

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



Section 1.1 - Applicant Information

Legal Entity/Organization Name	Home Telephone Company, Inc. d/b/a Home Telecom
Parent Organization	Home Telephone Company, Inc.
Entity Type (e.g. Corporation, non-profit, cooperative, governmental entity)	Corporation
Primary Contact Name	Denny Thompson
Title	Director of External Affairs
Mailing Address City, State, Zip	579 Stoney Landing Road, Moncks Corner, SC 29461
Phone Number	843-761-9173
Email	Denny.Thompson@hometelco.com
FCC Registration Number (FRN):	0020980116
Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) Number	2797900
Registered in the System for Award Management (SAM)	Yes
SAM Number	1BVH3
SC State Vendor Number	

Section 1.2 - Project Name/Number

Project Number (Format XXX-XX)	HTC-02
Project Name	SC ARPA-02

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	22-Aug-22
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. 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 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	Please see Attachment A for pricing structure
Rates between \$10 - \$14.99 (YES/NO)	No
If yes to \$10-\$14.99 month plan what are the upload/download speeds	Please see Attachment A for pricing structure
Rates between \$15 - \$19.99 (YES/NO)	No
If yes to \$15-\$19.99 month plan what are the upload/download speeds	Please see Attachment A for pricing structure
Rates between \$20 - \$24.99 (YES/NO)	No
If yes to \$20-\$24.99 month plan what are the upload/download speeds	Please see Attachment A for pricing structure
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)	Yes
What's the duration of the pricing? (In Months)	Yes

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

Project Start Date	Upon receiving Notice to Proceed
Project Construction Activity Begins	Three (3) months after receiving NTP
Project Construction Activity Complete	Twenty (20) months after receiving NTP
Customer Premises <i>Installations Begin</i>	Nine (9) months after receiving NTP
<i>Installations End</i>	Twenty-four (24) months after receiving NTP
Overall Project Completion Date	Within twenty-four (24) months of receiving Notice to Proceed
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	144 Miles
Estimated Percentage Underground	95%
Estimated Percentage Aerial	Up to 5%
Number of Counties to be Impacted	2
County Names	Berkeley & Dorchester
Total Number of Census Blocks with Concentrations of K-12	105
Total number of Census Blocks in DDA's	73
Total number of Census Blocks NOT in DDA or K-12 Concentration	10
Total Number of unserved 2020 Census Blocks part of Proposed Project	81
Total number of housing units served	2692
Total number of businesses served	77
Total number of other Public Facilities e.g. community centers, fire stations served	7
Total Structures Served	2776
Average Cost Per Structure Served	\$3,637.00
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

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Section 2.2 - Funding Details

Description	Comment	Amount
South Carolina ARPA Broadband Grant Program Funds requested		\$ 4,964,220.50
Applicant-Provided Funding		\$ 4,964,220.50
Third-Party Funding Source (if applicable)		\$ -
Total Project Cost		\$ 9,928,441.00
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

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

Home has identified three un/underserved areas of within Berkeley and Dorchester Counties that are depicted in the attached shapefiles. Under this project, symmetrical fiber-to-the-home (FTTH) will be built to 2,776 address points within 182 census blocks. Of these 2,776 address points, 565 address points will be upgraded from DSL to symmetrical FTTH. To serve these residents, Home will expand its advanced FTTH network capable of delivering high speed internet at up to 10 Gbps synchronous speeds. The total estimated cost to build broadband to residents and businesses within these areas is approximately \$9.9 million. Home proposes this project be completed with a 50/50 Grant where the ORS will provide 50% of funding and Home will provide the remaining 50% with internal cash. This project consists of approximately 144 miles of underground mainline fiber optic cables, installing approximately 259 miles of fiber optic service drops, all splicing, handholes, bores and other ancillary construction, installation, and provisioning of the necessary fiber optic electronics needed both at the customer premise and within Home's network necessary to deliver high speed internet up to 10 Gbps synchronous speeds. It should be noted that with large buildouts such as these, some overlap into areas that are considered served is possible. Home estimates that up to 5% of address points may be considered served.

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

Home Telecom serves Berkeley County, portions of Dorchester County, and the Greater Charleston area. Home's local, highly trained managers, customer service representatives, and technical staff are all committed to a revolutionary approach to telecommunication technology and giving the best customer service experience. With this robust technology, Home is able to support economic development throughout the Tri-County area while keeping future growth as a top priority. The services proposed in this project will be provided over the same FTTH platform Home currently uses to serve customers in more populated areas. Home's fiber is deployed almost entirely underground, which minimizes damage from the elements, ensures fewer outages, and provides a longer life span for materials. Home has demonstrated a commitment to provide rural broadband by participating in several grant programs including the USDA's ReConnect program, the Rural Broadband Grant Program and the CARES Grant Program both through the ORS, and more recently, a public/private partnership with Dorchester County. All of these projects have either been fully completed or are on target to be completed within their stipulated guidelines. The proposed communities listed within the attached shapefiles currently do not have sufficient broadband today, but should Home's grant application be accepted, the residents within these communities will be able to better work from home, participate in telehealth services, and enhance distance learning for students. Based on Home's assessment of the project area, there are 105 Census Blocks with concentrations of K-12 Students, 81 Unserved Census Blocks, and 73 Census Blocks that meet the criteria as a HUD DDA. This Grant will bring broadband up to date in these areas and will no doubt have a positive impact in these 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.

N/A

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

Home offers FTTH Broadband service with symmetrical speeds of up to 10 Gbps with no data caps or reduction in speed based on usage. This same service will be offered to subscribers in rural areas as well. Additionally, subscribers in these areas will be offered the same rates, terms, and conditions as subscribers in more populated areas. As for affordability, Home offers a variety of plans to meet nearly every budget and utilizes customer satisfaction surveys to include product satisfaction and product value for price. To further assist customers with obtaining affordable broadband, Home participates in the Affordable Connectivity Plan (ACP) administered by the Federal Communication Commission (FCC). Qualifying participants can receive 100/100 Mbps internet service for as low as \$9.95 per month. Home also offers promotions throughout the year that could further help customers save on their bills. A chart detailing Home's current every day and promotional pricing structure is attached as Attachment A with this application.

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

Home is a proud supporter of the Tri-County Cradle to Career Collaborative that focuses on digital inclusion for Tri-County area children. In the past, they have helped to provide guidance and materials on how to best guide new customers in effectively using the internet. Furthermore, over the last two years Home, through partnerships with Google and the Berkeley County School District, has provided internet to the economically disadvantaged area of Cross within Berkeley County to provide internet to students free of charge.

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.

At this time, Home has not yet identified any locations within the project area that are suitable for public Wi-Fi. However, Home is always open to considering public Wi-Fi within communities as opportunities arise and currently provides free public Wi-Fi to several public parks throughout the areas it serves.

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

Please see the letter from South State Bank as Attachment B. We kindly ask that this information remain confidential.

List any lease, franchise agreement, interconnection agreement, authorization, permit, or other items needed to complete this project.	
Normal construction permits will be obtained as design and construction progresses. Home currently possesses all leases, franchises, and interconnection agreements needed to complete this 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
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 Service Area on the general affordability needs of the target markets.	
As it has done on previous projects, Home intends to deploy sales representatives door-to-door in buildout areas to increase adoption rates and provide potential customers with the opportunity to discuss options that will best suit the needs of their business or household. Home is also working with community organizations to have representatives attend local sporting and community events where practical to help drive adoption rates and offer assistance with signing up for the ACP.	
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.	No
If no to above, explain.	
As detailed throughout this application, Home Telecom's project prioritizes investment in fiber-optic infrastructure and provides affordability options including the participation in ACP. However, Home Telecom is organized as a private 'C' corporation.	

<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></p>	
<p>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?</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>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.</p>	
<p></p>	

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All letters of support are included as Attachment C

5.1 - Project Sponsors

Entity Name	Dorchester County Government
Entity Type (.e.g. Corporation, non-profit, cooperative, governmental entity)	Governmental Entity
Role within proposed project	Provided a letter of Support
Primary Contact Name	Jason Ward
Title	Dorchester County Administrator
Mailing Address City, State, Zip	201 Johnson Street St. George, SC 29477
Phone Number	843-832-0195
Email	JWalters@dorchestercountysc.gov

5.2 - Project Sponsors

Entity Name	Greater Summerville/Dorchester Chamber of Commerce
Entity Type (.e.g. Corporation, non-profit, cooperative, governmental entity)	Non-Profit
Role within proposed project	Provided a letter of support
Primary Contact Name	Rita Berry
Title	President & CEO
Mailing Address City, State, Zip	402 N. Main Street Summerville, SC 29483
Phone Number	843-873-2931
Email	rberry@greatersummerville.org

5.3 - Project Sponsors

Entity Name	Berkeley County Government
Entity Type (.e.g. Corporation, non-profit, cooperative, governmental entity)	Governmental Entity
Role within proposed project	Provided a letter of support
Primary Contact Name	Johnny Cribb
Title	County Supervisor
Mailing Address City, State, Zip	1003 N. Highway 52 Moncks Corner, SC 29461
Phone Number	843-719-4234
Email	johnny.cribb@berkeleycountysc.gov

5.4 - Project Sponsors

Entity Name	Berkeley County Chamber of Commerce
Entity Type (.e.g. Corporation, non-profit, cooperative, governmental entity)	Non-Profit
Role within proposed project	Provided a letter of support
Primary Contact Name	Elaine Morgan
Title	CEO
Mailing Address City, State, Zip	P.O. Box 968 Moncks Corner, SC 29461
Phone Number	843-761-8238
Email	emorgan@bcoc.com

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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

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.

Yes

Any additional information evidencing community need for project

No