



APPLICATION

South Carolina 2021 Rural Broadband Grant Program

Applicant Information

Applicant Name/Organization

Applicant FCC Registration Number (FRN)

Primary Contact Name

Title

Mailing Address

Phone Number

City, State, Zip

Email

Broadband Service Provider Experience

Date of Applicant's Initial FCC Form 477 Submission

Date of Applicant's Most Recent FCC Form 477 Submission

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)

Cities/Towns/Municipalities
(list)

Households

Businesses

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
- 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

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 | |

[HTC is participating in the EBB program \(see Exhibit A\)](#)

Project Timeline

Project Start Date	Customer Premises
Project Construction Activity Begins	<i>Installations Begin</i>
Project Construction Activity Complete	<i>Installations End</i>
	Overall Project Completion Date

Project Cost Information

Total Project Cost	Average Cost per Location Served <i>(all locations or structures)</i>
Upfront Cost Requirements	
Cost of Building and/or Extending Infrastructure to Customer Premises	Average Cost per Housing Unit
	Average Cost per Business

Project Funding Information

South Carolina Rural Broadband Grant Program Funds requested (\$)

Applicant-Provided Funding (\$)

Non-Public Funding

Amount (\$)

Source(s)

Additional Information

- 1) Describe Applicant's and/or project Partner's experience building and/or operating broadband networks.
- 2) Describe how your proposal meets the needs of the community to be served as described in the "Guidelines."
- 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.
- 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.
- 5) List any lease, franchise agreement, interconnection agreement, authorization, permit, or other items needed to complete this project.

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: *Von Todd*

Print Name of Signatory:

Title of Signatory:

Date:

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.





Exhibit A
HTC Georgetown

Service Requests

HTC has received 194 requests for service in this project area. This illustrates the existing need for services and the readiness of residents in this area to subscribe to service. A map illustrating a distribution of those requests is attached.

Student Households

HTC has identified 312 student households in our project area and is committed to working with Georgetown County School District to support their student and teachers' online learning needs, including through community education program. A map of these student locations is attached. This project would also support the development and education of up to 200 students at the Mingo Creek Academy.

Broadband Pricing Tiers

HTC is participating in the FCC's Emergency Broadband Benefit Program, and will offer it to members in its project area for as long as funding is available. All HTC internet tiers and bundles are eligible for this discount; eligible households will be able to receive 300 Mbps / 300 Mbps of internet through our standalone Tier 1 package for less than \$10 per month through the EBB program. HTC is advocating for additional funding for the EBB program to become a permanent program.

The Cooperative Advantage

As a cooperative, the core of our mission is the commitment to improve the lives of the communities we serve through connectivity. Because HTC is a not-for-profit entity, our decisions are driven by what benefits the Cooperative and our community, not by shareholders. Our profits are reinvested into our network and allocated back to our members in the form of capital credits. All the residents and businesses that we serve with this grant project will enjoy the full benefits of an HTC membership.

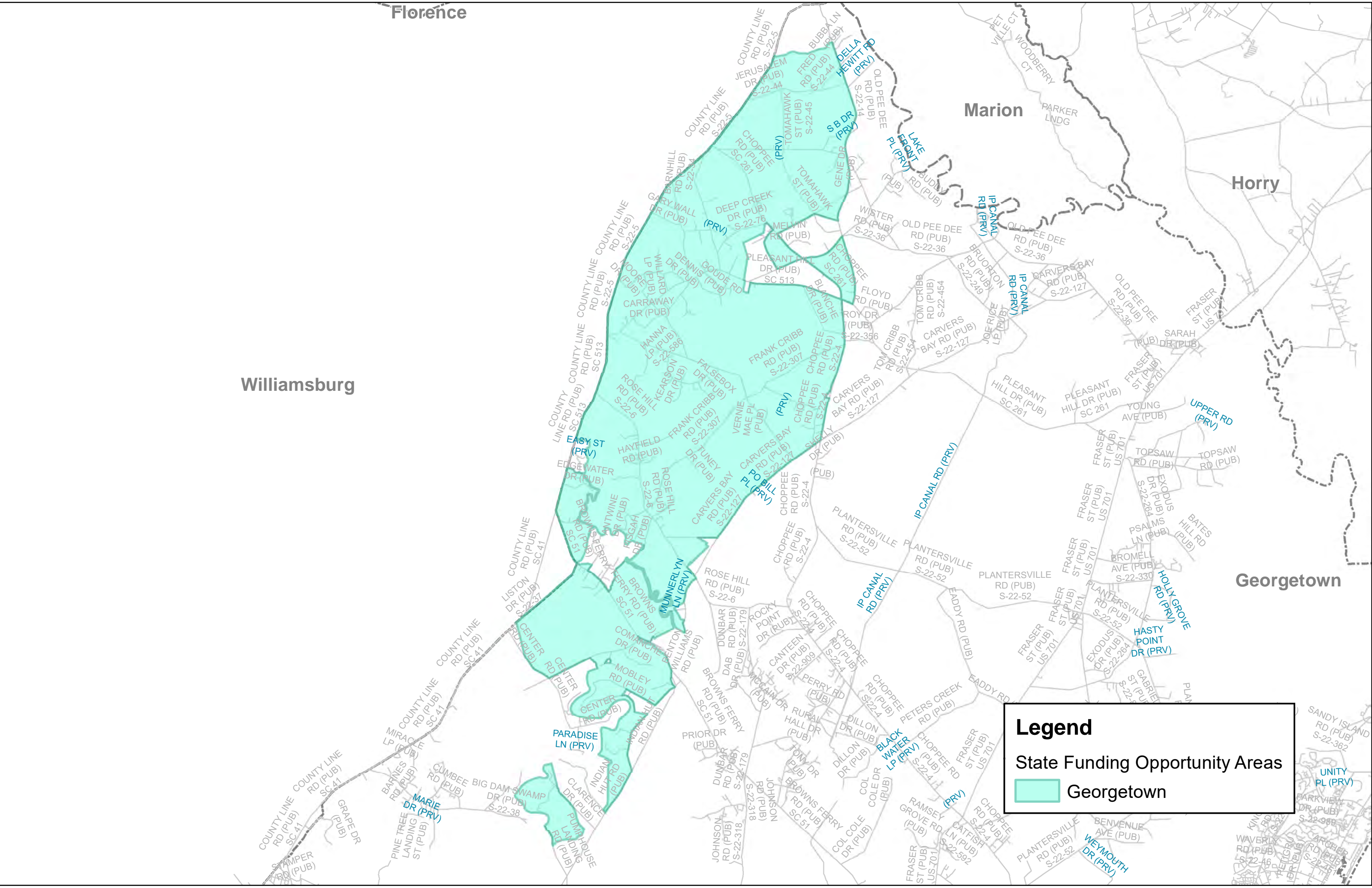
HTC's track record in Horry County and our recent success in the SCBIP project in Marion and Georgetown Counties demonstrate that the Cooperative is well positioned to help the state continue to bridge the digital divide in the Pee Dee region as quickly, and efficiently, as possible. We completed our SCBIP projects ahead of schedule, and even committed to additional expansion with only one month remaining before the CARES Act funding deadline. HTC would like to keep the momentum going and continue to expand broadband access in Marion and Georgetown, and we believe allocating these funds to successful BIP recipients that can efficiently extend off existing networks in unserved and underserved areas would be the most effective use of these funds.

The Fiber Advantage

HTC will install fiber to the premise for every location in this project area, which means that the residents and businesses throughout this area will benefit from HTC's future-proof, state-of-the-art fiber network and have access to speeds up to 1 Gig to support seamless telehealth, remote learning, and telework experiences.

HTC, INC.

Post Office Box 1820 / Conway, South Carolina 29528-1820 / (843) 365-2151 / FAX: (843) 365-1111 / www.htcinc.net



Florence

Marion

Horry

Williamsburg

Georgetown

Legend
State Funding Opportunity Areas

- Georgetown

Floréncé

Marion

Horry

Williamsburg

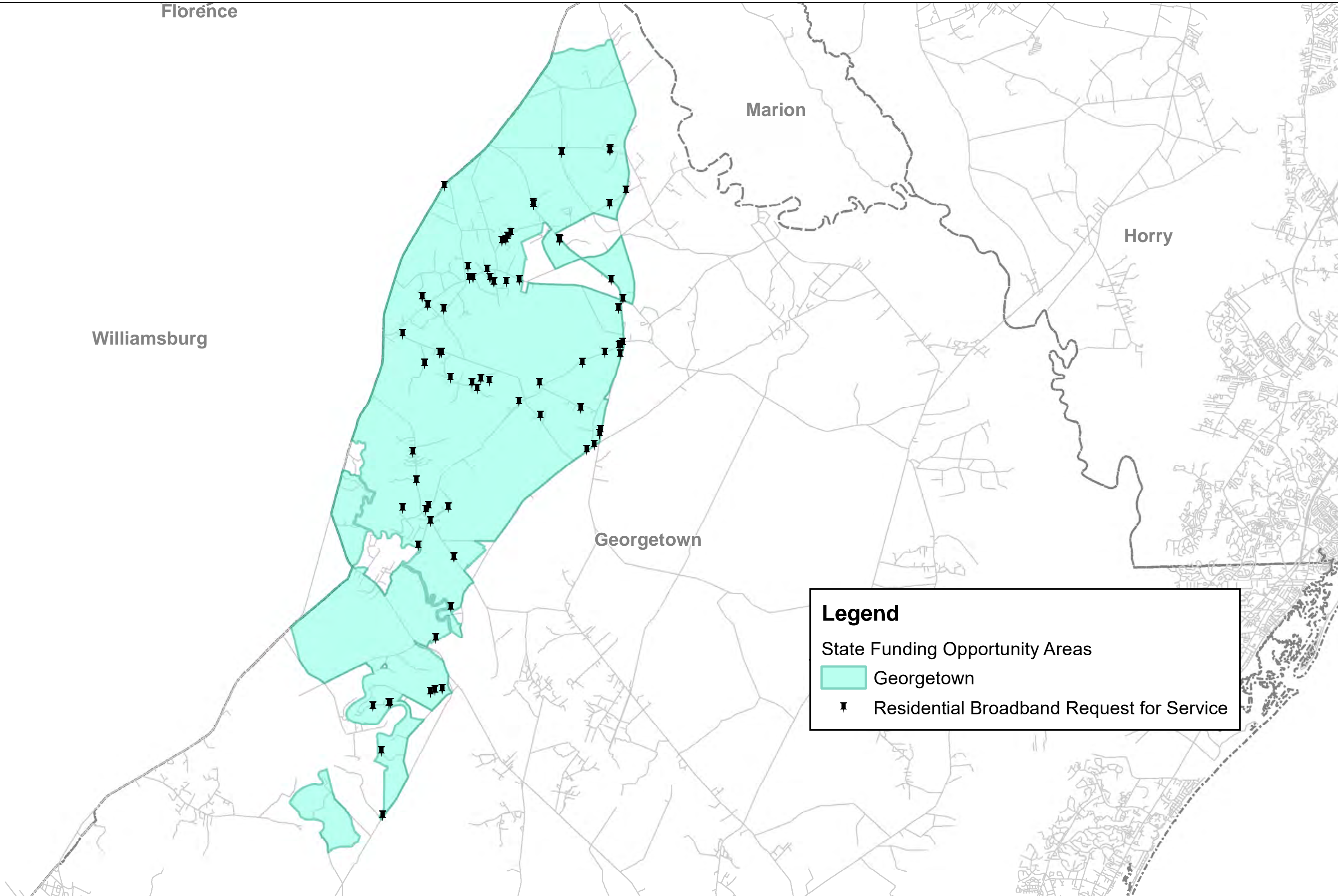
Georgetown

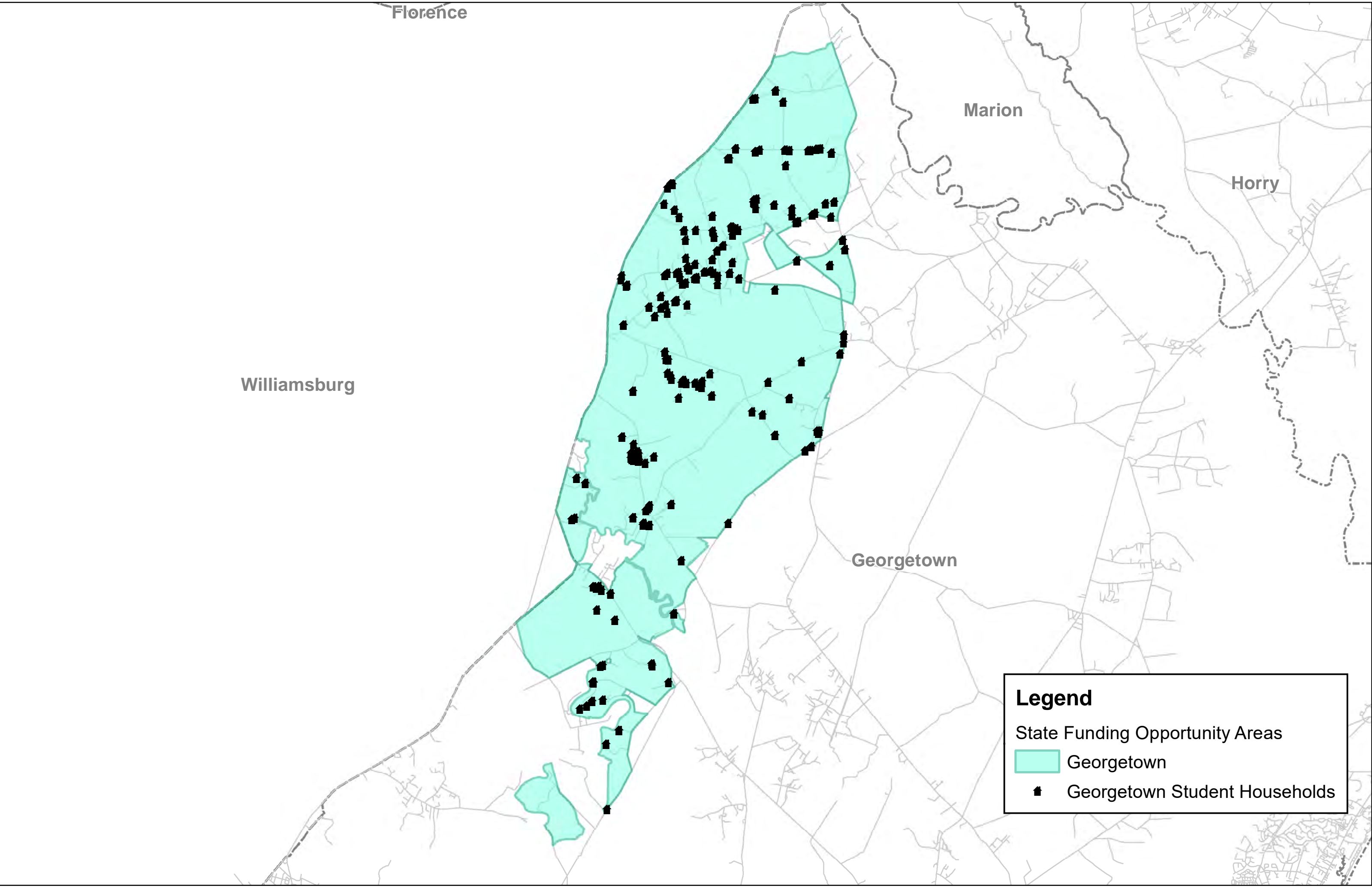
Legend

State Funding Opportunity Areas

 Georgetown

 Residential Broadband Request for Service





Florence

Marion

Horry

Williamsburg

Georgetown

Legend

- State Funding Opportunity Areas
 - Georgetown
- Georgetown Student Households

TOM RICE

7TH DISTRICT, SOUTH CAROLINA

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
WAYS AND MEANS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON TRADE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON SELECT REVENUE
MEASURES

SUBCOMMITTEE ON SOCIAL SECURITY



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4007

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
460 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
TEL: (202) 225-9895
FAX: (202) 225-9690

GRAND STRAND REGIONAL OFFICE:
2411 NORTH OAK STREET
SUITE 405
MYRTLE BEACH, SC 29577
TEL: (843) 445-6459
FAX: (843) 445-6418

PEE DEE REGIONAL OFFICE:
1831 WEST EVANS STREET
SUITE 300
FLORENCE, SC 29501
TEL: (843) 679-9781
FAX: (843) 679-9783

March 10, 2021

Nanette S. Edwards
Executive Director
SC Office of Regulatory Staff
1401 Main Street, Suite 900
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Ms. Edwards,

I am writing to express my interest in Horry Telephone Cooperative's (HTC) application for the Rural Broadband Grant Program offered by the South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff and South Carolina Department of Commerce. This funding will allow HTC to install and deliver broadband throughout Georgetown County.

Horry Telephone Cooperative works to invest in its network and fulfill its mission to connect rural and unserved residents. The Rural Broadband Grant Program will allow HTC to connect approximately 900 residents, 30 businesses, and more than 275 student households, in the communities of St. Luke, Rose Hill, and Plantersville. Georgetown County desperately needs to be prioritized as much of the county is disadvantaged.

HTC has a track record of success in the 7th Congressional District and is clearly committed to helping bridge the digital divide in South Carolina.

I would request that the South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff and South Carolina Department of Commerce give the application full and careful consideration. If you have any questions, please contact my Grants Specialist, Brittany Ferrigno, at (843) 445 – 6459.

Sincerely,

Tom Rice
Member of Congress

TR/BF

RONNIE A. SABB
SENATOR, WILLIAMSBURG COUNTY
SENATORIAL DISTRICT 32

COMMITTEES:
AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES
JUDICIARY
LABOR, COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
RULES
TRANSPORTATION



HOME ADDRESS:
PO BOX 88
108 WEST MAIN ST.
KINGSTREE, SC 29556
(843) 355-5349

SENATE ADDRESS:
THE SENATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
P. O. BOX 142
606 GRESSETTE OFFICE BUILDING
COLUMBIA, SC 29202
TEL: (803) 212-6024
RONNIESABB@SCSENATE.GOV

Nanette S. Edwards
Executive Director
SC Office of Regulatory Staff
1401 Main Street, Suite 900
Columbia, SC 29201

March 20, 2021

Dear Ms. Edwards:

I'm reaching out to express my support for Horry Telephone Cooperative (HTC) in its pursuit of funding through the South Carolina Rural Broadband Grant Program. HTC will reach our most underserved communities with broadband access, allowing for virtual education, telehealth access, and the ability to seek employment online.

HTC has served as an unfailing resource for our region, fulfilling the essential need for high-speed internet service in specified areas of District 32. In the fall of 2020, HTC was selected to receive funding to complete South Carolina Broadband Infrastructure Projects (BIP) within our region. The Cooperative successfully completed those projects within budget and in advance of the strict December deadline imposed by the CARES Act guidelines.

Access to the state-of-the-art network managed by HTC is crucial to the success of many of our communities, including St. Luke, Rose Hill, and Plantersville. These proposed projects will allow HTC to power nearly 900 homes, 30 businesses, and more than 275 student households with broadband during this critical time.

I believe HTC is committed to completing several shovel-ready projects within our community over the next 12 months. The Cooperative's expansion into the region is a welcomed sight. Community members have long awaited broadband service powered by the expansive fiber-optic network managed by HTC professionals. I ask that the South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff strongly consider the application submitted by HTC and support the rural areas of Georgetown County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ronnie Sabb", is written over a horizontal line.

Ronnie Sabb
Member of the Senate



Nanette S. Edwards
Executive Director
SC Office of Regulatory Staff
1401 Main Street, Suite 900
Columbia, SC 29201

March 20, 2021

Dear Ms. Edwards:

I'm writing to express my interest in supporting the application submitted by Horry Telephone Cooperative (HTC) in request of funding in the South Carolina Rural Broadband Grant Program. HTC plays an integral role in bridging the digital divide that exists in Georgetown County.

With support from the South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff, HTC can begin several shovel-ready projects that will benefit the St. Luke, Rose Hill, and Plantersville communities. HTC has the work force, equipment, and technology to bring broadband access to nearly 900 residents, 30 businesses, and more than 275 student households.

In addition, HTC is heavily involved in the connection of our schools and community centers. The Cooperative installed several hotspots at educational facilities and learning centers for the public to access the internet free of charge in the spring of 2020. Georgetown County neighbors have the opportunity to become cooperative members when they acquire services from HTC, advancing the provider's involvement in our neighborhoods and further enriching the lives of our residents.

Thank you in advance for your careful review and consideration of the application submitted by HTC.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "LM", written over a horizontal line.

Louis Morant, Chairman
Georgetown County Council



Nanette S. Edwards
Executive Director
SC Office of Regulatory Staff
1401 Main Street, Suite 900
Columbia, SC 29201

March 20, 2021

Dear Ms. Edwards:

It's with confidence and urgency that I support the application submitted by Horry Telephone Cooperative (HTC) in request of funding in the South Carolina Rural Broadband Grant Program. The economic development of Georgetown County will be made stronger with the benefits offered by HTC broadband services.

Although Georgetown County is a contiguous county as defined by this program, the majority of the county's residents face the same economic hardships as those in the 14 priority counties, and we ask that the South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff take this into consideration as they review applications.

Georgetown County has a designated poverty rate of 68.1%, which clearly reflects a community in need, particularly when you consider the fact that the Waccamaw Neck causes the average poverty rate to be lower than the rest of the county.

Access to the fiber-optic network managed by HTC supports the county's immediate and long-term plans for economic development by supporting existing businesses and attracting new ventures to our area. The quality of life for our residents improves and the county's ability to tout itself as a region for strong economic development increases.

The need continues in Georgetown County. The track record of success HTC has demonstrated in providing broadband access to unserved communities gives me great confidence in recommending that the South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff supports the work HTC is performing with financial backing in the South Carolina Rural Broadband Grant Program.

Sincerely,

Brian Tucker, Executive Director
Georgetown County Economic Development



Nanette S. Edwards
Executive Director
SC Office of Regulatory Staff
1401 Main Street, Suite 900
Columbia, SC 29201

March 20, 2021

Dear Ms. Edwards:

I am contacting you in support of the application submitted by Horry Telephone Cooperative (HTC) in request of funding in the South Carolina Rural Broadband Grant Program. HTC has recently expanded its fiber-optic network into a small portion of the county, but more work is needed.

Georgetown County communities demonstrate a collective poverty rate of 68.1%. While the county may be designated a contiguous county as defined by this program, the economic hardships experienced by our residents mirror those of the 14 priority counties.

The track record of success HTC has demonstrated in providing broadband access to unserved communities gives me great confidence in recommending that the South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff supports the work HTC is performing. The shovel-ready projects identified by HTC will benefit the St. Luke, Rose Hill, and Plantersville communities. HTC has the work force, equipment, and technology to bring broadband access to nearly 900 residents, 30 businesses, and more than 275 student households. Georgetown County faces a deep digital divide, and HTC is prepared to step into that space and bridge the gap within 12 months. With this in mind, I ask that the application submitted by HTC be thoughtfully reviewed and considered by the South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff.

Sincerely,

Angela Christian,
Georgetown County Administrator



J.B. Beck Administration and Education Center
2018 Church Street • Georgetown, SC 29440 • (843) 436-7000

Nanette S. Edwards
Executive Director
SC Office of Regulatory Staff
1401 Main Street, Suite 900
Columbia, SC 29201

April 15, 2021

Dear Ms. Edwards:

On behalf of the parents, educators, and administrators involved with Georgetown County Schools, I would like to express my support for the application submitted by Horry Telephone Cooperative (HTC) in request of funding in the South Carolina Rural Broadband Grant Program.

HTC has long stood ready to connect the families and students within Georgetown County, particularly the rural areas of the region, to reliable broadband. With the support of the South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff, the Cooperative will have the power to reach hundreds of student households that are currently unserved.

When the pandemic first hit our area, HTC demonstrated commitment to supporting Georgetown County students with virtual learning by installing free Wi-Fi hotspots at multiple educational and community facilities. There is still work to be done.

Georgetown County faces a deep digital divide, and HTC is prepared to step into that space and bridge the gap within 12 months. The plans proposed in the South Carolina Rural Broadband Grant Program would allow HTC to provide a fiber-to-the-home connection to the homes of our families that so desperately need it for learning and work.

Thank you for your time in reviewing and considering the application submitted by HTC and the many benefits afforded to our community members by the Cooperative's expansion.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Keith Price', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Keith Price, Superintendent
Georgetown County School District

"THE MISSION OF THE GEORGETOWN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT IS TO PROVIDE ALL STUDENTS WITH WORLD CLASS KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS THAT PREPARE THEM FOR CITIZENSHIP IN A DIVERSE SOCIETY"

Upcoming South Carolina Rural Broadband Grant Program Application

To: Nanette S. Edwards
Executive Director
SC Office of Regulatory Staff
1401 Main Street, Suite 900
Columbia, SC 29201

From: Tara Hall School, Georgetown, S.C.

March 14, 2021

Please accept this letter of support for Horry Telephone Cooperative (HTC) and its application for funds under the Rural Broadband Grant Program.

Tara Hall is a 50-year-old nonprofit that has housed and educated 700 boys from troubled homes and is in the process of opening an early education academy for girls and boys this coming September.

Our 11-acre campus is in the north western part of Georgetown County on the Black Mingo Creek. Our area is rural and sparsely populated by city and coastal area standards. We have struggled over the years to get quality telecommunications services for our students. We have tried everything: satellite, DSL, cable. All have proven to be inadequate for the purposes of the highspeed internet access need for quality education.

It is our understanding that HTC would, if it received these funds, be able to serve hundreds of residents and tens of businesses in our rural community. Of course, Tara Hall School would be in that footprint.

We support their application and would like to be kept informed of the progress of the grant program.

John Kenny
Chairman of the Board
Tara Hall School
P.O. Box 235
1451 High Market Street
Georgetown, SC 29440
4projects.jk@gmail.com



WACCAMAW
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COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

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Nanette S. Edwards
Executive Director
SC Office of Regulatory Staff
1401 Main Street, Suite 900
Columbia, SC 29201

March 20, 2021

Dear Ms. Edwards:

My letter is to express support for the application submitted by Horry Telephone Cooperative (HTC) in request of funding through the South Carolina Rural Broadband Grant Program. The benefits of fiber-optic broadband will positively affect our region, and HTC stands ready to bridge the digital divide in Georgetown County.

The shovel-ready projects will deliver HTC High-Speed Internet to nearly 900 residents, 30 businesses, and more than 275 student households throughout Georgetown County. The communities that will benefit most from the expansion of the HTC network include St. Luke, Rose Hill, and Plantersville. With broadband access, these residents and business owners can connect to virtual education, telehealth appointments, and advance economic development within the area.

Broadband access through HTC will also allow the Waccamaw Region – Horry, Georgetown, and Williamsburg counties – to be better connected to those in our own communities and beyond. Never has there been a more pressing time to equip residents of rural areas with broadband access. HTC stands ready to tackle the many projects available in support of the region's technological growth.

The track record of success HTC has demonstrated in providing broadband access to unserved communities gives me great confidence in recommending that the South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff supports the work HTC is proposing. With this in mind, I ask that the application submitted by HTC be thoughtfully reviewed and considered by the South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff.

Sincerely,



Sarah Smith, Executive Director
Waccamaw Regional Council of Governments



SEC

Santee Electric Cooperative Inc.

424 Sumter Highway • PO Box 548 • Kingstree SC, 29556 • (843) 355-6187 • www.santee.org

March 24, 2021

Nanette S. Edwards
Executive Director
SC Office of Regulatory Staff
1401 Main Street, Suite 900
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Nanette;

I'm writing on behalf of Santee Electric Cooperative in support of the application submitted by Horry Telephone Cooperative (HTC) in request of funding through the South Carolina Rural Broadband Grant Program. HTC serves as an unfailing resource for many Georgetown County communities and beyond. Much like their electric cooperative worked tirelessly to bring these citizens out of the darkness in the 1930's and 1940's, their telephone cooperative is now striving to bring these same families out of the "digital darkness."

Never has there been a more pressing time to equip residents of rural areas with broadband access. HTC stands ready to tackle the many projects available in Georgetown County to ensure our students, workers, and healthcare professionals are able to connect in a way that benefits our communities and businesses.

HTC has a long-standing relationship with Santee Electric Cooperative in serving the residents of Georgetown County. Our partnership was instrumental in the success of the of South Carolina Broadband Infrastructure Projects in 2020, and Santee Electric Cooperative stands ready to assist HTC in its efforts to expand broadband further into Georgetown County.

The work that can be completed by HTC in 12 months has the power to drastically change the education, skill sets, and connectivity of nearly 900 residents, 30 businesses, and more than 275 student households. I urge you to support HTC in its mission to permanently close the digital divide in Georgetown County with requested funding through the South Carolina Rural Broadband Grant Program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rob Ardis".

Robert G. Ardis III, P.E.
President and CEO

Nanette S. Edwards
Executive Director
SC Office of Regulatory Staff
1401 Main Street, Suite 900
Columbia, SC 29201

April 26, 2021

Dear Ms. Edwards:

On behalf of the Northeastern Strategic Alliance (NESA), I am writing to express support for the applications submitted requesting funding through the South Carolina Rural Broadband Grant Program which benefit rural counties within our region.

The economic development of our counties will be made stronger with the benefits offered by these much needed broadband services.

Access to the fiber-optic network supports the regional counties' immediate and long-term plans for economic development by supporting existing business as well as attracting new ventures to our area. In turn the quality of life for our residents improves and the region's ability to tout itself as a place for strong economic development increases.

Our cooperative allies have served as an unfailing resource for our region, fulfilling the essential need for high-speed internet service. The track record of success of our regional cooperatives has demonstrated in providing broadband access to unserved communities gives me great confidence in recommending that the South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff support the work being performed in our counties with financial backing in the Rural Broadband Grant Program.

Sincerely,



Jeff McKay, Executive Director
Northeastern Strategic Alliance (NESA)

March 23, 2021

Nanette S. Edwards
Executive Director
SC Office of Regulatory Staff
1401 Main Street, Suite 900
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Ms. Edwards:

On behalf of the residents of the Plantersville community and surrounding areas, I'd like to express my support for the application submitted by Horry Telephone Cooperative (HTC) in request of funding in the South Carolina Rural Broadband Grant Program.

HTC has long stood ready to connect the families, students, and businesses within Georgetown County to reliable broadband. With the support of the South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff, the Cooperative will have the power to reach nearly 900 residents, 30 businesses, and more than 275 student households, many that lie within the Plantersville area.

At the onset of the pandemic, HTC showed its commitment to helping our children by installing a Wi-Fi hotspot in The Village Group parking lot to help our community continue its education. There is still work to be done.

The plans proposed in the South Carolina Rural Broadband Grant Program would allow HTC to provide a fiber-to-the-home connection to the homes of our families that so desperately need it for learning and work. Georgetown County faces a deep digital divide, and HTC is prepared to step into that space and bridge the gap within 12 months.

Thank you for your time in reviewing and considering the application submitted by HTC and the many benefits afforded to our community members by the Cooperative's expansion.

Sincerely,



Ray C. Funnye, Executive Director
The Village Group



Our mission: We help people live better lives through better health.
Our vision: We will be our region's first choice for health and wellness.
Our purpose: Better health begins here.

P.O. Box 421718 • Georgetown, SC 29442
Phone: 843-527-7000 • Fax: 843-520-8510 • tidelandshealth.org

Nanette S. Edwards
Executive Director
SC Office of Regulatory Staff
1401 Main Street, Suite 900
Columbia, SC 29201

March 20, 2021

Dear Ms. Edwards:

On behalf of Tidelands Health, I am writing to express support for the South Rural Broadband Grant Program application submitted by Horry Telephone Cooperative (HTC). The benefits of fiber-optic broadband will positively affect our region, allowing residents to connect to telehealth appointments and benefit from medical care that is powered by broadband.

It's crucial to our community of patients to have access to reliable internet. The shovel-ready projects identified by HTC will deliver connectivity to nearly 900 residents, 30 businesses, and more than 275 student households throughout our region.

Our most at-risk community members, including the older population, will be best served by healthcare they can receive at home. Never has there been a more pressing time to equip residents of rural areas with broadband access. HTC stands ready to tackle the many projects available in support of the region's technological growth.

With this in mind, I ask that the application submitted by HTC be thoughtfully reviewed and considered by the South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bruce Bailey".

Bruce Bailey
President & CEO