

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



Section 1.1 - Applicant Information

Legal Entity/Organization Name	Frontier Communications of the Carolinas LLC
Parent Organization	Frontier Communications Parent, Inc.
Entity Type (e.g. Corporation, non-profit, cooperative, governmental entity)	Corporation
Primary Contact Name	Diane Williams-Stinson
Title	Vice President-Grant Administration
Mailing Address City, State, Zip	6430 Oakbrook Parkway, Fort Wayne, IN 46825
Phone Number	260-461-2206
Email	diane.willams-stinson@ftr.com
FCC Registration Number (FRN):	0018802660
Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) Number	C46VXQTKN2U9
Registered in the System for Award Management (SAM)	Yes
SAM Number	6EMR9
SC State Vendor Number	49730

Section 1.2 - Project Name/Number

Project Number (Format XXX-XX)	FTR-04
Project Name	Hampton County

Section 1.3 - Broadband Service Provider Context

Date of Applicant's Initial FCC Form 477 Submission	March 1, 2009
Date of Applicant's Most Recent FCC Form 477 Submission	22-Jun-22
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
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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)	No
If yes to \$25-\$34.99 month plan what are the upload/download speeds	
Do the above speed tiers include unlimited data? (YES/NO)	Yes
Is a Consumer-based Contract Required? (YES/NO)	No
Is the pricing fixed? (YES/NO)	Yes
What's the duration of the pricing? (In Months)	Select one 12 months (approximate)

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

Project Start Date	January 1, 2023
Project Construction Activity Begins	November 1, 2023
Project Construction Activity Complete	November 30, 2024
Customer Premises <i>Installations Begin</i>	October 1, 2024
<i>Installations End</i>	December 31, 2024
Overall Project Completion Date	December 31, 2024
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	47
Estimated Percentage Underground	74.81%
Estimated Percentage Aerial	25.19%
Number of Counties to be Impacted	2
County Names	Hampton, Beaufort
Total Number of Census Blocks with Concentrations of K-12	6
Total number of Census Blocks in DDA's	6
Total number of Census Blocks NOT in DDA or K-12 Concentration	62
Total Number of unserved 2020 Census Blocks part of Proposed Project	73
Total number of housing units served	568
Total number of businesses served	27
Total number of other Public Facilities e.g. community centers, fire stations served	1
Total Structures Served	596
Average Cost Per Structure Served	\$3,726.73
Does the applicant plan to serve every structure in the proposed project service area?	No

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

Frontier intends to serve almost the entirety of locations within the census blocks identified as part of this project, however, our records sometimes did not identify as many locations as shown in the State mapping data for some census blocks. In those cases, Frontier manually reviewed Google Maps satellite images and added enough additional locations to meet the 100% target for priority census blocks and at least the 80% target for non-priority census blocks. Using this method, Frontier was not able - or did not have the resources - to always match 100% of locations in non-priority census blocks. There were also a few limited occasions when Frontier chose not to serve a location in a non-priority census block because we believe it would be a more efficient use of state funding to serve those locations by satellite or fixed wireless solutions. Frontier is, nonetheless, willing to discuss extending its project to any location within its project area that is currently not included in the proposed locations to be served.

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Section 2.2 - Funding Details

Description	Comment	Amount
South Carolina ARPA Broadband Grant Program Funds requested	Frontier is proposing to serve 596 grant-eligible premises in Beaufort, Colleton, and Hampton counties with gigabit fiber broadband internet service. To serve these customer locations without subsidy would require a total of \$3,045,874 in capital investment.	\$ 1,415,672.22
Applicant-Provided Funding	The nonstate match is Frontier cash on hand and cash generated from ongoing business operations.	\$ 1,630,202.18
Third-Party Funding Source (if applicable)		\$ -
Total Project Cost		\$ 3,045,874.40
Percentage Funds Requested from SC Broadband Office		46.48%
Percentage Funds from Applicant Match		53.52%
Percentage Funds from Third Party Funding Source		0%

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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.

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

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 March 3, 2021, and December 31, 2024 and expended to cover such obligations by December 31, 2026.

Select one

Above is Not Applicable

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

Frontier proposes to deploy “future-proof” last mile fiber-to-the-premises (“FTTP”) facilities that will make gigabit broadband service - up to 2 Gbps symmetrical service utilizing XGS-PON technology - available to 596 customer locations across the Early Branch and Yemassee areas of Hampton and Beaufort Counties. This project would require \$3,045,874 capital investment, for which Frontier is requesting \$1,415,672 support from the South Carolina Grant Program. Frontier would fund the remaining project costs itself.

While we are requesting subsidies for the grant-eligible locations, Frontier is considering undertaking this Project as a part of a larger Frontier-funded fiber expansion to connect additional locations with symmetrical gigabit fiber in the immediate region of the project and ensure more comprehensive coverage in the community where funding is received. This broader project approach enables to the state to ensure the maximum impact of funded infrastructure and a lower overall subsidy cost. Through designing a project for grant eligible locations that is incorporated into a larger expansion plan, Frontier is able to offer a more attractive match to the state versus a standalone grant-eligible-only project.

Further, as an existing provider of telephone service in the project area, Frontier has extensive existing assets such as land, buildings, power systems, poles, conduit, rights of way, supplies on hand and work vehicles that it will leverage, along with some existing middle mile facilities, to ensure the lowest possible total costs for this project and support project completion within grant program timeframes. Frontier will also leverage its existing network monitoring teams and systems, product management organization, and customer sales and support centers to ensure customers are provided reliable and relevant services at competitive and affordable rates.

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

The proposed project will directly contribute to greater economic development of the served locations and surrounding community by bringing fiber broadband services to households and businesses that are currently unserved or underserved. Enhanced fiber connectivity increases the health, wellbeing, and productivity of individuals and creates opportunities for economic growth in and around served areas - particularly for local businesses and development of new home-based businesses. Further, the symmetrical fiber broadband services made available by the project would facilitate participation in our increasingly digital society through greater access to effective and efficient distance learning, telemedicine and telework opportunities—endeavors that increasingly rely on applications that require robust upload capabilities. Fiber provides the most robust video conferencing capabilities and delivers a superior experience for consumers when using applications like Zoom, Webex and Teams.

Frontier estimates that approximately 97 K-12 students in the project area, as well as college students and adult learners, will benefit from the increased opportunity offered by improved access to distance learning and the ability to complete online assignments without leaving home. Individuals seeking new job opportunities or career changes will have the opportunity to participate in job searches, training and digital learning from home. Residents will also benefit from increased communications and entertainment options, often with associated cost savings (voice-over-internet-protocol, video communications, online news services, streaming video, online gaming, etc.). Robust broadband can also reduce the isolation of individuals with limited mobility through video chat platforms and increased entertainment and news services.

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.

Not Applicable

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

Frontier expects to leverage past-proven outreach campaigns to raise community awareness and drive adoption of deployed broadband services, including collaboration with community-based organizations, local consortium and local officials; and cooperation with county social service agencies, local schools, food banks, senior centers, libraries, etc. If awarded grant funding, Frontier will begin outreach to these organizations to provide an overview of the project and the services to be offered, as well as discuss collaborative initiatives to reach populations that have historically been overlooked or underrepresented.

In addition, Frontier expects to use some or all of the following marketing efforts, which it has successfully utilized for other, similar projects to raise community awareness of new and upcoming broadband services: direct mailers; local newsprint; outdoor signage; media ads and ribbon cuttings or other local events. Frontier will also use these methods to promote the availability of low-income offers and mailings to current Lifeline telephone customers and other publication/promotion of its low-income offers to under/unserved populations.

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

Frontier has created an online support tool for consumers with an extensive library of articles to assist customers in using internet service and addressing common topics. Areas covered by these resources include installation of new equipment, troubleshooting, resetting passwords, reporting and monitoring service outages, and how to use email. Frontier also provides access to 24-hour technical support over the phone and via live chat as well as to assist residential and business customers with questions and concerns regarding broadband service.

Frontier continues to explore other ways to address digital literacy needs in partnership with the communities it serves and is evaluating additional opportunities to for online digital literacy training resources and inclusion of that information on Frontier's website and in marketing efforts.

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.

Frontier will continue its outreach and is prepared to commit to deploying free Wi-Fi service for public use on the premises of a community anchor institution (maximum in-building coverage area of 10,000 sq. ft.) within the general project area for a period of 5 years.

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

Frontier has sufficient cash on hand to finance this project. Audited financials can be found on the Form 10Ks available at: <https://investor.frontier.com/filings-and-financials/sec-filings/default.aspx>

List any lease, franchise agreement, interconnection agreement, authorization, permit, or other items needed to complete this project.	
A leased 100G circuit is required from Hollywood, SC to Myrtle Beach, SC. Construction permits/authorizations are likely to be required from Hampton and Beaufort Counties, as well as the city of Yemassee. SCDOT encroachment agreements are required for any new buried cable along state highway rights of way and are submitted through the SCDOT EPPS system. Frontier uses this same system to submit permits applications to SCDOT for other construction work. All Fiber Distribution Hubs will require electrical connections, some of which may require more lengthy lead times if existing facilities are not sufficient. Frontier does not anticipate needing any franchise agreement, interconnection agreement or pole attachment agreement for this project.	
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.	
Not Applicable	
Explain how the Applicant will consult with the community in the Project Service Area on the general affordability needs of the target markets.	
Frontier's public advocacy team is in contact with local officials regarding the proposed project and the specific needs of the community. As part of this outreach, Frontier will be sharing information regarding its proposed pricing for fiber services and soliciting input regarding whether those rates - including specially discounted rates Frontier offers in conjunction with the ACP discount - would meet the communities' affordability needs. Frontier consistently prices its fiber broadband rates at some of the lowest levels offered across in the country, based on current FCC Urban Rate Survey data. Offering these low rates ensures affordability for all customers, particularly when Frontier offers a free 100Mbps symmetrical service to qualifying low income customers in conjunction with Frontier's participation in the FCC's ACP.	
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.	No
If no to above, explain.	

Frontier's project does prioritize investment in fiber-optic infrastructure by proposing a robust FTTP network. Frontier currently participates in the FCC's Affordable Connectivity Program and commits to doing so for the life of that program.

Frontier's project does not, however, directly connect with, augment, or otherwise enhance a local network that is owned, operated, or affiliated with local governments, nonprofits, and cooperatives. Nonetheless, Frontier will make new facilities constructed as part of its project available to any such local network to the extent required by FCC interconnection rules.

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.	
Not Applicable	
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?	No
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.	
Not Applicable	

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5.1 - Project Sponsors

Entity Name	Hampton County
Entity Type (.e.g. Corporation, non-profit, cooperative, governmental entity)	Governmental Entity
Role within proposed project	Letter of Support
Primary Contact Name	Charles Phillips
Title	Chairman
Mailing Address City, State, Zip	200 Jackson Avenue, East, Hampton, SC 29924
Phone Number	bphillips@hamptoncountysc.org
Email	803-625-4330

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	
Phone Number	
Email	

5.3 - 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

5.4 - 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

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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

No

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.

No

Letters of support evidencing community need and strategic partnerships

No

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

No