

South Carolina 2023 ARPA Grant Program Application CPF 1.0



Section 1.1 - Applicant Information

Legal Entity/Organization Name	Northland Cable Television, Inc. dba Vyve Broadband
Parent Organization	Eagle Broadband Investments, LLC
Entity Type (e.g. Corporation, non-profit, cooperative, governmental entity)	Corporation
Primary Contact Name	Mark Hood
Title	RVP Operations
Mailing Address City, State, Zip	9A Boardwalk Place, Seneca, SC 29678
Phone Number	(318) 560-1355
Email	Mark.Hood@vyvebb.com

Section 1.2 - Project Name/Number

Project Number (Format XXX-XX)	VYV-02
Project Name	I-24 Corridor
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	6/30/2014 (FCC Form 477)
Date of Applicant's Most Recent FCC Submission	5/5/2023 (FCC BDC)
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	
	45.6
	8%
	92%

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

Project Start Date

Project Construction Activity Begins

Project Construction Activity Completion

	December 1, 2023
	March 1, 2024
	July 31, 2024

Customer Premises

Initiation of Operations (premise installations begin)

	May 1, 2024
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Overall Project Completion Date

Will the project be completed within

24 months of official Notice to Proceed (NTP)?

	August 31, 2024
Yes	

Section 1.6 - ESA Project

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

No

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?

105/105 Mbps	
	\$29.99
No	
No	
Yes	
12 months	

South Carolina 2023 ARPA Grant Program Application CPF 1.0



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		\$ 2,023,202.52
Applicant-Provided Funding		\$ 867,086.79
Third-Party Funding Source (if applicable) - List Source	N/A	\$ -
In-Kind Match (for Main Street Projects only)	N/A	\$ -
Total Project Cost		\$ 2,890,289.31
Percentage Funds Requested from SC Broadband Office		70.00%
Percentage Funds from Applicant Match		30.00%
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**

South Carolina 2023 ARPA Grant Program Application CPF 1.0



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

South Carolina 2023 ARPA Grant Program Application CPF 1.0



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.

Vyve Broadband hereby submits its I-24 Corridor grant application to the SC ARPA CPF 1.0 Broadband Grant Program. This project proposes the construction of approximately 45 miles of new fiber-optic infrastructure in unincorporated parts of Oconee County south of the city of Seneca. We will connect all unserved homes and businesses in the project area with up to symmetrical gigabit speeds. The immediate proximity of our existing plant in Seneca ensures that we can build the new network quickly and cost-effectively without the need for expensive middle mile or new headend facilities. We look forward to this opportunity to help bridge the digital divide in South Carolina.

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

Vyve's project aims to address the critical lack of affordable, high-speed broadband service in the project area, and in doing so, bring real solutions to a variety of community needs. Even before the COVID-19 public health emergency underscored the digital divide, the internet was already transforming Americans' relationship with work, education, healthcare, and other spheres of public life. The pandemic only accelerated these trends, demonstrating how a lack of connectivity can produce real negative consequences for communities without access. In many rural areas, workers cannot effectively telecommute, access work materials, or participate in virtual meetings. Students cannot reliably complete online assignments or research topics from home. Patients and seniors miss out on the convenience of telehealth appointments and remote monitoring, limiting access to vital healthcare services. And all residents miss out on streaming, social media, and other entertainment.

Vyve's project will quickly and effectively address all of these emergent needs. With access to the new fiber-to-the-home network, all residents living in the proposed project area will immediately be able to work or study from home, participate in telemedicine, and enjoy all the benefits of modern digital life that are not possible with the existing service options. Our affordable entry-level plan is more than sufficient for video calls and streaming, and our symmetrical gigabit plan can meet the data needs of an entire family at the same time. Further, broad access to internet will drive the economic development of the community; employers will be able to reach a larger talent pool, employees will not feel compelled to leave their home communities due to lack of internet, and the new service availability will enable e-commerce and attract and retain business investment. In short, Vyve's network will bring the transformative benefits of modern digital life and meet the needs of the community.

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.

Not applicable. The project will not be in an area that is subject to an existing federal or state funding commitment for reliable speeds of 100/20 Mbps.

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

Promoting adoption is an instrumental part of our project to ensure that residents are aware of the new service offerings and are able to take advantage of them. Our marketing team uses a variety of means of outreach to improve adoption in our communities, with a special focus on our new deployments, including: leaving product information with all homes passed prior to project completion, sending at a minimum two direct mailers per year with information on our current plans and promotional offers, performing door tag and door knock campaigns, purchasing radio-buys if practicable, leveraging digital marketing to alert residents of our higher speed options, contacting local school districts to inform parents, and setting up tables at community events.

In addition to awareness, affordability is another crucial factor to increasing adoption; access is not meaningful for residents if they cannot afford it. With the help of this grant, we will be able to offer our standard plans at our competitive rates comparable to those used elsewhere in our South Carolina markets. Vyve also has a history of accommodating low-income subscribers through our ongoing participation in the Affordable Connectivity Program (details can be found at <https://vyvebroadband.com/acp/>). The ACP discount is available in addition to any promotional discount and is not subject to any restrictions beyond the FCC's ACP eligibility criteria; when combined, some eligible low-income subscribers can receive our "zero-bill" service where they do not pay a monthly fee for their internet service. Through these efforts, we strive to make broadband both accessible and affordable to all.

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

Vyve takes several steps to improve digital literacy so that customers are able to best utilize the services they receive. We offer paper welcome kits on request, and also hand out business cards with a QR code that leads to a help center on our website. After signing up for service and also immediately after a technician finishes setting up a customer, we send an email with a link to the help center. In the help center, new customers can find a variety of resources, including: a broadband installation checklist; instructions on registering and accessing their Vyve account; educational overviews on setting up equipment, how to perform speed tests, monitor data usage, access voice and video services, and set up closed captioning and parental controls; and more. Please visit <https://vyvebroadband.com/help-center/> for details.

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.

In our service areas, we have entered into mutually beneficially agreements with libraries, town halls, and community centers where we provide free public Wi-Fi in exchange for exposure, such as a sign with our logo naming us as the sponsoring provider. These agreements are generally for an indefinite period of time, as long as the other party is willing to continue to display on our behalf.

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

Explain how the Applicant will consult with the community in the Project Area on the general affordability needs of the target markets.

Vyve operates in the nearby city of Seneca and in the broader Oconee County area, where we have a history of local engagement. Our employees live and work in the areas that we serve, giving us direct insight into the affordability needs of the community. When we sponsor and participate in public events, we interface directly with residents and listen to the public's feedback on our service. We have been successful in growing and improving adoption rates in rural areas with our service model, and we believe that residents will find the service plans we offer both attractive and very affordable. In addition, during the planning process, we reached out to local community figures to introduce our project and solicit feedback about our proposed infrastructure and service. We informed them of our ACP participation and our intent to use the competitive pricing we use elsewhere in the county, and we also asked about any concerns they might have regarding affordability in the target markets.

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

Vyve approaches network resiliency from several different angles to ensure we can provide the highest quality of service. As with all of Vyve's systems, performance on the proposed network will be monitored by our dedicated network operations center (NOC). The NOC is staffed 24/7 by trained network engineers who keep tabs on Vyve's nationwide broadband plant, respond to possible service interruptions, and re-route resources to maximize network uptime. The NOC also works with our regional operations team to quickly respond to natural disasters such as tornadoes and hurricanes, and we can draw on personnel and materials from our other nearby markets in South Carolina, North Carolina, and Georgia to restore service as soon as possible. From an equipment perspective, the plant will be adequately shielded by cable jackets to limit environmental damage and outside interference. Further, the passive nature of the network means there are very few active components or other points of failure that need to be regularly maintained (such as RF amplifiers, nodes, and power supplies in the HFC architecture). Finally, local staff will regularly inspect the plant and ensure it stays well-maintained and in working order.

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

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

South Carolina 2023 ARPA Grant Program Application CPF 1.0



5.1 - Project Sponsors

Entity Name	School District of Oconee County
Entity Type (.e.g. Corporation, non-profit, cooperative, governmental entity)	Governmental entity
Role within proposed project	Supporter and advocate for community need
Primary Contact Name	Michael Thorsland
Title	Superintendent
Mailing Address City, State, Zip	414 South Pine StreetWalhalla, SC 26961
Phone Number	(864) 886-4400
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
Title
Mailing Address City, State, Zip
Phone Number
Email

South Carolina 2023 ARPA Grant Program Application CPF 1.0



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