

**South Carolina 2022 ARPA Grant
Program
Application SFRF 1.0**



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
FCC Registration Number (FRN):	21552922
Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) Number	116799873
Registered in the System for Award Management (SAM)	Yes
SAM Number	FKP2W71T9GK7
SC State Vendor Number	7000047335

Section 1.2 - Project Name/Number

Project Number (Format XXX-XX)	CHR-13
Project Name	Laurens County Broadband Expansion Project

Section 1.3 - Broadband Service Provider Context

Date of Applicant's Initial FCC Form 477 Submission	September 1, 2000
Date of Applicant's Most Recent FCC Form 477 Submission	June 30, 2022
Applicant has experience delivering broadband service via fiber and/or hybrid fiber-coax infrastructure (YES/NO)	Yes

Section 1.4 - Broadband Infrastructure Information

<p>Indicate the type(s) of broadband infrastructure technology to be deployed in the project service area.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>Fiber to the Premises</p> <p>Minimum Sustainable Download/Upload Speeds 100/100 Mbps</p>
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Section 1.5 - Proposed Broadband Pricing Tiers

Rates less than \$10/month (YES/NO)	No
If yes to \$10 month plan what are the upload/download speeds	
Rates between \$10 - \$14.99 (YES/NO)	No
If yes to \$10-\$14.99 month plan what are the upload/download speeds	
Rates between \$15 - \$19.99 (YES/NO)	Yes
If yes to \$15-\$19.99 month plan what are the upload/download speeds	Spectrum Internet Assist - \$17.99/month (30 Download Mbps/4 Upstream Mbps)
Rates between \$20 - \$24.99 (YES/NO)	No
If yes to \$20-\$24.99 month plan what are the upload/download speeds	
Rates between \$25 - \$34.99 (YES/NO)	No
If yes to \$25-\$34.99 month plan what are the upload/download speeds	
Do the above speed tiers include unlimited data? (YES/NO)	Yes
Is a Consumer-based Contract Required? (YES/NO)	No
Is the pricing fixed? (YES/NO)	No
What's the duration of the pricing? (In Months)	Yes

Charter employs a nationwide pricing structure (called Spectrum Pricing & Packaging), which offers standardized pricing for each tier of broadband internet service Charter offers new customers across its service territory. Charter's pricing strategy ensures that rural customers receive the same pricing as other highly competitive areas in the state. Charter's wireline broadband offerings currently include no data caps, usage-based pricing, early termination or modem fees.

See attached information about Charter's Spectrum Pricing & Packaging

Section 1.6 - Project Timeline
(Maximum Timeline Allotted is 24 months)

Project Start Date	January 1, 2023
Project Construction Activity Begins	August 1, 2023
Project Construction Activity Complete	December 31, 2024
Customer Premises	February 1, 2024
<i>Installations Begin</i>	February 1, 2024
<i>Installations End</i>	December 31, 2024
Overall Project Completion Date	December 31, 2023
Will the project be completed within 24 months of official Notice to Proceed (NTP)?	Yes

Section 1.7 - Project Service Area Information

Estimated Miles of Fiber to be Installed	91.5
Estimated Percentage Underground	69%
Estimated Percentage Aerial	31%
Number of Counties to be Impacted	1
County Names	Laurens
Total Number of Census Blocks with Concentrations of K-12	147
Total number of Census Blocks in DDA's	26
Total number of Census Blocks NOT in DDA or K-12 Concentration	46
Total Number of unserved 2020 Census Blocks part of Proposed Project	201
Total number of housing units served	1952
Total number of businesses served	19
Total number of other Public Facilities e.g. community centers, fire stations served	0
Total Structures Served	1971
Average Cost Per Structure Served	\$ 2,991.20
Does the applicant plan to serve every structure in the proposed project service area?	Yes

If no, provide an explanation for why the Project will not Pass all Homes in the proposed project service area

Charter's shapefiles captures all State Grants and RDOF commitments to be completed ny EOY 2024. The shapefiles submitted for Laurens County includes 147 census blocks, 170.2 route miles, and 2,836 unserved passings.

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Section 2.2 - Funding Details

Description	Comment	Amount
South Carolina ARPA Broadband Grant Program Funds requested		\$968,152.61
Applicant-Provided Funding		\$4,927,500.00
Third-Party Funding Source (if applicable)		\$-
Total Project Cost		\$5,895,652.61
Percentage Funds Requested from SC Broadband Office		16%
Percentage Funds from Applicant Match		84%
Percentage Funds from Third Party Funding Source		0%

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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.

Agree

The Project will comply with the requirements set forth in ARPA, South Carolina Act No. ____ 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 March 3, 2021, and December 31, 2024 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

Spectrum Southeast, LLC, by its Manager, Charter Communications Inc. (collectively "Spectrum" or "Charter") is requesting a grant to construct a last-mile fiber-to-the-premises ("FTTP") via Ethernet passive optical network ("FTTP EPON" or "EPON") to provide service to unserved and underserved households in **Laurens County** (the "Project"). The Project includes building approximately **91.5** miles of fiber optic network to connect an estimated **1,971** unserved and underserved homes, businesses, and anchor institutions (plus an additional **865** RDOF locations).

The Project will use Charter's FTTP EPON architecture, a standardized and mature model that is operated by Charter across the country, engineered and managed to meet 1 Gbps downstream speeds, 1 Gbps upstream speeds, and latency of well below 100 milliseconds. Charter's FTTP EPON deployment is relevant and suitable for remote learning and remote working, offering very high bandwidth and low latency service attributes that accommodate numerous members of a household or small business simultaneously using bandwidth-intensive applications, such as video conferencing, telemedicine, video streaming, gaming, virtual or augmented reality sessions, and numerous other applications.

This proposal is not intended to obligate Spectrum or the County to proceed with any potential relationship or transaction unless the parties enter into a subsequent definitive agreement with respect to the subject matter herein.

Describe how your proposal meets the needs of the community to be served as described in the "Guidelines."

This proposed project will effectively serve the needs of the local community by bringing market-leading FTTH offerings, at gigabit speeds, to the Project area, ensuring that the broadband infrastructure is "future-proofed" and able to serve the needs of local residents, businesses, and anchor institutions for years to come. The last-mile connections constructed under the Proposal would connect to, and leverage, the substantial capabilities of Charter's pre-existing middle-mile and backbone infrastructure that power its market-leading broadband services nationwide. The ability to leverage Charter's existing network facilities and network management resources will also ensure that the broadband speeds offered to the project area are effectively managed and can be continuously scaled to meet future bandwidth, service quality, and latency requirements.

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.

Each day without connectivity increases the gap between those who have broadband and those who do not. In this proposal, Charter aims to close the digital divide by offering to build the 865 RDOF locations identified in this Project within the specified timeline of this grant program at no cost to the state*. Moreover, Charter is proposing to build an additional 1,971 locations as a part of the state grant program (950 of which are identified as state Priority locations). This results in a total build of 3,118 locations in Laurens County.

SUMMARY:

- Charter RDOF Locations: 865
- SC State Grant Locations: 1,971 (950 of which are Priority Areas)
- Total Locations: 2,836 (865 RDOF Locations + 1,971 SC State Grant Locations)

*Subject to timing of grant awards, pole attachment make-ready work required to install facilities, permitting delays, ability to access relevant locations, or other delays outside Spectrum's reasonable control, including pandemic-related or raw materials shortages.

Describe any plans or programs you have developed 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 expand to 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 modernization of our network, the speeds we offer for internet service are dramatically faster than years ago, and we continually increase those speeds, most recently raising our download speeds for our flagship offering to 300Mbps.

Charter has engaged in several additional initiatives and developed numerous business practices that benefit consumers in need, and demonstrate our commitment to the communities we serve. The Affordable Connectivity Program ("ACP"), which Charter participates in, provides a \$30 discount on internet service for eligible customers. Charter has created a low cost offering (100/10 Mbps) that makes internet effectively free or very low cost for eligible customers on a promotional basis, when coupled with the \$30 discount.

The links listed below contain additional information about our programs:

- Stay Connected K-12 Program: <https://www.spectrum.net/support/internet/student-home>
- Spectrum Digital Education Grant Program: <https://corporate.charter.com/digital-education/grants>
- Spectrum Community Center Assist: <https://corporate.charter.com/community-assist>
- Spectrum Community Investment Loan Fund: <https://corporate.charter.com/community-investment-loan-fund>

If awarded a grant in **Laurens County**, Charter will work with the County and its local communities 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.

As part of the Project, explain how the Applicant will make efforts to increase digital literacy, for example, support through online training?

Charter believes that no South Carolinian should be kept from accessing the internet due to fear or a lack of digital literacy. Charter has long been committed to helping address this challenge by increasing adoption and access to technology through our philanthropic support to key community organizations including 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>.

As part of the Project, identify any areas that the Applicant would be willing to provide public Wi-Fi in a central or community location to improve access for all South Carolinians and for what period of time.

If awarded a grant in **Laurens County**, Charter commits to working with the County and/or localities to assess local needs regarding wireless connectivity in the communities that would be served as a part of this build.

List documents that demonstrate your organization currently has the necessary funds to complete this project/proposal. Attach documents to this proposal.

Charter Communications, Inc., the company behind the customer-facing brand of Spectrum, is a Fortune 70 company. All portions of the project to be funded by Charter will be funded from the company's general construction budget. Full copies of Charter's most recent financials can be accessed here:

- Annual Report to Shareholders: <https://ir.charter.com/financial-information/annual-reports>
- SEC Filings: <https://ir.charter.com/financial-information/sec-filings>
- Annual Form 10-K for year ended December 31, 2021: <https://ir.charter.com/static-files/63606f63-1b11-4d60-91a0-5395f1552592>

Attached to this application is Charter's latest Annual Report.

List any lease, franchise agreement, interconnection agreement, authorization, permit, or other items needed to complete this project.

Charter (and its predecessor companies) have been providing broadband internet service in South Carolina for decades and will be able to draw upon the experience and capabilities of its regional and local personnel. Charter currently serves approximately **914,000 customers** in **152 South Carolina communities**.

Charter is an experienced service provider and a leading broadband company, and is well-versed and experienced in abiding by all necessary federal, state, and local requirements that are impacted during the build out and expansion of its network. Charter's role in the project will consist of working with all parties involved to secure the necessary franchises, permits, pole attachments, and other authority as necessary to support the project.

Will the Project deliver broadband in the approved Project Service Area that meets or exceeds symmetrical download and upload speeds of 100/100 Mbps?	Yes
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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

Explain how the Applicant will consult with the community in the Project Service Area on the general affordability needs of the target markets.

If granted an award in **Laurens County**, Charter is committed to working with the County and its 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 County or localities to increase overall awareness, adoption, and digital literacy about the broadband services that will become available as a result of this network expansion.

As required under this program, Charter will be offering an affordable high-speed internet plan that will not include an income-based eligibility requirement. This plan will provide 100 Mbps download speeds and 20 Mbps upload speeds at **\$59.99/month**.

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
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If no to above, explain.

N/A

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
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If yes to above, explain.

N/A

Is there an identified need in the Project Service Area for additional broadband infrastructure that is not met by existing federal or state funding commitments?	Select one
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If so, explain whether service to households and businesses in the Project Service Area should require a holistic approach that provides service to a wider area in order to make ongoing service of certain households or businesses within the service area economical.

As noted in our response, Charter is proposing to **accelerate** its commitment to build-out the RDOF locations identified in this proposal to meet the specified timeframe as required under this grant program at **no cost to the state**.

Charter is proud of its commitment to expand service in rural communities, nationally, and in South Carolina, and views this Project as another step to work with the State and local governments to help close the digital divide in the County.

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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)
Role within proposed project
Primary Contact Name
Title
Mailing Address City, State, Zip
Phone Number
Email

5.3 - 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

5.4 - 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
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6.1 - Attachment Checklist

(Please attach the following items to application)

GIS Shapefiles

Proposed 2020 Census Blocks

Yes

Proposed Service Areas

Yes

Proposed Fiber/Cable Lines

Yes

Proposed Structures Served by Type

Yes

Proposed Network Junctions

Yes

6.2 Signed affidavit certifying grant application is complete and accurate

Yes

Partners for financial support related to proposed project or non-cash support provide associated documentation.

No

Letters of support evidencing community need and strategic partnerships

No

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

Yes

Certificates of Insurance

Yes

Certificates of Bonding, as described in CFR § 200.326 Bonding requirements.

No

Any additional information evidencing community need for project

No