South Carolina 2024 ARPA Grant Program
Application SLFRF 3.0

Section 1.1 - Applicant Information

Legal Entity/Organization Name	HTC (Horry Telephone Cooperative, Inc.)
Parent Organization	n/a
Entity Type (e.g. Corporation, non-profit, cooperative, governmental entity)	Cooperative
Primary Contact Name	Von Todd
Title	Chief Executive, Corporate Strategy
Mailing Address City, State, Zip	PO Box 1820, Conway, SC 29528
Phone Number	843-369-8166
Email	von.todd@htcinc.net
Secondary Contact Name	Sarah Bonnoitt
Title	Director of Public Affairs
Mailing Address City, State, Zip	PO Box 1820, Conway, SC 29528
Phone Number	843-369-8634
Email	sarah.bonnoitt@htcinc.net
FCC Registration Number (FRN):	1886944
Registered in the System for Award Management (SAM) - (Yes/No)	Yes
Unique Entity ID (UEI) Number	MTG7WKH9S965
Federal Tax ID Number	57-0337423
SC State Vendor Number	7000058570

Section 1.2 - Project Name/Number

Project Number (Format XXX-XX)	HTC-03
Project Name	HTC ARPA 3.0 Marion 2
Project Priority (1-5, 1 serving as highest priority for applicant)	3

Section 1.3 - Broadband Service Provider Context

Date of Applicant's Initial FCC Submission	December 31, 2001
Date of Applicant's Most Recent FCC Submission	31-Dec-23
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	73
Estimated Percentage Underground	54.00%
Estimated Percentage Aerial	46.00%

Section 1.5 - Project Timeline

Project Start Date	August 5, 2024
Project Construction Activity Begins	December 2, 2024
Project Construction Activity Completion	October 1, 2025

Customer Premises

Initiation of Operations (premise installations begin)	March 3, 2025
Overall Project Completion Date	December 31, 2025
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)	500/500 Mbps
What is the monthly cost of the plan?	$49.95 before ACP
Does the above speed tier include unlimited data? (YES/NO)	Yes
Is a Consumer-based Contract Required? (YES/NO)	No
Duration of Low-Cost Plan (Post Construction)	12 months

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.	4+ years

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.	Will Implement
Configure OLTs on a fiber ring so the network may continue operation if fiber is cut and/or damaged.	Will Implement
Establish an Emergency Action Plan (EAP).	Will 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.	Will Implement
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 Implement

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Section 2.2 - Funding Details

Description	Comment	Amount
South Carolina ARPA Broadband Grant Program Funds requested		$ 2,382,915.20
Applicant-Provided Funding		$ 794,305.07
Third-Party Funding Source (if applicable)		$ -
Total Project Cost		$ 3,177,220.27
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	Disagree
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.	Select one
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.
This proposed fiber deployment project will allow HTC to reach the vast majority of the remaining unserved households in Marion County. We will deploy an affordable fiber-to-the-home solution for the locations in this project area. This grant will help HTC close this continue to close the digital divide in Marion County.
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).
Our fiber-to-the-home solution will deliver reliable, affordable broadband starting at speeds of 500Mbps/500 Mbps to residences and businesses in Marion county. Access to HTC's state-of-the-art fiber network will allow the families in these communities to finally participate in online learning, telehealth, and telework in ways they couldn't before, which will create additional economic and quality of life opportunities for everyone.
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.
N/A - This project is not in an existing federal or state funding area.

Describe any plans or programs you have developed <u>and propose to implement</u> to improve adoption in the community described in this proposal.
HTC has seen a high adoption rate in our rural grant areas thanks to a variety of adoption outreach efforts. For this specific project area, we will deploy a direct mail campaign over three months which will include approximately six postcards, including education about the benefits of internet. In addition, we will deploy door-to-door sales representatives to residences who don't call in to request service within the first two months.

Describe your plans or programs you have developed <u>and propose to implement</u> to increase digital literacy, for example, support through online training, for this project?
HTC has partnered with Horry-Georgetown Technical College (HGTC) to develop a pilot educational program designed with the goal of providing residents with the tools and knowledge to maximize their broadband experience and benefits. Curriculum includes but is not limited to internet safety, career development, financial planning, and healthcare. We are currently working with HGTC and State Technical College System leaders to develop a curriculum that can culminate with varying levels of a certificate. A training program will be verified as complete once an individual or individuals complete the curriculum and receive a certificate. HTC cannot guarantee individual enrollment numbers or completion success rates, but will commit to promoting this program to all its members once it is finalized and ready.

Will the Project deliver broadband in the approved Project 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 Area on the general affordability needs of the target markets.	
HTC has teams that are constantly evaluating our price structure and having coonversations with our members and surrounding communities about our service and our pricing. In these conversations, we've heard the same thing – residents in unserved areas are paying far too much for more for internet that barely reaches 10 Mbps. When we tell them about our pricing tiers and internet speeds, their reaction is often one of positive disbelief. Residents in our project areas have little to no choice for internet service, and the choices that they do have are far too expensive and do not offer reliable high speeds. Our subscription rates in our rural grant areas to date prove that our offerings meet the affordability needs of this target market.	
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
If yes to above, explain.	

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5.1 - Project Sponsors

Entity Name	Marion County
Entity Type (.e.g. Corporation, non-profit, cooperative, governmental entity)	Governmental Entity
Role within proposed project	Sponsor/Supporter
Primary Contact Name	Chavis Watford
Title	County Administrator
Mailing Address City, State, Zip	PO Box 183, Marion, SC 29571
Phone Number	843-423-3904
Email	

5.2 - Project Sponsors

Entity Name	Grand Strand Water Sewer
Entity Type (.e.g. Corporation, non-profit, cooperative, governmental entity)	Governmental Entity
Role within proposed project	Sponsor/Supporter
Primary Contact Name	Christy Everett
Title	CEO
Mailing Address City, State, Zip	PO Box 2368, Conway, SC 29528
Phone Number	843-765-4539
Email	

5.3 - Project Sponsors

Entity Name	MPD Electric Cooperative
Entity Type (.e.g. Corporation, non-profit, cooperative, governmental entity)	Cooperative
Role within proposed project	Sponsor/Supporter
Primary Contact Name	Ben Fleming
Title	COO
Mailing Address City, State, Zip	1301 East Pocket Rd., Florence, SC 29506
Phone Number	843-665-4070
Email	

5.4 - Project Sponsors

Entity Name	Marion County School District
Entity Type (.e.g. Corporation, non-profit, cooperative, governmental entity)	Government Entity
Role within proposed project	Sponsor/Supporter
Primary Contact Name	Dr. Kandace Bethea
Title	Superintendent
Mailing Address City, State, Zip	709 North Main St., Marion, SC 29571
Phone Number	843-423-1811
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	Select one