

South Carolina 2022 ARPA 1.0 Priority Area SLFRF Comment Form



ARPA 1.0 Comment Form *ONE form per project*

ORS is NOT accepting any revisions to Grant Applications during the Comment Period. However, all ISPs are welcomed to comment on their own Grant Application(s) to notify ORS of any scrivener's error(s) that may exist. All comments will be published on the ORS website.

1. Commenter's Name	Denny Thompson
2. Commenter's Email	Denny.Thompson@hometelco.com
3. Commenter's Phone	843-761-9173
4. Applicant Parent Organization Name	Home Telecom
5. Applicant Legal Entity Name	Home Telephone Company, Inc.
6. Application Project Number	HTC-01
7. Application Project Name	SC ARPA-01
REQUIRED 8. Is this a comment for a revision of your own ARPA 1.0 Grant Application (Yes/No)	NO
9. Do you have documentation and/or evidence to submit to the SC Broadband Office which supports your position?	YES

10. Application Comments

Re: ZTL-002

Project Name: ZTL-BEK-002

Many of the project areas proposed by ZiTel, LLC within Berkeley County are either served or in the process of being served by Home Telecom as part of the USDA's ReConnect Project or the ORS' South Carolina Rural Broadband Grant Program. Construction in these proposed census blocks under the ReConnect project is well underway. The ReConnect project will see the majority of residents within these census blocks connected with fiber-to-the-home broadband by the end of 2023, and Home expects the project will be fully complete by the end of 2024. Construction under the South Carolina Rural Broadband Grant is complete.

In addition to these census blocks, Home identified multiple areas within ZiTel, LLC's application that already meet the definition of served. Some of these census blocks include ones that are not only served by Home, but in some areas, by multiple providers as well. The attached map, labeled as Exhibit A, demonstrates the census blocks funded by the ReConnect and ORS grant projects and census blocks that meet the definition of served compared to ZiTel, LLC's SFRF application. Shapefiles can be provided upon request.

Between areas currently served by Home and Home's ongoing broadband grant projects, approximately 80% of the census blocks within ZiTel, LLC's proposal are already either sufficiently served or will be served by the above-mentioned timeline. The approval of ZiTel, LLC's application for these census blocks means multiple areas will be overbuilt with funding that could be used in other unserved areas of rural South Carolina.