



APPLICATION

South Carolina 2021 Rural Broadband Grant Program

Applicant Information

Applicant Name/Organization Spectrum Southeast, LLC managed by Charter Communications, Inc. ("Spectrum")

Applicant FCC Registration Number (FRN) 0025646373

Primary Contact Name Ben Breazeale Title Sr. Director, Government Affairs

Mailing Address 3347 Platt Springs Road Phone Number 803-518-5398

City, State, Zip West Columbia, SC 29170 Email ben.breazeale@charter.com

Broadband Service Provider Experience

Date of Applicant's Initial FCC Form 477 Submission December 1, 2014

Date of Applicant's Most Recent FCC Form 477 Submission March 13, 2021

Applicant and/or Project Partner has Experience:

- Delivering broadband service via fiber and/or hybrid fiber-coax infrastructure
- Delivering broadband service via fixed wireless infrastructure
- Building and operating broadband networks in rural areas
- Operating broadband networks in low-moderate income areas

Project Area Information

Eligible County Impact

Counties
(list) Orangeburg

Cities/Towns/Municipalities
(list) - Town of North
- Town of Woodford

Households 1601

Businesses 21

Health Care Facilities

Community Anchor Institutions

Educational Institutions

Contiguous County Impact

Counties
(list)

Cities/Towns/Municipalities
(list)

Households

Businesses

Health Care Facilities

Community Anchor Institutions

Educational Institutions

Broadband Infrastructure Information

Indicate the type(s) of broadband infrastructure technology to be deployed in the project area.

- Fiber to the Premises* Minimum Sustainable Download/Upload Speeds 100/10*
- Hybrid fiber-coax* Minimum Sustainable Download/Upload Speeds
(symmetrical upload/download speeds)
- Hybrid fiber-coax* Minimum Sustainable Download/Upload Speeds
(non-symmetrical upload/download speeds)
- Fixed wireless* Minimum Sustainable Download/Upload Speeds

***While Charter's minimum sustainable speeds are 100/10 download/upload, once operational Charter's network will be capable of providing far higher speeds of up to 1000/500 Mbps download/upload in the Project Area.**

Broadband Pricing Schedules or Tiers ******

Indicate all rate tiers for wireline projects of at least 100/20 Mbps or fixed wireless at 50/5 Mbps or faster that will be offered to customers in the project area:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rates less than \$10/month | <input type="checkbox"/> Rates between \$20 - \$24.99/month |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rates between \$10 - \$14.99/month | <input type="checkbox"/> Rates between \$25 - \$34.99/month |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rates between \$15 - \$19.99/month | |

****All rates, speeds and terms of service are subject to change. Please note that the limited tiers and rates listed in this Application do not reflect the entirety of Charter's broadband offerings or corresponding rates that may be offered in the Project Area.**

Project Timeline

Project Start Date 7/16/2021	Customer Premises
Project Construction Activity Begins 7/30/2021	<i>Installations Begin</i> 10/29/2022
Project Construction Activity Complete 10/30/2022	<i>Installations End</i> 10/30/2022
	Overall Project Completion Date 10/30/2022

Project Cost Information

Total Project Cost \$4,154,321.00	Average Cost per Location Served \$2,561.00 <i>(all locations or structures)</i>
Upfront Cost Requirements 0	
Cost of Building and/or Extending Infrastructure to Customer Premises 0	Average Cost per Housing Unit \$2,561.00
	Average Cost per Business \$2,561.00

Project Funding Information

South Carolina Rural Broadband Grant Program Funds requested (\$) **1,038,580**

Applicant-Provided Funding (\$) **3,115,741**

Non-Public Funding

Amount (\$) **3,115,741**

Source(s) **\$3,115,741 is Charter's private investment for this project.**

Additional Information

1) Describe Applicant's and/or project Partner's experience building and/or operating broadband networks.

Charter Communications provides broadband, video, mobile, and voice services to over 30 million customers in 41 states under the brand name Spectrum. Our over 95,000 employees work every day to deliver on our core business objective of providing superior products with great customer service.

We're driving innovation and expanding access to broadband to ensure our customers receive the information and entertainment they want and need to succeed in today's hyper-connected world.

Charter is continually investing in our network, our employees, and the communities we serve. Our key priorities include:

- Building a highly skilled, locally based and diverse workforce
- Investing in America's infrastructure
- Strengthening the communities we serve
- Driving innovation
- Providing superior products and services at a better value

Since 2015, we've invested nearly \$40 billion nation-wide in our infrastructure and technology. These investments have enabled us to expand the reach of our fiber-rich network and allow us to deliver fast and reliable broadband to customers in urban, suburban, and rural communities across America.

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

Given Charter's ability to quickly enable broadband service to enable distance learning, telehealth, and telecommuting in the application areas, Charter's proposal meets every aspect of the South Carolina Rural Broadband Grant Program's objectives as outlined in the Application Guidelines.

As South Carolinians work collaboratively to contain this pandemic, broadband internet access is increasingly essential to ensuring that people are able to work from home, attend virtual school, and access essential services like healthcare via telemedicine. The funds awarded as a result of this grant application will directly apply to costs associated with connecting South Carolina citizens, that are currently unserved by any wired broadband network. Many of these South Carolinians are more acutely in need of Internet access as a result of the pandemic.

It is also important to note the importance of timing. The program specifies that the projects must be completed by October 31, 2022. While Spectrum considered a number of opportunities to help connected unserved South Carolinians, the requests included in Spectrum's applications are limited to those requests where we have the greatest opportunity for completion within the specified completion time frame.

Spectrum is always looking to expand its advanced fiber-optic network to reach new customers and has continued to build out its network and provide broadband internet access to unserved and underserved areas. This grant will assist our goals to expand to unserved areas in South Carolina where we might not have served or not have deployed service to until a later date.

3) Describe any plans or programs you have developed to improve adoption in the community described in this proposal. Please include letters of support from key community partners that indicate their awareness of your project.

Charter's Spectrum Internet Assist (SIA) is available to eligible households across the 41 states we serve. This low-cost broadband option for eligible families and seniors and offers speeds of 30 Mbps, which exceeds the FCC's definition of high-speed broadband. Helping bridge the digital divide for families through Spectrum Internet Assist is creating life-changing opportunities, allowing them to apply for jobs, complete homework or start their own businesses.

Spectrum Internet Assist is a low-cost, high-speed broadband service that provides new, qualifying households with internet service. Spectrum makes it simple for qualified households to sign up for low income Internet assistance.

- Free Internet modem
- High-speed Internet at 30 Mbps
- No current data caps
- No contracts
- Optional in-home Wi-Fi service for an additional monthly fee

Requirements: One or more members of your household must be a recipient of one of the following assistance programs:

- National School Lunch Program (NSLP)
- Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) of the NSLP
- Supplemental Security Income (for applicants age 65+ only)

Over the past several months, the country has faced unprecedented challenges and uncertainty when it comes to dealing with even the most common, everyday situations. As the summer months come to an end and fall ushers in another school year, lawmakers, administrators and educators are grappling with decisions about how and where students will resume schooling. One of the biggest factors in deciding which approach is best—whether it is in-person schooling, online learning, or a hybrid approach—is whether students have the reliable Internet connectivity in their homes necessary to attend online classes and complete schoolwork.

4) Provide documents that demonstrate your organization currently has the necessary funds (50% of total project cost) to complete this project/proposal. List documents here and attach documents to this proposal.

Spectrum's capital investment in the state of South Carolina was \$214 million from January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020.

Spectrum plans to self-fund the remaining 75% of the total project costs and we believe that our prior year investments are a strong indication of financial ability and commitment to the state of South Carolina.

Over the last five years, we've invested nearly \$40 billion in infrastructure and technology, including investments to extend our broadband service. And over the last three years, Charter has extended its network to reach an additional 2.5 million homes and businesses, about a third of which are in rural areas (according to the U.S. Census definition of "rural area").

For additional information, please see Charter Communication's 2020 Annual Report attached as Exhibit 2.

5) List any lease, franchise agreement, interconnection agreement, authorization, permit, or other items needed to complete this project.

Will require permits from the following entities:

- Orangeburg County
- Dominion Energy South Carolina
- Aiken Electric Cooperative
- South Carolina Department of Transportation
- CSX Railroad

Will require franchise agreements with the following localities:

- Town of North
- Town of Woodford

Attachments and Exhibits

Please attach the following items to application:

- Map of project area (*PDF and Shapefile formats*)
- Letters of support evidencing community need and strategic partnerships
- Any additional information evidencing community need for project
- Most recent FCC Form 477 filing

Certification and Signature

CERTIFICATION: The Applicant certifies that information included in this application is factual to their knowledge.

Signature: 

Print Name of Signatory: Jonathan Holt

Title of Signatory: Vice President, Field Operations

Date: 5/14/2021

All questions and completed applications should be submitted to Broadband@ORS.SC.GOV

Facsimile signatures and email signatures shall be as effective as original signatures to bind any party.



South Carolina
Department of Commerce
Just right for business.

