

# Alabama Broadband Accessibility Fund 2018 Grant Application and Guide



[broadband.fund@adeca.alabama.gov](mailto:broadband.fund@adeca.alabama.gov)

Street Address: 401 Adams Avenue, Suite 560  
Montgomery, Alabama 36104-4325

Mailing Address: Post Office Box 5690  
Montgomery, Alabama 36103-5690

## Alabama Broadband Accessibility Fund 2018 Grant Application and Guide

### **2018 Grant Application Guidelines**

An application workshop will be held at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, May 24, 2018, in the Alabama Center for Commerce 7<sup>th</sup> floor Auditorium. The code for the Decatur Street entrance to the parking deck is 7013#. Seating is limited; therefore, all attendees must register by calling or emailing Ms. Susan Fleeman at (334) 242-5292 or [susan.fleeman@adeca.alabama.gov](mailto:susan.fleeman@adeca.alabama.gov). An online version of the workshop and questions and answers from the workshop will be posted on the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA) website prior to May 28, 2018, at <http://adeca.alabama.gov/broadband>.

Applications shall be submitted in .pdf format by email to [broadband.fund@adeca.alabama.gov](mailto:broadband.fund@adeca.alabama.gov)

Applications will be accepted starting on May 28, 2018. Completed applications must be submitted by 11:59 PM, CST, on October 24, 2018. Any applications received after the deadline will not be considered. All applications must be complete; however, ADECA reserves the right to contact applicants for additional information and/or clarifications. All applications received will be posted on ADECA's website at <http://adeca.alabama.gov/broadband>.

Existing service providers shall have from October 25, 2018 through November 26, 2018 to file objections to the eligibility of the proposed projects. All objections must be filed by email to [broadband.fund@adeca.alabama.gov](mailto:broadband.fund@adeca.alabama.gov) and must include verifiable documentation to support the challenge.

An applicant may submit more than one application. However, each project must have a separate application and budget. Each project must stand alone in meeting the Alabama Broadband Accessibility Fund program requirements.

### **Eligibility**

An eligible applicant is a non-government entity that is a cooperative, corporation, limited liability company, partnership, or other private business entity that provides broadband service.

### **Funding**

Projects must be completed within two years of the effective date of the grant agreement. The grant will be in the form of a reimbursement of eligible costs up to the award amount in the grant agreement. Reimbursement will be made within 30 days of project completion and final inspection by ADECA.

All projects will be scored based on the established rating criteria. The criteria can be found at <http://adeca.alabama.gov/broadband>. Those eligible projects receiving the highest scores will be selected for funding. The number of projects funded will be determined by the funds available and the total amount of requests made. ADECA may request amended projects and/or offer reduced grant participation.

ADECA shall ensure that not less than 40% of the funds awarded will be awarded to projects serving unincorporated areas.

## **2018 Grant Application**

### **Applicant Information**

Project Name: **Emerald Ridge**

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Legal Name of Entity: **Marcus Cable of Alabama L.L.C. d/b/a Charter Communications, Inc.**

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Mailing Address: **151 London Parkway, Birmingham, AL 35211**

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Name and Title of CEO: **Tom Rutledge, Chairman and CEO**

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Name and Title of Contact: **Taylor Vice, Director of Government Affairs**

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Phone Number and Email of Contact: **334.235.8830, [taylor.vice@charter.com](mailto:taylor.vice@charter.com)**

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### **Project Description**

**This section is worth up to 15 points. Points will be awarded based on verifiable information only.**

Please attach a project description in a file titled Attachment A, Project Description. The description shall include:

1. A discussion of the area served including boundaries, number of households, businesses, and any community anchors (libraries, schools, police and fire stations, hospitals, etc.). This response shall also identify if the project area is located within an unincorporated area and provide information regarding how the area meets the definition of rural (US Census data).

**See attachment A**

2. A discussion of the technology to be deployed (fiber, cable, DSL, etc.). Additionally, include a discussion of future usage projections and the ability to upgrade.

**See attachment A**

3. A discussion of internet speeds, service tier and pricing levels, data caps, etc.

**See attachment A**

4. A preliminary technical evaluation of the project certified by an engineer. The evaluation shall include a project cost estimate, project schedule and timeline to include a completion date of no more than two years, and maps showing the proposed project area. Maps should be in .shp, .kml, or .kmz formats.

**See attachment A**

Additionally, maps shall clearly show area eligibility (unserved areas). Generally, applicants may establish that an area is eligible by using the ADECA Broadband map showing unserved areas (<http://adeca.alabama.gov/broadband>). Other methodology, such as household surveys, may be acceptable, but shall be pre-approved by ADECA.

5. A discussion of the operator’s technical and managerial capabilities to complete the project within two years of the effective date of the grant award.

**See attachment A**

Application Budget

**This section is worth up to 15 points. Points will be awarded based on verifiable information only.**

For the table, please complete the shaded boxes only. The total grant amount cannot exceed the lesser of 20% of total project costs, or \$750,000/\$1,400,000 (\$750,000 for project type A, or \$1,400,000 for project type B). If federal funds are involved in the project, please see number 4 below.

The proposed project will provide internet speeds of at least (check one):

Project Type A:  10 Mbps download and 1 Mbps upload

Project Type B:  25 Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload

Total Project Cost	\$55,316.40
20% of Total Project Cost	\$11,063.28
<b>Total Grant Amount Requested</b>	<b>\$11,063.28</b>

Please provide a detailed project budget narrative in a file titled Attachment B, Project Budget. The budget narrative shall include:

1. Itemize eligible project expenses. Generally, eligible expenses will be limited to construction and construction related costs of broadband infrastructure. Operating expenses will not be eligible expenses. Any additional expenses associated with the project, but not part of the grant budget, should be included.

**See attachment B**

2. A discussion of the applicant's necessary financial resources to:
  - a. sustain service to the project area (business model);

**See attachment B**

- b. provide adequate project financing (additional documentation may be requested by ADECA).

**See attachment B**

3. A discussion of any partners or subcontractors associated with the project's deliverables including but not limited to adoption, deployment, and service delivery. Please describe each party's role in the project.

**See attachment B**

4. A discussion of any federal funds associated with the project.
  - a. Eligible projects may include projects that have received funds through other federal universal service funding programs designed specifically to encourage broadband deployment in an area without broadband access in an amount not exceeding 50% of the total project cost, provided, however, that any award of state funds may only be utilized to either:

**See attachment B**

- i. fund project components that extend beyond the specifications supported by the federal funding, said eligible components being extension of service to unserved rural areas not otherwise served by the federally supported project; or
    - ii. ensure that areas being served by the federal funding at speeds less than 25 Mbps of download speed and 3 Mbps of upload speed will, in fact, receive faster speeds of not less than 25 Mbps of download speed and 3 Mbps of upload speed.

- b. Grants issued to projects receiving federal funds shall not exceed 40% of total grant funding, with such grants not exceeding 20% of total project costs.

Other Program Priorities

Please answer each of the following questions either “yes” or “no.” For each “yes” answer, please provide a brief narrative and any supporting documentation. Any claims that cannot be verified will receive zero points in our scoring system. “No” answers will receive zero points in our rating system. **“Yes” answers (that can be verified) will receive up to 10 points.**

Does this project seek to leverage grant funds through private investment?      YES    NO  
          If yes, include an explanation and documentation in a file titled Attachment C – **See attachment C**

Will this project be an extension of existing infrastructure?      YES    NO  
          If yes, include an explanation and documentation in a file titled Attachment C – **See attachment C**

Does this project serve locations with demonstrated community support?      YES    NO  
          If yes, include an explanation and documentation in a file titled Attachment C – **See attachment C**

Will this project serve the highest number of unserved homes, businesses, and community anchor points for the least cost?      YES    NO  
          If yes, include an explanation and documentation in a file titled Attachment C – **See attachment C**

Does this project emphasize the highest broadband speeds?      YES    NO  
          If yes, include an explanation and documentation in a file titled Attachment C – **See attachment C**

Will this project provide material broadband enhancements to hospitals located in rural areas as defined in Section 22-21-20, Code of Alabama 1975?      YES    NO  
          If yes, include an explanation and documentation in a file titled Attachment C

Will this project support local libraries in this state for the purpose of assisting the libraries in offering digital literacy training pursuant to state library and archive guidelines?      YES    NO  
          If yes, include an explanation and documentation in a file titled Attachment C

## Certifications

1. The applicant certifies that it is a non-governmental entity.
2. The applicant certifies all new customers served as a result of this project will have access to an internet connection that provides a capacity for transmission at an average speed per customer of at least 10 Mbps download and at least 1 Mbps upload.
3. The applicant certifies that all new customers served as a result of this project are not located within the boundaries of any incorporated city or town having a population in excess of 25,000 inhabitants, according to the last federal census.
4. The applicant certifies that it has the technical and managerial capabilities to complete the project within two years of the effective date of the grant agreement.
5. Choose one:
  - a.  The applicant certifies that for any area served as a result of this project there is not at least one provider of terrestrial broadband service that is either:
    - i) offering a connection to the internet meeting the minimum service threshold; or
    - ii) required, under the terms of the Federal Universal Service Fund or other federal or state grant, to provide a connection to the internet at speeds meeting the minimum service threshold within five years of the effective date of the Broadband Accessibility Act.
  - b.  The applicant certifies that the project has received funds through other federal universal service funding programs designed specifically to encourage broadband deployment in an area without broadband access in an amount not exceeding fifty percent of the total project cost, and that any award of state funds shall only be utilized to either:
    - i) fund project components that extend beyond the specifications supported by the federal funding, said eligible components being extension of service to unserved rural areas not otherwise served by the federally supported project, or
    - ii) ensure that areas being served by the federal funding at speeds less than 25 megabits per second of download speed and three megabits per second of upload speed will, in fact, receive faster speeds of not

less than 25 megabits per second of download speed and three megabits per second of upload speed.

Certification	
I the undersigned am authorized to obligate my entity and enter into agreements for my organization. I understand that the above certifications do not guarantee funding and a grant agreement will be executed prior to project funds being expended. I further understand that if the above statements cannot be verified, no grant funds will be awarded under this program. Finally, to the best of my knowledge the above certifications are true and correct.	
Signature of Applicant: 	Date: 10/24/2018
Title of Applicant: Director, Government Affairs	

For more information regarding the Alabama Broadband Accessibility Fund, please send questions to Maureen Neighbors at [broadband.fund@adeca.alabama.gov](mailto:broadband.fund@adeca.alabama.gov), or call (334) 242-5292 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.