

Ripple Fiber Receives \$2 Million in Funding to Establish Fiber Infrastructure in Harnett County, North Carolina

Fiber optic internet provider will soon begin construction on locally funded project

HARNETT COUNTY, N.C. — June 3, 2025 — Ripple Fiber, a Charlotte-based provider of high-speed fiber internet services, is proud to announce a formal agreement with Harnett County to deploy high-speed fiber internet service to more than 2,800 locations as part of a major broadband expansion initiative. Funded with \$2 million from Harnett County and significant capital contribution from Ripple Fiber, this project will significantly enhance connectivity for residents and businesses across the communities of Broadway, Bunnlevel, Coats, Lillington, Sanford, and Spring Lake.

"The trust and support we've received from Harnett County is incredibly meaningful—for Ripple Fiber as a provider and for local residents who deserve access to fiber-powered connectivity," said Bobbie Gilbert, Chief Government Affairs Officer at Ripple Fiber. "We're ready to get started on this project and show our local partners the lasting value this investment will bring to their communities."

This transaction is the result of a finalized agreement to acquire fiber infrastructure assets from CloudWyze in 2024. Ripple Fiber, in collaboration with local partners, is overseeing the administration of associated funding to expedite a broadband expansion initiative, with a project completion in early 2026.

"We are excited to welcome Ripple Fiber to Harnett County," added Brent Trout, Harnett County Manager. "We are grateful for their partnership as they bring high-speed fiber internet service to our residents and businesses. Access to broadband is a necessity, and we look forward to expanding broadband to even more areas in need across Harnett County."

Through Ripple Fiber's 10Gig network, residents will have access to a strong, dependable network that will power communities for decades to come. Whether using Wi-Fi for remote work, online learning, gaming, or video streaming, customers can expect exceptional bandwidth and symmetrical upload and download speeds. Recognizing the importance of digital access, Ripple Fiber strives to empower its customers by equipping them with the necessary tools to build a bright future.

Ripple Fiber is eager to begin building its future-ready fiber internet network for underserved residents, with plans to break ground on this project in the coming months. Residents in Harnett

County who would like to learn more about Ripple Fiber's offerings can visit <u>ripplefiber.com</u> and follow along on social media (@ripple.fiber) for updates.

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ABOUT RIPPLE FIBER

Founded in 2021, Ripple Fiber provides thousands of homes with the brightest and fastest fiber internet solutions, powered by a 10Gig, 100 percent fiber optic network. With its patented technology driving rapid expansion, Ripple Fiber is redefining connectivity for its communities while remaining committed to promoting digital empowerment. Ripple Fiber believes the biggest wave starts as a ripple. For more information, please visit <u>ripplefiber.com</u>.

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