



BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM **Home Telecom**

SUCCESS STORY

Home Telephone Company (Home Telecom) provides high-speed internet, local and long-distance telephone, cable TV, and security services in Berkeley, Charleston, and Dorchester counties.

With three total projects, Home Telecom received over \$600,000 in CARES Act funding to help expand broadband infrastructure in South Carolina.

Impact to Community

Receiving CARES Act funding allowed Home Telecom to install infrastructure that delivers high-speed fiber broadband to customers. Home Telecom's projects provide broadband access to previously unserved residences, businesses, and critical facilities. The CARES Act project installed fiber to the premises providing a maximum speed of 1 Gbps/1 Gbps.

Access to high-speed broadband can benefit economic development. Companies looking to locate to the area now have access to fiber broadband. Small businesses now also have access to adequate broadband.

AT A GLANCE

Number of Projects: 3

Total Project Cost: \$1,254,738

CARES Act Funding: \$627,379

Households Served: 40

Households Passed*: 752

Businesses Passed: 13

Community Anchor Points Passed: 4

Technology deployed:
Fiber to premises

Minimum download/upload speeds:
1 Gbps/1 Gbps

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



“ The technician that came out actually helped me find the best place in the house to have the entire wireless service. So, along with having high-speed internet, the fact that the technician was willing to work and talk and discuss options – that was a big plus. It really helped in that regard. ”

*Larry Barnes
Home Telecom customer in Ridgeville, SC*

Helping Consumers During COVID-19

Home Telecom'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.

Employees are now able to complete work, previously hindered by the lack of access to broadband.

Many students in the Berkeley and Dorchester County School Districts 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 the lack of access to broadband. Additionally, these employees are able to share bandwidth with their children who may be attending school virtually.



Project Areas

Home Telecom projects were completed in the following counties:

- Berkeley
- Dorchester



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: \$1,579

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.

