Illinois Association of County Board Members Broadband Summit

# County Government: The Essential Leader in Rural Broadband Development

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"County governments combine the self-interest and organizational capacity to spur broadband deployment at meaningful scale."

# The County Provides Leadership

- Budget
- Relationships across jurisdictions
  - Downward to municipalities, townships and schools
  - Upward to state and federal agencies
- Connection to the citizenry
- Recognized convener on key community issues

#### Broadband

## Deployment

## Challenges

- Infrastructure Cost
  - Low population density
  - Soils and geography
- Demographics
  - Affordability
  - Low incomes
  - Low skill levels
- Incumbent monopoly/duopoly market power
  - Poor customer service
  - High prices
  - Redlining
  - Incumbent provider resistance
- Public Policy
  - Poor broadband maps
    - Based on provider maps
  - Poorly designed funding programs
    - Competitive
    - Complicated
    - Piecemeal

## The County Has Expertise



#### **To Spur Deployment**

County Administrator
Information Technology
Public Safety
Engineering
Mapping and Property Information
Finance



#### **To Spur Value**

**Economic Development** 

**Public Health** 

**Human Services** 

**Smart Infrastructure** 

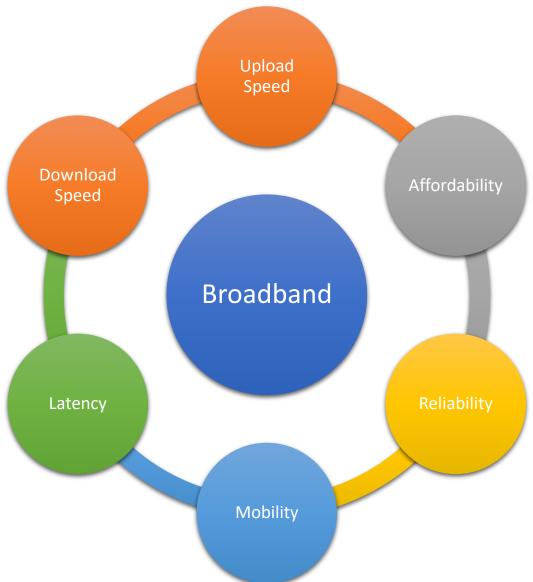
**Workforce Training** 

**Public Safety** 

Libraries



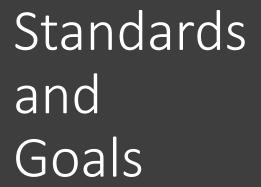






#### FCC Broadband Standard

25 Mbps/3 Mbps





Illinois Broadband Goals 25 Mbps/3 Mbps by 2024

100 Mbps/20 Mbps by 2028



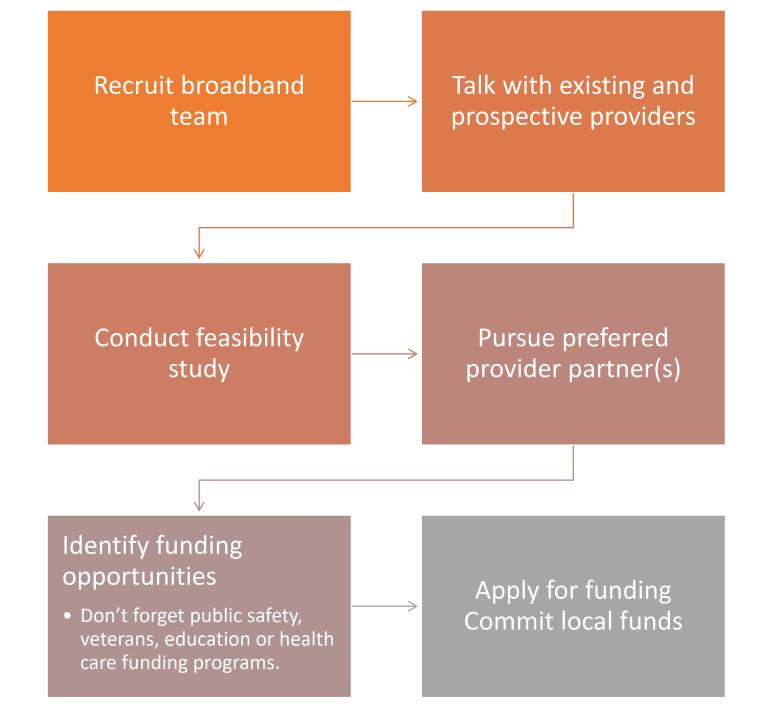
Federal and State Grant Standards

Speed is going up!

Recognition of

Upload Speeds

Broadband
Infrastructure
Improvement
Process



## Feasibility Studies

#### Elements

- Community survey
- Technology alternatives
- Financial analysis
- Partnership development

#### **Success Factors**

- Study designed to achieve area's broadband vision
- Community engagement
  - Elected officials
  - Citizen Champions
  - Area Tech experts
  - Community champions
- Study serves as decision making funnel rather than leaving key decisions until the end

## Ownership and Operations Models

#### Ownership

• 100% Private

 100% Public w/lease to private ISP

 Joint Build – Shared Ownership

• 100% Public

#### Service Delivery

Private Providers on their own network(s)

 Multiple providers on shared open access network

 Public provider on publiclyowned network

# Broadband Information Resources

- Benton Institute for Broadband & Society Headlines
  - www.Benton.org
- Benton/Blandin Accelerate Guidebook
  - www.benton.org/publications/Accelerate
- Pots and Pans by CCG
  - www.potsandpansbyccg.com
- Institute for Local Self-Reliance
  - www.ilsr.org
- Federal Broadband Funding Sources
  - www.broadbandusa.ntia.doc.gov/resources/federal/f ederal-funding