

OATS | OLDER ADULTS
TECHNOLOGY
SERVICES
FROM **AARP**

2021 Aging In Texas

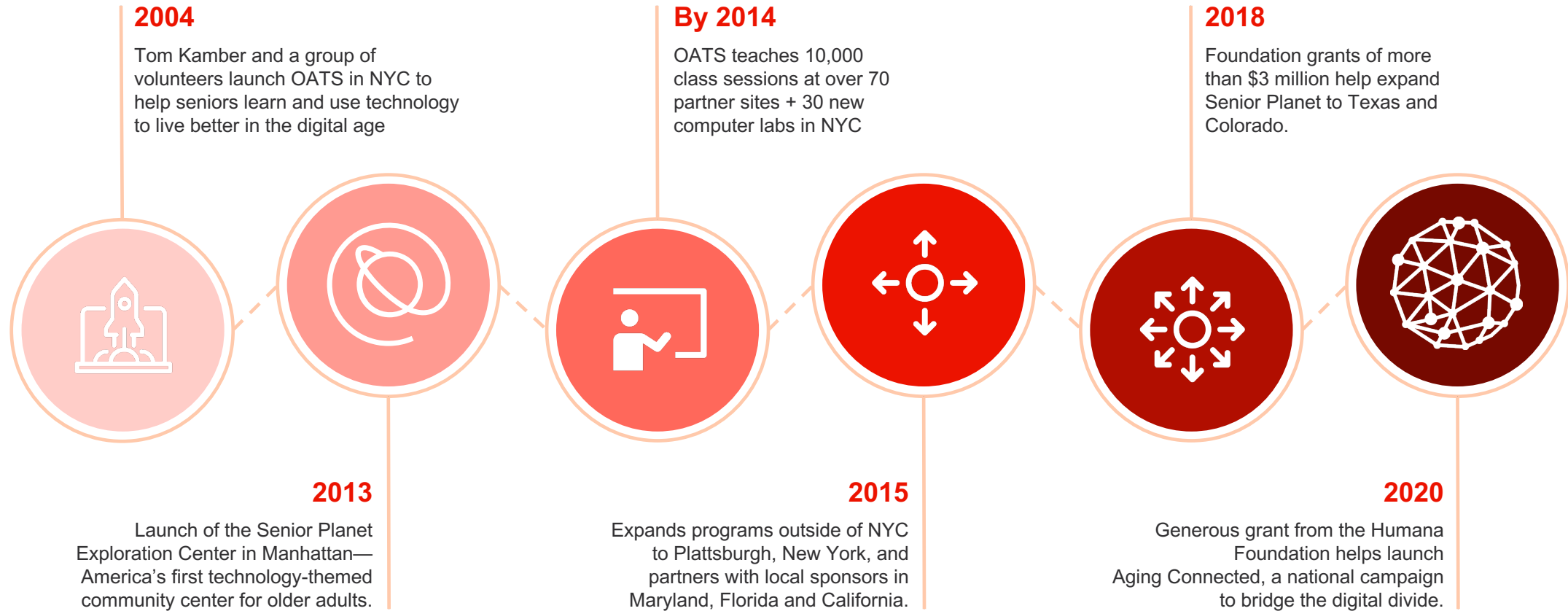
DeAnne C. Cuellar

State Director, Texas Senior Planet and OATS from AARP

August 4-6, 2021



Introduction to OATS



2021

OATS became a charitable affiliate of AARP!

Increased reach and impact of partnerships and training

Added touchpoint on AARP's new VCC platform

Expanded Senior Planet network to AARP members

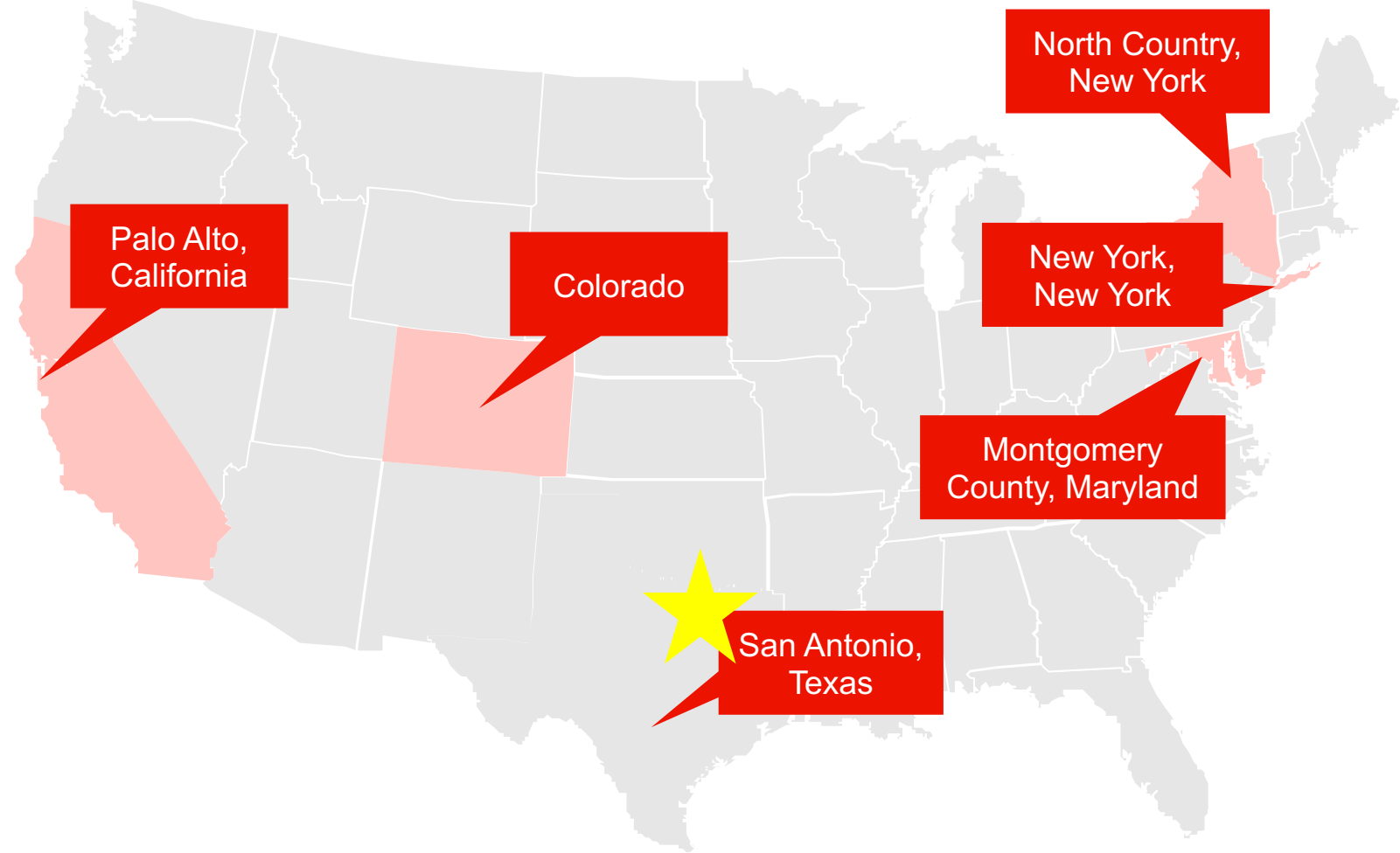
Introducing Senior Planet

Our Motto: Aging with Attitude

The Senior Planet training model:

- Designed with and for older adults
- Mainstream devices and application
- Emphasis on partnerships

Located in six geographies across the country



Impact Areas

Creative



Social



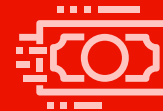
Financial



Health



Advocacy



The Digital Pivot

By early-April of 2020, we had converted 20+ English-only lectures for delivery through SeniorPlanet.org; now over 150 lectures, workshops, and multi-week series in English, Spanish, Chinese and Russian.

Began to offer free capacity building trainings to support aging service provider and nonprofit professionals learn best practices for offering virtual programming.

Advocacy work creating focused effort around connectivity during COVID-19.

Operationalized national and local hotline support systems.



Virtual Program Impact

6,327

Number of
**Senior Planet
Virtual
Programs Hosted**

318,487

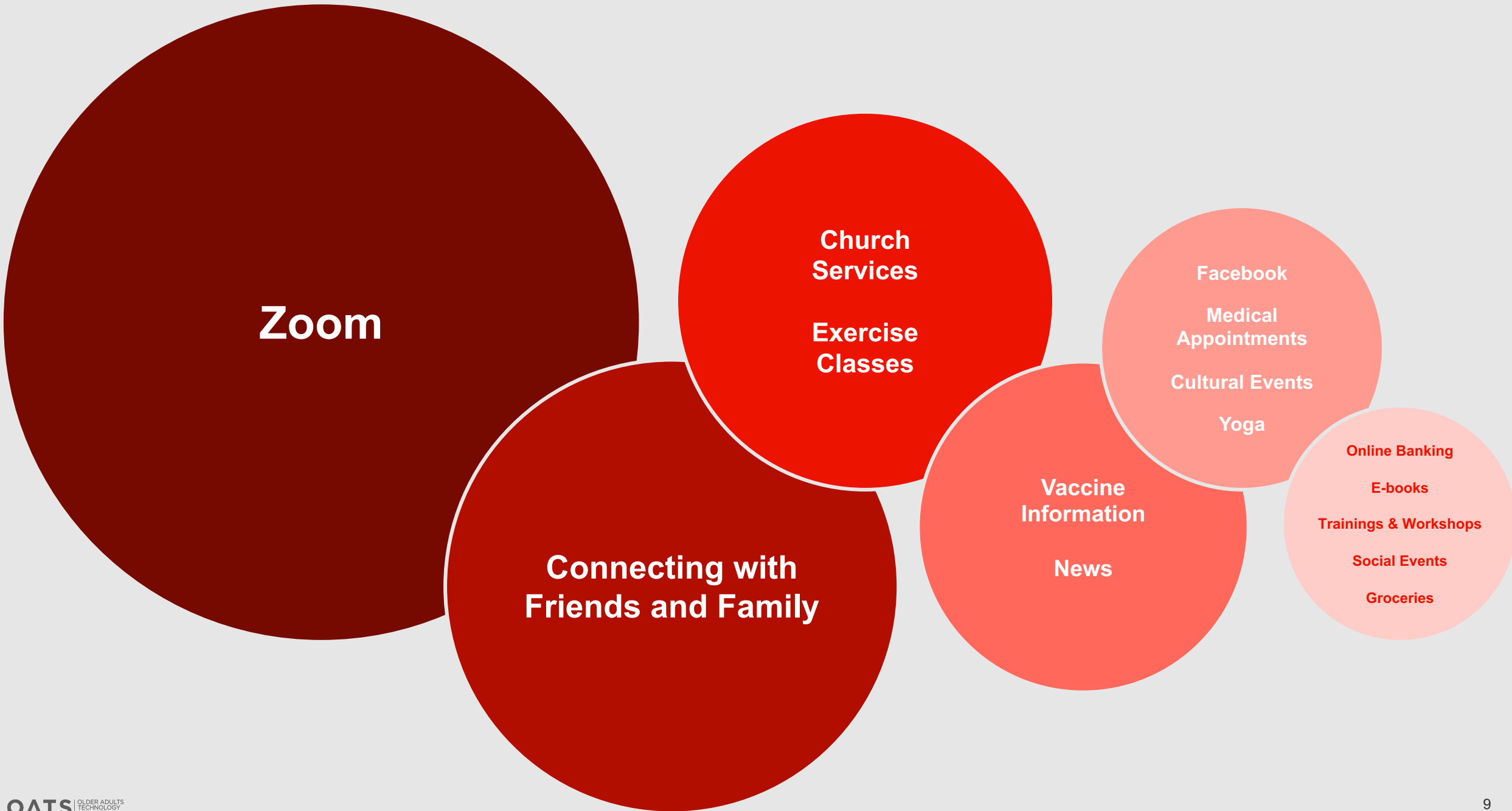
Number of
**engagements in
Senior Planet
programs**

643

Number of
**Professionals Attending
Capacity Building
Sessions**

Mid-March 2020 ← ————— → July 2021

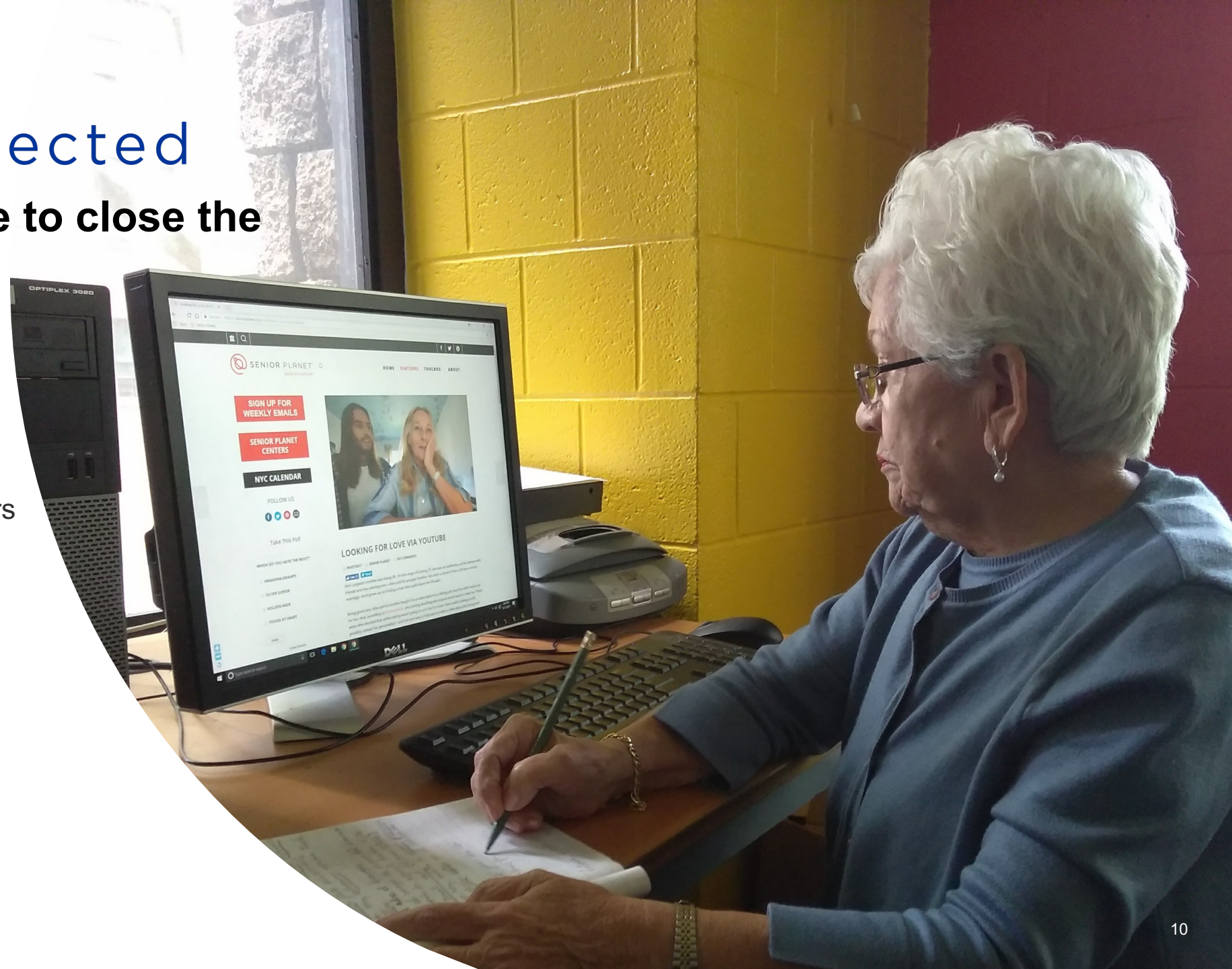
We asked Senior Planet about internet access during quarantine and nearly 200 people responded.



AGINGconnected

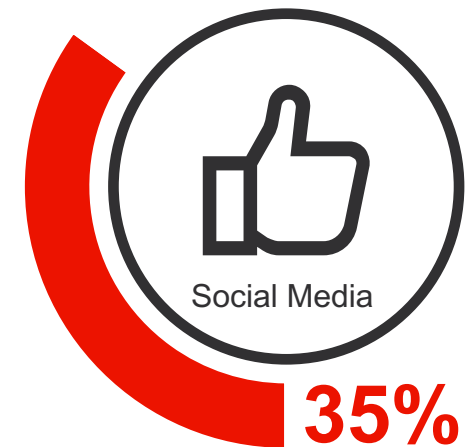
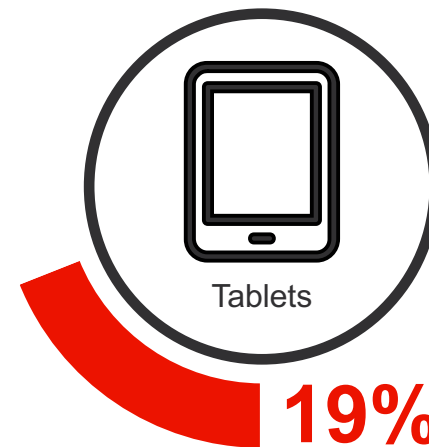
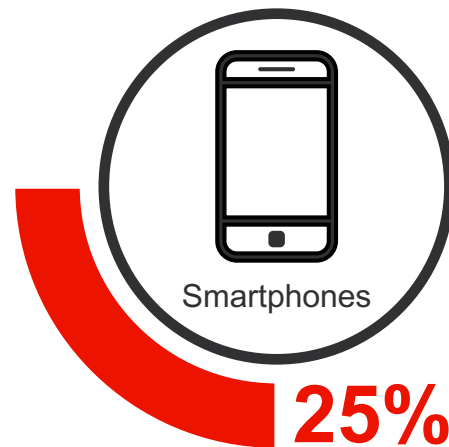
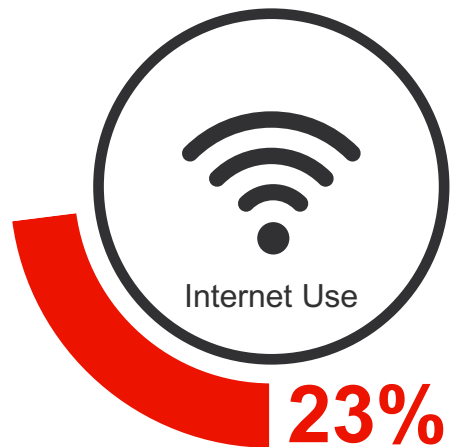
A national initiative to close the connectivity gap

- Partnering with The Humana Foundation
- National Research Report
- A Consortium of Stakeholders



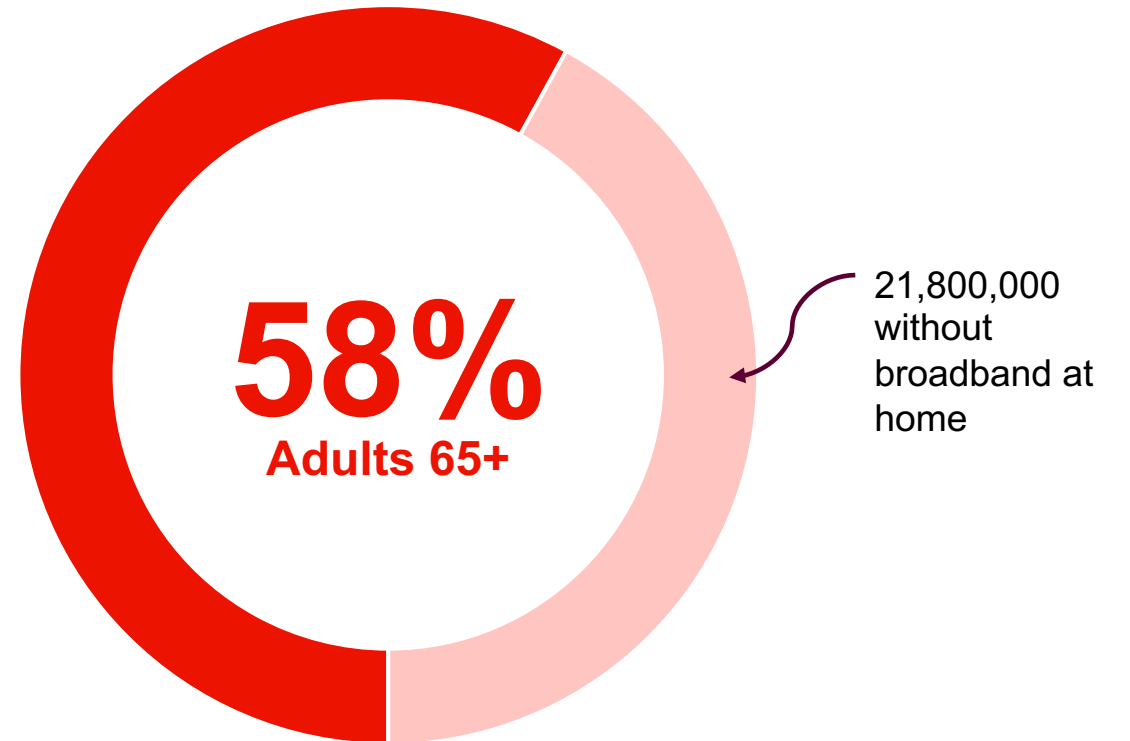
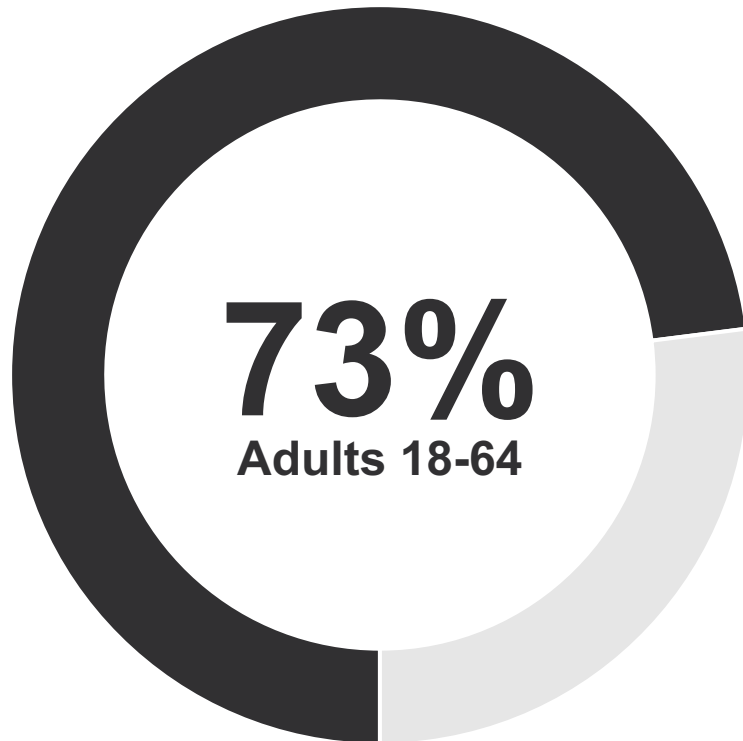
We Looked At The Data

Older Americans lag younger by double-digits on a range of technology measures:



The Broadband Gap for Older Adults

Percentage of Americans with in-home wireline broadband



**21.8 million
disconnected.**

CLOSING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE

A Public Health Crisis

2.7x

Medicaid enrollees
likelier to be offline

2x

Those with **functional
impairments** likely to
be offline

1.6x

Those with **frequent
depressive systems**
are likely to be offline



CLOSING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE

A Social Justice Crisis

10x

Low Income
under \$25K to be offline

2.5x

Black seniors
likelier to be offline.

3.3x

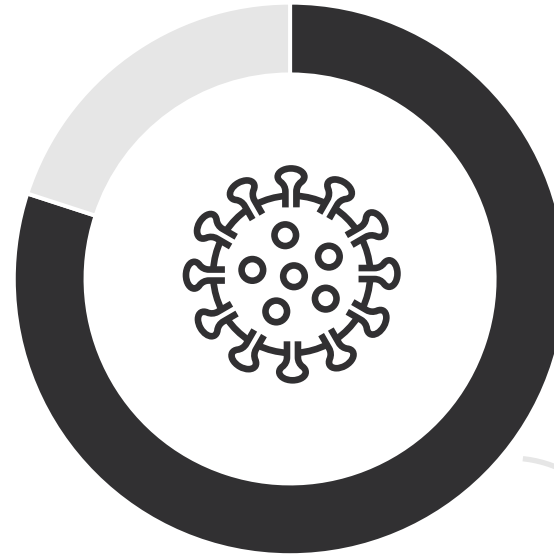
Latino seniors
likelier to be offline.

1.6x

Rural older adults
likelier to be offline.

The Risks of Digital Isolation Amid COVID

Seniors need to get connected to access vaccine appointments and tele-health resources.



80%
of **COVID deaths** have been older Americans

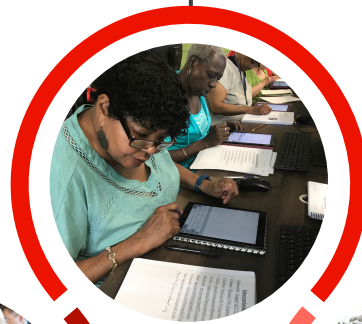


40%
of them likely **lacked access to online resources** like telemedicine and social connectedness

Picture Of The Disconnected

Race is a stronger predictor in this group, with Blacks (3.1 times as likely) and Latinos (4.5 times as likely) suffering much higher rates of nonparticipation, and being foreign-born is also a significant variable (2.3 times as likely to be offline)

Lower incomes and low educational attainment continue to be strong predictors of internet nonparticipation in this group, with people lacking a high school degree continuing to be the least likely to go online at home (17.7 times more likely to lack internet)



Finally, rural location (1.7 times more likely), poor-to-fair health (3.5-4.2 times as likely), and disability (1.9 times as likely) are still significant predictors of being offline.



Gender is a stronger predictor than in the general group of older adults offline, with women having a 2.5 times higher likelihood of being offline than men



Being single and living alone is a stronger predictor in this group (3.5 times as likely)

The implications of this research point the way toward targeted strategies that can effectively extend the benefits of broadband connectivity to underserved seniors.

Four Paths Forward

Articulate the value of broadband to seniors

Expand access to low-cost offers

Prioritize social equity and inclusion

Develop content, communities and experience for older adults to increase utilization of broadband services

Get in Touch

SeniorPlanet.org

- Online programming
- Articles for 60+

AgingConnected.org

- Low-cost internet finder
- Information about EBB

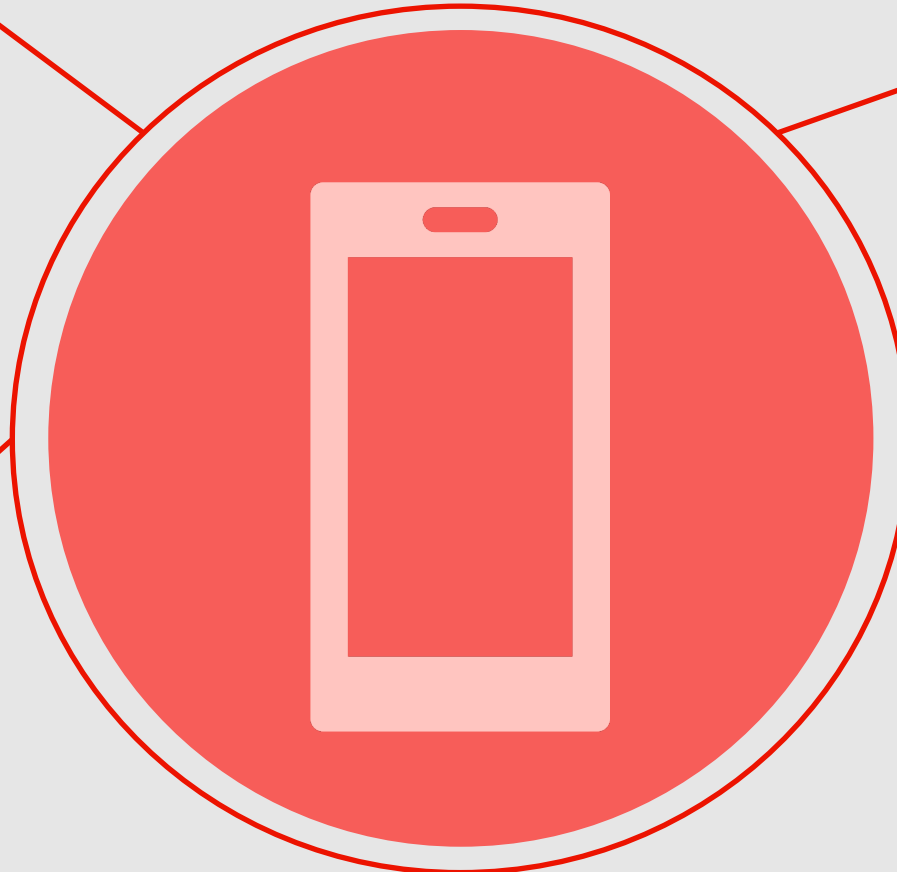
OATS.org

- Senior Planet Licensing
- Capacity Building
- Client Projects

Tech Hotline:

San Antonio Hotline:
(210) 504-4862

National Hotline:
(920) 666-1959



Thank You

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