

South Carolina 2023 ARPA Grant Program Application CPF 1.0



Section 1.1 - Applicant Information

Legal Entity/Organization Name	Palmetto Telephone Communications, LLC
Parent Organization	Palmetto Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc.
Entity Type (e.g. Corporation, non-profit, cooperative, governmental entity)	Corporation - Non-profit
Primary Contact Name	Jason J. Dandridge
Title	Chief Executive Officer
Mailing Address City, State, Zip	PO Drawer 1577, Walterboro, SC 29488
Phone Number	843-538-9331
Email	jason.dandridge@prtc.us

Section 1.2 - Project Name/Number

Project Number (Format XXX-XX)	PTC-09
Project Name	PTC Bamberg County CPF
Project Priority (1-5, 1 serving as highest priority for applicant)	2

Section 1.3 - Broadband Service Provider Context

Date of Applicant's Initial FCC Submission	August 27, 2014
Date of Applicant's Most Recent FCC Submission	December 31, 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.

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	
Will all structures be served with the same technology type?	Yes
Estimated Miles of Fiber to be Installed	49.37
Estimated Percentage Underground	100.00%
Estimated Percentage Aerial	0.00%

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

Project Start Date

Project Construction Activity Begins

Project Construction Activity Completion

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)?

Project Start Date	November 17, 2023
Project Construction Activity Begins	March 1, 2024
Project Construction Activity Completion	November 28, 2025

Customer Premises <i>Initiation of Operations (premise installations begin)</i>	June 1, 2024
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Overall Project Completion Date	November 28, 2025
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Will the project be completed within 24 months of official Notice to Proceed (NTP)?	Yes
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Section 1.6 - ESA Project

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

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?

What Download/Upload speed is offered in your low cost residential plan? (Example 100/20)	50/50 or 100/100
What is the monthly cost of the plan?	\$49.95 or \$69.95
Does the above speed tier include unlimited data? (YES/NO)	Yes
Is a Consumer-based Contract Required? (YES/NO)	No
Is the pricing fixed? (YES/NO)	Yes
If no, what's the duration?	

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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		\$ 1,603,414.00
Applicant-Provided Funding		\$ 1,311,883.57
Third-Party Funding Source (if applicable) - List Source		\$ -
In-Kind Match (for Main Street Projects only)		\$ -
Total Project Cost		\$ 2,915,297.57
Percentage Funds Requested from SC Broadband Office		55.00%
Percentage Funds from Applicant Match		45.00%
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

Disagree

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.

Select one

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.

Palmetto Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc.(PRTC), on behalf of itself and its wholly owned subsidiary Palmetto Telephone Communications, LLC (PTC) will provide the residents of rural Bamberg County a fiber network that will provide subscribers with access to advanced services including high-speed broadband, telehealth, online education, economic development opportunities, and more.

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

PTC will expand broadband infrastructure to households, business, and communities in Bamberg County. All residents and businesses in this Project Service Area will be served in a manner that is non-discriminatory, at speeds equal to or greater than the minimum required without additional construction or startup costs to the customer. The minimum number or more of the housing units in the entire census block(s) in this application will be served. The housing units in the census block(s) have been identified to best of PTC's ability. The infrastructure and associated equipment that will be deployed will be able to provide 1GB symmetrical speeds. This project does not overbuild another provider's existing wired broadband network. PTC will adhere to the SC Universal Service Broadband Requirement. This project will be completed by 11/28/2025. PTC will participate in the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) for the life of the ACP program. PTC will provide affordable high-speed internet plan options. PTC will comply with all federal and state requirements, for which Grantees of public funds are responsible.

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.

To PTC's knowledge, this proposed project is not in an area that is subject to an existing federal or state funding commitment for broadband investment and is considered unserved or underserved for broadband service.

Describe your plans or programs you will implement to improve adoption in the community described in this proposal.

PTC recognizes that broadband is a necessity and wants to make sure that everyone no matter where they live has access to quality broadband service. PTC will work with the Department of Social Services (DSS) and the local school districts to advertise broadband to low-income customers and households with students enrolled in grades K-12. PTC participates in the FCC's Lifeline and Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP). These programs help make broadband affordable. At the time of new service, customer service representatives inform customers and prospective customers about Lifeline and ACP. PTC has a strong relationship with local leaders and will work with them to address barriers that prevent customers from adopting broadband. PTC is committed to educating the community by promoting free online computer classes to customers who are not familiar with broadband and the apps that are available to them.

Describe your plans or programs you have developed and will implement to increase digital literacy, for example, support through online training, for this project?

PRTC/PTC provided free face-to-face digital literacy classes in a classroom setting for several years. PTC ended the program due to lack of interest and participation. PTC will continue to promote and support digital literacy by informing residents of free online digital literacy curriculum. PTC will promote and provide the following URL: <https://www.learnmyway.com/> site. PTC has vetted the site and highly recommends it. An online class allows each person to choose the time and pace for which they learn.

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.

PTC will provide free public Wi-Fi at the Ness Sports Complex, 381 Rhoad Park Street, Bamberg, SC 29003

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, we will provide 100/100 Mbps and higher speeds.

Explain how the Applicant will consult with the community in the Project Area on the general affordability needs of the target markets.	
PTC will promote lifeline and ACP programs through bill inserts, social media, and the local newspaper. PTC will work in conjunction with local government officials in the project service area to determine the best way PTC can meet the community needs and make the residents aware of the programs that will help make broadband affordable.	
What network resiliency strategies will be leveraged to ensure facilities remain operational?	
PRTC employs the G.8032 protocol. G.8032 is an International Telecommunication Union (ITU) standard for Ethernet Ring Protection Switching (ERPS). It prevents loops on a per-VLAN basis with networks that are wired in a simple ring topology, and (with G. 8032 Version 2) multiple ring and ladder topologies. G.8032 offers a rapid detection and recovery time if a link or node fails, in the order of 50 ms, depending on configuration. Ethernet ring protection switching (ERPS) helps achieve high reliability and network stability. Links in the ring will never form loops that fatally affect the network operation and services availability. The basic idea of an Ethernet ring is to use one specific link to protect the whole ring. PRTC also utilizes Multiprotocol Label Switching - Transport Profile (MPLS-TP) is a variant of the MPLS protocol that is used in packet switched data networks. MPLS-TP uses Generalized MPLS (GMPLS) to provide deterministic and connection-oriented behavior using LSPs (Label Switched Paths), making it a dependable transport protocol.	
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, the responses was "yes".	
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, the responses was "no".	

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5.1 - 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

5.2 - 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
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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

No

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