

# South Carolina 2022 ARPA Grant Program Application SFRF 1.0



## Section 1.1 - Applicant Information

Legal Entity/Organization Name	Cogeco US (SC), LLC, d/b/a Breezeline
Parent Organization Entity Type (e.g. Corporation, non-profit, cooperative, governmental entity)	Cogeco US (SC), LLC Single Member LLC
Primary Contact Name	William Newborg
Title	Director Government Grants and Funding
Mailing Address City, State, Zip	PO Box 1147, 126 Urbanna Rd. Saluda Va.23149
Phone Number	804-815-7633
Email	wnewborg@breezeline.com
FCC Registration Number (FRN):	20-5160185
Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) Number	Cogeco US Finance, LLC - 80-203-8872
Registered in the System for Award Management (SAM)	Cogeco US Finance, LLC
SAM Number	Unique entity id# NK7KTL97DJJ3CAGE# 7GU77
SC State Vendor Number	70000313281 (Breezeline)

## Section 1.2 - Project Name/Number

Project Number (Format XXX-XX)	BZL-01
Project Name	Breezeline SC ARPA Aiken County

### **Section 1.3 - Broadband Service Provider Context**

Date of Applicant's Initial FCC Form 477 Submission	February 23, 2007
Date of Applicant's Most Recent FCC Form 477 Submission	February 28th 2022
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	Fiber to the Premises Minimum Sustainable Download/Upload Speeds 100/100 Mbps
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### **Section 1.5 - Proposed Broadband Pricing Tiers**

Rates less than \$10/month (YES/NO)	Yes
If yes to \$10 month plan what are the upload/download speeds	15/1
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)	No
If yes to \$15 - \$19.99 month plan what are the upload/download speeds	
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)	Yes
If yes to \$25 - \$34.99 month plan what are the upload/download speeds	100/10
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)	Yes
What's the duration of the pricing? (In Months)	Monthly

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

Project Start Date	January 9, 2023
Project Construction Activity Begins	February 1, 2023
Project Construction Activity Complete	October 1, 2024
Customer Premises	673
<i>Installations Begin</i>	February 1, 2024
<i>Installations End</i>	December 1, 2024
Overall Project Completion Date	October 31, 2024
24 months of official Notice to Proceed (NTP)?	Yes

**Section 1.7 - Project Service Area Information**

Estimated Miles of Fiber to be Installed	61.15
Estimated Percentage Underground	86%
Estimated Percentage Aerial	14%
Number of Counties to be Impacted	1
County Names	Aiken County
Total Number of Census Blocks with Concentrations of K-12	12
Total number of Census Blocks in DDA's	0
Total number of Census Blocks NOT in DDA or K-12 Concentration	6
Proposed Project	18
Total number of housing units served	661
Total number of businesses served	5
centers, fire stations served	7
Total Structures Served	673
Average Cost Per Structure Served	\$ 4,001.00
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

N/A

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## Section 2.2 - Funding Details

Description	Comment	Amount
South Carolina ARPA Broadband Grant Program Funds requested		\$ 1,346,337.07
Applicant-Provided Funding		\$ 1,346,337.07
Third-Party Funding Source (if applicable)		\$ -
Total Project Cost		\$ 2,692,674.14
Percentage Funds Requested from SC Broadband Office		50%
Percentage Funds from Applicant Match		50%
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

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 March 3, 2021, and December 31, 2024 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

utilities as well as local water sewer utilities as to any possible efficiencies that can be

Agree

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### **4.1 - Additional Information**

(max 2000 character limit per item)

Provide a Summary Narrative that describes your project

Cogeco US (SC), LLC, d/b/a Breezeline (formerly Atlantic Broadband), has been doing business in Aiken County since 2007. The scope of this project is to extend our network into Eastern Aiken County to serve 100% of locations in 12 Red High Priority K-12 areas and 6 Pink Unserved areas across a total of 18 census blocks. The total passings to be served includes 673 locations, which includes 661 homes, 5 businesses, 2 fire stations, 4 churches and 1 school. This project will ensure that residents and businesses have access to quality, affordable broadband service that can meet their current and future needs, including online learning, remote work, and access to state-of-the-art telehealth. The proposed 61.15 mile project is a Fiber-to-the Home ("FTTH") deployment using Gigabit Passive Optical Network ("GPON") architecture to deliver fiber to each location. The proposed network has been designed to be scalable and expandable to meet future needs as new locations are built within the project area and as end-user demands require higher bandwidth connections.

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

Breezeline's broadband service will improve the quality of life for locations that are unserved. Access to high-speed internet is critical for education, employment, economic development, governmental services, entrepreneurship, tourism, telehealth services, communication, commerce, entertainment, public safety, and other essential services. Breezeline's commitment to building out passive optical networks ("PON") as the underpinnings of FTTH ensures any emerging consumer or business applications can be delivered reliably for years to come.

This expansion will extend broadband to 100% of the 673 locations in a total of 18 CBGs which includes 5 businesses, 2 fire stations, 4 churches and 1 school. This project will ensure that residents and businesses have access to quality, affordable broadband service that can meet their current and future needs, including online learning, remote work, and access to state-of-the-art telehealth. To assist in closing the digital divide, Breezeline provides broadband connectivity at discounted prices for financially struggling households through the Federal Communications Commission's Affordable Connectivity Program ("ACP") Program. FTTH architecture is a critical element to serve not only residences but schools, libraries, hospitals, retailers and other businesses in the area. Fiber offers not only high bandwidth and low latency but also high reliability. Fiber is ideal for businesses and anchor institutions that depend on the internet to operate. This fiber infrastructure is what allows businesses to be able to locate and expand in rural communities.

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.

The proposed project area includes 11 census blocks that have been awarded federal funding in the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC") Rural Digital Opportunity Fund ("RDOF") Phase 1 Auction to CCO Holdings. The census blocks are as follows: 450030219022003, 450030219022007, 450030219022013, 450030219022015, 450030219022018, 450030219022019, 450030219022020, 450030219022021, 450030219022042, 450030219022043 and a very small portion of 450030219022022. ( 3 homes out of 72). Breezeline has to build through these Census Blocks in order to reach the unserved High Priority Census Blocks.

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

Breezeline implements numerous activities to advertise broadband capabilities to residents. During the construction phase in the public right of way, Breezeline will place a door hanger at each home notifying residents of the construction planned in their area to offer Breezeline service. They will use various communication activities to notify residents of availability. These can include door hangers, direct mail pieces, and visits by Breezeline representatives to discuss service offerings. Door hangers also will be left with contact information for those wishing to activate Breezeline services. If a Breezeline Representative visits and the resident is not home, a door hanger will be left with the contact information of the Representative. Breezeline will partner with the County to communicate to the locations located in the project area on availability of services to promote adoption. Breezeline has created printed and digital flyers to promote the Affordable Connectivity Program ("ACP"), which can be distributed throughout the County through schools, libraries and the Department of Social Services.

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

Breezeline provides broadband connectivity at discounted prices for financially struggling households through the Federal Communications Commission's Affordable Connectivity Program ("ACP") Program . The program provides a discount of up to \$30 per month towards broadband service for eligible households (and up to \$75 per month for households on qualifying Tribal lands) so that they can be connected for distance learning, work from home, telehealth, and other critical online destinations during the COVID-19 pandemic. Customers who subscribe to Breezeline through the ACP program can now sign up for our Internet Assist Plus plan, with 100/10 Mbps for \$29.99/month. New, existing, and prior customers that meet financial eligibility requirements may choose from various internet packages with speeds designed to meet a range of household needs. More information can be found on our website [www.breezeline.com/acp](http://www.breezeline.com/acp). Breezeline has created printed and digital flyers to promote the ACP Program, which are distributed throughout the County through schools, libraries, and the Department of Social Services

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.

While Breezeline currently does not have a Public WiFi solution, Breezeline would be open to discussing possible options to provide the bandwidth necessary for a third party WiFi provider.

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

Breezeline has provided a copy of the 2021 Annual Financial report in Attachment 11. Breezeline has worked with numerous state and local government partners on broadband expansion projects. Breezeline has successfully managed multiple grants in New Hampshire, Maryland and Virginia systems and has extensive experience constructing, operating, and managing state-of-the-art broadband networks. Breezeline's commitment to building out passive optical networks ("PON") as the underpinnings of Fiber-to-the-Premise ("FTTP") ensures any emerging consumer or business applications can be delivered reliably for years to come.

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

Breezeline already has a Franchise agreement with the County of Aiken. We also have existing Pole attachment agreements with the various power and telephone companies .

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



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.

To assist in closing the digital divide, Breezeline provides broadband connectivity at discounted prices for financially struggling households through the Federal Communications Commission’s Affordable Connectivity Program (“ACP”) Program . The program provides a discount of up to \$30 per month towards broadband service for eligible households (and up to \$75 per month for households on qualifying Tribal lands) so that they can be connected for distance learning, work from home, telehealth and other critical online destinations during the COVID-19 pandemic. Customers who subscribe to Breezeline through the ACP program can now sign up for our Internet Assist Plus plan, with 100/10 Mbps for \$29.99/month, which includes the modem. New, existing and prior customers that meet financial eligibility requirements may choose from various internet packages with speeds designed to meet a range of household needs. More information can be found on our website [www.breezeline.com/acp](http://www.breezeline.com/acp). Breezeline has created printed and digital flyers to promote the ACP Program, which are distributed throughout the County through schools, libraries and the Department of Social Services. There are multiple discounted promotional offers offered to our customers in door-to-door sales, through our call center and online. As these projects are completed, Breezeline’s intention is to use door-to-door sales and direct mail with varying discount offers. We partner with the County to communicate to the locations located in the project area on availability of services to promote adoption.

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.

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

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?

No

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.

N/A

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**5.1 - Project Sponsors**

Entity Name	City Manager Aiken South Carolina
Entity Type (.e.g. Corporation, non-profit, cooperative, governmental entity)	Government Agency
Role within proposed project	Supporter of Breezeline
Primary Contact Name	Stuart T. Bedenbaugh
Title	City Manager Aiken South Carolina
Mailing Address City, State, Zip	111 Chesterfield St. S. Aiken SC 29801
Phone Number	803-642-7600
Email	sbedenbaugh@cityofaikensc.gov

**5.2 - Project Sponsors**

Entity Name	Western SC
Entity Type (.e.g. Corporation, non-profit, cooperative, governmental entity)	Corporation
Role within proposed project	Economic Development in Aiken Co
Primary Contact Name	Will Williams
Title	President and CEO
Mailing Address City, State, Zip	319 Scholar Loop. Aiken SC.,29801
Phone Number	803-641-3300
Email	will@westernsc.org

### **5.3 - Project Sponsors**

Entity Name	South Carolina Cable Television Association
Entity Type (.e.g. Corporation, non-profit, cooperative, governmental entity)	Non Profit Trade Association
Role within proposed project	Advance the common interest of the Cable industry in SC
Primary Contact Name	Ray Sharpe
Title	Executive Director
Mailing Address City, State, Zip	1201 Main Street, Suite 1805. Columbia Sc. 29201
Phone Number	803-708-4851
Email	raysharpe@mysccta.com

### **5.4 - Project Sponsors**

Entity Name	Aiken County Council
Entity Type (.e.g. Corporation, non-profit, cooperative, governmental entity)	Governmental Body
Role within proposed project	Aiken County Council -Serving the Aiken County community at large
Primary Contact Name	L. Andrew Siders
Title	Vice Chairman, Aiken County Council
Mailing Address City, State, Zip	1930 University Pkwy. Aiken , SC. 29801
Phone Number	803-642-1690
Email	andrew.siders1776@yahoo.com

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## 6.1 - Attachment Checklist

### 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 - If awarded, the proposed network junctions will be provided after a final walkout and design is completed.*

No

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

Yes

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

**Response: Certificate of Bonding will be provided if awarded grant.**

Any additional information evidencing community need for project

No