August 13, 2020

State of South Carolina
Office of Regulatory Staff
1401 Main Street, Suite 900
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Via email: Brstractionors.sc.gov

Re: South Carolina Broadband Infrastructure Program

To Whom It May Concern:

Home Telephone Company, Inc dba Home Telecom along with its subsidiaries Home Telephone ILEC, LLC, and Berkeley Cable Television Company, Inc dba Home Telecom [Home Telecom] hereby apply for Broadband buildout as contemplated in the Office of Regulatory Staff’s South Carolina Infrastructure Program.

The application is contingent on Home Telecom being able to secure both the inventory and contract construction crews necessary to complete construction once a notice of award is issued. Home understands the time-critical nature of the project and that funding is only available for work completed and operational by mid-December 2020. As such Home may be unable to complete all construction anticipated under this application. Home reserves the right to scale back construction to those areas that can reasonably be completed and operationalized by mid-December 2020 and, therefore, eligible for funding.

We have focused on building a scalable transport network that can be extended over time as additional funding is available. This might result in fewer homes passed initially, but provides for a stable, expandable network that can continue to grow as funding is available. We believe this approach is in the best public interest as it provides for the best coverage at the lowest cost over time, while immediately providing service for the widest geographical area possible.

Home Telecom’s application to expand its advanced fiber-to-the-home network will expand broadband availability to unserved areas in three specific areas of need as identified in the South Carolina Broadband Infrastructure Program’s “Areas of Need...” polygon map. Specifically, Home Telecom is targeting “Areas of Need” Program Targets identified as Berkeley – 13, Dorchester – 8, and Dorchester – 9. Together this buildout will deliver high-speed fiber-to-the-home internet capable of symmetrical 1 Gbps internet service to 426 addresses including several businesses and Community Anchor points. With improved Broadband, customers will be able to participate in Telehealth, distance learning, and work from home opportunities.
Should you have any questions or would like to discuss any aspect of our application, please feel free to contact me at 843.761.9173 or via email, Denny.Thompson@hometelco.com.

Sincerely,

Denny Thompson
Director, Administrative Services
Home Telecom
APPLICATION
South Carolina Broadband Infrastructure Project

Applicant Information
Applicant Name/Organization  Home Telephone ILEC, LLC / Berkeley Cable Television Company, Inc
Applicant FCC Registration Number (FRN)  0020980116 / 0005792700
Primary Contact Name  Denny Thompson  Title  Director - Administrative Services
Mailing Address  579 Stoney Landing Rd  Phone Number  843-761-9173
City, State, Zip  Moncks Corner, SC 29431  Email  Denny.Thompson@hometelco.com

Broadband Service Provider Experience
Date of Applicant's Initial FCC Form 477 Submission  9/1/00
Date of Applicant's Most Recent FCC Form 477 Submission  2/12/20

☑ 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  Berkeley County  Rural or Urban Rural
Nearest City/Town  Ridgeville  Project Area Map Code  Berkeley 13
(Target code)
137  Number of Households in Project Area
2  Number of Businesses in Project Area
0  Number of Health Care Facilities in Project Area
2  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  1 Gbps / 1 Gbps
☐ Hybrid fiber-coax (symmetrical upload/download speeds)
☐ Hybrid fiber-coax (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:

☐ Rates less than $10/month
☐ Rates between $10 - $14.99/month
☑ Rates between $15 - $19.99/month
☐ Rates between $20 - $24.99/month
☑ Rates between $25 - $34.99/month

Project Timeline and Milestones
Project Start Date 8/19/20
Project Construction Activity Begins 8/26/20
Project Construction Activity Complete 11/11/20

Customer Premises Installations Complete 12/9/20
Project Completion Date 12/9/20

Project Cost Information
Total Project Cost 318,625
Upfront Cost Requirements 0
Cost of Building and/or Extending Infrastructure to Customer Premises 174000
Average Cost per Location Served (all locations or structures) 2260

Average Cost per Housing Unit 2260
Average Cost per Business 2260

Project Funding Information
South Carolina CARES Act Funding Requested 159313

Applicant-Provided Funding 159313

Third-Party Funding Amount 0.00
Source(s) n/a
Additional Information

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

See Attached Supplement No.1

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

See Attached Supplement No.1
Describe how your proposal meets the needs of the community to be served as described in the "Guidelines." Use additional pages if necessary.

See Attached Supplement No.1

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

See Attached Supplement No.1
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 Supplement No.1

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

See Attached Supplement No.1
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: [Signature]
Print Name of Signature: Denny Thomspson
Title of Signatory: Director Administrative Services
Date: 8/13/20

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.
APPLICATION
South Carolina Broadband Infrastructure Project

Applicant Information
Applicant Name/Organization  Home Telephone ILEC, LLC / Berkeley Cable Television Company, Inc
Applicant FCC Registration Number (FRN) 0020980116 / 0005792700
Primary Contact Name  Denny Thompson  Title  Director - Administrative Services
Mailing Address  579 Stoney Landing Rd  Phone Number  843-761-9173
City, State, Zip  Moncks Corner, SC 29431  Email  Denny.Thompson@hometelco.com

Broadband Service Provider Experience
Date of Applicant's Initial FCC Form 477 Submission 9/1/00
Date of Applicant's Most Recent FCC Form 477 Submission 2/12/20

- 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  Dorchester  Rural or Urban  Rural
Nearest City/Town  Ridgeville  Project Area Map Code  Dorchester 8 (Target code)
Number of Households in Project Area  105
Number of Businesses in Project Area  4
Number of Health Care Facilities in Project Area  0
Number of Community Anchor Points in Project Area  2
Number of Educational Institutions in Project Area  0

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  1 Gbps / 1 Gbps
- Hybrid fiber-coax (symmetrical upload/download speeds)
- Hybrid fiber-coax (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:

☐ Rates less than $10/month
☐ Rates between $10 - $14.99/month
☑ Rates between $15 - $19.99/month
☐ Rates between $20 - $24.99/month
☐ Rates between $25 - $34.99/month

Project Timeline and Milestones
Project Start Date 8/19/20
Project Construction Activity Begins 8/26/20
Project Construction Activity Complete 11/11/20
Customer Premises Installations Complete 12/9/20
Project Completion Date 12/9/20

Project Cost Information
Total Project Cost 344638
Upfront Cost Requirements 0
Cost of Building and/or Extending Infrastructure to Customer Premises 221513
Average Cost per Location Served (all locations or structures) 3108
Average Cost per Housing Unit 3105
Average Cost per Business 3105

Project Funding Information
South Carolina CARES Act Funding Requested 172319
Applicant-Provided Funding 172319
Third-Party Funding
Amount 0.00
Source(s) n/a
Additional Information

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

See Attached Supplement No.1

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

See Attached Supplement No.1
Describe how your proposal meets the needs of the community to be served as described in the "Guidelines." Use additional pages if necessary.

See Attached Supplement No.1

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

See Attached Supplement No.1
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 Supplement No.1

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

See Attached Supplement No.1
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: [Signature]

Print Name of Signature: Denny Thomspoon
Title of Signatory: Director Administrative Services
Date: 8/13/20

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.
APPLICATION
South Carolina Broadband Infrastructure Project

Applicant Information
Applicant Name/Organization  Home Telephone ILEC, LLC / Berkeley Cable Television Company, Inc
Applicant FCC Registration Number (FRN) 0020980116 / 0005792700
Primary Contact Name  Denny Thompson  Title  Director - Administrative Services
Mailing Address  579 Stoney Landing Rd  Phone Number 843-761-9173
City, State, Zip  Moncks Corner, SC 29431  Email  Denny.Thompson@hometelco.com

Broadband Service Provider Experience
Date of Applicant's Initial FCC Form 477 Submission 9/1/00
Date of Applicant's Most Recent FCC Form 477 Submission 2/12/20

☐ 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  Dorchester  Rural or Urban Rural
Nearest City/Town  Ridgeville  Project Area Map Code  Dorchester 9
167  Number of Households in Project Area (Target code)
4  Number of Businesses in Project Area
0  Number of Health Care Facilities in Project Area
3  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  1 Gbps / 1 Gbps
☐ Hybrid fiber-coax (symmetrical upload/download speeds)
☐ Hybrid fiber-coax (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:

- [ ] Rates less than $10/month
- [ ] Rates between $10 - $14.99/month
- [✓] Rates between $15 - $19.99/month
- [ ] Rates between $20 - $24.99/month
- [✓] Rates between $25 - $34.99/month

---

**Project Timeline and Milestones**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Project Start Date</td>
<td>8/19/20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Construction Activity Begins</td>
<td>8/26/20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Construction Activity Complete</td>
<td>11/11/20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Customer Premises Installations Complete</td>
<td>12/9/20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Completion Date</td>
<td>12/9/20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**Project Cost Information**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cost Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Project Cost</td>
<td>591475</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upfront Cost Requirements</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cost of Building and/or Extending Infrastructure to Customer Premises</td>
<td>404625</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average Cost per Location Served (all locations or structures)</td>
<td>3399</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cost Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Average Cost per Housing Unit</td>
<td>3399</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average Cost per Business</td>
<td>3399</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**Project Funding Information**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Funding Type</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>South Carolina CARES Act Funding Requested</td>
<td>295738</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Funding Type</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Applicant-Provided Funding</td>
<td>295738</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Funding Type</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Source(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Third-Party Funding</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Additional Information

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

See Attached Supplement No.1

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

See Attached Supplement No.1
Describe how your proposal meets the needs of the community to be served as described in the "Guidelines." Use additional pages if necessary.

See Attached Supplement No.1

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

See Attached Supplement No.1
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 Supplement No.1

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

See Attached Supplement No.1
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: Denny Thompston
Title of Signatory: Director Administrative Services
Date: 8/13/20

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

Home Telephone Company Inc owns 100 percent of Home Telephone ILEC LLC dba Home Telecom and Berkeley Cable Television Company, Inc. dba Home Telecom. Together we are an independent telecommunications company, a competitive local exchange carrier, a traditional cable television company, and an Internet Service Provider located in Moncks Corner, South Carolina, and serves Berkeley, Charleston, and Dorchester Counties.

Home Telecom has been working for years to provide high-speed, future proof fiber connections to rural areas within our ability to serve. We have sought or received funding thought traditional federal USF programs, various RUS, and other federal programs. Also, we know the COVID-19 pandemic has heightened the awareness of rural digital divide and that several other funding programs are being considered on both the federal and state level. Home believes that it is critical to the long-term goal of providing quality broadband at reasonable rates that we develop a long-term unified plan for reaching unserved or under-served areas. This process is made difficult in that each program or funding mechanism tends to be myopic to a specific cause or agenda. The results are often failed or inferior service which wastes public funding and works to slow down deployment to many rural areas.

Home Telecom is submitting this proposal as part of a broader approach to rationally extend our network in a logical and financially reasonable way. Thus, we have focused on building a scalable transport network that can be extended over time as additional funding is available. This provides for a stable, expandable network that can continue to grow as funding is available. We believe this approach is in the best public interest as it provides for the best coverage at the lowest cost over time, while immediately providing service for the widest geographical area possible.

Home Telecom is an integrated communications provider utilizing a variety of technologies driven by an all-digital network to deliver High-Speed Internet, Local and Long-Distance Telephone, Cable TV, and Security services to approximately 32,000 customers. While Home Telecom has historically utilized several broadband service platforms including Hybrid Fiber Coax (HFC) and xDSL, our PON-based (G-PON) Fiber-To-The-Home (FTTH) provides the most advanced broadband services to over 19,000 customers (over 60% of our current customer base). In addition to Broadband, Home Telecom offers phone, video, and security services. These services are supported by a well-trained staff of over 200 South Carolinians and an array of accounting, provisioning, maintenance, and operations systems.

Home Telecom’s advanced fiber optic network allows customers to receive broadband data access at a minimum data rate of 1 Mbps to a maximum of 1000 Mbps symmetrical.
ISP backbone connectivity is provided by multiple, fully redundant 100 Gbps links connect to diverse backbone providers.

Home Telecom has a Video Head-End located at its Moncks Corner central office and transports RF and IP video via dedicated fibers to each remote office. Local video is provided to the head end via direct fiber connections to the television studios (5 local TV stations). As a backup, local channels are also received “off-air” should a problem occur with the direct fiber feeds. The other video feed to the head-end is received from the commercial satellite and terminates on our local satellite dish.

Home Telecom provides voice service using 2 Metaswitch Class 5 Softswitches. For voice intralata and interlata services, Home Telecom has direct trunks to AT&T, Sprint, Verizon, and Segra. The company has Feature Group C trunks to the AT&T Access Tandem in Charleston, SC. Home Telecom’s core network is comprised of 20 Cisco ASR routers and 6 fully redundant rings, each comprised of multiple 10G CWDM wavelengths.

The transport of video services over fiber will be facilitated through the use of video streaming technology. The same optical fiber that transports the GPON signals will also carry video (television) signals.

Home’s Remote Offices are designed and equipped to support the operation of communications networks and include HVAC equipment, standby generators with fuel for 24 hours of run time, and battery strings with at least 8 hours of reserve capacity. Thus, the network common equipment proposed in this undertaking will be powered to remain in service even when there is a complete failure of commercial power.

*****

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

The purpose of this project is to extend Home Telecom’s broadband services to several unserved areas of Berkeley County and Dorchester County, South Carolina. These rural communities that do not have access to sufficient broadband services today. Home Telecom’s project is a Fiber to the Home Project that is capable of delivering high-speed internet at 1000 Mbps synchronous speeds. With broadband speeds up to 1000 Mbps, these unserved end-users will now be able to improve their ability to work from home, enhance distance learning, and participate in telehealth services.

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

This application is for a project that will provide broadband access to 426 (141 in Berkeley; 111 in Dorchester 8; 174 in Dorchester 9) currently unserved residences, businesses, and critical facilities in Proposed Funded Service Areas in portions of Berkeley and Dorchester counties in South Carolina. Home Telecom’s project is targeting areas as identified as areas of need from the South Carolina Broadband Infrastructure Program map. Because these unserved communities lack access adequate broadband service, they have not been able to (1) access distance learning for the at home students, (2) work remotely when required to self-quarantine, nor (3) utilize telemedicine services when healthcare facilities have been closed to public access.

*****

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

Home Telecom has developed several programs to help the communities we serve that may not want or afford premium highspeed internet. These programs are:

- Home has developed a low-speed Community Connect program that allows for parents of K12 students that do not have broadband to receive for $9.95 per month.
- Home Telecom has developed a partnership with Berkeley County School District and Google where we have installed low-speed broadband connection with free WIFI to all the Student’s households in the Cross High, Middle, and Elementary school area. We are in the second year of this program.
- During the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in March when schools transitioned to a viral model, Home Telecom installed and offered for free three months, broadband access to Student’s households that did not have access to Broadband. Home installed over 400 free broadband accounts to assist Students in finishing the 2020 school year.
- Home Telecom also offered at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic three months of increased broadband speeds for over 1,000 customers that already had our broadband service but needed additional bandwidth due to the increased work-from-home model that took off in March 2020.

*****

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.
Please see the attached bank statement from Wells Fargo showing funds available of $2.1 million. **We kindly ask that this information be treated as confidential information**

*****

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

Home Telecom does not need any additional franchise agreements, interconnection agreements, or authorizations to complete this proposed project. However, we will file the normal Department of Transportation (DOT) rights of way permits as construction starts.
Home Telecom

South Carolina Broadband Infrastructure Program
Areas of Need; August 3, 2020
August 12, 2020

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

The purpose of this letter is to show our support for the application submitted by Home Telecom to provide broadband service in the underserved areas in Dorchester County. The Greater Summerville/Dorchester County Chamber of Commerce strongly feels that the investment of the COVID-19 stimulus funds toward a project such as this is a way to serve the citizens of Dorchester County that are currently underserved.

Access to broadband is critical now, more than ever, as we navigate through this pandemic having to do more e-learning and working remotely. Without access to broadband, many students will not be able to have the needed educational opportunities to have a successful and rewarding future. Employment opportunities will not be available for Dorchester County residents if they cannot have broadband access to perform their remote work responsibilities. Serving Dorchester County students with sound educational and supportive services significantly benefits the participants, their families, and the community. Broadband access is in keeping with the Chamber priorities for infrastructure improvements in education, economic and workforce development.

There is a great need for broadband access, and Dorchester County is one of the fastest growing areas in South Carolina. We expect this increasing trend to continue because of all the new industries that have come to our area. Having broadband access will help tremendously in providing support to this increased population.

Sincerely,

Rita Berry, IOM, CCEC
President/CEO
August 12, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing today to express our support of HOME Telecom’s CARES grant application for the expansion of broadband internet in Dorchester County, South Carolina.

The proposed improvements will increase broadband access to an area of our County where Dorchester School District Four reports that 44% of their students do not have broadband internet access in the home. This project is critical to the success of the County’s economic development strategy because the COVID-19 crisis has shown us that broadband access is not a luxury anymore but a critical piece of infrastructure to support businesses, school students and workers having to work from home.

We ask that you consider the positive impact these improvements will provide towards economic growth and quality of life for the region and approve this application.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

John M. Truluck
Director
August 13, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

The Berkeley Chamber supports Home Telecom’s application for grant funding through the South Carolina Broadband Infrastructure Program to build a fiber optic network capable of bringing Broadband Internet to underserved areas of Berkeley County, SC.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, residents of rural Berkeley County have been held back because of the lack of reliable Internet access. Our children have been especially disadvantaged because they were unable to properly conduct e-learning during the last school term. With the upcoming school year, the need for Broadband Internet is critical to give our children access to a quality education. Additionally, our community’s high-risk residents have been unable to work remotely or access essential services such as Telehealth from the safety of their homes.

Broadband Internet would open the door for families in our community to enhance their children’s educational experience, keep our at-risk residents safe by allowing them to work from home, allow our elderly residents access to essential services, and, just as importantly, stay connected with friends and loved ones in the era of social distancing. Broadband Internet would also give small businesses who are suffering a chance to thrive by offering them the option to provide their services online.

The pandemic has made apparent the need for reliable Broadband Internet in Berkeley County. Our residents were left behind because they needed to conduct school and work from home, but did not have the resources to do so. Rural Berkeley County residents have been at a great disadvantage for far too long. We deserve to have the same high speed Internet options as those in neighboring counties, across the state and around the country.

Home Telecom’s reputation and efforts to bring faster Internet to residents in rural areas of Berkeley County speaks volumes, and I feel Berkeley County residents would benefit from having access to Home Telecom’s fiber optic services. Receiving this grant would help Home Telecom bring Broadband Internet service to our community and give our residents and businesses a chance to thrive.

Thank you for your consideration of Home Telecom’s application for grant funding for Berkeley County.

Sincerely,

Elaine Morgan, TOM
CEO
August 13, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

Tri-County Regional Chamber of Commerce supports Home Telecom’s application for grant funding through the South Carolina Broadband Infrastructure Program to build a fiber-optic network capable of bringing Broadband Internet to underserved areas of Dorchester County, SC.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, residents of rural Dorchester County are being held back because of the lack of reliable Internet access. Our children have been especially disadvantaged because they were unable to properly conduct e-learning during the last school term. With the upcoming school year, the need for Broadband Internet is critical to give our children access to quality education. Additionally, our community’s high-risk residents have been unable to work remotely or access essential services such as Telehealth from the safety of their homes.

Broadband Internet would open the door for families in our community to enhance their children’s educational experience, keep our at-risk residents safe by allowing them to work from home, allow our elderly residents access to essential services, and, just as importantly, stay connected with friends and loved ones in the era of social distancing. Broadband Internet would also give small businesses who are suffering a chance to thrive by offering them the option to provide their services online.

The pandemic has made apparent the need for reliable Broadband Internet in Dorchester County. Our residents were left behind because they needed to conduct school and work from home, but did not have the resources to do so. Rural Dorchester County residents have been at a significant disadvantage and deserve to have the same high-speed Internet options as those in neighboring counties, across the state and around the country.

Home Telecom’s reputation and efforts to bring faster Internet to residents in rural areas of Dorchester County speaks volumes, and Tri-County Regional Chamber feels Dorchester County residents would benefit from having access to Home Telecom’s fiber-optic services. Receiving this grant would help Home Telecom bring Broadband Internet service to our community and give our residents and businesses a chance to thrive.

On behalf of the Board and Tri-County Regional Chamber of Commerce, thank you for your consideration of Home Telecom’s application for grant funding for Dorchester County.

Sincerely,

Saundra Price
Executive Director
Tri-County Regional Chamber of Commerce