

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



Section 1.1 - Applicant Information

Legal Entity/Organization Name	Open Broadband, LLC
Parent Organization	
Entity Type (e.g. Corporation, non-profit, cooperative, governmental entity)	LLC
Primary Contact Name	Alan Fitzpatrick
Title	CEO
Mailing Address City, State, Zip	PO Box 723, Waxhaw, NC 28173
Phone Number	980-246-8989
Email	alan@openbb.net
FCC Registration Number (FRN):	26202879
Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) Number	39703216
Registered in the System for Award Management (SAM)	Yes
SAM Number	FL8VQ74AK4B3
SC State Vendor Number	

Section 1.2 - Project Name/Number

Project Number (Format XXX-XX)	001-02
Project Name	Project_B

Section 1.3 - Broadband Service Provider Context

Date of Applicant's Initial FCC Form 477 Submission

2021

Date of Applicant's Most Recent FCC Form 477 Submission

1Sept2022

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

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)

Yes

If yes to \$15 - \$19.99 month plan what are the upload/download speeds

After ACP discount 25x3

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

After ACP discount 50x5

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	September 1, 2023
Project Construction Activity Begins	October 1, 2023
Project Construction Activity Complete	September 28, 2024
Customer Premises <i>Installations Begin</i>	February 1, 2024
<i>Installations End</i>	September 28, 2024
Overall Project Completion Date	
24 months of official Notice to Proceed (NTP)?	Yes

Section 1.7 - Project Service Area Information

Estimated Miles of Fiber to be Installed	47
Estimated Percentage Underground	0
Estimated Percentage Aerial	100
Number of Counties to be Impacted	1
County Names	Spartanburg County
Total Number of Census Blocks with Concentrations of K-12	14
Total number of Census Blocks in DDA's	0
Total number of Census Blocks NOT in DDA or K-12 Concentration Project	4
	18
Total number of housing units served	327
Total number of businesses served	2
stations served	0
Total Structures Served	329
Average Cost Per Structure Served	\$ 9,432.24
project service area?	Yes

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

South Carolina 2022 ARPA Grant Program Application SFRF 1.0



Section 2.2 - Funding Details		
Description	Comment	Amount
South Carolina ARPA Broadband Grant Program Funds request	85% of total project	\$ 2,637,724.91
Applicant-Provided Funding	15% of total project	\$ 465,480.87
Third-Party Funding Source (if applicable)		\$ -
Total Project Cost		\$ -
Percentage Funds Requested from SC Broadband Office		85%
Percentage Funds from Applicant Match		15%
Percentage Funds from Third Party Funding Source		0%

South Carolina 2022 ARPA Grant Program Application SFRF 1.0



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.

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

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.

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.

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

Applicant will not procure telecommunications equipment or services from China.

The Project includes pre-project development uses or costs

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.

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.

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.

South Carolina 2022 ARPA Grant Program Application SFRF 1.0



4.1 - Additional Information

(max 2000 character limit per item)

Provide a Summary Narrative that describes your project

Open Broadband is a technology agnostic internet service provider. Our solution for the properties in this proposal will be to deliver broadband internet services via fiber optic cable to the home. The last mile of fiber optic cable will be delivered to each home via a local Optical Line Terminal located on multiple Duke Power pole located within each neighborhood. Utilizing Duke Power poles to deliver connectivity is something that we have done with other projects. As a way to make the costs and timeline of deployment more economical we will be covering the middle mile of our network with wireless backhaul to the pole. For the "Tex McClure" project we will utilize a fiber connection at the base of a tower on Parise Mountain. We will then provide a 2Gbps (two Gigabit per second) wireless link to node locations within the boundaries of the target census blocks. From each node location we will run fiber optic cable to the customer's homes.

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

Our proposal meets the needs of the community by providing them with an affordable, and reliable source of high speed internet. This will enable the students to have connectivity capable of meeting their educational needs. People who work remotely will have the ability to work at their homes instead of having to find alternative places to access the internet.

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.

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

We often partner with town and county staffs to get the word out into the community to improve awareness in conjunction with our online marketing efforts. We also participate in Digital Inclusion task forces, and are predisposed to assist entrepreneurship efforts in each market we serve. A number of coworking spaces are served by us.

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

As a Microsoft Airband Partner, we will be providing access to programming designed by Microsoft to increase digital literacy.

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 we have done in many of the communities we serve, we will work with community centers and churches to offer free access to public wifi. The specific locations will be left up to each community who provides a location within the area where we can mount equipment.

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

Signed First Amendment Salem 3-23-22 4873-5457-3592 v.2

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

We currently have lease agreements for all of the vertical assets being proposed for usage in this project. We are also already an approved contractor/vendor to place equipment on Duke Power's lighting and distribution poles.

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.

We will utilize several methods of communication with the residents in the project service area. These include: direct mail, targeted geolocated social media marketing, and canvassing the area door to door. These are the same methods we have deployed in the communities that we provide service to.

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.

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
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If yes to above, explain.

[Empty yellow response area]

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
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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
Entity Type
(e.g. Corporation, non-profit, cooperative, governmental entity)

Role within proposed project

Primary Contact Name

Title

Mailing Address City, State, Zip

Phone Number

Email

5.2 - Project Sponsors

Entity Name
Entity Type
(e.g. Corporation, non-profit, cooperative, governmental entity)

Role within proposed project

Primary Contact Name

Title

Mailing Address City, State, Zip

Phone Number

Email

5.3 - Project Sponsors

Entity Name
Entity Type
(.e.g. Corporation, non-profit, cooperative, governmental entity)
Role within proposed project
Primary Contact Name
Title
Mailing Address City, State, Zip
Phone Number
Email

5.4 - Project Sponsors

Entity Name
Entity Type
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Role within proposed project
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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

Select one

Proposed Service Areas

Select one

Proposed Fiber/Cable Lines

Select one

Proposed Structures Served by Type

Select one

Proposed Network Junctions

Select one

6.2 Signed affidavit certifying grant application is complete and accurate

Select one

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

Select one

Letters of support evidencing community need and strategic partnerships

Select one

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

Select one

Certificates of Insurance

Select one

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

Select one

Any additional information evidencing community need for project

Select one