South Carolina 2022 ARPA Grant Program
Application SFRF 1.0

Section 1.1 - Applicant Information

Legal Entity/Organization Name	TruVista Communications, Inc.
Parent Organization	TruVista Communications, Inc.
Entity Type (e.g. Corporation, non-profit, cooperative, governmental entity)	Corporation
Primary Contact Name	Eric Ramey
Title	VP- Regulatory and Admin
Mailing Address City, State, Zip	112 York Street, Chester, South Carolina 29706
Phone Number	803-581-9152
Email	Eric Ramey
FCC Registration Number (FRN):	0003707775
Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) Number	008940884
Registered in the System for Award Management (SAM)	Yes
SAM Number	NFNDMFM5KSS4
SC State Vendor Number	7000011071

Section 1.2 - Project Name/Number

Project Number (Format XXX-XX)	CHE-10
Project Name	Project Catawba

Section 1.3 - Broadband Service Provider Context

Date of Applicant's Initial FCC Form 477 Submission

June 30, 2014

Date of Applicant's Most Recent FCC Form 477 Submission

August 30, 2022

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

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)	No

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

Project Start Date	January 1, 2023
Project Construction Activity Begins	March 1, 2023
Project Construction Activity Complete	October 31, 2024

Customer Premises	1670
Installations Begin	April 1, 2023
Installations End	October 31, 2024

Overall Project Completion Date	November 29, 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	139.4
Estimated Percentage Underground	80
Estimated Percentage Aerial	20

Number of Counties to be Impacted	1
County Names	Richland

Total Number of Census Blocks with Concentrations of K-12	44
Total number of Census Blocks in DDA's	0
Total number of Census Blocks NOT in DDA or K-12 Concentration	54
Total Number of unserved 2020 Census Blocks part of Proposed Project	77

Total number of housing units served	1552
Total number of businesses served	118
Total number of other Public Facilities e.g. community centers, fire stations served	0
Total Structures Served	1670
Average Cost Per Structure Served	$ 5,074.00

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

N/A

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Section 2.2 - Funding Details

Description	Comment	Amount
South Carolina ARPA Broadband Grant Program Funds requested		$ 5,622,000.00
Applicant-Provided Funding		$ 2,852,000.00
Third-Party Funding Source (if applicable)		$ -
Total Project Cost		$ 8,474,000.00
Percentage Funds Requested from SC Broadband Office		66%
Percentage Funds from Applicant Match		34%
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

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

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4.1 - Additional Information
(max 2000 character limit per item)

Provide a Summary Narrative that describes your project
TruVista ("Company") is proposing to use South Carolina ARPA funds to expand existing services into the under-served and unserved areas of Richland N, SC with the project passing 1,670 premises. This fiber to the premise (FTTx) project will provide residents symmetrical internet speeds of up to 1Gbps. TruVista will leverage their existing talent and fiber core to extend Fiber-to-the-Home facilities to the proposed area. This will allow these farmers, business owners, school-children, patients, and residents to take advantage of gigabit speeds. In addition to fiber optic internet services, these households will also gain access to TruVista's robust voice, video and security offerings. If awarded, Company will provide broadband over its fiber-to-the-home ("FTTH") network throughout the proposed funded service areas ("PFSAs"). Company will provide residential broadband service plans in the PFSAs which are the same as offered in its existing fiber network areas.

Describe how your proposal meets the needs of the community to be served as described in the "Guidelines."
The PFSAs cover very rural areas of Richland County in South Carolina. According to US Census Bureau data, the median household income for Richland County is $54,441 compared to $64,994 for the country. Further, the poverty level of Richland County is 16.0% compared to 13.8% in South Carolina and 12.8% for the country. Therefore, affordability of broadband is an important aspect of Company's SC ARPA project. The lack of broadband in the PFSAs creates additional burdens and complications when consumers attempt to access resources both inside and outside of the community. These burdens and complications were exacerbated during the Covid-19 Pandemic when remote access to school, work and healthcare are critical to everyday life. Access to remote learning via broadband connectivity is a significant need in the proposed project areas. The US Census Bureau data shows 21.5% of Richland County's population is under 18-years old, indicating that the population of this county needs access to broadband to access remote learning. These are students, for which reliable broadband access continues to be critical with the growing number of Covid variants and subsequent associated quarantine requirements. Lack of broadband presents additional challenges as current broadband connections are not sufficient to allow access to telemedicine in this rural area. Lack of access to telemedicine creates additional burdens for the elderly population reliant upon relatives for their transport to receive medical attention. According to the US Census Bureau data, the population of persons 65-years and older in Richland County is 13.7%. In addition to the need for remote access to education and telemedicine, the pandemic has forced companies to have employees work remotely. The lack of available broadband connectivity completely inhibits companies and employees from being able to work from home and therefore impacts the livelihood of households located in the PFSAs.
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.
N/A

Describe any plans or programs you have developed to improve adoption in the community described in this proposal.
In order to try to provide affordable broadband to low-income customers in the community, Company currently participates in the FCC's Federal Lifeline program and provides discounts to qualifying Lifeline subscribers of $9.25 per month. Company also participated in the FCC's Emergency Broadband Benefit Program ("EBBP") as a means of offering further assistance to low-income broadband subscribers. Company now participates in the FCC Affordable Connectivity Program ("ACP") which replaced the EBBP on December 31, 2021. Under the ACP, customer can receive up to $30 per month in additional support. Company commits to continue to participate in both the Lifeline and ACP programs and will offer these same programs to all customers in the PFSAs.
As part of the Project, explain how the Applicant will make efforts to increase digital literacy, for example, support through online training?
As additional consideration, Company launched an initiative called EDUCATE 2020 which offered free internet services until the end of the school year to households with school-aged children at the outset of the COVID-19 pandemic. Company also implemented a "Distance Learning Program" during the 2020 -2021 school year in partnership with several local school districts and state governments to provide broadband services at substantial discounts to qualifying households in the following year. Company will consistently seek ways to work with educational, government and civic partners to provide additional discounts to ensure wider broadband acceptance levels.
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.
TruVista is committed to providing consistent, reliable internet connectivity to its customers and as such will work with local government and community leaders to identify central and/or community locations to improve public Wi-Fi access. Company will then commit to providing Wi-Fi in those identified areas to improve access for South Carolinians.
List documents that demonstrate your organization currently has the necessary funds to complete this project/proposal. Attach documents to this proposal.
Funds Affidavit

List any lease, franchise agreement, interconnection agreement, authorization, permit, or other items needed to complete this project.
South Carolina Department of Transportation, Pole and Railroad Permits

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.
N/A

Explain how the Applicant will consult with the community in the Project Service Area on the general affordability needs of the target markets.
Company proactively meets with community leaders to keep them informed of our Fiber deployment efforts as well as to discuss future needs for unserved and underserved residents within their constituency. TruVista meets regularly with City, County, and Education leaders across all footprints to keep them informed of affordability initiatives like Lifeline, ACP, and the prior EBBP as well as to get their feedback and hear their communities' needs. TruVista will always be active partners with communities and community leaders to work together to identify both needs and potential solutions.

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.
N/A

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.
N/A

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.
N/A

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

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	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.	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