

South Carolina 2024 ARPA Grant Program Application SLFRF 3.0



Section 1.1 - Applicant Information

Legal Entity/Organization Name	Palmetto Telephone Communications, LLC
Parent Organization	Palmetto Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc.
Entity Type (e.g. Corporation, non-profit, cooperative, governmental entity)	Corporation - Non-profit
Primary Contact Name	Jason J. Dandridge
Title	Chief Executive Officer
Mailing Address City, State, Zip	PO Drawer 1577, Walterboro, SC 29488
Phone Number	843-538-9331
Email	jason.dandridge@prtc.us
Secondary Contact Name	Dewaine Wilson
Title	Chief Financial Officer
Mailing Address City, State, Zip	PO Drawer 1577, Walterboro, SC 29488
Phone Number	843-538-9382
Email	dewaine.wilson@prtc.us
FCC Registration Number (FRN):	0003741386
Registered in the System for Award Management (SAM) - (Yes/No)	Yes
Unique Entity ID (UEI) Number	U6APLZPJNR26/NC37NEJLNU9
Federal Tax ID Number	57-0339353/57-1086441
SC State Vendor Number	7000025358

Section 1.2 - Project Name/Number

Project Number (Format XXX-XX)	PTC-14
Project Name	PTC Bamberg_Colleton
Project Priority (1-5, 1 serving as highest priority for applicant)	3

Section 1.3 - Broadband Service Provider Context

Date of Applicant's Initial FCC Submission	August 27, 2014
Date of Applicant's Most Recent FCC Submission	1/11/2024
Applicant has experience delivering broadband service via fiber and/or hybrid fiber-coax infrastructure (YES/NO)	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.	Fiber to the Premises Minimum Sustainable Download/Upload Speeds 100/100 Mbps
Will all structures be served with the same technology type?	Yes
Estimated Miles of Fiber to be Installed	8.67
Estimated Percentage Underground	100.00%
Estimated Percentage Aerial	0.00%

Section 1.5 - Project Timeline

Project Start Date	July 1, 2024
Project Construction Activity Begins	September 1, 2024
Project Construction Activity Completion	June 30, 2026
Customer Premises <i>Initiation of Operations (premise installations begin)</i>	November 1, 2024
Overall Project Completion Date	June 30, 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)	50/50
What is the monthly cost of the plan?	\$ 49.95
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)	No end date planned

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.	Yes
If yes, how many locations will be added?	1
If yes, specify the duration the applicant will offer this service.	4+ years

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		\$ 295,863.00
Applicant-Provided Funding		\$ 295,864.50
Third-Party Funding Source (if applicable)		\$ -
Total Project Cost		\$ 591,727.50
Percentage Funds Requested from SC Broadband Office		50%
Percentage Funds from Applicant Match		50%
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.

Palmetto Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc.(PRTC), on behalf of itself and its wholly owned subsidiary Palmetto Telephone Communications, LLC (PTC) will provide the residents of rural Bamberg/Colleton Counties a fiber network that will provide subscribers with access to advanced services including high-speed broadband, telehealth, online education, economic development opportunities, and more.

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).

PTC will expand broadband infrastructure to households, business, and communities. All residents and businesses in this Project Service Area will be served in a manner that is non-discriminatory, at speeds equal to or greater than the minimum required without additional construction or startup costs to the customer. The infrastructure and equipment that will be deployed will be able to provide 1GB symmetrical speeds.

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.

To PTC's knowledge, this proposed project is not in an area that is subject to an existing federal or state funding commitment for broadband investment and is considered unserved or underserved for broadband service.

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

PTC recognizes that broadband is a necessity and wants to make sure that everyone no matter where they live has access to quality broadband service. PTC will work with the Department of Social Services (DSS) and the local school districts to advertise broadband to low-income customers and households with students enrolled in grades K-12. PTC participates in the FCC's Lifeline and Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP). These programs help make broadband affordable. At the time of new service, customer service representatives inform customers and prospective customers about Lifeline and ACP. PTC has a strong relationship with local leaders and will work with them to address barriers that prevent customers from adopting broadband. PTC is committed to educating the community by promoting free online computer classes to customers who are not familiar with broadband and the apps that are available to them.

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?

PRTC/PTC provided free face-to-face digital literacy classes in a classroom setting for several years. PTC ended the program due to lack of interest and participation. PTC will continue to promote and support digital literacy by informing residents of free online digital literacy curriculum. PTC will promote and provide the following URL: <https://www.learnmyway.com/> site. PTC has vetted the site and highly recommends it. An online class allows each person to choose the time and pace for which they learn.

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.

N/A, we will provide 100/100 Mbps and higher speeds.

<p>Explain how the Applicant will consult with the community in the Project Area on the general affordability needs of the target markets.</p>	
<p>PTC will promote lifeline and ACP programs through bill inserts, social media, and the local newspaper. PTC will work in conjunction with local government officials in the project service area to determine the best way PTC can meet the community needs and make the residents aware of the programs that will help make broadband affordable.</p>	
<p>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.</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>If no to above, explain.</p>	
<p>N/A, the responses was "yes".</p>	
<p>If awarded, will the Grant funds be used to overbuild another existing broadband provider or to reimburse expenses related to overbuilding another broadband provider?</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>If yes to above, explain.</p>	
<p>N/A, the responses was "no".</p>	

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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)
Role within proposed project
Primary Contact Name
Title
Mailing Address City, State, Zip
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Email

5.3 - Project Sponsors

Entity Name
Entity Type
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5.4 - Project Sponsors

Entity Name
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

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

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

No