



BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM
Hargray, Inc.

SUCCESS STORY

Hargray, Inc. (Hargray) offers advanced, high-speed internet, TV, and phone services to residents and businesses in Beaufort, Jasper, and Hampton counties.

With five total projects, Hargray received over \$1.4 million in CARES Act funding to help expand broadband infrastructure in South Carolina.

Impact to Community

Due to the coastal or rural nature of areas such as Daufuskie Island and Estill, SC, broadband access has been limited. Receiving CARES Act funding allowed Hargray to extend its network infrastructure to deliver high-speed broadband to customers in remote communities. The CARES Act project installed fiber to the premises providing speeds up to 1,000 Mbps/100 Mbps in Beaufort County and hybrid-fiber coax providing speeds up to 300 Mbps/50 Mbps in Hampton County.

Access to high-speed broadband can benefit the economic development of an area. These projects provide the infrastructure needed for current businesses to grow and for the area to attract new companies.

AT A GLANCE

Number of Projects: 5

Total Project Cost: \$2,823,312

CARES Act Funding: \$1,411,656

Households Served: 281

Households Passed*: 1,527

Businesses Passed: 76

Educational Institutions Passed: 6

Health-Care Facilities Passed: 8

Community Anchor Points Passed: 8

Technology deployed:
Fiber to premises and Hybrid fiber-coax

Maximum download/upload speeds:
1,000 Mbps/100 Mbps and
300 Mbps/50 Mbps

**The residence or business is eligible to subscribe to services.*



“ We had Hargray in Hardeeville years ago on cable modem. The service worked alright there, but this fiber is amazing! Never goes out! We are pulling 450+ every time we do a speed test— we are very happy with the service! ”

*Chris Bowen
Resident in Hardeeville, SC*

With support from local government and business leaders, Hargray announced plans to bring high-speed internet services to the area under the Lowcountry Broadband Plan in 2015. Construction began that year and continues with the installation of fiber and upgrades to its existing network.

Helping Consumers During COVID-19

With limited access to health care facilities, many residents previously had to travel out of their immediate area to health-care centers. Hargray's CARES Act projects allow residents the ability to perform virtual telehealth visits with health-care facilities and hospitals using high-speed internet, thereby reducing the risk of spreading the COVID-19 virus to others.

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Many students in the Beaufort and Hampton County School Districts are attending classes virtually. High-speed internet allows students to continue learning while at home.

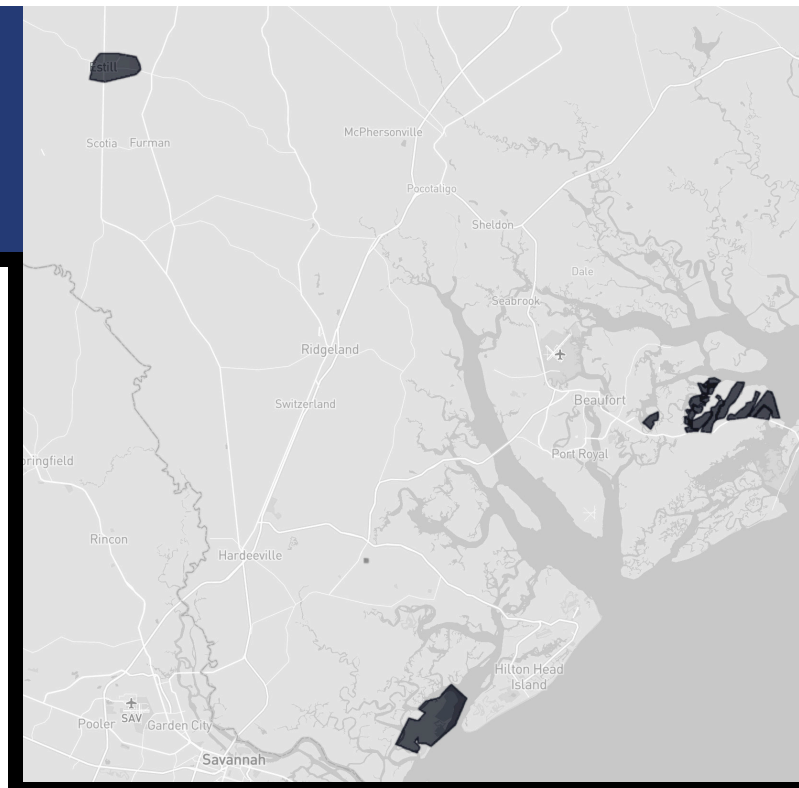
Many companies have required employees to work from home. Employees are now able to complete work previously hindered by the lack of access to broadband. Additionally, these employees are able to share bandwidth with their children who may be attending school virtually.



Project Areas

Hargray projects were completed in the following counties:

- Beaufort
- Hampton



Average Cost

The average cost is determined by taking the total cost of the project and dividing by the number of locations. This is the average cost based on the amount of CARES Act funding received and not what a consumer would pay.

Per Location Served: \$1,737.42

Per Housing Unit Served: \$1,848.93

Per Business Served: \$37,148.85

CARES Act

The South Carolina General Assembly passed Act 142 authorizing the ORS to expend up to \$50 million for broadband initiatives related to COVID-19. The expansion of broadband infrastructure emphasized services to rural communities and communities with a high prevalence of COVID-19 or with demographic characteristics consistent with risk factors for COVID-19.



About the Office of Regulatory Staff

The ORS represents consumers of investor-owned utilities in South Carolina before the PSC. The PSC is the state agency that sets utilities' rates. The ORS must look at the impact to the consumer and utilities' continued investment in reliable and high-quality services.

