

**South Carolina 2022 ARPA Grant  
Program  
Application SFRF 1.0**



**Section 1.1 - Applicant Information**

Legal Entity/Organization Name	BellSouth Telecommunications, LLC
Parent Organization	AT&T Corp
Entity Type (e.g. Corporation, non-profit, cooperative, governmental entity)	LLC
Primary Contact Name	Terrance Ford
Title	Director - External Affairs
Mailing Address City, State, Zip	1441 Main Street, Columbia, South Carolina 29201
Phone Number	864-735-4389
Email	<a href="mailto:Terrance.Ford@att.com">Terrance.Ford@att.com</a>
FCC Registration Number (FRN):	0001847952
Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) Number	781989520
Registered in the System for Award Management (SAM)	Applied
SAM Number	Applied
SC State Vendor Number	7000053541

**Section 1.2 - Project Name/Number**

Project Number (Format XXX-XX)	ATT_04
Project Name	ATT_Charleston

### **Section 1.3 - Broadband Service Provider Context**

Date of Applicant's Initial FCC Form 477 Submission	May 15, 2000
Date of Applicant's Most Recent FCC Form 477 Submission	11-Aug-22
Applicant has experience delivering broadband service via fiber and/or hybrid fiber-coax infrastructure (YES/NO)	Yes

### **Section 1.4 - Broadband Infrastructure Information**

Indicate the type(s) of broadband infrastructure technology to be deployed in the project service area.  
 Projects must provide a minimum of 100/20 Mbps scalable to 100/100 Mbps. Applicant must explain in detail why the proposed project cannot provide 100/100 Mbps.

Fiber to the Premises Minimum Sustainable Download/Upload Speeds 100/100 Mbps
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### **Section 1.5 - Proposed Broadband Pricing Tiers**

Rates less than \$10/month (YES/NO)	Yes
If yes to \$10 month plan what are the upload/download speeds	100/100 Mbps for qualified Access customers with ACP credit
Rates between \$10 - \$14.99 (YES/NO)	No
If yes to \$10-\$14.99 month plan what are the upload/download speeds	
Rates between \$15 - \$19.99 (YES/NO)	No
If yes to \$15-\$19.99 month plan what are the upload/download speeds	
Rates between \$20 - \$24.99 (YES/NO)	No
If yes to \$20-\$24.99 month plan what are the upload/download speeds	
Rates between \$25 - \$34.99 (YES/NO)	Yes
If yes to \$25-\$34.99 month plan what are the upload/download speeds	100/100 for qualified Access customers, 300/300 with ACP credit
Do the above speed tiers include unlimited data? (YES/NO)	Yes
Is a Consumer-based Contract Required? (YES/NO)	No
Is the pricing fixed? (YES/NO)	No
What's the duration of the pricing? (In Months)	No

**Section 1.6 - Project Timeline**  
**(Maximum Timeline Allotted is 24 months)**

Project Start Date	December 31, 2022
Project Construction Activity Begins	June 1, 2023
Project Construction Activity Complete	December 31, 2024
Customer Premises <i>Installations Begin</i> <i>Installations End</i>	The first customers will be eligible to order service in Month 9, with additional customer locations available for ordering service each consecutive month. (or provide/request callout box). September 1, 2023 December 31, 2024
Overall Project Completion Date	December 31, 2024
Will the project be completed within 24 months of official Notice to Proceed (NTP)?	Yes

**Section 1.7 - Project Service Area Information**

Estimated Miles of Fiber to be Installed	186
Estimated Percentage Underground	97%
Estimated Percentage Aerial	3%
Number of Counties to be Impacted	1
County Names	Charleston
Total Number of Census Blocks with Concentrations of K-12	77
Total number of Census Blocks in DDA's	20
Total number of Census Blocks NOT in DDA or K-12 Concentration	80
Total Number of unserved 2020 Census Blocks part of Proposed Project	168
Total number of housing units served	3449
Total number of businesses served	204
Total number of other Public Facilities e.g. community centers, fire stations served	
Total Structures Served	3653
Average Cost Per Structure Served	\$ 1,965.85
Does the applicant plan to serve every structure in the proposed project service area?	Yes

If no, provide an explanation for why the Project will not Pass all Homes in the proposed project service area

AT&T's network infrastructure for decades has been designed in geographic areas known as Distribution Areas (DA's). These DA's generally uses neighborhoods, streets, property lines, railroads, rivers and creeks or other geographical features as boundaries. AT&T's DA's are not necessarily aligned to City or County limits which change over time or Census Blocks. AT&T planners need to include the entire DA to maintain network efficiency and quality of service when adding or changing facilities. Therefore, if awarded this grant, AT&T will serve approximately 6,900 additional customer locations not reflected in cell B95 above and is not requesting funding from the State for these additional customer locations.

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## Section 2.2 - Funding Details

Description	Comment	Amount
South Carolina ARPA Broadband Grant Program Funds requested		\$3,831,645
Applicant-Provided Funding		\$11,235,869
Third-Party Funding Source (if applicable)		\$ -
<b>Total Project Cost</b>		<b>\$ 15,067,514.00</b>
Percentage Funds Requested from SC Broadband Office		25%
Percentage Funds from Applicant Match		75%
Percentage Funds from Third Party Funding Source		0%

# South Carolina 2022 ARPA Grant Program

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### Section 3.1 Confirmations

Applicant participates in the Affordable Connective Program (ACP) and will participate in the ACP for the life of ACP for the Project Service Area.

Agree

Applicant will provide at least one low-cost option without data usage caps and at speeds sufficient for households with multiple users.

Agree

The Project will comply with the requirements set forth in ARPA, South Carolina Act No. \_\_\_\_ of 2022, and other federal, state, and local laws, including environmental and permitting laws and regulations.

Agree

The Applicant will not use ARPA funds to procure or obtain certain telecom and video surveillance services or equipment as outlined in 2 CFR 200.216 and 2 CFR 200.471.

Agree

Applicant will not use ARPA funds to modernize cybersecurity for existing and new broadband networks.

Agree

Applicant will not procure telecommunications equipment or services from China.

Agree

The Project includes pre-project development uses or costs

Disagree

If Yes to above, the pre-development uses or costs will be (1) tied to an eligible broadband project or reasonably expected to lead to such a project; and (2) obligated within the period between March 3, 2021, and December 31, 2024 and expended to cover such obligations by December 31, 2026.

Select one

Applicant will require its employees, contractors, and subcontractors to comply with the applicable requirements in the South Carolina Underground Facility Damage Prevention Act pursuant to Title 58, Chapter 36 of the South Carolina Code of Laws, as amended.

Agree

Applicant affirms that it will consult with the SC Department of Transportation, electric utilities as well as local water sewer utilities as to any possible efficiencies that can be achieved with a “dig once” approach.

Agree

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### **4.1 - Additional Information**

(max 2000 character limit per item)

Provide a Summary Narrative that describes your project

AT&T proposes construction of an XGS-PON FTTP (fiber to the premise) network. XGS-PON is a fixed wavelength symmetrical 10 Gbps passive optical network technology. This proposed fiber network will be capable of delivering hyper-gig symmetrical services (same speeds upload and download) up to 5 Gbps initially scalable to 10 Gbps.

The local network design is comprised of Optical Line Terminating equipment (OLTs) located primarily in AT&T Central Offices (where back-up power is available), with fiber optic cables extending into each neighborhood. The fiber optic cable from the OLT/Central Office is fusion (permanently) spliced at a Primary Flex Point (PFP) cabinet located in each neighborhood. The PFP contains optical splitters and fiber connectors.

Additional fiber optic cables are connected to the optical splitters in the PFP and placed from the PFP (on poles or buried) past each customer location within the service area, with Fiber Serving Terminals (FSTs) placed to typically serve four customer locations. These fiber optic cables are engineered; meaning that, following a site survey of the neighborhood, our engineers design the cables for the specific neighborhood and manufacture them in a factory. This approach results in higher consistency and quality at lower cost, and it requires less time to deploy than could be achieved with splicing fiber cables in the field.

The fiber optic drop is terminated either at a separate Optical Network Termination (ONT) device on the side of the home or, more typically, at an AT&T installed FiberJack wall plate inside the home. AT&T provides a Wi-Fi router in either installation scenario; however, in the latter case, a combined ONT/Wi-Fi router is provided.

AT&T's tailored solution will deliver system uptime of 99.9%.

AT&T intends to design, build, install, own, operate, and manage the network through a Public Private Partnership with the State of South Carolina. It will deliver a cost-effective, highly reliable high-speed broadband service that meets or exceeds a minimum symmetrical speed of 100 Mbps download and 100 Mbps upload. Details of the grant application are included in row 8 below and in Section 1.7.

Describe how your proposal meets the needs of the community to be served as described in the "Guidelines."

AT&T has more than 1,600 employees in South Carolina, including network technicians, retail associates, and network managers and engineers. Living and working here gives us a firsthand understanding of the needs of communities from the Upstate to the Coast. While we are proud of the work that our employees do every day, we recognize more South Carolinians need access to high-speed broadband. The pandemic highlighted needs in the marketplace as consumer demand for broadband connectivity has increased dramatically. AT&T is excited to partner with the State of South Carolina to address this consumer demand and improve access to fiber-optic networks delivering high-speed broadband, which will provide unserved and underserved residents the ability to navigate telework, telehealth, distance learning, and social networking.

AT&T commits to provide fiber-based high-speed Internet to 100% of the residences and businesses within the geography designated in the shape files presented in our grant application.

AT&T's grant applications represent our best effort to serve the highest number of priority and unserved households for the lowest cost.

In some instances, the address data used by the State to define the priority and unserved census blocks may be different than the data AT&T uses to assess deployment and coverage areas. Based on AT&T's available address information, AT&T has presented our best effort and thinks that, for the funding level requested in this application, it will serve 96.3% of the locations in the unserved census blocks and 93.6% of the locations in the priority census blocks that intersect this application's geography.

If the proposed Project is in an area that is subject to an existing federal or state funding commitment for reliable speeds of 100/20 Mbps, explain why there is an identified need for additional broadband investment that is not met by existing federal or state funding commitments.

First, a key objective of our proposal is to increase the availability of world-class broadband by deploying AT&T Fiber, a "future proof," all-fiber broadband network. AT&T's proposed network is a 100% FTTP (Fiber To The Premises) build. The fiber optic network allows AT&T to scale and grow to meet the bandwidth and speeds of our customers as their demand changes. A passive optical network has nearly unlimited potential and AT&T is already testing 25 Gigabit symmetrical speeds in our labs for several years in anticipation of future customer demands. While other network technologies were developed and designed for other purposes and have been adapted to provide broadband, a fiber-optic network architecture was specifically developed and designed for high-speed transmission of data. This technology architecture type "future proofs" the network for years to come, allowing for speed upgrades as technology and customer demands change. Quite simply, a fiber broadband network not only meets the needs of today, but the needs of tomorrow as well. Not only does fiber have higher reliability than metallic cables, which are susceptible to electrical interference and atmospheric damage, but Passive Optical Networks have even higher reliability because electronics (which require electrical power) are not used in the distribution network (from the Central Office to the Customer Premise) where there they are susceptible to power interruptions

Describe any plans or programs you have developed to improve adoption in the community described in this proposal.

AT&T is taking steps to help underserved students and families impacted by the digital divide. We're expanding free-device programs and increasing access to educational and digital literacy tools. This includes our three-year \$2 billion commitment to bridge the digital divide through efforts that promote broadband affordability, accessibility, and adoption.

AT&T is driving down the cost of home internet for eligible households to the best monthly rate possible – \$0. This free option is made possible by combining a new plan from our low-cost Access from AT&T program with federal benefits from the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP). The Access from AT&T program now provides faster internet plans with up to 100 Mbps of symmetrical speeds for \$30 per month. In addition, there's no cap on data usage with the new \$30 Access from AT&T plans.

The original Access from AT&T plans are still available, providing speeds of 10Mbps or less for \$5-\$10 per month. All households that qualify for ACP will also qualify for our Access from AT&T program.

As part of the Project, explain how the Applicant will make efforts to increase digital literacy, for example, support through online training?

We understand that digital literacy is a key element impacting broadband adoption. That's why AT&T prioritizes collaboration with national and community organizations, including the Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC), Digitunity, the Public Library Association and more. Of note, we continue to work to equip parents and families with free digital literacy education that is vital for preparing for the jobs of the future. With the Public Library Association, we've launched digital literacy courses in a curated series to help newly connected parents and families build skills and confidence using computers and mobile devices. These courses will be offered at AT&T Connected Learning Centers and in public libraries nationwide and are available online at <https://screenready.att.com/>.

"The stakes for closing the digital divide are incredibly high, and it is imperative that we remove barriers to opportunity for children and families," said Jeff McElfresh, chief executive officer, AT&T Communications. "Education plays a vital role in the long-term success of our society, and we are committed to investing in the educational and connectivity needs of underserved communities, while also expanding access to low-cost broadband services."

As part of the Project, identify any areas that the Applicant would be willing to provide public Wi-Fi in a central or community location to improve access for all South Carolinians and for what period of time.

AT&T has the capability, experience and expertise to install and maintain both indoor and outdoor public Wi-Fi systems. After a customer identifies a desired location for such a system, and the area to be served, AT&T will conduct a site survey analysis, engineering, and design work. A proposal, including pricing and other terms and conditions, is then presented for the customer's consideration.

List documents that demonstrate your organization currently has the necessary funds to complete this project/proposal. Attach documents to this proposal.



AT&T's annual financial reports going back to 2013 are publicly available on our website at the following address: <https://investors.att.com/financial-reports/annual-reports/2021>. Quarterly earnings reports for 2022 are available at: <https://investors.att.com/financial-reports/quarterly-earnings/2022>.

AT&T plans to significantly expand its fiber footprint in the coming years, including adding 2.5 million fiber customer locations in 2021. As an example of AT&T's long-term commitment to its network buildout, Corning is expanding its longtime collaboration with AT&T and investing \$150 million in optical cable manufacturing in the United States.

AT&T is a well-capitalized company that spends billions annually on its network assets, including fiber. AT&T has the resources to finance the system design. Detailed information about AT&T's finances is posted on our public website at: <https://investors.att.com/>.

AT&T is an independent, publicly traded corporation, and no individual owns more than 10% of the company.

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

Just as we do today, AT&T will continue working with local municipalities and with, as appropriate, the State Department of Transportation to secure necessary permits and following all regulations when deploying facilities in public rights of way.

For multi-dwelling units (MDUs), and private or gated-communities, AT&T will contact multi-family property owners and homeowner associations (HOAs) to explore interest in bringing AT&T fiber to the property’s residents. AT&T will contact MDU’s owners in the target community, offer a free site survey, and make commercially reasonable efforts to gain right of entry to their properties, under mutually agreeable terms, to enable residents the ability to order AT&T broadband services. This also includes county or city-sponsored public housing. If AT&T gains right of entry, AT&T will deploy AT&T Fiber, and work with MDU and HOA property staff to build awareness of the availability of AT&T Fiber service.

Similarly, large commercial properties that cannot be served with a traditional “drop” will also require access agreements with property owners to gain rights of entry. AT&T will work to gain entry to these properties to provide the best service possible to local businesses.

In instances where AT&T is unable to gain access rights to MDUs, private or gated communities, commercial properties, or waterways we will work with the State to determine possible grant application revisions and further next steps.

Will the Project deliver broadband in the approved Project Service Area that meets or exceeds symmetrical download and upload speeds of 100/100 Mbps?

Yes

If no to above, explain and provide support demonstrating why the Project will not deliver such speeds and provide an affidavit that 100/100 Mbps symmetrical download/upload speeds are not practicable.

Explain how the Applicant will consult with the community in the Project Service Area on the general affordability needs of the target markets.

AT&T is driving down the cost of home internet for eligible households to the best monthly rate possible – \$0. This free option is made possible by combining a new plan from our low-cost Access from AT&T program with federal benefits from the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP).

The Access from AT&T program now provides faster internet plans with up to 100 Mbps of symmetrical speeds for \$30 per month. In addition, there’s no cap on data usage with the new \$30 Access from AT&T plans.

All households that qualify for ACP will also qualify for AT&T’s low cost internet service program called Access which would also include the newest speed tier.

<p>Will the Project (1) prioritize investments in fiber-optic infrastructure wherever feasible and focus on projects that deliver a physical broadband connection by prioritizing projects that achieve last mile connections or ensure funded middle mile projects have commitments in place to support new and/or improved last mile service; (2) include affordability options and shall participate in ACP for the life of ACP; and (3) prioritize support for local networks owned, operated, or affiliated with local governments, nonprofits, and cooperatives.</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>If no to above, explain.</p>	
<p>AT&amp;T proposes to build a 10 Gigabit per second symmetrical passive optical network (XGS-PON) to support hyper-gig per second broadband speeds to consumers and businesses. This network will provide customers a dedicated internet connection to the home or business. AT&amp;T will be responsible for designing, constructing, and maintaining the proposed network and will own all assets used in the construction of the network.</p> <p>AT&amp;T participates in the ACP and intends to continue doing so.</p> <p>AT&amp;T provides interconnection services to a wide array of service providers, including Incumbent Local Exchange Companies (ILECs), Competing Local Exchange companies (CLECs), broadband service providers, wireless companies, and municipal-owned networks. All are treated in accord with relevant interconnection agreements. AT&amp;T does not “prioritize” interconnection with specific types of service providers, including, but not limited to, “local networks owned, operated, or affiliated with local governments, nonprofits, and cooperatives.”</p>	

If awarded, will the Grant funds be used to overbuild another existing broadband provider or to reimburse expenses related to overbuilding another broadband provider?	No
If yes to above, explain.	
Is there an identified need in the Project Service Area for additional broadband infrastructure that is not met by existing federal or state funding commitments?	No
If so, explain whether service to households and businesses in the Project Service Area should require a holistic approach that provides service to a wider area in order to make ongoing service of certain households or businesses within the service area economical.	

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## 5.1 - Project Sponsors

Entity Name	State of South Carolina
Entity Type (.e.g. Corporation, non-profit, cooperative, governmental entity)	General Assembly
Role within proposed project	Sponsor
Primary Contact Name	Chip Campsen
Title	Senator
Mailing Address City, State, Zip	360 Concord St. Suite 201 Charleston, SC 29401
Phone Number	803-212-6340
Email	<a href="mailto:SFGFCommn@scsenate.gov">SFGFCommn@scsenate.gov</a>

## 5.2 - Project Sponsors

Entity Name	Charleston County Council
Entity Type (.e.g. Corporation, non-profit, cooperative, governmental entity)	County Council
Role within proposed project	Sponsor
Primary Contact Name	Teddie E. Pryor Sr.
Title	Council Chairman
Mailing Address City, State, Zip	4045 Bridge View Drive Charleston, SC 29405
Phone Number	843-958-4030
Email	<a href="mailto:tpryor@charlestoncounty.org">tpryor@charlestoncounty.org</a>

### **5.3 - Project Sponsors**

Entity Name	Charleston Regional Development Alliance
Entity Type (.e.g. Corporation, non-profit, cooperative, governmental entity)	Non-profit
Role within proposed project	Sponsor
Primary Contact Name	David Ginn
Title	President and CEO
Mailing Address City, State, Zip	4401 Belle Oaks Drive, Suite 420 North Charleston SC 29405
Phone Number	843-767-9300
Email	<a href="mailto:dginn@crda.org">dginn@crda.org</a>

### **5.4 - Project Sponsors**

Entity Name	Charleston Metro Chamber of Commerce
Entity Type (.e.g. Corporation, non-profit, cooperative, governmental entity)	Non-profit
Role within proposed project	Sponsor
Primary Contact Name	Justin Lee
Title	Senior Vice President
Mailing Address City, State, Zip	4922 O'Hear Ave Suite 101 North Charleston, SC 29405
Phone Number	843-577-2510
Email	<a href="mailto:jlee@charlestonchamber.org">jlee@charlestonchamber.org</a>

# South Carolina 2022 ARPA Grant Program Application SFRF 1.0



## **6.1 - Attachment Checklist**

(Please attach the following items to application)

### **GIS Shapefiles**

*Proposed 2020 Census Blocks*

Yes

*Proposed Service Areas*

Yes

*Proposed Fiber/Cable Lines*

No

*Proposed Structures Served by Type*

No

*Proposed Network Junctions*

No

6.2 Signed affidavit certifying grant application is complete and accurate

Yes

Partners for financial support related to proposed project or non-cash support provide associated documentation.

No

Letters of support evidencing community need and strategic partnerships

Yes

Copies of Applicant's Current Fee Structure for all Internet Speed Tiers

Yes

Certificates of Insurance

Yes

Certificates of Bonding, as described in CFR § 200.326 Bonding requirements.

No

Any additional information evidencing community need for project

No