

South Carolina 2024 ARPA Grant Program Application SLFRF 3.0



Section 1.1 - Applicant Information

Legal Entity/Organization Name	TruVista Communications, Inc.
Parent Organization	TruVista Communications, Inc.
Entity Type (e.g. Corporation, non-profit, cooperative, governmental entity)	Corporation
Primary Contact Name	Eric Ramey
Title	SVP- Regulatory and HR
Mailing Address City, State, Zip	112 York Street, Chester, South Carolina 29706
Phone Number	803-581-9152
Email	eric.ramey@truvista.biz
Secondary Contact Name	Wendy Lawson
Title	Director - Regulatory and Compliance
Mailing Address City, State, Zip	112 York Street, Chester, South Carolina 29706
Phone Number	803-581-9399
Email	wendy.lawson@truvista.biz
FCC Registration Number (FRN):	3707775
Registered in the System for Award Management (SAM) - (Yes/No)	Yes
Unique Entity ID (UEI) Number	NFNDFMFM5KSS4
Federal Tax ID Number	57-0139910
SC State Vendor Number	7000011071

Section 1.2 - Project Name/Number

Project Number (Format XXX-XX)	TVC-08
Project Name	Kershaw
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	June 30, 2014
Date of Applicant's Most Recent FCC Submission	3/1/2024
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	18.8
Estimated Percentage Underground	60.00%
Estimated Percentage Aerial	40.00%

Section 1.5 - Project Timeline

Project Start Date	March 31, 2025
Project Construction Activity Begins	September 30, 2025
Project Construction Activity Completion	June 30, 2026
Customer Premises <i>Initiation of Operations (premise installations begin)</i>	May 31, 2026
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)	100/20
What is the monthly cost of the plan?	\$69.00
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)	2 years

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. 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 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 NOT 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		\$ 910,370.00
Applicant-Provided Funding		\$ 632,630.00
Third-Party Funding Source (if applicable)		\$ -
Total Project Cost		\$ 1,543,000.00
Percentage Funds Requested from SC Broadband Office		59%
Percentage Funds from Applicant Match		41%
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.

TruVista ("Company") is proposing to use South Carolina ARPA funds to expand existing services into the under-served and unserved areas of Kershaw County. This fiber to the premise (FTTx) project will provide residents symmetrical internet speeds of up to 1Gbps. TruVista will leverage their existing talent and fiber core to extend fiber-to-the-premise facilities to the proposed area. This will allow these farmers, business owners, schoolchildren, patients, and residents to take advantage of gigabit speeds. In addition to fiber optic internet services, these households will also gain access to TruVista's robust voice, video and security offerings.

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).**

The project areas cover very rural areas of Kershaw, South Carolina. Affordability of broadband is an important aspect of Company's SC ARPA project. The lack of broadband in the project areas creates additional burdens when consumers attempt to access vital day to day necessities such as telemedicine, online learning and working from home. At the completion of this project, consumers will have the resources available to conduct these types of activities.

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.

In order to try to provide affordable broadband to low-income customers in the community, Company currently participates in the FCC's Federal Lifeline program and provides discounts to qualifying Lifeline subscribers of \$9.25 per month. Company also participates in the FCC Affordable Connectivity Program ("ACP") which replaced the EBBP on December 31, 2021. Under the ACP, customer can receive up to \$30 per month in additional support. Company commits to improving the awareness and adoption in the community by utilizing marketing efforts to educate the community of the broadband offerings. Some examples of our efforts will be direct mail campaigns, social media, as well as events in the community to gain awareness, education and offerings. Activities will include bringing our branded event vehicle to events in the market educating the community on the programs available.

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?

TruVista will address digital literacy by working to implement programs to educate the public. The initial rollout is planned for the fourth quarter of 2024 with the implementation of a new blog site. This will enable the company to have a centralized place to post education information and upcoming community events. TruVista will provide updates as part of the Quarterly Reporting required for ARPA 3.0..

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.

Collaborate with local organizations, schools, libraries, nonprofits, or government entities. These partners can provide resources, venues, or access to the target audience. Conduct surveys, focus groups, or meetings to grasp the challenges people face and what skills they want to learn.

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	Kershaw County School District
Entity Type (e.g. Corporation, non-profit, cooperative, governmental entity)	Educational entity
Role within proposed project	Non-Financial Contributor
Primary Contact Name	J. Harrison Goodwin, Ed.D.
Title	Superintendent
Mailing Address City, State, Zip	509 District Office Drive, Chester, SC 29706
Phone Number	803-385-6122
Email	superintendent@chester.k12.sc.us

5.2 - Project Sponsors

Entity Name	Omar Farms, LLC
Entity Type (e.g. Corporation, non-profit, cooperative, governmental entity)	Limited Liability Company
Role within proposed project	Non-Financial Contributor
Primary Contact Name	Gary Fry
Title	Owner/Farmer
Mailing Address City, State, Zip	
Phone Number	803-312-4588
Email	

5.3 - Project Sponsors

Entity Name	Kershaw County
Entity Type (e.g. Corporation, non-profit, cooperative, governmental entity)	Local Government Entity
Role within proposed project	Councilman
Primary Contact Name	Russell Brazell
Title	District 1 Councilman
Mailing Address City, State, Zip	515 Walnut St., Camden, SC 29020
Phone Number	803-425-1501
Email	russell.brazell@kershaw.sc.gov

5.4 - 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	

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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

Yes