

South Carolina 2024 ARPA Grant Program

Application SLFRF 3.0



Section 1.1 - Applicant Information

Legal Entity/Organization Name	BellSouth Telecommunications, LLC
Parent Organization	AT&T Corp.
Entity Type (e.g. Corporation, non-profit, cooperative, governmental entity)	Corporation
Primary Contact Name	Chuck Greene
Title	Director -Government Affairs
Mailing Address City, State, Zip	1441 Main Street, Columbia, South Carolina 29201
Phone Number	336-692-5353
Email	
Secondary Contact Name	Terrance Ford
Title	Director - External Affairs
Mailing Address City, State, Zip	1645 Hampton Street, Columbia, South Carolina 29201
Phone Number	864-735-4389
Email	Terrance.Ford@att.com
FCC Registration Number (FRN):	1857952
Registered in the System for Award Management (SAM) - (Yes/No)	Yes
Unique Entity ID (UEI) Number	YE1WP3DS5E37
Federal Tax ID Number	58-0436120
SC State Vendor Number	700018537

Section 1.2 - Project Name/Number

Project Number (Format XXX-XX)
 Project Name
 Project Priority (1-5, 1 serving as highest priority for applicant)

ATT-02	
ATT-Charleston	
	2

Section 1.3 - Broadband Service Provider Context

Date of Applicant's Initial FCC Submission
 Date of Applicant's Most Recent FCC Submission
 Applicant has experience delivering broadband service via fiber and/or hybrid fiber-coax infrastructure (YES/NO)

	May 15, 2000
	11-Aug-22
Yes	

Section 1.4 - Broadband Infrastructure Information

Indicate the type(s) of broadband infrastructure technology to be deployed in the project service area.
 Projects must provide a minimum of 100/20 Mbps scalable to 100/100 Mbps. Applicant must explain in detail why the proposed project cannot provide 100/100 Mbps.
 Will all structures be served with the same technology type?
 Estimated Miles of Fiber to be Installed
 Estimated Percentage Underground
 Estimated Percentage Aerial

Fiber to the Premises Minimum Sustainable Download/Upload Speeds 100/100 Mbps	
Yes	
~222	
~90%	
~10%	

Section 1.5 - Project Timeline

Project Start Date
 Project Construction Activity Begins
 Project Construction Activity Completion

	March 1, 2024
	June 1, 2025
	June 30, 2026

Customer Premises

Initiation of Operations (premise installations begin)

	November 1, 2025
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Overall Project Completion Date
 Will the project be completed within 24 months of official Notice to Proceed (NTP)?

	June 30, 2026
Yes	

Section 1.6 - Low-Cost Plan

(Must be a minimum of 100/20 Mbps)

What Download/Upload speed is offered in your low-cost residential plan? (Example 100/20)	100/100
What is the monthly cost of the plan?	\$30.00
Does the above speed tier include unlimited data? (YES/NO)	Yes
Is a Consumer-based Contract Required? (YES/NO)	No
Duration of Low-Cost Plan (Post Construction)	2 Yrs. after project completion & final invoice payment is processed.

Section 1.7 - Free Public Wi-Fi

Will a new Free Public Wi-Fi location(s) be added? Free Public Wi-Fi is a location where anyone can access the Wi-Fi network at no cost 24/7, 365 days. Wi-Fi location needs to be in county or counties applied for.	No
If yes, how many locations will be added?	Select One
If yes, specify the duration the applicant will offer this service.	Select One

Section 1.8 - Network Resiliency

Indicate if any of the Network Resilient Items will be implemented in the project area.

Ensure power redundancy with DC Battery/Diesel/Gas Generator Backup from temporary power loss at premise, Network Operations Center (NOC), and OLTs.	Will Implement
Ensure OLTs have divergent paths to redundant upstream equipment.	Will Implement
Configure OLTs on a fiber ring so the network may continue operation if fiber is cut and/or damaged.	Will Implement
Establish an Emergency Action Plan (EAP).	Will Implement
Conduct readiness drills and tabletop exercises leveraging the EAP, document lessons learned and update the EAP based upon findings.	Will Implement
Deploy facilities underground as opposed to aerial to minimize impacts of downed utility poles from hurricanes, tornadoes, and vehicle accidents occurring in rights of way.	Will Implement
Diversify connectivity by including more than a single tier-one provider as an access point to the Internet through the ISP's network.	Will Implement
Maintain field service teams and spare equipment on standby before, during, and after major weather events and enact mutual assistance agreements, if appropriate.	Will Implement
Conduct regular site inspections for encroachments, damaged facilities, susceptible facilities or other threats through field reconnaissance and windshield surveys on facilities.	Will Implement
Elevate OLTs above base flood elevations in mapped floodplains and associated flood-prone areas.	Will Implement

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Section 2.2 - Funding Details

Description	Comment	Amount
South Carolina ARPA Broadband Grant Program Funds requested		\$ 1,423,285.00
Applicant-Provided Funding		\$ 1,287,735.00
Third-Party Funding Source (if applicable)		\$ -
Total Project Cost		\$ 2,711,020.00
Percentage Funds Requested from SC Broadband Office		52%
Percentage Funds from Applicant Match		48%
Percentage Funds from Third Party Funding Source		0%

ADJUST APPLICANT
PROVIDED FUNDING
AMOUNT TO GET WHOLE
PERCENTAGES ONLY

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4.1 - Additional Information

(max 2000 character limit per item)

Provide a Summary Narrative that describes your project.

This narrative must be unique for each project and discuss this project only. Refrain from discussing rates, structure counts, estimated dates, work that occurred in the past, or the Company's history of providing Broadband service. Limit 750 Characters.

The project proposes to provide services in Charleston County primarily serving north of Hickory Hill and west of Ashley River Rd, area between US 52 and the Cooper River, an area west of Mount Pleasant, and an area north of Hwy 17 adjacent to Hwy 52 North up just pass US Naval Reservation east of North Charleston. AT&T feels that this proposed project area meets the Broadband Office's objective of including census blocks that accelerate deployment and are in the public interest to fund.

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

Refrain from discussing rates, structure counts, estimated dates, work that occurred in the past, or the Company's history of providing Broadband service. Limit 500 Characters (including spaces).

Many Charleston County residents have endured challenges due to the lack of broadband access. Upon completion of this project, impacted families and businesses will have access to reliable high-speed broadband connections, which will empower them to fulfill their daily job responsibilities, access educational resources, stream high-quality video, and effectively serve their customers.

If the proposed Project is in an area that is subject to an existing federal or state funding commitment for reliable speeds of 100/20 Mbps, explain why there is an identified need for additional broadband investment that is not met by existing federal or state funding commitments.

The project is not in an area that is subject to an existing Federal or State funding commitment.

Describe any plans or programs you have developed and propose to implement to improve adoption in the community described in this proposal.

AT&T continues to refine our marketing to accelerate the adoption of AT&T Fiber. Recent changes have doubled adoption in the first 12 months following AT&T Fiber deployment. In addition to community engagement, customer education, and marketing activities, AT&T makes it easy for subscribers to sign up, install the service, and make payments. We realize that availability and affordability are necessary but not sufficient for the adoption of broadband services. A third and critical need is to have access and the knowledge to use internet connected hardware devices and digital services. AT&T is dedicated to doing our part to bring educational resources and technical support to assist eligible users so that they can enjoy the economic opportunity that broadband-connected American households already have. AT&T is dedicated to raising awareness of our Access from AT&T offers for eligible consumers. Where AT&T Fiber is available, Access from AT&T provides participating households with internet speeds of up to 100 Mbps symmetrical, with an included Wi-Fi gateway/router and installation included at no additional cost, all at the low price of \$30/month. In addition to traditional advertising, AT&T promotes awareness of this low-priced internet option to eligible populations by partnering with local government organizations and community groups to raise awareness and encourage adoption. We work closely with these groups to include this information in their communications with their constituencies (i.e. newsletters, social media, and event flyers). Upon completion of network construction, we will reach out to local government leaders to coordinate a media event to announce the availability of Access from AT&T and push out information regarding Access from AT&T.

Describe your plans or programs you have developed and propose to implement to increase digital literacy, for example, support through online training, for this project?

We understand that digital literacy is a key element impacting broadband adoption. That's why AT&T prioritizes collaboration with national and community organizations, including the Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC), Digitunity, the Public Library Association and more. Of note, we continue to work to equip parents and families with free digital literacy education that is vital for preparing for the jobs of the future. With the Public Library Association, we've launched digital literacy courses in a curated series to help newly connected parents and families build skills and confidence using computers and mobile devices. These courses will be offered at AT&T Connected Learning Centers and in public libraries nationwide and are available online at <https://screenready.att.com/>. AT&T has a goal to provide one million people in need with digital resources through AT&T Connected Learning by 2025. We are committed to educating our customers on our fiber broadband services through public outreach, awareness, robust marketing, community education, educational resources, digital literacy, and digital learning.

Will the Project deliver broadband in the approved Project Area that meets or exceeds symmetrical download and upload speeds of 100/100 Mbps?

Yes

If no to above, explain and provide support demonstrating why the Project will not deliver such speeds and provide an affidavit that 100/100 Mbps symmetrical download/upload speeds are not practicable.

Explain how the Applicant will consult with the community in the Project Area on the general affordability needs of the target markets.

To help ensure the effectiveness of our communications solutions and services, we work to understand all aspects of our clients' missions, systems, processes, operational strategy, culture, and people. In addition to building the networks that connect customers and the community, AT&T is a strong supporter of economic development organizations, including the Charleston Regional Development Alliance.

With over 1,600 employees living and working in South Carolina, we have firsthand knowledge of the needs of communities. While we are proud of the work that our employees do every day, we also recognize that more South Carolinians need access to high-speed broadband. AT&T is excited to partner with the State of South Carolina to address this consumer demand and improve access to fiber-optic networks delivering high-speed broadband, which will provide unserved and underserved residents the ability to navigate telework, telehealth, distance learning, and social networking.

AT&T prioritizes collaboration with national and community organizations, including the Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC), Digitunity, the Public Library Association and more. AT&T works to equip parents and families with free digital literacy education that keeps their online experience safe and productive. We've launched digital literacy courses in a curated series that helps newly connected users build skills and confidence using computers and mobile devices. These courses are offered at AT&T Connected Learning Centers and in public libraries nationwide as well as being available online at <https://screenready.att.com/>. AT&T promotes awareness of this free internet option to eligible populations by partnering with local government organizations and community groups to raise awareness and encourage adoption.

Will the Project (1) prioritize investments in fiber-optic infrastructure wherever feasible and focus on projects that deliver a physical broadband connection by prioritizing projects that achieve last mile connections or ensure funded middle mile projects have commitments in place to support new and/or improved last mile service; (2) include affordability options and shall participate in ACP for the life of ACP; and (3) prioritize support for local networks owned, operated, or affiliated with local governments, nonprofits, and cooperatives.

Yes

If no to above, explain.

If awarded, will the Grant funds be used to overbuild another existing broadband provider or to reimburse expenses related to overbuilding another broadband provider?

No

If yes to above, explain.

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Section 3.1 Confirmations

Applicant participates in the Affordable Connective Program (ACP) and will participate in the ACP for the life of ACP for the Project Service Area.

Agree

Applicant will provide at least one low-cost option without data usage caps and at speeds sufficient for households with multiple users for a disclosed period of time.

Agree

The Project will comply with the requirements set forth in ARPA, South Carolina Act No. 244 of 2022, and other federal, state, and local laws, including environmental and permitting laws and regulations.

Agree

The Applicant will not use ARPA funds to procure or obtain certain telecom and video surveillance services or equipment as outlined in 2 CFR 200.216 and 2 CFR 200.471.

Agree

Applicant will not use ARPA funds to modernize cybersecurity for existing and new broadband networks.

Agree

Applicant will not procure telecommunications equipment or services from China.

Agree

The Project includes pre-project development uses or costs

Disagree

If Yes to above, the pre-development uses or costs will be (1) tied to an eligible broadband project or reasonably expected to lead to such a project; and (2) obligated within the period between Feb. 1, 2024, and December 31, 2026 and expended to cover such obligations by December 31, 2026.

Select one

Applicant will require its employees, contractors, and subcontractors to comply with the applicable requirements in the South Carolina Underground Facility Damage Prevention Act pursuant to Title 58, Chapter 36 of the South Carolina Code of Laws, as amended.

Agree

Applicant affirms that it will consult with the SC Department of Transportation, electric utilities as well as local water sewer utilities as to any possible efficiencies that can be achieved with a “dig once” approach.

Agree

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5.1 - Project Sponsors

Entity Name	Charleston Development Alliance
Entity Type (.e.g. Corporation, non-profit, cooperative, governmental entity)	Economic Development
Role within proposed project	Sponsor
Primary Contact Name	David Ginn
Title	President and CEO
Mailing Address City, State, Zip	4401 Belle Oaks Dr Suite 420 North Charleston SC 29405
Phone Number	843-767-9300
Email	dginn@crda.org

5.2 - Project Sponsors

Entity Name	Charleston Metro Chamber of Commerce
Entity Type (.e.g. Corporation, non-profit, cooperative, governmental entity)	Chamber of Commerce
Role within proposed project	Sponsor
Primary Contact Name	Justin Lee
Title	SVP Membership & Corporate Partnerships
Mailing Address City, State, Zip	4922 O'Hear Ave Suite 101 North Charleston SC 29045
Phone Number	843-577-2510
Email	jlee@charlestonchamber.org

5.3 - Project Sponsors

Entity Name	Tri County Cradle to Career Collaborative
Entity Type (.e.g. Corporation, non-profit, cooperative, governmental entity)	non-profit
Role within proposed project	Sponsor
Primary Contact Name	Kenya Dunn
Title	Chair Board of Directors
Mailing Address City, State, Zip	2180 McMillan Ave #71544 North Charleston SC 29415
Phone Number	843-732-8221
Email	info@tricountycradletocareer.org

5.4 - Project Sponsors

Entity Name	Communities in Schools of South Carolina
Entity Type (.e.g. Corporation, non-profit, cooperative, governmental entity)	non-profit
Role within proposed project	Sponsor
Primary Contact Name	Jamie Cooper
Title	President and CEO
Mailing Address City, State, Zip	1691 Turnbull Av Suite 200 North Charleston SC 29405
Phone Number	877-920-3633
Email	info@cisofsc.org

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6.1 - Attachment Checklist

(Please attach the following items to application)

GIS Shapefiles

Proposed 2020 Census Blocks

Yes

Proposed Fiber/Cable Lines

Yes

Proposed Structures Served by Type

Yes

Proposed Network Junctions

Yes

Signed affidavit certifying grant application is complete and accurate

Yes

Proof of funding related to proposed project or non-cash support, provide associated documentation e.g. yearly financial reports, bank statement, etc.

Yes

Letters of support and strategic partnerships

Yes

Copies of Applicant's Current Fee Structure for all Internet Speed Tiers

Yes

Certificates of Insurance

Yes

Any additional information evidencing community need for project

Yes