



BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM  
**Comporium, Inc.**

**SUCCESS STORY**

Lancaster Telephone Company and PBT Telecom, Inc. are both subsidiaries of Comporium, Inc. (Comporium). Lancaster Telephone Company serves consumers in Lancaster county and parts of Kershaw county and Chester county. PBT Telecom, Inc. serves consumers in portions of Aiken, Calhoun, Edgefield, Lexington, Orangeburg, and Saluda counties.

With eight total projects, Comporium received over \$3.8 million in CARES Act funding to help expand broadband infrastructure in South Carolina.

**Impact to Community**

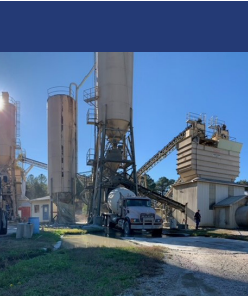
Providing broadband to the rural communities of Van Wyck, Swansea, Woodford, Ridge Spring, Ward, and surrounding areas has been challenging for Comporium. Receiving CARES Act funding allowed the company to install infrastructure that delivers high-speed fiber broadband to customers. Previous broadband infrastructure consisted of Digital Subscriber Lines (DSL), with a maximum speed of 11 Mbps/1 Mbps. The CARES Act project installed fiber to the premises, increasing the maximum speed to 1Gbps/1Gbps.

Access to high-speed broadband can impact economic development, providing companies looking to locate to the area with fiber broadband instead of slower DSL. Small businesses now also have access to adequate broadband.

**AT A GLANCE**

- Number of Projects:** 8
- Total Project Cost:** \$7,783,371
- CARES Act Funding:** \$3,891,688
- Households Passed:** 1,779
- Businesses Passed:** 123
- Health Care Facilities Passed:** 4
- Community Anchor Points Passed:** 6
- Technology deployed:**  
Fiber to premises
- Minimum download/upload speeds:**  
300 Mbps/300 Mbps

*\*The residence or business is eligible to subscribe to services.*



“ The new broadband technology allows our company to track the corporate fleet in real time. The new technology also gives peace of mind to the company because security cameras for the property can now be accessed off site. ”

*Daniel Johnson  
 Vice President, J&S Concrete, Inc.*

Community anchor institutions such as the Van Wyck, Woodford, and Ridge Spring Volunteer Fire Departments and community centers now have access to sufficient broadband to conduct activities.

Comporium plans to provide free internet access at various community locations. The company will also produce and distribute educational and promotional programs and materials to the community regarding the new broadband service.

## Helping Consumers During COVID-19

With limited access to health-care facilities, many residents previously had to travel out of their immediate area to health-care centers in North Carolina or South Carolina. Comporium's CARES Act projects allow residents the ability to perform virtual telehealth visits with health-care facilities and hospitals using high-speed internet, thereby reducing the risk of spreading the COVID-19 virus to others.

## High-speed internet allows students to continue learning while at home.

Many students in the school districts of Lancaster, Orangeburg, Aiken, and Saluda counties are attending classes virtually. High-speed internet allows students to continue learning while at home.

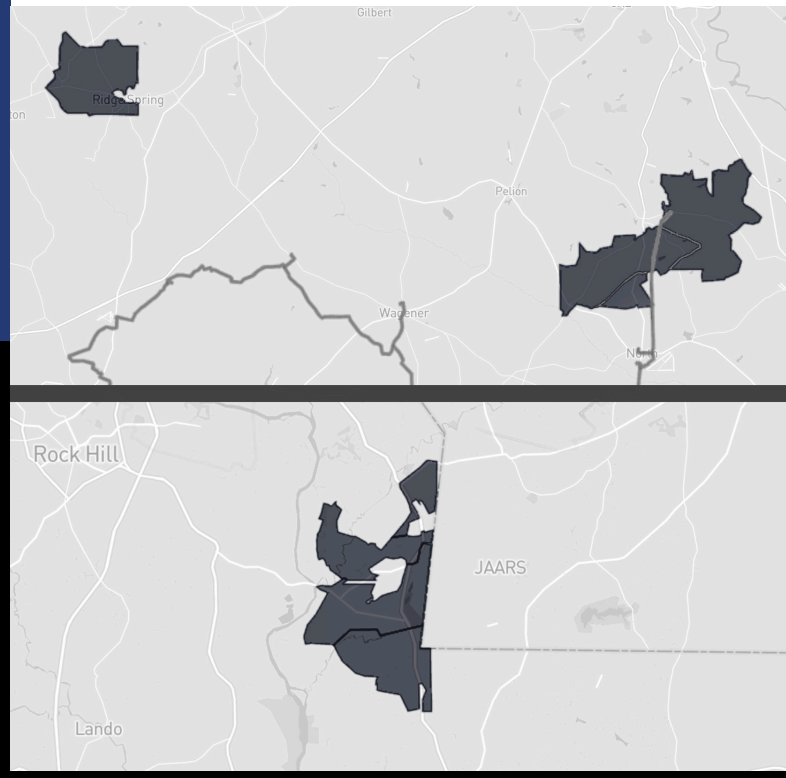
Many companies have required employees to work from home. Employees are now able to complete work previously hindered by slower DSL connections. In addition, these employees are able to share bandwidth with their children who may be attending school virtually.



### Project Areas

Comporium projects were completed in the following counties:

- Calhoun
- Lancaster
- Lexington
- Orangeburg
- Saluda



### Average Cost

The average cost is determined by taking the total cost of the project and dividing by the number of locations. This is the average cost based on the amount of CARES Act funding received and not what a consumer would pay.

**Per Location Served: \$4,092**

### CARES Act

The South Carolina General Assembly passed Act 142 authorizing the ORS to expend up to \$50 million for broadband initiatives related to COVID-19. The expansion of broadband infrastructure emphasized services to rural communities and communities with a high prevalence of COVID-19 or with demographic characteristics consistent with risk factors for COVID-19.



### About the Office of Regulatory Staff

The ORS represents consumers of investor-owned utilities in South Carolina before the PSC. The PSC is the state agency that sets utilities' rates. The ORS must look at the impact to the consumer and utilities' continued investment in reliable and high-quality services.

