

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



Section 1.1 - Applicant Information

Legal Entity/Organization Name	NTINet, Inc.
Parent Organization	N/A
Entity Type (e.g. Corporation, non-profit, cooperative, governmental entity)	Corporation
Primary Contact Name	Doug Hair
Title	President/Owner
Mailing Address City, State, Zip	2033 St. Matthews Rd. NE,
Phone Number	803-533-1660
Email	dhair@ntinet.com
FCC Registration Number (FRN):	18518753
Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) Number	859096419
Registered in the System for Award Management (SAM)	YES
SAM Number	91727
SC State Vendor Number	

Section 1.2 - Project Name/Number

Project Number (Format XXX-XX)	NTI-07
Project Name	HH-SR-FTTX2022

Section 1.3 - Broadband Service Provider Context

Date of Applicant's Initial FCC Form 477 Submission	June 30th, 2014
Date of Applicant's Most Recent FCC Form 477 Submission	December 31st, 2021
Applicant has experience delivering broadband service via fiber and/or hybrid fiber-coax infrastructure (YES/NO)	Yes

Section 1.4 - Broadband Infrastructure Information

<p>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.</p>	<p>Fiber to the Premises Minimum Sustainable Download/Upload Speeds 100/100 Mbps</p>
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Section 1.5 - Proposed Broadband Pricing Tiers

Rates less than \$10/month (YES/NO)	No
If yes to \$10 month plan what are the upload/download speeds	
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)	No
If yes to \$25-\$34.99 month plan what are the upload/download speeds	
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)	Yes
What's the duration of the pricing? (In Months)	No

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

Project Start Date	January 9, 2023
Project Construction Activity Begins	March 1, 2023
Project Construction Activity Complete	December 21, 2024
Customer Premises <i>Installations Begin</i>	October 1, 2023
<i>Installations End</i>	November 5, 2024
Overall Project Completion Date	December 20, 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	72.13
Estimated Percentage Underground	40%
Estimated Percentage Aerial	60%
Number of Counties to be Impacted	2 (two)
County Names	Orangeburg, SC, & Berkeley, SC
Total Number of Census Blocks with Concentrations of K-12	52
Total number of Census Blocks in DDA's	10
Total number of Census Blocks NOT in DDA or K-12 Concentration	63
Total Number of unserved 2020 Census Blocks part of Proposed Project	115
Total number of housing units served	1227
Total number of businesses served	126
Total number of other Public Facilities e.g. community centers, fire stations served	6
Total Structures Served	1359
Average Cost Per Structure Served	2,810.86
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

N/A

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Section 2.2 - Funding Details

Description	Comment	Amount
South Carolina ARPA Broadband Grant Program Funds requested		3,437,956.86
Applicant-Provided Funding		382,001.31
Third-Party Funding Source (if applicable)		0
Total Project Cost		3,819,958.17
Percentage Funds Requested from SC Broadband Office		90
Percentage Funds from Applicant Match		10.00
Percentage Funds from Third Party Funding Source		0

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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

Agree

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.

Agree

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

The project being proposed by NTINET, Inc. for the SC ARPA Grant is for the Town of Holly Hill and surrounding area(s). Our project has been designed to provide scalable broadband services via a fiber network to all residents and businesses especially to those in unserved and underserved areas.

NTINET has been a part of this community for over ten (10) years and has seen the increased need for affordable broadband services. We recognize to be competitive in today's world, you must have access to the latest in technologies and that includes reliable, hi-speed broadband.

This design encompasses areas with a high concentration of k-12 students, HUD/DDA's as well as Community Centers, Libraries, Fire Departments and other points of interest. We have incorporated in this project, affordable packages that meet the current requirements and are scalability for future technologies i.e. Telehealth, distance learning and more.

These broadband services will be delivered over NTINET's network which is a carrier grade, low latency fiber network. We use the latest in technology to provide services that include Broadband, Voice, and Customer Premise Services. Our hours of operation for are from 8:00 am – 5:00 pm with the Network Operations Center, and Help Desk running 365 days, 24x7.

In addition, we are looking to create partnerships with local Community leaders and businesses provide service to Community Centers, Libraries and Public Safety as well as provide Wi-fi connections in public areas where needed.

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

This proposal meets or exceeds the needs of the community looking to be served by NTINET. One of our main goals is to level the playing field in broadband service(s) by making broadband available to all that wish to obtain it. It is the desire of NTInet, Inc. to make an impact that will be great and have long lasting effects for years to come. As the world moves forward so does the need for technology. However, in order for technology to have its desired effects, it must be accessible to all.

Our facility in the heart of our coverage area therefore we know first-hand of the impact and benefits that it will have on not only our area but surrounding communities. Our network is also accessible by the surrounding areas and includes underserved, unserved, at-risk and vulnerable populated areas. The current market conditions in our coverage area significantly shows that the communities have many obstacles to obtain much needed broadband services and/or next generation technologies at a reasonable price. Our business model provides cost-effective plans that provide competitive internet services.

In addition, the expansion of the NTInet, Inc. network will provide several direct positions within the next year, which will be technical in nature. There is also potential for indirect or induced positions are equally as great. In addition, we will strive to not only to make availability of services for small companies and individuals from all social and ethnic backgrounds but to provide educational support as to the importance of broadband.

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.

At this tme there does not appear that the areas within this proposal are not subjeet to any federal or state funding commitment for reliable speeds of 100/20.

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

At this time NTINET, Inc. is talking with and will continue to talk to the community leaders, libraries and community centers to develop programs or possible sponsorships that provide adoption to broadband. These programs will include but not be limited to courses, workshops and seminars. All programs will be available to all and will address the needs of the community. It is our hope that these programs will assist in job creation.

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

The story of Holly Hill, South Carolina resembles many rural communities across the US, in regard to its challenges. It has seen a changing demographic, low population retainage due to lack of employment, and recently the challenge of communicating whether for work or education due to the pandemic. Valuable lessons were learned during this time. One of the most valuable lessons was to ensure the citizens and businesses of our coverage area have the broadband resources needed to fully engage and compete in today's society.

NTINET, Inc. believes that all should have access to broadband and what it has to offer. This would include a viable Digital Literacy program that starts with access to reliable broadband and support of programs that address affordability such as the APC Program and free public Wi-Fi accessibility to community libraries and parks in addition to ensuring that even the most disadvantaged would have access to broadband.

With the award of the SC ARPA Grant funding, we feel it will assist us in ensuring that all individuals and businesses in the community will have the tools which include broadband understanding, its many uses as well as the digital skills to incorporate into everyday life.

NTINET's plans include but are not limited to consulting with local Holly Hill & Sandridge governments, public and private K-12 schools, Schools of Higher learning, Tri-County & Berkeley County Chamber of Commerce and other organizations to develop a variety of plan(s) best suited to educate the community. This will be through interactive technology courses, seminars and workshops with the goal of preparing individuals and businesses with the knowledge and skills needed to succeed in today's digital world.

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.

As part of the NTINET project, we have talked with community leaders and other stakeholders to identify where public Wi-Fi would be needed. We are prepared to provide this service once it has been identified.

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

The documents have been upload and will demonstrate that NTINET has the necessary funds to complete this project/proposal.

List any lease, franchise agreement, interconnection agreement, authorization, permit, or other items needed to complete this project.	
After reviewing project requirements and speaking with the Authorities Having Jurisdiction within our coverage area, it has been determined that the following are required: Underground permitting requirements for the city and SCDOT, railroad permit, Call before you dig (811), and pole attachment agreements.	
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.	
N/A	
Explain how the Applicant will consult with the community in the Project Service Area on the general affordability needs of the target markets.	
As of the submission of this application, NTINET has reached out and met with the Mayor of Holly Hill, attended City Council Meetings and spoke with community leaders as well as participants of the meeting, and spoke with several businesses and residents of Sandridge, SC. These efforts were completed to assess affordability and determine the best action for to move forward with Digital Literacy. NTINet will continue to is make every effort during and after this process to reach out to and engage city officials, community leaders, community organizations, residents and businesses to provide insight on the needs of the community as well as determine the affordability of our target markets.	
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.	Yes
If no to above, explain.	

N/A

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.	
N/A	
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?	Yes
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.	
Based on the project design, we have calculated what the ROI would be in order to ensure all households and businesses have affordable and reliable broadband.	

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5.1 - Project Sponsors

Entity Name	The Tri-County Regional Chamber of Commerce
Entity Type (.e.g. Corporation, non-profit, cooperative, governmental entity)	non-profit
Role within proposed project	Support
Primary Contact Name	Sandra Price
Title	Executive Director
Mailing Address City, State, Zip	8603 Old State Rd., Holly Hill, SC 29059
Phone Number	803-493-3831
Email	tri-county@tri-crcc.com

5.2 - Project Sponsors

Entity Name	Holly Hill Police Department
Entity Type (.e.g. Corporation, non-profit, cooperative, governmental entity)	Governmental Entity
Role within proposed project	Support
Primary Contact Name	Chief Joshua H. Detter
Title	Chief of Police
Mailing Address City, State, Zip	8423 Old State Rd., Suite 1, Holly Hill, SC 29059-8100
Phone Number	830-496-3811
Email	

5.3 - Project Sponsors

Entity Name	Thornley Photography
Entity Type (.e.g. Corporation, non-profit, cooperative, governmental entity)	Business
Role within proposed project	Support
Primary Contact Name	William Thornley
Title	Owner
Mailing Address City, State, Zip	170 Rental Dr., Holly Hill, SC
Phone Number	803-614-8052
Email	

5.4 - Project Sponsors

Entity Name	SC State University Small Business Development Center
Entity Type (.e.g. Corporation, non-profit, cooperative, governmental entity)	Education
Role within proposed project	Support
Primary Contact Name	Jim Johnson
Title	Region Director
Mailing Address City, State, Zip	300 College St., Orangeburg, SC 29117
Phone Number	803-533-3964
Email	jjohns47@scsu.edu

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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

Yes

Proposed Structures Served by Type

Yes

Proposed Network Junctions

Yes

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.

Yes

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.

Yes

Any additional information evidencing community need for project

Yes