

# South Carolina 2023 ARPA Grant Program Application CPF 1.0



## Section 1.1 - Applicant Information

Legal Entity/Organization Name	HTC (Horry Telephone Cooperative, Inc.)
Parent Organization	n/a
Entity Type (e.g. Corporation, non-profit, cooperative, governmental entity)	Cooperative
Primary Contact Name	Von Todd
Title	Chief Executive, Corporate Strategy
Mailing Address City, State, Zip	PO Box 1820, Conway, SC 29528
Phone Number	843-369-8166
Email	<a href="mailto:von.todd@htcinc.net">von.todd@htcinc.net</a>

## Section 1.2 - Project Name/Number

Project Number (Format XXX-XX)	HTC-01
Project Name	Capital Projects Fund - Marion and Georgetown Counties
Project Priority (1-5, 1 serving as highest priority for applicant)	1

## Section 1.3 - Broadband Service Provider Context

Date of Applicant's Initial FCC Submission	December 31, 2001
Date of Applicant's Most Recent FCC Submission	March 1, 2023
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.

Will all structures be served with the same technology type?

Estimated Miles of Fiber to be Installed

Estimated Percentage Underground

Estimated Percentage Aerial

Fiber to the Premises Minimum Sustainable Download/Upload Speeds 100/100 Mbps	
Yes	
	157.4
	35.00%
	65.00%

**Section 1.5 - Project Timeline**  
**(Maximum Timeline Allotted is 24 months)**

Project Start Date

Project Construction Activity Begins

Project Construction Activity Completion

	November 27, 2023
	January 22, 2024
	August 1, 2025

**Customer Premises**

*Initiation of Operations (premise installations begin)*

Overall Project Completion Date

Will the project be completed within

24 months of official Notice to Proceed (NTP)?

	May 6, 2024
	November 14, 2025
Yes	

**Section 1.6 - ESA Project**

Does this project include a Main Street Eligible Service Area?  
(YES/NO)

No
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**Section 1.7 - Low Cost Plan**

**(Must be a minimum of 100/20 Mbps)**

What Download/Upload speed is offered in your low cost residential plan? (Example 100/20)

What is the monthly cost of the plan?

Does the above speed tier include unlimited data? (YES/NO)

Is a Consumer-based Contract Required? (YES/NO)

Is the pricing fixed? (YES/NO)

If no, what's the duration?

500/500 Mbps
\$49.95 before ACP
Yes
No
No
12 months

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## Section 2.1 - Project Construction Costs

### Section 2.2 - In-kind Match (for Main Street Projects only)

Type	Description	Qty	Rate	Amount
In-Kind Match				
In-Kind Match				
In-Kind Match				
In-Kind Match				
In-Kind Match				
In-Kind Match				
In-Kind Match				
Total				\$ -

Total Project Cost and In-Kind Match	#REF!
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## Section 2.3 - Funding Details

Description	Comment	Amount
South Carolina ARPA Broadband Grant Program Funds requested		\$ 4,975,164
Applicant-Provided Funding		\$ 1,658,388
Third-Party Funding Source (if applicable) - List Source		\$ -
In-Kind Match (for Main Street Projects only)		\$ -
Total Project Cost		\$ 6,633,552
Percentage Funds Requested from SC Broadband Office		75%
Percentage Funds from Applicant Match		25%
Percentage Funds from Third Party Funding Source		0.00%
Percentage Funds from In-Kind Match		0.00%

ADJUST APPLICANT PROVIDED  
FUNDING AMOUNT TO GET  
WHOLE PERCENTAGES ONLY

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## Section 3.1 Confirmations

Applicant participates in the Affordable Connective Program (ACP) and will participate in the ACP (or its successor) for the life of ACP for the Project Area.

Agree

Applicant will provide at least one low-cost residential option without data usage caps at a minimum speed of 100/20 for a documented period of time.

Agree

The Project will comply with the requirements set forth in ARPA, South Carolina Act No. 244 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, including covered telecommunication and video surveillance services or equipment provided or produced by entities owned or controlled by the People's Republic of China and telecommunications equipment produced by Huawei Technologies Company or ZTE Corporation (or any subsidiary or affiliate of such entities).

Agree

The Applicant, to the extent practicable and consistent with applicable law under the award, will provide a preference for the procurement or use of goods, products, or materials produced in the United States as described in 2 C.F.R. 200.322 and Executive Order 14005 Ensuring the Future is Made in All by All of America's Workers (January 25, 2021).

Agree

Applicant will not use ARPA funds to modernize cybersecurity for existing and new broadband networks.

Agree

The Project includes pre-project Engineering uses or costs

Agree

If Yes to above, the pre-development Engineering uses or costs will be (1) tied to an eligible broadband project or reasonably expected to lead to such a project; (2) necessary for the efficient and timely performance of eligible Projects; and (3) incurred after March 15, 2021, but prior to execution of the Grant Agreement.

Agree

Applicant will encourage its employees, contractors, and subcontractors to adopt and enforce on-the-job seat belt policies and programs for their employees when operating company-owned, rented or personally owned vehicles pursuant to Executive Order 13043, 62 FR 19217 (April 8, 1997).

Agree

Applicant will encourage its employees, contractors, and subcontractors to adopt and enforce policies that ban text messaging while driving.

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 except item 1)

Provide a Summary Narrative that describes your project.

**This narrative must be unique for each project and discuss this project only. Refrain from discussing rates, structure counts, estimated dates, work that occurred in the past, or the Company's history of providing Broadband service. Limit 750 Characters.**

This proposed fiber deployment project will allow HTC to reach the vast majority of the remaining unserved households in Georgetown and Marion counties. We will deploy 157 miles of fiber to offer an affordable fiber to the home solution for the locations in this project area. HTC will provide an 25 % match and is requesting approximately \$4.975 million in CPF funds to help us close this now very narrow gap in Marion and Georgetown.

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

Our fiber-to-the-home solution will deliver reliable broadband starting at speeds of 500Mbps/500Mbps to more than 350 residential locations and 140 business locations in Georgetown and Marion counties. It will serve 91 census blocks, 28 of which are priority blocks, 2 are unserved, and 61 are partially unserved. Access to HTC's state-of-the-art fiber network will allow the families in these communities to finally participate in online learning, telehealth, and telework in ways they couldn't before.

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 your plans or programs you will implement to improve adoption in the community described in this proposal.	
<p>HTC has already seen a high adoption rate in its adjacent rural grant areas. We have accomplished this through town halls, participation in community events, door-to-door sales efforts, direct mail campaigns, and ACP educational and outreach efforts. We will continue with these efforts in our proposed Project Service Area.</p>	
Describe your plans or programs you have developed and will implement to increase digital literacy, for example, support through online training, for this project?	
<p>HTC has partnered with Horry-Georgetown Technical College to develop a pilot educational program designed with the goal of providing residents with the tools and knowledge to maximize their broadband experience and benefits. Curriculum includes but is not limited to internet safety, career development, financial planning, and healthcare. We have worked with community leaders and surveyed residents to help us develop this curriculum, and we will work with community stakeholders to help us spread the word about this program once it launches in Georgetown and Marion counties.</p>	
As part of the Project, identify any areas that the Applicant would be willing to provide free public Wi-Fi in a central or community location to improve access for all South Carolinians and for what period of time.	
<p>HTC has already worked with leaders of both counties and school districts to identify community centers in need of Wi-Fi access and has provided free public Wi-Fi in the parking lot of these centers as far back as 2020. If additional needs exist at the community centers in this project area, HTC will continue to work with county and school leaders to meet those needs.</p>	
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 Area on the general affordability needs of the target markets.

HTC has consulted with the community in our Project Service Area and in surrounding communities for approximately three years now, primarily through one-on-one discussions with residents, community stakeholders and elected officials. We have also participated in multiple town halls to help us gauge the needs and concerns of the residents in these areas. In these conversations, we've heard the same thing – residents are paying far too much for more for internet that barely reaches 10 Mbps. When we tell them about our pricing tiers and internet speeds, their reaction is often one of positive disbelief. Residents in our project areas have little to no choice for internet service, and the choices that they do have are far too expensive and do not offer reliable high speeds. Our subscription rates in our rural grant areas to date prove that our offerings meet the affordability needs of this target market.

What network resiliency strategies will be leveraged to ensure facilities remain operational?

The HTC Next Generation Network is a fully redundant IP/MPLS network designed to offer world-class service. The network is designed with multiple, geographically diverse routes for each network location. The network locations are connected together with high-speed Ethernet connectivity up to 400Gbps, and utilize industry standard routing protocols such as IP, MPLS, OSPF, and BGP to ensure route redundancy and resilience in the event of a network impairment. The network has triple-homed connectivity to the Internet with geo-diverse routes to Atlanta, Charlotte, and Columbia. All components and design efforts work together to provide a fast, secure, reliable high-speed data service platform that meets or surpasses industry standards.

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.



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## 5.1 - Project Sponsors

**\*\*Please see application folder for a complete list of 14 Project Sponsors**

Entity Name	Senator Kent Williams
Entity Type (.e.g. Corporation, non-profit, cooperative, governmental entity)	Elected Official
Role within proposed project	Supporter, Community Stakeholder
Primary Contact Name	Senator Kent Williams
Title	State Senator, District 30
Mailing Address City, State, Zip	608 Gressette Building, Columbia, SC 29201
Phone Number	803-212-6000
Email	<a href="mailto:kentwilliams@scsenate.gov">kentwilliams@scsenate.gov</a>

## 5.2 - Project Sponsors

Entity Name	Representative Carl Anderson
Entity Type (.e.g. Corporation, non-profit, cooperative, governmental entity)	Elected Official
Role within proposed project	Supporter, Community Stakeholder
Primary Contact Name	Representative Carl Anderson
Title	State Representative, District 103
Mailing Address City, State, Zip	304C Blatt Bldg., Columbia, SC 29201
Phone Number	803-734-2933
Email	

### **5.3 - Project Sponsors**

Entity Name	Representative Lucas Atkinson
Entity Type (.e.g. Corporation, non-profit, cooperative, governmental entity)	Elected Official
Role within proposed project	Supporter, Community Stakeholder
Primary Contact Name	Representative Lucas Atkinson
Title	State Representative, District 57
Mailing Address City, State, Zip	333D Blatt Bldg, Columbia, SC 29201
Phone Number	803-212-6936
Email	

### **5.4 - Project Sponsors**

Entity Name	Georgetown County Council
Entity Type (.e.g. Corporation, non-profit, cooperative, governmental entity)	Governmental Entity
Role within proposed project	Supporter/Community Stakeholder
Primary Contact Name	Chairman Johnny Morant
Title	Chairman, Councilman
Mailing Address City, State, Zip	716 Prince St., Georgetown, SC 29440
Phone Number	843-545-3058
Email	<a href="mailto:tfloyd@gtcounty.org">tfloyd@gtcounty.org</a>

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## 6.1 - Attachment Checklist

(Please attach the following items to application)

### GIS Shapefiles

*Proposed 2020 Census Blocks*

Yes

*Proposed Fiber/Cable Lines*

Yes

*Proposed Structures Served by Type*

Yes

*Existing ~~Fiber/Cable Lines~~ Network Junctions*

Yes

Signed affidavit certifying grant application is complete and accurate

Yes

Proof of funding related to proposed project or non-cash support, provide associated documentation e.g. yearly financial reports, bank statement, etc.

Yes

Letters of support and strategic partnerships

Yes

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

Yes

Certificates of Insurance

Yes

Main Street Work Plan

No

Any additional information evidencing community need for project

No