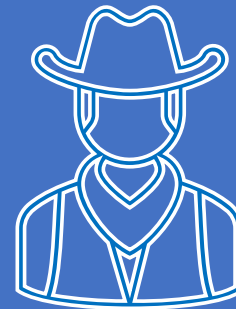


**TEXAS BROADBAND
DEVELOPMENT OFFICE**

Closing the Digital Divide in Texas





Connectivity

- What is Broadband?
 - “High Speed Internet”
 - FCC definition: 25 Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload (2015)
 - New federal funding targets 100/20 or 100/100
- Digital Divide
 - 7.7M Texans in 3M households do not have broadband
 - Infrastructure availability
 - Affordability of subscriptions
 - Access to devices
 - Digital literacy



Impacts of Broadband

Enhanced Economic
Development



Disaster Resilience and
Emergency Management

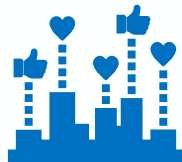


Enhanced
Healthcare



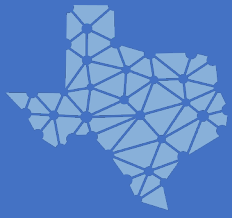
Education

Increased Adoption and
Utilization



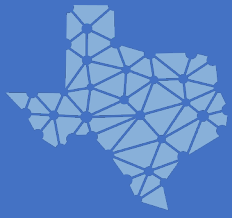
Improved Infrastructure
and Technology





Texas Broadband Development Office (BDO)

- BDO was established by House Bill 5 (Rep. Ashby)
 - Within the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts
- BDO Milestones and Objectives
 - Create a state broadband plan (June 2022)
 - Secure federal and state funding
 - Develop a competitive financial incentive program
 - Establish a statewide availability map (Jan 2023)
 - Conduct outreach and digital literacy programs
 - Implement a pole replacement program (HB1505)
 - Make recommendations to the State Legislature



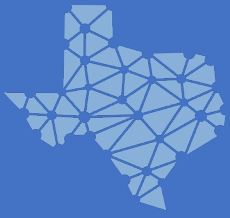
Funding

- American Rescue Plan Act (March 2021)
 - Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund
 - Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund
- Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Nov 2021)
 - Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment
 - Digital Equity Act
 - Middle Mile
 - Affordability
- State Revenue



Funding (cont.)

- Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund (US Treasury)
 - Texas was allotted \$500.4 million
 - “to carry out critical capital projects directly enabling work, education, and health monitoring, including remote options, in response to the public health emergency.”
 - 100 Mbps symmetrical
 - No “unserved”/“underserved” requirement
 - “All funds must be expended by December 31, 2026”



Funding (cont.)

- Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act
 - Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (NTIA)
 - \$42.5 billion nationwide, \$100 million per state
 - Purpose: Address availability
 - Submit 5-year plan, local government coordination
 - Cascading use of funds
 - Pending FCC new maps
 - Digital Equity Act (NTIA)
 - \$2.75 billion nationwide
 - Purpose: Support overlooked and underserved areas
 - Submit State Digital Equity Plan

1. Unserved (< 25/3 Mbps)

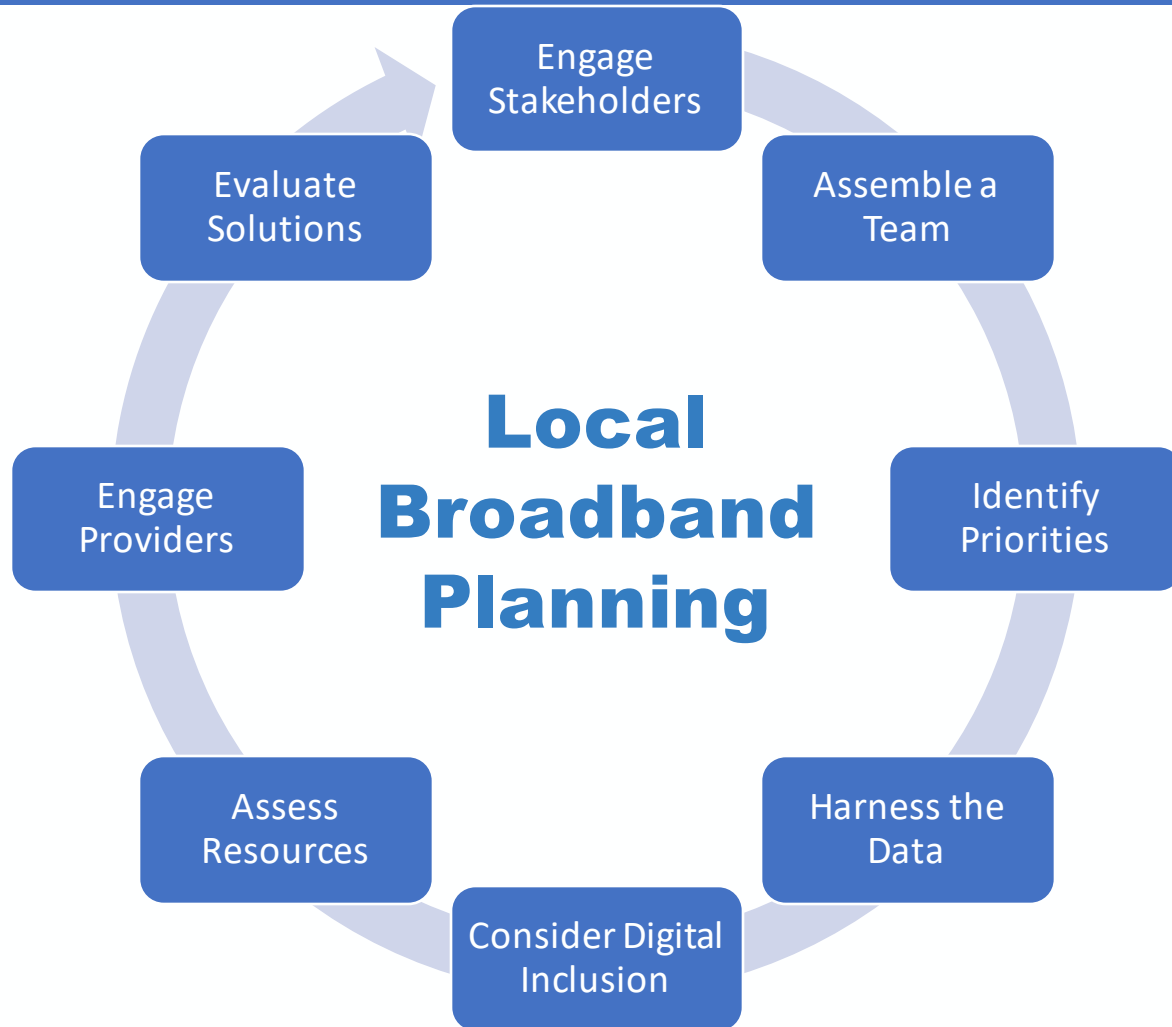
↳ 2. Underserved (< 100/20 Mbps)

↳ 3. Community anchor institutions



Governance

- BDO Staff
 - 1 director and four FTEs
- BDO Board of Advisors (HB5)
 - Chair: Comptroller Glenn Hegar
 - Eight board members
- Governor's Broadband Development Council (2019)
 - 21 board members
 - Develop an annual report





TEXAS BROADBAND
DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

Questions

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