



BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM **HTC**

Horry Telephone Cooperative, Inc. (HTC) provides telephone, cable TV, broadband, wireless, security, and business services in Horry County and portions of Georgetown and Marion Counties.

HTC received over \$2.3 million in CARES Act funding for six projects to help expand broadband infrastructure in South Carolina.

Impact to Community

Receiving CARES Act funding allowed HTC to install infrastructure that delivers high-speed fiber broadband to customers. The CARES Act project installed fiber to the premises providing speeds from 300 Mbps up to 1 Gbps.

Access to high-speed broadband can benefit economic development by providing small businesses with additional tools for success and helping to recruit new companies to the area.

HTC is partnering with Coastal Carolina University, local community leaders, and elected officials to develop and implement a comprehensive community training program to educate residents on the benefits of having broadband access in the home. This program will cater to youth, seniors, and young families and will highlight the connection between internet access and educational and economic success. HTC is also partnering with the South Carolina Association for Community Economic Development (SCACED) to offer The SC Broadband Community Champion Training Initiative in Marion County.

SUCCESS STORY

AT A GLANCE

Number of Projects: 6

Total Project Cost: \$4,694,156

CARES Act Funding: \$2,347,078

Households Served: 259

Households Passed*: 1,053

Businesses Passed: 46

Educational Institutions Passed: 11

Community Anchor Points Passed: 2

Technology deployed:
Fiber to premises

Maximum download/upload speeds:
1,000 Mbps / 500 Mbps

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



“ Adapting to virtual education was a challenge for my students and me because an unreliable internet connection caused me to regularly drop from Zoom classes. Now that I have access to HTC services, I don’t have to worry about being disconnected and can now provide my students with a seamless educational experience. The SCBIP program, and HTC’s investment in Marion County, has improved my ability to stay connected when it matters most. ”

*Ronita Hemingway
HTC Member, Marion County Resident
Adult Education Teacher, Horry County Schools
2020-2021 Adult Education Teacher of the Year*

Helping Consumers During COVID-19

With limited access to health-care facilities and transportation, many residents previously had to find resources to travel out of their immediate area to health-care centers. HTC's CARES Act projects allow residents the ability to perform virtual telehealth visits with providers using high-speed internet, thereby reducing the risk of spreading the COVID-19 virus to others, and freeing up brick and mortar resources.

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Many students in the school districts of Horry, Georgetown, and Marion counties are attending classes virtually. High-speed internet allows students to continue learning while at home.

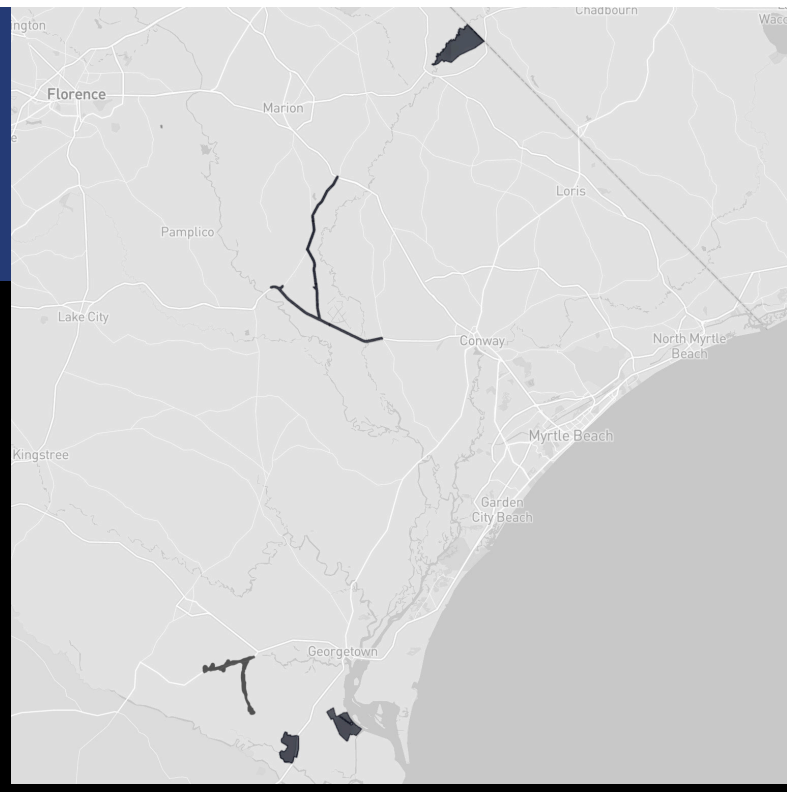
Many companies have required employees to work from home. Employees are now able to complete work previously hindered by the lack of access to broadband. Additionally, these employees are able to share bandwidth with their children who may be attending school virtually.



Project Areas

HTC projects were completed in the following counties:

- Georgetown
- Horry
- Marion



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:** \$4,457.89
- Per Housing Unit Served:** \$714.00
- Per Business Served:** \$857.00

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.

