

# South Carolina 2023 ARPA Grant Program Application CPF 1.0



## Section 1.1 - Applicant Information

Legal Entity/Organization Name	BellSouth Telecommunications, LLC.
Parent Organization	AT&T Corp.
Entity Type (e.g. Corporation, non-profit, cooperative, governmental entity)	LLC
Primary Contact Name	Chuck Greene
Title	Director - Government Affairs
Mailing Address City, State, Zip	1441 Main St., Columbia, SC 29201
Phone Number	336-692-5353
Email	<a href="mailto:Chuck.Greene@att.com">Chuck.Greene@att.com</a>

## Section 1.2 - Project Name/Number

Project Number (Format XXX-XX)	ATT-02
Project Name	ATT-Aiken
Project Priority (1-5, 1 serving as highest priority for applicant)	2

## Section 1.3 - Broadband Service Provider Context

Date of Applicant's Initial FCC Submission	May 15, 2000
Date of Applicant's Most Recent FCC Submission	11-Aug-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.

What is your network up-time in South Carolina for the last 12 months? e.g. 99.999%

What is your network up-time in the county applied for the last 12 months e.g. 99.99%

Will all structures be served with the same technology type?

Estimated Miles of Fiber to be Installed

Estimated Percentage Underground

Estimated Percentage Aerial

Fiber to the Premises Minimum Sustainable Download/Upload Speeds 100/100 Mbps
Yes
~219
~97%
~3%

## Section 1.5 - Project Timeline (Maximum Timeline Allotted is 24 months)

Project Start Date

Project Construction Activity Begins

Project Construction Activity Completion

1 month after contract execution
7 months after contract execution
Prior to 11/28/2025

### **Customer Premises**

*Initiation of Operations (premise installations begin)*

Overall Project Completion Date

Will the project be completed within

24 months of official Notice to Proceed (NTP)?

Q1 of 2025
Prior to 11/28/2025
Yes

## Section 1.6 - ESA Project

Does this project include a Main Street Eligible Service Area?  
(YES/NO)

No
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## Section 1.7 - 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)

What is the monthly cost of the plan?

Does the above speed tier include unlimited data? (YES/NO)

Is a Consumer-based Contract Required? (YES/NO)

Is the pricing fixed? (YES/NO)

If no, what's the duration?

100/100 Mbps Symmetrical
\$30 / month
Yes
No
Yes

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## Section 2.2 - In-kind Match (for Main Street Projects only)-

Type	Description	Qty	Rate	Amount
In-Kind Match				
In-Kind Match				
In-Kind Match				
In-Kind Match				
In-Kind Match				
In-Kind Match				
In-Kind Match				
Total				\$ -

Total Project Cost and In-Kind Match	
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## Section 2.3 - Funding Details

Description	Comment	Amount
South Carolina ARPA Broadband Grant Program Funds requested		\$ 3,988,411.00
Applicant-Provided Funding		\$ 9,306,293.00
Third-Party Funding Source (if applicable) - List Source		\$ -
In-Kind Match (for Main Street Projects only)		\$ -
Total Project Cost		\$ 13,294,704.00
Percentage Funds Requested from SC Broadband Office		30.00%
Percentage Funds from Applicant Match		70.00%
Percentage Funds from Third Party Funding Source		0.00%
Percentage Funds from In-Kind Match		0.00%

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 (or its successor) for the life of ACP for the Project Area.

Agree

Applicant will provide at least one low-cost residential option without data usage caps at a minimum speed of 100/20 for a documented 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, including covered telecommunication and video surveillance services or equipment provided or produced by entities owned or controlled by the People's Republic of China and telecommunications equipment produced by Huawei Technologies Company or ZTE Corporation (or any subsidiary or affiliate of such entities).

Agree

The Applicant, to the extent practicable and consistent with applicable law under the award, will provide a preference for the procurement or use of goods, products, or materials produced in the United States as described in 2 C.F.R. 200.322 and Executive Order 14005 Ensuring the Future is Made in All by All of America's Workers (January 25, 2021). (Chuck run by business unit attorneys)

Agree

Applicant will not use ARPA funds to modernize cybersecurity for existing and new broadband networks.

Agree

The Project includes pre-project Engineering uses or costs

Disagree

If Yes to above, the pre-development Engineering uses or costs will be (1) tied to an eligible broadband project or reasonably expected to lead to such a project; (2) necessary for the efficient and timely performance of eligible Projects; and (3) incurred after March 15, 2021, but prior to execution of the Grant Agreement.

Select one

Applicant will encourage its employees, contractors, and subcontractors to adopt and enforce on-the-job seat belt policies and programs for their employees when operating company-owned, rented or personally owned vehicles pursuant to Executive Order 13043, 62 FR 19217 (April 8, 1997).

Agree

Applicant will encourage its employees, contractors, and subcontractors to adopt and enforce policies that ban text messaging while driving.

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 except item 1)

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.**

AT&T proposes to provide fiber optic broadband service in 80 census blocks in Aiken County, two of which are High Priority unserved census blocks with 20 or more K-12 students. Several more of the census blocks are also designated as High Priority. The project proposes to provide services primarily in the Beech Island, Windsor, Montmorenci, and Hollow Creek areas of the County. More details on the exact project area are outlined in the attached shapefiles. AT&T feels that this proposed project area meets the Broadband Office's objective of including census blocks that accelerate deployment and are in the public interest to fund.

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

AT&T has more than 1,600 employees in South Carolina, including network technicians, retail associates, network managers, and engineers. Living and working here gives us a firsthand understanding of the needs of communities from the Upstate to the Coast. While we are proud of the work that our employees do every day, we recognize more South Carolinians need access to high-speed broadband. The pandemic highlighted needs in the marketplace as consumer demand for broadband connectivity has increased dramatically. AT&T is excited to partner with the State of South Carolina to address this consumer demand and improve access to fiber-optic networks delivering high-speed broadband, which will provide unserved residents the ability to navigate telework, telehealth, distance learning, and social networking.

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 project is not in an area that is subject to an existing Federal or state funding commitment.

Describe your plans or programs you will implement to improve adoption in the community described in this proposal.

AT&T continues to refine our marketing to accelerate the adoption of AT&T Fiber. Recent changes have doubled adoption in the first 12 months following AT&T Fiber deployment. In addition to community engagement, customer education, and marketing activities, AT&T makes it easy for subscribers to sign up, install the service, and make payments. We realize that availability and affordability are necessary but not sufficient for the adoption of broadband services. A third and critical need is to have access and the knowledge to use internet connected hardware devices and digital services. AT&T is dedicated to doing our part to bring educational resources and technical support to assist eligible users so that they can enjoy the economic opportunity that broadband-connected American households already have. AT&T is dedicated to raising awareness of the Federal Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP), which coupled with Access from AT&T, provides free symmetrical 100 Mbps high speed internet for eligible customers. In addition to traditional advertising, AT&T promotes awareness of this free internet option to eligible populations by partnering with local government organizations and community groups to raise awareness and encourage adoption. We work closely with these groups to include this information in their communications with their constituencies (i.e. newsletters, social media, and event flyers). Upon completion of network construction, we will reach out to local government leaders to coordinate a media event to announce the availability of Access from AT&T and push out information regarding Access from AT&T and the offer of free internet for eligible households.

Describe your plans or programs you have developed and will implement to increase digital literacy, for example, support through online training, for this project?

We understand that digital literacy is a key element impacting broadband adoption. That’s why AT&T prioritizes collaboration with national and community organizations, including the Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC), Digitunity, the Public Library Association, and more. “The stakes for closing the digital divide are incredibly high, and it is imperative that we remove barriers to opportunity for children and families,” said Jeff McElfresh, Chief Executive Officer, AT&T Communications. “Education plays a vital role in the long-term success of our society, and we are committed to investing in the educational and connectivity needs of underserved communities, while also expanding access to low-cost broadband services.” Of note, we continue to work to equip parents and families with free digital literacy education that is vital for preparing for the jobs of the future. With the Public Library Association, we’ve launched digital literacy courses in a curated series to help newly connected parents and families build skills and confidence using computers and mobile devices. These courses will be offered at AT&T Connected Learning Centers and in public libraries nationwide and are available online at <https://screenready.att.com/>.

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

AT&T has not identified any locations that it can confirm it would be willing to provide Wi-Fi for a specified period of time, or at what cost it could be provided.

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
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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.

To help ensure the effectiveness of our communications solutions and services, we work to understand all aspects of our clients' missions, systems, processes, operational strategy, culture, and people. In addition to building the networks that connect customers and the community, AT&T is a strong supporter of economic development organizations, including the Western SC Economic Development Partnership.

With over 1,600 employees living and working in South Carolina, we have firsthand knowledge of the needs of communities. While we are proud of the work that our employees do every day, we also recognize that more South Carolinians need access to high-speed broadband. AT&T is excited to partner with the State of South Carolina to address this consumer demand and improve access to fiber-optic networks delivering high-speed broadband, which will provide unserved and underserved residents the ability to navigate telework, telehealth, distance learning, and social networking. AT&T prioritizes collaboration with national and community organizations, including the Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC), Digitunity, the Public Library Association and more. AT&T works to equip parents and families with free digital literacy education that keeps their online experience safe and productive. We've launched digital literacy courses in a curated series that helps newly connected users build skills and confidence using computers and mobile devices. These courses are offered at AT&T Connected Learning Centers and in public libraries nationwide as well as being available online at <https://screenready.att.com/>. AT&T also promotes awareness of Access from AT&T to eligible populations by partnering with local government organizations and community groups to raise awareness and encourage adoption.

What network resiliency strategies will be leveraged to ensure facilities remain operational?

We are committed to keeping our customers connected even in the wake of unpredictable, catastrophic events. With more than \$650 M invested in the U.S, our Network Disaster Recovery (NDR) program is one of the largest, and most advanced of its kind. Its sole purpose is to rapidly restore communications to areas affected by disasters or even minor cable cuts. Launched in 1992, our teams have spent thousands of hours in the field and responded to countless events from fires and hurricanes, to tornadoes and winter storms. Communications are vital before, during and after any event. Simply put, we are experienced in constantly perfecting the process and ready to respond at a moment's notice. We conduct exercises each year that are vital to testing our equipment, process, and state-of-art technology. We monitor and maintain our network 24/7 through our Global Network Operations Center and conduct several readiness drills throughout the year to help ensure we are prepared and respond quickly. Our fleet consists of hundreds of network recovery support trailers and equipment that can be made ready for rapid deployment. We look forward to serving our SC project areas with the same rigor we serve our entire customer base.

<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>
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If no to above, explain.

<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>
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If yes to above, explain.



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## 5.1 - Project Sponsors

Entity Name	Western SC Economic Development Partnership
Entity Type (e.g. Corporation, non-profit, cooperative, governmental entity)	Economic Development
Role within proposed project	Sponsor
Primary Contact Name	Will Williams
Title	President and CEO
Mailing Address City, State, Zip	319 Scholar Loop, Aiken, SC 29801
Phone Number	803-522-1048
Email	Will@WesternSC.org

## 5.2 - Project Sponsors

Entity Name	SRS Community Reuse Organization
Entity Type (e.g. Corporation, non-profit, cooperative, governmental entity)	Community Organization
Role within proposed project	Sponsor
Primary Contact Name	Robert F. Bennett
Title	President and CEO
Mailing Address City, State, Zip	P. O. Box 696, Aiken, SC 29802
Phone Number	803-508-7401
Email	robbie.bennett@srsro.org

### **5.3 - Project Sponsors**

Entity Name	Aiken Chamber of Commerce
Entity Type (.e.g. Corporation, non-profit, cooperative, governmental entity)	Area Chamber of Commerce
Role within proposed project	Sponsor
Primary Contact Name	J. David Jameson
Title	President and CEO
Mailing Address City, State, Zip	121 Richland Ave. E., Aiken, SC 29801
Phone Number	803-645-0502
Email	djameson@aikenchamber.net

### **5.4 - Project Sponsors**

Entity Name	State of South Carolina
Entity Type (.e.g. Corporation, non-profit, cooperative, governmental entity)	General Assembly
Role within proposed project	Sponsor
Primary Contact Name	Bill Taylor
Title	Representative
Mailing Address City, State, Zip	P.O. Box 2646, Aiken, SC 29802
Phone Number	803-270-2012
Email	Bill@TaylorSCHouse.com

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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

*Existing Fiber/Cable Lines*

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

Yes

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

Yes

Certificates of Insurance

Yes

Main Street Work Plan

No

Any additional information evidencing community need for project

No