



## APPLICATION

# South Carolina 2021 Rural Broadband Grant Program

### Applicant Information

Applicant Name/Organization

Applicant FCC Registration Number (FRN)

Primary Contact Name

Title

Mailing Address

Phone Number

City, State, Zip

Email

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### Broadband Service Provider Experience

Date of Applicant's Initial FCC Form 477 Submission

Date of Applicant's Most Recent FCC Form 477 Submission

Applicant and/or Project Partner has Experience:

- Delivering broadband service via fiber and/or hybrid fiber-coax infrastructure
- Delivering broadband service via fixed wireless infrastructure
- Building and operating broadband networks in rural areas
- Operating broadband networks in low-moderate income areas

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### Project Area Information

#### Eligible County Impact

Counties  
(list)

Cities/Towns/Municipalities  
(list)

Households

Businesses

Health Care Facilities

Community Anchor Institutions

Educational Institutions

## Contiguous County Impact

Counties  
(list)

Cities/Towns/Municipalities  
(list)

Households

Businesses

Health Care Facilities

Community Anchor Institutions

Educational Institutions

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## Broadband Infrastructure Information

Indicate the type(s) of broadband infrastructure technology to be deployed in the project area.

- Fiber to the Premises* Minimum Sustainable Download/Upload Speeds
- Hybrid fiber-coax* Minimum Sustainable Download/Upload Speeds  
(*symmetrical upload/download speeds*)
- Hybrid fiber-coax* Minimum Sustainable Download/Upload Speeds  
(*non-symmetrical upload/download speeds*)
- Fixed wireless* Minimum Sustainable Download/Upload Speeds

### Broadband Pricing Schedules or Tiers

Indicate all rate tiers for wireline projects of at least 100/20 Mbps or fixed wireless at 50/5 Mbps or faster that will be offered to customers in the project area:

- |                                                             |                                                             |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rates less than \$10/month         | <input type="checkbox"/> Rates between \$20 - \$24.99/month |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rates between \$10 - \$14.99/month | <input type="checkbox"/> Rates between \$25 - \$34.99/month |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rates between \$15 - \$19.99/month |                                                             |

[HTC is participating in the EBB program \(see Exhibit A\)](#)

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### Project Timeline

Project Start Date	Customer Premises
Project Construction Activity Begins	<i>Installations Begin</i>
Project Construction Activity Complete	<i>Installations End</i>
	Overall Project Completion Date

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### Project Cost Information

Total Project Cost	Average Cost per Location Served <i>(all locations or structures)</i>
Upfront Cost Requirements	
Cost of Building and/or Extending Infrastructure to Customer Premises	Average Cost per Housing Unit
	Average Cost per Business

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### Project Funding Information

South Carolina Rural Broadband Grant Program Funds requested (\$)

Applicant-Provided Funding (\$)

#### Non-Public Funding

Amount (\$)

Source(s)

## **Additional Information**

- 1) Describe Applicant's and/or project Partner's experience building and/or operating broadband networks.
  
- 2) Describe how your proposal meets the needs of the community to be served as described in the "Guidelines."
  
- 3) Describe any plans or programs you have developed to improve adoption in the community described in this proposal. Please include letters of support from key community partners that indicate their awareness of your project.
  
- 4) Provide documents that demonstrate your organization currently has the necessary funds (50% of total project cost) to complete this project/proposal. List documents here and attach documents to this proposal.
  
- 5) List any lease, franchise agreement, interconnection agreement, authorization, permit, or other items needed to complete this project.

## Attachments and Exhibits

Please attach the following items to application:

- Map of project area (*PDF and Shapefile formats*)
- Letters of support evidencing community need and strategic partnerships
- Any additional information evidencing community need for project
- Most recent FCC Form 477 filing

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## Certification and Signature

**CERTIFICATION:** The Applicant certifies that information included in this application is factual to their knowledge.

**Signature:** *Von Todd*

**Print Name of Signatory:**

**Title of Signatory:**

**Date:**

*All questions and completed applications should be submitted to [Broadband@ORS.SC.GOV](mailto:Broadband@ORS.SC.GOV)*

*Facsimile signatures and email signatures shall be as effective as original signatures to bind any party.*



**South Carolina**  
Department of Commerce  
*Just right for business.*





**Exhibit A**  
**HTC Marion Priority 2**

**Service Requests**

HTC has received 30 requests for service in this project area. This illustrates the existing need for services and the readiness of residents in this area to subscribe to service. A map illustrating a distribution of those requests is attached.

**Student Households**

HTC has identified 186 student households in our project area and is committed to working with Marion County School District to support their student and teachers' online learning needs, including through community education program. A map of these student locations is attached.

**Broadband Pricing Tiers**

HTC is participating in the FCC's Emergency Broadband Benefit Program, and will offer it to members in its project area for as long as funding is available. All HTC internet tiers and bundles are eligible for this discount; eligible households will be able to receive 300 Mbps / 300 Mbps of internet through our standalone Tier 1 package for less than \$10 per month through the EBB program. HTC is advocating for additional funding for the EBB program to become a permanent program.

**The Cooperative Advantage**

As a cooperative, the core of our mission is the commitment to improve the lives of the communities we serve through connectivity. Because HTC is a not-for-profit entity, our decisions are driven by what benefits the Cooperative and our community, not by shareholders. Our profits are reinvested into our network and allocated back to our members in the form of capital credits. All the residents and businesses that we serve with this grant project will enjoy the full benefits of an HTC membership.

HTC's track record in Horry County and our recent success in the SCBIP project in Marion and Georgetown Counties demonstrate that the Cooperative is well positioned to help the state continue to bridge the digital divide in the Pee Dee region as quickly, and efficiently, as possible. We completed our SCBIP projects ahead of schedule, and even committed to additional expansion with only one month remaining before the CARES Act funding deadline. HTC would like to keep the momentum going and continue to expand broadband access in Marion and Georgetown, and we believe allocating these funds to successful BIP recipients that can efficiently extend off existing networks in unserved and underserved areas would be the most effective use of these funds.

**The Fiber Advantage**


HTC will install fiber to the premise for every location in this project area, which means that the residents and businesses throughout this area will benefit from HTC's future-proof, state-of-the-art fiber network and have access to speeds up to 1 Gig to support seamless telehealth, remote learning, and telework experiences.

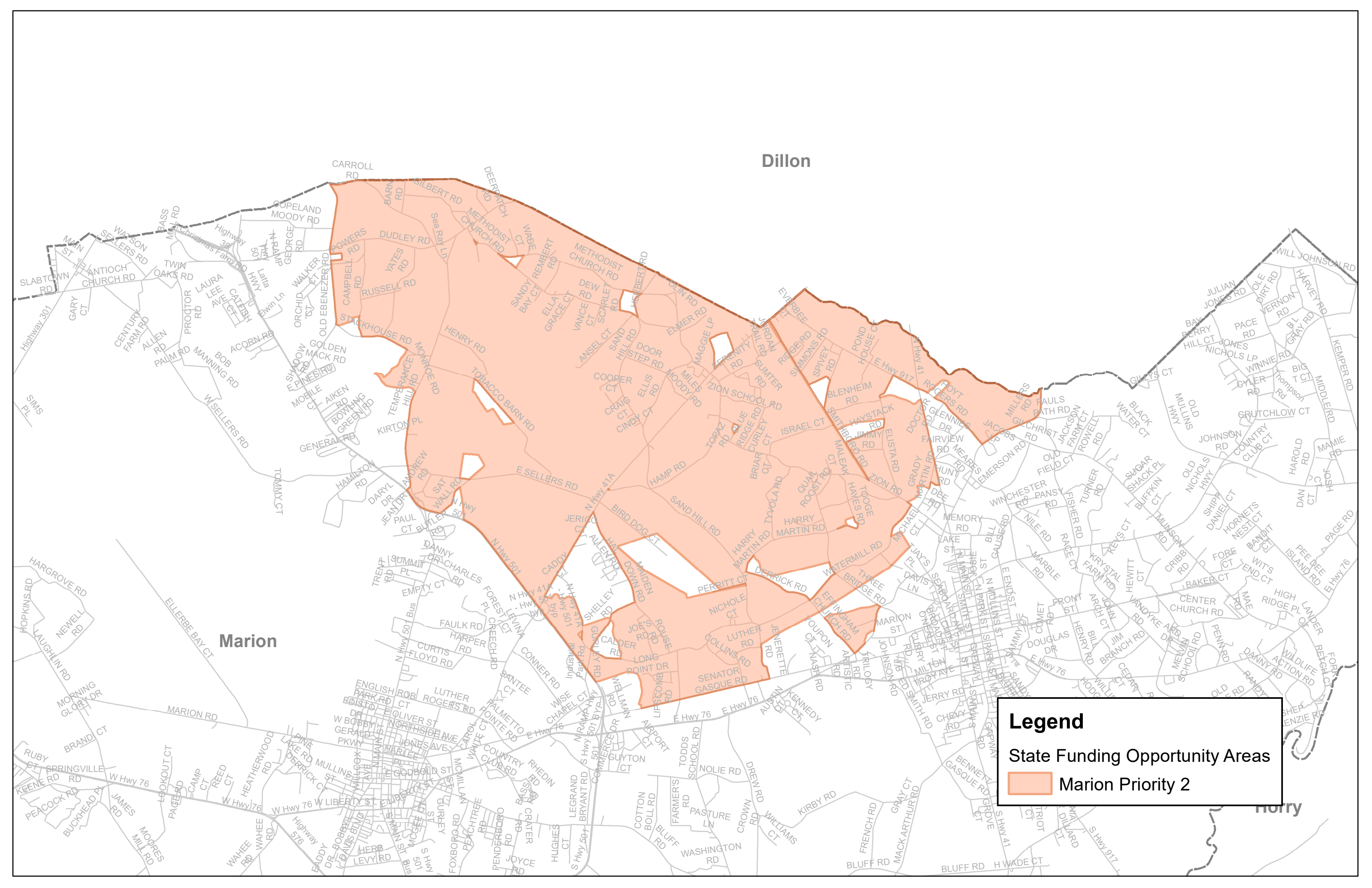
**HTC, INC.**

Post Office Box 1820 / Conway, South Carolina 29528-1820 / (843) 365-2151 / FAX: (843) 365-1111 / [www.htcinc.net](http://www.htcinc.net)

Dillon

Marion

**Legend**  
State Funding Opportunity Areas  
 Marion Priority 2



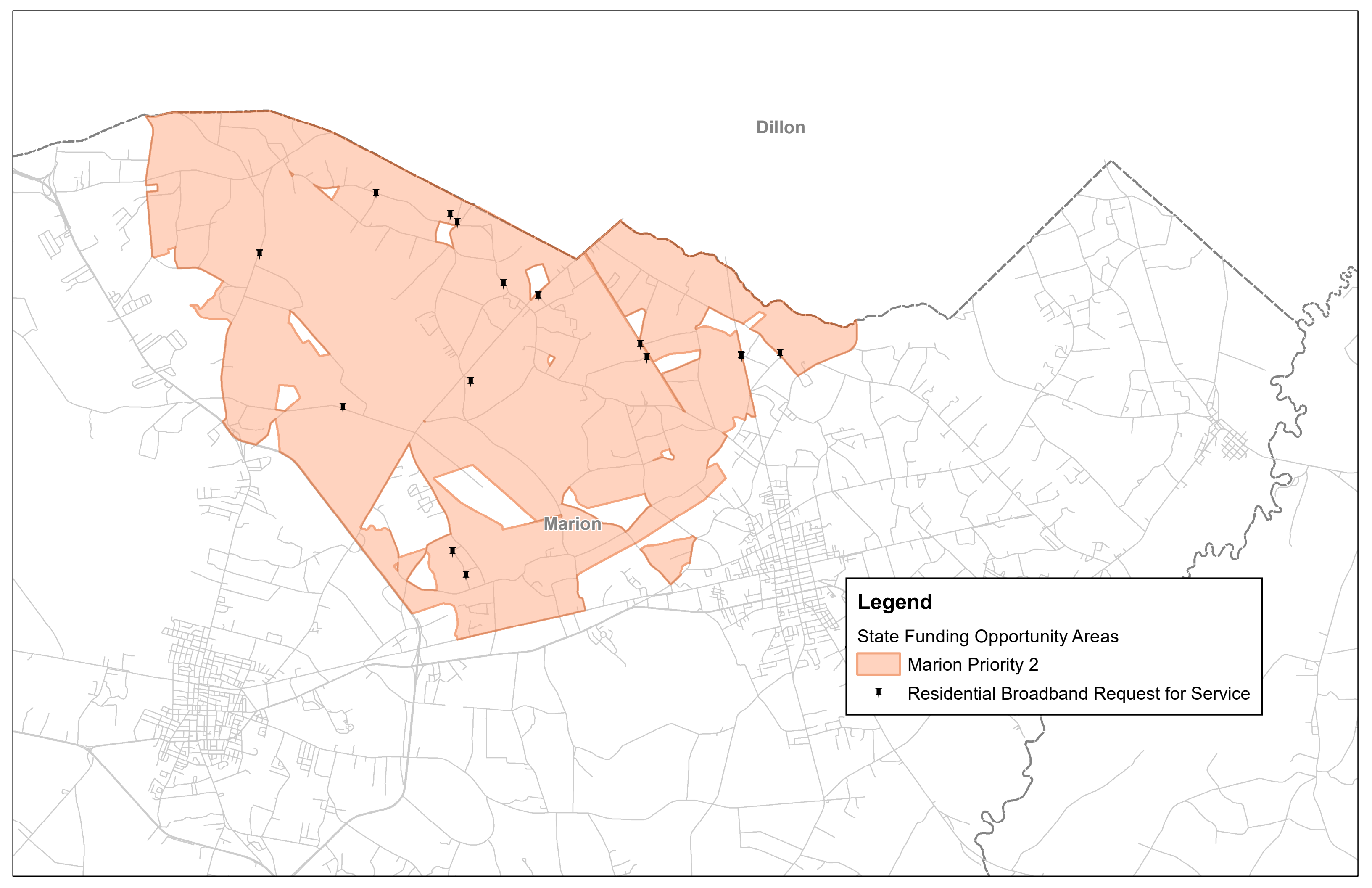
Dillon

Marion

**Legend**

State Funding Opportunity Areas

- Marion Priority 2
- Residential Broadband Request for Service



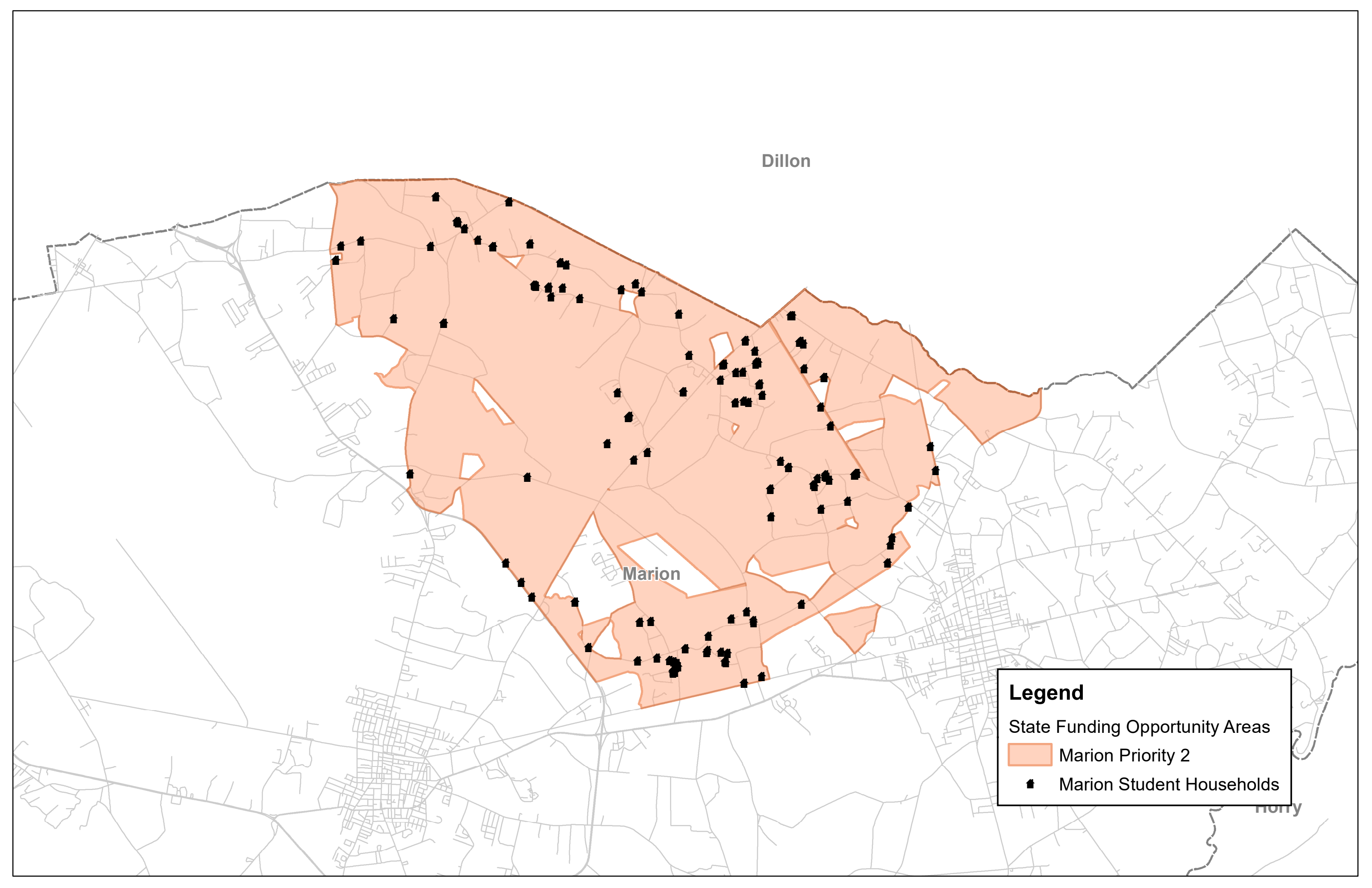


Dillon

Marion

**Legend**

- State Funding Opportunity Areas
- Marion Priority 2
- Marion Student Households



**TOM RICE**

7TH DISTRICT, SOUTH CAROLINA

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON  
WAYS AND MEANS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON TRADE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON SELECT REVENUE  
MEASURES

SUBCOMMITTEE ON SOCIAL SECURITY



**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515-4007

WASHINGTON OFFICE:  
460 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
TEL: (202) 225-9895  
FAX: (202) 225-9690

GRAND STRAND REGIONAL OFFICE:  
2411 NORTH OAK STREET  
SUITE 405  
MYRTLE BEACH, SC 29577  
TEL: (843) 445-6459  
FAX: (843) 445-6418

PEE DEE REGIONAL OFFICE:  
1831 WEST EVANS STREET  
SUITE 300  
FLORENCE, SC 29501  
TEL: (843) 679-9781  
FAX: (843) 679-9783

March 10, 2021

Nanette S. Edwards  
Executive Director  
SC Office of Regulatory Staff  
1401 Main Street, Suite 900  
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Ms. Edwards,

I am writing to express my interest in Horry Telephone Cooperative's (HTC) application for the Rural Broadband Grant Program offered by the South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff and South Carolina Department of Commerce. This funding will allow HTC to install and deliver broadband throughout Marion County.

Horry Telephone Cooperative works to invest in its network and fulfill its mission to connect rural and unserved residents. The Rural Broadband Grant Program will allow HTC to connect the majority of southern Marion County, including Brittons Neck, Gresham, and Centenary. The project will allow approximately 1,000 residents, 30 businesses, and 264 student households to be digitally connected.

HTC has a track record of success in the 7<sup>th</sup> Congressional District and is clearly committed to helping bridge the digital divide in South Carolina.

As southern Marion County faces a deep digital divide, I would request that the South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff and South Carolina Department of Commerce give the application full and careful consideration. If you have any questions, please contact my Grants Specialist, Brittany Ferrigno, at (843) 445 – 6459.

Sincerely,

Tom Rice  
Member of Congress

TR/BF

KENT M. WILLIAMS

SERVING MARION, DILLON, FLORENCE,  
MARLBORO AND HORRY COUNTIES  
SENATORIAL DISTRICT 30

COMMITTEES:

AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
BANKING AND INSURANCE  
ETHICS  
FINANCE  
FISH, GAME AND FORESTRY  
LABOR, COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY



COLUMBIA ADDRESS:

608 GRESSETTE SENATE BLDG  
POST OFFICE BOX 142  
COLUMBIA, SC 29202  
TEL: (803) 212-6000  
FAX: (803) 212-6299

EMAIL: KENTWILLIAMS@SCSENATE.GOV

HOME ADDRESS:

POST OFFICE BOX 1514  
MARION, SC 29571  
TELEPHONE: (843) 423-8237

March 25, 2021

Nanette S. Edwards  
Executive Director  
SC Office of Regulatory Staff  
1401 Main Street, Suite 900  
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Ms. Edwards:

I'm reaching out to express my support for Horry Telephone Cooperative (HTC) in its pursuit of funding through the South Carolina Rural Broadband Grant Program. Marion County faces a deep digital divide, and HTC has shown steadfast commitment to bringing broadband services to our unserved areas.

The Broadband Infrastructure Projects completed by HTC in 2020 mandated a tight timeline that few providers could meet. HTC was ready. Prior to this funding, HTC had been planning, mapping, and developing plans for rural broadband in Marion County. To stop that progress now would be a disservice to our rural communities. With additional state funding, HTC can build the infrastructure needed to offer an essential service to all residents.

By completing several shovel-ready projects within the southern communities of Marion County, HTC will connect nearly 1,000 residents, 30 businesses, and 264 student households to reliable internet service.

The track record of success HTC has demonstrated in providing broadband access to rural communities in Marion County gives me great confidence in recommending that the South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff support the work HTC is proposing with financial backing through the South Carolina Rural Broadband Grant Program

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kent M. Williams".

Kent Williams  
*Serving Marion, Dillon, Florence,  
Marlboro and Horry Counties*

KW/deb

Frank "Lucas" Atkinson  
District No. 57 - Dillon, Horry and  
Marion Counties  
Post Office Box 583  
Marion, SC 29571



333-D Blatt Building  
Columbia, SC 29201

Tel. (803) 212-6936  
LucasAtkinson@schouse.gov

**Committees:**  
Agriculture, Natural Resources and  
Environmental Affairs  
Rules

## House of Representatives

State of South Carolina

March 24, 2021

Nanette S. Edwards  
Executive Director  
SC Office of Regulatory Staff  
1401 Main Street, Suite 900  
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Ms. Edwards:

This letter is in support of the application submitted by Horry Telephone Cooperative (HTC) in request of funding through the South Carolina Rural Broadband Grant Program. HTC serves as an unfailing resource for many Marion County communities and beyond.

HTC completed several Broadband Infrastructure Projects in 2020 within budget and in advance of the strict December deadline imposed by the CARES Act guidelines to offer internet service to unserved Marion County residents. I am convinced that other broadband providers would not have been prepared or as diligent in planning, mapping, and developing plans for rural broadband in District 57.

Marion County faces a deep digital divide, and HTC can build the infrastructure needed to offer an essential service to nearly 1,000 residents, 30 businesses, and 264 student households. HTC is committed to completing several shovel-ready projects within our community over the next 12 months.

The Cooperative's expansion into the region is a welcomed sight. Community members have long awaited broadband service powered by the expansive fiber-optic network managed by HTC professionals. I ask that the South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff strongly consider the application submitted by HTC and support the rural areas of Marion County.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lucas Atkinson".

Lucas Atkinson  
Representative, District 57

LA:mr

Council Members

John Q. Atkinson, Jr.  
*Chairman*

Elista H. Smith  
*Vice Chairperson*

Allen W. Floyd  
Oscar Foxworth  
Thomas Shaw  
Milton W. Troy, II  
Robin Turner

Office Of

Marion County Council

2523 E. Hwy 76

P.O. Box 183

(843) 423-3904 • Fax (843) 423-8306

Marion, South Carolina 29571

G. Timothy Harper  
*Administrator*

Kent M. Williams  
*Deputy Administrator*

Sabrina Davis  
*Clerk To Council*

Charles L. McLain, III  
*County Attorney*



March 20, 2021

Nanette S. Edwards  
Executive Director  
SC Office of Regulatory Staff  
1401 Main Street, Suite 900  
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Ms. Edwards:

I'm writing to express my support for Horry Telephone Cooperative (HTC) in its pursuit of funding through the South Carolina Rural Broadband Grant Program. HTC has shown extensive commitment and success in bridging the deep digital divide in Marion County, and continued efforts are needed.

HTC has served as an unfailing resource for our region, fulfilling the essential need for high-speed internet service in some of the county's most rural areas. The Cooperative delivered on its commitment in the fall of 2020 by completing South Carolina Broadband Infrastructure Projects within budget and in advance of the strict December deadline imposed by the CARES Act guidelines.

Access to the state-of-the-art network managed by HTC is crucial to the success of many of communities, including Brittons Neck, Gresham, and Centenary. The South Carolina Rural Broadband Grant Program funding will allow HTC to power nearly 1,000 homes, 30 businesses, and 264 student households with broadband during this critical time.

With this in mind, I ask that the application submitted by HTC be thoughtfully reviewed and considered by the South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff.

Sincerely,

Tim Harper  
Marion County Administrator



719 North Main Street • Marion, South Carolina 29571  
Telephone: 843.423.1811 • Fax: 843.423.8328  
[www.marion.k12.sc.us](http://www.marion.k12.sc.us)

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**DR. KANDACE BETHEA**  
*Superintendent*

Nanette S. Edwards  
Executive Director  
SC Office of Regulatory Staff  
1401 Main Street, Suite 900  
Columbia, SC 29201

March 20, 2021

Dear Ms. Edwards:

I am contacting you in support of the application submitted by Horry Telephone Cooperative (HTC) in request of funding through the South Carolina Rural Broadband Grant Program. Marion County is challenged by a deep digital divide, and our students and teachers are among the most affected.

HTC delivered on its commitment in the fall of 2020 by completing South Carolina Broadband Infrastructure Projects within budget and in advance of the strict December deadline imposed by the CARES Act guidelines. The Cooperative has demonstrated continued dedication to our unserved areas, specifically the communities of Britton's Neck, Gresham, and Centenary.

The Marion County School District is grateful for the partnership with HTC. Last fall the Cooperative connected 88 student households, and the shovel-ready projects within our area will expand broadband access to nearly 1,000 more homes, 30 businesses, and 264 student households.

Thanks to our ongoing partnership with HTC, the Cooperative understands the needs of our students, parents, faculty, and staff. Access to virtual learning through a reliable connection is essential to our communities. I urge you to support HTC in its mission to permanently close the digital divide in Marion County with requested funding through the South Carolina Rural Broadband Grant Program.

Sincerely,

Kandace Bethea, Ph.D.  
Superintendent



March 20, 2021

Nanette S. Edwards  
Executive Director  
SC Office of Regulatory Staff  
1401 Main Street, Suite 900  
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Ms. Edwards:

I'm writing on behalf of Pee Dee Electric Cooperative in support of the application submitted by Horry Telephone Cooperative (HTC) in request of funding through the South Carolina Rural Broadband Grant Program. HTC serves as a reliable broadband resource for many Marion County communities and beyond.

HTC has a long-standing relationship with Pee Dee Electric in serving the residents of Marion County. Our partnership was instrumental in the success of the of South Carolina Broadband Infrastructure Projects in 2020, and Pee Dee Electric stands ready to assist HTC in its efforts to expand broadband further into Marion County.


The work that can be completed by HTC in 12 months has the power to drastically change the education, skill sets, and connectivity of nearly 1,000 homes, 30 businesses, and 264 student households. Never has there been a more pressing time to equip residents of rural areas with broadband access.

Marion County students, workers, and healthcare professionals need the ability to connect in a way that benefits our communities and businesses. HTC can provide that reliable broadband connection. I ask you to support HTC in its mission to close the digital divide in Marion County with requested funding through the South Carolina Rural Broadband Grant Program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. C.", is written over a white background.

President & CEO

Your Touchstone Energy<sup>®</sup> Partner 

Nanette S. Edwards  
Executive Director  
SC Office of Regulatory Staff  
1401 Main Street, Suite 900  
Columbia, SC 29201

April 26, 2021

Dear Ms. Edwards:

On behalf of the Northeastern Strategic Alliance (NESA), I am writing to express support for the applications submitted requesting funding through the South Carolina Rural Broadband Grant Program which benefit rural counties within our region.

The economic development of our counties will be made stronger with the benefits offered by these much needed broadband services.

Access to the fiber-optic network supports the regional counties' immediate and long-term plans for economic development by supporting existing business as well as attracting new ventures to our area. In turn the quality of life for our residents improves and the region's ability to tout itself as a place for strong economic development increases.

Our cooperative allies have served as an unfailing resource for our region, fulfilling the essential need for high-speed internet service. The track record of success of our regional cooperatives has demonstrated in providing broadband access to unserved communities gives me great confidence in recommending that the South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff support the work being performed in our counties with financial backing in the Rural Broadband Grant Program.

Sincerely,



Jeff McKay, Executive Director  
Northeastern Strategic Alliance (NESA)



March 20, 2021

Nanette S. Edwards  
Executive Director  
SC Office of Regulatory Staff  
1401 Main Street, Suite 900  
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Ms. Edwards:

It is with great confidence that I support the application submitted by Horry Telephone Cooperative (HTC) in request for funding through the South Carolina Rural Broadband Grant Program. Broadband access offered by the fiber-optic network managed by HTC will breathe new life into the economic development of Marion County.

The residents, business owners, and educators of Marion County, specifically within the communities of Brittons Neck, Gresham, and Centenary, face a deep digital divide. What is considered a necessity in neighboring regions, has been designated a nicety for Marion County for far too long. Access to the fiber-optic network managed by HTC supports the county's immediate and long-term plans for economic development by supporting existing businesses and attracting new ventures to our area. Appropriate funding allocated to HTC by the South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff would offer an estimated 30 businesses, 1,000 homes, and 264 student households broadband access. The quality of life for our residents improves and the county's ability to tout itself as a region for strong economic development increases.

Truly, your time and consideration of the application submitted by HTC is invaluable to the communities and economic development of Marion County. The track record of success HTC has demonstrated in providing broadband access to unserved communities gives me confidence that the Cooperative will fulfill these proposed projects with the same commitment.

Sincerely,



Dr. Julie M. Norman, CEcD, CWDP  
Executive Director  
Marion County Economic Development

*it's just right!*

Nanette S. Edwards  
Executive Director  
SC Office of Regulatory Staff  
1401 Main Street, Suite 900  
Columbia, SC 29201

March 20, 2021

Dear Ms. Edwards:

On behalf of the Pee Dee Regional Council of Governments, I would like to voice my support for Horry Telephone Cooperative (HTC) in its pursuit of funding through the South Carolina Rural Broadband Grant Program.

HTC stands ready to bridge the digital divide that exists in Marion County. The southern portions of the region, specifically the communities of Brittons Neck, Gresham, and Centenary, will benefit most from the expansion of the HTC network. The shovel-ready projects will deliver HTC High-Speed Internet to nearly 1,000 residents, 30 businesses, and 264 student households.

With broadband access, these residents and business owners can connect to virtual education, telehealth appointments, and advance economic development within the area. Broadband access through HTC will also allow Marion County communities to attract outside companies to the region, expanding job opportunities and enticing young professionals to the area.

The track record of success HTC has demonstrated in providing broadband access to unserved communities gives me great confidence in recommending that the South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff supports the work HTC is performing with financial backing through these proposed projects. With this in mind, I ask that the application submitted by HTC be thoughtfully reviewed and considered by the South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jimmy B. Bram". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent initial "J".

Pee Dee Regional Council of Governments