



Asa Hutchinson
GOVERNOR

Michael Preston
SECRETARY OF COMMERCE

November 9, 2021

Mr. Larry W. Walther
Secretary, Department of Finance and Administration
Chair, Arkansas American Rescue Plan Act Steering Committee
1509 W. 7TH St., Ste. 401
Little Rock, AR 72201-3933

Dear Secretary Walther:

The American Rescue Plan of 2021 (ARP) was adopted by Congress earlier this year and provides significant federal funding to states through various programs. Among these programs is funding to support the deployment of high-speed broadband service to rural communities.

Presently, the Arkansas Department of Commerce Broadband Office oversees the Arkansas Rural Connect (ARC) program, including oversight of incoming federal grants to facilitate the deployment of high-speed broadband service to rural communities across Arkansas. To date, ARC has made 132 awards from multiple funding sources, including from state funds, from CARES Act funds, and from ARP funds since SFY 2020. Awarding of grants is an ongoing process with the support of new, incoming ARP funding for "shovel ready" or "near shovel ready" projects. Additionally, to support outside technical consulting services, \$6.5M has been budgeted for professional fees.

The Department of Commerce respectfully requests \$124,766,142 in ARP funding for the ARC program for SFY 2022. This will be in addition to the earlier ARP funding requests that total \$185M that have already been granted this calendar year. Upon steering committee approval, the department will then seek review and approval by the Arkansas Legislative Council of the funding request, as well as necessary spending appropriation. This amount will continue to help support broadband construction projects currently in development across Arkansas.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael Preston".

Michael Preston
Secretary

No.	Application Re	Project	Grant Requested	Technolog	Status
1	9/10/2021	AVECC-Wave Rural Connect - Charleston	\$1,200,000.00	Fiber	Approved
2	9/23/2021	AVECC-Wave Rural Connect - Rural Crawford County	\$3,316,500.00	Fiber	Approved
3	7/15/2021	CableSouth Media 3 - Lincoln County (Palmyra)	\$4,119,296.08	Fiber	Approved
4	8/19/2021	Hillbilly Wireless - Sharpe County South	\$8,958,197.00	Fiber	Approved
5	9/24/2021	IndCo Cable TV - Newark	\$6,803,125.00	Fiber	Approved
6	9/28/2021	MVTC - Stone Co-Mingues Turner/Hwy 87/Pleasant Grove	\$6,066,845.00	Fiber	Approved
7	9/24/2021	Premier Holdings LLC - Mineral Springs	\$4,477,692.52	Fiber	Approved
8	9/15/2021	Premier Holdings LLC - Stamps	\$3,985,912.88	Fiber	Approved
9	9/2/2021	Ritter - Craighead County Central	\$3,787,289.00	Fiber	Approved
10	9/2/2021	Ritter - Craighead County East	\$3,251,190.00	Fiber	Approved
11	9/9/2021	Ritter - Cross County Crowley's Ridge	\$3,180,100.00	Fiber	Approved
12	9/9/2021	Ritter - Cross County West	\$4,257,650.00	Fiber	Approved
13	9/10/2021	Ritter - Jefferson County NE	\$4,636,917.00	Fiber	Approved
14	9/10/2021	Ritter - Jefferson County NW	\$11,305,061.00	Fiber	Approved
15	9/24/2021	Ritter - Poinsett County North Central Priority 1	\$2,893,700.00	Fiber	Approved
16	9/24/2021	Ritter - Poinsett County South Central Priority 2	\$1,631,845.00	Fiber	Approved
17	9/15/2021	Ritter - Pope County Appleton/Hector/Scottsville	\$5,665,012.00	Fiber	Approved
18	9/11/2021	Ritter - Pope County SouthWest Priority 4	\$7,053,243.00	Fiber	Approved
19	9/6/2021	Ritter - St. Francis County North Central	\$4,311,450.00	Fiber	Approved
20	9/6/2021	Ritter - St. Francis County NorthWest	\$3,296,875.00	Fiber	Approved
21	8/18/2021	SATCO - Bradley County	\$2,991,357.00	Fiber	Approved
22	9/2/2021	SATCO - Warren South	\$3,377,110.00	Fiber	Approved
23	8/31/2021	SWAT - Blevins & McCasill	\$3,696,764.00	Fiber	Approved
24	8/25/2021	SWAT - Columbia County	\$5,494,263.00	Fiber	Approved
25	8/27/2021	Walnut Hill Telephone - Ebenezer	\$1,953,060.00	Fiber	Approved
26	8/24/2021	Walnut Hill Telephone - Falcon	\$1,419,735.00	Fiber	Approved
27	8/27/2021	Walnut Hill Telephone - Medlock	\$793,461.00	Fiber	Approved
28	8/24/2021	Walnut Hill Telephone - Oak Grove Rd, Buckner	\$1,810,694.00	Fiber	Approved
29	8/24/2021	Walnut Hill Telephone - Shiloh	\$1,845,485.00	Fiber	Approved
30	8/27/2021	Walnut Hill Telephone - South Lake Columbia	\$1,943,357.00	Fiber	Approved
31	8/18/2021	Windstream - Cleburne County	\$2,802,321.00	Fiber	Approved
32	9/20/2021	Windstream - Dallas County 2	\$2,440,634.00	Fiber	Approved

Total	\$124,766,141.48
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