

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



Section 1.1 - Applicant Information

Legal Entity/Organization Name	CarolinaConnect Cooperative
Parent Organization	Newberry Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Entity Type (e.g. Corporation, non-profit, cooperative, governmental entity)	Cooperative
Primary Contact Name	Glenn Martin
Title	CEO
Mailing Address City, State, Zip	PO Box 1667, Lexington, SC 29071
Phone Number	803-210-5526
Email	glenn.martin@carolinaconnect.com
FCC Registration Number (FRN):	0025826207
Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) Number	118067621
Registered in the System for Award Management (SAM)	HDNAUL952PH9
SAM Number	91SB0
SC State Vendor Number	7000319695

Section 1.2 - Project Name/Number

Project Number (Format XXX-XX)	NEC-04
Project Name	Duke Area

Section 1.3 - Broadband Service Provider Context

Date of Applicant's Initial FCC Form 477 Submission	December 31, 2017
Date of Applicant's Most Recent FCC Form 477 Submission	6/30/2022
Applicant has experience delivering broadband service via fiber and/or hybrid fiber-coax infrastructure (YES/NO)	Yes

Section 1.4 - Broadband Infrastructure Information

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
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Section 1.5 - Proposed Broadband Pricing Tiers

Rates less than \$10/month (YES/NO)
 If yes to \$10 month plan what are the upload/download speeds
 Rates between \$10 - \$14.99 (YES/NO)
 If yes to \$10 - \$14.99 month plan what are the upload/download speeds
 Rates between \$15 - \$19.99 (YES/NO)
 If yes to \$15 - \$19.99 month plan what are the upload/download speeds
 Rates between \$20 - \$24.99 (YES/NO)
 If yes to \$20 - \$24.99 month plan what are the upload/download speeds
 Rates between \$25 - \$34.99 (YES/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)
 Is a Consumer-based Contract Required? (YES/NO)
 Is the pricing fixed? (YES/NO)
 What's the duration of the pricing? (In Months)

No
No
No
No
Yes
Speeds Remain the Same
Yes
No
Yes
Yes

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

Project Start Date	December 30, 2022
Project Construction Activity Begins	June 8, 2024
Project Construction Activity Complete	December 30, 2024
Customer Premises	317
<i>Installations Begin</i>	August 1, 2024
<i>Installations End</i>	December 30, 2024
Overall Project Completion Date	December 31, 2024
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	17
Estimated Percentage Underground	10
Estimated Percentage Aerial	90
Number of Counties to be Impacted	1
County Names	Newberry
Total Number of Census Blocks with Concentrations of K-12	11
Total number of Census Blocks in DDA's	0
Total number of Census Blocks NOT in DDA or K-12 Concentration	11
Total Number of unserved 2020 Census Blocks part of Proposed Project	22
Total number of housing units served	286
Total number of businesses served	13
Total number of other Public Facilities e.g. community centers, fire stations served	18
Total Structures Served	317
Average Cost Per Structure Served	\$ 6,019.00
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		\$ 1,908,283.40
Applicant-Provided Funding		\$ -
Third-Party Funding Source (if applicable)		\$ -
Total Project Cost		\$ 1,908,283.40
Percentage Funds Requested from SC Broadband Office	100	100%
Percentage Funds from Applicant Match	0	0%
Percentage Funds from Third Party Funding Source	0	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

Newberry Electric Cooperative proposes to place an aerial G-PON fiber optic network in the largely unserved area inside of Newberry County. Our G-PON network will provide this community with speeds of atleast 350Mb/350Mb. We intend to build 17 miles of mainline fiber optic in this area utilizing our existing FTTx network to extend to this "non-member" area.

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

Newberry Electric Cooperative's Proposal Meets the needs of the community by offering a minimal speed of 350Mb/350Mb (download and upload speeds) to 100% of the priority areas and at least 80%(+) of the unserved area census blocks provided by ORS.

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 grant area is not subject to existing State or Federal funding.

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

We will market to the areas by email and direct market mailer to increase awareness of our high speed internet offerings. Additional marketing collateral like yard signs, flyers, and door hangers will also be used. A free month service promotion will be used to increase interest and take rates.

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

As part of our customer service and technical support, customers will be assisted with general education about our service, and hands on training when appropriate in regard to online streaming, email address creation, wi-fi speed versus hard wired connection.

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.

Not at this time; however, this can be revisited at a later date.

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

To be provided following grant approval.

List any lease, franchise agreement, interconnection agreement, authorization, permit, or other items needed to complete this project.	
Joint Use Agreement with Duke Energy.	
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.	
Access to high speed internet will unlock access to commerce, allow remote work opportunities, and improve education.	
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.	
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.	

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5.1 - Project Sponsors

Entity Name	Newberry Electric Cooperative
Entity Type (e.g. Corporation, non-profit, cooperative, governmental entity)	Cooperative
Role within proposed project	Affiliate of Carolina Connect
Primary Contact Name	Stephanie Sullivan
Title	VP of Operataional Support
Mailing Address City, State, Zip	882 Wilson Road, Newberry, SC 29108
Phone Number	803-924-9008
Email	ssullivan@nec.coop

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
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 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. Partner

Select one

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.

Select one

Any additional information evidencing community need for project

Yes