



BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM **Newberry Electric Cooperative**

Newberry Electric Cooperative (NEC) is a member-owner of CarolinaConnect Cooperative. CarolinaConnect Cooperative provides fiber based high-speed internet services to NEC members in the Hollands, Fairview, Stony Hill, Prosperity, and Newhope communities of Newberry County.

With four total projects, NEC received over \$1.2 million in CARES Act funding to help expand broadband infrastructure in South Carolina. NEC contracted with McCall-Thomas Engineering to provide design and construction services for its projects.

Impact to Community

Receiving CARES Act funding allowed the company to install infrastructure that delivers high-speed fiber broadband to customers. The CARES Act project installed fiber to the premises providing a maximum speed of 1,000 Mbps/1,000 Mbps.

Access to high-speed broadband can benefit economic development. Companies looking to locate to the area now have access to broadband. Small businesses now also have access to adequate broadband.

Through letters, direct market mailers, and emails, NEC contacts members to let them know about the new access to CarolinaConnect internet service.

SUCCESS STORY

AT A GLANCE

Number of Projects: 5

Total Project Cost: \$6,361,804

CARES Act Funding: \$1,297,750

Households Served: 465

Households Passed*: 2,834

Businesses Passed: 373

Health-Care Facilities Passed: 4

Community Anchor Institutions Passed: 52

Educational Institutions Passed: 6

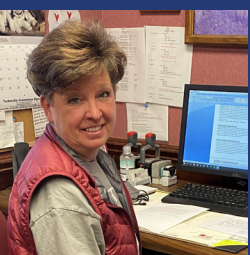
Technology deployed:

Fiber to premises

Minimum download/upload speeds:

100 Mbps/100 Mbps

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



“ The ORS CARES Act funding has benefited my family by providing high-quality, life-changing internet service at a faster pace than we would have received it without the grant. Having expedited access to CarolinaConnect Internet service will also meet my grandchildren’s virtual learning needs and objectives, which is a huge relief! ”

*Mary Willingham
Residential customer in Newberry, SC*

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. NEC'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.

NEC's CARES Act projects allow residents the ability to perform virtual telehealth visits.

Many students in the Newberry County School District are attending classes virtually. High-speed internet allows students to continue learning while at home.

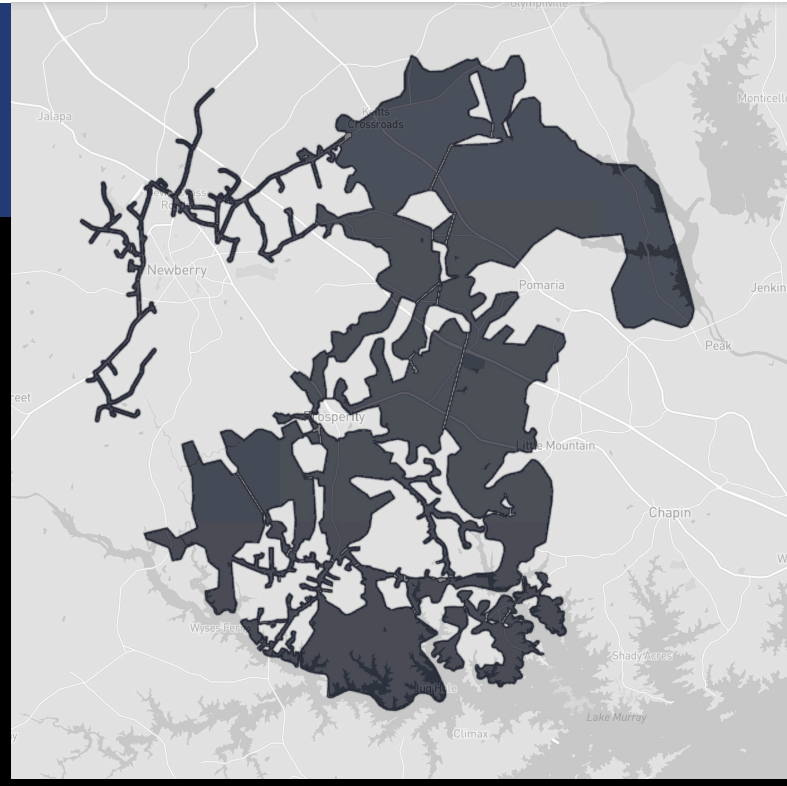
Many companies have required employees to work from home. Employees are now able to complete work previously hindered by the lack of access to broadband. Additionally, these employees are able to share bandwidth with their children who may be attending school virtually.



Project Area

NEC's project was completed in the following county:

- Newberry



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: \$457.00

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.

