

APPLICATION

South Carolina Broadband Infrastructure Project



Applicant Information

Applicant Name/Organization **Lynches River Electric Cooperative**

Applicant FCC Registration Number (FRN) **0001889161**

Primary Contact Name **Dustin Catoe**

Title **CFO**

Mailing Address **PO Box 308**

Phone Number **803-287-7223**

City, State, Zip **Pageland SC 29728**

Email **dustin.catoe@lynchesriver.cor**

Broadband Service Provider Experience

Date of Applicant's Initial FCC Form 477 Submission **N/A**

Date of Applicant's Most Recent FCC Form 477 Submission **N/A**

- 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 **Chesterfield**

Rural or Urban **Rural**

Nearest City/Town **Pageland**

Project Area Map Code **Chesterfield 3**

384

Number of Households in Project Area

(Target code)

1

Number of Businesses in Project Area

Number of Health Care Facilities in Project Area

Number of Community Anchor Points in Project Area

1

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 **300/300**
- 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:

- 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 9/1/2020	Customer Premises Installations Complete As Needed
Project Construction Activity Begins 9/1/2020	Project Completion Date 12/18/2020
Project Construction Activity Complete 12/18/2020	

Project Cost Information

Total Project Cost \$333,317	Average Cost per Housing Unit \$868
Upfront Cost Requirements \$166,659	
Cost of Building and/or Extending Infrastructure to Customer Premises \$116,661	Average Cost per Business \$868
Average Cost per Location Served \$868 <i>(all locations or structures)</i>	

Project Funding Information

South Carolina CARES Act Funding Requested	\$166,659
Applicant-Provided Funding	\$166,659

Third-Party Funding	Amount	
	Source(s)	

Additional Information

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

See Attached Exhibit A

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

See Attached Exhibit A

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 Exhibit A

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

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

See Attached Exhibit A

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: Dustin Catoe

Title of Signatory: CFO

Date: 8/14/2020

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.

Lynches River Electric Cooperative (LREC) has experience building, managing and operating a sophisticated fiber optic broadband network throughout three rural counties and numerous rural communities. In the fall of 2019, LREC oversaw the creation of engineering plans to connect each of the electric utility's 16 substations throughout the service area. This project served as the backbone for the cooperative's newly formed fiber subsidiary, RiverNet Connect. In just one year's time, LREC and RiverNet have overseen the development of engineering plans that will serve over 6,000 homes in rural communities in Chesterfield, Lancaster and Kershaw counties. Physical construction on the fiber optic network began in February of 2020. In just six months, LREC has succeeded in bringing communications for 14 of the 16 substations into working order. In addition, LREC and RiverNet has activated several residential "friendlies", or testers, in parts of the network that are not applying for CARES Act funds. LREC and RiverNet Connect can ensure that no construction has begun off the mainline in areas eligible for funding.

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

a. Distance Learning

As with many other school districts across the country, the three school districts we serve are grappling with balancing educating their students with keeping them safe. Each of the three school districts in our area have adopted a plan for the 2020-21 school year that includes an eLearning and hybrid option. As of this application deadline in Lancaster County, 33 percent of students, just under 4500 students, will utilize an all-virtual option. Chesterfield County school leaders reported an estimated 2,000 students throughout the county are expected to learn online this school year. Finally, in Kershaw County, 51 percent of students (about 5,355 students) selected one of the two e-learning options the school district is offering.

Unfortunately, each of these three school districts have areas that do not have access to broadband, which forces the hand of many families when making difficult educational decisions for their family and students. As you will see in numerous supporting documents, many parents have reached out to RiverNet Connect and Lynches River Electric Cooperative to express their concern, and Superintendent Harrison Goodwin of Chesterfield County School District has written to express his experience with the difficulties that limited broadband creates for his students and teachers.

LREC, in conjunction with its fiber subsidiary, has made a priority of identifying these underserved and unserved areas throughout Chesterfield, Lancaster and Kershaw counties. In addition to identifying and prioritizing unserved areas, LREC and RiverNet have partnered with school district leaders to develop community hot spots to serve as many students as possible. At LREC and RiverNet, we recognize the positive exponential impact that education can have on the community we serve. In today's world, we recognize the implications that access to

broadband has on a student's access to quality education. Because of this connection, we are committed to providing our community and each of its citizens with the access to world class internet service regardless of where an individual resides.

b. Telehealth

For the rural communities served by LREC, the coronavirus has only increased the need for high-quality and reliable internet connectivity as healthcare is increasingly delivered through telehealth, and healthcare professionals depend on broadband for every aspect of their operations.

As technology has advanced, so has the delivery of healthcare. Telehealth is a proven healthcare delivery method, but requires access to reliable broadband connectivity. No matter the zip code of these rural areas, LREC is committed to providing high-speed broadband access and digital technology so all health care providers can diagnose and treat their patients.

c. Work at Home

Since the announcement of RiverNet Connect in October, 2019, LREC members have shared stories of the difficulties of working from home due to the poor internet options from their current provider. When the coronavirus lockdown started, and more members were forced to remain at home, a new light was shown on the longstanding digital divide between the rural communities LREC serves and the metro areas of South Carolina. While the internet speeds at home were already slow in these rural communities, sharing this limited bandwidth with other family members, including school age children, have practically made internet connections screech to a standstill. Now that families are working and learning from home, those working from home need internet connections strong enough to upload large files and to make and receive video calls. The days of sitting in the local fast food restaurant parking lot for access to high-speed internet is no longer a solution.

It is critical that our rural communities stay connected, and LREC and RiverNet are committed to providing this service until every member that lives down every dirt road in our service area has the high-speed fiber internet to compete in today's world.

Describe how your proposal meets the needs of the community to be served as described

Chesterfield County

According to the latest release of Census data, Chesterfield County has a poverty level of 20.9 percent which is greater than the state poverty level of 15 percent and almost double the federal poverty level of 11.8 percent. Just under 75 percent of Chesterfield County is classified as rural. With a population just over 40,000, 40 percent of Chesterfield County residents do not have broadband at their homes. In comparison, statewide data shows only 25 percent of homes

that do not have broadband. Finally, the Department of Education has defined Chesterfield County School District's poverty level at 72.3 percent.

The ORS has identified a number of Areas of Need in Chesterfield County. LREC and RiverNet have further identified ___ households in this Area of Need that we can serve prior to the deadline.

Lancaster County

According to the latest release of Census data, Lancaster County has a poverty level of 13.3 percent which is greater than the federal poverty level of 11.8 percent. With a population just over 98,000, 25 percent of Lancaster County residents do not have broadband at their homes. Finally, the Department of Education has defined Lancaster County School District's poverty level at 56.2 percent.

The ORS has identified a number of Areas of Need in Lancaster County. LREC and RiverNet have further identified ___ households in this Area of Need that we can serve prior to the deadline.

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

Rome wasn't built in a day and neither are fiber optic networks. At Lynches River Electric Cooperative, we desperately wish we could connect every consumer in need prior to the start of the 2020-21 school year. Though we all recognize this impossibility, our construction crews have been working with unmatched dedication to reach as many consumers as possible, as quickly as possible. In order to subsidize traditional fiber service, we have developed the Community Fiber initiative to accelerate access to internet for a greater number of individuals.

Through our Community Fiber initiative, LREC and RiverNet have partnered with community leaders to identify churches and community centers that serve as gathering places for citizens. RiverNet and LREC have prioritized these locations to receive service and have donated equipment to create free community fiber hotspots. These hotspots have the capability to provide 100 mbps speeds to at least 250 devices at one time. Individuals will have the opportunity to log on to these high-speed networks during school and work hours for free to complete school work, work from home, access tele-healthcare, and connect with others.

In addition, RiverNet is developing community town hall sessions to educate consumers on the various benefits and components of fiber optic internet. These sessions will provide information on virtual tools like Zoom, streaming services, wireless routers, hotspots and more. In addition, employee experts will be on hand to answer questions and troubleshoot common problems consumers are experiencing.

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.

Lynches River Electric has available up to \$10 million in a multiple advance promissory note from CoBank. These funds are more than enough to provide for the 50 percent funding of the total project cost. Please see attached document CoBank Multiple Advance Term Promissory Note.

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

We are not in need of any agreement, permit or other item to complete this project.

FACEBOOK COMMENTS & MESSAGES

WSOCTV.COM

Chesterfield County schools work to resolve internet issues in rural areas

1,730 People Reached 468 Engagements [Boost Post](#)

25 5 Comments 17 Shares

[Like](#) [Comment](#) [Share](#)

Most Relevant ▾

Comment as Lynch River Electric Cooperative

Casey Shae I hope it help because my kids need it for this school year
[Like](#) [Reply](#) [Message](#) · 1w

Kim Dixon Please hurry!! Trying to take classes and start a business is nearly impossible!! (Not to mention I can't get internet to my actual house!) We need you!! THANK YOU!!!
[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · 15w 2

Donna Vincent Krimminger We need it for this e learning because our kids can't even pull up the videos they are supposed to watch for the work to be done!
[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · 15w · Edited 5

Maresa Bush Donna Vincent Krimminger they hung fiber in red maple yesterday
[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · 15w 2

Donna Vincent Krimminger Maresa Bush yes I passed them. Just wish we could get before end of may. The 22nd of may is when all work is to be completed for school. Our internet absolutely stinks
[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · 15w · Edited

Heather Walden I hope LCSD is included! I know myself and several others that have school aged children with no access to high speed internet.
[Like](#) [Reply](#) [Message](#) · 1w 3



Donna Vincent Krimminger I just wish we could get it before school starts back so my kids can do ecampus without worrying about slow speeds

Like · Reply · Message 2w



1



Author

RiverNet Connect We definitely recognize the importance of having fast, reliable internet service, especially for educational purposes. Please know we are working hard to get to EVERY member as quickly and efficiently as we can.

Like · Reply 2w



1

I been begging for better service for more than 3 years lost several at home Job opportunities because of Comporium Internet.

A year ago our max MBPS was 2

2 mbps upload and 0.08 download

One last question if my power is in my mamas name, do we need to do the internet in her name to match or can we do it in our name.



JUL 27, 2020, 2:39 PM



I have a question. Y'all have already put up the lines down my road ebenezer church rd Camden S.C. and I was wondering when the service would start connecting to houses cause we don't have internet right now and with school getting ready to start we didn't know if it would be ready by then for my children to do the school from home option any information would be great thanks



Lisa West Smith Thank you from Joshua Tree Rd. I work at home and the struggle is real

Like · Reply · Message 1m



August 14, 2020

Mr. Brian Broughton
Lynches River Electric Cooperative
P.O. Box 308
Pageland, SC 29728

Dear Mr. Broughton:

It is with complete confidence that Fiber Optic Solutions will have construction finalized of the high-speed internet fiber network in Chesterfield County zones 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10 and 11, and Lancaster County zones 6 and 9, on or before the deadline date of Friday, December 18, 2020. This includes 2,891 households and 201 total miles of fiber.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cliff Churchill".

Cliff Churchill, President
828-215-2738
cliff@fos-llc.com



Chesterfield County School District

401 West Boulevard
Chesterfield, SC 29709 (843) 623-2175 Fax (843) 623-3434

J. Harrison Goodwin, Ed.D.
Superintendent

School Board

Wesley R. Miles
Chairman
District 3

Darin M. Coleman
Vice-Chairman
District 2

Eric G. Dusa
Secretary
District 8

Kimberly T. Burch
District 1

Chad L. Vick
District 4

Jamie D. Wayne
District 5

James N. Sweeney
District 6

Robert Teal
District 7

Dr. Wayne Chapman
District 9

*Excellence In
Academics,
Arts
And
Athletics*

August 12, 2020

Mr. Brian Broughton, CEO
Lynches River Electric Cooperative
P.O. Box 308
Pageland, SC 29728

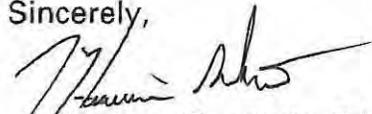
Dear Mr. Broughton:

On behalf of the Chesterfield County School District, I wanted to remind you of the urgent need of high-speed broadband access for our students, teachers, and staff. As you are aware, students in the rural communities we serve are at a disadvantage due to the lack of reliable internet service, and with the arrival of the COVID-19 crisis, this has quickly escalated to a critical point with educating our students.

The ability to communicate to our students and their families is extremely limited. While we make every attempt to stay in touch, without dependable broadband access, the communication gap between school and home makes it impossible to stay in touch with some students. This communication includes everything from daily assignments to notices regarding available food resources for the students.

For remote learning to be possible, our students must have access to high-speed broadband. We appreciate what Lynches River Electric Cooperative is doing through RiverNet Connect, and we are very anxious to get high-speed broadband to Chesterfield County. At one time, high-speed broadband was considered a luxury, but it is now critical for the future of our students.

Sincerely,



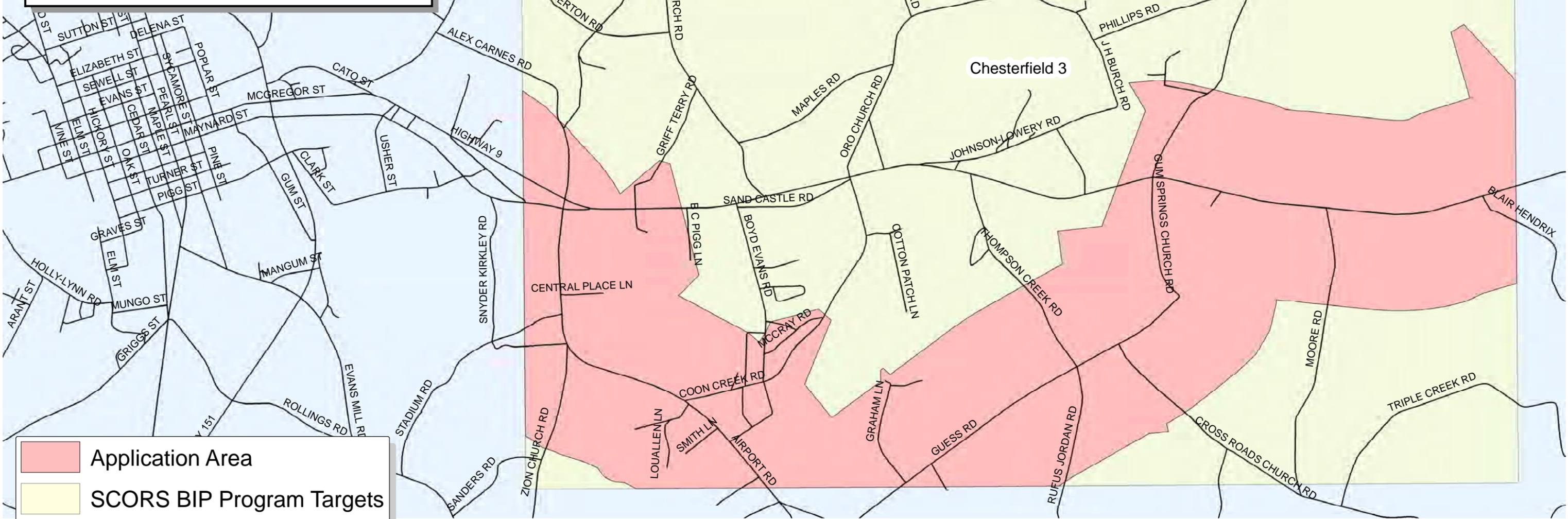
J. Harrison Goodwin, Ed.D.
Superintendent

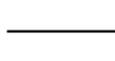
JHG:ph

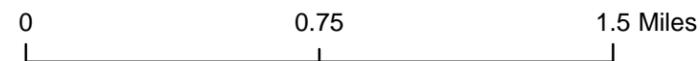
Chesterfield 3

Chesterfield County, SC
Nearest City: Pageland, SC
Rural

Households: 384
Businesses: 1
Health Care Facilities: 0
Community Anchor Points: 0
Educational Institutions: 1



-  Application Area
-  SCORS BIP Program Targets
-  Roads



APPLICATION



South Carolina Broadband Infrastructure Project

Applicant Information

Applicant Name/Organization **Lynches River Electric Cooperative**

Applicant FCC Registration Number (FRN) **0001889161**

Primary Contact Name **Dustin Catoe**

Title **CFO**

Mailing Address **PO Box 308**

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Broadband Service Provider Experience

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- Applicant and/or project Partner has experience delivering broadband service over fiber or hybrid fiber-coax infrastructure
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Project Area Information

County **Chesterfield**

Rural or Urban **Rural**

Nearest City/Town **Pageland**

Project Area Map Code **Chesterfield 4**

193

Number of Households in Project Area *(Target code)*

Number of Businesses in Project Area

Number of Health Care Facilities in Project Area

Number of Community Anchor Points in Project Area

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 **300/300**
- Hybrid fiber-coax (symmetrical upload/download speeds)* Minimum Sustainable Download/Upload Speeds
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Broadband Pricing Schedules or Tiers

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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 9/1/2020	Customer Premises Installations Complete As Needed
Project Construction Activity Begins 9/1/2020	Project Completion Date 12/18/2020
Project Construction Activity Complete 12/18/2020	

Project Cost Information

Total Project Cost \$287,303	Average Cost per Housing Unit \$1,489
Upfront Cost Requirements \$143,652	
Cost of Building and/or Extending Infrastructure to Customer Premises \$100,556	Average Cost per Business \$1,489
Average Cost per Location Served \$1,489 <i>(all locations or structures)</i>	

Project Funding Information

South Carolina CARES Act Funding Requested **\$143,652**

Applicant-Provided Funding

Third-Party Funding	Amount
	Source(s)

Additional Information

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

See Attached Exhibit A

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

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1. Map of Project Area (PDF and Shapefile formats)
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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: Dustin Catoe

Title of Signatory: CFO

Date: 8/14/2020

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

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FACEBOOK COMMENTS & MESSAGES

WSOCTV.COM

Chesterfield County schools work to resolve internet issues in rural areas

1,730 People Reached 468 Engagements [Boost Post](#)

25 5 Comments 17 Shares

[Like](#) [Comment](#) [Share](#)

Most Relevant ▾

 Comment as Lynches River Electric Cooperative [😊](#) [📷](#) [GIF](#) [👍](#)

 **Casey Shae** I hope it help because my kids need it for this school year
[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · 1w

 **Kim Dixon** Please hurry!! Trying to take classes and start a business is nearly impossible!! (Not to mention I can't get internet to my actual house!) We need you!! THANK YOU!!!
[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · 15w [👍](#) 2

 **Donna Vincent Krimminger** We need it for this e learning because our kids can't even pull up the videos they are supposed to watch for the work to be done!
[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · 15w · Edited [👍](#) [❤️](#) 5

 **Maresa Bush** Donna Vincent Krimminger they hung fiber in red maple yesterday
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[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · 15w · Edited

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[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · 1w [❤️](#) [👍](#) 3



Donna Vincent Krimminger I just wish we could get it before school starts back so my kids can do ecampus without worrying about slow speeds

Like - Reply - Message - 2w



1



Author

RiverNet Connect We definitely recognize the importance of having fast, reliable internet service, especially for educational purposes. Please know we are working hard to get to EVERY member as quickly and efficiently as we can.

Like - Reply - 2w



1

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2 mbps upload and 0.08 download

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Lisa West Smith Thank you from Joshua Tree Rd. I work at home and the struggle is real

Like - Reply - Message - 1m



August 14, 2020

Mr. Brian Broughton
Lynches River Electric Cooperative
P.O. Box 308
Pageland, SC 29728

Dear Mr. Broughton:

It is with complete confidence that Fiber Optic Solutions will have construction finalized of the high-speed internet fiber network in Chesterfield County zones 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10 and 11, and Lancaster County zones 6 and 9, on or before the deadline date of Friday, December 18, 2020. This includes 2,891 households and 201 total miles of fiber.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cliff Churchill".

Cliff Churchill, President
828-215-2738
cliff@fos-llc.com



Chesterfield County School District

401 West Boulevard

Chesterfield, SC 29709 (843) 623-2175 Fax (843) 623-3434

J. Harrison Goodwin, Ed.D.
Superintendent

School Board

Wesley R. Miles
Chairman
District 3

Darin M. Coleman
Vice-Chairman
District 2

Eric G. Dusa
Secretary
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Kimberly T. Burch
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Chad L. Vick
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Jamie D. Wayne
District 5

James N. Sweeney
District 6

Robert Teal
District 7

Dr. Wayne Chapman
District 9

*Excellence In
Academics,
Arts
And
Athletics*

August 12, 2020

Mr. Brian Broughton, CEO
Lynches River Electric Cooperative
P.O. Box 308
Pageland, SC 29728

Dear Mr. Broughton:

On behalf of the Chesterfield County School District, I wanted to remind you of the urgent need of high-speed broadband access for our students, teachers, and staff. As you are aware, students in the rural communities we serve are at a disadvantage due to the lack of reliable internet service, and with the arrival of the COVID-19 crisis, this has quickly escalated to a critical point with educating our students.

The ability to communicate to our students and their families is extremely limited. While we make every attempt to stay in touch, without dependable broadband access, the communication gap between school and home makes it impossible to stay in touch with some students. This communication includes everything from daily assignments to notices regarding available food resources for the students.

For remote learning to be possible, our students must have access to high-speed broadband. We appreciate what Lynches River Electric Cooperative is doing through RiverNet Connect, and we are very anxious to get high-speed broadband to Chesterfield County. At one time, high-speed broadband was considered a luxury, but it is now critical for the future of our students.

Sincerely,

J. Harrison Goodwin, Ed.D.
Superintendent

JHG:ph

APPLICATION

South Carolina Broadband Infrastructure Project



Applicant Information

Applicant Name/Organization **Lynches River Electric Cooperative**

Applicant FCC Registration Number (FRN) **0001889161**

Primary Contact Name **Dustin Catoe**

Title **CFO**

Mailing Address **PO Box 308**

Phone Number **803-287-7223**

City, State, Zip **Pageland SC 29728**

Email **dustin.catoe@lynchesriver.cor**

Broadband Service Provider Experience

Date of Applicant's Initial FCC Form 477 Submission **N/A**

Date of Applicant's Most Recent FCC Form 477 Submission **N/A**

- 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 **Chesterfield**

Rural or Urban **Rural**

Nearest City/Town **Cheraw**

Project Area Map Code **Chesterfield 5**

177

Number of Households in Project Area *(Target code)*

Number of Businesses in Project Area

Number of Health Care Facilities in Project Area

Number of Community Anchor Points in Project Area

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 **300/300**
- 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:

- 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 **Pending Notice To Proceed** Customer Premises **Pending**
 Project Construction Activity Begins **Pending** Installations Complete
 Project Construction Activity Complete **Pending** Project Completion Date **12/18/2020**

Project Cost Information

Total Project Cost **\$255,842** Average Cost per Housing Unit **\$1,445**
 Upfront Cost Requirements **\$127,921**
 Cost of Building and/or Extending Infrastructure to Customer Premises **\$97,978** Average Cost per Business **\$1,445**
 Average Cost per Location Served **\$1,445**
(all locations or structures)

Project Funding Information

South Carolina CARES Act Funding Requested **\$127,921**

Applicant-Provided Funding

Third-Party Funding	Amount
	Source(s)

Additional Information

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

See Attached Exhibit A

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

See Attached Exhibit A

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

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

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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.

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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: Dustin Catoe

Title of Signatory: CFO

Date: 8/14/2020

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.

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Lynches River Electric Cooperative (LREC) has experience building, managing and operating a sophisticated fiber optic broadband network throughout three rural counties and numerous rural communities. In the fall of 2019, LREC oversaw the creation of engineering plans to connect each of the electric utility's 16 substations throughout the service area. This project served as the backbone for the cooperative's newly formed fiber subsidiary, RiverNet Connect. In just one year's time, LREC and RiverNet have overseen the development of engineering plans that will serve over 6,000 homes in rural communities in Chesterfield, Lancaster and Kershaw counties. Physical construction on the fiber optic network began in February of 2020. In just six months, LREC has succeeded in bringing communications for 14 of the 16 substations into working order. In addition, LREC and RiverNet has activated several residential "friendlies", or testers, in parts of the network that are not applying for CARES Act funds. LREC and RiverNet Connect can ensure that no construction has begun off the mainline in areas eligible for funding.

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a. Distance Learning

As with many other school districts across the country, the three school districts we serve are grappling with balancing educating their students with keeping them safe. Each of the three school districts in our area have adopted a plan for the 2020-21 school year that includes an eLearning and hybrid option. As of this application deadline in Lancaster County, 33 percent of students, just under 4500 students, will utilize an all-virtual option. Chesterfield County school leaders reported an estimated 2,000 students throughout the county are expected to learn online this school year. Finally, in Kershaw County, 51 percent of students (about 5,355 students) selected one of the two e-learning options the school district is offering. Unfortunately, each of these three school districts have areas that do not have access to broadband, which forces the hand of many families when making difficult educational decisions for their family and students. As you will see in numerous supporting documents, many parents have reached out to RiverNet Connect and Lynches River Electric Cooperative to express their concern, and Superintendent Harrison Goodwin of Chesterfield County School District has written to express his experience with the difficulties that limited broadband creates for his students and teachers.

LREC, in conjunction with its fiber subsidiary, has made a priority of identifying these underserved and unserved areas throughout Chesterfield, Lancaster and Kershaw counties. In addition to identifying and prioritizing unserved areas, LREC and RiverNet have partnered with school district leaders to develop community hot spots to serve as many students as possible. At LREC and RiverNet, we recognize the positive exponential impact that education can have on the community we serve. In today's world, we recognize the implications that access to

broadband has on a student's access to quality education. Because of this connection, we are committed to providing our community and each of its citizens with the access to world class internet service regardless of where an individual resides.

b. Telehealth

For the rural communities served by LREC, the coronavirus has only increased the need for high-quality and reliable internet connectivity as healthcare is increasingly delivered through telehealth, and healthcare professionals depend on broadband for every aspect of their operations.

As technology has advanced, so has the delivery of healthcare. Telehealth is a proven healthcare delivery method, but requires access to reliable broadband connectivity. No matter the zip code of these rural areas, LREC is committed to providing high-speed broadband access and digital technology so all health care providers can diagnose and treat their patients.

c. Work at Home

Since the announcement of RiverNet Connect in October, 2019, LREC members have shared stories of the difficulties of working from home due to the poor internet options from their current provider. When the coronavirus lockdown started, and more members were forced to remain at home, a new light was shown on the longstanding digital divide between the rural communities LREC serves and the metro areas of South Carolina. While the internet speeds at home were already slow in these rural communities, sharing this limited bandwidth with other family members, including school age children, have practically made internet connections screech to a standstill. Now that families are working and learning from home, those working from home need internet connections strong enough to upload large files and to make and receive video calls. The days of sitting in the local fast food restaurant parking lot for access to high-speed internet is no longer a solution.

It is critical that our rural communities stay connected, and LREC and RiverNet are committed to providing this service until every member that lives down every dirt road in our service area has the high-speed fiber internet to compete in today's world.

Describe how your proposal meets the needs of the community to be served as described

Chesterfield County

According to the latest release of Census data, Chesterfield County has a poverty level of 20.9 percent which is greater than the state poverty level of 15 percent and almost double the federal poverty level of 11.8 percent. Just under 75 percent of Chesterfield County is classified as rural. With a population just over 40,000, 40 percent of Chesterfield County residents do not have broadband at their homes. In comparison, statewide data shows only 25 percent of homes

that do not have broadband. Finally, the Department of Education has defined Chesterfield County School District's poverty level at 72.3 percent.

The ORS has identified a number of Areas of Need in Chesterfield County. LREC and RiverNet have further identified ___ households in this Area of Need that we can serve prior to the deadline.

Lancaster County

According to the latest release of Census data, Lancaster County has a poverty level of 13.3 percent which is greater than the federal poverty level of 11.8 percent. With a population just over 98,000, 25 percent of Lancaster County residents do not have broadband at their homes. Finally, the Department of Education has defined Lancaster County School District's poverty level at 56.2 percent.

The ORS has identified a number of Areas of Need in Lancaster County. LREC and RiverNet have further identified ___ households in this Area of Need that we can serve prior to the deadline.

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

Rome wasn't built in a day and neither are fiber optic networks. At Lynches River Electric Cooperative, we desperately wish we could connect every consumer in need prior to the start of the 2020-21 school year. Though we all recognize this impossibility, our construction crews have been working with unmatched dedication to reach as many consumers as possible, as quickly as possible. In order to subsidize traditional fiber service, we have developed the Community Fiber initiative to accelerate access to internet for a greater number of individuals.

Through our Community Fiber initiative, LREC and RiverNet have partnered with community leaders to identify churches and community centers that serve as gathering places for citizens. RiverNet and LREC have prioritized these locations to receive service and have donated equipment to create free community fiber hotspots. These hotspots have the capability to provide 100 mbps speeds to at least 250 devices at one time. Individuals will have the opportunity to log on to these high-speed networks during school and work hours for free to complete school work, work from home, access tele-healthcare, and connect with others.

In addition, RiverNet is developing community town hall sessions to educate consumers on the various benefits and components of fiber optic internet. These sessions will provide information on virtual tools like Zoom, streaming services, wireless routers, hotspots and more. In addition, employee experts will be on hand to answer questions and troubleshoot common problems consumers are experiencing.

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.

Lynches River Electric has available up to \$10 million in a multiple advance promissory note from CoBank. These funds are more than enough to provide for the 50 percent funding of the total project cost. Please see attached document CoBank Multiple Advance Term Promissory Note.

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

We are not in need of any agreement, permit or other item to complete this project.

FACEBOOK COMMENTS & MESSAGES

WSOCTV.COM 2

Chesterfield County schools work to resolve internet issues in rural areas

1,730 People Reached **468** Engagements [Boost Post](#)

25 5 Comments 17 Shares

[Like](#) [Comment](#) [Share](#)

Most Relevant ▾

Comment as Lynchas River Electric Cooperative

Casey Shae I hope it help because my kids need it for this school year
[Like](#) [Reply](#) [Message](#) 1w

Kim Dixon Please hurry!! Trying to take classes and start a business is nearly impossible!! (Not to mention I can't get internet to my actual house!) We need you!! THANK YOU!!!
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[Like](#) [Reply](#) [Message](#) 15w - Edited 5

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Like Reply Message 1m



August 14, 2020

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Cliff Churchill, President
828-215-2738
cliff@fos-llc.com



Chesterfield County School District

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Chesterfield, SC 29709

(843) 623-2175

Fax (843) 623-3434

J. Harrison Goodwin, Ed.D.
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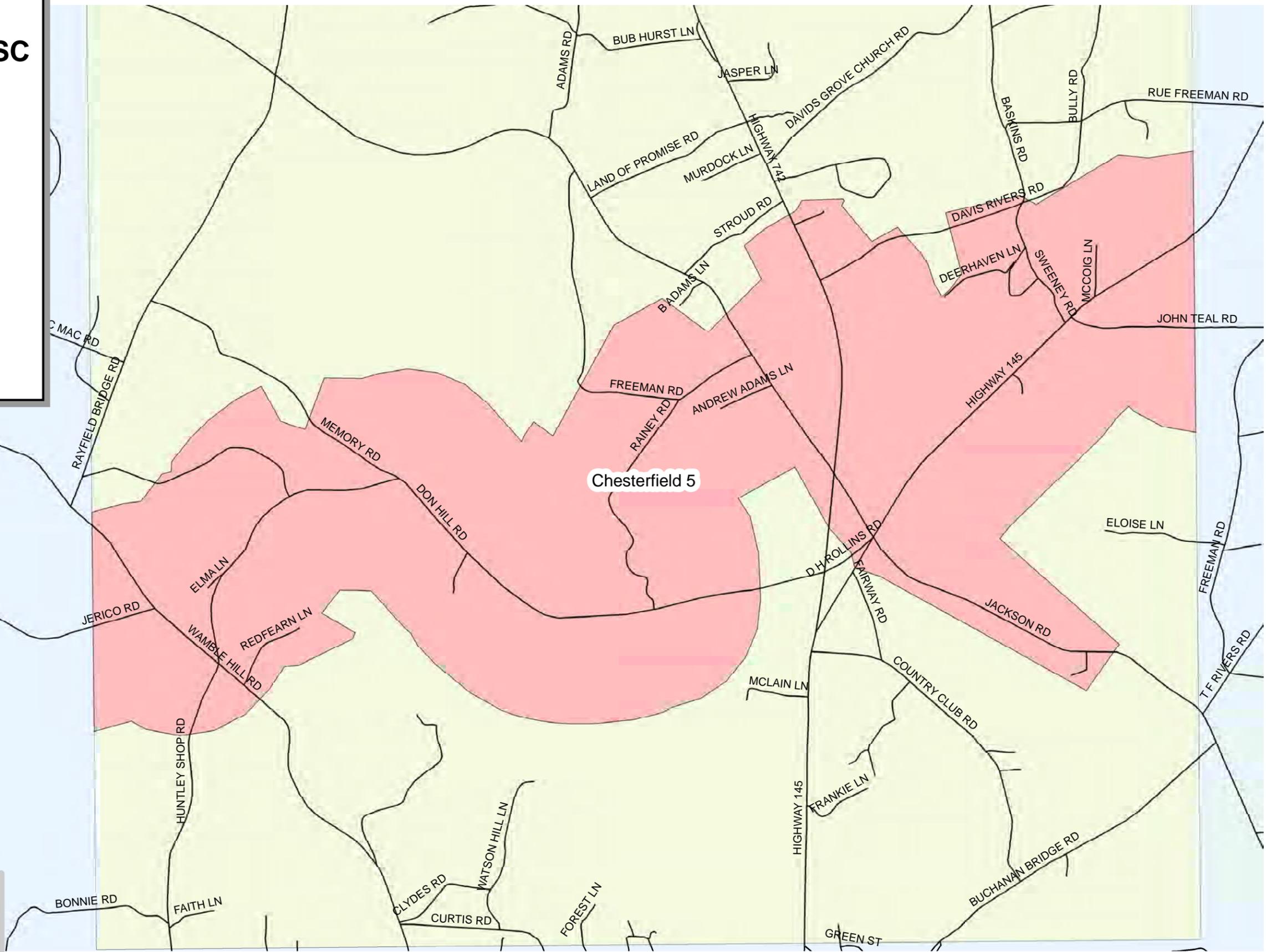
J. Harrison Goodwin, Ed.D.
Superintendent

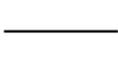
JHG:ph

Chesterfield 5

Chesterfield County, SC
Nearest City: Chesterfield, SC
Rural

Households: 177
Businesses: 0
Health Care Facilities: 0
Community Anchor Points: 0
Educational Institutions: 0



-  Application Area
-  SCORS BIP Program Targets
-  Roads

0 0.75 1.5 Miles



APPLICATION

South Carolina Broadband Infrastructure Project



Applicant Information

Applicant Name/Organization **Lynches River Electric Cooperative**

Applicant FCC Registration Number (FRN) **0001889161**

Primary Contact Name **Dustin Catoe** Title **CFO**

Mailing Address **PO Box 308** Phone Number **803-287-7223**

City, State, Zip **Pageland SC 29728** Email **dustin.catoe@lynchesriver.cor**

Broadband Service Provider Experience

Date of Applicant's Initial FCC Form 477 Submission **N/A**

Date of Applicant's Most Recent FCC Form 477 Submission **N/A**

- 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 **Chesterfield** Rural or Urban **Rural**

Nearest City/Town **Cheraw** Project Area Map Code **Chesterfield 6**

194 Number of Households in Project Area (Target code)

Number of Businesses in Project Area

Number of Health Care Facilities in Project Area

Number of Community Anchor Points in Project Area

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 **300/300**
- Hybrid fiber-coax (symmetrical upload/download speeds)* Minimum Sustainable Download/Upload Speeds
- Hybrid fiber-coax (non-symmetrical upload/download speeds)* Minimum Sustainable Download/Upload 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:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <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 9/1/2020	Customer Premises As Needed
Project Construction Activity Begins 9/1/2020	Installations Complete
Project Construction Activity Complete 12/18/2020	Project Completion Date 12/18/2020

Project Cost Information

Total Project Cost \$242,349	Average Cost per Housing Unit \$1,249
Upfront Cost Requirements \$121,175	
Cost of Building and/or Extending Infrastructure to Customer Premises \$97,978	Average Cost per Business \$1,240
Average Cost per Location Served \$1,249 <i>(all locations or structures)</i>	

Project Funding Information

South Carolina CARES Act Funding Requested **\$121,175**

Applicant-Provided Funding **\$121,175**

Third-Party Funding	Amount
	Source(s)

Additional Information

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

See Attached Exhibit A

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

See Attached Exhibit A

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1. Map of Project Area (PDF and Shapefile formats)
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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: Dustin Catoe

Title of Signatory: CFO

Date: 8/14/2020

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.*

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c. Work at Home

Since the announcement of RiverNet Connect in October, 2019, LREC members have shared stories of the difficulties of working from home due to the poor internet options from their current provider. When the coronavirus lockdown started, and more members were forced to remain at home, a new light was shown on the longstanding digital divide between the rural communities LREC serves and the metro areas of South Carolina. While the internet speeds at home were already slow in these rural communities, sharing this limited bandwidth with other family members, including school age children, have practically made internet connections screech to a standstill. Now that families are working and learning from home, those working from home need internet connections strong enough to upload large files and to make and receive video calls. The days of sitting in the local fast food restaurant parking lot for access to high-speed internet is no longer a solution.

It is critical that our rural communities stay connected, and LREC and RiverNet are committed to providing this service until every member that lives down every dirt road in our service area has the high-speed fiber internet to compete in today's world.

Describe how your proposal meets the needs of the community to be served as described

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WSOCTV.COM

Chesterfield County schools work to resolve internet issues in rural areas

1,730 People Reached 468 Engagements [Boost Post](#)

25 5 Comments 17 Shares

[Like](#) [Comment](#) [Share](#)

Most Relevant ▾

Comment as Lynchies River Electric Cooperative

Casey Shae I hope it help because my kids need it for this school year
[Like](#) [Reply](#) [Message](#) 1w

Kim Dixon Please hurry!! Trying to take classes and start a business is nearly impossible!! (Not to mention I can't get internet to my actual house!) We need you!! THANK YOU!!!
[Like](#) [Reply](#) [Message](#) · 15w 2

Donna Vincent Krimminger We need it for this e learning because our kids can't even pull up the videos they are supposed to watch for the work to be done!
[Like](#) · [Reply](#) [Message](#) · 15w Edited 5

Maresa Bush Donna Vincent Krimminger they hung fiber in red maple yesterday
[Like](#) [Reply](#) [Message](#) · 15w 2

Donna Vincent Krimminger Maresa Bush yes I passed them. Just wish we could get before end of may. The 22nd of may is when all work is to be completed for school. Our internet absolutely stinks
[Like](#) [Reply](#) [Message](#) · 15w Edited

Heather Walden I hope LCSD is included! I know myself and several others that have school aged children with no access to high speed internet.
[Like](#) [Reply](#) [Message](#) · 1w 3



Donna Vincent Krimminger I just wish we could get it before school starts back so my kids can do ecampus without worrying about slow speeds

Like Reply Message 2w



Author

RiverNet Connect We definitely recognize the importance of having fast, reliable internet service, especially for educational purposes. Please know we are working hard to get to EVERY member as quickly and efficiently as we can.

Like Reply 2w



I been begging for better service for more than 3 years lost several at home Job opportunities because of Comporium Internet.

A year ago our max MBPS was 2

2 mbps upload and 0.08 download

One last question if my power is in my mamas name, do we need to do the internet in her name to match or can we do it in our name.



JUL 27, 2020, 2:39 PM

I have a question. Y'all have already put up the lines down my road ebenezer church rd Camden S.C. and I was wondering when the service would start connecting to houses cause we don't have internet right now and with school getting ready to start we didn't know if it would be ready by then for my children to do the school from home option any information would be great thanks



Lisa West Smith Thank you from Joshua Tree Rd. I work at home and the struggle is real

Like Reply Message 1m



August 14, 2020

Mr. Brian Broughton
Lynches River Electric Cooperative
P.O. Box 308
Pageland, SC 29728

Dear Mr. Broughton:

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cliff Churchill", is written over a light blue circular stamp.

Cliff Churchill, President
828-215-2738
cliff@fos-llc.com



Chesterfield County School District

401 West Boulevard
Chesterfield, SC 29709 (843) 623-2175 Fax (843) 623-3434

J. Harrison Goodwin, Ed.D.
Superintendent

August 12, 2020

School Board

Wesley R. Miles
Chairman
District 3

Darin M. Coleman
Vice-Chairman
District 2

Eric G. Dusa
Secretary
District 8

Kimberly T. Burch
District 1

Chad L. Vick
District 4

Jamie D. Wayne
District 5

James N. Sweeney
District 6

Robert Teal
District 7

Dr. Wayne Chapman
District 9

*Excellence In
Academics,
Arts
And
Athletics*

Mr. Brian Broughton, CEO
Lynches River Electric Cooperative
P.O. Box 308
Pageland, SC 29728

Dear Mr. Broughton:

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For remote learning to be possible, our students must have access to high-speed broadband. We appreciate what Lynches River Electric Cooperative is doing through RiverNet Connect, and we are very anxious to get high-speed broadband to Chesterfield County. At one time, high-speed broadband was considered a luxury, but it is now critical for the future of our students.

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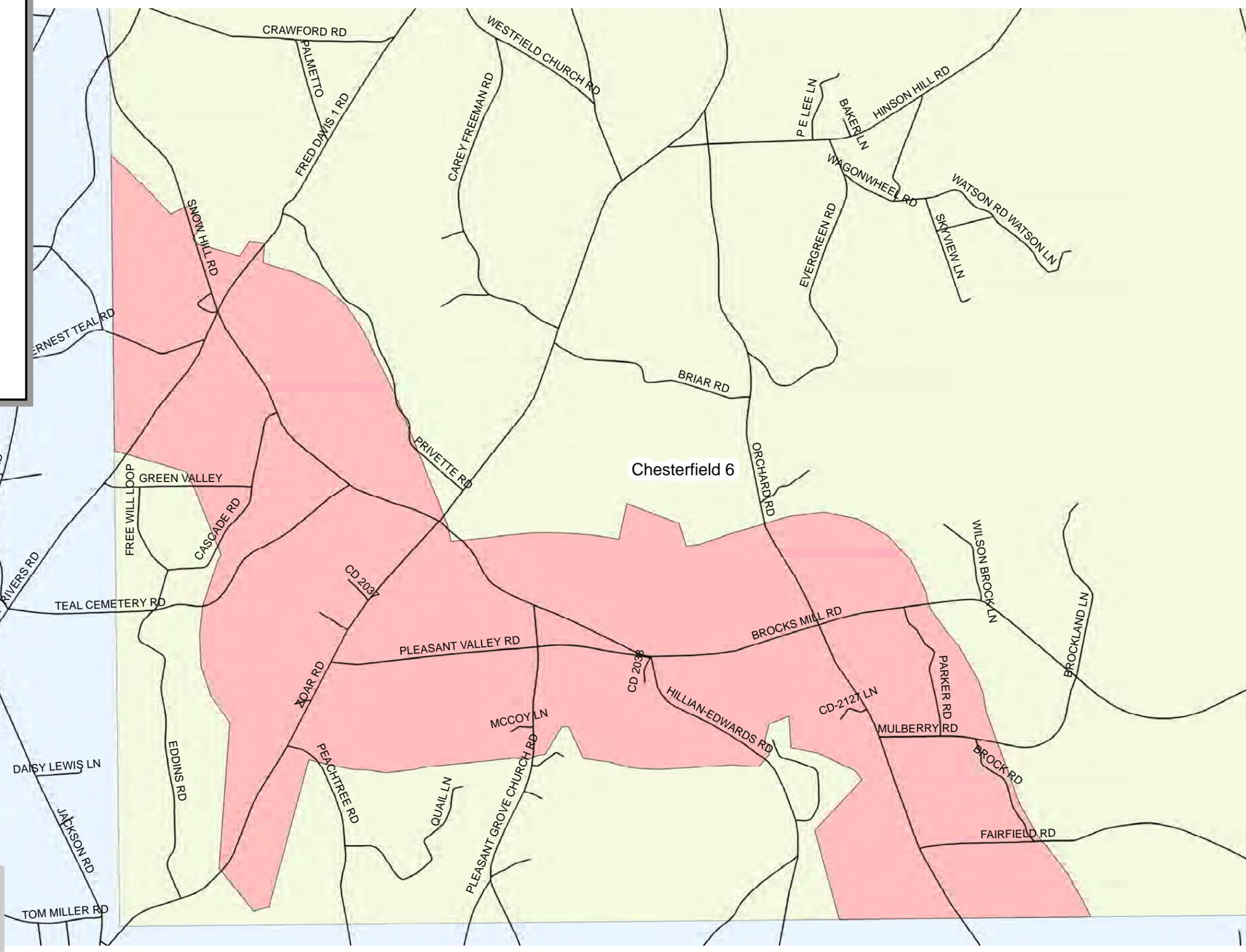
J. Harrison Goodwin, Ed.D.
Superintendent

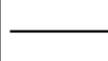
JHG:ph

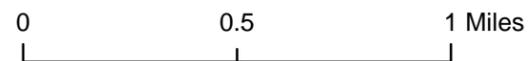
Chesterfield 6

Chesterfield County, SC
Nearest City: Cheraw, SC
Rural

Households: 194
Businesses: 0
Health Care Facilities: 0
Community Anchor Points: 0
Educational Institutions: 0



-  Application Area
-  SCORS BIP Program Targets
-  Roads



APPLICATION

South Carolina Broadband Infrastructure Project



Applicant Information

Applicant Name/Organization **Lynches River Electric Cooperative**

Applicant FCC Registration Number (FRN) **0001889161**

Primary Contact Name **Dustin Catoe**

Title **CFO**

Mailing Address **PO Box 308**

Phone Number **803-287-7223**

City, State, Zip **Pageland SC 29728**

Email **dustin.catoe@lynchesriver.cor**

Broadband Service Provider Experience

Date of Applicant's Initial FCC Form 477 Submission **N/A**

Date of Applicant's Most Recent FCC Form 477 Submission **N/A**

- 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 **Chesterfield**

Rural or Urban **Rural**

Nearest City/Town **Pageland**

Project Area Map Code **Chesterfield 8**

235

Number of Households in Project Area *(Target code)*

Number of Businesses in Project Area

Number of Health Care Facilities in Project Area

Number of Community Anchor Points in Project Area

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 **300/300**
- Hybrid fiber-coax (symmetrical upload/download speeds)* Minimum Sustainable Download/Upload Speeds
- Hybrid fiber-coax (non-symmetrical upload/download speeds)* Minimum Sustainable Download/Upload 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:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <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 type="checkbox"/> Rates between \$25 - \$34.99/month |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rates between \$15 - \$19.99/month | |

Project Timeline and Milestones

Project Start Date 9/1/2020	Customer Premises Installations Complete As Needed
Project Construction Activity Begins 9/1/2020	Project Completion Date 12/18/2020
Project Construction Activity Complete 12/18/2020	

Project Cost Information

Total Project Cost \$311,450	Average Cost per Housing Unit \$1,325
Upfront Cost Requirements \$155,725	
Cost of Building and/or Extending Infrastructure to Customer Premises \$105,352	Average Cost per Business \$1,325
Average Cost per Location Served \$1,325 <i>(all locations or structures)</i>	

Project Funding Information

South Carolina CARES Act Funding Requested **\$155,725**

Applicant-Provided Funding

Third-Party Funding	Amount
	Source(s)

Additional Information

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

See Attached Exhibit A

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

See Attached Exhibit A

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See Attached Exhibit A

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

See Attached Exhibit A

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: Dustin Catoe

Title of Signatory: CFO

Date: 8/14/2020

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.

Lynches River Electric Cooperative (LREC) has experience building, managing and operating a sophisticated fiber optic broadband network throughout three rural counties and numerous rural communities. In the fall of 2019, LREC oversaw the creation of engineering plans to connect each of the electric utility's 16 substations throughout the service area. This project served as the backbone for the cooperative's newly formed fiber subsidiary, RiverNet Connect. In just one year's time, LREC and RiverNet have overseen the development of engineering plans that will serve over 6,000 homes in rural communities in Chesterfield, Lancaster and Kershaw counties. Physical construction on the fiber optic network began in February of 2020. In just six months, LREC has succeeded in bringing communications for 14 of the 16 substations into working order. In addition, LREC and RiverNet has activated several residential "friendlies", or testers, in parts of the network that are not applying for CARES Act funds. LREC and RiverNet Connect can ensure that no construction has begun off the mainline in areas eligible for funding.

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

a. Distance Learning

As with many other school districts across the country, the three school districts we serve are grappling with balancing educating their students with keeping them safe. Each of the three school districts in our area have adopted a plan for the 2020-21 school year that includes an eLearning and hybrid option. As of this application deadline in Lancaster County, 33 percent of students, just under 4500 students, will utilize an all-virtual option. Chesterfield County school leaders reported an estimated 2,000 students throughout the county are expected to learn online this school year. Finally, in Kershaw County, 51 percent of students (about 5,355 students) selected one of the two e-learning options the school district is offering. Unfortunately, each of these three school districts have areas that do not have access to broadband, which forces the hand of many families when making difficult educational decisions for their family and students. As you will see in numerous supporting documents, many parents have reached out to RiverNet Connect and Lynches River Electric Cooperative to express their concern, and Superintendent Harrison Goodwin of Chesterfield County School District has written to express his experience with the difficulties that limited broadband creates for his students and teachers.

LREC, in conjunction with its fiber subsidiary, has made a priority of identifying these underserved and unserved areas throughout Chesterfield, Lancaster and Kershaw counties. In addition to identifying and prioritizing unserved areas, LREC and RiverNet have partnered with school district leaders to develop community hot spots to serve as many students as possible. At LREC and RiverNet, we recognize the positive exponential impact that education can have on the community we serve. In today's world, we recognize the implications that access to

broadband has on a student's access to quality education. Because of this connection, we are committed to providing our community and each of its citizens with the access to world class internet service regardless of where an individual resides.

b. Telehealth

For the rural communities served by LREC, the coronavirus has only increased the need for high-quality and reliable internet connectivity as healthcare is increasingly delivered through telehealth, and healthcare professionals depend on broadband for every aspect of their operations.

As technology has advanced, so has the delivery of healthcare. Telehealth is a proven healthcare delivery method, but requires access to reliable broadband connectivity. No matter the zip code of these rural areas, LREC is committed to providing high-speed broadband access and digital technology so all health care providers can diagnose and treat their patients.

c. Work at Home

Since the announcement of RiverNet Connect in October, 2019, LREC members have shared stories of the difficulties of working from home due to the poor internet options from their current provider. When the coronavirus lockdown started, and more members were forced to remain at home, a new light was shown on the longstanding digital divide between the rural communities LREC serves and the metro areas of South Carolina. While the internet speeds at home were already slow in these rural communities, sharing this limited bandwidth with other family members, including school age children, have practically made internet connections screech to a standstill. Now that families are working and learning from home, those working from home need internet connections strong enough to upload large files and to make and receive video calls. The days of sitting in the local fast food restaurant parking lot for access to high-speed internet is no longer a solution.

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25 5 Comments 17 Shares

Like Comment Share

Most Relevant ▾

Comment as Lynch River Electric Cooperative

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Like Reply Message 1w

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Like Reply Message 15w Edited 5

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Like Reply Message 2w



Author

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Lisa West Smith Thank you from Joshua Tree Rd. I work at home and the struggle is real

Like Reply Message 1m



August 14, 2020

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Lynches River Electric Cooperative
P.O. Box 308
Pageland, SC 29728

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Cliff Churchill, President
828-215-2738
cliff@fos-llc.com



Chesterfield County School District

401 West Boulevard

Chesterfield, SC 29709

(843) 623-2175

Fax (843) 623-3434

J. Harrison Goodwin, Ed.D.
Superintendent

School Board

Wesley R. Miles
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District 1

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District 4

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District 5

James N. Sweeney
District 6

Robert Teal
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Dr. Wayne Chapman
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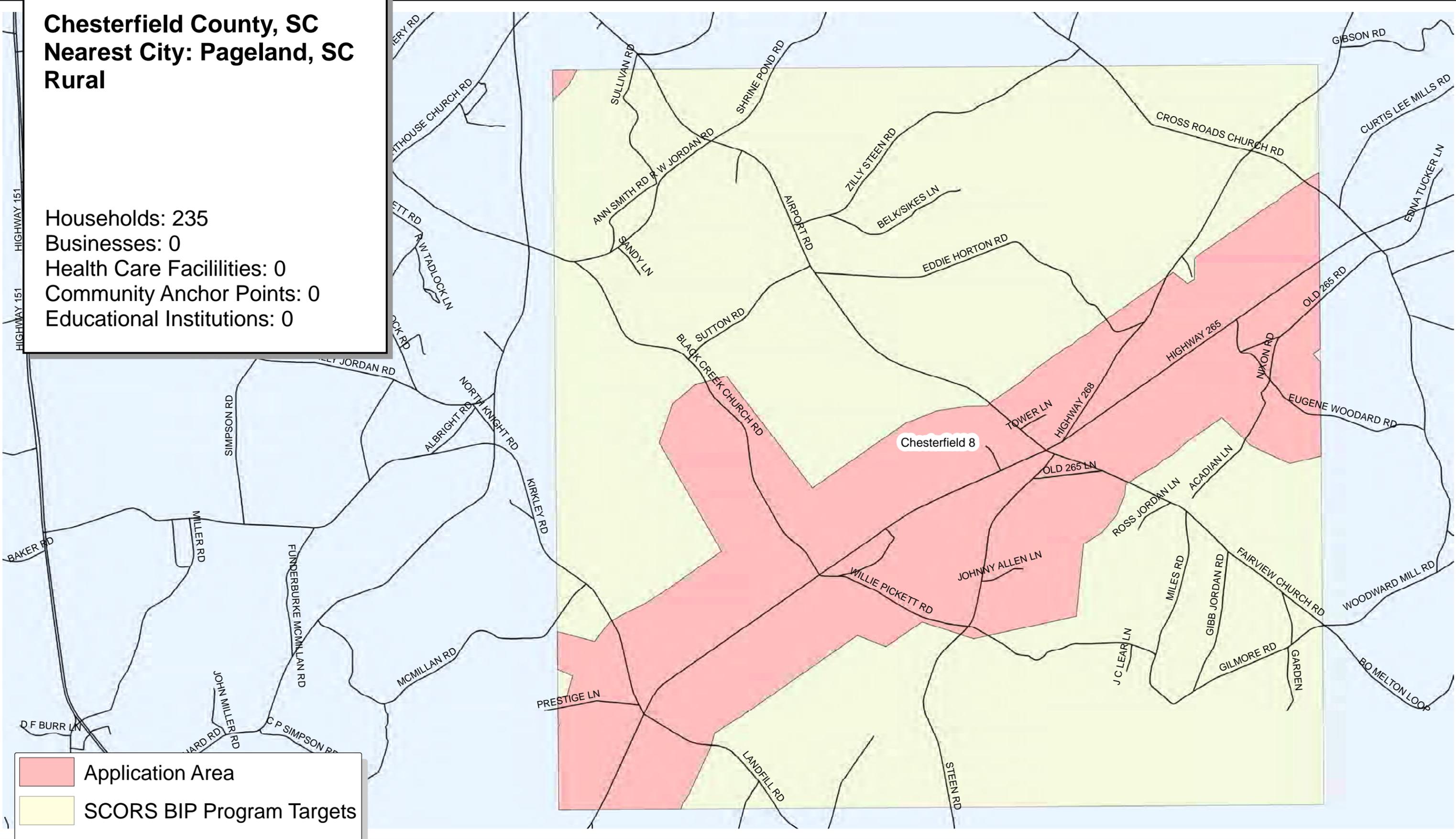
J. Harrison Goodwin, Ed.D.
Superintendent

JHG:ph

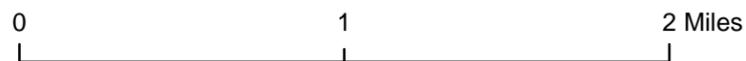
Chesterfield 8

Chesterfield County, SC
Nearest City: Pageland, SC
Rural

Households: 235
Businesses: 0
Health Care Facilities: 0
Community Anchor Points: 0
Educational Institutions: 0



-  Application Area
-  SCORS BIP Program Targets
-  Roads



APPLICATION

South Carolina Broadband Infrastructure Project



Applicant Information

Applicant Name/Organization **Lynches River Electric Cooperative**

Applicant FCC Registration Number (FRN) **0001889161**

Primary Contact Name **Dustin Catoe**

Title **CFO**

Mailing Address **PO Box 308**

Phone Number **803-287-7223**

City, State, Zip **Pageland SC 29728**

Email **dustin.catoe@lynchesriver.cor**

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Date of Applicant's Initial FCC Form 477 Submission **N/A**

Date of Applicant's Most Recent FCC Form 477 Submission **N/A**

- 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 **Chesterfield**

Rural or Urban **Rural**

Nearest City/Town **Chesterfield**

Project Area Map Code **Chesterfield 9**

224 Number of Households in Project Area (Target code)

1 Number of Businesses in Project Area

Number of Health Care Facilities in Project Area

Number of Community Anchor Points in Project Area

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 **300/300**
- 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)
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- VDSL** Minimum Sustainable Download/Upload Speeds
(25/3 Mbps or faster)

Additional Information

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

See Attached Exhibit A

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See Attached Exhibit A

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
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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: Dustin Catoe

Title of Signatory: CFO

Date: 8/14/2020

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.

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We are not in need of any agreement, permit or other item to complete this project.

FACEBOOK COMMENTS & MESSAGES

WSOCTV.COM

Chesterfield County schools work to resolve internet issues in rural areas

1,730 People Reached 468 Engagements [Boost Post](#)

25 5 Comments 17 Shares

[Like](#) [Comment](#) [Share](#)

Most Relevant ▾

Comment as Lynchas River Electric Cooperative

Casey Shae I hope it help because my kids need it for this school year
[Like](#) [Reply](#) [Message](#) 1w

Kim Dixon Please hurry!! Trying to take classes and start a business is nearly impossible!! (Not to mention I can't get internet to my actual house!) We need you!! THANK YOU!!!
[Like](#) [Reply](#) [Message](#) 15w 2

Donna Vincent Kriminger We need it for this e learning because our kids can't even pull up the videos they are supposed to watch for the work to be done!
[Like](#) [Reply](#) [Message](#) 15w · Edited 5

Maresa Bush Donna Vincent Kriminger they hung fiber in red maple yesterday
[Like](#) [Reply](#) [Message](#) 15w 2

Donna Vincent Kriminger Maresa Bush yes I passed them. Just wish we could get before end of may. The 22nd of may is when all work is to be completed for school. Our internet absolutely stinks
[Like](#) [Reply](#) [Message](#) 15w · Edited

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[Like](#) [Reply](#) [Message](#) 1w 3



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Like Reply Message 2w



Author

RiverNet Connect We definitely recognize the importance of having fast, reliable internet service, especially for educational purposes. Please know we are working hard to get to EVERY member as quickly and efficiently as we can.

Like Reply 2w



I been begging for better service for more than 3 years lost several at home Job opportunities because of Comporium Internet.

A year ago our max MBPS was 2

2 mbps upload and 0.08 download

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Lisa West Smith Thank you from Joshua Tree Rd. I work at home and the struggle is real

Like Reply Message 1m



August 14, 2020

Mr. Brian Broughton
Lynches River Electric Cooperative
P.O. Box 308
Pageland, SC 29728

Dear Mr. Broughton:

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cliff Churchill", is written over a light blue circular stamp.

Cliff Churchill, President
828-215-2738
cliff@fos-llc.com



Chesterfield County School District

401 West Boulevard
Chesterfield, SC 29709 (843) 623-2175 Fax (843) 623-3434

J. Harrison Goodwin, Ed.D.
Superintendent

School Board

Wesley R. Miles
Chairman
District 3

Darin M. Coleman
Vice-Chairman
District 2

Eric G. Dusa
Secretary
District 8

Kimberly T. Burch
District 1

Chad L. Vick
District 4

Jamie D. Wayne
District 5

James N. Sweeney
District 6

Robert Teal
District 7

Dr. Wayne Chapman
District 9

Excellence In
Academics,
Arts
And
Athletics

August 12, 2020

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Lynches River Electric Cooperative
P.O. Box 308
Pageland, SC 29728

Dear Mr. Broughton:

On behalf of the Chesterfield County School District, I wanted to remind you of the urgent need of high-speed broadband access for our students, teachers, and staff. As you are aware, students in the rural communities we serve are at a disadvantage due to the lack of reliable internet service, and with the arrival of the COVID-19 crisis, this has quickly escalated to a critical point with educating our students.

The ability to communicate to our students and their families is extremely limited. While we make every attempt to stay in touch, without dependable broadband access, the communication gap between school and home makes it impossible to stay in touch with some students. This communication includes everything from daily assignments to notices regarding available food resources for the students.

For remote learning to be possible, our students must have access to high-speed broadband. We appreciate what Lynches River Electric Cooperative is doing through RiverNet Connect, and we are very anxious to get high-speed broadband to Chesterfield County. At one time, high-speed broadband was considered a luxury, but it is now critical for the future of our students.

Sincerely,

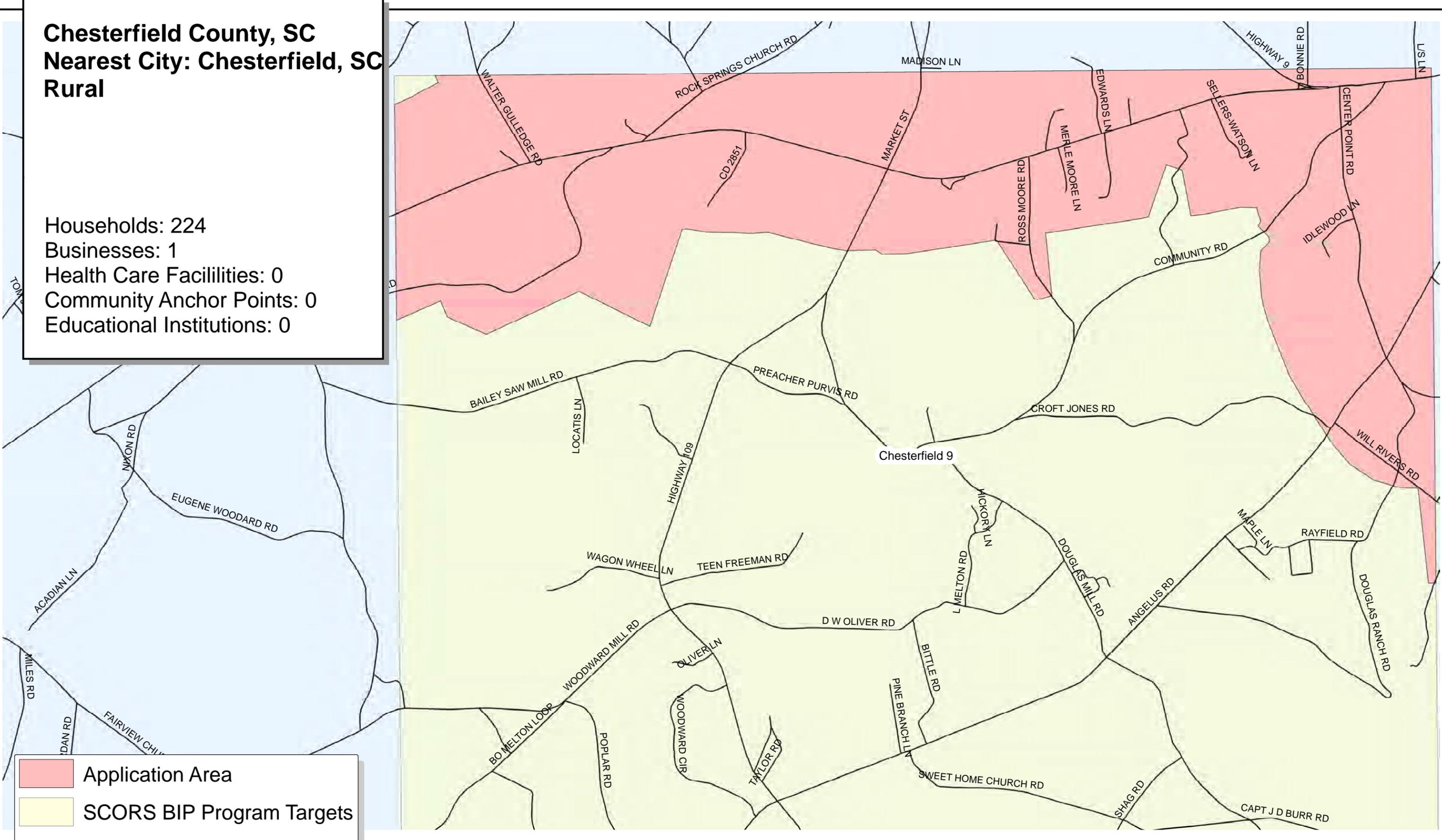
J. Harrison Goodwin, Ed.D.
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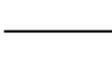
JHG:ph

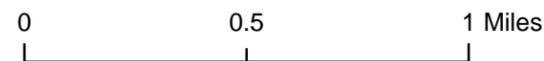
Chesterfield 9

Chesterfield County, SC
Nearest City: Chesterfield, SC
Rural

Households: 224
Businesses: 1
Health Care Facilities: 0
Community Anchor Points: 0
Educational Institutions: 0



-  Application Area
-  SCORS BIP Program Targets
-  Roads



APPLICATION

South Carolina Broadband Infrastructure Project



Applicant Information

Applicant Name/Organization **Lynches River Electric Cooperative**

Applicant FCC Registration Number (FRN) **0001889161**

Primary Contact Name **Dustin Catoe**

Title **CFO**

Mailing Address **PO Box 308**

Phone Number **803-287-7223**

City, State, Zip **Pageland SC 29728**

Email **dustin.catoe@lynchesriver.cor**

Broadband Service Provider Experience

Date of Applicant's Initial FCC Form 477 Submission **N/A**

Date of Applicant's Most Recent FCC Form 477 Submission **N/A**

- 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 **Chesterfield**

Rural or Urban **Rural**

Nearest City/Town **Chesterfield**

Project Area Map Code **Chesterfield 10**

325

Number of Households in Project Area (Target code)

4

Number of Businesses in Project Area

Number of Health Care Facilities in Project Area

Number of Community Anchor Points in Project Area

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 **300/300**
- Hybrid fiber-coax (symmetrical upload/download speeds)* Minimum Sustainable Download/Upload Speeds
- Hybrid fiber-coax (non-symmetrical upload/download speeds)* Minimum Sustainable Download/Upload 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:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <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 type="checkbox"/> Rates between \$25 - \$34.99/month |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rates between \$15 - \$19.99/month | |

Project Timeline and Milestones

Project Start Date 9/1/2020	Customer Premises Installations Complete As Needed
Project Construction Activity Begins 9/1/2020	Project Completion Date 12/18/2020
Project Construction Activity Complete 12/18/2020	

Project Cost Information

Total Project Cost \$430,731	Average Cost per Housing Unit \$1,325
Upfront Cost Requirements \$215,366	
Cost of Building and/or Extending Infrastructure to Customer Premises \$122,724	Average Cost per Business \$1,325
Average Cost per Location Served \$1,325 <i>(all locations or structures)</i>	

Project Funding Information

South Carolina CARES Act Funding Requested **\$215,366**

Applicant-Provided Funding

Third-Party Funding	Amount
	Source(s)

Additional Information

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

See Attached Exhibit

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

See Attached Exhibit

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Title of Signatory: CFO

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[Boost Post](#)

25

5 Comments 17 Shares

Like Comment Share

Most Relevant ▾

Comment as Lynch River Electric Cooperative

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Like · Reply · Message · 2w



1



Author

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Like · Reply · 2w



1

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Like · Reply · Message · 1m



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(843) 623-2175

Fax (843) 623-3434

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For remote learning to be possible, our students must have access to high-speed broadband. We appreciate what Lynches River Electric Cooperative is doing through RiverNet Connect, and we are very anxious to get high-speed broadband to Chesterfield County. At one time, high-speed broadband was considered a luxury, but it is now critical for the future of our students.

Sincerely,

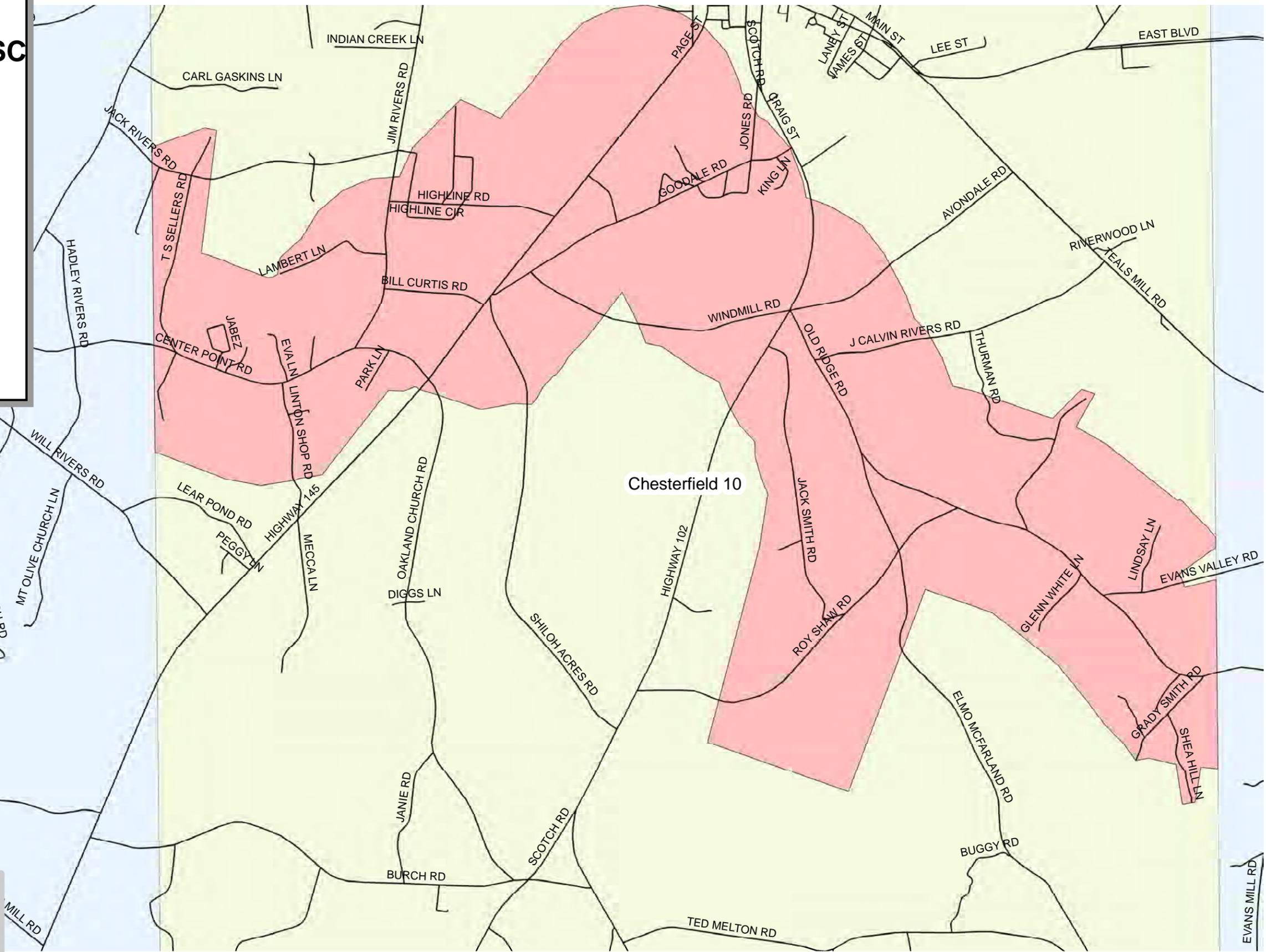
J. Harrison Goodwin, Ed.D.
Superintendent

JHG:ph

Chesterfield 10

Chesterfield County, SC
Nearest City: Chesterfield, SC
Rural

Households: 325
Businesses: 4
Health Care Facilities: 0
Community Anchor Points: 0
Educational Institutions: 0



-  Application Area
-  SCORS BIP Program Targets
-  Roads

0 0.5 1 Miles



APPLICATION

South Carolina Broadband Infrastructure Project



Applicant Information

Applicant Name/Organization **Lynches River Electric Cooperative**

Applicant FCC Registration Number (FRN) **0001889161**

Primary Contact Name **Dustin Catoe**

Title **CFO**

Mailing Address **PO Box 308**

Phone Number **803-287-7223**

City, State, Zip **Pageland SC 29728**

Email **dustin.catoe@lynchesriver.cor**

Broadband Service Provider Experience

Date of Applicant's Initial FCC Form 477 Submission **N/A**

Date of Applicant's Most Recent FCC Form 477 Submission **N/A**

- 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 **Chesterfield**

Rural or Urban **Rural**

Nearest City/Town **Cheraw**

Project Area Map Code **Chesterfield 11**

325

Number of Households in Project Area (Target code)

2

Number of Businesses in Project Area

Number of Health Care Facilities in Project Area

Number of Community Anchor Points in Project Area

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 **300/300**
- 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:

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 **9/1/2020**

Customer Premises Installations Complete **As Needed**

Project Construction Activity Begins **9/1/2020**

Project Completion Date **12/18/2020**

Project Construction Activity Complete **12/18/2020**

Project Cost Information

Total Project Cost **\$474,679**

Average Cost per Housing Unit **\$1,461**

Upfront Cost Requirements **\$237,340**

Cost of Building and/or Extending Infrastructure to Customer Premises **\$189,461**

Average Cost per Business **\$1,461**

Average Cost per Location Served **\$1,461**
(all locations or structures)

Project Funding Information

South Carolina CARES Act Funding Requested **\$237,340**

Applicant-Provided Funding **\$237,340**

Third-Party Funding Amount

Source(s)

Additional Information

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

See Attached Exhibit

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

See Attached Exhibit

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 Exhibit

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

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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.

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

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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: Dustin Catoe

Title of Signatory: CFO

Date: 8/14/2020

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.

Lynches River Electric Cooperative (LREC) has experience building, managing and operating a sophisticated fiber optic broadband network throughout three rural counties and numerous rural communities. In the fall of 2019, LREC oversaw the creation of engineering plans to connect each of the electric utility's 16 substations throughout the service area. This project served as the backbone for the cooperative's newly formed fiber subsidiary, RiverNet Connect. In just one year's time, LREC and RiverNet have overseen the development of engineering plans that will serve over 6,000 homes in rural communities in Chesterfield, Lancaster and Kershaw counties. Physical construction on the fiber optic network began in February of 2020. In just six months, LREC has succeeded in bringing communications for 14 of the 16 substations into working order. In addition, LREC and RiverNet has activated several residential "friendlies", or testers, in parts of the network that are not applying for CARES Act funds. LREC and RiverNet Connect can ensure that no construction has begun off the mainline in areas eligible for funding.

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

a. Distance Learning

As with many other school districts across the country, the three school districts we serve are grappling with balancing educating their students with keeping them safe. Each of the three school districts in our area have adopted a plan for the 2020-21 school year that includes an eLearning and hybrid option. As of this application deadline in Lancaster County, 33 percent of students, just under 4500 students, will utilize an all-virtual option. Chesterfield County school leaders reported an estimated 2,000 students throughout the county are expected to learn online this school year. Finally, in Kershaw County, 51 percent of students (about 5,355 students) selected one of the two e-learning options the school district is offering. Unfortunately, each of these three school districts have areas that do not have access to broadband, which forces the hand of many families when making difficult educational decisions for their family and students. As you will see in numerous supporting documents, many parents have reached out to RiverNet Connect and Lynches River Electric Cooperative to express their concern, and Superintendent Harrison Goodwin of Chesterfield County School District has written to express his experience with the difficulties that limited broadband creates for his students and teachers.

LREC, in conjunction with its fiber subsidiary, has made a priority of identifying these underserved and unserved areas throughout Chesterfield, Lancaster and Kershaw counties. In addition to identifying and prioritizing unserved areas, LREC and RiverNet have partnered with school district leaders to develop community hot spots to serve as many students as possible. At LREC and RiverNet, we recognize the positive exponential impact that education can have on the community we serve. In today's world, we recognize the implications that access to

broadband has on a student's access to quality education. Because of this connection, we are committed to providing our community and each of its citizens with the access to world class internet service regardless of where an individual resides.

b. Telehealth

For the rural communities served by LREC, the coronavirus has only increased the need for high-quality and reliable internet connectivity as healthcare is increasingly delivered through telehealth, and healthcare professionals depend on broadband for every aspect of their operations.

As technology has advanced, so has the delivery of healthcare. Telehealth is a proven healthcare delivery method, but requires access to reliable broadband connectivity. No matter the zip code of these rural areas, LREC is committed to providing high-speed broadband access and digital technology so all health care providers can diagnose and treat their patients.

c. Work at Home

Since the announcement of RiverNet Connect in October, 2019, LREC members have shared stories of the difficulties of working from home due to the poor internet options from their current provider. When the coronavirus lockdown started, and more members were forced to remain at home, a new light was shown on the longstanding digital divide between the rural communities LREC serves and the metro areas of South Carolina. While the internet speeds at home were already slow in these rural communities, sharing this limited bandwidth with other family members, including school age children, have practically made internet connections screech to a standstill. Now that families are working and learning from home, those working from home need internet connections strong enough to upload large files and to make and receive video calls. The days of sitting in the local fast food restaurant parking lot for access to high-speed internet is no longer a solution.

It is critical that our rural communities stay connected, and LREC and RiverNet are committed to providing this service until every member that lives down every dirt road in our service area has the high-speed fiber internet to compete in today's world.

Describe how your proposal meets the needs of the community to be served as described

Chesterfield County

According to the latest release of Census data, Chesterfield County has a poverty level of 20.9 percent which is greater than the state poverty level of 15 percent and almost double the federal poverty level of 11.8 percent. Just under 75 percent of Chesterfield County is classified as rural. With a population just over 40,000, 40 percent of Chesterfield County residents do not have broadband at their homes. In comparison, statewide data shows only 25 percent of homes

that do not have broadband. Finally, the Department of Education has defined Chesterfield County School District's poverty level at 72.3 percent.

The ORS has identified a number of Areas of Need in Chesterfield County. LREC and RiverNet have further identified ___ households in this Area of Need that we can serve prior to the deadline.

Lancaster County

According to the latest release of Census data, Lancaster County has a poverty level of 13.3 percent which is greater than the federal poverty level of 11.8 percent. With a population just over 98,000, 25 percent of Lancaster County residents do not have broadband at their homes. Finally, the Department of Education has defined Lancaster County School District's poverty level at 56.2 percent.

The ORS has identified a number of Areas of Need in Lancaster County. LREC and RiverNet have further identified ___ households in this Area of Need that we can serve prior to the deadline.

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

Rome wasn't built in a day and neither are fiber optic networks. At Lynches River Electric Cooperative, we desperately wish we could connect every consumer in need prior to the start of the 2020-21 school year. Though we all recognize this impossibility, our construction crews have been working with unmatched dedication to reach as many consumers as possible, as quickly as possible. In order to subsidize traditional fiber service, we have developed the Community Fiber initiative to accelerate access to internet for a greater number of individuals.

Through our Community Fiber initiative, LREC and RiverNet have partnered with community leaders to identify churches and community centers that serve as gathering places for citizens. RiverNet and LREC have prioritized these locations to receive service and have donated equipment to create free community fiber hotspots. These hotspots have the capability to provide 100 mbps speeds to at least 250 devices at one time. Individuals will have the opportunity to log on to these high-speed networks during school and work hours for free to complete school work, work from home, access tele-healthcare, and connect with others.

In addition, RiverNet is developing community town hall sessions to educate consumers on the various benefits and components of fiber optic internet. These sessions will provide information on virtual tools like Zoom, streaming services, wireless routers, hotspots and more. In addition, employee experts will be on hand to answer questions and troubleshoot common problems consumers are experiencing.

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.

Lynches River Electric has available up to \$10 million in a multiple advance promissory note from CoBank. These funds are more than enough to provide for the 50 percent funding of the total project cost. Please see attached document CoBank Multiple Advance Term Promissory Note.

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

We are not in need of any agreement, permit or other item to complete this project.

FACEBOOK COMMENTS & MESSAGES

WSOCTV.COM

Chesterfield County schools work to resolve internet issues in rural areas

1,730 People Reached 468 Engagements [Boost Post](#)

25 5 Comments 17 Shares

[Like](#) [Comment](#) [Share](#)

Most Relevant ▾

Comment as Lynchas River Electric Cooperative

Casey Shae I hope it help because my kids need it for this school year
[Like](#) [Reply](#) [Message](#) 1w

Kim Dixon Please hurry!! Trying to take classes and start a business is nearly impossible!! (Not to mention I can't get internet to my actual house!) We need you!! THANK YOU!!!
[Like](#) [Reply](#) [Message](#) 15w 2

Donna Vincent Krimminger We need it for this e learning because our kids can't even pull up the videos they are supposed to watch for the work to be done!
[Like](#) [Reply](#) [Message](#) 15w Edited 5

Maresa Bush Donna Vincent Krimminger they hung fiber in red maple yesterday
[Like](#) [Reply](#) [Message](#) 15w 2

Donna Vincent Krimminger Maresa Bush yes I passed them. Just wish we could get before end of may. The 22nd of may is when all work is to be completed for school. Our internet absolutely stinks
[Like](#) [Reply](#) [Message](#) 15w Edited

Heather Walden I hope LCSD is included! I know myself and several others that have school aged children with no access to high speed internet.
[Like](#) [Reply](#) [Message](#) 1w 3



Donna Vincent Krimminger I just wish we could get it before school starts back so my kids can do ecampus without worrying about slow speeds

Like Reply Message 2w



Author

RiverNet Connect We definitely recognize the importance of having fast, reliable internet service, especially for educational purposes. Please know we are working hard to get to EVERY member as quickly and efficiently as we can.

Like Reply 2w



I been begging for better service for more than 3 years lost several at home Job opportunities because of Comporium Internet.

A year ago our max MBPS was 2

2 mbps upload and 0.08 download

One last question if my power is in my mamas name, do we need to do the internet in her name to match or can we do it in our name.



JUL 27, 2020, 2:39 PM

I have a question. Y'all have already put up the lines down my road ebenezer church rd Camden S.C. and I was wondering when the service would start connecting to houses cause we don't have internet right now and with school getting ready to start we didn't know if it would be ready by then for my children to do the school from home option any information would be great thanks



Lisa West Smith Thank you from Joshua Tree Rd. I work at home and the struggle is real

Like Reply Message 1m



August 14, 2020

Mr. Brian Broughton
Lynches River Electric Cooperative
P.O. Box 308
Pageland, SC 29728

Dear Mr. Broughton:

It is with complete confidence that Fiber Optic Solutions will have construction finalized of the high-speed internet fiber network in Chesterfield County zones 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10 and 11, and Lancaster County zones 6 and 9, on or before the deadline date of Friday, December 18, 2020. This includes 2,891 households and 201 total miles of fiber.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cliff Churchill", is written over the word "Sincerely,".

Cliff Churchill, President
828-215-2738
cliff@fos-llc.com



Chesterfield County School District

401 West Boulevard

Chesterfield, SC 29709

(843) 623-2175

Fax (843) 623-3434

J. Harrison Goodwin, Ed.D.
Superintendent

School Board

Wesley R. Miles
Chairman
District 3

Darin M. Coleman
Vice-Chairman
District 2

Eric G. Dusa
Secretary
District 8

Kimberly T. Burch
District 1

Chad L. Vick
District 4

Jamie D. Wayne
District 5

James N. Sweeney
District 6

Robert Teal
District 7

Dr. Wayne Chapman
District 9

*Excellence In
Academics,
Arts
And
Athletics*

August 12, 2020

Mr. Brian Broughton, CEO
Lynches River Electric Cooperative
P.O. Box 308
Pageland, SC 29728

Dear Mr. Broughton:

On behalf of the Chesterfield County School District, I wanted to remind you of the urgent need of high-speed broadband access for our students, teachers, and staff. As you are aware, students in the rural communities we serve are at a disadvantage due to the lack of reliable internet service, and with the arrival of the COVID-19 crisis, this has quickly escalated to a critical point with educating our students.

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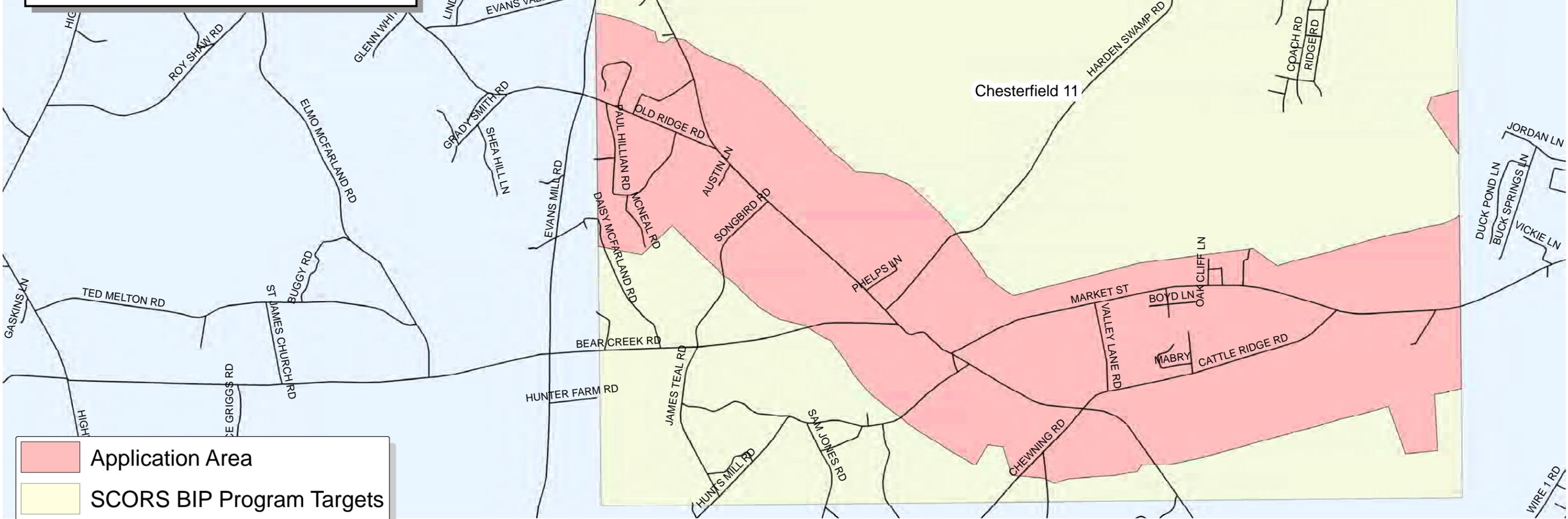
J. Harrison Goodwin, Ed.D.
Superintendent

JHG:ph

Chesterfield 11

Chesterfield County, SC
Nearest City: Cheraw, SC
Rural

Households: 325
Businesses: 2
Health Care Facilities: 0
Community Anchor Points: 0
Educational Institutions: 0



-  Application Area
-  SCORS BIP Program Targets
-  Roads



APPLICATION

South Carolina Broadband Infrastructure Project



Applicant Information

Applicant Name/Organization **Lynches River Electric Cooperative**

Applicant FCC Registration Number (FRN) **0001889161**

Primary Contact Name **Dustin Catoe**

Title **CFO**

Mailing Address **PO Box 308**

Phone Number **803-287-7223**

City, State, Zip **Pageland SC 29728**

Email **dustin.catoe@lynchesriver.cor**

Broadband Service Provider Experience

Date of Applicant's Initial FCC Form 477 Submission **N/A**

Date of Applicant's Most Recent FCC Form 477 Submission **N/A**

- 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 **Lancaster**

Rural or Urban **Rural**

Nearest City/Town **Lancaster**

Project Area Map Code **Lancaster 6**

376

Number of Households in Project Area *(Target code)*

4

Number of Businesses in Project Area

Number of Health Care Facilities in Project Area

Number of Community Anchor Points in Project Area

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 **300/300**
- 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 type="checkbox"/> Rates between \$25 - \$34.99/month |
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Project Timeline and Milestones

Project Start Date 9/1/2020	Customer Premises Installations Complete As Needed
Project Construction Activity Begins 9/1/2020	Project Completion Date 12/18/2020
Project Construction Activity Complete 12/18/2020	

Project Cost Information

Total Project Cost \$546,234	Average Cost per Housing Unit \$1,453
Upfront Cost Requirements \$273,117	
Cost of Building and/or Extending Infrastructure to Customer Premises \$151,527	Average Cost per Business \$1,453
Average Cost per Location Served \$1,453 <i>(all locations or structures)</i>	

Project Funding Information

South Carolina CARES Act Funding Requested \$273,117	
Applicant-Provided Funding \$273,117	

Third-Party Funding	Amount
	Source(s)

Additional Information

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

See Attached Exhibit A

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

See Attached Exhibit A

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See Attached Exhibit A

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

See Attached Exhibit A

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: Dustin Catoe

Title of Signatory: CFO

Date: 8/14/2020

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.

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c. Work at Home

Since the announcement of RiverNet Connect in October, 2019, LREC members have shared stories of the difficulties of working from home due to the poor internet options from their current provider. When the coronavirus lockdown started, and more members were forced to remain at home, a new light was shown on the longstanding digital divide between the rural communities LREC serves and the metro areas of South Carolina. While the internet speeds at home were already slow in these rural communities, sharing this limited bandwidth with other family members, including school age children, have practically made internet connections screech to a standstill. Now that families are working and learning from home, those working from home need internet connections strong enough to upload large files and to make and receive video calls. The days of sitting in the local fast food restaurant parking lot for access to high-speed internet is no longer a solution.

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The ORS has identified a number of Areas of Need in Chesterfield County. LREC and RiverNet have further identified ___ households in this Area of Need that we can serve prior to the deadline.

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

We are not in need of any agreement, permit or other item to complete this project.

FACEBOOK COMMENTS & MESSAGES

WSOCTV.COM

Chesterfield County schools work to resolve internet issues in rural areas

1,730 People Reached 468 Engagements [Boost Post](#)

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Comment as Lynch River Electric Cooperative

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[Like](#) [Reply](#) [Message](#) · 1w

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[Like](#) [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · 15w 2

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Like Reply Message · 2w



Author

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Like Reply · Message · 1m



August 14, 2020

Mr. Brian Broughton
Lynches River Electric Cooperative
P.O. Box 308
Pageland, SC 29728

Dear Mr. Broughton:

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Sincerely,

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Cliff Churchill, President
828-215-2738
cliff@fos-llc.com



Chesterfield County School District

401 West Boulevard
Chesterfield, SC 29709 (843) 623-2175 Fax (843) 623-3434

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Superintendent

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*Excellence In
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And
Athletics*

August 12, 2020

Mr. Brian Broughton, CEO
Lynches River Electric Cooperative
P.O. Box 308
Pageland, SC 29728

Dear Mr. Broughton:

On behalf of the Chesterfield County School District, I wanted to remind you of the urgent need of high-speed broadband access for our students, teachers, and staff. As you are aware, students in the rural communities we serve are at a disadvantage due to the lack of reliable internet service, and with the arrival of the COVID-19 crisis, this has quickly escalated to a critical point with educating our students.

The ability to communicate to our students and their families is extremely limited. While we make every attempt to stay in touch, without dependable broadband access, the communication gap between school and home makes it impossible to stay in touch with some students. This communication includes everything from daily assignments to notices regarding available food resources for the students.

For remote learning to be possible, our students must have access to high-speed broadband. We appreciate what Lynches River Electric Cooperative is doing through RiverNet Connect, and we are very anxious to get high-speed broadband to Chesterfield County. At one time, high-speed broadband was considered a luxury, but it is now critical for the future of our students.

Sincerely,

J. Harrison Goodwin, Ed.D.
Superintendent

JHG:ph

APPLICATION

South Carolina Broadband Infrastructure Project



Applicant Information

Applicant Name/Organization **Lynches River Electric Cooperative**
Applicant FCC Registration Number (FRN) **0001889161**
Primary Contact Name **Dustin Catoe** Title **CFO**
Mailing Address **PO Box 308** Phone Number **803-287-7223**
City, State, Zip **Pageland SC 29728** Email **dustin.catoe@lynchesriver.cor**

Broadband Service Provider Experience

- Date of Applicant's Initial FCC Form 477 Submission **N/A**
Date of Applicant's Most Recent FCC Form 477 Submission **N/A**
- 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 **Lancaster** Rural or Urban **Rural**
Nearest City/Town **Lancaster** Project Area Map Code **Lancaster 9**
458 Number of Households in Project Area (*Target code*)
4 Number of Businesses in Project Area
Number of Health Care Facilities in Project Area
Number of Community Anchor Points in Project Area
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 **300/300**
- Hybrid fiber-coax (symmetrical upload/download speeds)* Minimum Sustainable Download/Upload Speeds
- Hybrid fiber-coax (non-symmetrical upload/download speeds)* Minimum Sustainable Download/Upload 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 \$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 **9/1/2020**

Customer Premises Installations Complete **As Needed**

Project Construction Activity Begins **9/1/2020**

Project Completion Date **12/18/2020**

Project Construction Activity Complete **12/18/2020**

Project Cost Information

Total Project Cost **\$523,865**

Average Cost per Housing Unit **\$1,144**

Upfront Cost Requirements **\$261,933**

Cost of Building and/or Extending Infrastructure to Customer Premises **\$190,862**

Average Cost per Business **\$1,144**

Average Cost per Location Served **\$1,144**
(all locations or structures)

Project Funding Information

South Carolina CARES Act Funding Requested **\$261,933**

Applicant-Provided Funding

Third-Party Funding Amount

Source(s)

Additional Information

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

See Attached Exhibit

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

See Attached Exhibit

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 Exhibit

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 Exhibit

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 Exhibit

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

See Attached Exhibit

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: Dustin Catoe

Title of Signatory: CFO

Date: 8/14/2020

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.

Lynches River Electric Cooperative (LREC) has experience building, managing and operating a sophisticated fiber optic broadband network throughout three rural counties and numerous rural communities. In the fall of 2019, LREC oversaw the creation of engineering plans to connect each of the electric utility's 16 substations throughout the service area. This project served as the backbone for the cooperative's newly formed fiber subsidiary, RiverNet Connect. In just one year's time, LREC and RiverNet have overseen the development of engineering plans that will serve over 6,000 homes in rural communities in Chesterfield, Lancaster and Kershaw counties. Physical construction on the fiber optic network began in February of 2020. In just six months, LREC has succeeded in bringing communications for 14 of the 16 substations into working order. In addition, LREC and RiverNet has activated several residential "friendlies", or testers, in parts of the network that are not applying for CARES Act funds. LREC and RiverNet Connect can ensure that no construction has begun off the mainline in areas eligible for funding.

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

a. Distance Learning

As with many other school districts across the country, the three school districts we serve are grappling with balancing educating their students with keeping them safe. Each of the three school districts in our area have adopted a plan for the 2020-21 school year that includes an eLearning and hybrid option. As of this application deadline in Lancaster County, 33 percent of students, just under 4500 students, will utilize an all-virtual option. Chesterfield County school leaders reported an estimated 2,000 students throughout the county are expected to learn online this school year. Finally, in Kershaw County, 51 percent of students (about 5,355 students) selected one of the two e-learning options the school district is offering. Unfortunately, each of these three school districts have areas that do not have access to broadband, which forces the hand of many families when making difficult educational decisions for their family and students. As you will see in numerous supporting documents, many parents have reached out to RiverNet Connect and Lynches River Electric Cooperative to express their concern, and Superintendent Harrison Goodwin of Chesterfield County School District has written to express his experience with the difficulties that limited broadband creates for his students and teachers.

LREC, in conjunction with its fiber subsidiary, has made a priority of identifying these underserved and unserved areas throughout Chesterfield, Lancaster and Kershaw counties. In addition to identifying and prioritizing unserved areas, LREC and RiverNet have partnered with school district leaders to develop community hot spots to serve as many students as possible. At LREC and RiverNet, we recognize the positive exponential impact that education can have on the community we serve. In today's world, we recognize the implications that access to

broadband has on a student's access to quality education. Because of this connection, we are committed to providing our community and each of its citizens with the access to world class internet service regardless of where an individual resides.

b. Telehealth

For the rural communities served by LREC, the coronavirus has only increased the need for high-quality and reliable internet connectivity as healthcare is increasingly delivered through telehealth, and healthcare professionals depend on broadband for every aspect of their operations.

As technology has advanced, so has the delivery of healthcare. Telehealth is a proven healthcare delivery method, but requires access to reliable broadband connectivity. No matter the zip code of these rural areas, LREC is committed to providing high-speed broadband access and digital technology so all health care providers can diagnose and treat their patients.

c. Work at Home

Since the announcement of RiverNet Connect in October, 2019, LREC members have shared stories of the difficulties of working from home due to the poor internet options from their current provider. When the coronavirus lockdown started, and more members were forced to remain at home, a new light was shown on the longstanding digital divide between the rural communities LREC serves and the metro areas of South Carolina. While the internet speeds at home were already slow in these rural communities, sharing this limited bandwidth with other family members, including school age children, have practically made internet connections screech to a standstill. Now that families are working and learning from home, those working from home need internet connections strong enough to upload large files and to make and receive video calls. The days of sitting in the local fast food restaurant parking lot for access to high-speed internet is no longer a solution.

It is critical that our rural communities stay connected, and LREC and RiverNet are committed to providing this service until every member that lives down every dirt road in our service area has the high-speed fiber internet to compete in today's world.

Describe how your proposal meets the needs of the community to be served as described

Chesterfield County

According to the latest release of Census data, Chesterfield County has a poverty level of 20.9 percent which is greater than the state poverty level of 15 percent and almost double the federal poverty level of 11.8 percent. Just under 75 percent of Chesterfield County is classified as rural. With a population just over 40,000, 40 percent of Chesterfield County residents do not have broadband at their homes. In comparison, statewide data shows only 25 percent of homes

that do not have broadband. Finally, the Department of Education has defined Chesterfield County School District's poverty level at 72.3 percent.

The ORS has identified a number of Areas of Need in Chesterfield County. LREC and RiverNet have further identified ___ households in this Area of Need that we can serve prior to the deadline.

Lancaster County

According to the latest release of Census data, Lancaster County has a poverty level of 13.3 percent which is greater than the federal poverty level of 11.8 percent. With a population just over 98,000, 25 percent of Lancaster County residents do not have broadband at their homes. Finally, the Department of Education has defined Lancaster County School District's poverty level at 56.2 percent.

The ORS has identified a number of Areas of Need in Lancaster County. LREC and RiverNet have further identified ___ households in this Area of Need that we can serve prior to the deadline.

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

Rome wasn't built in a day and neither are fiber optic networks. At Lynches River Electric Cooperative, we desperately wish we could connect every consumer in need prior to the start of the 2020-21 school year. Though we all recognize this impossibility, our construction crews have been working with unmatched dedication to reach as many consumers as possible, as quickly as possible. In order to subsidize traditional fiber service, we have developed the Community Fiber initiative to accelerate access to internet for a greater number of individuals.

Through our Community Fiber initiative, LREC and RiverNet have partnered with community leaders to identify churches and community centers that serve as gathering places for citizens. RiverNet and LREC have prioritized these locations to receive service and have donated equipment to create free community fiber hotspots. These hotspots have the capability to provide 100 mbps speeds to at least 250 devices at one time. Individuals will have the opportunity to log on to these high-speed networks during school and work hours for free to complete school work, work from home, access tele-healthcare, and connect with others.

In addition, RiverNet is developing community town hall sessions to educate consumers on the various benefits and components of fiber optic internet. These sessions will provide information on virtual tools like Zoom, streaming services, wireless routers, hotspots and more. In addition, employee experts will be on hand to answer questions and troubleshoot common problems consumers are experiencing.

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.

Lynches River Electric has available up to \$10 million in a multiple advance promissory note from CoBank. These funds are more than enough to provide for the 50 percent funding of the total project cost. Please see attached document CoBank Multiple Advance Term Promissory Note.

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

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cliff@fos-llc.com



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Fax (843) 623-3434

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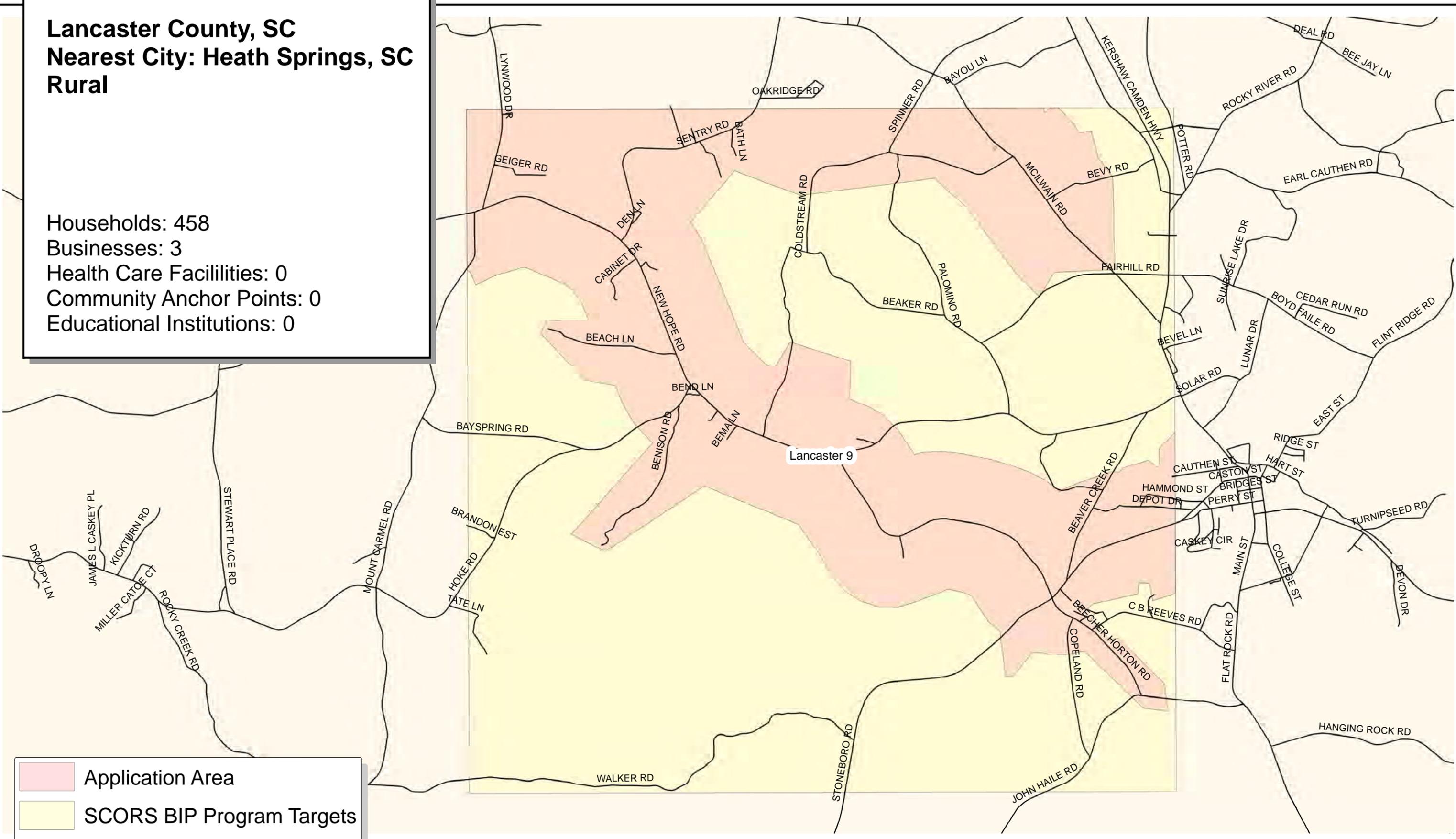

J. Harrison Goodwin, Ed.D.
Superintendent

JHG:ph

Lancaster 9

Lancaster County, SC
Nearest City: Heath Springs, SC
Rural

Households: 458
Businesses: 3
Health Care Facilities: 0
Community Anchor Points: 0
Educational Institutions: 0



-  Application Area
-  SCORS BIP Program Targets
-  Roads

0 1 2 Miles

