROJECT



Clarendon 4

Legend

-  FTC Clarendon 4 Project (3.84 Miles)
-  4 Meg Location
-  15 Meg Location
-  Existing Fiber Cable
-  SC/ORS Area



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Project Area Information

County **Williamsburg**

Rural or Urban **Rural**



Nearest City/Town **Nesmith**

Project Area Map Code **Williamsburg 10**

48 Number of Households in Project Area (Target code)

0 Number of Businesses in Project Area

0 Number of Health Care Facilities in Project Area

0 Number of Community Anchor Points in Project Area

0 Number of Educational Institutions in Project Area

Broadband Infrastructure Information

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Rates less than \$10/month

Rates between \$20 - \$24.99/month

Rates between \$10 - \$14.99/month

Rates between \$25 - \$34.99/month

Rates between \$15 - \$19.99/month

Project Timeline and Milestones

Project Start Date 8/17/20

Customer Premises Installations Complete 12/10/20

Project Construction Activity Begins 9/1/20

Project Completion Date 12/18/20

Project Construction Activity Complete 11/1/20

Project Cost Information

Total Project Cost 169,712.50

Average Cost per Housing Unit 3535.68

Upfront Cost Requirements 38,828.13

Cost of Building and/or Extending Infrastructure to Customer Premises 130,884.37

Average Cost per Business 3535.68

Average Cost per Location Served (all locations or structures) 3535.68

Project Funding Information

South Carolina CARES Act Funding Requested 84,856.25

Applicant-Provided Funding

84,856.25 - Farmers Telephone Cooperative, Inc.

Third-Party Funding

Amount none

Source(s)

Additional Information

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FTC WILLIAMSBURG 10 PROJECT



Williamsburg 10

Legend

-  FTC Williamsburg 10 Project (3.56 Miles)
-  4 Meg Location
-  15 Meg Location
-  Existing Fiber Cable
-  SC/ORS Area

