

South Carolina 2023 ARPA ADGP Grant Application



Section 1.1 - Applicant Information

Legal Entity/Organization Name	Sandhill Telephone Cooperative, Inc.
Parent Organization	N/A
Entity Type (e.g. Corporation, non-profit, cooperative, governmental entity)	Cooperative
Primary Contact Name	Kirby Wayne
Title	Chief Operating Officer
Mailing Address City, State, Zip	122 S. Main St. Jefferson, SC 29718
Phone Number	Office: 843-658-9003 Cell: 843-622-4626
Email	kirby.wayne@mysandhill.net
FCC Registration Number (FRN):	0001886464
Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) Number	009757532
Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) Number	MYK7LMF56H77
Tax ID Number	
SC State Vendor Number	7000025393

Section 1.2 - Secondary Contact

Secondary Contact Name	Lee Chambers
Title	CEO/General Manager
Mailing Address City, State, Zip	122 S. Main St. Jefferson, SC 29718
Phone Number	843-658-6379
Email	lee.chambers@mysandhill.net

Section 1.3 - Confirmations

Grantee confirms no State or Federal grant funds were used for any project in this application

Agree

Applicant participates in the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) and will notify consumers in the project area about the program

Agree

Applicant will provide at least one low-cost option without data usage caps at speeds sufficient for households with multiple users and will notify consumers in the project area about the low-cost option

Agree

Applicant submitted all requested data in the SCBBO bi-annual data request.

Yes

Applicant did not charge aid in construction (AIC) for any projects listed in their grant application?

Yes

Section 1.4 - Broadband Infrastructure Information

Indicate the type(s) of broadband infrastructure technology deployed in the project area. Projects must make available a minimum of 100/100 Mbps up/down and completed between 3.15.2021 - 6.30.2022

Fiber to the Premises
Minimum Sustainable Download/Upload Speeds 100/100 Mbps

Please explain how you derived the line work submitted with your application. Information must include but is not limited to the:

- 1) Source (i.e., Internal engineering software)
- 2) Accuracy (i.e., +/- 3ft.)
- 3) Total Fiber Length (feet)

Our line work came from a program called Mapwise. This is part of our NISC software and is the system we use for our internal fiber mapping. Several points throughout each build are GPS using a Trimble Geo 7X. This is accurate to +/-3'. The line information we have submitted comes directly from our working map. Our Mapping Tech copied the line work to a new file and then deleted the line work that wasn't done inside the timeframe given for ADGP.

Section 1.5 - Low Cost Plan

(Must be a minimum of 100/20 Mbps)

What Download/Upload speed is offered in your low cost plan?
Example 100/20

100/20 or 250/250 with lifeline support

Does the above speed tier include unlimited data? (YES/NO)

Yes

Is a Consumer-based Contract Required? (YES/NO)

Yes

Is the pricing fixed? (YES/NO)

Yes

If no, what's the duration?

1.6 - Attachment Checklist

(Please attach the following items to application)

Fiber/Cable Lines for each project

Yes

FCC Broadband Serviceable Location (BSL) Structures with Service Available, by technology type for each project

Yes

Signed affidavit certifying grant application is complete and accurate
Copies of Applicant's Current Fee Structure for all Internet Speed Tiers

Yes

Yes

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Section 2.1 - Project Name/Number

Project Number (Format XXX-XX)
Project Name

SHC-11
Marlboro

Section 2.2 - Construction/Installation Period

Construction Start Date
Construction End Date
Installation Start Date

March 19, 2021
June 30, 2022
June 1, 2021

2.3 - Additional Information

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 was an identified need for additional broadband investment that was not met by existing federal or state funding commitments.

While our project does overlap with an RDOF awarded area, we have seen no evidence of the RDOF awardee building these rural areas of Marlboro County. The customers in these areas need access to reliable Broadband just as much as customers who live in town and have been overlooked due to the lack of ROI for far too long. Unlike for-profit companies, Sandhill wants to help these customers regardless of how populated the area is. This is what our company has done for many years. Sandhill's main goal is to provide high speed internet to rural communities in a timely manner. We feel that we have proven this by what we have accomplished during CARES and RBGP. One of our main objectives is to focus on the customers who have been left behind for so long. We intend to continue to build a network that will provide speeds that far exceed the Federal guidelines and the only way to expedite this is through the grant process. During the ADGP application process, Sandhill used the data from the SC Eligibility map provided by the Office of Regulatory Staff to help determine which areas qualified for the ADGP. The ADGP projects were part of a designed to expand upon the fiber and GPON equipment from other grant money to cut down on the total fiber project cost. The customers in these areas call and visit our offices every day to inquire as to when their area will be built. They have seen and appreciate what we have already done for their neighbors and look forward to Sandhill building in their neighborhood. Sandhill does not only take into consideration the public interest for our services when deciding what areas to build. We consider other factors as well such as the geographical location of the customers. The geographical location can serve as a major disadvantage for several customers. Numerous ISP's do not want to build such areas because of how rural of an area and the customer base is not heavily populated. Another factor that we considered is the economic challenges that several residents face in today's economy. Upon completion of fiber projects in these areas, Sandhill would be able to offer the residents access to programs like the ACP program or Lifeline. With assistance from programs like this, the residents would be able to receive high speed broadband packages and phone lines at a discounted rate that they could afford. Sandhill has proven that our rates are as competitive as other ISP's in these areas.

Section 2.5 - Funding Source

Description	Fund Source Name	Amount
Applicant-Provided Funding	Sandhill Telephone	\$ 816,431.76
Third-Party Funding Source (if applicable)		\$ -
Third-Party Funding Source (if applicable)		\$ -
Third-Party Funding Source (if applicable)		\$ -
Total Project Cost		\$ 816,431.76