




TEXAS BROADBAND DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

The 89th Annual South Texas County Judges and Commissioners Association Conference



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Agenda

1. Broadband Defined/Benefits of Access
2. Digital Divide
3. House Bill 5
4. Texas Broadband Plan
5. Broadband Development Map
6. ARPA Funding
7. Bringing Online Opportunities to Texas (BOOT) Program
8. IJA Funding
9. Public Engagement Model
 - a. Regional Working Groups
 - b. Surveys and Toolkits
10. Points of Engagement
11. Questions

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Broadband Defined

- Federal Communications Commission (FCC) defines broadband as a minimum of 25 Mbps for download & 3 Mbps for upload (25/3)
 - Federal funding programs target 100/20 for future projects
- Interchangeable with “high-speed internet”

Benefits of Access

• Education	• Telework
• Healthcare	• Accessibility
• Economic Development	• Urban Revitalization
• Government Services	• Environmental Sustainability
• Public Safety	• Entertainment

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Digital Divide

- American Community Survey: Approx. 3 million Texas households do not have access to broadband.
- Causes:
 - Lack of Infrastructure
 - Digital literacy
 - Affordability and access to devices

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House Bill 5

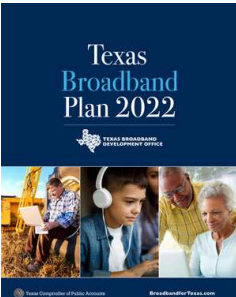
- Authored by Rep. Ashby
- Created the Broadband Development Office (BDO)
- Tasks BDO to:
 - Create, maintain and publish a state broadband plan;
 - Create, maintain and publish a broadband development map;
 - Create and manage broadband development program to expand broadband in the state.

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Texas Broadband Plan



- Strategies and goals for expanding access to and further adoption of broadband service
- Published in June 2022
- 12 stop listening tour
- 16,000 respondents to public survey
- Roundtables, one-on-ones and direct conversations
- Iterative updates will be made on an at-need basis

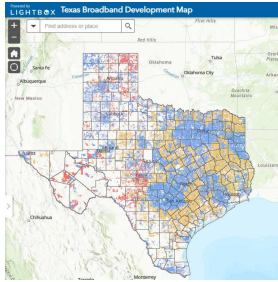
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Broadband Development Map

- Address-level fabric overlaid with broadband provider service data
- Depicts **locations** as “eligible” or “ineligible” for funding
- Updated yearly
- 60-day challenge period following publication




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ARPA Funding

- Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund (American Rescue Plan Act)
- Administered by U.S. Treasury
- Texas’ Allocation: \$500.5 Million
- Purpose: helping to ensure that all communities have access to the high-quality modern infrastructure, including broadband, needed to access critical services.
- Funds must be expended by Dec. 2026



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ARPA Funding

BDO’s Grant Plan submitted to Treasury Sept 2022

Program Component	Description	Allocation Request		
		Project Costs	Admin. Costs	Total Costs
1a: Broadband Infrastructure Projects	BDO – Texas Last Mile Connectivity Program	\$363,807,243	\$22,412,581	\$386,219,824
1a: Broadband Infrastructure Projects	BDO – Texas Broadband Pole Replacement Program	\$75,000,000	\$0	\$75,000,000
1c: Multi-Purpose Community Facility Project	Texas State Library and Archives Commission (TSLAC) – Infrastructure and Facility Access Improvement Grant Program (IFAG)	\$7,799,162	\$1,611,177	\$9,410,339
1a: Broadband Infrastructure Projects	Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) – Texas Rural Hospital Broadband Program (TRBP)	\$22,845,000	\$1,000,000	\$23,845,000
1c: Multi-Purpose Community Facility Project	Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) – El Paso District Safety Rest Area (ELP SRA) Broadband Infrastructure Project	\$6,000,000	\$0	\$6,000,000
TOTAL:		\$475,451,405	\$25,023,758	\$500,475,163

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Bringing Online Opportunities to Texas (BOOT) Program

- Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) was published on March 6
- Accepted Applications from April 3 to May 5
- 191 Applications Received
- BDO Reviewing Applications
- Application Challenge Period
- Grants Awarded this Fall 2023

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IIJA Funding

- Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act
 - Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program
 - Digital Equity Act
- Administered by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA)
- Texas' Allocation: \$2 – 4 Billion (est.)
- Purpose: fund state broadband deployment grant programs and ensure communities have the skills and devices to properly take advantage of the internet.

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IIJA Funding

- Texas received \$8.1 million for initial planning activities
- Connected Nation has been selected as the IIJA planning vendor for Texas
- Key dates:
 - June 30th: BEAD allocation is expected
 - August 28th: BEAD Five Year Action Plan is due
 - Dec. 1st: State Digital Opportunity Plan is due
- Implementation of program funds are not expected to occur until 2024 at the earliest

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Regional Working Groups

- Primary conduit between the BDO and local communities, representing Covered Populations and geographically diverse stakeholders across the 12 CPA regions...
 - Provide local insight to the BDO from community data and planning efforts
 - Coordinate & facilitate regional public meetings
 - Promote BDO events, surveys, and communications within communities
- Visit our [Outreach Webpage](#) to connect with our Regional Working Group Chairs

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Surveys and Toolkit

- [Public Survey](#)
 - [Partner Toolkit](#)
- [Digital Resource Mapping Tool](#)
 - [PDF Preview](#)
 - [Sample Letter](#) to send to other organizations in your network
- Deadline for responses is August 31.

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Points of Engagement

- [BroadbandForTexas.com](#) – [Outreach Page](#)
- Local government roundtable hosted by BDO on the first Thursday of every month at 10a ([Meeting Link](#))
- Industry roundtable for ISPs, engineering firms, consultants, and other private sector stakeholders hosted by BDO on the last Tuesday of every month at 3p ([Meeting Link](#))
- The BDO Board of Advisors meets September 21 at 2p
- The Governor’s Broadband Development Council meets frequently, meeting postings can be found [here](#).
- The BDO has a monthly newsletter and announcements, be sure to [sign up for updates](#).

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Questions

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