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# **North Carolina Public Computer Center**

Project Compass  
May 27-28, 2010

# Bringing Federal Stimulus Funds to North Carolina

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- NTIA - National Telecommunications and Information Administration
- BTOP - Broadband Technology Opportunity Program
- PCC - Public Computer Centers

# Public Computer Centers

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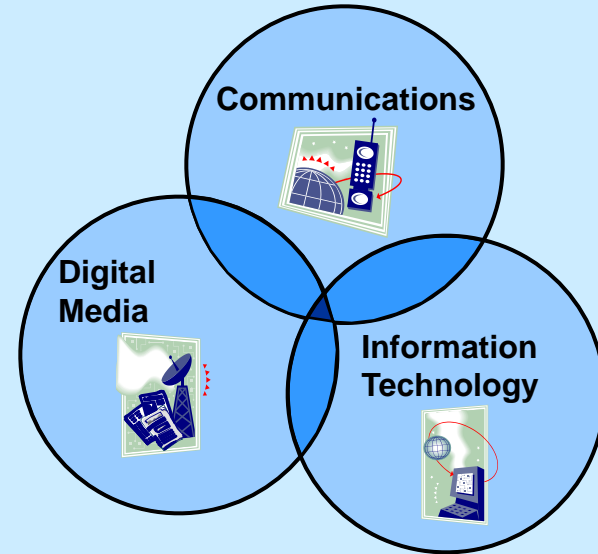
The PCC category will help expand public access to broadband service and enhance broadband capacity at entities that permit the public to use these computing centers, such as community colleges and public libraries.

At least \$150 million will be awarded for PCC projects.




# Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation CSMG

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### Going the extra mile



**Martha Schatz** knows how much Internet access at the public library helps people conduct job searches, eBay business and personal medical research.

**Location:** Rutherford County  
**Project:** Expansion of Broadband Fiber Infrastructure  
**Grant:** \$1,450,000  
**FY:** 2008

It's hard for many to imagine life without the immediacy of instant messaging, Google and e-mail. But residents of Rutherford County count themselves lucky just to have Internet connection. Most homes in the county have access only to dial-up without even the option of DSL. And as everyone who's used dial-up knows, that makes doing anything online frustrating and time-consuming. "You can practically wash a load of clothes in the time it takes for a page to load," says Martha Schatz, director of the Rutherford County Library.

After 25 years with the library, Schatz has witnessed firsthand the evolution of technology in her small community. Her introduction to the Internet occurred at a mandatory State Library workshop in 1995. "I didn't want to go because I had too much to do," says Schatz. She went begrudgingly and unexpectedly found herself getting excited as the teacher talked about a new world of information. Not long after, Rutherford County citizens were able to access the Internet through her library.

But as the Internet took off, Schatz's community was left behind. "We didn't get a DSL connection here at the library until last year," says Schatz. "Before that, we had frame relay, and it crawled like a snail." She admits that DSL is better, but it doesn't allow people to take advantage of all the Internet has to offer. "When someone views streaming video for, say, an online course, it slows the entire library down."

# The goal of our PCC project is to drive job creation and discovery in North Carolina by providing libraries with technology upgrades and employment-focused services

Project Goals

Target Outcomes

1

Target a strategic set of counties and libraries with high unemployment to include in the grant application

- Target North Carolina counties with the highest unemployment rates and greatest numbers of unemployed persons, based on 2008 – 2009 data
  - For the full year 2009, the state average unemployment rate was 10.8% (compared to a national rate of 9.3%), with some counties ranging as high as 13%-15% unemployment
- At the preliminary stage we hoped to address 40 library locations in the counties with the highest unemployment and with more than 1,000 unemployed persons in North Carolina

2

Provide computer and broadband connectivity upgrades for target libraries

- We extended surveys to the target library systems to get a better understanding of their technology and broadband connectivity needs
- We plan to fund two main technology and connectivity improvements for public libraries:
  - New laptop computers to increase capacity
  - Improved broadband connection speeds

3

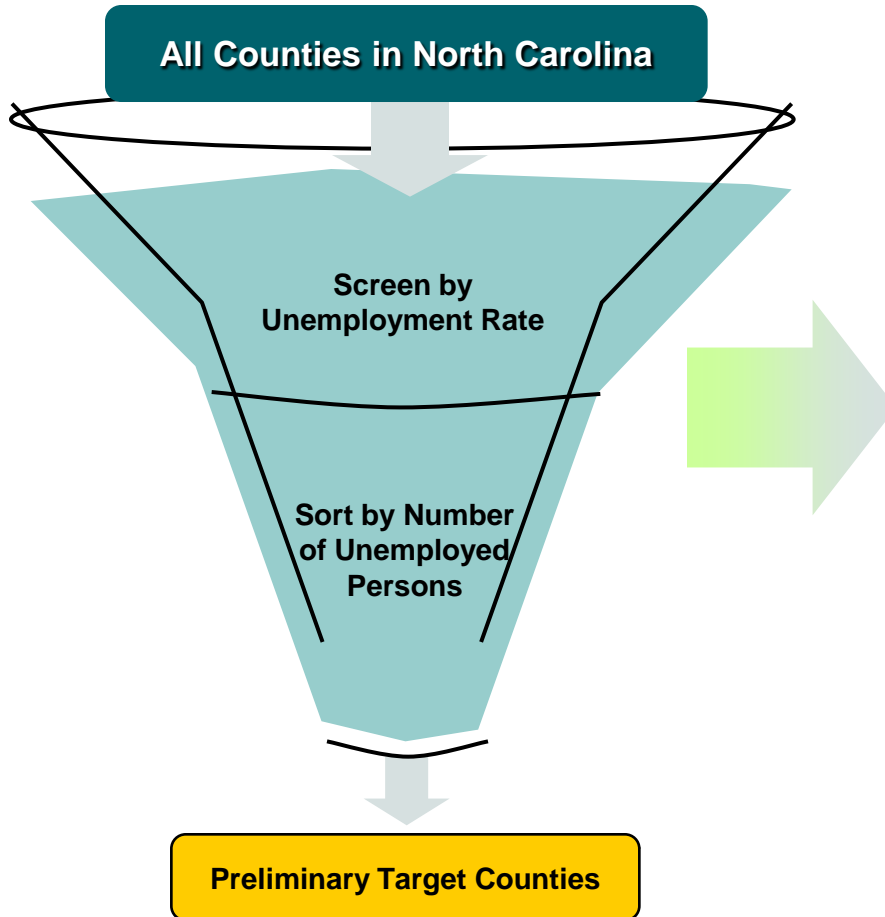
Support employment and workforce development focused services and initiatives to help local citizens find jobs

- Services will help patrons improve their employment candidacy and find jobs
- We also expect to make temporary new hires funded by grant money
- We plan to leverage and support existing employment resources and initiatives that will help library patrons with job search, skills building, training, continuing education, and e-Government related to unemployment
- Using survey data, we plan to capture a “before and after” view in order to clearly quantify the positive impact of the programs and grant

# Library Selection Methodology

Since our project is focused on addressing unemployment in North Carolina, we selected libraries based on county unemployment rates and unemployed persons

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- We targeted counties with unemployment rates above the state average
- We then ranked all counties above the state unemployment rate by their total number of unemployed persons
- Counties must have 1,000+ unemployed persons
- All data is 2008 – 2009 average from the Employment Security Commission of North Carolina
  - We used 2008 – 2009 average data because the NTIA recommends using the most recent 24-month period for demographic data

# Library Selection Methodology

**With 2008-2009 unemployment rates ranging from 8.6% to 14.1%, the 35 counties include 145K unemployed people, 37% of the entire state's unemployed population**

<b>State Library of North Carolina</b>				
<b>North Carolina Public Computer Center Project</b>				
<b>Demographic Statistics of Proposed Counties Served</b>				
<b>Center Name</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>2008-2009 Average Unemployment Rate</b>	<b>2008-2009 Average Unemployed Individuals</b>	<b>Service Area (County) Population</b>
Gaston-Lincoln Regional Library (Gaston Co. Pub. Lib.)	Gaston County	10.9%	10,959	203,546
Catawba County Library (Main)	Catawba County	11.0%	8,365	157,419
Davidson County Public Library System (Lexington Public Library)	Davidson County	10.2%	7,958	159,865
Iredell County Library (Iredell County Library)	Iredell County	9.6%	7,720	156,294
Cabarrus County Public Library (Concord Main Branch)	Cabarrus County	8.6%	7,193	167,035
Rowan Public Library (Rowan Public Library)	Rowan County	9.9%	7,067	138,439
Randolph Public Library (Asheboro Public Library)	Randolph County	9.1%	6,755	142,600
Alamance County Public Libraries (May Memorial Lib.)	Alamance County	9.3%	6,586	145,611
Cleveland County Memorial Library (Cleveland County Memorial Lib.)	Cleveland County	11.8%	5,876	99,303
Robeson County Public Library (Robeson County)	Robeson County	10.0%	5,705	131,071
Braswell Memorial Library (Braswell Memorial Public Library)	Nash County	10.1%	4,733	95,186
Rockingham County Public Library (Eden Branch Library)	Rockingham County	10.3%	4,591	93,253
Burke County Public Library (Burke Co Pub Lib)	Burke County	11.5%	4,584	90,676
Caldwell County Public Library (Caldwell County Pub. Lib.)	Caldwell County	11.8%	4,491	81,272
Harnett County Public Library (Harnett County Public Library (Main)	Harnett County	9.0%	4,347	110,098
Brunswick County Library (Harper Lib)	Brunswick County	8.9%	4,339	105,801
Gaston-Lincoln Regional Library (Charles R. Jonas Lib.)	Lincoln County	10.7%	4,266	75,457
Wilson County Public Library (Wilson Co. Pub. Lib.)	Wilson County	10.3%	4,186	78,786
Edgecombe County Memorial Library (Edgecombe Co Memorial Library)	Edgecombe County	13.4%	3,322	53,234
Appalachian Regional Library (Wilkes County Public)	Wilkes County	10.4%	3,159	68,020
Lee County Library (Lee County Library)	Lee County	11.0%	2,901	58,289
Stanly County Public Library (Stanly County Public Library Main Branch)	Stanly County	9.5%	2,893	60,810
McDowell County Public Library (Mcdowell County Pub Lib)	McDowell County	11.8%	2,502	44,561
Sandhill Regional Library System (Thomas H. Leath Library)	Richmond County	11.8%	2,406	47,044
Vance County Public Library (H. Leslie Perry Memorial Library)	Vance County	11.4%	2,261	44,035
Pender County Public Library (Burgaw)	Pender County	8.7%	2,107	52,158
Scotland County Memorial Library (Scotland County Memorial Library)	Scotland County	14.1%	1,991	37,547
George H. And Laura E. Brown Library	Beaufort County	9.4%	1,971	47,234
Davie County Public Library (Davie County Public Library)	Davie County	8.9%	1,864	41,563
Hyconeechee Regional Library (Person County Pub. Lib.)	Person County	9.4%	1,827	38,174
Bladen County Public Library (Bladen County Public Library)	Bladen County	10.3%	1,582	33,299
Nantahala Regional Library (Murphy Public Library)	Cherokee County	12.3%	1,261	27,852
Sandhill Regional Library System (Montgomery County Library)	Montgomery County	11.0%	1,246	27,988
Sandhill Regional Library System (Hampton B. Allen Library)	Anson County	11.8%	1,240	25,628
Hyconeechee Regional Library (Gunn Memorial Lib.)	Caswell County	10.6%	1,149	23,919
<b>Total of Targeted Libraries</b>			<b>145,402</b>	<b>2,963,067</b>
<b>State of North Carolina Total</b>			<b>388,847</b>	<b>9,231,191</b>
<b>% of State Total</b>			<b>37.4%</b>	<b>32.1%</b>



# North Carolina BTOP Partners

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Key Partner	Description
NC Governor's Office	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• North Carolina Office of Economic Recovery and Investment (OERI)</li></ul>
Partner Organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Bill &amp; Melinda Gates Foundation</li><li>• Golden LEAF Foundation</li><li>• Public Libraries in 35 counties</li><li>• MCNC</li><li>• e-NC Authority</li><li>• North Carolina Department of Commerce and local JobLink Career Centers</li><li>• North Carolina Employment Security Commission and local ESC offices</li><li>• North Carolina Community College System and local community colleges</li><li>• NC House of Representatives Select Committee on High Speed Internet</li><li>• Local Chambers of Commerce, Social Services, and Community Support Organizations</li></ul>

# **BTOP Awards & Timeline**

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- March 2010 – Grant application due
- May 2010 - State priority by Governor
- Summer 2010 - Due Diligence Process
- September 2010 - All awards announced
- 2012 - Most funds should be spent
- 2013 - All funds must be spent

# State Library's BTOP Launch

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- Funded by the Gates Foundation
- Facilitated by Connected Nation
- To be held in Raleigh
- Fall 2010



# State Library of North Carolina

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