

Public Notice Submission

Provider Name: Palmetto Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc.

Summary: The request of any applicant to build facilities in Palmetto Rural Telephone Cooperative's service area should not be considered for funding because, as shown in the attached worksheets, Palmetto Rural Telephone Cooperative currently provides sufficient high-speed broadband internet service in the pertinent Census blocks/tracts. Specifically, 100% of households in our service area have broadband available. In addition to services being provided by other carriers operating in the area, Palmetto Rural Telephone Cooperative, alone, has 43% of broadband subscribership throughout our service area. The highest available speeds are 6 Mbps downstream and 512 Kbps upstream, which exceed the minimum threshold set forth in the Notice of Funds Availability ("NoFA") published by NTIA for Round 2 BTOP funding. Moreover, Palmetto Rural Telephone Cooperative provides broadband services at competitive market rates, as demonstrated by our significant subscriber penetration rates. Additionally, applications proposing to provide service in our territory do not meet the NoFA's definition of "underserved" or "unserved" area.