

**USDA Rural Development has approved a grant of \$2,905,201.00**

**Program:** Community Connect Grants

**State/County:** NC/Brunswick

**Congressman:** Bishop, Dan (NC 09), Rouzer, David (NC 07)

**Senators:** Burr, Richard (NC), Tillis, Thom (NC)

**Recipient:** Atlantic Telephone Membership Corp.

**Recipient Contact:** Michael Holden

**Mailing Address:** 640 Whiteville Road Northwest Shallotte, NC 28470

**Email Address:** kholden@atmc.com

**Phone Number:** 910-755-1720

**Project Description:** This Rural Development investment will be used to construct an approximately 60-mile Fiber-to-the-Premises system to benefit 2,505 residents and 19 businesses in the communities of Howellsville, Tolarsville and areas outside of the town of St. Pauls in the Robeson County, North Carolina service area. Subscribers will have access to service up to 1 Gbps, expanding access to economic, educational, health care, and public safety opportunities. A Community Center will be provided in an existing building where residents can access the Internet free-of-charge for at least two years.

  

**People Who Will Benefit:** 2,505

**Additional Funding:** Applicant Contribution: \$512,683.00

**Total Project Cost:** \$3,417,884.00

**RUS ID:** NC1404-A51

**USDA Rural Development has approved a grant of \$3,000,000.00**

**Program:** Community Connect Grants

**State/County:** NC/Cherokee, GA/Towns

**Congressman:** Meadows, Mark (NC 11), Collins, Doug (GA 09)

**Senators:** Burr, Richard (NC), Tillis, Thom (NC), Isakson, Johnny (GA),  
Perdue, David (GA)

**Recipient:** Blue Ridge Mountain Electric Membership Corporation

**Recipient Contact:** Daniel Frizzell

**Mailing Address:** 875 Main Street East Young Harris, GA 30582

**Email Address:** Daniel.frizzell@brmemc.com

**Phone Number:** 706-379-3121

**Project Description:** Blue Ridge Mountain EMC (BRMEMC) will use \$3,000,000 of provided by the Community Connect program to construct a high-speed fiber-optic network to all homes and businesses located within the Hanging Dog & Grape Creek, Cherokee County North Carolina service area. This is a remote and rural community in the Southern Appalachian Mountains in western North Carolina. BRMEMC is a rural electric cooperative and broadband services provider headquartered in Young Harris, Towns County, Georgia and serves two North Carolina counties and three Georgia counties. The investment will enable the construction of a high-speed, active Ethernet fiber-optic network which will enable BRMEMC to offer voice, video, and data services to 865 households and 7 businesses. The technology will allow for increased opportunities to access economic development, health care, educational, and quality of life resources that high quality communications services can bring to communities. A Community Center will also be established in a local general store where residents can access computer access terminals and WiFi service, free of charge.

**People Who Will Benefit:** 2,044

**Additional Funding:** Applicant Contribution: \$450,013.00

**Total Project Cost:** \$3,450,013.00

**RUS ID:** GA1403-A23

**USDA Rural Development has approved a grant of \$1,799,911.00**

**Program:** Community Connect Grants

**State/County:** NC/Camden, VA/Northampton

**Congressman:** Jones, Walter (NC 03), Taylor, Scott (VA 02)

**Senators:** Burr, Richard (NC), Tillis, Thom (NC), Kaine, Tim (VA), Warner, Mark (VA)

**Recipient:** Eastern Shore Communications, LLC

**Recipient Contact:** Ronald van Geijn

**Mailing Address:** 23120 Lankford Highway Cape Charles, VA 23310

**Email Address:** rvgeijn@esvc.us

**Phone Number:** 757-695-2080

**Project Description:** Eastern Shore Communications, LLC (Eastern Shore) will utilize grant funds to build a hybrid fiber and fixed-wireless high-speed network capable of servicing the proposed service area with speeds of at least 25 Mbps downstream and 3 Mbps upstream. The program will provide access to free internet service for residents of the county through computers installed at a local Community Center. This project's services pass approximately 3,000 households in the Camden County, North Carolina service area. A Community Center will also be established within a library in the service area where residents can access computer terminals and WiFi, free of charge. This project will allow the residents and businesses in this area to access high quality voice and broadband services so that they may be better able to accross the economic, health care, educational, and quality of life opportunities such services enable.

**People Who Will Benefit:** 8,019

**Additional Funding:** Applicant Contribution: \$270,000.00

**Total Project Cost:** \$2,069,911.00

**RUS ID:** VA1413-A23

**USDA Rural Development has approved a grant of \$3,000,000.00**

**Program:** Community Connect Grants

**State/County:** NC/Madison

**Congressman:** Meadows, Mark (NC 11)

**Senators:** Burr, Richard (NC), Tillis, Thom (NC)

**Recipient:** French Broad Electric Membership Corporation

**Recipient Contact:** Jeff Loven

**Mailing Address:** 3043 NC-213 Highway Marshall, NC 28753

**Email Address:** Jeff.loven@frenchbroademc.com

**Phone Number:** 828-649-2051

**Project Description:** French Broad Electric Membership Corporation (French Broad) will use \$3,000,000 of funding provided by Community Connect to bring high-speed internet to the greater Laurel community located in Madison County, North Carolina. This area in the Northwestern portion of the county includes over 1,000 homes and businesses and currently has very limited access to high-speed internet service. This project includes construction of fiber optic lines on existing power poles throughout the community. These lines branch off and connect each home or business directly to the internet and would be a 100% fiber solution. This is the fastest, most reliable service available and would enable people in the greater Laurel community to receive the same level of service that others enjoy in more urban areas.

**People Who Will Benefit:** 1,899

**Additional Funding:** Applicant Contribution: \$450,000.00

**Total Project Cost:** \$3,450,000.00

**RUS ID:** NC1401-A23

**USDA Rural Development has approved a grant of \$2,378,241.00**

Program: Community Connect Grants

State/County: NC/Sampson

Congressman: Rouzer, David (NC 07)

Senators: Burr, Richard (NC), Tillis, Thom (NC)

Recipient: Star Telephone Membership Corporation

Recipient Contact: Jeffery Nethercutt

Mailing Address: 3900 North U.S. Highway 421 Clinton, NC 28328

Email Address: [jnethercutt@stmc.net](mailto:jnethercutt@stmc.net)

Phone Number: 910-564-7869

Project Description: This Rural Development investment will be used to construct an approximately 120-mile Fiber-to-the-Premises system to benefit 1,849 residents and 15 businesses in the Mingo, Plain View, Dismal, and Spivey's Corner areas of Sampson County, North Carolina. Subscribers will have access to service up to 1 Gbps, expanding access to economic, educational, health care, and public safety opportunities. A Community Center will be provided in an existing building where residents can access the Internet free of charge for at least two years.

  

People Who Will Benefit: 1,849

Additional Funding: Applicant Contribution: \$358,750.00

Total Project Cost: \$2,736,991.00

RUS ID: NC1403-A23

**USDA Rural Development has approved a grant of \$1,933,204.00**

**Program:** Community Connect Grants

**State/County:** NC/Columbus

**Congressman:** Foxx, Virginia (NC 05), Rouzer, David (NC 07)

**Senators:** Burr, Richard (NC), Tillis, Thom (NC)

**Recipient:** Wilkes Telephone Membership Corporation

**Recipient Contact:** Jody Souther

**Mailing Address:** 1400 River Street Wilkesboro, NC 28697

**Email Address:** jsouther@myriverstreet.net

**Phone Number:** 336-973-6128

**Project Description:** Wilkes Telephone Membership Corporation will utilize Persistent Poverty funds to finance a Community Connect grant of \$1,933,204 to construct a 42.65-mile Fiber-to-the-Premises network passing 347 households located in the Fair Bluff, Columbus County, North Carolina area. This network will support service at levels up to 1 Gbps for each subscriber. This broadband network will provide significant benefits to Columbus County by improving their economy, access to education, and quality of life. A Community Center will be provided where residents can access the Internet free of charge for at least two years.

**People Who Will Benefit:** 347

**Additional Funding:** Applicant Contribution: \$290,646.00

**Total Project Cost:** \$2,223,850.00

**RUS ID:** NC1402-A51