

South Carolina 2023 ARPA Grant Program Application CPF 1.0



Section 1.1 - Applicant Information

Legal Entity/Organization Name	Spectrum Southeast, LLC
Parent Organization	Charter Communications, Inc.
Entity Type (e.g. Corporation, non-profit, cooperative, governmental entity)	Corporation
Primary Contact Name	Joe Prater
Title	Director, State Government Affairs
Mailing Address City, State, Zip	101 Innovation Ave, Morrisville, NC 27560
Phone Number	919-882-4475
Email	joe.prater@charter.com

Section 1.2 - Project Name/Number

Project Number (Format XXX-XX)	CHR-LS
Project Name	Lower Savannah Region Broadband Exspansion Project
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	September 1, 2000
Date of Applicant's Most Recent FCC Submission	June 30, 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.

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
60.5
35.00%
65.00%

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

Project Start Date

Project Construction Activity Begins

Project Construction Activity Completion

January 1, 2024
August 1, 2024
November 30, 2024

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)?

February 1, 2024
November 28, 2025
Yes

Section 1.6 - ESA Project

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

Yes

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?

100/20
\$59.99
Yes
No
No
1 Year

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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		\$ 7,997,913
Applicant-Provided Funding		\$ 6,813,037
Third-Party Funding Source (if applicable) - List Source		\$ -
In-Kind Match (for Main Street Projects only)		\$ -
Total Project Cost		\$ 14,810,950.45
Percentage Funds Requested from SC Broadband Office		54.00%
Percentage Funds from Applicant Match		46.00%
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 to the extent not waived by Treasury in its Supplemental Guidance

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

Agree

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.

Agree

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.

Charter is requesting a grant to construct a last-mile fiber-to-the-premises via Ethernet passive optical network to provide service to unserved households throughout the Lower Savannah Region of South Carolina. This project includes the following four counties: Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, and Orangeburg. Charter's strategy in developing its 2023 ARPA Grant Program CPF 1.0 submissions was based upon engagement and collaboration with key government and non-profit entities. As described throughout this application, Charter's proposal is a product of valuable partnerships throughout the region to assess and identify local needs to help communities, the South Carolinians they serve, and local economies thrive in the new digital world.

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

Consistent with the objectives of the 2023 ARPA Grant Program CPF 1.0 guidance, Charter's collaboration with the communities within the proposed project area will primarily focus upon locations in need, affordability, adoption, and digital literacy. This includes ongoing discussions with the counties, localities, and other community stakeholders to identify local residents, businesses, and anchor institutions that are lacking access to high-speed, reliable broadband service. While using the South Carolina Broadband Office's (SCBBO) fabric locations on the eligibility map, Charter has consulted community stakeholders in the proposed project areas to ensure the proposed deployment achieves their local goals of expanding service to those in need. In addition to consultations regarding the geographic coverage outlined in Charter's proposal, Charter has reviewed its product offerings and participation in the FCC's Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) to ensure the packages that we offer will meet the affordability needs of the communities that would be served. Lastly, Charter's commitment to increasing adoption and digital literacy has also involved local engagement, wherein Charter discussed our local commitments to address these important issues across the communities to be served. More information regarding such programs is addressed below in the application.

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.

Charter recognizes the critical fact that each day without connectivity increases the gap between those who have broadband and those who do not. In this proposal, Charter aims to close this digital divide by offering to build the **340 RDOF locations** identified in this Project within the specified timeline of this grant program at no cost to the state. Moreover, Charter is proposing to build an additional **1,620 locations as a part of the state grant program**. This will result in a **total build of 1,960 locations throughout Anderson County, South Carolina**.

SUMMARY:

- Charter RDOF Locations: 340
- SC State Grant Locations: 1,620
- Total Locations: 1,960 (340 RDOF Locations + 1,620 SC State Grant Locations)

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

Charter is committed to ensuring that more South Carolinians have access to high-quality, reliable broadband. As we continue to expand our network to cover more communities in South Carolina, we remain focused on increasing our customer's awareness of our various service offerings.

Charter has offered affordable broadband in South Carolina for many years. Due to advances in technology and enhancements to our network, the speeds we offer today are dramatically faster than years ago, and we are continually increase those speeds, most recently raising our download speeds for our flagship offering to 300Mbps.

Charter is proud to be engaged in several initiatives and various business practices that benefit consumers in need and demonstrate our commitment to the communities we serve. For example, the Affordable Connectivity Program ("ACP"), which Charter participates in, provides a \$30 discount on internet service for eligible customers.

As required by the program, Charter has also created a low-cost offering (100/20 Mbps) that has no income requirements (as indicated in section 1.7 of this application).

The following links contain additional information about our programs:

- Stay Connected K-12 Program: <https://www.spectrum.net/support/internet/student-home>
- Spectrum Digital Education Grant Program: <https://corporate.charter.com/digital-education/grants>
- Spectrum Community Center Assist: <https://corporate.charter.com/community-assist>
- Spectrum Community Investment Loan Fund: <https://corporate.charter.com/community-investment-loan-fund>

If awarded a grant in the Lower Savannah Region, Charter will work with county and local governments to execute marketing strategies including deploying company representatives directly in these communities (ex. on-site at small or major retailers, door to door, etc.) and/or television, radio, and online advertisements and 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?

Charter believes that no South Carolinian should be prevented from accessing the internet due to fear or a lack of digital literacy. Charter has long been committed to helping address these challenges by increasing adoption and access to technology through our philanthropic support for key community organizations including through our Spectrum Digital Education Grant program, which provides computers, digital education classes, and technology labs for thousands across the country. For more information regarding our Spectrum Digital Education Grants, please visit <https://corporate.charter.com/digital-education/grants>.

If awarded a grant in the Lower Savannah Region, Charter will commit to making a \$25,000 contribution towards a Spectrum Digital Education initiative at a location(s) determined by the Counties, based on their local assessment of need. Charter will work directly with the Counties and its localities to determine the scheduling of this event(s) over the course of our build-out or upon completion of this project.

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.

If awarded a grant in the Lower Savannah Region, Charter commits to working with the county and local governments to assess local needs regarding wireless broadband connectivity in the communities that we plan to serve as a part of this project. Additionally, Charter is committing to provide one (1) public Wi-Fi access point that will be located in each county in this region (4 total) Charter will work with the Counties to identify a mutually agreed upon location for the Wi-Fi access point in their county. Charter will provide this Wi-Fi access point based on our standard terms and conditions and for a duration agreed upon with each county. For more information about the terms and conditions of our Wi-Fi Access Points, visit <https://www.spectrum.com/internet/wifi-access-points>.

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 Area on the general affordability needs of the target markets.

As previously noted, Charter has engaged and collaborated with the counties, localities, and community stakeholders throughout the Lower Savannah Region to assess their affordability needs. This included discussions about Charter's affordable service offerings, its participation in the FCC's Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP), and Charter's willingness to host events to increase awareness of its affordable service options in the proposed project area.

Furthermore, if granted an award in the Lower Savannah Region, Charter is committed to working with the county and its localities to 1) make residents aware of its various service offerings, 2) inform residents about initiatives that are available to address service affordability, and 3) any other needs identified by the county or localities to increase overall awareness, adoption, and digital literacy regarding the high-speed broadband services that will become available as a result of this network expansion.

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

Regardless of the cause for the major service disruption (natural disaster or human error), Charter works quickly to safely identify impacted customers and restore connectivity. An incident assessment, including possible scope and impact to our business is conducted as part of any decision to activate Charter's Disaster Emergency Action Plan (DEAP). Charter's efforts include general proactive and event-based engagement with state and local emergency services agencies to best coordinate Charter's restoration efforts with other key infrastructure stakeholders.

Continuity risks are multifaceted in nature and include the impact of weather events, which Charter frequently analyzes through incident assessment process. Charter has sound and robust business continuity and management and disaster recovery procedures in place, with a framework that includes:

- Business engagement
- Technical resilience, recovery plan and coordination of recovery efforts
- Execution of ongoing exercises and training

Charter leverages a continual service improvement approach to assess risk to our network. As natural disasters and extreme weather events are unpredictable and can be fast moving, we review, practice, and update our DEAP so that we are ready to respond. We conduct regular maintenance and testing of our fixed-facility critical infrastructure that provides services to our customers. We review facilities at risk from climate events and take pro-active measures to minimize risks, including relocating facilities in flood prone areas and using heat-resistant building materials in warmer climates.

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

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5.1 - Project Sponsors

Entity Name	Barnwell County
Entity Type (.e.g. Corporation, non-profit, cooperative, governmental entity)	County Government
Role within proposed project	Project Advocate
Primary Contact Name	Tim Bennett
Title	County Administrator
Mailing Address City, State, Zip	57 Wall Street, Room 126, Barnwell, SC 29812
Phone Number	803-541-1000
Email	trbennett@barnwellsc.com

5.2 - Project Sponsors

Entity Name	Southern Palmetto Chamber
Entity Type (.e.g. Corporation, non-profit, cooperative, governmental entity)	Non-Profit
Role within proposed project	Project Advocate
Primary Contact Name	Bob Snead
Title	President/CEO
Mailing Address City, State, Zip	218 Main Street, Barnwell, SC 29812
Phone Number	803.259.7446
Email	bob@southernpalmetto.org

5.3 - Project Sponsors

Entity Name	Palmetto Care Connections
Entity Type (.e.g. Corporation, non-profit, cooperative, governmental entity)	Non-Profit
Role within proposed project	Project Advocate
Primary Contact Name	Kathy Schwarting
Title	CEO
Mailing Address City, State, Zip	1880 Main Highway, Bamberg, SC 29003
Phone Number	803-245-2672
Email	kathys@palmettocareconnections.org

5.4 - Project Sponsors

Entity Name	South Carolina Victim Assistance Network
Entity Type (.e.g. Corporation, non-profit, cooperative, governmental entity)	Non-Profit
Role within proposed project	Project Advocate
Primary Contact Name	Laura Hudson
Title	Executive Director
Mailing Address City, State, Zip	PO Box 212863, Columbia, SC 29221
Phone Number	803-750-1200
Email	laura@scvan.org

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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

Yes