

# EESI Brief: Unlocking Rural Economies: Farm Bill Investment in Rural America

## RESP, Weatherization, and Broadband

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Aiken, SC

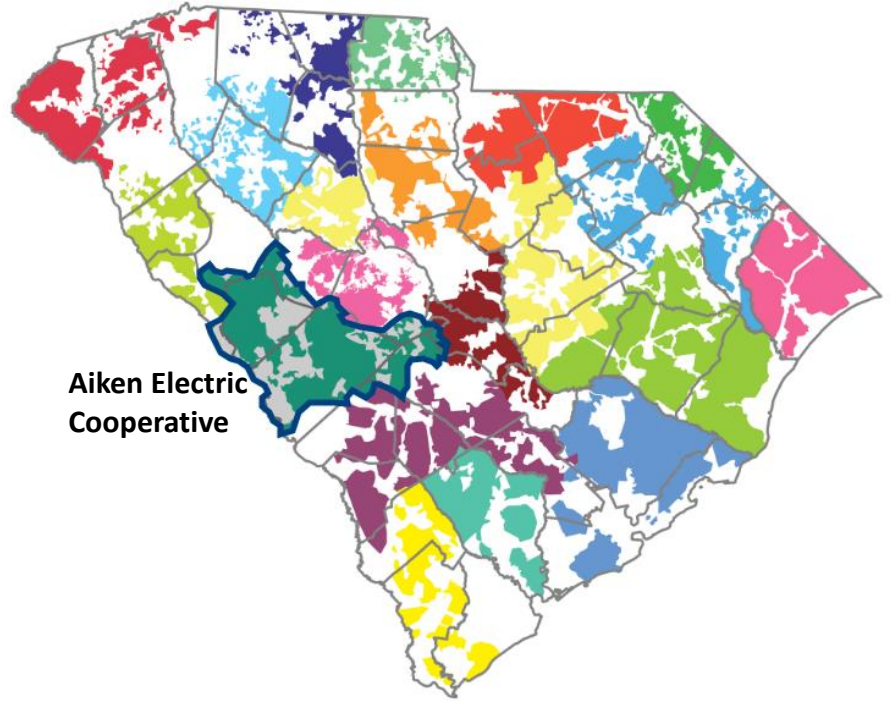


Wednesday, May 24, 2023




# Aiken Electric Cooperative

- 51,000 members
- 9 counties
- 5,600 miles of line
- 137 employees



**Aiken Electric  
Cooperative, Inc.**

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 



# THANK YOU, REP. CLYBURN!

Rural Energy Saving Program  
and Help My House





*Shape Up Your Home for Energy Savings*

**Began in 2011 as a pilot, and AEC  
followed with their own HMMH  
program in 2012**

# Average Energy Savings (HMH Pilot)

\$1,157

\$288

Annual  
Net Savings

\$869



**Maxine Stroman**

Homeowner,  
Aiken, SC



**Diane Taylor**

Homeowner,  
Monetta, SC

Annual  
Energy Savings

Annual  
Loan Repayment

# HELP MY HOUSE BASICS

## 1. Convenient

- On-bill repayment (2010 S.C. law)
- Improves comfort and energy savings

## 2. Consistent Quality

- Trained, qualified contractors
- Co-op manages QA, QC

## 3. Affordable Financing

- Low-interest loan tied to the meter;  
Transfers if home sells
- No money down, no credit checks required





# Homes Weatherized

## Aiken Electric Co-op

- 419 homes
- \$4.3M loaned

## All HMM homes

- 1,031 homes
- \$10.3M loaned

# Broadband

- Partnering with Carolina Connect – a fiber optic communications cooperative
- Bringing affordable high-speed internet to the unserved and underserved
- Started in 2021, a 3-year work plan to install 350 miles of 288-strand fiber optic backbone to connect 4 offices, 27 substations and all down-line devices



# **Where we started — 2021**

## **CarolinaConnect Partnership**

- Affordable, reliable high-speed internet for unserved and underserved in AEC service area

## **CarolinaConnect Sister Co-Op's**

- Mid-Carolina Electric Cooperative
- Newberry Electric Cooperative
- Aiken Electric Cooperative

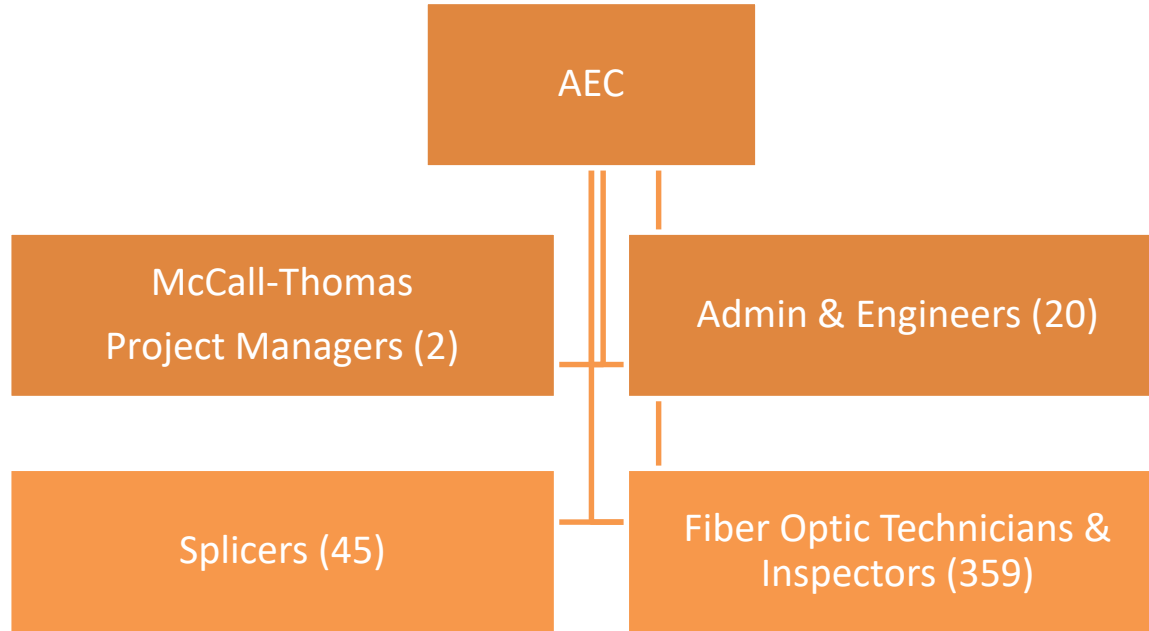
# **What makes our service different? *Everything!***

- VoIP (Voice over the Internet Protocol) telephone service
- Superior performance and affordable pricing
- Extraordinary customer service
- Access free technical support

**Our service culture is born of the electric cooperative's longstanding commitment to reliable, friendly customer care.**

# Workforce behind the scenes

**426**  
Fiber  
Employees



# Funding Secured to date

- Cares Act: **\$554,575**  
Wi-Fi to Aiken and Orangeburg counties schools
- Office of Regulatory Staff (ORS): **\$3,939,368**  
Service Orangeburg and Barnwell counties and the town of Springfield and Monetta area
- Office of Regulatory Staff (ORS): **\$6,478**  
Last Mile Grant Program to complete service in Edgefield

# Funding Secured to date

- Aiken County: **\$3 million**
- Saluda County: **\$1 million**
- Edgefield County: **\$47,579**  
for engineering study
- Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF) Award: **\$45,666**

APPROVED GRANTS  
TO DATE

**\$8,593,666**

internet made better

Get a bigger bang for your  
broadband buck!

#### FOR HOME

##### RESIDENTIAL CONNECT

350 MBPS

\$49.95

PER MONTH

##### RESIDENTIAL CONNECT

700 MBPS

\$69.95

PER MONTH

##### RESIDENTIAL CONNECT+

1 GBPS

\$89.95

PER MONTH

#### FOR BUSINESS

##### BUSINESS CONNECT

350 MBPS

\$79.95

PER MONTH

##### BUSINESS CONNECT

700 MBPS

\$139.95

PER MONTH

##### BUSINESS CONNECT+

1 GBPS

\$199.95

PER MONTH

# Broadband Area

