

South Carolina 2023 ARPA Grant Program Application CPF 1.0



Section 1.1 - Applicant Information

Legal Entity/Organization Name	Carolina Connect Cooperative
Parent Organization	
Entity Type (e.g. Corporation, non-profit, cooperative, governmental entity)	Cooperative
Primary Contact Name	Glenn Martin
Title	CEO
Mailing Address City, State, Zip	PO Box 1667, Lexington SC 29071
Phone Number	803-785-3420
Email	Glenn.Martin@carolinaconnect.com

Section 1.2 - Project Name/Number

Project Number (Format XXX-XX)	AEC-04
Project Name	AEC MISC SMALL AREAS
Project Priority (1-5, 1 serving as highest priority for applicant)	4

Section 1.3 - Broadband Service Provider Context

Date of Applicant's Initial FCC Submission	December 31, 2017
Date of Applicant's Most Recent FCC Submission	June 6, 2023
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	
	407.66
	6.00%
	94.00%

Section 1.5 - Project Timeline

(Maximum Timeline Allotted is 24 months)

Project Start Date

Project Construction Activity Begins

Project Construction Activity Completion

	November 28, 2023
	January 1, 2024
	November 28, 2025

Customer Premises

Initiation of Operations (premise installations begin)

	March 1, 2024
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Overall Project Completion Date

Will the project be completed within

24 months of official Notice to Proceed (NTP)?

	November 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?

	350/350
	\$ 49.95
	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	#REF!
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Section 2.3 - Funding Details

Description	Comment	Amount
South Carolina ARPA Broadband Grant Program Funds requested		\$ 6,735,831.63
Applicant-Provided Funding		\$ 2,245,277.21
Third-Party Funding Source (if applicable) - List Source		\$ -
In-Kind Match (for Main Street Projects only)		\$ -
Total Project Cost		\$ 8,981,108.84
Percentage Funds Requested from SC Broadband Office		75.00%
Percentage Funds from Applicant Match		25.00%
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).

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.

Our project in the small areas surrounding our already built fiber network will bring high-speed internet service to residents and businesses in those areas. We will be utilizing both overhead and underground installation methods to ensure that we are able to reach as many customers as possible. The residents in the area will have access to internet speeds starting at 350 Mbps and options up to 1Gbps.

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

Our proposal exceeds the needs of the community. The minimum required internet service speed is 100/20 Mbps download/upload speed per the Treasury definition of served and we propose to bring a minimum of 350/350 Mbps download/upload speed to the area with the use of fiber-to-the-premise.

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.

No areas are included in existing federal or state funding commitments to our knowledge.

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

Residents will be contacted through various marketing techniques, for example mailers.

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

As part of our customer service, technical support and installation service, customers will be assisted with general education about our service, and hands on training when appropriate regarding online streaming, email address creation, wi-fi speed versus hard wired connection.

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.

No

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 Area on the general affordability needs of the target markets.

We will encourage residents in the community to sign up for the ACP if they have not done so already.

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

The equipment at our sites is powered with DC power with battery backup which provides protection from temporary power loss. The OLTs have multiple divergent paths to redundant upstream equipment which should keep the service up in the event of a hardware failure in either upstream device. The OLTs are configured on a fiber ring which allows service to continue operation if one fiber path is cut or damaged.

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.

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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
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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

Existing ~~Fiber/Cable Lines~~ 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

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

Select one