

# FCC Rural Broadband Experiment – Expressions of Interest from South Carolina

April 1, 2014



On January 30, 2014, the [Federal Communications Commission](#) voted to create a [Rural Broadband Experiment](#) program. The FCC hopes that this experiment will help it shape and adjust its Connect America Fund broadband subsidy program by including an application-based, competitive bidding framework. One purpose is to see whether available subsidies could provide higher levels of service, including expanded service to community anchor institutions, that exceed the current 4 Mbps download/1 Mbps upload standard for the Connect America Fund. In addition, these rural broadband experiments mark the first opportunity for providers that are not the incumbent local telephone company in a particular area to receive Connect America Fund subsidies to build and operate fixed broadband networks in those areas.

The FCC actively and openly solicited “expressions of interest” from providers, communities, institutions, and public-private partnerships regarding their ideas and proposals as to how they would utilize Connect America Fund subsidies to support broadband infrastructure build-out in currently unserved areas. These initial, non-binding “expressions of interest” were due at the FCC on March 7, 2014. To date, the FCC has received almost 1,000 expressions of interest from applicants across the country, which can be found at [List of Expressions of Interest](#). The FCC is currently evaluating these submissions and is expected to release an Order defining how to move forward with this program. Such Order will include details regarding available funds for the program, a clear definition of areas eligible for funding, project rules and rules for evaluating formal applicants for funding. There is no clear timeline for when these decisions will take place at this time.

For more information on these Rural Broadband Experiments, please see a previous Connected Nation [Policy Brief](#) from February 7, 2014.

Below is a list of the “expressions of interest” filed by applicants in South Carolina as well as key takeaways from these submissions.

## South Carolina Expressions of Interest Summaries

- A total of 19 expressions of interest were submitted by applicants from South Carolina.
- In line with the FCC objective for this experiment of better understanding what solutions different industry stakeholders could offer, submissions were received from a variety of applicants including – Small rural ILECs, CLECs, Fixed wireless and DSL providers, and a county government.
- The technology solutions proposed include the use of multiple platforms including fiber, fixed wireless, a whitespace network, mobile, and DSL. Overall, however, a majority of the proposals include in part or in full deployment of fiber to the premise and fixed wireless networks.
- Proposed projects tended to narrowly focus on county-level, or small regional deployment challenges. Project funding requests range from just \$10,000 to as much as \$13-\$15 million in subsidies. The overall budget for all 19 proposed projects is upward of \$262 million.

## South Carolina Expressions of Interest Submitted (As of April 1, 2014)



### Name of Filer

Chester Telephone Company  
Comporium Companies  
DFJB, LLC dba GlobalVision  
Donald J. Evans  
Electronics Service Company of Hamlet, LLC  
Fairfield Communications, Inc./TruVista Communications of Georgia, LLC  
FamilyView Cablevision  
FTC Communications, LLC  
H. Keith Oliver  
Horry Telephone Cooperative, Inc.  
Orangeburg County Broadband  
Palmetto Telephone Communications, LLC  
PBT Telecom, Inc.  
Pee Dee Healthy Start Inc.  
Piedmont Rural Telephone Cooperative  
PRT Communications LLC  
Sandhill Telephone Cooperative  
Southern Coastal Cable  
West Carolina Communications, LLC

### Expression Filed

[Chester Telephone Letter of Interest \(2 pages\)](#)  
[\(14 pages\)](#)  
[\(4 pages\)](#)  
[\(2 pages\)](#)  
[\(2 pages\)](#)  
[TruVista Letter of Interest \(4 pages\)](#)  
[Expression of Interest \(2 pages\)](#)  
[Letter \(2 pages\)](#)  
[Home Telecom Expression of Interest \(4 pages\)](#)  
[Letter \(4 pages\)](#)  
[Expression of Interest FNPR FCC 14 5 \(6 pages\)](#)  
[Rural Broadband Experiment Expression of Interest \(5 pages\)](#)  
[\(3 pages\)](#)  
[Expression of Interest Letter \(4 pages\)](#)  
[Letter of Intent 1 of 2 \(2 pages\)](#)  
[Letter of Interest \(2 pages\)](#)  
[Letter \(4 pages\)](#)  
[SCC Comment \(5 pages\)](#)  
[Rural BBand Experiment Letter of Interest \(3 pages\)](#)