

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)
 Project Name
 Project Priority (1-5, 1 serving as highest priority for applicant)

CHR-CD	
Cherokee and Dillon Counties Broadband Expansion Project	
	4

Section 1.3 - Broadband Service Provider Context

Date of Applicant's Initial FCC Submission
 Date of Applicant's Most Recent FCC Submission
 Applicant has experience delivering broadband service via fiber and/or hybrid fiber-coax infrastructure (YES/NO)

	September 1, 2000
	1-Mar-24
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.
 Will all structures be served with the same technology type?
 Estimated Miles of Fiber to be Installed
 Estimated Percentage Underground
 Estimated Percentage Aerial

Fiber to the Premises Minimum Sustainable Download/Upload Speeds 100/100 Mbps	
Yes	
	33.85
	34.00%
	66.00%

Section 1.5 - Project Timeline

Project Start Date
 Project Construction Activity Begins
 Project Construction Activity Completion

	July 1, 2024
	November 1, 2024
	June 30, 2026

Customer Premises

Initiation of Operations (premise installations begin)

	July 1, 2025
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Overall Project Completion Date
 Will the project be completed within 24 months of official Notice to Proceed (NTP)?

	June 30, 2026
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.	No
If yes, how many locations will be added?	
If yes, specify the duration the applicant will offer this service.	

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		\$ 1,562,712.74
Applicant-Provided Funding		\$ 513,702.87
Third-Party Funding Source (if applicable)		\$ -
Total Project Cost		\$ 2,076,415.61
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 Cherokee and Dillon 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 4 priority locations and 3 "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 Cherokee and Dillon. 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 6,000 RDOF locations across these counties. Of these RDOF locations, over 1,400 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. Please note, Charter has also worked directly with Dillon and Cherokee Counties since 2021 to utilize County ARPA funding to connect over 2,000 unserved South Carolinians. When combining these direct County partnerships with Charter's RDOF, along with the proposed locations in this application, nearly 9,000 completely unserved locations will receive service through these state and local public-private partnerships.

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.

<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. 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>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	Cherokee County
Entity Type (e.g. Corporation, non-profit, cooperative, governmental entity)	Government
Role within proposed project	Local Government Support
Primary Contact Name	Merv Bishop
Title	County Administrator
Mailing Address City, State, Zip	110 Railroad Avenue, Gaffney, SC 29340
Phone Number	864-487-2560
Email	marvin.bishop@cherokeecountysc.com

5.2 - Project Sponsors

Entity Name	Dillon County
Entity Type (e.g. Corporation, non-profit, cooperative, governmental entity)	Government
Role within proposed project	Local Government Support
Primary Contact Name	Tim Harper
Title	County Administrator
Mailing Address City, State, Zip	PO Box 449, Dillon, SC 29536
Phone Number	843-774-1400
Email	tharper@dilloncountysc.org

5.3 - Project Sponsors

Entity Name	Dillon County Chamber of Commerce
Entity Type (.e.g. Corporation, non-profit, cooperative, governmental entity)	Non-profit
Role within proposed project	Community/Economic Development Support
Primary Contact Name	Johnnie Luehrs
Title	Executive Director
Mailing Address City, State, Zip	PO Box 1304, Dillon, SC 29536
Phone Number	843-774-8551
Email	johnnie@dilloncountychamber.com

5.4 - Project Sponsors

Entity Name	Dillon County School District 4
Entity Type (.e.g. Corporation, non-profit, cooperative, governmental entity)	School District
Role within proposed project	Local Support - Education
Primary Contact Name	Jackie Hayes
Title	Director of Operations
Mailing Address City, State, Zip	1738 Hwy 301 N, Dillon, SC 29536
Phone Number	843-774-1200
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