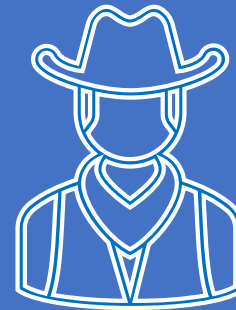




**TEXAS BROADBAND  
DEVELOPMENT OFFICE**

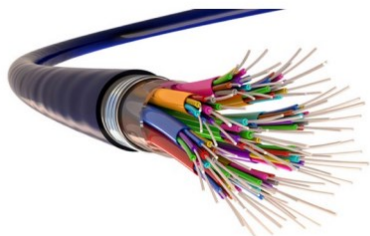
# **e-Health Advisory Committee (eHAC) March 6, 2023**



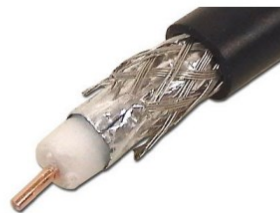


## Broadband

- 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”
- Two broadband delivery technologies:
  - Physical wire and cables (“wired broadband”)
  - Wireless technology (“wireless broadband”)



Fiber Optics



Coaxial Cable



Satellite



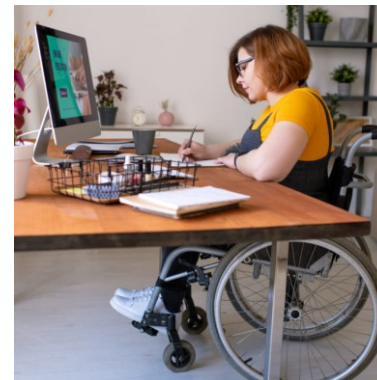
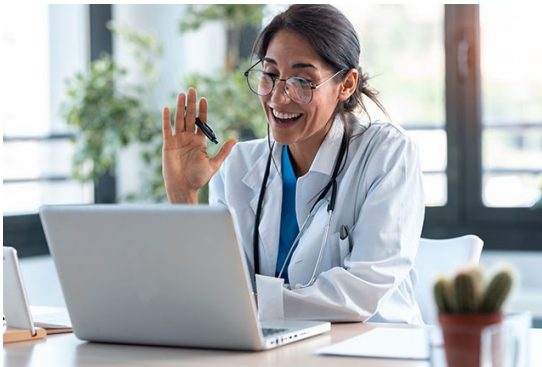
Microwave



# Broadband

Benefits of access to reliable broadband include:

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



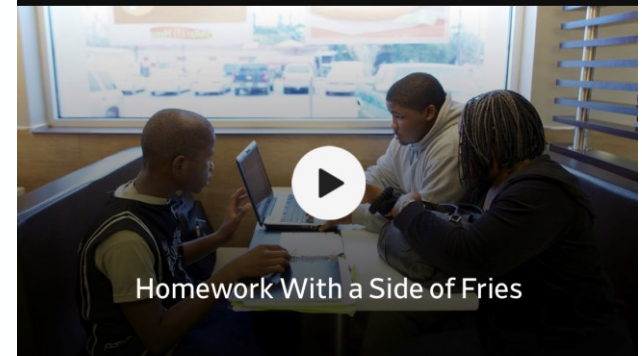


## Digital Divide

- American Community Survey: Approx. 3 million Texas households do not have access to broadband.
- Causes:
  1. Ready access to reliable, high-speed internet
  2. Digital literacy
  3. Access to devices

TECHNOLOGY

### The Web-Deprived Study at McDonald's



Homework With a Side of Fries

In many communities, after the library and the computer lab close for the night, there is often only one place to turn for students without internet access at home: the local McDonald's. WSJ's Anton Troianovski reports from Citronelle, Alabama.

By *Anton Troianovski* [+ Follow](#)

January 28, 2013 10:30 p.m. EST

CITRONELLE, Ala.—Joshua Edwards's eighth-grade paper about the Black Plague



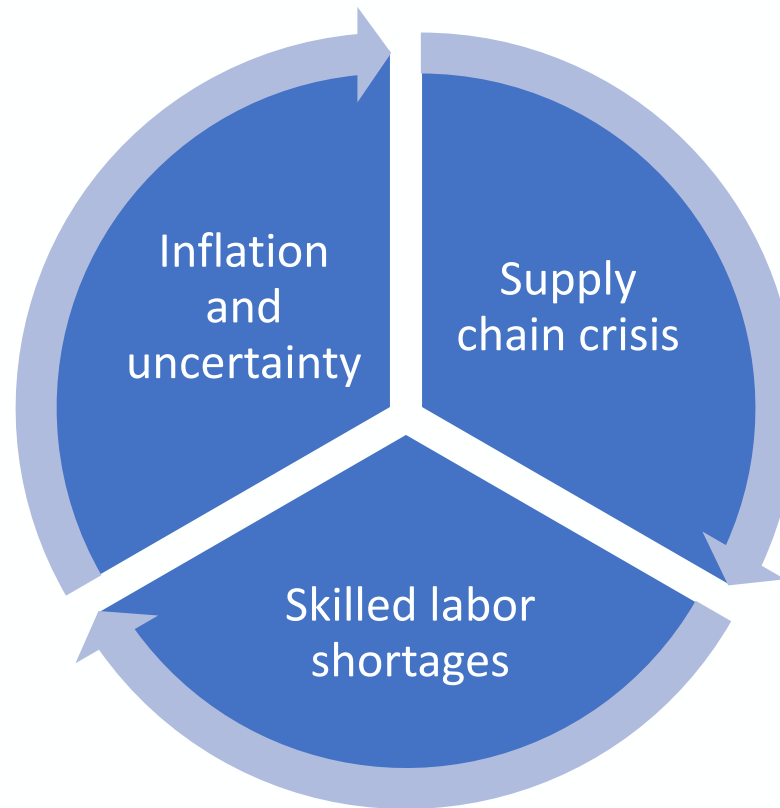
## Broadband Economics

- Cost per mile (wireline)
  - Aerial: \$32,000 - \$78,500
  - Underground: \$51,000 - \$220,000
- Cost per home passed
  - Dense: \$500 - \$2,200
  - Sparse: \$2,100 - \$5,900
  - Extremely Rural: \$6,400 - >\$10,000
- Cost per drop
  - Dense: \$700 - \$1,600
  - Sparse/rural: \$1,500 - \$4,000





# Broadband Economics



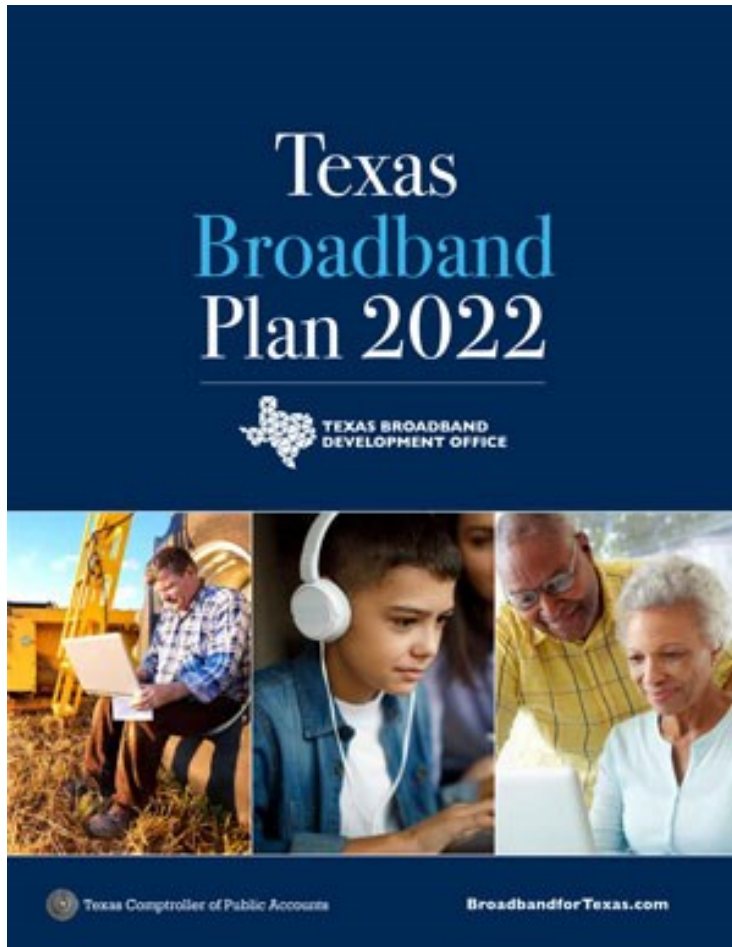


## House Bill 5 (87R)

- 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;
  - Serve as an information clearinghouse for funding and other activities related to broadband expansion in the state.
- Created the BDO Board of Advisors
  - Chaired by the Comptroller with seven appointed members
  - Meets every two months



## Texas Broadband Plan



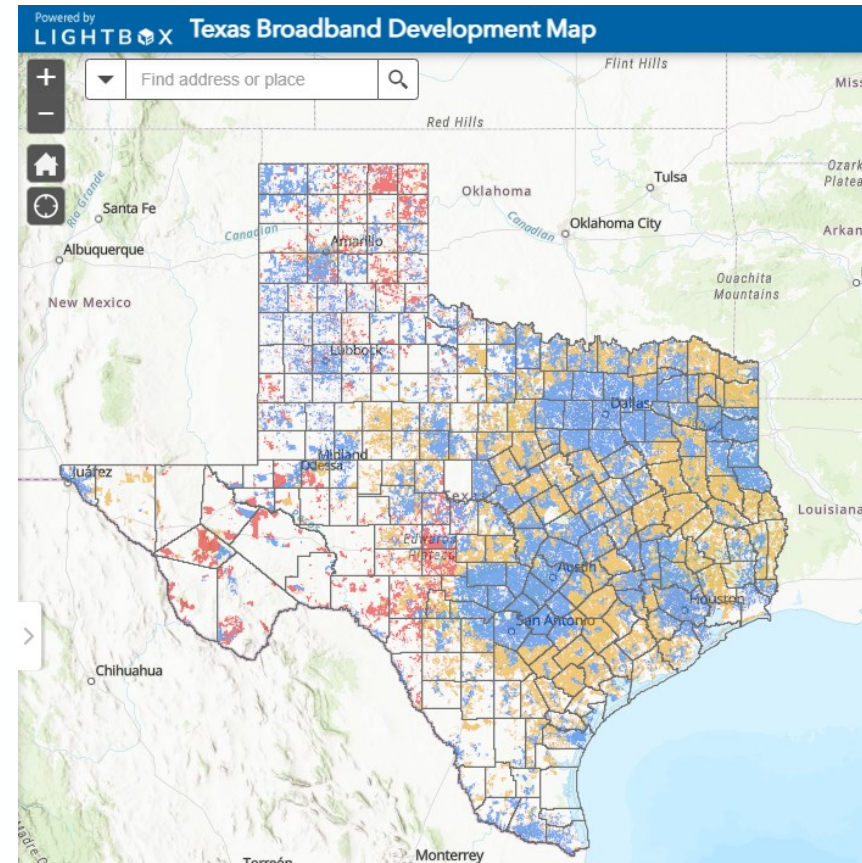
- Strategies and goals for expanding access to and further adoption of broadband service
- Published in June 2022
- 12 stop listening tour
- 16,000 respondents to public survey
- Roundtables, one-on-ones and direct conversations
- Iterative updates will be made on an at-need basis





## Broadband Development Map

- Address-level fabric overlaid with broadband provider service data
- Depicts designated areas as “eligible” or “ineligible” for funding
- An eligible area has less than 80 percent of locations are unserved and lacks prior federal commitments for broadband funding
- Updated every six months





## Broadband Development Program

- Competitive, federally compliant grant application process
- Funds “last mile” infrastructure projects.
- Eligible applicants include political subdivisions, broadband service providers, and partnerships between the two.
- Prioritizes areas with the greatest amount of unserved locations
- Awardees must:
  - Bring at least 100/20 to locations
  - Participate in federal subsidy programs
  - Provide a universally available low-cost option
- Allows any interested party to challenge a submitted application



## 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.





## 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.



## House Bill 1505 (87R)

- Authored by Rep. Paddie
- Created the Texas Broadband Pole Replacement Program
- Reimburses utility pole owners to replace defunct or derogated utility poles for the purpose of bringing broadband to unserved areas
- Eligible reimbursement up to the lesser of \$5,000 or 50 percent of the costs incurred by the pole owner
- \$75 million from the Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund
  - Pending award of funds



# Governor's Broadband Development Council

- Established in 2019 by the 86<sup>th</sup> Legislature
- 21 appointed members, Chaired by Floyd County Judge Lucke
- Tasked with researching and reporting on:
  - the progress of broadband development;
  - barriers to residential and commercial broadband access;
  - technology-neutral solutions to overcome barriers;
  - how access to broadband would benefit:
    - economic development
    - the delivery of educational opportunities
    - state and local law enforcement
    - state emergency preparedness
    - the delivery of healthcare services



## Next Steps

- Standing up the Broadband Development Program
  - Begin accepting applications and awarding initial funds for broadband expansion
- Developing a five-year action plan to secure BEAD funds
- Creating a state digital equity plan to obtain digital equity funds
- Collaborating with local communities to understand needs and provide support
- Coordinating with internet service providers to recognize and overcome barriers
- Promoting digital literacy and adoption programs



## Questions

- 833-3-TEXBDO
- [broadband@cpa.texas.gov](mailto:broadband@cpa.texas.gov)
- BroadbandForTexas.com
  - Sign up for updates, newsletters and announcements