

South Carolina 2024 ARPA Grant Program

Application SLFRF 3.0



Section 1.1 - Applicant Information

Legal Entity/Organization Name	CarolinaConnect Cooperative
Parent Organization	Newberry Electric Cooperative
Entity Type (e.g. Corporation, non-profit, cooperative, governmental entity)	Cooperative
Primary Contact Name	Glenn Martin
Title	CEO
Mailing Address City, State, Zip	PO Box 1667, Lexington, SC 29071
Phone Number	803-210-5526
Email	glenn.martin@carolinaconnect.com
Secondary Contact Name	Stephanie Sullivan
Title	VP of Operational Support
Mailing Address City, State, Zip	PO Box 477, Newberry, SC 29108
Phone Number	803-924-9008
Email	ssullivan@nec.coop
FCC Registration Number (FRN):	0025826207
Registered in the System for Award Management (SAM) - (Yes/No)	Yes
Unique Entity ID (UEI) Number	HDNAUL952PH9
Federal Tax ID Number	81-1529390
SC State Vendor Number	7000319695

Section 1.2 - Project Name/Number

Project Number (Format XXX-XX)	NEC-06
Project Name	Hanging Oak
Project Priority (1-5, 1 serving as highest priority for applicant)	5

Section 1.3 - Broadband Service Provider Context

Date of Applicant's Initial FCC Submission	December 31, 2017
Date of Applicant's Most Recent FCC Submission	23-Feb-24
Applicant has experience delivering broadband service via fiber and/or hybrid fiber-coax infrastructure (YES/NO)	Yes

Section 1.4 - Broadband Infrastructure Information

<p>Indicate the type(s) of broadband infrastructure technology to be deployed in the project service area.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Will all structures be served with the same technology type?</p>	<p>Fiber to the Premises Minimum Sustainable Download/Upload Speeds 100/100 Mbps</p>
Estimated Miles of Fiber to be Installed	1
Estimated Percentage Underground	25.00%
Estimated Percentage Aerial	75.00%

Section 1.5 - Project Timeline

Project Start Date	June 1, 2024
Project Construction Activity Begins	June 1, 2024
Project Construction Activity Completion	July 1, 2024
Customer Premises	
<i>Initiation of Operations (premise installations begin)</i>	July 15, 2024
Overall Project Completion Date	June 1, 2026
Will the project be completed within 24 months of official Notice to Proceed (NTP)?	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)	350/350
What is the monthly cost of the plan?	\$ 59.95
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)	We have no plans to change the current pricing, Carolina Connect/NEC will guarantee no price increase on this package through 01/01/2025

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?	0
If yes, specify the duration the applicant will offer this service.	No Free Wi-Fi

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. 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. 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. Maintain field service teams and spare equipment on standby before, during, and after major weather events and enact mutual assistance agreements, if appropriate.	Will NOT 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
	Will Implement

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Section 2.2 - Funding Details

Description	Comment	Amount
South Carolina ARPA Broadband Grant Program Funds requested		\$ 25,041.00
Applicant-Provided Funding		\$ 8,347.00
Third-Party Funding Source (if applicable)		-
Total Project Cost		\$ 33,388.00
Percentage Funds Requested from SC Broadband Office		75%
Percentage Funds from Applicant Match		25%
Percentage Funds from Third Party Funding Source		0%

ADJUST APPLICANT
PROVIDED FUNDING
AMOUNT TO GET WHOLE
PERCENTAGES ONLY

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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

Agree

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.

Agree

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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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.

Newberry Electric Cooperative proposes to construct an aerial G-PON fiber optic network to a small unserved subdivision located within Newberry County, outside of NEC electric territory. Our network will provide the area with speeds of atleast 350Mb/350Mb. Utilizing our existig FTTx network, we intend to extend off our grid for less than a mile in order to serve this 'non-member' area.

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).

Newberry Electric Cooperative's proposal meets the need of the community by offering a minimal speed of 350Mb/350Mb (download and uplaod speeds) to provide service the elige

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 proposed grant area is not subject to existitng State or Federal funding.

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

We will market to the areas by email and direct market mailer to increase awareness of our high speed internet offerings. Additional marketing collateral such as yard signs, flyers, and door hangers will also be used.

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?

As part of our customer service and technical support, customers will be assisted with general education about our service, and hands on training when appropriate in regard to online streaming, email address creation, wi-fi speed versus hard wired connection.

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.

Through feedback from community residents, our package prices are reviewed and compared against other service provider packages in the area to ensure that our prices are affordable.

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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5.1 - Project Sponsors

Entity Name
Entity Type
(e.g. Corporation, non-profit, cooperative, governmental entity)
Role within proposed project
Primary Contact Name
Title
Mailing Address City, State, Zip
Phone Number
Email

5.2 - Project Sponsors

Entity Name
Entity Type
(e.g. Corporation, non-profit, cooperative, governmental entity)
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5.3 - Project Sponsors

Entity Name
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5.4 - Project Sponsors

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Entity Type
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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

No

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

No

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