

South Carolina 2024 ARPA Grant Program Application SLFRF 3.0



Section 1.1 - Applicant Information

Legal Entity/Organization Name	Spectrum Southeast, LLC
Parent Organization	Charter Communications, Inc.
Entity Type (e.g. Corporation, non-profit, cooperative, governmental entity)	Corporation
Primary Contact Name	Joe Prater
Title	Director, State Government Affairs
Mailing Address City, State, Zip	101 Innovation Ave, Morrisville, NC 27560
Phone Number	919-882-4475
Email	joe.prater@charter.com
Secondary Contact Name	Matt Wills
Title	Director, State Government Affairs
Mailing Address City, State, Zip	3347 Platt Springs Rd, West Columbia, SC 29170
Phone Number	803-744-5794
Email	matt.wills@charter.com
FCC Registration Number (FRN):	21552922
Registered in the System for Award Management (SAM) - (Yes/No)	Yes
Unique Entity ID (UEI) Number	FKP2W71T9GK7
Federal Tax ID Number	45-4608839
SC State Vendor Number	7000047335

Section 1.2 - Project Name/Number

Project Number (Format XXX-XX)	CHR-AK
Project Name	Aiken and Kershaw Counties Broadband Expansion Project
Project Priority (1-5, 1 serving as highest priority for applicant)	2

Section 1.3 - Broadband Service Provider Context

Date of Applicant's Initial FCC Submission	September 1, 2000
Date of Applicant's Most Recent FCC Submission	1-Mar-24
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
Will all structures be served with the same technology type?	Yes
Estimated Miles of Fiber to be Installed	161.94
Estimated Percentage Underground	24.00%
Estimated Percentage Aerial	76.00%

Section 1.5 - Project Timeline

Project Start Date	July 1, 2024
Project Construction Activity Begins	November 1, 2024
Project Construction Activity Completion	June 30, 2026
Customer Premises <i>Initiation of Operations (premise installations begin)</i>	July 1, 2025
Overall Project Completion Date	June 30, 2026
Will the project be completed within 24 months of official Notice to Proceed (NTP)?	Yes

Section 1.6 - Low-Cost Plan

(Must be a minimum of 100/20 Mbps)

What Download/Upload speed is offered in your low-cost residential plan? (Example 100/20)	100/100
What is the monthly cost of the plan?	\$59.99
Does the above speed tier include unlimited data? (YES/NO)	No
Is a Consumer-based Contract Required? (YES/NO)	No
Duration of Low-Cost Plan (Post Construction)	Charter's standard promotional rates are for 12 months, see attached.

Section 1.7 - Free Public Wi-Fi

Will a new Free Public Wi-Fi location(s) be added? Free Public Wi-Fi is a location where anyone can access the Wi-Fi network at no cost 24/7, 365 days. Wi-Fi location needs to be in county or counties applied for.	Yes
If yes, how many locations will be added?	1
If yes, specify the duration the applicant will offer this service.	1 year

Section 1.8 - Network Resiliency

Indicate if any of the Network Resilient Items will be implemented in the project area.

Ensure power redundancy with DC Battery/Diesel/Gas Generator Backup from temporary power loss at premise, Network Operations Center (NOC), and OLTs.	Will Implement
Ensure OLTs have divergent paths to redundant upstream equipment. Configure OLTs on a fiber ring so the network may continue operation if fiber is cut and/or damaged.	Will NOT Implement
Establish an Emergency Action Plan (EAP).	Will NOT Implement
Conduct readiness drills and tabletop exercises leveraging the EAP, document lessons learned and update the EAP based upon findings.	Will Implement
Deploy facilities underground as opposed to aerial to minimize impacts of downed utility poles from hurricanes, tornadoes, and vehicle accidents occurring in rights of way.	Will NOT Implement
Diversify connectivity by including more than a single tier-one provider as an access point to the Internet through the ISP's network. Maintain field service teams and spare equipment on standby before, during, and after major weather events and enact mutual assistance agreements, if appropriate.	Will Implement
Conduct regular site inspections for encroachments, damaged facilities, susceptible facilities or other threats through field reconnaissance and windshield surveys on facilities.	Will Implement
Elevate OLTs above base flood elevations in mapped floodplains and associated flood-prone areas.	Will NOT Implement

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Section 2.2 - Funding Details

Description	Comment	Amount
South Carolina ARPA Broadband Grant Program Funds requested		\$ 6,824,656.72
Applicant-Provided Funding		\$ 2,274,885.57
Third-Party Funding Source (if applicable)		\$ -
Total Project Cost		\$ 9,099,542.29
Percentage Funds Requested from SC Broadband Office		75%
Percentage Funds from Applicant Match		25%
Percentage Funds from Third Party Funding Source		0%

ADJUST APPLICANT
PROVIDED FUNDING
AMOUNT TO GET WHOLE
PERCENTAGES ONLY

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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 for a disclosed period of time.

Agree

The Project will comply with the requirements set forth in ARPA, South Carolina Act No. 244 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 Feb. 1, 2024, and December 31, 2026 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.

This narrative must be unique for each project and discuss this project only. Refrain from discussing rates, structure counts, estimated dates, work that occurred in the past, or the Company's history of providing Broadband service. Limit 750 Characters.

Charter is requesting a grant to construct a last-mile fiber-to-the-premises via Ethernet passive optical network to provide service to unserved households and businesses throughout Aiken and Kershaw Counties. Charter's strategy in developing its 2023 ARPA 3.0 Grant Program projects was based upon engagement and collaboration with key government and non-profit entities. As described throughout this application, Charter's proposal is a product of valuable collaborations throughout the region to assess and identify local needs to help communities, the South Carolinians they serve, and local economies thrive in the new digital world. This project includes 325 priority locations and 20 "I Need Internet" survey locations.

Describe how your proposal meets the needs of the community to be served as described in the "Guidelines." **Refrain from discussing rates, structure counts, estimated dates, work that occurred in the past, or the Company's history of providing Broadband service. Limit 500 Characters (including spaces).**

Charter's proposal is to construct a last-mile network to provide, among other uses, remote learning, remote working, and telehealth services to unserved households and businesses throughout Aiken and Kershaw. Charter's strategy in developing its proposal was based upon engagement and collaboration with key government and non-profit entities to assess and identify local needs to support the communities, the citizens they serve, and help their local economies thrive in the new digital world.

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.

While this project does not directly overlap with any existing federal funding commitments, it is worth noting that Charter has over 12,000 RDOF locations across these counties. Of these RDOF locations, over 6,700 are committed to the SCBBO to be activated by the end of 2025 through the Funded Project Register, therefore aligning with the build timeline of this grant program. When combining Charter's RDOF across these counties with the other unserved locations proposed in this Project, over 14,000 locations will receive service through this grant initiative.

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

Charter is committed to ensuring that more South Carolinians have access to high-quality, reliable broadband. As we continue to expand our network to cover more communities in South Carolina, we remain focused on increasing our customer's awareness of our various service offerings.

Charter has offered affordable broadband in South Carolina for many years. Due to advances in technology and enhancements to our network, the speeds we offer today are dramatically faster than years ago, and we are continually increase those speeds. Our current flagship offering provides download speeds of 300Mbps. Charter is proud to be engaged in several initiatives and various business practices that benefit consumers in need and demonstrate our commitment to the communities we serve. For example, the Affordable Connectivity Program ("ACP"), which Charter participates in, provides a \$30 discount on internet service for eligible customers.

The following links contain additional information about our programs:

- Stay Connected K-12 Program: <https://enterprise.spectrum.com/services/industries/k-12/stay-connected.html>
 - Spectrum Community Center Assist: <https://corporate.charter.com/community-assist>
- Spectrum Community Investment Loan Fund: <https://corporate.charter.com/community-investment-loan-fund>
 - See attached article about Charter using the Spectrum Community Investment Loan Fund to invest \$1M in CommunityWorks, a South Carolina statewide non-profit lending institution and community development financial institution (CDFI) which will provide low-interest loans to small business in South Carolina.

If awarded a grant for this Project, Charter will work with county and local governments to execute marketing strategies including deploying company representatives directly in these communities (ex. on-site at small or major retailers, door to door, etc.) and/or television, radio, and online advertisements and mailers.

Describe your plans or programs you have developed and propose to implement to increase digital literacy, for example, support through online training, for this project?

Charter believes that no South Carolinian should be prevented from accessing the internet due to fear or a lack of digital literacy. Charter has long been committed to helping address these challenges by increasing adoption and access to technology through our philanthropic support for key community organizations including through our Spectrum Digital Education Grant program, which provides computers, digital education classes, and technology labs for thousands across the country. For more information regarding our Spectrum Digital Education Grants, please visit <https://corporate.charter.com/digital-education/grants>.

- See attached article about Charter donating \$15,000 to Leatherman Senior Center in Florence, SC to help train seniors in the use of computers and sage practices when online.
- See attached article about Charter donating \$20,000 to Children's Trust of South Carolina to support their website, which features tool kits and tip sheets on various parenting services including child safety, development and positive parenting.
- See attached article about Charter donating \$12,000 to Communities in Schools of South Carolina (CISSC) who used the funding to provide middle and high school sites in Columbia with laptops for students to support college and career readiness.
- See attached article about Charter donating \$35,000 to Palmetto Care Connections who used the funding to provide digital literacy classes for senior citizens in rural South Carolina communities.

Regardless of the outcome of this grant program, all eligible South Carolina community organizations are able to apply for Spectrum Digital Education Grants. However, if Charter is awarded all projects in CHR-AK, CHR-BD, and CHR-FD, Charter will commit \$75,000 in Spectrum Digital Education Grants across all three project areas. This offer is contingent on the awarding of all three applications.

<p>Will the Project deliver broadband in the approved Project Area that meets or exceeds symmetrical download and upload speeds of 100/100 Mbps?</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>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.</p>	
<p>N/A</p>	
<p>Explain how the Applicant will consult with the community in the Project Area on the general affordability needs of the target markets.</p>	
<p>As previously noted, Charter has engaged and collaborated with the localities and community stakeholders throughout the proposed project area to assess their affordability needs. This included discussions about Charter’s affordable service offerings, it’s participation in the FCC’s Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP), and Charter’s willingness to host events to increase awareness of its affordable service options in the proposed project area.</p> <p>Furthermore, if granted an award for this project, Charter is committed to working with the localities to 1) make residents aware of its various service offerings, 2) inform residents about initiatives that are available to address service affordability, and 3) any other needs identified by the localities to increase overall awareness, adoption, and digital literacy regarding the high-speed broadband services that will become available as a result of this network expansion.</p> <p>Lastly, as indicated in Section 1.7 of applications CHR-AK, CHR-BD, and CHR-FD, Charter is committing one free public wi-fi access point with 24/7 access for one year in each proposed project (three total access points) – this offer is contingent on Charter being awarded all three projects.</p>	

<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>Yes</p>
<p>If no to above, explain.</p>	
<p>N/A</p>	
<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?</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>If yes to above, explain.</p>	
<p>N/A</p>	

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5.1 - Project Sponsors

Entity Name	Palmetto Care Connections
Entity Type (.e.g. Corporation, non-profit, cooperative, governmental entity)	Healthcare
Role within proposed project	Community Healthcare Support
Primary Contact Name	Kathy Schwarting
Title	CEO
Mailing Address City, State, Zip	1880 Main Highway, Bamberg, SC 29003
Phone Number	803-245-2672
Email	

5.2 - Project Sponsors

Entity Name	SCVAN
Entity Type (.e.g. Corporation, non-profit, cooperative, governmental entity)	Non-profit
Role within proposed project	Victim Assistance
Primary Contact Name	Laura Hudson
Title	Executive Director
Mailing Address City, State, Zip	PO Box 212863, Columbia, SC 29221
Phone Number	803-750-1200
Email	

5.3 - Project Sponsors

Entity Name	SC Attorney General's Office
Entity Type (.e.g. Corporation, non-profit, cooperative, governmental entity)	Government
Role within proposed project	Crime Victim Assistance
Primary Contact Name	Alan Wilson
Title	Attorney General
Mailing Address City, State, Zip	PO Box 11549, Columbia, SC 29211
Phone Number	803-734-3970
Email	

5.4 - Project Sponsors

Entity Name	OneNation Coffee
Entity Type (.e.g. Corporation, non-profit, cooperative, governmental entity)	Small Business
Role within proposed project	Business Support
Primary Contact Name	John Richards
Title	President and Co-Founder
Mailing Address City, State, Zip	398 East 5th N Street, Suite A, Summerville, SC 29483
Phone Number	843-879-3634
Email	

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6.1 - Attachment Checklist

(Please attach the following items to application)

GIS Shapefiles

Proposed 2020 Census Blocks

Yes

Proposed Fiber/Cable Lines

Yes

Proposed Structures Served by Type

Yes

Proposed Network Junctions

Yes

Signed affidavit certifying grant application is complete and accurate

Yes

Proof of funding related to proposed project or non-cash support, provide associated documentation e.g. yearly financial reports, bank statement, etc.

Yes

Letters of support and strategic partnerships

Yes

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

Yes

Certificates of Insurance

Yes

Any additional information evidencing community need for project

No