

Texas Regional Broadband Program (TRBP)
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) – Updated 3.2.2026

I. Program Overview & Purpose

Is the Texas Regional Broadband Program (TRBP) an infrastructure grant?

Answered by: TARC / BDO

No. TRBP is a planning and regional capacity-building program, not an infrastructure deployment or construction grant. Funding supports staffing, coordination, planning, community engagement and development of a Regional Digital Opportunity Plan.

With the rollout of BEAD starting as soon as spring in 2026 and TMMP being awarded shortly, can you clarify how you see the planning activities supporting these existing efforts? Are other implementation funds expected?

Answered by: BDO

At this stage, the primary implementation funds are provided through BEAD and Middle Mile, both of which are significant programs. In terms of planning activities, COGs can play a critical role by preparing to serve as points of contact for permitting and coordination, ensuring projects move efficiently. Equally important, communities could begin laying the groundwork for adoption by helping residents build confidence in their digital skills and understanding of broadband access. The TRBP can serve as a launching point for this preparation.

II. Eligibility, Awards & Funding

Have the COGs been directly notified or briefed of this opportunity, and if so, was there a specific contact?

Answered by: TARC

The TRBP COG Application of Interest announcement was sent via email, to each TARC member COG's Executive Director. Information was also shared by the Broadband Development Office via statewide newsletter. Questions regarding the program should be directed to alexg@txregionalcouncil.org.

Will all COGs that apply be awarded funds?

Answered by: TARC

Yes, provided the COG is current on required statutory reporting obligations and submits a complete COG Application of Interest.

Is there a maximum award amount?

Answered by: TARC

Each participating COG will receive an annual allocation of approximately \$107,000 per year for three years for eligible activities. This amount represents a minimum annual allocation, subject to statewide participation and final coverage alignment.

Can funds roll over from year one to year two and from year two to year three?

Answered by: TARC

Yes. TRBP operates on a three-year performance period, and funds may roll over between program years within that period.

Can the TRBP allocation of approximately \$107,000 per year be dedicated solely to salaries/wages and fringe benefits?

Answered by: TARC

Yes. A COG may allocate its full annual TRBP allocation to staff salaries/wages and associated fringe benefits. Reimbursement will require proper documentation, including timesheets and narrative descriptions of duties

performed, to demonstrate that activities align with TRBP eligible uses and program deliverables throughout the program timeline.

Can multiple staff persons be supported within the TRBP annual budget allocation?

Answered by: TARC

Yes. Multiple staff members may be supported under the annual allocation, provided that time charged to TRBP is true, accurate, and directly tied to eligible activities outlined in Attachment A and the approved Regional Digital Opportunity Plan. Proper documentation must be maintained.

Can we include additional costs or matching funds in the TRBP COG Budget Workbook?

Answered by: TARC

No. The TRBP COG Budget Workbook should reflect only those costs that will be reimbursed through the TRBP allocation. Additional or matching funds outside of TRBP should not be included in the workbook.

What is the program period of performance for TRBP?

Answered by: BDO / TARC

The TRBP period of performance runs for three (3) years: February 1, 2026 – January 31, 2029.

III. Planning vs. Implementation

Are all three years intended solely for planning?

Answered by: BDO / TARC

Not necessarily. While TRBP is primarily a planning and capacity-building program, COGs that have already completed significant regional broadband planning may advance directly into implementation-type activities related to digital opportunity, such as adoption, coordination, and program delivery, provided activities align with the approved Regional Digital Opportunity Plan.

IV. Application Process & Materials

Is the Application of Interest submitted via Microsoft Forms the formal application?

Answered by: TARC

Yes. The COG Application of Interest submitted through Microsoft Forms serves as the formal application for participation in TRBP. For an application to be considered complete, COGs must submit the following additional information to alexg@txregionalcouncil.org:

- Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR)
- Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (ICRA) or Indirect Cost Certification (ICC)
- Any existing broadband/digital opportunity planning documents

Is there a way to preview the application questions before starting the form?

Answered by: TARC

Yes. The static copy of the Application of Interest allows COG's to review all questions in advance before entering responses in Microsoft Forms. [A word document of the COG Application of Interest is available on TARC's website.](#)

What supporting documents are required with the application?

Answered by: TARC

Required documents include the COG's most recent ACFR (Annual Comprehensive Financial Report), an Indirect Cost Rate Agreement or certification and any existing broadband or digital opportunity planning documents if available. These should be sent via email to alexg@txregionalcouncil.org.

How do you recommend that I send the supplementary attachments? Parceled out by document, or do you want to send a SharePoint link/something similar?

Answered by: TARC

Please send the required supplementary attachments via email to alexg@txregionalcouncil.org in PDF or Word format and parceled out in multiple emails will suffice.

Would BDO's Technical Assistance Program (TAP) reports be considered existing broadband or digital opportunity planning documents that can be submitted as part of our application?

Answered by: TARC / BDO

Yes, if relevant to your COG's service area. Available TAP reports address service area connectivity, access, equity, or planning processes and may be submitted to demonstrate regional planning capacity.

V. Staffing & Delivery Model

Are COGs required to hire new staff or can existing staff be used?

Answered by: TARC

COG's may assign existing staff, designate new staff or use a hybrid approach. The key requirement is that the COG retains primary leadership and accountability for the work.

Can COGs contract out the planning work instead of using COG staff?

Answered by: TARC

Participating COGs are expected to remain the primary lead and point of accountability for delivering the regional broadband plan. TARC recognizes that staffing needs vary by region. COGs are not required to hire a FTE and may contract to assist with meeting program deliverables, provided the COG maintains oversight and responsibility for final deliverables.

Has the SME been identified?

Answered by: TARC

TARC is currently in negotiations with the respondent that received the highest score from the committee charged with reviewing submitted proposals.

Does TARC and/or BDO need to approve job descriptions for staff assigned to TRBP?

Answered by: TARC

No, TARC and BDO do not need to formally approve job descriptions. However, it is strongly recommended that the job description clearly align with TRBP program intentions, including digital opportunity planning, coordination, stakeholder engagement, and other eligible activities. Duties should directly tie back to program deliverables and eligible uses.

VI. Reporting, Reimbursement & Advances

How often are COGs required to submit progress reports?

Answered by: BDO / TARC

The TRBP requires monthly progress updates from COGs with a more formal quarterly roll-up to be submitted. Monthly updates may be brief and are used to support the quarterly roll-up reporting from TARC to BDO.

Are reimbursements submitted monthly or quarterly?

Answered by: BDO / TARC

COGs are expected to track expenses monthly. Reimbursement submissions and reporting will align with TARC's quarterly reporting to BDO, with additional guidance provided during onboarding and training.

Is there a possibility of annual advances instead of reimbursements?

Answered by: BDO

No. TRBP is structured as a reimbursement-based program, consistent with how the Texas Broadband Development Office administers programs under the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts.

When can COGs expect to receive the Risk Assessment?

Answered by: TARC

COGs can expect to receive the Risk Assessment approximately two (2) weeks after execution of the COG Program Agreement.

Do COGs need to separate out meals and travel expenses associated with pre-approved training events such as the TRBP Kickoff Training and the Texas Broadband Summit?

Answered by: TARC / BDO

Yes. For reimbursement purposes, expenses must be clearly separated and documented. Travel-related meal expenses incurred may be eligible, provided they are consistent with applicable GSA rates and comply with Texas Travel Rules and Regulations.

Is furniture an allowable cost for the staff person assigned as the COG's TRBP Point of Contact (POC)?

Answered by: TARC

Yes. Applicable supplies, equipment, and office-related costs necessary to ensure the assigned staff member can perform eligible TRBP activities may be allowable. All such costs must be reasonable, necessary, and allocable to the program.

Are meals and beverages eligible costs for meetings or stakeholder engagement activities under TRBP?

Answered by: BDO / TARC

No. Meals and beverages are not eligible costs when associated with regular meetings, stakeholder engagement sessions, workshops, or other in-region program activities.

Meals and beverages may only be eligible when associated with approved out-of-region travel directly tied to TRBP activities, such as the TRBP Kickoff Training or the Texas Broadband Summit. In those instances, reimbursement must comply with applicable GSA rates and Texas Travel Rules and Regulations.

All travel-related meal expenses must be clearly documented and separated within the quarterly reimbursement submission.

VII. BEAD Applicant Information

Where can COGs find the list of BEAD applicants?

Answered by: BDO

The full list of BEAD applicants was made publicly available during the challenge process and is available at <https://comptroller.texas.gov/programs/broadband/funding/bead/challenge.php>.

VIII. Training, Kickoff & Scheduling

With the NDIA Conference running from Feb 3-5, do you think folks who should attend the kick-off training might have that conflict?

Answered by: TARC

TARC is aware of the NDIA Conference dates (February 3–5). The kickoff training is being structured to maximize flexibility, and materials will be shared for those unable to attend in person.