

South Carolina 2024 ARPA Grant Program

Application SLFRF 3.0



Section 1.1 - Applicant Information

Legal Entity/Organization Name	Net Doctors SC LLC
Parent Organization	
Entity Type (e.g. Corporation, non-profit, cooperative, governmental entity)	Corporation
Primary Contact Name	Jeff Hopkins
Title	Manager
Mailing Address City, State, Zip	209 E North 1st St, Seneca, SC 29678
Phone Number	864-882-1650
Email	jeff.hopkins@netmds.com
Secondary Contact Name	Doral Hopkins
Title	CFO
Mailing Address City, State, Zip	209 E North 1st St, Seneca, SC 29678
Phone Number	864-710-0348
Email	dhopkins@netmds.com
FCC Registration Number (FRN):	26561597
Registered in the System for Award Management (SAM) - (Yes/No)	Yes
Unique Entity ID (UEI) Number	QFVXM87S4XN8
Federal Tax ID Number	46-4475133
SC State Vendor Number	7000221833

Section 1.2 - Project Name/Number

Project Number (Format XXX-XX)
 Project Name
 Project Priority (1-5, 1 serving as highest priority for applicant)

NDF-BB	
Biggerstaff Area	
	1

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)

	February 21, 2022
	12/31/2023
	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	
Backbone 2.3 Miles --- Drop 6.6 Miles --- Total 8.9 Miles	
	100.00%
	0.00%

Section 1.5 - Project Timeline

Project Start Date
 Project Construction Activity Begins
 Project Construction Activity Completion

	July 1, 2024
	July 7, 2024
	September 30, 2024

Customer Premises

Initiation of Operations (premise installations begin)

	August 15, 2024
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Overall Project Completion Date
 Will the project be completed within 24 months of official Notice to Proceed (NTP)?

	October 15, 2024
	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?	\$65
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)	ACP Life

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.	2 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 NOT 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 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 NOT 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	75%	\$ 154,063.93
Applicant-Provided Funding	25%	\$ 51,354.64
Third-Party Funding Source (if applicable)		\$ -
Total Project Cost		\$ 205,418.57
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.

Disagree

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.

Net Doctors has had a presence in the Biggerstaff Rd area for years and presently has fiber running on the roads of 68 of the 116 eligible BSL locations for this area. We would only have to build backbone for 48 of the locations that would attach to our existing fiber network. We hope this helps you consider our application for this area. Also, the total BSL locations for this area are 141 however we have already hooked up 25 leaving only 116 eligible.

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).**

We will provide a Minimum service of 100/100 service with a customer service staff that is presently rated the highest in our county with No contracts, Unlimited Usage, No Data Caps and No Slow downs.

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

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

We will utilize marketing techniques to share information via Mail, Email, Handouts, Door Hangers and Word of Mouth to properly inform the whole community about this internet opportunity.

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?

We will provide links to online training for different topics. Also, when our technicians install internet at a customers home, they take the time to share pertinent information about usage and hands on setup of personal internet capable devices.

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.

N/A

<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>We will utilize marketing techniques to share information via Mail, Email, Handouts, Door Hangers and Word of Mouth to properly inform the whole community about option concerning affordability.</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
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)
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5.3 - Project Sponsors

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5.4 - Project Sponsors

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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

No

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