



# Counties and Public Private Partnerships

Presentation to the House Select Committee on Public Private Partnerships

Presented by

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# Counties and Public Private Partnerships

This presentation has two parts....

1

Counties and Broadband  
NASH County's Experience

2

What is a PPP?  
Real World Examples



## Some Background about Counties and Broadband

- 2010 – Legislative Broadband Debate
  - Counties largely on the sideline due to a lack of statutory authority
- 2010-2011 – NCACC Legislative Goals Process
  - **GOAL: Authorize counties to offer broadband through partnership or direct service** – Seek legislation to authorize counties to provide high-speed internet through direct county service or public-private partnerships.



# Some Background about Counties and Broadband

- 2011 – NCGA
  - H129 Level Playing Field/Local Gov't Competition
- 2011 – NCGA
  - H593 - Allow County Grants for Broadband
    - Rep. Collins - NASH County Only (Enacted)
  - H592 - Study County Public-Private Partnerships
    - Collins; Howard; Tolson; Carney;



# NASH County's Experience



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# NASH County's Experience



- County had been studying Broadband
- Willing to have conversations with private partners
- Legal uncertainty about authority to proceed
- H593 Allowed the conversation to proceed



# What is a PPP?

## Real World Examples



# County / State Partnership

- Counties are the key delivery system for state services
- Many “Core” Services are statutorily required to be delivered at the county level





# What is a PPP?

- “Not real sure what a PPP is, but we contract some of our services out ... some EMS services are provided by a non-profit rescue squad.”
- Counties have been working with non-profits to assist with delivery of services for years.
  - Statutes grant broad authority to counties through their budgetary process
  - Public safeguards are required (Public Hearings / Audits)



# Examples

- BUNCOMBE COUNTY:
  - “The County Strategic Plan includes a goal specific to exploring public-private partnerships for non-core services (i.e. those services a County is not mandated to directly provide). This allows the County to reinvest savings into core services as well as invest in community partners thus strengthening community sustainability.”



# Examples

- **BUNCOMBE COUNTY**
  - Community Investment
  - Performance Standards Built-in to all contracts
  - By resolution, if 10% or more of the non-profits funding comes from the county, their books are open to the public
  - Public has input into the process at the budget level



# Examples

- VANCE COUNTY
  - “Vance County has successfully used relationships with private partners over the years to accomplish projects that would not otherwise have been possible.”



- Complete renovation of former hospital building into apartments for senior citizens (County government and private developer)
- Complete renovation of former school building into apartments for senior citizens (County government, public schools, and private developer)



# Public Schools

- 2005 – SB2009 - AN ACT TO ALLOW CAPITAL LEASE FINANCING FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS.
- Authorized school boards (county funding) into lease agreements – existing or new school buildings...lease could not exceed 40 years
- Originally to sunset in July 2011 – Change last session to July 1, 2015
- No applications have been received by the LGC for this type of arrangement



# Suggestions

- Retain Flexibility that allows counties to continue what they're doing
- Extend the Broadband Authority to All Counties
- Address State Agency Barriers to encouraging or facilitating PPP (Regulatory)



# Suggestions

- Dedicated funds from the state budget should be set aside for matching grant funds for the creation of public-private partnerships associated with small business development including education and training. This should be in addition to funds available through the Community Development Block Grant Program and the Small Business Center.





Thank You!

Questions?



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