August 14, 2020
WC Fiber, LLC – SC BIP Applications

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Priority</th>
<th>Project Designation</th>
<th>Project Area ORS Map Code</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>DT361</td>
<td>Greenwood 4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Exhibit A – Proof of Necessary Funds

Exhibit B – Map of Project Area (PDF)

Exhibit C – Project Details

Exhibit D – Letters of Support
APPLICATION

South Carolina Broadband Infrastructure Project

Applicant Information

Applicant Name/Organization: WC Fiber, LLC.
Applicant FCC Registration Number (FRN): 0024824443
Primary Contact Name: Jeff Wilson
Mailing Address: 229 Hwy 28 S.
City, State, Zip: Abbeville, SC 29620
Title: Chief Executive Officer
Phone Number: (864) 446-9251
Email: jeff.wilson@wctel.com

Broadband Service Provider Experience

Date of Applicant’s Initial FCC Form 477 Submission: 6/30/16
Date of Applicant’s Most Recent FCC Form 477 Submission: 2/13/20

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

Project Area Information

County: Greenwood
Nearest City/Town: Greenwood
Rural or Urban: Rural
Project Area Map Code: Greenwood 4
(Target code)

Number of Households in Project Area: 678
Number of Businesses in Project Area: 17
Number of Health Care Facilities in Project Area: 0
Number of Community Anchor Points in Project Area: 0
Number of Educational Institutions in Project Area: 0

Broadband Infrastructure Information

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

- Fiber to the Premises
  Minimum Sustainable Download/Upload Speeds: 200/200 Mbps

- 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 8/24/20
Project Construction Activity Begins 9/7/20
Project Construction Activity Complete 10/2/20
Customer Premises Installations Complete 12/18/20
Project Completion Date 12/18/20

Project Cost Information
Total Project Cost $654,490.00
Upfront Cost Requirements $54,000
Cost of Building and/or Extending Infrastructure to Customer Premises $600,490
Average Cost per Housing Unit $450
Average Cost per Business $600
Average Cost per Location Served (all locations or structures) $770

Project Funding Information
South Carolina CARES Act Funding Requested $327,245.00
Applicant-Provided Funding $327,245.00
Third-Party Funding Amount 0
Source(s) Not Applicable
Describe Applicant's and/or project Partner's experience building and/or operating broadband networks.

WC Fiber, LLC ("WCF"), along with its parent West Carolina Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc. ("WCT") and its affiliate West Carolina Communications, LLC ("WCC") have been offering broadband services in South Carolina since 2000 and have been providing reliable telecommunications services in South Carolina since 1952. WCT is a South Carolina member-owned cooperative. WCT was one of the first rural telephone companies to provide high-speed DSL Internet service in South Carolina. By 2009, 95% of WCT's network was converted to a fiber optic network with the remaining 5% to be converted by the end of 2020. WCF began offering fiber-based broadband services beginning in 2015. WCF, WCT and WCC (collectively "WCTEL") have built and currently operate and maintain an all-fiber network which passes approximately 40,000 homes in South Carolina and 3,000 in Georgia. Currently, the network consists of more than 3,000 route miles of fiber and continues to expand to new areas every year. The total number of existing broadband customers is approximately 18,200 in South Carolina and 800 in Georgia.

The distribution network to the customer premise consists of fiber-to-the-premises using GPON technology. This network is provisioned with fully redundant ring topology using different fiber routes. The WAN network has three redundant routes to the Internet. Broadband network is connected to the Internet via (9) 10-Gig connections that connect to three hubs in Columbia, SC; Atlanta, GA; and Charlotte, NC.

WCF's ability to provide unmatched broadband service in rural areas can be attributed to its in-house Information Technology, networking systems, engineering, customer premise equipment, splicing and construction / construction management capabilities.

WCF's employees have years of experience in successfully completing large-scale telecommunications and broadband construction.

WCT's service areas are considered rural which proves WCT has extensive experience serving rural communities. WCT was nationally recognized by NTCA as a Smart Rural Community in 2017. This award is given to rural providers who lead and collaborate on broadband-enabled projects that improve economic development, provide technology for advancing education, enhance state-of-the-art health care through telemedicine, and more to ensure their rural communities continue to advance towards a future-proof sustainable infrastructure.

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

COVID has disrupted our society in an unprecedented way. As we continue to recuperate from the impacts of COVID, WCF has recognized and responded to the need for increased broadband service in our surrounding areas that are under-served and unserved. WCF committed to the "Keep America Connected Pledge" and has continued to do so even past the pledge's date range of June 30, 2020. We have displayed our commitment to the communities and consumers we serve by ensuring access to reliable broadband connectivity to provide distance learning, telehealth and working from home.

- Distance Learning - WCF partnered with Greenwood County Schools educators to ensure students had and continue to have the necessary Internet connectivity to continue their studies during school closings and beyond. WCF implemented special programs to support remote learning for students in grades K-12 and college. Measures to address the educational and financial impact included:
  - Offering free Internet service for 60 days to households in its service area with K-12 or college students who did not already have a WCF Internet subscription.
  - Offering free Internet speed upgrades for 60 days to existing customers to ensure they had the necessary bandwidth to accommodate higher Internet usage in their homes during this time.
  - WCF identified locations to provide free WiFi hotspots. These hotspots enabled students that did not otherwise have access to a broadband connection to complete schoolwork from the safety of their family vehicles. The WiFi hotspots were strategically located in partnership with school districts to designate which location would have the greatest impact to help students connect to fast, reliable broadband.

- Telehealth - The Internet speeds that WCF offers (200 Mbps to 1 Gbps), will provide access to reliable Internet connections that will enable consumers to set up virtual appointments with local hospitals, doctors and specialists across the country. The pandemic has caused health care providers to increase options for working and treating patients remotely to decrease the chances of exposure. *The American Medical Association reports that physicians and other health professionals are now seeing 50 to 175 times the number of patients via Telehealth than they did before the pandemic. The report notes that 46% of patients are now using Telehealth to replace canceled in-person visits, up from the just 11% of patients who used Telehealth in 2019. Our local hospitals have experienced the same increase, Tim Stewart, of Abbeville Medical Center states. "We have had a major increase in all aspects of Telehealth due to the Covid pandemic. Our doctors have been using it extensively to treat patients who are unable or unwilling to come into the office. WCFiber was instrumental in providing a custom and robust robotic system for the facility that has been critical to its operations success.*


- Work from Home - WCF has been able to provide the Internet speeds needed from 200 Mbps to 1 Gbps and symmetrical (upload and download) to consumers who had to quickly adjust to working from home during the Covid pandemic. WCF's fiber optic infrastructure is a reliable and fast resource for consumers to connect quickly while ensuring that they can effectively and efficiently work from home. Area residents were able to maintain their jobs and continue to support their families by utilizing WCF's broadband accessibility. WCF will supply the same accessibility to the untended and under-served areas of Greenwood County.
Describe how your proposal meets the needs of the community to be served as described in the "Guidelines." Use additional pages if necessary.

The Greenwood 50 school district has a 73.91% poverty level. WCF has a proven track record to meet the needs of unserved communities, as demonstrated by our efforts when pandemic first hit. In March, when the pandemic began, all of the rural schools in the area had to convert to online classes. Households served by WCF were well equipped to smoothly transition to the online learning environment. However, many students without WCF service were unable to attend their classes, submit their homework, and conduct research online at home due to insufficient Internet access, speeds or the inability to afford Internet service at their homes. At the start of the pandemic WCF was proactive in identifying the need for reliable, affordable Internet Access and took action by contacting schools to provide 23 WIFI hotspots in the areas of most need. Providing the WIFI hotspots ensured that all students had access to high-speed Internet. These WIFI hotspots are ongoing throughout the current service area. WCF also provided two months of free Internet to any new customer, giving low income households an opportunity to learn and work from home. For the 60 days free, WCF offered Internet plans, from 200 x 200 Mbps to 1 Gbps x 1 Gbps at speeds to choose from. WCF has no contract on Internet packages, allowing customers to purchase an affordable Internet package without being tied into a long-term commitment. WCF understands the increased demand for reliable Internet service and speeds that need to be provided to the community and will continue to provide services that exceed consumers demands and needs.

The applicant has partnered with schools in their service area to identify students who are low-income or otherwise eligible for a reduced rate Internet packages. WCF will offer broadband Internet packages from 200 Mbps x 200 Mbps to 1 Gig Symmetrical. In addition to a $6.99 per month package for low to moderate income households for 12 months. The applicant has used crowd sourcing to determine interest in the service area and has identified 45 customers who are interested in purchasing services. The speeds of both base packages are significantly higher than the FCC minimum broadband definition of 25 Mbps x 3 Mbps because WCF recognizes the need for an Internet package that can provide an exceptional experience for our customers. WCF does not believe in delivering the bare minimum.

"Everyone had to quickly adapt to online learning last spring. The situation presented both new challenges in delivering lessons and new insights into the disparities between students. While for many, virtual classes were less than ideal. Those students who had reliable Internet access were better able to engage with online learning and had an advantage over those who did not. All educators want to give their students the best possible opportunities to learn and succeed, and by partnering with WCF we were able to help many students gain Internet access to complete the semester without falling behind. But the benefits of gaining Internet access went further than grades. I could also see how it impacted the students' mental health and wellbeing. Those unable to connect to their classes online very quickly became stressed, disheartened, and disengaged. There were limited opportunities for them to connect with classmates and friends. Gaining Internet access helped these students avoid feeling isolated and embarrassed about their family's finances." – Teacher at Greenwood High School

WCF has included letters of support from Piedmont Technical, Greenwood School District 50, College and County of Greenwood. Please refer to Exhibit D.

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

WCF pro-actively educates customers and residents in the communities we serve through in-person (prior to COVID) and virtual classes. Educational topics and curriculum include the following:

- A general “How to use” your broadband connection program, that we refer to as “TechLink” classes for the elderly that includes Social Media, Email, Online Shopping, Digital Photo Uploads and File Storage, Smart Phones, etc.

- Partnered with Adult Education (taught by an Adult Ed teacher facilitated by WCF) Computer literacy Classes, with a 3-month curriculum – Tablets were given to each participant that completed the class and had service from WCF.

- We pro-actively reached out to schools to find the areas with the most need for the locations of placing WIFI hot spots. We found that several consumers were logging in and utilizing the hot spots within the 20+ locations in our existing area. In addition, we reached out to schools to connect with those in the most need of assistance. For those in need we offered free installation and Internet service during the pandemic through the July 31st time frame.

- We supply a monthly magazine that we dedicate a “tech page” to communicate with existing customers the resources that are available.

- We signed onto the “Keep America Connected” national pledge and went above and beyond with free upgrades, free service, and extended these offerings past the recommended date of June 30th to July 31st. We also did not impose any finance charges or disconnect fees during this time-frame.

- We pro-actively reached out to businesses during the pandemic as well, especially for those deemed “essential” to ensure they had the bandwidth they needed to continue to function and operate.

- WCF offers affordable broadband rates while providing some of the nation’s fastest speeds (200 Mbps to 1 Gbps). Broadband Internet rates are competitively priced, and our areas demographic is taken into consideration. WCF’s Gigabit Internet package is priced at $80/month. It’s important that WCF provide not only the fastest broadband options, but at an affordable price to strengthen communities and foster economic development.
Provide documents to establish proof that your organization has the necessary funds (50% of total project cost) to complete this project/proposal. List documents here and attach documents to this proposal.

Please see Exhibit A.

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

In Docket No. 2017-83-C, the Commission approved the Application of WC Fiber, LLC (“WCF”) for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to Provide Facilities-Based Local Exchange and Interexchange Internet Protocol (IP) Voice Services, and for Flexible Regulation of its Local Exchange Services and Alternative Regulation of its Interexchange Service Offerings within the State of South Carolina.

WCF will obtain any necessary permits for construction if it is awarded SC BIP funding.

WCF has state-wide franchise agreements for video services in place. However, at this time the proposed projects will focus on providing broadband services. If WCF decides to offer video in the future, it will make any necessary amendments to the state-wide franchise agreement.

No lease or interconnection agreement will be required to complete the proposed broadband project contained in this application. For its voice services, WCF uses an underlying carrier that provides number resources and interconnection services.
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: Jeff T. Wilson
Title of Signatory: President
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.
## Exhibit C

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Designation</th>
<th>DT361</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Project Area ORS Map Code</td>
<td>Greenwood 4</td>
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### General Information

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<tr>
<th>Nearest City / Town</th>
<th>Greenwood</th>
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<tr>
<td>County</td>
<td>Greenwood</td>
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<tr>
<td>School District</td>
<td>Greenwood 50</td>
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<tr>
<td>School District Poverty Level</td>
<td>73.91%</td>
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<td>Rural / Urban</td>
<td>Both</td>
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<td>Total Potential Subscriber Locations</td>
<td>695</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Residential)</td>
<td>678</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Businesses)</td>
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<td>(Anchor Institutions)</td>
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<td>Crowd Fiber Interests</td>
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### Construction Information and Costs

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<td>Estimated Engineering Service Fees</td>
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<td>Electronics and Equipment</td>
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<td>Customer Installs (at 20% take rate)</td>
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<td>Construction Cost per Location Passed</td>
<td>$770</td>
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<td>Cost per Residential Install</td>
<td>$450</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cost per Business Install</td>
<td>$600</td>
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### Project Funding Summary

| Total Expected Project Cost | $654,490 |
| Requested CARES Funding Amount | $327,245 |
| Funding Amount from 3rd Party | $0 |

### Project Timeline & Milestones

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<th>Prepare Construction Plans &amp; Specs</th>
<th>8/24/2020</th>
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<td>Begin Construction</td>
<td>9/7/2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>Complete Construction</td>
<td>10/2/2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Begin Customer Installs</td>
<td>10/2/2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Complete</td>
<td>12/18/2020</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
August 13, 2020

Mr. Chris Rozycki
Broadband Project Administrator
State of South Carolina
Office of Regulatory Staff
1401 Main Street, Suite 900
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Mr. Rozycki:

Piedmont Technical College fully supports WCTEL’s application to secure CARES funding to bring broadband service to South Greenwood.

Greenwood County is part of Piedmont’s 7-county service area and has the largest number of students enrolled here. The COVID-19 pandemic confirmed the need for reliable broadband infrastructure available for all, so that students could continue classes online, faculty could deliver those classes, and staff could work remotely.

WCTEL’s efforts will have a positive impact on the large number of residents in South Greenwood’s predominantly low-to-moderate income areas. They will have full access to educational opportunities allowing them to participate in today’s economy without disadvantage of not having at-home broadband access.

I am excited about the possibility of bringing broadband to this area and I stand ready to assist in any way possible.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

L. Ray Brooks, Ed.D.
President
August 14, 2020

Mr. Chris Rozycki
Broadband Project Administrator
South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff
1401 Main Street, Suite 900
Columbia, SC, 29201
Broadband@ors.gov

Dear Mr. Rozycki:

Please accept this letter of support for WCFIBER’s efforts to provide broadband service in the Program Target Areas identified by ORS as Greenwood 2 and Greenwood 4. WCFIBER’s participation in the South Carolina Broadband Infrastructure Program will enable residents in our remote areas of the county access to vital resources for distance learning, working from home, telehealth/on-line medical care for those that don’t have traditional access to health care professionals. WE understand the purpose for the program is to provide broadband internet access to unserved/underserved communities of South Carolina that have been directly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Upon WCFIBER being awarded a portion of the funding as part of the Broadband Infrastructure Program, WCFIBER’s efforts will expand its service footprint to include remote areas of Greenwood County. These communities are low-income areas of need where in particular, our young children currently do not have access to the internet via any type of broadband networks that are readily available in other areas of the County. Of note, this expansion effort will provide service to:

- 1677 households that currently do not have 25 x 3 broadband access;
- 88 local businesses that currently do have 25 x 3 broadband access;
- 608 students living at the poverty level

We consider this project critical for our residents of Greenwood County. The corona virus pandemic has changed the way our County works, learns, teaches, and receives medical care. WCFIBER can be part of the solution. We offer our support for this project and anything we can do to help.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Steven J. Brown, Chairman
Greenwood County Council
August 14, 2020

Mr. Chris Rozycki  
Broadband Project Administrator  
South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff  
1401 Main Street, Suite 900  
Columbia, SC, 29201  
Broadband@ors.gov

Dear Mr. Rozycki:

Please accept this letter of support for WCFIBER’s efforts to provide broadband service in the Program Target Areas identified by ORS as Greenwood 2 and Greenwood 4. WCFIBER’s participation in the South Carolina Broadband Infrastructure Program will enable students in School district 50, who are in remote areas of the county, to have access to vital resources for distance learning. This will also enable residents who are working from home or need access to telehealth/online medical care. We understand the purpose for the program is to provide broadband internet access to unserved/underserved communities of South Carolina that have been directly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Greenwood School District 50 has a poverty level of 72.26%. Upon WCFIBER being awarded a portion of the funding as part of the Broadband Infrastructure Program, WCFIBER’s efforts will expand its service footprint to include remote areas of Greenwood County. These communities are low-income areas of need where in particular, our young children currently do not have access to the internet via any type of broadband networks that are readily available in other areas of the county. Of note, this expansion effort will provide service to:

- 1677 households that currently do not have 25 x 3 broadband access;
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We consider this project critical for our residents of Greenwood County. The coronavirus pandemic has changed the way our county works, learns, teaches, and receives medical care. WCFIBER can be part of the solution. We offer our support for this project and anything we can do to help.

Sincerely,

Dr. Steve Glenn  
Superintendent

Dr. Steve Glenn  
Superintendent  
1856 Calhoun Road  
PO Box 248  
Greenwood, SC 29648  
Phone 864.941.5400  
www.gwd50.org
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<tr>
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<td>DT289</td>
<td>Greenwood 4</td>
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**Exhibit D** – Letters of Support
**APPLICATION**

South Carolina Broadband Infrastructure Project

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Applicant Name/Organization  WC Fiber, LLC.
Applicant FCC Registration Number (FRN)  0024824443
Primary Contact Name  Jeff Wilson  Title  Chief Executive Officer
Mailing Address  229 Hwy 28 S.
City, State, Zip  Abbeville, SC 29620  Phone Number  (864) 446-9251
Email  jeff.wilson@wctel.com

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- [✓] 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  Greenwood  Rural or Urban  Rural
Nearest City/Town  Greenwood  Project Area Map Code  Greenwood 4 (Target code)
581  Number of Households in Project Area
37  Number of Businesses in Project Area
0  Number of Health Care Facilities in Project Area
0  Number of Community Anchor Points in Project Area
0  Number of Educational Institutions in Project Area

**Broadband Infrastructure Information**

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

- [✓] Fiber to the Premises  Minimum Sustainable Download/Upload Speeds  200/200 Mbps
- [ ] Hybrid fiber-coax (symmetrical upload/download speeds)
- [ ] Hybrid fiber-coax (non-symmetrical upload/download speeds)
- [ ] Fixed wireless  Minimum Sustainable Download/Upload Speeds
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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
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Project Timeline and Milestones

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Project Start Date</td>
<td>9/7/20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Construction Activity Begins</td>
<td>9/28/20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Construction Activity Complete</td>
<td>10/30/20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Customer Premises Installations Complete</td>
<td>12/18/20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Completion Date</td>
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Project Cost Information

- Total Project Cost: $771,000
- Upfront Cost Requirements: $68,250
- Cost of Building and/or Extending Infrastructure to Customer Premises: $702,750
- Average Cost per Location Served (all locations or structures): $1,073
- Average Cost per Housing Unit: $450
- Average Cost per Business: $600

Project Funding Information

- South Carolina CARES Act Funding Requested: $385,500
- Applicant-Provided Funding: $385,500
- Third-Party Funding Amount: 0
- Source(s): Not Applicable
Additional Information

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   - Offering free Internet speed upgrades for 60 days to existing customers to ensure they had the necessary bandwidth to accommodate higher Internet usage in their homes during this time.

b. WCF identified locations to provide free WiFi hotspots. These hotspots enabled students that did not otherwise have access to a broadband connection to complete schoolwork from the safety of their family vehicles. The WiFi hotspots were strategically located in partnership with school districts to designate which location would have the greatest impact to help students connect to fast, reliable broadband.

c. Telehealth - The Internet speeds that WCF offers (200 Mbps to 1 Gbps), will provide access to reliable Internet connections that will enable consumers to set up virtual/remote appointments with local hospitals, doctors and specialists across the county. The pandemic has caused health care providers to increase options for working and treating patients remotely to decrease the chances of exposure. The American Medical Association reports that physicians and other health professionals are now seeing 50 to 175 times the number of patients via Telehealth than they did before the pandemic. The report notes that 46% of patients are now using Telehealth to replace canceled in-person visits, up from the just 11% of patients who used Telehealth in 2019. Our local hospitals have experienced the same increase, Tim Stewart, of Abbeville Medical Center states: "We have had a major increase in all aspects of Telehealth due to the Covid pandemic. Our doctors have been using it extensively to treat patients who are unable or unwilling to come into the office. WCFIBER was instrumental in providing a custom and robust professional system for the facility that has been critical to its operations success."


d. Work from Home - WCF has been able to provide the Internet speeds needed from 200 Mbps to 1 Gbps symmetrical (upload and download) to consumers who had to quickly adjust to working from home during the Covid pandemic. WCF’s fiber optics infrastructure is a reliable and fast resource for consumers to connect quickly while ensuring that they can effectively and efficiently work from home. Area residents were able to maintain their jobs and continue to support their families by utilizing WCF’s broadband accessibility. WCF will supply the same accessibility to the unserved and under-served areas of Greenwood County.
Describe how your proposal meets the needs of the community to be served as described in the "Guidelines." Use additional pages if necessary.

The Greenwood 50 school district has a 73.91% poverty level. WCF has a proven track record to meet the needs of unserved communities, as demonstrated by our efforts when pandemic first hit. In March, when the pandemic began, all of the rural schools in the area had to convert to online classes. Households served by WCF were well equipped to smoothly transition to the online learning environment. However, many students without WCF service were unable to attend their classes, submit their homework, and conduct research online at home due to insufficient internet access, speeds or the inability to afford internet service at their homes. At the start of the pandemic WCF was proactive in identifying the need for reliable, affordable Internet Access and took action by contacting schools to provide 25 WiFi hotspots in the areas of most need. Providing the WiFi hotspots ensured that all students had access to high speed Internet. These WiFi hotspots are ongoing throughout the current service area. WCF also provided two months of free Internet to any new customer, giving low income households an opportunity to learn and work from home. For the 60 days free, WCF offered Internet plans, from 200 x 200 Mbps to 1 Gbps x 1 Gbps speed to choose from. WCF has no contract on Internet packages, allowing customers to purchase an affordable Internet package without being tied into a long-term commitment. WCF understands the increased demand for reliable Internet service and speeds that are not provided to the community and will continue to provide services that exceed those demands and needs.

The applicant has partnered with schools in their service area to identify students who are low-income or otherwise eligible for a reduced rate Internet packages. WCF will offer broadband Internet packages from 200 Mbps x 200 Mbps to 1 Gig Symmetrical. In addition to a $9.99 per month package for low to moderate income households for 12 months. The applicant has used crowd sourcing to determine interest in the service area and has identified 15 customers who are interested in purchasing services. The speeds of both base packages are significantly higher than the FCC minimum broadband definition of 25 Mbps x 3 Mbps because WCF recognizes the need for an Internet package that can provide an exceptional experience for our customers. WCF does not believe in delivering the bare minimum.

*Everyone had to quickly adapt to online learning last spring. The situation presented both new challenges in delivering lessons and new insights into the disparities between students. While for many, virtual classes were less than ideal. Those students who had reliable internet access were better able to engage with online learning and had an advantage over those who did not. All educators want to give their students the best possible opportunities to learn and succeed, and by partnering with WCF we were able to help many students gain internet access and complete the semester without falling behind. But the benefits of gaining internet access went further than grades. I could also see how it impacted the students' mental health and wellbeing. Those unable to connect to their classes online very quickly became stressed, disheartened, and disengaged. There were limited opportunities for them to connect with classmates and friends. Gaining Internet access helped these students avoid feeling isolated and embarrassed about their family's finances.* – Teacher at Greenwood High School

WCF has included letters of support from Piedmont Technical College, Greenwood School District 50, and the County of Greenwood. Please refer to Exhibit D.

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

WCF proactively educates customers and residents in the communities we serve through in-person (prior to COVID) and virtual classes. Educational topics and curriculums include the following:

- A general "How to use" your broadband connection program, that we refer to as “TechLink” classes for the elderly that includes Social Media, Email, Online Shopping, Digital Photo Uploads and File Storage, Smart Phones, etc.
- Partnered with Adult Education (taught by an Adult Ed teacher facilitated by WCF) Computer literacy Classes, with a 3-month curriculum – Tablets were given to each participant that completed the class and had service from WCF.
- We proactively reached out to schools to find the areas with the most need for the locations of placing WiFi hot spots. We found that several consumers were logging in and utilizing the hot spots within the 20+ locations in our existing area. In addition, we reached out to schools to connect with those in the most need of assistance. For those in need we offered free installation and Internet service during the pandemic through the July 31st timeframe.
- We supply a monthly magazine that we dedicate a "tech page" to communicate with existing customers the resources that are available.
- We signed onto the “Keep America Connected” national pledge and went above and beyond with free upgrades, free service, and extended these offerings past the recommended date of June 30th to July 31st. We also did not impose any finance charges or disconnect fees during this timeframe.
- We proactively reached out to businesses during the pandemic as well, especially for those deemed “essential” to ensure they had the bandwidth they needed to continue to function and operate.
- WFC offers affordable broadband rates while providing some of the nation’s fastest speeds (200 Mbps to 1 Gbps). Broadband Internet rates are competitively priced, and our areas demographic is taken into consideration. WCF’s Gigabit Internet package is priced at $80/month. It’s important that WCF provide not only the fastest broadband options, but at an affordable price to strengthen communities and foster economic development.
Provide documents to establish proof that your organization has the necessary funds (50% of total project cost) to complete this project/proposal. List documents here and attach documents to this proposal.

Please see Exhibit A.

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

In Docket No. 2017-83-C, the Commission approved the Application of WC Fiber, LLC ("WCF") for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to Provide Facilities-Based Local Exchange and Interexchange Internet Protocol (IP) Voice Services, and for Flexible Regulation of its Local Exchange Services and Alternative Regulation of its Interexchange Service Offerings within the State of South Carolina.

WCF will obtain any necessary permits for construction if it is awarded SC BIP funding.

WCF has state-wide franchise agreements for video services in place. However, at this time the proposed projects will focus on providing broadband services. If WCF decides to offer video in the future, it will make any necessary amendments to the state-wide franchise agreement.

No lease or interconnection agreement will be required to complete the proposed broadband project contained in this application. For its voice services, WCF uses an underlying carrier that provides number resources and interconnection services.
Attachments and Exhibits

Please attach the following items to Application:
1. Map of Project Area (PDF and Shapefile formats)
2. Letters of support evidencing community need for project
3. Any additional information evidencing community need for project

Certification and Signature

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

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

Signature: [Signature]

Print Name of Signature: Jeff T. Wilson
Title of Signatory: President
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.
### Exhibit C

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Project Designation</strong></th>
<th>DT289</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Project Area ORS Map Code</strong></td>
<td>Greenwood 4</td>
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#### General Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nearest City / Town</th>
<th>Greenwood</th>
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<tr>
<td>County</td>
<td>Greenwood</td>
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<tr>
<td>School District</td>
<td>Greenwood 50</td>
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<td>School District Proverty Level</td>
<td>73.91%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rural / Urban</td>
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<td>Total Potential Subscriber Locations</td>
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<td>(Residential)</td>
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<td>Crowd Fiber Interests</td>
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#### Construction Information and Costs

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<tr>
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<td>Estimated Engineering Service Fees</td>
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<td>Electronics and Equipment</td>
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<td>Customer Installs (at 20% take rate)</td>
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<td>Cost per Residential Install</td>
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<td>Cost per Business Install</td>
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</table>

#### Project Funding Summary

| Total Expected Project Cost | $771,000 |
| Requested CARES Funding Amount | $385,500 |
| Funding Amount from 3rd Party | $0 |

#### Project Timeline & Milestones

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prepare Construction Plans &amp; Specs</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Begin Construction</td>
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<tr>
<td>Complete Construction</td>
<td>10/30/2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>Begin Customer Installs</td>
<td>10/30/2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Complete</td>
<td>12/18/2020</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
August 13, 2020

Mr. Chris Rozycki
Broadband Project Administrator
State of South Carolina
Office of Regulatory Staff
1401 Main Street, Suite 900
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Mr. Rozycki:

Piedmont Technical College fully supports WCTEL’s application to secure CARES funding to bring broadband service to South Greenwood.

Greenwood County is part of Piedmont’s 7-county service area and has the largest number of students enrolled here. The COVID-19 pandemic confirmed the need for reliable broadband infrastructure available for all, so that students could continue classes online, faculty could deliver those classes, and staff could work remotely.

WCTEL’s efforts will have a positive impact on the large number of residents in South Greenwood’s predominantly low-to-moderate income areas. They will have full access to educational opportunities allowing them to participate in today’s economy without disadvantage of not having at-home broadband access.

I am excited about the possibility of bringing broadband to this area and I stand ready to assist in any way possible.

Sincerely,

L. Ray Brooks, Ed.D.
President
August 14, 2020

Mr. Chris Rozycki
Broadband Project Administrator
South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff
1401 Main Street, Suite 900
Columbia, SC, 29201
Broadband@ors.gov

Dear Mr. Rozycki:

Please accept this letter of support for WCFIBER’s efforts to provide broadband service in the Program Target Areas identified by ORS as Greenwood 2 and Greenwood 4. WCFIBER’s participation in the South Carolina Broadband Infrastructure Program will enable residents in our remote areas of the county access to vital resources for distance learning, working from home, telehealth/on-line medical care for those that don’t have traditional access to health care professionals. WE understand the purpose for the program is to provide broadband internet access to unserved/underserved communities of South Carolina that have been directly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Upon WCFIBER being awarded a portion of the funding as part of the Broadband Infrastructure Program, WCFIBER’s efforts will expand its service footprint to include remote areas of Greenwood County. These communities are low-income areas of need where in particular, our young children currently do not have access to the internet via any type of broadband networks that are readily available in other areas of the County. Of note, this expansion effort will provide service to:

- 1677 households that currently do not have 25 x 3 broadband access;
- 88 local businesses that currently do have 25 x 3 broadband access;
- 608 students living at the poverty level

We consider this project critical for our residents of Greenwood County. The corona virus pandemic has changed the way our County works, learns, teaches, and receives medical care. WCFIBER can be part of the solution. We offer our support for this project and anything we can do to help.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Steven J. Brown, Chairman
Greenwood County Council
August 14, 2020

Mr. Chris Rozycki  
Broadband Project Administrator  
South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff  
1401 Main Street, Suite 900  
Columbia, SC, 29201  
Broadband@ors.gov

Dear Mr. Rozycki:

Please accept this letter of support for WCFIBER’s efforts to provide broadband service in the Program Target Areas identified by ORS as Greenwood 2 and Greenwood 4. WCFIBER’s participation in the South Carolina Broadband Infrastructure Program will enable students in School district 50, who are in remote areas of the county, to have access to vital resources for distance learning. This will also enable residents who are working from home or need access to telehealth/on-line medical care. We understand the purpose for the program is to provide broadband internet access to unserved/underserved communities of South Carolina that have been directly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Greenwood School District 50 has a poverty level of 72.26%.

Upon WCFIBER being awarded a portion of the funding as part of the Broadband Infrastructure Program, WCFIBER’s efforts will expand its service footprint to include remote areas of Greenwood County. These communities are low-income areas of need where in particular, our young children currently do not have access to the internet via any type of broadband networks that are readily available in other areas of the county. Of note, this expansion effort will provide service to:

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Sincerely,

[Signature]

Dr. Steve Glenn  
Superintendent

Dr. Steve Glenn  
Superintendent  
1855 Calhoun Road  
PC Box 248  
Greenwood, SC 29648  
Phone 864.841.5400  
www.gwd50.org
August 14, 2020
WC Fiber, LLC – SC BIP Applications

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Priority</th>
<th>Project Designation</th>
<th>Project Area ORS Map Code</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>SG193</td>
<td>Greenwood 4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Exhibit A** – Proof of Necessary Funds

**Exhibit B** – Map of Project Area (PDF)

**Exhibit C** – Project Details

**Exhibit D** – Letters of Support
APPLICATION

South Carolina Broadband Infrastructure Project

Applicant Information

Applicant Name/Organization  WC Fiber, LLC.
Applicant FCC Registration Number (FRN) 0024824443
Primary Contact Name  Jeff Wilson
Mailing Address  229 Hwy 28 S.
City, State, Zip  Abbeville, SC 29620
Title  Chief Executive Officer
Phone Number  (864) 446-9251
Email  jjeff.wilson@wctel.com

Broadband Service Provider Experience

Date of Applicant’s Initial FCC Form 477 Submission 6/30/16
Date of Applicant’s Most Recent FCC Form 477 Submission 2/13/20

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

Project Area Information

County  Greenwood
Nearest City/Town  Greenwood
Rural or Urban  Rural
Project Area Map Code  Greenwood 4 (Target code)
Number of Households in Project Area  219
Number of Businesses in Project Area  18
Number of Health Care Facilities in Project Area  0
Number of Community Anchor Points in Project Area  0
Number of Educational Institutions in Project Area  0

Broadband Infrastructure Information

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

☑ Fiber to the Premises  Minimum Sustainable Download/Upload Speeds  200/200 Mbps
☐ Hybrid fiber-coax  (symmetrical upload/download speeds)
☐ Hybrid fiber-coax  (non-symmetrical upload/download speeds)
☐ Fixed wireless  Minimum Sustainable Download/Upload Speeds
☐ VDSL  (25/3 Mbps or faster)  Minimum Sustainable Download/Upload Speeds
**Broadband Pricing Schedules or Tiers**
Indicate all rate tiers for broadband at speeds of 25/3 Mbps or faster will be offered to customers in the project area:

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

**Project Timeline and Milestones**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Project Start Date</td>
<td>10/5/20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Construction Activity Begins</td>
<td>10/26/20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Construction Activity Complete</td>
<td>11/30/20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Customer Premises Installations Complete</td>
<td>12/18/20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Completion Date</td>
<td>12/18/20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Project Cost Information**

- Total Project Cost: $451,400
- Upfront Cost Requirements: $44,250
- Cost of Building and/or Extending Infrastructure to Customer Premises: $407,150
- Average Cost per Housing Unit: $450
- Average Cost per Business: $600
- Average Cost per Location Served (all locations or structures): $1,767

**Project Funding Information**

- South Carolina CARES Act Funding Requested: $225,700
- Applicant-Provided Funding: $225,700
- Third-Party Funding Amount: 0
- Source(s): Not Applicable
Additional Information

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

WC Fiber, LLC ("WCF"), along with its parent West Carolina Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc. ("WCT") and its affiliate West Carolina Communications, LLC ("WCC") have been offering broadband services in South Carolina since 2000 and have been providing reliable telecommunications services in South Carolina since 1952. WCT is a South Carolina member-owned cooperative. WCT was one of the first rural telephone companies to provide high-speed DSL Internet service in South Carolina. By 2009, 95% of WCT’s network was converted to a fiber optic network with the remaining 5% to be converted by the end of 2020. WCF began offering fiber-based broadband services beginning in 2015. WCF, WCT and WCC (collectively "WCTEL") have built and currently operate and maintain an all-fiber network which passes approximately 40,000 homes in South Carolina and 3,000 in Georgia. Currently, the network consists of more than 3,000 route miles of fiber and continues to expand to new areas every year. The total number of existing broadband customers is approximately 18,200 in South Carolina and 800 in Georgia.

The distribution network to the customer premise consists of fiber-to-the-premises using GPON technology. This network is provisioned with fully redundant ring topology using different fiber routes. The WAN network has three redundant routes to the Internet. Broadband network is connected to the Internet via (9) 10-Gig connections that connect to three hubs in Columbia, SC; Atlanta, GA; and Charlotte, NC.

WCF’s ability to provide unmatched broadband service in rural areas can be attributed to its in-house Information Technology, networking systems, engineering, customer premise equipment, splicing and construction / construction management capabilities. WCF’s employees have years of experience in successfully completing large-scale telecommunications and broadband construction.

WCT’s service areas are considered rural which proves WCT has extensive experience serving rural communities. WCT was nationally recognized by NTCA as a Smart Rural Community in 2017. This award is given to rural providers who lead and collaborate on broadband-enabled projects that improve economic development, provide technology for advancing education, enhance state-of-the-art health care through telemedicine, and more to ensure their rural communities continue to advance towards a future-proof sustainable infrastructure.

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

COVID has disrupted our society in an unprecedented way. As we continue to recover from the impacts of COVID, WCF has recognized and responded to the need for increased broadband service in our surrounding areas that are under-served and unserved. WCF committed to the 'Keep America Connected Pledge' and has continued to do so even past the pledge's date range of June 30, 2020. We have displayed our commitment to the communities and consumers we serve by ensuring access to reliable broadband connectivity to provide distance learning, telehealth and working from home.

a. Distance Learning - WCF partnered with Greenwood County Schools educators to ensure students had and continue to have the necessary internet connectivity to continue their studies during school closings and beyond. WCF implemented special programs to support remote learning for students in grades K-12 and college. Measures to address the educational and financial impact included:
   • Offering free internet service for 60 days to households in its service area with K-12 or college students who did not already have a WCF Internet subscription.
   • Offering free Internet speed upgrades for 60 days to existing customers to ensure they had the necessary bandwidth to accommodate higher Internet usage in their homes during this time.
   • WCF identified locations to provide free WiFi hotspots. These hotspots enabled students that did not otherwise have access to a broadband connection to complete schoolwork from the safety of their family vehicles. The WiFi hotspots were strategically located in partnership with school districts to designate which location would have the greatest impact to help students connect to reliable broadband.

b. Telehealth - The Internet speeds that WCF offers (200 Mbps to 1 Gbps), will provide access to reliable internet connections that will enable consumers to set up virtual/remote appointments with local hospitals, doctors and specialists across the country. The pandemic has caused health care providers to increase options for working and treating patients remotely to decrease the chances of exposure. "The American Medical Association reports that physicians and other health professionals are now seeing 50 to 175 times the number of patients via telehealth than they did before the pandemic. The report notes that 40% of patients are now using Telehealth to replace canceled in-person visits, up from the just 11% of patients who used Telehealth in 2019. Our local hospitals have experienced the same increase, Tim Stewart, of Abbeville Medical Center states, "We have had a major increase in all aspects of Telehealth due to the Covid pandemic. Our doctors have been using it extensively to treat patients who are unable or unwilling to come into the office. WCF/IBER was instrumental in providing a custom and robust system by the hospital to support its operations success."


c. Work from Home - WCF has been able to provide the internet speeds needed from 200 Mbps to 1 Gbps and symmetrical (upload and download) to consumers who had to quickly adjust to working from home during the Covid pandemic. WCF's fiber optic infrastructure is a reliable and fast resource for consumers to connect quickly while ensuring that they can effectively and efficiently work from home. Area residents have been able to maintain their jobs and continue to support their families by utilizing WCF’s broadband accessibility. WCF will supply the same accessibility to the unserved and under-served areas of Greenwood County.
Describe how your proposal meets the needs of the community to be served as described in the "Guidelines." Use additional pages if necessary.

The Greenwood 50 school district has a 73.91% poverty level. WCF has a proven track record to meet the needs of underserved communities, as demonstrated by our efforts when pandemic first hit. In March, when the pandemic began, all of the rural schools in the area had to convert to online classes. Households served by WCF were well equipped to smoothly transition to the online learning environment. However, many students without WCF service were unable to attend their classes, submit their homework, and conduct research online at home due to insufficient internet access, speeds or the inability to afford internet service at their homes. At the start of the pandemic, WCF was proactive in identifying the need for reliable, affordable Internet Access and took action by contacting schools to provide 23 WiFi hotspots in the areas of most need. Providing the WiFi hotspots ensured that all students had access to high-speed internet. These WiFi hotspots are on-going throughout the current service area. WCF also provided two months of free internet to any new customer, giving low income households an opportunity to learn and work from home. For the 60 days free, WCF offered internet plans, from 200 x 200 Mbps to 1 Gbps x 1 Gbps speed to choose from. WCF has no contract on internet packages, allowing customers to purchase an affordable Internet package without being tied into a long-term commitment. WCF understands the increased demand for reliable internet service and speeds that need to be provided to the community and will continue to provide services that exceed consumers demands and needs.

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“Everyone had to quickly adapt to online learning fast. The situation presented both new challenges in delivering lessons and new insights into the disparities between students. While for many, virtual classes were less than ideal. Those students who had reliable internet access were better able to engage with online learning and had an advantage over those who did not. All educators want to give their students the best possible opportunities to learn and succeed, and by partnering with WCF, we were able to help many students gain internet access and complete the semester without falling behind. But the benefits of gaining internet access went far beyond grades. I could also see how it impacted the students’ mental health and wellbeing. Those unable to connect to their classes online very quickly became stressed, disheartened, and despondent. There were limited opportunities for them to connect with classmates and friends. Gaining internet access helped these students avoid feeling isolated and embarrassed about their family’s finances.” – Teacher at Greenwood High School

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Educational topics and curriculums include the following:

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• Partnered with Adult Education (taught by an Adult Ed teacher facilitated by WCF) Computer literacy Classes, with a 3-month curriculum – Tablets were given to each participant that completed the class and had service from WCF.

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• WFC offers affordable broadband rates while providing some of the nation’s fastest speeds (200 Mbps to 1 Gbps). Broadband Internet rates are competitively priced, and our access demographic is taken into consideration. WCF’s Gigabit Internet package is priced at $80/month. It’s important that WCF provide not only the fastest broadband options, but at an affordable price to strengthen communities and foster economic development.
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.

In Docket No. 2017-83-C, the Commission approved the Application of WC Fiber, LLC ("WCF") for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to Provide Facilities-Based Local Exchange and Interexchange Internet Protocol (IP) Voice Services, and for Flexible Regulation of its Local Exchange Services and Alternative Regulation of its Interexchange Service Offerings within the State of South Carolina.

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No lease or interconnection agreement will be required to complete the proposed broadband project contained in this application. For its voice services, WCF uses an underlying carrier that provides number resources and interconnection services.
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: Jeff T. Wilson
Title of Signatory: President
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.
### Exhibit C

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Designation</th>
<th>SG193</th>
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<tr>
<td>Project Area ORS Map Code</td>
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### General Information

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<tr>
<td>County</td>
<td>Greenwood</td>
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<tr>
<td>School District</td>
<td>Greenwood 50</td>
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<tr>
<td>School District Poverty Level</td>
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<td>Total Potential Subscriber Locations</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Residential)</td>
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<td>18</td>
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<td>(Anchor Institutions)</td>
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<td>Crowd Fiber Interests</td>
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### Construction Information and Costs

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<td>$450</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cost per Business Install</td>
<td>$600</td>
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</table>

### Project Funding Summary

| Total Expected Project Cost | $451,400 |
| Requested CARES Funding Amount | $225,700 |
| Funding Amount from 3rd Party | $0 |

### Project Timeline & Milestones

| Prepare Construction Plans & Specs | 10/5/2020 |
| Begin Construction                 | 10/26/2020 |
| Complete Construction              | 11/13/2020 |
| Begin Customer Installs            | 11/13/2020 |
| Project Complete                   | 12/18/2020 |
August 13, 2020

Mr. Chris Rozycki
Broadband Project Administrator
State of South Carolina
Office of Regulatory Staff
1401 Main Street, Suite 900
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Mr. Rozycki:

Piedmont Technical College fully supports WCTEL’s application to secure CARES funding to bring broadband service to South Greenwood.

Greenwood County is part of Piedmont’s 7-county service area and has the largest number of students enrolled here. The COVID-19 pandemic confirmed the need for reliable broadband infrastructure available for all, so that students could continue classes online, faculty could deliver those classes, and staff could work remotely.

WCTEL’s efforts will have a positive impact on the large number of residents in South Greenwood’s predominantly low-to-moderate income areas. They will have full access to educational opportunities allowing them to participate in today’s economy without disadvantage of not having at-home broadband access.

I am excited about the possibility of bringing broadband to this area and I stand ready to assist in any way possible.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

L. Ray Brooks, Ed.D.
President
August 14, 2020

Mr. Chris Rozycki  
Broadband Project Administrator  
South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff  
1401 Main Street, Suite 900  
Columbia, SC, 29201  
Broadband@ors.gov

Dear Mr. Rozycki:

Please accept this letter of support for WCFIBER’s efforts to provide broadband service in the Program Target Areas identified by ORS as Greenwood 2 and Greenwood 4. WCFIBER’s participation in the South Carolina Broadband Infrastructure Program will enable residents in our remote areas of the county access to vital resources for distance learning, working from home, telehealth/on-line medical care for those that don’t have traditional access to health care professionals. WE understand the purpose for the program is to provide broadband internet access to unserved/underserved communities of South Carolina that have been directly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Upon WCFIBER being awarded a portion of the funding as part of the Broadband Infrastructure Program, WCFIBER’s efforts will expand its service footprint to include remote areas of Greenwood County. These communities are low-income areas of need where in particular, our young children currently do not have access to the internet via any type of broadband networks that are readily available in other areas of the County. Of note, this expansion effort will provide service to:

- 1677 households that currently do not have 25 x 3 broadband access;  
- 88 local businesses that currently do have 25 x 3 broadband access;  
- 608 students living at the poverty level

We consider this project critical for our residents of Greenwood County. The corona virus pandemic has changed the way our County works, learns, teaches, and receives medical care. WCFIBER can be part of the solution. We offer our support for this project and anything we can do to help.

Sincerely,

Steven J. Brown, Chairman  
Greenwood County Council
August 14, 2020

Mr. Chris Rozycki
Broadband Project Administrator
South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff
1401 Main Street, Suite 900
Columbia, SC, 29201
Broadband@ors.gov

Dear Mr. Rozycki:

Please accept this letter of support for WCFIBER’s efforts to provide broadband service in the Program Target Areas identified by ORS as Greenwood 2 and Greenwood 4. WCFIBER’s participation in the South Carolina Broadband Infrastructure Program will enable students in School district 50, who are in remote areas of the county, to have access to vital resources for distance learning. This will also enable residents who are working from home or need access to telehealth/on-line medical care. We understand the purpose for the program is to provide broadband internet access to unserved/underserved communities of South Carolina that have been directly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Greenwood School District 50 has a poverty level of 72.26%.

Upon WCFIBER being awarded a portion of the funding as part of the Broadband Infrastructure Program, WCFIBER’s efforts will expand its service footprint to include remote areas of Greenwood County. These communities are low-income areas of need where in particular, our young children currently do not have access to the internet via any type of broadband networks that are readily available in other areas of the county. Of note, this expansion effort will provide service to:

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Sincerely,

Dr. Steve Glenn
Superintendent

Dr. Steve Glenn
Superintendent
1855 Cathcart Road
PO Box 248
Greenwood, SC 29648
Phone 864.941.5400
www.gwd50.org
August 14, 2020  
WC Fiber, LLC – SC BIP Applications

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>SG481</td>
<td>Greenwood 2</td>
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**Exhibit A** – Proof of Necessary Funds

**Exhibit B** – Map of Project Area (PDF)

**Exhibit C** – Project Details

**Exhibit D** – Letters of Support
APPLICATION
South Carolina Broadband Infrastructure Project

Applicant Information
Applicant Name/Organization: WC Fiber, LLC.
Applicant FCC Registration Number (FRN): 0024824443
Primary Contact Name: Jeff Wilson
Mailing Address: 229 Hwy 28 S.
City, State, Zip: Abbeville, SC 29620
Title: Chief Executive Officer
Phone Number: (864) 446-9251
Email: jeff.wilson@wctel.com

Broadband Service Provider Experience
Date of Applicant's Initial FCC Form 477 Submission: 6/30/16
Date of Applicant's Most Recent FCC Form 477 Submission: 2/13/20

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

Project Area Information
County: Greenwood
Nearest City/Town: Greenwood
Rural or Urban: Rural
Project Area Map Code: Greenwood 2 (Target code)

Number of Households in Project Area: 220
Number of Businesses in Project Area: 16
Number of Health Care Facilities in Project Area: 0
Number of Community Anchor Points in Project Area: 1
Number of Educational Institutions in Project Area: 0

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

☑ Fiber to the Premises
Minimum Sustainable Download/Upload Speeds: 200/200 Mbps

☐ 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:

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

---

**Project Timeline and Milestones**

<table>
<thead>
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<tr>
<td>Project Start Date</td>
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<tr>
<td>Project Construction Activity Begins</td>
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<td>Customer Premises Installations Complete</td>
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<td>Project Completion Date</td>
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**Project Cost Information**

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<td>Average Cost per Business</td>
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**Project Funding Information**

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<td>Source(s)</td>
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</table>
Additional Information

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

WC Fiber, LLC ("WCF"), along with its parent West Carolina Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc. ("WCT") and its affiliate West Carolina Communications, LLC ("WCC") have been offering broadband services in South Carolina since 2000 and have been providing reliable telecommunications services in South Carolina since 1952. WCT is a South Carolina member-owned cooperative. WCT was one of the first rural telephone companies to provide high-speed DSL Internet service in South Carolina. By 2006, 95% of WCT's network was converted to a fiber optic network with the remaining 5% to be converted by the end of 2020. WCF began offering fiber-based broadband services beginning in 2015. WCF, WCT and WCC (collectively "WCTEL") have built and currently operate and maintain an all-fiber network which passes approximately 40,000 homes in South Carolina and 3,000 in Georgia. Currently, the network consists of more than 3,000 route miles of fiber and continues to expand to new areas every year. The total number of existing broadband customers is approximately 18,200 in South Carolina and 800 in Georgia.

The distribution network to the customer premise consists of fiber-to-the-premises using GPON technology. This network is provisioned with fully redundant ring topology using different fiber routes. The WAN network has three redundant routes to the Internet. Broadband network is connected to the Internet via (9) 10-Gig connections that connect to three hubs in Columbia, SC; Atlanta, GA; and Charlotte, NC.

WCF’s ability to provide unmatched broadband service in rural areas can be attributed to its in-house Information Technology, networking systems, engineering, customer premise equipment, splicing and construction / construction management capabilities. WCF's employees have years of experience in successfully completing large-scale telecommunications and broadband construction.

WCT's service areas are considered rural which proves WCT has extensive experience serving rural communities. WCT was nationally recognized by NTCA as a Smart Rural Community in 2017. This award is given to rural providers who lead and collaborate on broadband-enabled projects that improve economic development, provide technology for advancing education, enhance state-of-the-art health care through telemedicine, and more to ensure their rural communities continue to advance towards a future-proof sustainable infrastructure.

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

COVID has disrupted our society in an unprecedented way. As we continue to recuperate from the impacts of COVID, WCF has recognized and responded to the need for increased broadband service in our surrounding areas that are under-served and underserved. WCF committed to the "Keep America Connected Pledge" and has continued to do so even past the pledge's date range of June 30, 2020. We have displayed our commitment to the communities and consumers we serve by ensuring access to reliable broadband connectivity to provide distance learning, telehealth and working from home.

a. Distance Learning - WCF partnered with Greenwood County Schools educators to ensure students had and continue to have the necessary Internet connectivity to continue their studies during school closings and beyond. WCF implemented special programs to support remote learning for students in grades K-12 and college. Measures to address the educational and financial impact included:
   • Offering free Internet service for 60 days to households in its service area with K-12 or college students who did not already have a WCF Internet subscription.
   • Offering free Internet speed upgrades for 60 days to existing customers to ensure they had the necessary bandwidth to accommodate higher Internet usage in their homes during this time.
   • WCF identified locations to provide free WIFI hotspots. These hotspots enabled students that did not otherwise have access to a broadband connection to complete schoolwork from the safety of their family vehicles. The WIFI hotspots were strategically located in partnership with school districts to designate which location would have the greatest impact to help students connect to fast, reliable broadband.

b. Telehealth - The Internet speeds that WCF offers (200 Mbps to 1 Gbps), will provide access to reliable Internet connections that will enable consumers to set up virtual/remote appointments with local hospitals, doctors and specialists across the country. The pandemic has caused health care providers to increase options for working and treating patients remotely to decrease the chances of exposure. The American Medical Association reports that physicians and other health professionals are seeing 50 to 175 times the number of patients via Telehealth than they did before the pandemic. The report notes that 46% of patients are now using Telehealth to replace canceled in-person visits, up from the just 11% of patients who used Telehealth in 2019. Our local hospitals have experienced the same increase. Tim Stewart, of Abbeville Medical Center states, "We have had a major increase in all aspects of Telehealth due to the Covid pandemic. Our doctors have been using it extensively to treat patients who are unable or unwilling to come into the office. WCFIBER was instrumental in providing a custom and robust professional system for the facility that has been critical to its operations success."


c. Work from Home - WCF has been able to provide the Internet speeds needed from 200 Mbps to 1 Gbps and symmetrical (upload and download) to consumers who had to quickly adjust to working from home during the Covid pandemic. WCF's fiber optic infrastructure is a reliable and fast resource for consumers to connect quickly while ensuring that they can effectively and efficiently work from home. Area residents were able to maintain their jobs and continue to support their families by utilizing WCF's broadband accessibility. WCF will supply the same accessibility to the underserved and under-served areas of Greenwood County.
Describe how your proposal meets the needs of the community to be served as described in the "Guidelines." Use additional pages if necessary.

The Greenwood 50 school district has a 73.91% poverty level. WCF has a proven track record to meet the needs of underserved communities, as demonstrated by our efforts when pandemic first hit. In March, when the pandemic began, all of the rural schools in the area had to convert to online classes. Households served by WCF were well equipped to smoothly transition to the online learning environment. However, many students without WCF service were unable to attend their classes, submit their homework, and conduct research online at home due to insufficient internet access, speeds or the inability to afford Internet service at their homes. At the start of the pandemic WCF was proactive in identifying the need for reliable, affordable Internet Access and took action by contacting schools to provide 23 WiFi hotspots in the areas of most need. Providing the WiFi hotspots ensured that all students had access to high speed Internet. These WiFi hotspots are on-going throughout the current service area. WCF also provided two months of free Internet to any new customer, giving low income households an opportunity to learn and work from home. For the 60 days free, WCF offered Internet plans, from 200 x 200 Mbps to 1 Gbps x 1 Gbps speed to choose from. WCF has no contract on Internet packages, allowing customers to purchase an affordable Internet package without being tied into a long-term commitment. WCF understands the increased demand for reliable Internet service and speeds that need to be provided to the community and will continue to provide services that exceed consumers demands and needs.

The applicant has partnered with schools in their service area to identify students who are low-income or otherwise eligible for a reduced rate Internet packages. WCF will offer broadband Internet packages from 200 Mbps x 200 Mbps to 1 Gig Symmetrical. In addition to a $5.99 per month package for low to moderate income households for 12 months. The applicant has used crowd sourcing to determine interest in the service area and has identified 377 customers who are interested in purchasing services. The speeds of both base packages are significantly higher than the FCC minimum broadband definition of 25 Mbps x 3 Mbps because WCF recognizes the need for an Internet package that can provide an exceptional experience for our customers. WCF does not believe in delivering the bare minimum.

"Everyone had to quickly adapt to online learning last spring. The situation presented both new challenges in delivering lessons and new insights into the disparities between students. While for many, virtual classes were less than ideal. Those students who had reliable Internet access were better able to engage with online learning and had an advantage over those who did not. All educators want to give their students the best possible opportunities to learn and succeed, and by partnering with WCF we were able to help many students gain internet access and complete the semester without falling behind. But the benefits of gaining internet access went further than grades. I could also see how it impacted the students' mental health and wellbeing. Those unable to connect to their classes online very quickly became disengaged, disheartened, and disengaged. There were limited opportunities for them to connect with classmates and friends. Gaining internet access helped these students avoid feeling isolated and embarrassed about their family's finances." – Teacher at Greenwood High School

WCF has included letters of support from Piedmont Technical College, Greenwood School District 50, and the County of Greenwood. Please refer to Exhibit D.

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

WCF proactively educates customers and residents in the communities we serve through in-person (prior to COVID) and virtual classes. Educational topics and curriculums include the following:

- A general "How to use" your broadband connection program, that we refer to as "TechLink" classes for the elderly that includes Social Media, Email, Online Shopping, Digital Photo Uploads and File Storage, Smart Phones, etc.

- Partnered with Adult Education (taught by an Adult Ed teacher facilitated by WCF) Computer literacy Classes, with a 3-month curriculum – Tablets were given to each participant that completed the class and had service from WCF.

- We proactively reached out to schools to find the areas with the most need for the locations of placing WiFi hot spots. We found that several consumers were logging in and utilizing the hot spots within the 20+ locations in our existing area. In addition, we reached out to schools to connect with those in the most need of assistance. For those in need we offered free installation and Internet service during the pandemic through the July 31st time frame.

- We supply a monthly magazine that we dedicate a "tech page" to communicate with existing customers the resources that are available.

- We signed onto the "Keep America Connected" national pledge and went above and beyond with free upgrades, free service, and extended these offerings past the recommended date of June 30th to July 31st. We also did not impose any finance charges or disconnect fees during this timeframe.

- We proactively reached out to businesses during the pandemic as well, especially for those deemed “essential" to ensure they had the bandwidth they needed to continue to function and operate.

- WCF offers affordable broadband rates while providing some of the nation's fastest speeds (200 Mbps to 1 Gbps). Broadband Internet rates are competitively priced, and our areas demographic is taken into consideration. WCF's Gigabit Internet package is priced at $60/month. It's important that WCF provide not only the fastest broadband options, but at an affordable price to strengthen communities and foster economic development.
Provide documents to establish proof that your organization has the necessary funds (50% of total project cost) to complete this project/proposal. List documents here and attach documents to this proposal.

Please see Exhibit A.

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

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2. Letters of support evidencing community need for project
3. Any additional information evidencing community need for project

Certification and Signature

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

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

Signature: [Signature]
Print Name of Signature: Jeff T. Wilson
Title of Signatory: President
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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<td>27</td>
</tr>
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#### Construction Information and Costs

| Estimated Construction Route Miles | 6.5         |
| Estimated Construction Costs      | $390,000    |
| Estimated Engineering Service Fees | $48,750    |
| Electronics and Equipment         | $11,800     |
| Customer Installs (at 20% take rate) | $41,480 |
| Construction Cost per Location Passed | $1,909 |
| Cost per Residential Install      | $450       |
| Cost per Business Install         | $600       |

#### Project Funding Summary

- Total Expected Project Cost: $492,030
- Requested CARES Funding Amount: $246,015
- Funding Amount from 3rd Party: $0

#### Project Timeline & Milestones

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<tbody>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Begin Construction</td>
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<tr>
<td>Complete Construction</td>
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<tr>
<td>Begin Customer Installs</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Complete</td>
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August 13, 2020

Mr. Chris Rozycki
Broadband Project Administrator
State of South Carolina
Office of Regulatory Staff
1401 Main Street, Suite 900
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Mr. Rozycki:

Piedmont Technical College fully supports WCTEL’s application to secure CARES funding to bring broadband service to South Greenwood.

Greenwood County is part of Piedmont’s 7-county service area and has the largest number of students enrolled here. The COVID-19 pandemic confirmed the need for reliable broadband infrastructure available for all, so that students could continue classes online, faculty could deliver those classes, and staff could work remotely.

WCTEL’s efforts will have a positive impact on the large number of residents in South Greenwood’s predominantly low-to-moderate income areas. They will have full access to educational opportunities allowing them to participate in today’s economy without disadvantage of not having at-home broadband access.

I am excited about the possibility of bringing broadband to this area and I stand ready to assist in any way possible.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

L. Ray Brooks, Ed.D.
President
August 14, 2020

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Broadband Project Administrator  
South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff  
1401 Main Street, Suite 900  
Columbia, SC, 29201  
Broadband@ors.gov

Dear Mr. Rozyczki:

Please accept this letter of support for WCFIBER’s efforts to provide broadband service in the Program Target Areas identified by ORS as Greenwood 2 and Greenwood 4. WCFIBER’s participation in the South Carolina Broadband Infrastructure Program will enable residents in our remote areas of the county access to vital resources for distance learning, working from home, telehealth/on-line medical care for those that don’t have traditional access to health care professionals. WE understand the purpose for the program is to provide broadband internet access to unserved/underserved communities of South Carolina that have been directly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Upon WCFIBER being awarded a portion of the funding as part of the Broadband Infrastructure Program, WCFIBER’s efforts will expand its service footprint to include remote areas of Greenwood County. These communities are low-income areas of need where in particular, our young children currently do not have access to the internet via any type of broadband networks that are readily available in other areas of the County. Of note, this expansion effort will provide service to:

- 1677 households that currently do not have 25 x 3 broadband access;
- 88 local businesses that currently do have 25 x 3 broadband access;
- 608 students living at the poverty level

We consider this project critical for our residents of Greenwood County. The corona virus pandemic has changed the way our County works, learns, teaches, and receives medical care. WCFIBER can be part of the solution. We offer our support for this project and anything we can do to help.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Steven J. Brown, Chairman  
Greenwood County Council
August 14, 2020

Mr. Chris Rozycki  
Broadband Project Administrator  
South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff  
1401 Main Street, Suite 900  
Columbia, SC, 29201  
Broadband@ors.gov

Dear Mr. Rozycki:
Please accept this letter of support for WCFIBER’s efforts to provide broadband service in the Program Target Areas identified by ORS as Greenwood 2 and Greenwood 4. WCFIBER’s participation in the South Carolina Broadband Infrastructure Program will enable students in School District 50, who are in remote areas of the county, to have access to vital resources for distance learning. This will also enable residents who are working from home or need access to telehealth/on-line medical care. We understand the purpose for the program is to provide broadband internet access to unserved/underserved communities of South Carolina that have been directly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Greenwood School District 50 has a poverty level of 72.26%.

Upon WCFIBER being awarded a portion of the funding as part of the Broadband Infrastructure Program, WCFIBER’s efforts will expand its service footprint to include remote areas of Greenwood County. These communities are low-income areas of need where in particular, our young children currently do not have access to the internet via any type of broadband networks that are readily available in other areas of the county. Of note, this expansion effort will provide service to:

- 1677 households that currently do not have 25 x 3 broadband access;
- 88 local businesses that currently do have 25 x 3 broadband access;
- 608 students living at the poverty level

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Sincerely,

Dr. Steve Glenn  
Superintendent
August 14, 2020
WC Fiber, LLC – SC BIP Applications

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Priority</th>
<th>Project Designation</th>
<th>Project Area ORS Map Code</th>
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<td>5</td>
<td>TRLRD</td>
<td>Anderson 11</td>
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**Exhibit A** – Proof of Necessary Funds

**Exhibit B** – Map of Project Area (PDF)

**Exhibit C** – Project Details

**Exhibit D** – Letters of Support
APPLICATION
South Carolina Broadband Infrastructure Project

Applicant Information
Applicant Name/Organization  WC Fiber, LLC.
Applicant FCC Registration Number (FRN)  0024824443
Primary Contact Name  Jeff Wilson  Title  Chief Executive Officer
Mailing Address  229 Hwy 28 S.
City, State, Zip  Abbeville, SC 29620  Phone Number  (864) 446-9251
Email  jeff.wilson@wctel.com

Broadband Service Provider Experience
Date of Applicant's Initial FCC Form 477 Submission  6/30/16
Date of Applicant's Most Recent FCC Form 477 Submission  2/13/20
☑ Applicant and/or project Partner has experience delivering broadband service over fiber or hybrid fiber-coax infrastructure
☑ Applicant and/or project Partner has experience building and operating broadband networks in rural areas
☑ Applicant and/or project Partner has experience building and operating broadband networks in low-moderate income areas

Project Area Information
County  Abbeville & Anderson  Rural or Urban  Rural
Nearest City/Town  Due West  Project Area Map Code  Anderson 11 (Target code)
Number of Households in Project Area  36
Number of Businesses in Project Area  0
Number of Health Care Facilities in Project Area  0
Number of Community Anchor Points in Project Area  0
Number of Educational Institutions in Project Area  0

Broadband Infrastructure Information
Indicate the type(s) of broadband infrastructure technology to be deployed in the project area.
☑ Fiber to the Premises  Minimum Sustainable Download/Upload Speeds  200/200 Mbps
☐ Hybrid fiber-coax (symmetrical upload/download speeds)
☐ Hybrid fiber-coax (non-symmetrical upload/download speeds)
☐ Fixed wireless  Minimum Sustainable Download/Upload Speeds
☐ VDSL (25/3 Mbps or faster)  Minimum Sustainable Download/Upload Speeds
Broadband Pricing Schedules or Tiers
Indicate all rate tiers for broadband at speeds of 25/3 Mbps or faster will be offered to customers in the project area:

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

Project Timeline and Milestones
Project Start Date 8/24/20
Project Construction Activity Begins 9/7/20
Project Construction Activity Complete 9/25/20
Customer Premises Installations Complete 12/18/20
Project Completion Date 12/18/20

Project Cost Information
Total Project Cost $197,350
Upfront Cost Requirements $26,250
Cost of Building and/or Extending Infrastructure to Customer Premises $171,100
Average Cost per Housing Unit $450
Average Cost per Business $600
Average Cost per Location Served (all locations or structures) $5,057

Project Funding Information
South Carolina CARES Act Funding Requested $98,675
Applicant-Provided Funding $98,675
Third-Party Funding Amount 0
Source(s) Not Applicable
Additional Information

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

WC Fiber, LLC ("WCF"), along with its parent West Carolina Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc. ("WCT") and its affiliate West Carolina Communications, LLC ("WCC") have been offering broadband services in South Carolina since 2000 and have been providing reliable telecommunications services in South Carolina since 1952. WCT is a South Carolina member-owned cooperative. WCT was one of the first rural telephone companies to provide high-speed DSL Internet service in South Carolina. By 2008, 99% of WCT's network was converted to a fiber optic network with the remaining 5% to be converted by the end of 2020. WCF began offering fiber-based broadband services beginning in 2015. WCF, WCT and WCC (collectively "WCTEL") have built and currently operate and maintain an all-fiber network which passes approximately 40,000 homes in South Carolina and 3,000 in Georgia. Currently, the network consists of more than 3,000 route miles of fiber and continues to expand to new areas every year. The total number of existing broadband customers is approximately 18,200 in South Carolina and 800 in Georgia.

The distribution network to the customer premise consists of fiber-to-the-premises using GPON technology. This network is provisioned with fully redundant ring topology using different fiber routes. The WAN network has three redundant routes to the Internet. Broadband network is connected to the Internet via (9) 10-Gig connections that connect to three hubs in Columbus, SC; Atlanta, GA; and Charlotte, NC.

WCF's ability to provide unmatched broadband service in rural areas can be attributed to its in-house Information Technology, networking systems, engineering, customer premise equipment, splicing and construction / construction management capabilities. WCF's employees have years of experience in successfully completing large-scale telecommunications and broadband construction.

WCT's service areas are considered rural which proves WCT has extensive experience serving rural communities. WCT was nationally recognized by NTCA as a Smart Rural Community in 2017. This award is given to rural providers who lead and collaborate on broadband-enabled projects that improve economic development, provide technology for advancing education, enhance state-of-the-art health care through telemedicine, and more to ensure their rural communities continue to advance towards a future-proof sustainable infrastructure.

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

COVID has disrupted our society in an unprecedented way. As we continue to recuperate from the impacts of COVID, WCF has recognized and responded to the need for increased broadband service in our surrounding areas that are under served and unserved. WCF committed to the "Keep America Connected Pledge" and has continued to do so even past the pledge's date range of June 30, 2020. We have displayed our commitment to the communities and consumers we serve by ensuring access to reliable broadband connectivity to provide distance learning, telehealth and working from home.

a. Distance Learning: WCF partnered with Abbeville and Anderson 2 County Schools educators to ensure students had and continue to have the necessary Internet connectivity to continue their studies during school closings and beyond. WCF implemented special programs to support remote learning for students in grades K-12 and college. Measures to address the educational and financial impact included:
   - Offering free Internet service for 60 days to all students in its service area with K-12 or college students who did not already have a WCF Internet subscription.
   - Offering free Internet speed upgrades for 60 days to existing customers to ensure they had the necessary bandwidth to accommodate higher Internet usage in their homes during this time.
   - WCF identified locations to provide free WiFi hotspots. These hotspots enabled students that did not otherwise have access to a broadband connection to complete schoolwork from the safety of their family vehicles. The WiFi hotspots were strategically located in partnership with school districts to designate which location would have the greatest impact to help students connect to fast, reliable broadband.

b. Telehealth - The Internet speeds that WCF offers (200 Mbps to 1 Gbps), will provide access to reliable Internet connections that will enable consumers to set up virtual/remote appointments with local doctors, doctors and specialists across the country. The pandemic has caused health care providers to increase options for working and treating patients remotely to decrease the chances of exposure. "The American Medical Association reports that physicians and other health professionals are now seeing 50 to 175 times the number of patients via Telehealth than they did before the pandemic. The report notes that 46% of patients are now using Telehealth to replace canceled in-person visits, up from the just 11% of patients who used Telehealth in 2018. Our local hospitals have experienced the same increase. Tim Stavart, of Abbeville Medical Center states, "We have had a major increase in all aspects of Telehealth due to the Covid pandemic. Our doctors have been using it extensively to treat patients who are unable or unwilling to come into the office. WC FIBER was instrumental in providing a custom and robust professional system for the facility that has been critical to its operations success."


c. Work from Home - WCF has been able to provide the Internet speeds needed from 200 Mbps to 1 Gbps and symmetrical (upload and download) to consumers who had to quickly adjust to working from home during the Covid pandemic. WCF's fiber optic infrastructure is a reliable and fast resource for consumers to connect quickly while ensuring that they can effectively and efficiently work from home. Area residents were able to maintain their jobs and continue to support their families by utilizing WCF's broadband accessibility. WCF will supply the same accessibility to the unserved and under-served areas of Anderson County.
Describe how your proposal meets the needs of the community to be served as described in the "Guidelines." Use additional pages if necessary.

The Adelbelle 60 school district has a 69.35% poverty level and Anderson 2 has a 64.47% poverty level. WCF has a proven track record to meet the needs of unserved communities, as demonstrated by our efforts when pandemic first hit. In March, when the pandemic began, all of the rural schools in the area had to convert to online classes. Households served by WCF were well equipped to smoothly transition to the online learning environment. However, many students without WCF service were unable to attend classes, submit their homework, and conduct research online at home due to insufficient internet access, speeds or the inability to afford internet service at their homes. At the start of the pandemic WCF was proactive in identifying the need for reliable, affordable Internet Access and took action by contacting schools to provide 23 WiFi hotspots in the areas of most need. Providing the WiFi hotspots ensured that all students had access to high speed internet. These WiFi hotspots are on-going throughout the current service area. WCF also provided two months of free internet to any new customer, giving low income households an opportunity to learn and work from home. For the 63 days free, WCF offered Internet plans, from $200 x 200 Mbps to 1 Gbps x 1 Gbps speed to choose from. WCF has no contract on Internet packages, allowing customers to purchase an affordable internet package without being tied into a long term commitment. WCF understands the increased demand for reliable internet service and speeds that need to be provided to the community and will continue to provide services that exceed consumers demands and needs.

The applicant has partnered with schools in their service area to identify students who are low-income or otherwise eligible for a reduced rate Internet packages. WCF will offer broadband internet packages from 200 Mbps x 200 Mbps to 1 Gig Symmetrical. In addition to a $9.99 per month package for low to moderate income households for 12 months. The speeds of both base packages are significantly higher than the FCC minimum broadband definition of 25 Mbps x 3 Mbps because WCF recognizes the need for an Internet package that can provide an exceptional experience for our customers. WCF does not believe in delivering the bare minimum.

"Everyone had to quickly adapt to online learning last spring. The situation presented both new challenges in delivering lessons and new insights into the disparities between students. While for many, virtual classes were less than ideal. Those students who had reliable internet access were better able to engage with online learning and had an advantage over those who did not. All educators want to give their students the best possible opportunities to learn and succeed, and by partnering with WCF we were able to help many students gain internet access and complete the semester without falling behind. But the benefits of gaining internet access went further than grades. I could also see how it impacted the students' mental health and wellbeing. Those unable to connect to their classes online very quickly became stressed, disheartened, and despondent. There were limited opportunities for them to connect with classmates and friends. Gaining internet access helped these students avoid feeling isolated and embarrassed about their family's finances.” – Teacher at Greenwood High School

WCF has included letters of support from Anderson County. Please refer to Exhibit D.

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

WCF proactively educates customers and residents in the communities we serve through in-person (prior to COVID) and virtual classes. Educational topics and curriculums include the following:

- A general "How to use" your broadband connection program, that we refer to as "TechLink" classes for the elderly that includes Social Media, Email, Online Shopping, Digital Photo Uploads and File Storage, Smart Phones, etc.

- Partnered with Adult Education (taught by an Adult Ed teacher facilitated by WCF) Computer literacy Classes, with a 3-month curriculum – Tablets were given to each participant that completed the class and had service from WCF.

- We proactively reached out to schools to find the areas with the most need for the locations of placing WiFi hot spots. We found that several consumers were logging in and utilizing the hot spots within the 20+ locations in our existing area. In addition, we reached out to schools to connect with those in the most need of assistance. For those in need we offered free installation and internet service during the pandemic through the July 31st time frame.

- We supply a monthly magazine that we dedicate a "tech page" to communicate with existing customers the resources that are available.

- We signed onto the "Keep America Connected" national pledge and went above and beyond with free upgrades, free service, and extended these offerings past the recommended date of June 30th to July 31st. We also did not impose any finance charges or disconnect fees during this timeframe.

- We proactively reached out to businesses during the pandemic as well, especially for those deemed "essential" to ensure they had the bandwidth they needed to continue to function and operate.

- WFC offers affordable broadband rates while providing some of the nation's fastest speeds (200 Mbps to 1 Gbps). Broadband Internet rates are competitively priced, and our areas demographic is taken into consideration. WCF's Gigabit internet package is priced at $99/month. It's important that WCF provide not only the fastest broadband options, but at an affordable price to strengthen communities and foster economic development.
Provide documents to establish proof that your organization has the necessary funds (50% of total project cost) to complete this project/proposal. List documents here and attach documents to this proposal.

Please see Exhibit A.

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

In Docket No. 2017-83-C, the Commission approved the Application of WC Fiber, LLC (“WCF”) for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to Provide Facilities-Based Local Exchange and Interexchange Internet Protocol (IP) Voice Services, and for Flexible Regulation of its Local Exchange Services and Alternative Regulation of its Interexchange Service Offerings within the State of South Carolina.

WCF will obtain any necessary permits for construction if it is awarded SC BIP funding.

WCF has state-wide franchise agreements for video services in place. However, at this time the proposed projects will focus on providing broadband services. If WCF decides to offer video in the future, it will make any necessary amendments to the state-wide franchise agreement.

No lease or interconnection agreement will be required to complete the proposed broadband project contained in this application. For its voice services, WCF uses an underlying carrier that provides number resources and interconnection services.
Attachments and Exhibits

Please attach the following items to Application:
1. Map of Project Area (PDF and Shapefile formats)
2. Letters of support evidencing community need for project
3. Any additional information evidencing community need for project

Certification and Signature

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

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

Signature: [Signature]
Print Name of Signature: Jeff T. Wilson
Title of Signatory: President
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.
## Exhibit C

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Designation</th>
<th>TRLRD</th>
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<td>Project Area ORS Map Code</td>
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### General Information

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<th>Nearest City / Town</th>
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<td>County</td>
<td>Abbeville &amp; Anderson</td>
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<td>School District</td>
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<td>School District Poverty Level</td>
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<td>(Residential)</td>
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<td>(Businesses)</td>
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<td>(Anchor Institutions)</td>
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### Construction Information and Costs

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### Project Funding Summary

| Total Expected Project Cost | $197,350 |
| Requested CARES Funding Amount | $98,675 |
| Funding Amount from 3rd Party  | $0       |

### Project Timeline & Milestones

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<td>Begin Customer Installs</td>
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<td>Project Complete</td>
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</table>
August 13, 2020

Chris Rozycki  
Broadband Project Administrator  
State of South Carolina  
Office of Regulatory Staff  
1401 Main Street, Suite 900  
Columbia, SC 29201

DEAR MR. ROZYCKI,

I wanted to reach out to you personally and offer my full support for WCTEL’s efforts to bring broadband service to the Shirley’s Store and Lake Secession communities. My County Council district covers the areas that would be served by the proposed projects.

In my opinion, getting broadband service as quickly as possible to these and other underserved areas of Anderson County must be a top priority for County Council going forward. If we have learned anything from the events of this year, it is that communities need reliable broadband infrastructure if they hope to survive and prosper. Communities that cannot provide residents with the ability to work from home, access remote learning opportunities, participate in telemedicine evaluations, engage in e-commerce, or manage a small business will not be able to attract the base of working families with children that any community needs to remain viable.

When completed, WCTEL’s efforts will have a life-changing positive impact on the hundreds of persons residing in these predominantly low-to-moderate income areas. Perhaps most critically, area children attending Anderson School Districts One and Two will have full access to the educational opportunities they will need to participate in today’s economy, freed forever of the tremendous competitive disadvantage they face in not having at-home broadband access.

I am excited about the prospect of bringing broadband to these areas and I stand ready to assist in any way possible. If I can ever be of assistance your office please contact me at (864) 844-1163.

SINCERELY,

Ray Graham

RAY GRAHAM | ANDERSON COUNTY COUNCIL DISTRICT THREE
August 13, 2020

Chris Rozycki
Broadband Project Administrator
State of South Carolina
Office of Regulatory Staff
1401 Main Street, Suite 900
Columbia, SC 29201

DEAR MR. ROZYCKI,

Please accept this letter as indication of our support for WCETL's efforts to provide broadband service to the Iva-Lake Secession community in eastern Anderson County. This area is identified as the Anderson 11 priority area on the current S.C. Broadband Infrastructure map, and our local efforts have also identified this area as being underserved by broadband infrastructure.

These efforts will directly assist lower income residents in an identified area of need. The community is comprised mainly of Census Tract 117 Block Group 3, and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development has identified 53.8% of all residents as living in low-to-moderate income households. In addition, the area's median household income of $42,500 is almost 11% lower than the countywide median income of $47,900.

This project will also help our local efforts to encourage economic development in the community. Naturally, there is ample road infrastructure and land for smaller-scale manufacturing concerns that would benefit from broadband; however, this community is home to many local-source restaurants, U-pick farms, and other smaller businesses for which broadband would provide an economic lifeline through online transactions, sales, and advertising.

We consider your project to a high priority for Anderson County, and we are happy to offer our support for this and similar efforts in the community.

SINCERELY,

Rusty Burns
RUSTY BURNS | COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
August 14, 2020
WC Fiber, LLC – SC BIP Applications

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Priority</th>
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<th>Project Area ORS Map Code</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>FJ865</td>
<td>Laurens 14</td>
</tr>
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</table>

**Exhibit A** – Proof of Necessary Funds

**Exhibit B** – Map of Project Area (PDF)

**Exhibit C** – Project Details

**Exhibit D** – Letters of Support
APPLICATION
South Carolina Broadband Infrastructure Project

Applicant Information
Applicant Name/Organization  WC Fiber, LLC.
Applicant FCC Registration Number (FRN) 0024824443
Primary Contact Name  Jeff Wilson  Title  Chief Executive Officer
Mailing Address  229 Hwy 28 S.
City, State, Zip  Abbeville, SC 29620  Phone Number (864) 446-9251

Broadband Service Provider Experience
Date of Applicant’s Initial FCC Form 477 Submission 6/30/16
Date of Applicant’s Most Recent FCC Form 477 Submission 2/13/20

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

Project Area Information
County  Greenwood  Rural or Urban  Rural
Nearest City/Town  Greenwood  Project Area Map Code  Laurens 14 (Target code)
Number of Households in Project Area  408
Number of Businesses in Project Area  16
Number of Health Care Facilities in Project Area  0
Number of Community Anchor Points in Project Area  0
Number of Educational Institutions in Project Area  0

Broadband Infrastructure Information
Indicate the type(s) of broadband infrastructure technology to be deployed in the project area.
✓ Fiber to the Premises  Minimum Sustainable Download/Upload Speeds  200/200 Mbps
☐ Hybrid fiber-coax (symmetrical upload/download speeds)
☐ Hybrid fiber-coax (non-symmetrical upload/download speeds)
☐ Fixed wireless  Minimum Sustainable Download/Upload Speeds
☐ VDSL (25/3 Mbps or faster)  Minimum Sustainable Download/Upload Speeds
Broadband Pricing Schedules or Tiers
Indicate all rate tiers for broadband at speeds of 25/3 Mbps or faster will be offered to customers in the project area:

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

Project Timeline and Milestones
Project Start Date 9/7/20
Project Construction Activity Begins 9/28/20
Project Construction Activity Complete 11/13/20
Customer Premises Installations Complete 12/18/20
Project Completion Date 12/18/20

Project Cost Information
Total Project Cost $1,181,150
Upfront Cost Requirements $120,750
Cost of Building and/or Extending Infrastructure to Customer Premises $1,060,400
Average Cost per Housing Unit $450
Average Cost per Business $600
Average Cost per Location Served (all locations or structures) $2,613

Project Funding Information
South Carolina CARES Act Funding Requested $590,575

Applicant-Provided Funding $590,575
Third-Party Funding Amount 0
Source(s) Not Applicable
Additional Information

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

WC Fiber, LLC ("WCF"), along with its parent West Carolina Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc. ("WCT") and its affiliate West Carolina Communications, LLC ("WCC") have been offering broadband services in South Carolina since 2000 and have been providing reliable telecommunications services in South Carolina since 1952. WCT is a South Carolina member-owned cooperative. WCT was one of the first rural telephone companies to provide high-speed DSL Internet service in South Carolina. By 2009, 95% of WCT's network was converted to a fiber optic network with the remaining 5% to be converted by the end of 2020. WCF began offering fiber-based broadband services beginning in 2015. WCF, WCT and WCC (collectively "WTEL") have built and currently operate an all-fiber network which passes approximately 40,000 homes in South Carolina and 3,000 in Georgia. Currently, the network consists of more than 3,000 route miles of fiber and continues to expand to new areas every year. The total number of existing broadband customers is approximately 18,200 in South Carolina and 800 in Georgia.

The distribution network to the customer premise consists of fiber-to-the-premises using GPON technology. This network is provisioned with fully redundant ring topology using different fiber routes. The WAN network has three redundant routes to the Internet. Broadband network is connected to the Internet via (9) 10-Gig connections that connect to three hubs in Columbia, SC; Atlanta, GA; and Charlotte, NC.

WCF's ability to provide unmatched broadband service in rural areas can be attributed to its in-house Information Technology, networking systems, engineering, customer premise equipment, splicing and construction / construction management capabilities. WCF's employees have years of experience in successfully completing large-scale telecommunications and broadband construction.

WCT's service areas are considered rural which proves WCT has extensive experience serving rural communities. WCT was nationally recognized by NTCA as a Smart Rural Community in 2017. This award is given to rural providers who lead and collaborate on broadband-enabled projects that improve economic development, provide technology for advancing education, enhance state-of-the-art health care through telemedicine, and more to ensure their rural communities continue to advance towards a future-proof sustainable infrastructure.

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

COVID has disrupted our society in an unprecedented way. As we continue to recover from the impacts of COVID, WCF has recognized and responded to the need for increased broadband service in our surrounding areas that are underserved and unserved. WCF committed to the "Keep America Connected Pledge" and has continued to do so even past the pledge's date range of June 30, 2020. We have deployed our commitment to the communities and consumers we serve by ensuring access to reliable broadband connectivity to provide distance learning, telehealth and working from home.

a. Distance Learning - WCF partnered with Greenwood County Schools educators to ensure students had and continue to have the necessary Internet connectivity to continue their studies during school closings and beyond. WCF implemented special programs to support remote learning for students in grades K-12 and college. Measures to address the educational and financial impact included:

- Offering free Internet service for 60 days to households in its service area with K-12 or college students who did not already have a WCF Internet subscription.
- Offering free Internet speed upgrades for 60 days to existing customers to ensure they had the necessary bandwidth to accommodate higher Internet usage in their homes during this time.
- WCF identified locations to provide free WiFi hotspots. These hotspots enabled students that did not otherwise have access to a broadband connection to complete schoolwork from the safety of their family vehicles. The WiFi hotspots were strategically located in partnership with school districts to designate which location would have the greatest impact to help students connect to fast, reliable broadband.

b. Telehealth - The Internet speeds that WCF offers (200 Mbps to 1 Gbps), provide access to reliable Internet connections that will enable consumers to set up virtual/remote appointments with local hospitals, doctors and specialists across the country. The pandemic has caused health care providers to increase options for working and treating patients remotely to decrease the chances of exposure. "The American Medical Association reports that physicians and other health professionals are now seeing 50 to 175 times the number of patients via Telehealth than they did before the pandemic. The report notes that 46% of patients are now using Telehealth to replace canceled in-person visits, up from the just 11% of patients who used Telehealth in 2015. Our local hospitals have experienced the same increase. Tim Stewart, of Abbeville Medical Center states, "We have had a major increase in all aspects of Telehealth due to the Covid pandemic. Our doctors have been using it extensively to treat patients who are unable or unwilling to come into the office. WCFIBER was instrumental in providing a custom and robust professional system for the facility that has been critical to its operations success."


c. Work from Home - WCF has been able to provide the Internet speeds needed from 200 Mbps to 1 Gbps and symmetrical (upload and download) to consumers who had to quickly adjust to working from home during the Covid pandemic. WCF's fiber optic infrastructure is a reliable and fast resource for customers to connect quickly while ensuring that they can effectively and efficiently work from home. Area residents were able to maintain their jobs and continue to support their families by utilizing WCF's broadband accessibility. WCF will supply the same accessibility to the unserved and under-served areas of Greenwood County.
Describe how your proposal meets the needs of the community to be served as described in the "Guidelines." Use additional pages if necessary.

The Greenwood 52 school district has a 62.91% poverty level. WCF has a proven track record to meet the needs of unserved communities, as demonstrated by our efforts when pandemic first hit. In March, when the pandemic began, all of the rural schools in the area had to convert to online classes. Households served by WCF were well equipped to smoothly transition to the online learning environment. However, many students without WCF service were unable to attend their classes, submit their homework, and conduct research online at home due to insufficient internet access, speeds or the inability to afford internet service at their homes. At the start of the pandemic WCF was proactive in identifying the need for reliable, affordable Internet Access and took action by contacting schools to provide 23 WiFi hotspots in the areas of need. Providing the WiFi hotspots ensured that all students had access to high speed Internet. These WiFi hotspots are on-going throughout the current service area. WCF also provided two months of free Internet to any new customer, giving low income households an opportunity to learn and work from home. For the 90 days free, WCF offered Internet plans from 200 Mbps to 1 Gbps speed to choose from. WCF has no contract on Internet packages, allowing customers to purchase an affordable Internet package without being tied into a long-term commitment. WCF understands the increased demand for reliable Internet service and speeds that need to be provided to the community and will continue to provide services that exceed consumers demands and needs.

The applicant has partnered with schools in their service area to identify students who are low-income or otherwise eligible for a reduced rate Internet packages. WCF will offer broadband Internet packages from 200 Mbps to 1 Gbps Symmetrical. In addition to a $9.99 per month package for low to moderate income households for 12 months. The applicant has used crowd sourcing to determine interest in the service area and has identified 42 customers who are interested in purchasing services. The speeds of both base packages are significantly higher than the FCC minimum broadband definition of 25 Mbps x 3 Mbps because WCF recognizes the need for an Internet package that can provide an exceptional experience for our customers. WCF does not believe in delivering the bare minimum.

"Everyone had to quickly adapt to online learning last spring. The situation presented both new challenges in delivering lessons and new insights into the disparities between students. While for many, virtual classes were less than ideal, those students who had reliable Internet access were better able to engage with online learning and had an advantage over those who did not. All educators want to give their students the best possible opportunities to learn and succeed, and by partnering with WCF, we were able to help many students gain Internet access and complete the semester without falling behind. But the benefit of gaining Internet access went further than grades. I could also see how it impacted the students' mental health and wellbeing. Those unable to connect to their classes online very quickly became stressed, disheartened, and disengaged. There were limited opportunities for them to connect with classmates and friends. Gaining Internet access helped these students avoid feeling isolated and embarrassed about their family's finances." – Teacher at Greenwood High School

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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: [Signature]
Print Name of Signature: Jeff T. Wilson
Title of Signatory: President
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.
### Exhibit C

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Designation</th>
<th>FJ865</th>
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<td>Project Area ORS Map Code</td>
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#### General Information

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<th>Feature</th>
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<td>Nearest City / Town</td>
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<td>County</td>
<td>Greenwood</td>
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<td>School District</td>
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<td>School District Poverty Level</td>
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<td>Rural / Urban</td>
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<td>Total Potential Subscriber Locations</td>
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<td>(Residential)</td>
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<td>(Anchor Institutions)</td>
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<td>Crowd Fiber Interests</td>
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#### Construction Information and Costs

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<td>Cost per Business Install</td>
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#### Project Funding Summary

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<td>Requested CARES Funding Amount</td>
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<td>Funding Amount from 3rd Party</td>
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#### Project Timeline & Milestones

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<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prepare Construction Plans &amp; Specs</td>
<td>9/7/2020</td>
</tr>
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<td>Begin Construction</td>
<td>9/28/2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>Complete Construction</td>
<td>11/13/2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>Begin Customer Installs</td>
<td>11/13/2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>Project Complete</td>
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</table>
August 13, 2020

Mr. Chris Rozycki
Broadband Project Administrator
State of South Carolina
Office of Regulatory Staff
1401 Main Street, Suite 900
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Mr. Rozycki:

Piedmont Technical College fully supports WCTEL’s application to secure CARES funding to bring broadband service to South Greenwood.

Greenwood County is part of Piedmont’s 7-county service area and has the largest number of students enrolled here. The COVID-19 pandemic confirmed the need for reliable broadband infrastructure available for all, so that students could continue classes online, faculty could deliver those classes, and staff could work remotely.

WCTEL’s efforts will have a positive impact on the large number of residents in South Greenwood’s predominantly low-to-moderate income areas. They will have full access to educational opportunities allowing them to participate in today’s economy without disadvantage of not having at-home broadband access.

I am excited about the possibility of bringing broadband to this area and I stand ready to assist in any way possible.

Sincerely,

L. Ray Brooks, Ed.D.
President
August 14, 2020

Mr. Chris Rozycki
Broadband Project Administrator
South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff
1401 Main Street, Suite 900
Columbia, SC, 29201
Broadband@ors.gov

Dear Mr. Rozycki:

Please accept this letter of support for WCFIBER’s efforts to provide broadband service in the Program Target Areas identified by ORS as Greenwood 2 and Greenwood 4. WCFIBER’s participation in the South Carolina Broadband Infrastructure Program will enable residents in our remote areas of the county access to vital resources for distance learning, working from home, telehealth/on-line medical care for those that don’t have traditional access to health care professionals. WE understand the purpose for the program is to provide broadband internet access to unserved/underserved communities of South Carolina that have been directly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Upon WCFIBER being awarded a portion of the funding as part of the Broadband Infrastructure Program, WCFIBER’s efforts will expand its service footprint to include remote areas of Greenwood County. These communities are low-income areas of need where in particular, our young children currently do not have access to the internet via any type of broadband networks that are readily available in other areas of the County. Of note, this expansion effort will provide service to:

- 1677 households that currently do not have 25 x 3 broadband access;
- 88 local businesses that currently do have 25 x 3 broadband access;
- 608 students living at the poverty level

We consider this project critical for our residents of Greenwood County. The corona virus pandemic has changed the way our County works, learns, teaches, and receives medical care. WCFIBER can be part of the solution. We offer our support for this project and anything we can do to help.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Steven J. Brown, Chairman
Greenwood County Council
August 14, 2020
WC Fiber, LLC – SC BIP Applications

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Priority</th>
<th>Project Designation</th>
<th>Project Area ORS Map Code</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>7</td>
<td>FJ937</td>
<td>Laurens 14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Exhibit A** – Proof of Necessary Funds

**Exhibit B** – Map of Project Area (PDF)

**Exhibit C** – Project Details

**Exhibit D** – Letters of Support
APPLICATION
South Carolina Broadband Infrastructure Project

Applicant Information
Applicant Name/Organization  WC Fiber, LLC.
Applicant FCC Registration Number (FRN)  0024824443
Primary Contact Name  Jeff Wilson  Title  Chief Executive Officer
Mailing Address  229 Hwy 28 S.  Phone Number  (864) 446-9251
City, State, Zip  Abbeville, SC 29620  Email  jeff.wilson@wctel.com

Broadband Service Provider Experience
Date of Applicant’s Initial FCC Form 477 Submission 6/30/16
Date of Applicant’s Most Recent FCC Form 477 Submission 2/13/20

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

Project Area Information
County  Greenwood  Rural or Urban  Rural
Nearest City/Town  Greenwood  Project Area Map Code  Laurens 14  (Target code)
120  Number of Households in Project Area
2  Number of Businesses in Project Area
0  Number of Health Care Facilities in Project Area
0  Number of Community Anchor Points in Project Area
0  Number of Educational Institutions in Project Area

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

☑ Fiber to the Premises  Minimum Sustainable Download/Upload Speeds  200/200 Mbps
☐ 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 10/14/20
Project Construction Activity Begins 11/2/20
Project Construction Activity Complete 11/20/20
Customer Premises Installations Complete 12/18/20
Project Completion Date 12/18/20

Project Cost Information

Total Project Cost $263,230
Upfront Cost Requirements $26,250
Cost of Building and/or Extending Infrastructure to Customer Premises $236,980
Average Cost per Location Served (all locations or structures) $1,986

Average Cost per Housing Unit $450
Average Cost per Business $600

Project Funding Information

South Carolina CARES Act Funding Requested $131,615
Applicant-Provided Funding $131,615
Third-Party Funding

Amount 0
Source(s) Not Applicable
Describe Applicant's and/or project Partner's experience building and/or operating broadband networks.

WC Fiber, LLC ("WCF"), along with its parent West Carolina Telephone Cooperative, Inc. ("WCT") and its affiliate West Carolina Communications, LLC ("WCC") have been offering broadband services in South Carolina since 2000 and have been providing reliable telecommunications services in South Carolina since 1952. WCT is a South Carolina member-owned cooperative. WCT was one of the first rural telephone companies to provide high-speed DSL Internet service in South Carolina. By 2009, 95% of WCT's network was converted to a fiber optic network with the remaining 5% to be converted by the end of 2020. WCF began offering fiber-based broadband services beginning in 2015. WCF, WCT and WCC (collectively "WCTEL") have built and currently operate and maintain an all-fiber network which passes approximately 40,000 homes in South Carolina and 3,000 in Georgia. Currently, the network consists of more than 3,000 route miles of fiber and continues to expand to new areas every year. The total number of existing broadband customers is approximately 18,200 in South Carolina and 800 in Georgia.

The distribution network to the customer premise consists of fiber-to-the-premises using GAPON technology. This network is provisioned with fully redundant ring topology using different fiber routes. The WAN network has three redundant routes to the Internet. Broadband network is connected to the Internet via (9) 10-Gig connections that connect to three hubs in Columbia, SC; Atlanta, GA; and Charlotte, NC.

WCF's ability to provide unmatched broadband service in rural areas can be attributed to its in-house Information Technology, networking systems, engineering, customer premises equipment, splicing and construction / construction management capabilities. WCF's employees have years of experience in successfully completing large-scale telecommunications and broadband construction.

WCT’s service areas are considered rural which proves WCT has extensive experience serving rural communities. WCT was nationally recognized by NTCA as a Smart Rural Community in 2017. This award is given to rural providers who lead and collaborate on broadband-enabled projects that improve economic development, provide technology for advancing education, enhance state-of-the-art health care through telemedicine, and more to ensure their rural communities continue to advance towards a future-proof sustainable infrastructure.

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

COVID has disrupted our society in an unprecedented way. As we continue to recuperate from the impacts of COVID, WCF has recognized and responded to the need for increased broadband service in our surrounding areas that are under-served and underserved. WCF committed to the ‘Keep America Connected Pledge’ and has continued to do so even past the pledge’s data range of June 30, 2020. We have displayed our commitment to the communities and consumers we serve by ensuring access to reliable broadband connectivity to provide distance learning, telehealth and working from home.

a. Distance Learning - WCF partnered with Greenwood County Schools educators to ensure students had and continue to have the necessary Internet connectivity to continue their studies during school closings and beyond. WCF implemented special programs to support remote learning for students in grades K-12 and college. Measures to address the educational and financial impact included:
   • Offering free Internet service for 60 days to households in its service area with K-12 or college students who did not already have a WCF Internet subscription.
   • Offering free Internet speed upgrades for 60 days to existing customers to ensure they had the necessary bandwidth to accommodate higher Internet usage in their homes during this time.

b. Telehealth – The Internet speeds that WCF offers (200 Mbps to 1 Gbps), will provide access to reliable Internet connections that will enable consumers to set up virtual appointments with local hospitals, doctors and specialists across the country. The pandemic has caused health care providers to increase options for working and treating patients remotely to decrease the chances of exposure. The American Medical Association reports that physicians and other health professionals are now seeing 50 to 176 times the number of patients via Telehealth than they did before the pandemic. The report notes that 46% of patients are now using Telehealth to replace canceled in-person visits, up from the just 11% of patients who used Telehealth in 2019. Our local hospitals have experienced the same increase, Tim Stewart, of Abbeville Medical Center states, "We have had a major increase in all aspects of Telehealth due to the Covid pandemic. Our doctors have been using it extensively to treat patients who are unable or unwilling to come into the office. WCFiber was instrumental in providing a custom and robust professional system for the facility that has been critical to its operations success."https://www.ama-assn.org/practice-management/digitalafter-covid-19-250-billion-care-could-shift-telehealth#:~:text=Physicians%20and%20other%20health%20professionals%20who%20used%2DTelehealth%20in%202019.

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"Everyone had to quickly adapt to online learning last spring. The situation presented both new challenges in delivering lessons and new insights into the disparities between students. While for many, virtual classes were less than ideal. Those students who had reliable Internet access were better able to engage with online learning and had an advantage over those who did not. All educators want to give their students the best possible opportunities to learn and succeed, and by partnering with WCF we were able to help many students gain internet access and complete the semester without falling behind. But the benefits of gaining internet access went further than grades. I could also see how it impacted the students' mental health and wellbeing. Those unable to connect to their classes online very quickly became stressed, disheartened, and despondent. There were limited opportunities for them to connect with classmates and friends. Gaining internet access helped these students avoid feeling isolated and embarrassed about their family's finances." — Teacher at Greenwood High School

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

Signature: [Signature]
Print Name of Signature: Jeff T. Wilson
Title of Signatory: President
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.
### Exhibit C

#### Project Designation
- **FJ937**

#### Project Area ORS Map Code
- Laurens 14

#### General Information
- **Nearest City / Town:** Greenwood
- **County:** Greenwood
- **School District:** Greenwood 52
- **School District Poverty Level:** 62.91%
- **Rural / Urban:** Both
- **Total Potential Subscriber Locations:** 122
  - (Residential): 120
  - (Businesses): 2
  - (Anchor Institutions): 0
- **Crowd Fiber Interests:** 17

#### Construction Information and Costs
- **Estimated Construction Route Miles:** 3.5
- **Estimated Construction Costs:** $210,000
- **Estimated Engineering Service Fees:** $26,250
- **Electronics and Equipment:** $6,100
- **Customer Installs (at 20% take rate):** $20,880
- **Construction Cost per Location Passed:** $1,986
- **Cost per Residential Install:** $450
- **Cost per Business Install:** $600

#### Project Funding Summary
- **Total Expected Project Cost:** $263,230
- **Requested CARES Funding Amount:** $131,615
- **Funding Amount from 3rd Party:** $0

#### Project Timeline & Milestones
- **Prepare Construction Plans & Specs:** 10/14/2020
- **Begin Construction:** 11/2/2020
- **Complete Construction:** 11/20/2020
- **Begin Customer Installs:** 11/20/2020
- **Project Complete:** 12/18/2020
August 13, 2020

Mr. Chris Rozycki
Broadband Project Administrator
State of South Carolina
Office of Regulatory Staff
1401 Main Street, Suite 900
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Mr. Rozycki:

Piedmont Technical College fully supports WCTEL’s application to secure CARES funding to bring broadband service to South Greenwood.

Greenwood County is part of Piedmont’s 7-county service area and has the largest number of students enrolled here. The COVID-19 pandemic confirmed the need for reliable broadband infrastructure available for all, so that students could continue classes online, faculty could deliver those classes, and staff could work remotely.

WCTEL’s efforts will have a positive impact on the large number of residents in South Greenwood’s predominantly low-to-moderate income areas. They will have full access to educational opportunities allowing them to participate in today’s economy without disadvantage of not having at-home broadband access.

I am excited about the possibility of bringing broadband to this area and I stand ready to assist in any way possible.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

L. Ray Brooks, Ed.D.
President
August 14, 2020

Mr. Chris Rozycki
Broadband Project Administrator
South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff
1401 Main Street, Suite 900
Columbia, SC, 29201
Broadband@ors.gov

Dear Mr. Rozycki:

Please accept this letter of support for WCFIBER’s efforts to provide broadband service in the Program Target Areas identified by ORS as Greenwood 2 and Greenwood 4. WCFIBER’s participation in the South Carolina Broadband Infrastructure Program will enable residents in our remote areas of the county access to vital resources for distance learning, working from home, telehealth/on-line medical care for those that don’t have traditional access to health care professionals. WE understand the purpose for the program is to provide broadband internet access to unserved/underserved communities of South Carolina that have been directly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Upon WCFIBER being awarded a portion of the funding as part of the Broadband Infrastructure Program, WCFIBER’s efforts will expand its service footprint to include remote areas of Greenwood County. These communities are low-income areas of need where in particular, our young children currently do not have access to the internet via any type of broadband networks that are readily available in other areas of the County. Of note, this expansion effort will provide service to:

- 1677 households that currently do not have 25 x 3 broadband access;
- 88 local businesses that currently do have 25 x 3 broadband access;
- 608 students living at the poverty level

We consider this project critical for our residents of Greenwood County. The corona virus pandemic has changed the way our County works, learns, teaches, and receives medical care. WCFIBER can be part of the solution. We offer our support for this project and anything we can do to help.

Sincerely,

Steven J. Brown, Chairman
Greenwood County Council
August 14, 2020
WC Fiber, LLC – SC BIP Applications

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Project Designation</th>
<th>Project Area ORS Map Code</th>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>FJ817</td>
<td>Laurens 14</td>
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</table>

**Exhibit A** – Proof of Necessary Funds

**Exhibit B** – Map of Project Area (PDF)

**Exhibit C** – Project Details

**Exhibit D** – Letters of Support
APPLICATION
South Carolina Broadband Infrastructure Project

Applicant Information
Applicant Name/Organization  WC Fiber, LLC.
Applicant FCC Registration Number (FRN)  0024824443
Primary Contact Name  Jeff Wilson  Title  Chief Executive Officer
Mailing Address  229 Hwy 28 S.  Phone Number  (864) 446-9251
City, State, Zip  Abbeville, SC 29620  Email  jeff.wilson@wctel.com

Broadband Service Provider Experience
Date of Applicant’s Initial FCC Form 477 Submission  6/30/16
Date of Applicant’s Most Recent FCC Form 477 Submission  2/13/20

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

Project Area Information
County  Greenwood  Rural or Urban  Rural
Nearest City/Town  Greenwood  Project Area Map Code  Laurens 14
(Target code)
Number of Households in Project Area  122
Number of Businesses in Project Area  0
Number of Health Care Facilities in Project Area  0
Number of Community Anchor Points in Project Area  0
Number of Educational Institutions in Project Area  0

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

✓ Fiber to the Premises  Minimum Sustainable Download/Upload Speeds  200/200 Mbps
☐ Hybrid fiber-coax  (symmetrical upload/download speeds)
☐ Hybrid fiber-coax  (non-symmetrical upload/download speeds)
☐ Fixed wireless
☐ VDSL  (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

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**Project Timeline and Milestones**

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**Average Cost per Housing Unit** $450

**Average Cost per Business** $600

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**Project Funding Information**

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<tr>
<td>Applicant-Provided Funding</td>
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<td>Third-Party Funding Amount Source(s)</td>
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</table>

Source(s) Not Applicable
Additional Information

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

WC Fiber, LLC ("WCF"), along with its parent West Carolina Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc. ("WCT") and its affiliate West Carolina Communications, LLC ("WCC") have been offering broadband services in South Carolina since 2000 and have been providing reliable telecommunications services in South Carolina since 1952. WCT is a South Carolina member-owned cooperative. WCT was one of the first rural telephone companies to provide high-speed DSL Internet service in South Carolina. By 2009, 95% of WCT's network was converted to a fiber optic network with the remaining 5% to be converted by the end of 2020. WCF began offering fiber-based broadband services beginning in 2015. WCF, WCT and WCC (collectively "WCTEL") have built and currently operate and maintain an all-fiber network which passes approximately 40,000 homes in South Carolina and 3,000 in Georgia. Currently, the network consists of more than 3,000 route miles of fiber and continues to expand to new areas each year. The total number of existing broadband customers is approximately 18,200 in South Carolina and 800 in Georgia.

The distribution network to the customer premise consists of fiber-to-the-premises using GPON technology. This network is provisioned with fully redundant ring topology using different fiber routes. The WAN network has three redundant routes to the Internet. Broadband network is connected to the Internet via (9) 10-Gig connections that connect to three hubs in Columbia, SC, Atlanta, GA, and Charlotte, NC.

WCF’s ability to provide unmatched broadband service in rural areas can be attributed to its in-house Information Technology, networking systems, engineering, customer premise equipment, splicing and construction / construction management capabilities. WCF’s employees have years of experience in successfully completing large-scale telecommunications and broadband construction.

WCT’s service areas are considered rural which proves WCT has extensive experience serving rural communities. WCT was nationally recognized by NTCA as a Smart Rural Community in 2017. This award is given to rural providers who lead and collaborate on broadband-enabled projects that improve economic development, provide technology for advancing education, enhance state-of-the-art health care through telemedicine, and more to ensure their rural communities continue to advance towards a future-proof sustainable infrastructure.

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

COVID has disrupted our society in an unprecedented way. As we continue to recuperate from the impacts of COVID, WCF has recognized and responded to the need for increased broadband service in our surrounding areas that are under-served and unserved. WCF committed to the "Keep America Connected Pledge" and has continued to do so even past the pledge’s date range of June 30, 2020. We have displayed our commitment to the communities and consumers we serve by ensuring access to reliable broadband connectivity to provide distance learning, telehealth and working from home.

a. Distance Learning - WCF partnered with Greenwood County Schools educators to ensure students had and continue to have the necessary Internet connectivity to continue their studies during school closings and beyond. WCF implemented special programs to support remote learning for students in grades K-12 and college. Measures to address the educational and financial impact included:
   - Offering free Internet service for 60 days to households in its service area with K-12 or college students who did not already have a WCF Internet subscription.
   - Offering Internet speed upgrades for 60 days to existing customers to ensure they had the necessary bandwidth to accommodate higher internet usage in their homes during this time.
   - WCF identified locations to provide free WiFi hotspots. These hotspots enabled students that did not otherwise have access to a broadband connection to complete schoolwork from the safety of their family vehicles. WiFi hotspots were strategically located in partnership with school districts to designate which location would have the greatest impact to help students connect to fast, reliable broadband.

b. Telehealth - The Internet speeds that WCF offers (200 Mbps to 1 Gigs) will provide access to reliable Internet connections that will enable consumers to set up virtual/remote appointments with local hospitals, doctors and specialists across the country. The pandemic has caused health care providers to increase options for working and treating patients remotely to decrease the chances of exposure. "The American Medical Association reports that physicians and other health professionals are now seeing 50 to 175 times the number of patients via Telehealth than they did before the pandemic. The report notes that 46% of patients are now using Telehealth to replace canceled in-person visits, up from the just 11% of patients who used Telehealth in 2019. Our local hospitals have experienced the same increase, Tim Stewart, of Abbeville Medical Center states, "We have had a major increase in all aspects of Telehealth due to the Covid pandemic. Our doctors have been using it extensively to treat patients who are unable or unwilling to come into the office. WCF/BER was instrumental in providing a custom and robust professional system for the facility that has been critical to its operations success." 


Work from Home - WCF has been able to provide the Internet speeds needed to work up to 10 Gbps and symmetrical (upload and download) to consumers who had to quickly adjust to working from home during the Covid pandemic. WCF’s fiber optic infrastructure is a reliable and fast resource for consumers to connect quickly while ensuring that they can effectively and efficiently work from home. Area residents were able to maintain their jobs and continue to support their families by utilizing WCF’s broadband accessibility. WCF will supply the same accessibility to the unserved and under-served areas of Greenwood County.
Describe how your proposal meets the needs of the community to be served as described in the "Guidelines." Use additional pages if necessary.

The Greenwood 52 school district has a 62.9% poverty level. WCF has a proven track record to meet the needs of unserved communities, as demonstrated by our efforts when pandemic first hit. In March, when the pandemic began, all of the rural schools in the area had to convert to online classes. Households served by WCF were well equipped to smoothly transition to the online learning environment. However, many students without WCF service were unable to attend their classes, submit their homework, and conduct research online at home due to insufficient internet access, speeds or the inability to afford internet service at their homes. At the start of the pandemic WCF was proactive in identifying the need for reliable, affordable Internet Access and took action by contacting schools to provide 23 WiFi hotspots in the areas of most need. Providing the WiFi hotspots ensured that all students had access to high-speed internet. These WiFi hotspots are on-going throughout the current service area. WCF also provided two months of free Internet to any new customer, giving low-income households an opportunity to learn and work from home. For the 60 days free, WCF offered Internet plans, from 200 Mbps to 1 Gbps speed to choose from. WCF has no contract on Internet packages, allowing customers to purchase an affordable Internet package without being tied into a long-term commitment. WCF understands the increased demand for reliable internet service and that need to be provided to the community and will continue to provide services that exceed consumers’ demands and needs.

The applicant has partnered with schools in their service area to identify students who are low-income or otherwise eligible for a reduced rate Internet packages. WCF will offer broadband Internet packages from 200 Mbps x 200 Mbps to 1 Gig Symmetrical. In addition to a $159.99 per month package for low to moderate income households for 12 months. The applicant has used crowd sourcing to determine interest in the service area and has identified 30 customers who are interested in purchasing services. The speeds of both base packages are significantly higher than the FCC minimum broadband definition of 25 Mbps x 3 Mbps because WCF recognizes the need for an Internet package that can provide an exceptional experience for our customers. WCF does not believe in delivering the bare minimum.

"Everyone had to quickly adapt to online learning last spring. The situation presented both new challenges in delivering lessons and new insights into the disparities between students. While for many, virtual classes were less than ideal. Those students who had reliable Internet access were able to engage with online learning and have an advantage over those who did not. All educators want to give their students the best possible opportunities to learn and succeed, and by partnering with WCF, we were able to help many students gain internet access and complete the semester without falling behind. But the benefits of gaining Internet access went further than grades. I could see how it impacted the students’ mental health and wellbeing. Those unable to connect to their classes online very quickly became stressed, disheartened, and disengaged. There were limited opportunities for them to connect with classmates and friends. Gaining Internet access helped these students avoid feeling isolated and embarrassed about their family’s finances." – Teacher at Greenwood High School

WCF has included letters of support from Piedmont Technical College and Greenwood County. Please refer to Exhibit D.

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

WCF proactively educates customers and residents in the communities we serve through in-person (prior to COVID) and virtual classes. Educational topics and curriculums include the following:

- A general "How to use" your broadband connection program, that we refer to as "TechLink" classes for the elderly that includes Social Media, Email, Online Shopping, Digital Photo Uploads and File Storage, Smart Phones, and more.

- Partnered with Adult Education (taught by an Adult Ed teacher facilitated by WCF) Computer literacy Classes, with a 3-month curriculum – Tablets were given to each participant that completed the class and had service from WCF.

- We proactively reached out to schools to find the areas with the most need for the locations of placing WiFi hot spots. We found that several consumers were logging in and utilizing the hot spots within the 20+ locations in our existing area. In addition, we reached out to schools to connect those in the most need of assistance. For those in need we offered free installation and internet service during the pandemic through the July 31st time frame.

- We supply a monthly magazine that we dedicate a “tech page” to communicate with existing customers the resources that are available.

- We signed onto the “Keep America Connected” national pledge and went above and beyond with free upgrades, free service, and extended these offerings past the recommended date of June 30th to July 31st. We also did not impose any finance charges or disconnect fees during this timeframe.

- We proactively reached out to businesses during the pandemic as well, especially for those deemed “essential” to ensure they had the bandwidth they needed to continue to function and operate.

- WFC offers affordable broadband rates while providing some of the nation’s fastest speeds (200 Mbps to 1 Gbps). Broadband Internet rates are competitively priced, and our areas demographic is taken into consideration. WCF’s Gigabit Internet package is priced at $89/month. It’s important that WCF provide not only the fastest broadband options, but at an affordable price to strengthen communities and foster economic development.
Provide documents to establish proof that your organization has the necessary funds (50% of total project cost) to complete this project/proposal. List documents here and attach documents to this proposal.

Please see Exhibit A.

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

In Docket No. 2017-83-C, the Commission approved the Application of WC Fiber, LLC ("WCF") for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to Provide Facilities-Based Local Exchange and Interexchange Internet Protocol (IP) Voice Services, and for Flexible Regulation of its Local Exchange Services and Alternative Regulation of its Interexchange Service Offerings within the State of South Carolina.

WCF will obtain any necessary permits for construction if it is awarded SC BIP funding.

WCF has state-wide franchise agreements for video services in place. However, at this time the proposed projects will focus on providing broadband services. If WCF decides to offer video in the future, it will make any necessary amendments to the state-wide franchise agreement.

No lease or interconnection agreement will be required to complete the proposed broadband project contained in this application. For its voice services, WCF uses an underlying carrier that provides number resources and interconnection services.
Attachments and Exhibits

Please attach the following items to Application:
1. Map of Project Area (PDF and Shapefile formats)
2. Letters of support evidencing community need for project
3. Any additional information evidencing community need for project

Certification and Signature

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

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

Signature: [Signature]
Print Name of Signature: Jeff T. Wilson
Title of Signatory: President
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.
# Exhibit C

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Designation</th>
<th>FJ817</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Project Area ORS Map Code</td>
<td>Laurens 14</td>
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## General Information
- Nearest City / Town: Greenwood
- County: Greenwood
- School District: Greenwood 52
- School District Poverty Level: 62.91%
- Rural / Urban: Both
- Total Potential Subscriber Locations: 122
  - (Residential): 122
  - (Businesses): 0
  - (Anchor Institutions): 0
- Crowd Fiber Interests: 30

## Construction Information and Costs
- Estimated Construction Route Miles: 4.6
- Estimated Construction Costs: $276,000
- Estimated Engineering Service Fees: $34,500
- Electronics and Equipment: $6,100
- Customer Installs (at 20% take rate): $20,740
- Construction Cost per Location Passed: $2,595
- Cost per Residential Install: $450
- Cost per Business Install: $600

## Project Funding Summary
- Total Expected Project Cost: $337,340
- Requested CARES Funding Amount: $168,670
- Funding Amount from 3rd Party: $0

## Project Timeline & Milestones
- Prepare Construction Plans & Specs: 10/14/2020
- Begin Construction: 11/16/2020
- Complete Construction: 12/18/2020
- Begin Customer Installs: 12/18/2020
- Project Complete: 12/18/2020
August 13, 2020

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Broadband Project Administrator
State of South Carolina
Office of Regulatory Staff
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Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Mr. Rozycki:

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I am excited about the possibility of bringing broadband to this area and I stand ready to assist in any way possible.

Sincerely,

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We consider this project critical for our residents of Greenwood County. The corona virus pandemic has changed the way our County works, learns, teaches, and receives medical care. WCFIBER can be part of the solution. We offer our support for this project and anything we can do to help.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Steven J. Brown, Chairman  
Greenwood County Council
### Exhibit A – Proof of Necessary Funds

### Exhibit B – Map of Project Area (PDF)

### Exhibit C – Project Details

### Exhibit D – Letters of Support
APPLICATION
South Carolina Broadband Infrastructure Project

Applicant Information
Applicant Name/Organization  WC Fiber, LLC.
Applicant FCC Registration Number (FRN)  0024824443
Primary Contact Name  Jeff Wilson  Title  Chief Executive Officer
Mailing Address  229 Hwy 28 S.
City, State, Zip  Abbeville, SC 29620  Phone Number  (864) 446-9251
Email  jeff.wilson@wctel.com

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Date of Applicant's Initial FCC Form 477 Submission  6/30/16
Date of Applicant's Most Recent FCC Form 477 Submission  2/13/20

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

Project Area Information
County  Abbeville  Rural or Urban  Rural
Nearest City/Town  Due West
Number of Households in Project Area  39
Number of Businesses in Project Area  0
Number of Health Care Facilities in Project Area  0
Number of Community Anchor Points in Project Area  1
Number of Educational Institutions in Project Area  0

Project Area Map Code  Anderson 10 (Target code)

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  200/200 Mbps
☐ Hybrid fiber-coax (symmetrical upload/download speeds)
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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
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Project Timeline and Milestones

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Project Cost Information

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Project Funding Information

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<td>Source(s)</td>
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Describe Applicant's and/or project Partner's experience building and/or operating broadband networks.

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WCT’s service areas are considered rural which proves WCT has extensive experience serving rural communities. WCT was nationally recognized by NTCA as a Smart Rural Community in 2017. This award is given to rural providers who lead and collaborate on broadband-enabled projects that improve economic development, provide technology for advancing education, enhance state-of-the-art health care through telemedicine, and more to ensure their rural communities continue to advance towards a future-proof sustainable infrastructure.

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

COVID has disrupted our society in an unprecedented way. As we continue to recuperate from the impacts of COVID, WCF has recognized and responded to the need for increased broadband service in our surrounding areas that are under-served and unserved. WCF committed to the "Keep America Connected Pledge" and has continued to do so even past the pledge's date range of June 30, 2020. We have displayed our commitment to the communities and consumers we serve by ensuring access to reliable broadband connectivity to provide distance learning, telehealth and working from home.

a. Distance Learning - WCF partnered with Abbeville County Schools educators to ensure students had and continue to have the necessary Internet connectivity to continue their studies during school closings and beyond. WCF implemented special programs to support remote learning for students in grades K-12 and college. Measures to address the educational and financial impact included:

- Offering free Internet service for 60 days to households in its service area with K-12 or college students who did not already have a WCF Internet subscription.
- Offering free Internet speed upgrades for 60 days to existing customers to ensure they had the necessary bandwidth to accommodate higher Internet usage in their homes during this time.

b. Telehealth - The Internet speeds at which WCF offers (200 Mbps to 1 Gbps) will provide access to reliable Internet connections that will enable consumers to set up virtual/remote appointments with local hospitals, doctors and specialists across the county. The pandemic has caused health care providers to increase options for working and treating patients remotely to decrease the chances of exposure. The American Medical Association reports that physicians and other health professionals are now seeing 50 to 175 times the number of patients via Telehealth than they did before the pandemic. The report notes that 46% of patients are now using Telehealth to replace canceled in-person visits, up from the just 11% of patients who used Telehealth in 2019. Our local hospitals have experienced the same increase, Tim Steward, of Abbeville Medical Center states, "We have had a major increase in all aspects of Telehealth due to the Covid pandemic. Our doctors have been using it extensively to treat patients who are unable or unwilling to come into the office. WCFT/Telehealth was instrumental in providing a custom and robust professional system for the facility that has been critical to its operations success."


- Work from Home - WCF has been able to provide the Internet speeds needed from 200 Mbps to 1 Gbps and symmetrical ( uploading and downloading) to consumers who had to quickly adjust to working from home during the Covid pandemic. WCF’s fiber optic infrastructure is a reliable and fast resource for consumers to connect quickly while ensuring that they can effectively and efficiently work from home. Area residents were able to maintain their jobs and continue to support their families by utilizing WCF’s broadband accessibility. WCF will supply the same accessibility to the unserved and under-served areas of Anderson County.
Describe how your proposal meets the needs of the community to be served as described in the "Guidelines." Use additional pages if necessary.

The Abbeville 60 school district has a 69.35% poverty level. WCF has a proven track record to meet the needs of underserved communities, as demonstrated by our efforts when pandemic first hit. In March, when the pandemic began, all of the rural schools in the area had to convert to online classes. Households served by WCF were well equipped to smoothly transition to the online learning environment. However, many students without WCF service were unable to attend their classes, submit their homework, and conduct research online at home due to insufficient Internet access, speeds or the inability to afford Internet service at their homes. At the start of the pandemic WCF was proactive in identifying the need for reliable, affordable Internet Access and took action by contacting schools to provide 23 WiFi hotspots in the areas of most need. Providing the WiFi hotspots ensured that all students had access to high speed Internet. These WiFi hotspots are on-going throughout the current service area. WCF also provided two months of free Internet to any new customer, giving low income households an opportunity to learn and work from home. For the 60 days free, WCF offered Internet plans, from 200 Mbps to 1 Gbps x 1 Gbps speed to those that could not afford service. WCF has contracted on Internet packages, allowing customers to purchase an affordable Internet package without being tied into a long-term commitment. WCF understands the increased demand for reliable Internet service and speeds that need to be provided to the community and will continue to provide services that exceeds customers demands and needs.

The applicant has partnered with schools in their service area to identify students who are low-income or otherwise eligible for a reduced rate Internet packages. WCF will offer broadband internet packages from 200 Mbps x 200 Mbps to 1 Gbps Symmetrical. In addition to a $9.99 per month package for low to moderate income households for 12 months. The speeds of both base packages are significantly higher than the FCC minimum broadband definition of 25 Mbps x 3 Mbps because WCF recognizes the need for an Internet package that can provide an exceptional experience for our customers. WCF does not believe in delivering the bare minimum.

"Everyone had to quickly adapt to online learning last spring. The situation presented both new challenges in delivering lessons and new insights into the disparities between students. While for many, virtual classes were less than ideal. Those students who had reliable Internet access were better able to engage with online learning and had an advantage over those who did not. All educators want to give their students the best possible opportunities to learn and succeed, and by partnering with WCF we were able to help many students gain Internet access and complete the semester without falling behind. But the benefits of gaining Internet access went further than grades. I could also see how it impacted the students' mental health and wellbeing. Those unable to connect to their classes online very quickly became stressed, disheartened, and despondent. There were limited opportunities for them to connect with classmates and friends. Gaining Internet access helped these students avoid feeling isolated and embarrassed about their family's finances. " – Teacher at Greenwood High School

WCF has included letters of support from Abbeville County. Please refer to Exhibit D.

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WCF proactively educates customers and residents in the communities we serve through in-person (prior to COVID) and virtual classes. Educational topics and curriculums include the following:

- A general "How to use" your broadband connection program, that we refer to as "TechLink" classes for the elderly that includes Social Media, Email, Online Shopping, Digital Photo Uploads and File Storage, Smart Phones, etc.

- Partnered with Adult Education (taught by an Adult Ed teacher facilitated by WCF) Computer literacy Classes, with a 3-month curriculum – Tablets were given to each participant that completed the class and had service from WCF.

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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.

Please see Exhibit A.

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

In Docket No. 2017-83-C, the Commission approved the Application of WC Fiber, LLC ("WCF") for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to Provide Facilities-Based Local Exchange and Interexchange Internet Protocol (IP) Voice Services, and for Flexible Regulation of its Local Exchange Services and Alternative Regulation of its Interexchange Service Offerings within the State of South Carolina.

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WCF has state-wide franchise agreements for video services in place. However, at this time the proposed projects will focus on providing broadband services. If WCF decides to offer video in the future, it will make any necessary amendments to the state-wide franchise agreement.

No lease or interconnection agreement will be required to complete the proposed broadband project contained in this application. For its voice services, WCF uses an underlying carrier that provides number resources and interconnection services.
Attachments and Exhibits

Please attach the following items to Application:
1. Map of Project Area (PDF and Shapefile formats)
2. Letters of support evidencing community need for project
3. Any additional information evidencing community need for project

Certification and Signature

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

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

Signature: [Signature]
Print Name of Signature: Jeff T. Wilson
Title of Signatory: President
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.
### Exhibit C

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Designation</th>
<th>KWRD2</th>
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<tr>
<td>Project Area ORS Map Code</td>
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#### General Information

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<td>County</td>
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<td>School District</td>
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<td>(Residential)</td>
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<td>(Businesses)</td>
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<td>(Anchor Institutions)</td>
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#### Construction Information and Costs

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<td>Cost per Business Install</td>
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#### Project Funding Summary

| Total Expected Project Cost       | $147,875      |
| Requested CARES Funding Amount   | $73,938       |
| Funding Amount from 3rd Party     | $0            |

#### Project Timeline & Milestones

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prepare Construction Plans &amp; Specs</th>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Complete Construction</td>
<td>10/9/2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>Begin Customer Installs</td>
<td>10/9/2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Complete</td>
<td>12/18/2020</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
August 14, 2020

Mr. Chris Rozycki
Broadband Project Administrator
South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff
1401 Main Street, Suite 900
Columbia, SC, 29201

Dear Mr. Rozycki:

This letter is in regards to WCETEL’s efforts to provide broadband service to the Upper Abbeville County area. This will be a multi-county benefit as Anderson 10 is also located in the Abbeville County. This is a remote area of Abbeville County and broadband is critical for distance learning, working from home and on-line medical care.

Over the last few months, we have seen a bigger need for broadband in this area. Abbeville County school district has over 30% of its students participating in full time virtual school with the entire school district participating with virtual learning in some type of fashion. Driving to a WIFI hotspot is not always easy for a family, especially when trying to contact a doctor for a tele-med visit. If Covid-19 numbers increase the schools will have to return to online learning again. Many jobs will have to be done from home to keep companies running.

Having broadband internet in every portion of Abbeville County is of utmost importance to help keep our rural county growing for the future. Please help make it possible for WCETEL to be able to provide services to the Upper Abbeville County Region.

Sincerely,

Stephen Taylor
Assistant County Director
Economic Development Director
August 14, 2020
WC Fiber, LLC – SC BIP Applications

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Priority</th>
<th>Project Designation</th>
<th>Project Area ORS Map Code</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>BLJAY</td>
<td>Greenwood 1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Exhibit A – Proof of Necessary Funds

Exhibit B – Map of Project Area (PDF)

Exhibit C – Project Details

Exhibit D – Letters of Support
APPLICATION
South Carolina Broadband Infrastructure Project

Applicant Information
Applicant Name/Organization WC Fiber, LLC.
Applicant FCC Registration Number (FRN) 0024824443
Primary Contact Name Jeff Wilson
Mailing Address 229 Hwy 28 S.
City, State, Zip Abbeville, SC 29620
Title Chief Executive Officer
Phone Number (864) 446-9251
Email jeff.wilson@wctel.com

Broadband Service Provider Experience
Date of Applicant's Initial FCC Form 477 Submission 6/30/16
Date of Applicant's Most Recent FCC Form 477 Submission 2/13/20

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

Project Area Information
County Hodges
Nearest City/Town Greenwood
Rural or Urban Rural
Project Area Map Code Greenwood 1 (Target code)
Number of Households in Project Area 64
Number of Businesses in Project Area 1
Number of Health Care Facilities in Project Area 0
Number of Community Anchor Points in Project Area 1
Number of Educational Institutions in Project Area 0

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

☑ Fiber to the Premises Minimum Sustainable Download/Upload Speeds 200/200 Mbps
☐ 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 $10 - $14.99/month
- □ Rates between $15 - $19.99/month
- □ Rates between $20 - $24.99/month
- □ Rates between $25 - $34.99/month

### Project Timeline and Milestones

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Project Start Date</td>
<td>9/11/20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Construction Activity Begins</td>
<td>10/2/20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Construction Activity Complete</td>
<td>11/13/20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Customer Premises Installations Complete</td>
<td>12/18/20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Completion Date</td>
<td>12/18/20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Project Cost Information

- Total Project Cost: $330,700
- Upfront Cost Requirements: $39,000
- Cost of Building and/or Extending Infrastructure to Customer Premises: $291,700
- Average Cost per Location Served (all locations or structures): $4,580
- Average Cost per Housing Unit: $450
- Average Cost per Business: $600

### Project Funding Information

- South Carolina CARES Act Funding Requested: $165,350
- Applicant-Provided Funding: $165,350
- Third-Party Funding:
  - Amount: 0
  - Source(s): Not Applicable
Additional Information

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

WC Fiber, LLC ("WCF"), along with its parent West Carolina Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc. ("WCT") and its affiliate West Carolina Communications, LLC ("WCC") have been offering broadband services in South Carolina since 2000 and have been providing reliable telecommunications services in South Carolina since 1952. WCT is a South Carolina member-owned cooperative. WCT was one of the first rural telephone companies to provide high-speed DSL Internet service in South Carolina. By 2009, 95% of WCT’s network was converted to a fiber optic network with the remaining 5% to be converted by the end of 2020. WCF began offering fiber-based broadband services beginning in 2015. WCF, WCT and WCC (collectively 'WCTEL') have built and currently operate and maintain an all-fiber network which passes approximately 40,000 homes in South Carolina and 3,000 in Georgia. Currently, the network consists of more than 3,000 route miles of fiber and continues to expand to new areas every year. The total number of existing broadband customers is approximately 18,200 in South Carolina and 800 in Georgia.

The distribution network to the customer premise consists of fiber-to-the-premises using GPON technology. This network is provisioned with fully redundant ring topology using different fiber routes. The WAN network has three redundant routes to the Internet. Broadband network is connected to the Internet via (9) 10-Gig connections that connect to three hubs in Columbia, SC; Atlanta, GA; and Charlotte, NC.

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

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a. Distance Learning - WCF partnered with Greenwood County Schools educators to ensure students had and continue to have the necessary Internet connectivity to continue their studies during school closings and beyond. WCF implemented special programs to support remote learning for students in grades K-12 and college. Measures to address the educational and financial impact included:
   • Offering free Internet service for 60 days to households in its service area with K-12 or college students who did not already have a WCF Internet subscription.
   • Offering free Internet speed upgrades for 60 days to existing customers to ensure they had the necessary bandwidth to accommodate higher Internet usage in their homes during this time.
   • WCF identified locations to provide free WiFi hotspots. These hotspots enabled students that did not otherwise have access to a broadband connection to complete schoolwork from the safety of their family vehicles. The WiFi hotspots were strategically located in partnership with school districts to designate which location would have the greatest impact to help students connect to fast, reliable broadband.

b. Telehealth - The Internet speeds that WCF offers (200 Mbps to 1 Gbps), provide access to reliable Internet connections that will enable consumers to set up virtual remote appointments with local hospitals, doctors and specialists across the country. The pandemic has caused health care providers to increase options for working and treating patients remotely to decrease the chances of exposure. "The American Medical Association reports that physicians and other health professionals are now seeing 50 to 175 times the number of patients via Telehealth than they did before the pandemic. The report notes that 46% of patients are now using Telehealth to replace canceled in-person visits, up from the just 11% of patients who used Telehealth in 2019. Our local hospitals have experienced the same increase," Tim Stewart, of Abbeville Medical Center states. "We have had a major increase in all aspects of Telehealth due to the Covid pandemic. Our doctors have been using it extensively to treat patients who are unable or unwilling to come into the office. WCFiber was instrumental in providing a custom and robust professional system for the facility that has been critical to its operations since."


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

The Greenwood 50 school district has a 73.91% poverty level. WCF has a proven track record to meet the needs of underserved communities, as demonstrated by our efforts when pandemic first hit. In March, when the pandemic began, all of the rural schools in the area had to convert to online classes. Households served by WCF were well equipped to smoothly transition to the online learning environment. However, many students without WCF service were unable to attend their classes, submit their homework, and conduct research online at home due to insufficient internet access, speeds or the inability to afford internet service at their homes. At the start of the pandemic WCF was proactive in identifying the need for reliable, affordable Internet Access and took action by contacting schools to provide 23 WiFi hotspots in the areas of least need. Providing the WiFi hotspots ensured that all students had access to high speed Internet. These WiFi hotspots are on-going throughout the current service area. WCF also provided two months of free Internet to any new customer, giving low income households an opportunity to learn and work from home. For the 60 days free, WCF offered Internet plans, from 200 x 200 Mbps to 1 Gbps x 1 Gbps speed to choose from. WCF has no contract on Internet packages, allowing customers to purchase an affordable Internet package without being tied into a long-term commitment. WCF understands the increased demand for reliable Internet service and speeds that need to be provided to the community and will continue to provide services that exceed consumer demands and needs.

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“Everyone had to quickly adapt to online learning last spring. The situation presented both new challenges in delivering lessons and new insights into the disparities between students. While for many, virtual classes were less then ideal. Those students who had reliable Internet access were better able to engage with online learning and had an advantage over those who did not. All educators want to give their students the best possible opportunities to learn and succeed, and by partnering with WCF we were able to help many students gain Internet access and complete the semester without falling behind. But the benefits of gaining internet access went further than grades. I could also see how it impacted the students’ mental health and wellbeing. Those unable to connect to their classes online very quickly became stressed, disheartened, and despondent. There were limited opportunities for them to connect with classmates and friends. Gaining Internet access helped these students avoid feeling isolated and embarrassed about their family’s finances.” – Teacher at Greenwood High School

WCF has included letters of support from Piedmont Technical College, Greenwood School District 50, and the County of Greenwood. Please refer to Exhibit D.

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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: Jeff T. Wilson
Title of Signatory: President
Date: 8/14/2020

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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>School District Poverty Level</td>
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<td>(Residential)</td>
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<td>(Anchor Institutions)</td>
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<td>Crowd Fiber Interests</td>
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### Construction Information and Costs

<table>
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<td>$600</td>
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### Project Funding Summary

| Total Expected Project Cost | $330,700 |
|Requested CARES Funding Amount | $165,350 |
|Funding Amount from 3rd Party | $0 |

### Project Timeline & Milestones

| Prepare Construction Plans & Specs | 9/11/2020 |
|Begin Construction                  | 10/2/2020 |
|Complete Construction               | 11/13/2020 |
|Begin Customer Installs             | 11/13/2020 |
|Project Complete                    | 12/18/2020 |
August 13, 2020

Mr. Chris Rozycki
Broadband Project Administrator
State of South Carolina
Office of Regulatory Staff
1401 Main Street, Suite 900
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Mr. Rozycki:

Piedmont Technical College fully supports WCTEL’s application to secure CARES funding to bring broadband service to South Greenwood.

Greenwood County is part of Piedmont’s 7-county service area and has the largest number of students enrolled here. The COVID-19 pandemic confirmed the need for reliable broadband infrastructure available for all, so that students could continue classes online, faculty could deliver those classes, and staff could work remotely.

WCTEL’s efforts will have a positive impact on the large number of residents in South Greenwood’s predominantly low-to-moderate income areas. They will have full access to educational opportunities allowing them to participate in today’s economy without disadvantage of not having at-home broadband access.

I am excited about the possibility of bringing broadband to this area and I stand ready to assist in any way possible.

Sincerely,

L. Ray Brooks, Ed.D.
President
August 14, 2020

Mr. Chris Rozycki  
Broadband Project Administrator  
South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff  
1401 Main Street, Suite 900  
Columbia, SC, 29201  
Broadband@ors.gov

Dear Mr. Rozycki:

Please accept this letter of support for WCFIBER’s efforts to provide broadband service in the Program Target Areas identified by ORS as Greenwood 2 and Greenwood 4. WCFIBER’s participation in the South Carolina Broadband Infrastructure Program will enable residents in our remote areas of the county access to vital resources for distance learning, working from home, telehealth/on-line medical care for those that don’t have traditional access to health care professionals. WE understand the purpose for the program is to provide broadband internet access to unserved/underserved communities of South Carolina that have been directly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Upon WCFIBER being awarded a portion of the funding as part of the Broadband Infrastructure Program, WCFIBER’s efforts will expand its service footprint to include remote areas of Greenwood County. These communities are low-income areas of need where in particular, our young children currently do not have access to the internet via any type of broadband networks that are readily available in other areas of the County. Of note, this expansion effort will provide service to:

- 1677 households that currently do not have 25 x 3 broadband access;
- 88 local businesses that currently do have 25 x 3 broadband access;
- 608 students living at the poverty level

We consider this project critical for our residents of Greenwood County. The corona virus pandemic has changed the way our County works, learns, teaches, and receives medical care. WCFIBER can be part of the solution. We offer our support for this project and anything we can do to help.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Steven J. Brown, Chairman  
Greenwood County Council
August 14, 2020

Mr. Chris Rozycki
Broadband Project Administrator
South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff
1401 Main Street, Suite 900
Columbia, SC, 29201
Broadband@ors.gov

Dear Mr. Rozycki:
Please accept this letter of support for WCFIBER’s efforts to provide broadband service in the Program Target Areas identified by ORS as Greenwood 2 and Greenwood 4. WCFIBER’s participation in the South Carolina Broadband Infrastructure Program will enable students in School district 50, who are in remote areas of the county, to have access to vital resources for distance learning. This will also enable residents who are working from home or need access to telehealth/on-line medical care. We understand the purpose for the program is to provide broadband internet access to unserved/underserved communities of South Carolina that have been directly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Greenwood School District 50 has a poverty level of 72.26%.
Upon WCFIBER being awarded a portion of the funding as part of the Broadband Infrastructure Program, WCFIBER’s efforts will expand its service footprint to include remote areas of Greenwood County. These communities are low-income areas of need where in particular, our young children currently do not have access to the internet via any type of broadband networks that are readily available in other areas of the county. Of note, this expansion effort will provide service to:

- 1677 households that currently do not have 25 x 3 broadband access;
- 88 local businesses that currently do have 25 x 3 broadband access;
- 608 students living at the poverty level

We consider this project critical for our residents of Greenwood County. The corona virus pandemic has changed the way our county works, learns, teaches, and receives medical care. WCFIBER can be part of the solution. We offer our support for this project and anything we can do to help.

Sincerely,

Dr. Steve Glenn
Superintendent

Dr. Steve Glenn
Superintendent
1855 Calhoun Road
PO Box 248
Greenwood, SC 29648
Phone 864.941.5400
www.gwd50.org
August 14, 2020
WC Fiber, LLC – SC BIP Applications

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Priority</th>
<th>Project Designation</th>
<th>Project Area ORS Map Code</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>KWRD3</td>
<td>Anderson 10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Exhibit A** – Proof of Necessary Funds

**Exhibit B** – Map of Project Area (PDF)

**Exhibit C** – Project Details

**Exhibit D** – Letters of Support
APPLICATION
South Carolina Broadband Infrastructure Project

Applicant Information
Applicant Name/Organization: WC Fiber, LLC.
Applicant FCC Registration Number (FRN): 0024824443
Primary Contact Name: Jeff Wilson
Mailing Address: 229 Hwy 28 S.
City, State, Zip: Abbeville, SC 29620
Title: Chief Executive Officer
Phone Number: (864) 446-9251
Email: jeff.wilson@wctel.com

Broadband Service Provider Experience
Date of Applicant’s Initial FCC Form 477 Submission: 6/30/16
Date of Applicant’s Most Recent FCC Form 477 Submission: 2/13/20

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

Project Area Information
County: Abbeville
Nearest City/Town: Due West
Rural or Urban: Rural
Project Area Map Code: Anderson 10
(Target code)

119
Number of Households in Project Area
2
Number of Businesses in Project Area
0
Number of Health Care Facilities in Project Area
3
Number of Community Anchor Points in Project Area
0
Number of Educational Institutions in Project Area

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

- Fiber to the Premises
  Minimum Sustainable Download/Upload Speeds: 200/200 Mbps
- 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
- 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**

<table>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Project Construction Activity Begins</td>
<td>11/2/20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Project Construction Activity Complete</td>
<td>12/18/20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Customer Premises Installations Complete</td>
<td>12/18/20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Project Completion Date</td>
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**Project Cost Information**

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<td>Average Cost per Location Served (all locations or structures)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Average Cost per Housing Unit</td>
<td>$450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average Cost per Business</td>
<td>$600</td>
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**Project Funding Information**

South Carolina CARES Act Funding Requested $197,188

Applicant-Provided Funding $197,188

Third-Party Funding
- Amount: 0
- Source(s): Not Applicable
Additional Information

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

WC Fiber, LLC ("WCF"), along with its parent West Carolina Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc. ("WCT") and its affiliate West Carolina Communications, LLC ("WCC") have been offering broadband services in South Carolina since 2000 and have been providing reliable telecommunications services in South Carolina since 1952. WCT is a South Carolina member-owned cooperative. WCT was one of the first rural telephone companies to provide high-speed DSL Internet service in South Carolina. By 2008, 95% of WCT's network was converted to a fiber optic network with the remaining 5% to be converted by the end of 2020. WCF began offering fiber-based broadband services beginning in 2015. WCF, WCT and WCC (collectively "WCTEL") have built and currently operate and maintain an all-fiber network which passes approximately 40,000 homes in South Carolina and 3,000 in Georgia. Currently, the network consists of more than 3,000 route miles of fiber and continues to expand to new areas every year. The total number of existing broadband customers is approximately 18,200 in South Carolina and 800 in Georgia.

The distribution network to the customer premise consists of fiber-to-the-premises using GPON technology. This network is provisioned with fully redundant ring topology using different fiber routes. The WAN network has three redundant routes to the Internet. Broadband network is connected to the Internet via (9) 10-Gig connections that connect to three hubs in Columbia, SC; Atlanta, GA; and Charlotte, NC.

WCF's ability to provide unmatched broadband service in rural areas can be attributed to its in-house Information Technology, networking systems, engineering, customer premise equipment, splicing and construction / construction management capabilities. WCF's employees have years of experience in successfully completing large-scale telecommunications and broadband construction.

WCT's service areas are considered rural which proves WCT has extensive experience serving rural communities. WCT was nationally recognized by NTCA as a Smart Rural Community in 2017. This award is given to rural providers who lead and collaborate on broadband-enabled projects that improve economic development, provide technology for advancing education, enhance state-of-the-art health care through telemedicine, and more to ensure their rural communities continue to advance towards a future-proof sustainable infrastructure.

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

COVID has disrupted our society in an unprecedented way. As we continue to recover from the impacts of COVID, WCF has recognized and responded to the need for increased broadband service in our surrounding areas that are under served and unserved. WCF committed to the "Keep America Connected Pledge" and has continued to do so even past the pledge's date range of June 30, 2020. We have displayed our commitment to the communities and consumers we serve by ensuring access to reliable broadband connectivity to provide distance learning, telehealth and working from home.

a. Distance Learning - WCF partnered with Abbeville County Schools educators to ensure students had and continue to have the necessary Internet connectivity to continue their studies during school closings and beyond. WCF implemented special programs to support remote learning for students in grades K-12 and college. Measures to address the educational and financial impact included:

- Offering free Internet service for 60 days to households in its service area with K-12 or college students who did not already have a WCF wired Internet subscription.
- Offering free Internet speed upgrades for 60 days to existing customers to ensure they had the necessary bandwidth to accommodate higher Internet usage in their homes during this time.
- WCF identified locations to provide free WiFi hotspots. These hotspots enabled students that did not otherwise have access to a broadband connection to complete schoolwork from the safety of their family vehicles. The WiFi hotspots were strategically located in partnership with school districts to designate which location would have the greatest impact to help students connect to fast, reliable broadband.

b. Telehealth - The Internet speeds that WCF offers (200 Mbps to 1 Gbps) will provide access to reliable Internet connections that will enable consumers to set up virtual/remote appointments with local hospitals, doctors and specialists across the country. The pandemic has caused health care providers to increase options for working and treating patients remotely to decrease the chances of exposure. "The American Medical Association reports that physicians and other health professionals are now seeing 50 to 175 times the number of patients via Telehealth than they did before the pandemic. The report notes that 48% of patients are now using Telehealth to replace canceled in-person visits, up from the just 11% of patients who used Telehealth in 2019. Our local hospitals have experienced the same increase, Tim Stewart, of Abbeville Medical Center states; "We have had a major increase in all aspects of Telehealth due to the Covid pandemic. Our doctors have been using it extensively to treat patients who are unable or unwilling to come into the office. WCF FIBER was instrumental in providing a custom and robust professional system for the facility that has been critical to its operations success."


c. Work from Home - WCF has been able to provide the Internet speeds needed from 200 Mbps to 1 Gbps and symmetrical (upload and download) to consumers who had to quickly adjust to working from home during the Covid pandemic. WCF's fiber optic infrastructure is a reliable and fast resource for consumers to connect quickly while ensuring that they can effectively and efficiently work from home. Area residents were able to maintain their jobs and continue to support their families by utilizing WCF's broadband accessibility. WCF will supply the same accessibility to the unserved and under-served areas of Abbeville County.
Describe how your proposal meets the needs of the community to be served as described in the “Guidelines.” Use additional pages if necessary.

The Abbeville 80 school district has a 69.35% poverty level. WCF has a proven track record to meet the needs of unserved communities, as demonstrated by our efforts when pandemic first hit. In March, when the pandemic began, all of the rural schools in the area had to convert to online classes. Households served by WCF were well equipped to smoothly transition to the online learning environment. However, many students without WCF service were unable to attend their classes, submit their homework, and conduct research online at home due to insufficient Internet access, speeds or the inability to afford Internet service at their homes. At the start of the pandemic WCF was proactive in identifying the need for reliable, affordable Internet Access and took action by contacting schools to provide 23 WiFi hotspots in the areas of most need. Providing the WiFi hotspots ensured that all students had access to high speed Internet. These WiFi hotspots are on-going throughout the current service area. WCF also provided two months of free Internet to any new customer, giving low income households an opportunity to learn and work from home. For the 80 days free, WCF offered Internet plans, from 200 x 200 Mbps to 1 Gbps x 1 Gbps speed to choose from. WCF has no contract on Internet packages, allowing customers to purchase an affordable Internet package without being tied into a long-term commitment. WCF understands the increased demand for reliable Internet access and speeds that need to be provided to the community and will continue to provide services that exceed consumers demands and needs.

The applicant has partnered with schools in their service area to identify students who are low-income or otherwise eligible for a reduced rate Internet packages. WCF will offer broadband Internet packages from 200 Mbps x 200 Mbps to 1 Gig Symmetrical. In addition to a $9.99 per month package for low to moderate income households for 12 months. The speeds of both base packages are significantly higher than the FCC minimum broadband definition of 25 Mbps x 3 Mbps because WCF recognizes the need for an Internet package that can provide an exceptional experience for our customers. WCF does not believe in delivering the bare minimum.

*Everyone had to quickly adapt to online learning last spring. The situation presented both new challenges in delivering lessons and new insights into the disparities between students. While for many, virtual classes were less than ideal. Those students who had reliable Internet access were better able to engage with online learning and had an advantage over those who did not. All educators want to give their students the best possible opportunities to learn and succeed, and by partnering with WCF we were able to help many students gain Internet access and complete the semester without falling behind. But the benefits of gaining Internet access went further than grades. I could also see how it impacted the students’ mental health and wellbeing. Those unable to connect to their classes online very quickly became stressed, disheartened, and despondent. There were limited opportunities for them to connect with classmates and friends. Gaining Internet access helped these students avoid feeling isolated and embarrassed about their family’s finances.* – Teacher at Greenwood High School

WCF has included letters of support from Abbeville County. Please refer to Exhibit D.

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

WCF proactively educates customers and residents in the communities we serve through in-person (prior to COVID) and virtual classes. Educational topics and curriculums include the following:

- A general “How to use” your broadband connection program, that we refer to as “TechLink” classes for the elderly that includes Social Media, Email, Online Shopping, Digital Photo Uploads and File Storage, Smart Phones, etc.

- Partnered with Adult Education (taught by an Adult Ed teacher facilitated by WCF) Computer literacy Classes, with a 3-month curriculum – Tablets were given to each participant that completed the class and had service from WCF.

- We proactively reached out to schools to find the areas with the most need for the locations of placing WiFi hot spots. We found that several consumers were logging in and utilizing the hot spots within the 20+ locations in our existing area. In addition, we reached out to schools to connect with those in the most need of assistance. For those in need we offered free installation and Internet service during the pandemic through the July 31st time frame.

- We supply a monthly magazine that we dedicate a “tech page” to communicate with existing customers the resources that are available.

- We signed onto the “Keep America Connected” national pledge and went above and beyond with free upgrades, free service, and extended these offerings past the recommended date of June 30th to July 31st. We also did not impose any finance charges or disconnection fees during this timeframe.

- We proactively reached out to businesses during the pandemic as well, especially for those deemed “essential” to ensure they had the bandwidth they needed to continue to function and operate.

- WCF offers affordable broadband rates while providing some of the nation’s fastest speeds (200 Mbps to 1 Gbps). Broadband Internet rates are competitively priced, and our areas demographic is taken into consideration. WCF’s Gigabit Internet package is priced at $89/month. It’s important that WCF provide not only the fastest broadband options, but at an affordable price to strengthen communities and foster economic development.
Provide documents to establish proof that your organization has the necessary funds (50% of total project cost) to complete this project/proposal. List documents here and attach documents to this proposal.

Please see Exhibit A.

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

In Docket No. 2017-83-C, the Commission approved the Application of WC Fiber, LLC ("WCF") for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to Provide Facilities-Based Local Exchange and Interexchange Internet Protocol (IP) Voice Services, and for Flexible Regulation of its Local Exchange Services and Alternative Regulation of its Interexchange Service Offerings within the State of South Carolina.

WCF will obtain any necessary permits for construction if it is awarded SC BIP funding.

WCF has state-wide franchise agreements for video services in place. However, at this time the proposed projects will focus on providing broadband services. If WCF decides to offer video in the future, it will make any necessary amendments to the state-wide franchise agreement.

No lease or interconnection agreement will be required to complete the proposed broadband project contained in this application. For its voice services, WCF uses an underlying carrier that provides number resources and interconnection services.
Attachments and Exhibits

Please attach the following items to Application:
1. Map of Project Area (PDF and Shapefile formats)
2. Letters of support evidencing community need for project
3. Any additional information evidencing community need for project

Certification and Signature

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

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

Signature: [Signature]
Print Name of Signatory: Jeff T. Wilson
Title of Signatory: President
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.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Project Area ORS Map Code</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### General Information

- **Nearest City / Town**: Due West
- **County**: Abbeville
- **School District**: Abbeville
- **School District Poverty Level**: 69.35%
- **Rural / Urban**: Rural
- **Total Potential Subscriber Locations**: 121
  - (Residential): 119
  - (Businesses): 2
  - (Anchor Institutions): 3

### Construction Information and Costs

- **Estimated Construction Route Miles**: 6.5
- **Estimated Construction Costs**: $286,000
- **Estimated Engineering Service Fees**: $48,750
- **Electronics and Equipment**: $6,050
- **Customer Installs (at 50% take rate)**: $53,575
- **Construction Cost per Location Passed**: $2,817
- **Cost per Residential Install**: $450
- **Cost per Business Install**: $600

### Project Funding Summary

- **Total Expected Project Cost**: $394,375
- **Requested CARES Funding Amount**: $197,188
- **Funding Amount from 3rd Party**: $0

### Project Timeline & Milestones

- **Prepare Construction Plans & Specs**: 10/7/2020
- **Begin Construction**: 11/2/2020
- **Complete Construction**: 12/18/2020
- **Begin Customer Installs**: 12/18/2020
- **Project Complete**: 12/18/2020
August 14, 2020

Mr. Chris Rozycki
Broadband Project Administrator
South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff
1401 Main Street, Suite 900
Columbia, SC, 29201

Dear Mr. Rozycki:

This letter is in regards to WCTEL’s efforts to provide broadband service to the Upper Abbeville County area. This will be a multi-county benefit as Anderson 10 is also located in the Abbeville County. This is a remote area of Abbeville County and broadband is critical for distance learning, working from home and on-line medical care.

Over the last few months, we have seen a bigger need for broadband in this area. Abbeville County school district has over 30% of its students participating in full time virtual school with the entire school district participating with virtual learning in some type of fashion. Driving to a WIFI hotspot is not always easy for a family, especially when trying to contact a doctor for a tele-med visit. If Covid-19 numbers increase the schools will have to return to online learning again. Many jobs will have to be done from home to keep companies running.

Having broadband internet in every portion of Abbeville County is of utmost importance to help keep our rural county growing for the future. Please help make it possible for WCTEL to be able to provide services to the Upper Abbeville County Region.

Sincerely,

Stephen Taylor
Assistant County Director
Economic Development Director
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Priority</th>
<th>Project Designation</th>
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<td>12</td>
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<td>Anderson 10</td>
</tr>
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**Exhibit A** – Proof of Necessary Funds

**Exhibit B** – Map of Project Area (PDF)

**Exhibit C** – Project Details

**Exhibit D** – Letters of Support
APPLICATION
South Carolina Broadband Infrastructure Project

Applicant Information
Applicant Name/Organization WC Fiber, LLC.
Applicant FCC Registration Number (FRN) 0024824443
Primary Contact Name Jeff Wilson
Mailing Address 229 Hwy 28 S.
City, State, Zip Abbeville, SC 29620

Title Chief Executive Officer
Phone Number (864) 446-9251
Email jeff.wilson@wctel.com

Broadband Service Provider Experience
Date of Applicant’s Initial FCC Form 477 Submission 6/30/16
Date of Applicant’s Most Recent FCC Form 477 Submission 2/13/20

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

Project Area Information
County Anderson
Nearest City/Town Belton
Rural or Urban Rural
Project Area Map Code Anderson
(Target code)
Number of Households in Project Area 155
Number of Businesses in Project Area 6
Number of Health Care Facilities in Project Area 0
Number of Community Anchor Points in Project Area 3
Number of Educational Institutions in Project Area 0

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

☑ Fiber to the Premises Minimum Sustainable Download/Upload Speeds 200/200 Mbps
☐ Hybrid fiber-coax (symmetrical upload/download speeds)
☐ Hybrid fiber-coax (non-symmetrical upload/download speeds)
☐ Fixed wireless Minimum Sustainable Download/Upload Speeds
☐ VDSL (25/3 Mbps or faster) Minimum Sustainable Download/Upload Speeds
**Broadband Pricing Schedules or Tiers**
Indicate all rate tiers for broadband at speeds of 25/3 Mbps or faster will be offered to customers in the project area:

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

**Project Timeline and Milestones**
- Project Start Date 10/4/20
- Project Construction Activity Begins 11/2/20
- Project Construction Activity Complete 12/18/20
- Customer Premises Installations Complete 12/18/20
- Project Completion Date 12/18/20

**Project Cost Information**
- Total Project Cost $711,210
- Upfront Cost Requirements $98,250
- Cost of Building and/or Extending Infrastructure to Customer Premises $612,960
- Average Cost per Location Served (all locations or structures) $4,240
- Average Cost per Housing Unit $450
- Average Cost per Business $600

**Project Funding Information**
- South Carolina CARES Act Funding Requested $355,605
- Applicant-Provided Funding $355,605
- Third-Party Funding
  - Amount 0
  - Source(s) Not Applicable

Page 2 of 6
Additional Information

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

WC Fiber, LLC ("WCF"), along with its parent West Carolina Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc. ("WCT") and its affiliate West Carolina Communications, LLC ("WCC") have been offering broadband services in South Carolina since 2000 and have been providing reliable telecommunications services in South Carolina since 1952. WCT is a South Carolina member-owned cooperative. WCT was one of the first rural telephone companies to provide high-speed DSL Internet service in South Carolina. By 2009, 95% of WCT's network was converted to a fiber optic network with the remaining 5% to be converted by the end of 2020. WCF began offering fiber-based broadband services beginning in 2015. WCF, WCT and WCC (collectively "WCTEL") have built and currently operate and maintain an all-fiber network which passes approximately 40,000 homes in South Carolina and 3,000 in Georgia. Currently, the network consists of more than 3,000 route miles of fiber and continues to expand to new areas every year. The total number of existing broadband customers is approximately 18,200 in South Carolina and 809 in Georgia.

The distribution network to the customer premise consists of fiber-to-the-premises using GPON technology. This network is provisioned with fully redundant ring topology using different fiber routes. The WAN network has three redundant routes to the Internet. Broadband network is connected to the Internet via (9) 10-Gig connections that connect to three hubs in Columbia, SC; Atlanta, GA; and Charlotte, NC.

WCF's ability to provide unmatched broadband service in rural areas can be attributed to its in-house Information Technology, networking systems, engineering, customer premise equipment, splicing and construction / construction management capabilities. WCF's employees have years of experience in successfully completing large-scale telecommunication and broadband construction.

WCT's service areas are considered rural which proves WCT has extensive experience serving rural communities. WCT was nationally recognized by NTCA as a Smart Rural Community in 2017. This award is given to rural providers who lead and collaborate on broadband-enabled projects that improve economic development, provide technology for advancing education, enhance state-of-the-art health care through telemedicine, and more to ensure their rural communities continue to advance towards a future-proof sustainable infrastructure.

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

COVID has disrupted our society in an unprecedented way. As we continue to recuperate from the impacts of COVID, WCF has recognized and responded to the need for increased broadband service in our surrounding areas that are under-served and unserved. WCF committed to the "Keep America Connected Pledge" and has continued to do so even past the pledge's date range of June 30, 2020. We have deployed our commitment to the communities and consumers we serve by ensuring access to reliable broadband connectivity to provide distance learning, telehealth and working from home.

a. Distance Learning - WCF partnered with Anderson County Schools educators to ensure students had and continue to have the necessary Internet connectivity to continue their studies during school closings and beyond. WCF implemented special programs to support remote learning for students in grades K-12 and college. Measures to address the educational and financial impact included:
   - Offering free Internet service for 60 days to households in its service area with K-12 or college students who did not already have a WCF Internet subscription.
   - Offering free Internet speed upgrades for 60 days to existing customers to ensure they had the necessary bandwidth to accommodate higher Internet usage in their homes during this time.

b. Telehealth - The Internet speeds that WCF offers (230 Mbps to 1 Gbps), will provide access to reliable Internet connections that will enable consumers to set up virtual/remote appointments with local hospitals, doctors and specialists across the country. The pandemic has caused health care providers to increase options for working and treating patients remotely to decrease the chances of exposure. The American Academy of Family Physicians and other health professionals are now seeing 50 to 175 times the number of patients via Telehealth than they did before the pandemic. The report notes that 46% of patients are now using Telehealth to replace canceled in-person visits, up from the just 11% of patients who used Telehealth in 2019. Our local hospitals have experienced the same increase. Tim Stewart, of Abbaville Medical Center states, "We have had a major increase in all aspects of Telehealth due to the Covid pandemic. Our doctors have been using it extensively to treat patients who are unable or unwilling to come into the office. WCF/ISE is instrumental in providing a custom and robust technological solution for the facility that has been critical to its operations success."


c. Work from Home - WCF has been able to provide the Internet speeds needed from 200 Mbps to 1 Gbps and symmetrical (upload and download) to consumers who had to quickly adjust to working from home during the Covid pandemic. WCF's fiber optic infrastructure is a reliable and fast resource for consumers to connect quickly while ensuring that they can effectively and efficiently work from home. Area residents were able to maintain their jobs and continue to support their families by utilizing WCF's broadband accessibility. WCF will supply the same accessibility to the unserved and under-served areas of Anderson County.
Describe how your proposal meets the needs of the community to be served as described in the "Guidelines." Use additional pages if necessary.

The Anderson 2 school district has a 64.47% poverty level. WCF has a proven track record to meet the needs of underserved communities, as demonstrated by our efforts when pandemic first hit. In March, when the pandemic began, all of the rural schools in the area had to convert to online classes. Households served by WCF were well equipped to smoothly transition to the online learning environment. However, many students without WCF service were unable to attend their classes, submit their homework, and conduct research online at home due to insufficient Internet access, speeds or the inability to afford Internet service at their homes. At the start of the pandemic WCF was proactive in identifying the need for reliable, affordable Internet Access and took action by contacting schools to provide 23 WiFi hotspots in the areas of most need. Providing the WiFi hotspots ensured that all students had access to high speed Internet. These WiFi hotspots are ongoing throughout the current service area. WCF also provided two months of free Internet to any new customer, giving low income households an opportunity to learn and work from home. For the 60 days free, WCF offered Internet plans, from 200 x 200 Mbps to 1 Gbps x 1 Gbps speed to choose from. WCF has no contract on Internet packages, allowing customers to purchase an affordable Internet package without being tied into a long-term commitment. WCF understands the increased demand for reliable Internet service and speeds that need to be provided to the community and will continue to provide services that exceed consumers demands and needs.

The applicant has partnered with schools in their service area to identify students who are low-income or otherwise eligible for a reduced rate Internet packages. WCF will offer broadband Internet packages from 200 Mbps x 200 Mbps to 1 Gbps Symmetrical, in addition to a $9.99 per month package for low to moderate income households for 12 months. The speeds of both base packages are significantly higher than the FCC minimum broadband definition of 25 Mbps x 3 Mbps because WCF recognizes the need for an Internet package that can provide an exceptional experience for our customers. WCF does not believe in delivering the base minimum.

“Everyone had to quickly adapt to online learning last spring. The situation presented both new challenges in delivering lessons and new insights into the disparities between students. While for many, virtual classes were less than ideal, those students who had reliable internet access were better able to engage with online learning and had an advantage over those who did not. All educators want to give their students the best possible opportunities to learn and succeed, and by partnering with WCF we were able to help many students gain internet access and complete the semester without falling behind. But the benefits of gaining internet access went further than grades. I could also see how it impacted the students’ mental health and wellbeing. Those unable to connect to their classes online very quickly became stressed, disheartened, and depondent. There were limited opportunities for them to connect with classmates and friends. Gaining internet access helped these students avoid feeling isolated and embarrassed about their family’s finances.” – Teacher at Greenwood High School

WCF has included letters of support from Anderson County. Please refer to Exhibit D.

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

WCF proactively educates customers and residents in the communities we serve through in-person (prior to COVID) and virtual classes. Educational topics and curriculums include the following:

• A general “How to use” your broadband connection program, that we refer to as “TechLink” classes for the elderly that includes Social Media, Email, Online Shopping, Digital Photo Uploads and File Storage, Smart Phones, etc.

• Partnered with Adult Education (taught by an Adult Ed teacher facilitated by WCF) Computer Literacy Classes, with a 3-month curriculum – Tablets were given to each participant that completed the class and had service from WCF.

• We proactively reached out to schools to find the areas with the most need for the locations of placing WiFi hot spots. We found that several consumers were logging in and utilizing the hot spots within the 20+ locations in our existing area. In addition, we reached out to schools to connect with those in the most need of assistance. For those in need we offered free installation and Internet service during the pandemic through the July 31st time frame.

• We supply a monthly magazine that we dedicate a “tech page” to communicate with existing customers the resources that are available.

• We signed onto the “Keep America Connected” national pledge and went above and beyond with free upgrades, free service, and extended these offerings past the recommended date of June 30th to July 31st. We also did not impose any finance charges or disconnect fees during this timeframe.

• We proactively reached out to businesses during the pandemic as well, especially for those deemed “essential” to ensure they had the bandwidth they needed to continue to function and operate.

• WFC offers affordable broadband rates while providing some of the nation’s fastest speeds (200 Mbps to 1 Gbps). Broadband Internet rates are competitively priced, and our areas demographic is taken into consideration. WCF’s Gigabit Internet package is priced at $80/month. It’s important that WCF provide not only the fastest broadband options, but at an affordable price to strengthen communities and foster economic development.
Provide documents to establish proof that your organization has the necessary funds (50% of total project cost) to complete this project/proposal. List documents here and attach documents to this proposal.

Please see Exhibit A.

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

In Docket No. 2017-83-C, the Commission approved the Application of WC Fiber, LLC ("WCF") for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to Provide Facilities-Based Local Exchange and Interexchange Internet Protocol (IP) Voice Services, and for Flexible Regulation of its Local Exchange Services and Alternative Regulation of its Interexchange Service Offerings within the State of South Carolina.

WCF will obtain any necessary permits for construction if it is awarded SC BIP funding.

WCF has state-wide franchise agreements for video services in place. However, at this time the proposed projects will focus on providing broadband services. If WCF decides to offer video in the future, it will make any necessary amendments to the state-wide franchise agreement.

No lease or interconnection agreement will be required to complete the proposed broadband project contained in this application. For its voice services, WCF uses an underlying carrier that provides number resources and interconnection services.
Attachments and Exhibits

Please attach the following items to Application:
1. Map of Project Area (PDF and Shapefile formats)
2. Letters of support evidencing community need for project
3. Any additional information evidencing community need for project

Certification and Signature

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

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

Signature: [Signature]
Print Name of Signature: Jeff T. Wilson
Title of Signatory: President
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.
## Exhibit C

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Designation</th>
<th>TRLRD2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Project Area ORS Map Code</td>
<td>Anderson 10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### General Information

- **Nearest City / Town**: Belton
- **County**: Anderson
- **School District**: Anderson 2
- **School District Poverty Level**: 64.47%
- **Rural / Urban**: Rural
- **Total Potential Subscriber Locations**: 161
  - **(Residential)**: 155
  - **(Businesses)**: 6
  - **(Anchor Institutions)**: 3

### Construction Information and Costs

- **Estimated Construction Route Miles**: 13.1
- **Estimated Construction Costs**: $576,400
- **Estimated Engineering Service Fees**: $98,250
- **Electronics and Equipment**: $8,050
- **Customer Installs (at 20% take rate)**: $28,510
- **Construction Cost per Location Passed**: $4,240
- **Cost per Residential Install**: $450
- **Cost per Business Install**: $600

### Project Funding Summary

- **Total Expected Project Cost**: $711,210
- **Requested CARES Funding Amount**: $355,605
- **Funding Amount from 3rd Party**: $0

### Project Timeline & Milestones

- **Prepare Construction Plans & Specs**: 10/4/2020
- **Begin Construction**: 11/2/2020
- **Complete Construction**: 12/18/2020
- **Begin Customer Installs**: 12/18/2020
- **Project Complete**: 12/18/2020
August 13, 2020

Chris Rozycki
Broadband Project Administrator
State of South Carolina
Office of Regulatory Staff
1401 Main Street, Suite 900
Columbia, SC 29201

DEAR MR. ROZYCKI,

I wanted to reach out to you personally and offer my full support for WCETL’s efforts to bring broadband service to the Shirley’s Store and Lake Secession communities. My County Council district covers the areas that would be served by the proposed projects.

In my opinion, getting broadband service as quickly as possible to these and other underserved areas of Anderson County must be a top priority for County Council going forward. If we have learned anything from the events of this year, it is that communities need reliable broadband infrastructure if they hope to survive and prosper. Communities that cannot provide residents with the ability to work from home, access remote learning opportunities, participate in telemedicine evaluations, engage in e-commerce, or manage a small business will not be able to attract the base of working families with children that any community needs to remain viable.

When completed, WCETL’s efforts will have a life-changing positive impact on the hundreds of persons residing in these predominantly low-to-moderate income areas. Perhaps most critically, area children attending Anderson School Districts One and Two will have full access to the educational opportunities they will need to participate in today’s economy, freed forever of the tremendous competitive disadvantage they face in not having at-home broadband access.

I am excited about the prospect of bringing broadband to these areas and I stand ready to assist in any way possible. If I can ever be of assistance your office please contact me at (864) 844-1163.

SINCERELY,

Ray Graham

RAY GRAHAM | ANDERSON COUNTY COUNCIL DISTRICT THREE