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Broadband Communities Summit

Broadband is Like Oxygen to Rural America – What Technology and Companies Will Provide

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- WHAT IS A WISP
(WIRELESS INTERNET SERVICE PROVIDER)

- Terrestrial Based, Fixed Wireless
- Compete with Telcos (DSL, T-1s), Cable Companies, Mobile Carriers Data plans, and Satellite providers.
- Not a cell phone provider
- Not Wi-Fi
- In North Carolina about 27 WISPs..... 100 counties in NC





PUBLIC – PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP NCW EXAMPLES

✓ Avery County, NC:

- Population: 17,700
- % Population under 18 years of age: 16%
- % Population over 65 years of age: 19.7%
- Involved in forming the Partnership: (Public) County Commissioners, County Economic Development Director, and County Manager: Private: North Carolina Wireless; Promoted and facilitated by eNC (NC Department of Commerce).
- Less Risk = Higher likelihood of successful project.

✓ City of Claremont, NC

- Population: 1,700
- Physical size, about 3 square miles
- Involved in forming the partnership: (Public) City Council and City Manager: Private: North Carolina Wireless; Promoted and facilitated by eNC (NC Department of Commerce).



CO-OPETITION

- No Provider is everywhere
- We compete, but we can cooperate to grow the covered/passed household and businesses
- Example:
 - Den Drive in Newton, NC



LESSONS LEARNED

- ✓ Public – Private Partnerships work.
- ✓ Keep it Simple.
- ✓ Leaders involved, and promoting the plan
- ✓ Trust
- ✓ The more local the better
- ✓ Every community needs a WISP, find one, encourage one.