

**South Carolina 2022 ARPA Grant
Program
Application SFRF 1.0**



Section 1.1 - Applicant Information

Legal Entity/Organization Name	Bamberg County Broadband
Parent Organization	Bamberg County
Entity Type (e.g. Corporation, non-profit, cooperative, governmental entity)	Enterprise Component of County Governmental Entity- In partnership with W. Metts Engineering and Orangeburg County Broadband.
Primary Contact Name	Joey Preston
Title	County Administrator
Mailing Address City, State, Zip	1234 North St. Bamberg, SC 29003
Phone Number	8039284610
Email	joeypreston@gmail.com
FCC Registration Number (FRN):	29774775-OCBB (Partner)
Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) Number	45506508
Registered in the System for Award Management (SAM)	Yes
SAM Number	H4GMA2KDQSP4
SC State Vendor Number	None

Section 1.2 - Project Name/Number

Project Number (Format XXX-XX)	2023-101
Project Name	Bamberg County Rural Broadband

Section 1.3 - Broadband Service Provider Context

Date of Applicant's Initial FCC Form 477 Submission	OCBB- 7/16/2020
Date of Applicant's Most Recent FCC Form 477 Submission	OCBB- 8/15/2022
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. 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>Fiber to the Premises Minimum Sustainable Download/Upload Speeds 100/100 Mbps</p>
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Section 1.5 - Proposed Broadband Pricing Tiers

Rates less than \$10/month (YES/NO)	No
If yes to \$10 month plan what are the upload/download speeds	
Rates between \$10 - \$14.99 (YES/NO)	No
If yes to \$10-\$14.99 month plan what are the upload/download speeds	
Rates between \$15 - \$19.99 (YES/NO)	No
If yes to \$15-\$19.99 month plan what are the upload/download speeds	
Rates between \$20 - \$24.99 (YES/NO)	No
If yes to \$20-\$24.99 month plan what are the upload/download speeds	
Rates between \$25 - \$34.99 (YES/NO)	Yes
If yes to \$25-\$34.99 month plan what are the upload/download speeds	10 Down - 10 Up
Do the above speed tiers include unlimited data? (YES/NO)	Yes
Is a Consumer-based Contract Required? (YES/NO)	Yes
Is the pricing fixed? (YES/NO)	Yes
What's the duration of the pricing? (In Months)	Yes

Section 1.6 - Project Timeline
(Maximum Timeline Allotted is 24 months)

Project Start Date	January 2, 2023
Project Construction Activity Begins	May 1, 2023
Project Construction Activity Complete	September 30, 2024
Customer Premises	1-Jun-23
<i>Installations Begin</i>	July 1, 2023
<i>Installations End</i>	December 15, 2024
Overall Project Completion Date	January 2, 2025
Will the project be completed within 24 months of official Notice to Proceed (NTP)?	Yes

Section 1.7 - Project Service Area Information

Estimated Miles of Fiber to be Installed	250
Estimated Percentage Underground	80
Estimated Percentage Aerial	20
Number of Counties to be Impacted	1
County Names	Bamberg
Total Number of Census Blocks with Concentrations of K-12	100
Total number of Census Blocks in DDA's	79
Total number of Census Blocks NOT in DDA or K-12 Concentration	226
Total Number of unserved 2020 Census Blocks part of Proposed Project	377
Total number of housing units served	1870
Total number of businesses served	75
Total number of other Public Facilities e.g. community centers, fire stations served	92
Total Structures Served	2037
Average Cost Per Structure Served	\$6,470.59
Does the applicant plan to serve every structure in the proposed project service area?	Yes

If no, provide an explanation for why the Project will not Pass all Homes in the proposed project service area

South Carolina 2022 ARPA Grant Program Application SFRF 1.0



Section 2.2 - Funding Details

Description	Comment	Amount
South Carolina ARPA Broadband Grant Program Funds requested		\$ 10,650,000.00
Applicant-Provided Funding	Revenue Bonds	\$ 1,000,000.00
Third-Party Funding Source (if applicable)	Department of Commerce	\$ 450,000.00
Total Project Cost		\$ 12,100,000.00
Percentage Funds Requested from SC Broadband Office		88%
Percentage Funds from Applicant Match		8%
Percentage Funds from Third Party Funding Source		4%

South Carolina 2022 ARPA Grant Program

Application SFRF 1.0



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.

Agree

The Project will comply with the requirements set forth in ARPA, South Carolina Act No. ____ 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 March 3, 2021, and December 31, 2024 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

South Carolina 2022 ARPA Grant Program

Application SFRF 1.0



4.1 - Additional Information

(max 2000 character limit per item)

Provide a Summary Narrative that describes your project

Bamberg County is proposing to construct a Fiber-to-the-Premise (FTTP) buried project to increase infrastructure throughout portions of Bamberg County where there is no broadband service available. Bamberg County will place approximately 225 miles of buried fiber in the eastern portion of the county. The PON design will pass approximately 2825 potential subscribers. This area includes the communities of Hunter's Chapel, Denmark, Govan and portions of Bamberg proper in Bamberg County South Carolina. This FTTP upgrade will be capable of providing 1Gbps of Symmetrical bandwidth to each location. The PFSA is located within a Socially Vulnerable Community. The residents of this community face specific challenges and will rely on broadband internet services to help grow their local economy and increase their opportunities for the future.

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

Bamberg County is one of twelve counties in the state of South Carolina designated as a "Persistent Poverty County". In December of 2016, Bamberg County's unemployment rate was 8.1% compared to South Carolina's unemployment rate of 4.3% and the U.S. rate of 4.2%. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the median household income in Bamberg County is 35% below the national average. In Bamberg County, 28.4% of residents live below the poverty level and 31% of population under 18 is under the poverty line. The PFSA is located within a Socially Vulnerable Community. Bamberg County will price the packages as low as any provider in any portion of Bamberg County or in adjacent areas and will fully participate in ACP for the benefits of the residents of Bamberg County.

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.

Areas chosen for this grant are devoid of acceptable broadband today and are only in areas as identified as Priority areas. The mapping provided is intended to serve all unserved residents of the county. There will be some mapping overlay into served areas due to the nature of the Census blocks. All of these areas will be funded outside of the grant and with in house funds.

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

Bamberg County intends to create a public access channel that will be geared towards community outreach. The access channel will be used to provide community updates, local news, job announcements, online training, and programs that can be geared toward digital literacy.

As part of the Project, explain how the Applicant will make efforts to increase digital literacy, for example, support through online training?

Bamberg County intends to create a public access channel that will be geared towards community outreach. The access channel will be used to provide community updates, local news, job announcements, online training, and programs that can be geared toward digital literacy. The channel will be paired information from the local schools, hospitals, and community officials to better keep rural residents informed.

As part of the Project, identify any areas that the Applicant would be willing to provide public Wi-Fi in a central or community location to improve access for all South Carolinians and for what period of time.

The county intends to provide Wi-Fi hotspots at Libraries, Fire Stations, and Community infrastructure centers such as EMS, firestations, Police Call centers. The wifi hot spots will be available to

List documents that demonstrate your organization currently has the necessary funds to complete this project/proposal. Attach documents to this proposal.

Attached Letters: Department of Commerce, Revenue Bond Approvals

List any lease, franchise agreement, interconnection agreement, authorization, permit, or other items needed to complete this project.	
Bamberg County intends to place to all buried cable on public SCDOT right of way. All permits are approved on a project to project basis. All aerial attachments will take place on Edisto Electric or Dominion Energy Poles and the attachment agreements are regulated by the FCC. All agreements are standard and can easily be obtained and agreed to upon award of the grant.	
Will the Project deliver broadband in the approved Project Service 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 Service Area on the general affordability needs of the target markets.	
The County of Bamberg has for years been trying to provide broadband to unserved portions of the County. The County has applied for numerous Federal grants to provide service throughout the entire county. As part of these project applications, the county has hosted numerous community meetings, surveys, and have had hundreds of hours of interaction with the community. The proposed rate structure established by the County is extremely competitive and lower than most urban areas are able to receive.	
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.	
Is there an identified need in the Project Service Area for additional broadband infrastructure that is not met by existing federal or state funding commitments?	Yes
If so, explain whether service to households and businesses in the Project Service Area should require a holistic approach that provides service to a wider area in order to make ongoing service of certain households or businesses within the service area economical.	
Bamberg County used the existing service maps to identify areas that required service. All of these areas are very rural with no access to affordable broadband. The rate structure for residents will be extremely cost effective and for those rates, Bamberg County. Construction costs are high per subscriber, but the low cost packages will provide a needed community service.	

South Carolina 2022 ARPA Grant Program Application SFRF 1.0



5.1 - Project Sponsors

Entity Name	Orangeburg County
Entity Type (.e.g. Corporation, non-profit, cooperative, governmental entity)	Governmental Entity
Role within proposed project	Interconnection Partner, Operational Support and Infrastructure
Primary Contact Name	Harold Young
Title	Administrator
Mailing Address City, State, Zip	1437 Amelia St. Orangeburg SC 29115
Phone Number	803-533-1000
Email	hyoung@orangeburgcounty.org

5.2 - Project Sponsors

Entity Name	W. Metts Engineering Co, Inc.
Entity Type (.e.g. Corporation, non-profit, cooperative, governmental entity)	Corporation
Role within proposed project	Engineer/Operator
Primary Contact Name	William Metts
Title	President
Mailing Address City, State, Zip	121 Bridge St Branchville SC 29432
Phone Number	803-274-4242
Email	william@wmetts.com

5.3 - Project Sponsors

Entity Name	SC Department of Commerce
Entity Type (.e.g. Corporation, non-profit, cooperative, governmental entity)	Governmental Entity
Role within proposed project	Funding Assistance
Primary Contact Name	Funding Assistance
Title	Director- Targeted Rural Strategy SC Department of Commerce
Mailing Address City, State, Zip	1201 Main Street, Suite 1600 Columbia, SC 29201-3200
Phone Number	(803) 737-0400
Email	mnance@sccommerce.com

5.4 - 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	

South Carolina 2022 ARPA Grant Program Application SFRF 1.0



6.1 - Attachment Checklist

(Please attach the following items to application)

GIS Shapefiles

Proposed 2020 Census Blocks

Yes

Proposed Service Areas

Yes

Proposed Fiber/Cable Lines

Yes

Proposed Structures Served by Type

Yes

Proposed Network Junctions

Yes

6.2 Signed affidavit certifying grant application is complete and accurate

Yes

Partners for financial support related to proposed project or non-cash support provide associated documentation.

Yes

Letters of support evidencing community need and strategic partnerships

Yes

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

Yes

Certificates of Insurance

Yes

Certificates of Bonding, as described in CFR § 200.326 Bonding requirements.

Yes

Any additional information evidencing community need for project

Yes