



APPLICATION

South Carolina 2021 Rural Broadband Grant Program

Applicant Information

Applicant Name/Organization: NTInet, Inc.

Applicant FCC Registration Number (FRN): 0018518753

Primary Contact Name: Doug Hair Title: Engineer

Mailing Address: 2033 St. Matthews Road

Phone Number: 803-533-1660

City, State, Zip: Orangeburg, SC 29118

Email: dhair@ntinet.com

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

Project Area Information

Eligible County Impact

Counties: Orangeburg
(list)

Cities/Towns/Municipalities
(list) : Santee
Elloree

Households
268

Businesses
3 businesses

Health Care Facilities

Community Anchor Institutions

Educational Institutions

Contiguous County Impact

Counties
(list)

Orangeburg

Cities/Towns/Municipalities
(list)

Santee

Elloree

Households

198

Businesses

30

Health Care Facilities

1

Community Anchor Institutions

3

Educational Institutions

0

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:

Rates less than \$10/month

Rates between \$10 - \$14.99/month

Rates between \$15 - \$19.99/month

Rates between \$20 - \$24.99/month

Rates between \$25 - \$34.99/month

25/25 Mbps - \$44.95/month

100/100 Mbps with managed wifi - \$54.99/month

1G/1G with managed wifi - \$84.95/month

Project Timeline

Project Start Date 7/16/2021

Project Construction Activity Begins 9/16/2021

Project Construction Activity Complete 3/30/2022

Customer Premises

Installations Begin 3/31/2022

Installations End 7/31/2022

Overall Project Completion Date 7/31/2022

Project Cost Information

Total Project Cost \$1,677,720

Upfront Cost Requirements \$0

Cost of Building and/or Extending
Infrastructure to Customer Premises \$268,000

Average Cost per Location Served
(all locations or structures) \$6,260.15

Average Cost per Housing Unit \$6,260.15

Average Cost per Business \$6,260.15

Project Funding Information

South Carolina Rural Broadband Grant Program Funds requested (\$) 838,860.00

Applicant-Provided Funding (\$) 838,860.00

Non-Public Funding

Amount (\$) 838,860

Source(s) NTInet, Inc. and South State Bank

Additional Information

1) Describe Applicant's and/or project Partner's experience building and/or operating broadband networks.

NTInet is a local based company with a strong technology reputation and experienced staff; founded in 1998, NTInet has been an operating ISP providing Internet services to the rural communities of Orangeburg, Calhoun and Dorchester counties utilizing the latest technologies available. In 2015 NTInet began to build, operate and maintain a 100 percent fiber-optic network, offering Fiber-To-The-Home (FTTH) Broadband and Voice services to the rural unserved and underserved areas of Orangeburg County. To date NTInet has deployed 19.5 miles of Fiber-Optic cable over 56 Census blocks in Orangeburg County, providing over 400 rural residential and business customers with High-Speed Broadband and Voice Services. Based on 2020 Census data, approximately 34.7 percent of the population in NTInet's current Broadband footprint is considered low to moderate income.

NTInet submitted its initial FCC Form 477 on June, 30 2014 and the most recent filing on December 31, 2020.

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

Our proposed project is located in Orangeburg County, one of the 14 eligible counties published by the ORS considered as an Areas of Need. Our proposed project area is comprised of low to moderate income residents as well as a senior retirement community currently residing in unserved or underserved areas. Fiber-Optic Broadband will afford these residents the opportunity for direct access to online education courses, telemedicine and work from home opportunities, who are otherwise forced to travel long distances for college courses, basic medical treatment and employment opportunities. The infrastructure created by our proposed project will also open up future opportunities to NTInet for expansion of its Fiber-Optic Broadband network to adjacent service areas outside of the proposed project area maximizing the benefit of the grant to meet the needs of the surrounding community. New customers in the proposed grant area will receive Free Installation cost. A \$200 value.

NTInet also plans to offer community support by providing Free Broadband Internet services to following public organizations.

Santee Public Library
Santee Convention Center
Elloree Mentor Branch Library

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.

To improve program community adoption NTInet has an action plan that we have successfully used in previous fiber broadband deployments. Upon approval NTInet will start an information campaign to the homes and business covered in the grant area. The campaign will consist of multiple informational mailings to inform customers that Fiber Broadband will be available at their location soon detailing the benefits of Broadband and pricing. The mailers will include a link to NTInet's web site where they can pre-register for service or if they have questions contact our office to speak with a sales representative.

Residents that do not respond to the mailings will have a sales representative perform a courtesy visit the homes to hand deliver informational documentation on fiber broadband availability and benefits that fiber brings to the household.

Broadband User Training Plan will consist of both pre- and post-sale training documentation.

Pre-sale training will educate the consumer on the benefits of Fiber broadband, available plans, and the installation process. Post-sale training will help onboard new customers through a standardized process starting at installation with one-on-one instruction and continue with online videos, FAQ's, and knowledgebase articles.

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.

NTInet has secured 800k of funding from South State Bank. NTInet will fund remaining from its operating checking account. 1. Bank commitment letter (see attached) 2. NTInet account balance (see attached).

5) List any lease, franchise agreement, interconnection agreement, authorization, permit, or other items needed to complete this project.

Dominion Energy Pole Attachments Permits, SCDOT Encroachment Permit, Railroad Crossing Permit.

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

Certification and Signature

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

Signature:



Print Name of Signatory:

Doug Hair

Title of Signatory:

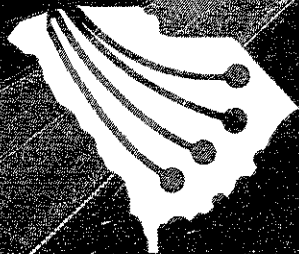
President

Date:

5-13-2021

All questions and completed applications should be submitted to 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.

