



**TEXAS BROADBAND
DEVELOPMENT OFFICE**

Texas Broadband

Performance Report

July 2023

Capital Projects Fund



Texas Comptroller
of Public Accounts

Table of Contents

1	Executive Summary	2
2	Use of Funds	5
3	Promoting Fair Outcomes	7
4	Labor	8
5	Community Engagement.....	9
6	Appendix.....	12

1 Executive Summary

The Texas Broadband Development Office (BDO), an office within the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts, is the gubernatorially appointed recipient of and administering agent for the Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund (CPF), and it has been allocated \$500,475,163 to support the state of Texas' mission of expanding access to reliable, affordable and high-speed broadband service to all Texans. In September 2022, the BDO submitted a grant plan seeking \$363,807,243 in project costs to support the Texas Last Mile Connectivity (TLMC) competitive grant program to address broadband infrastructure projects across the state. The COVID-19 public health emergency showed that access to high-quality internet is a critical need. The TLMC program is intended to respond to this critical need by connecting end-users in need with reliable internet by delivering at least 100/100 Mbps coverage (or 100/20 Mbps scalable to 100/100 Mbps where higher speed is currently impracticable) to unserved and underserved locations across Texas. The BDO intends to use \$22,412,581 for administrative costs for the TLMC program, which includes providing technical assistance to potential subrecipients; distributing funds; monitoring progress and compliance of funded projects; complying with grant administration and audit requirements; encouraging community engagement; developing Texas location data address fabric maps for public information; and addressing challenges and other uses related to the costs of administering the CPF grant funding. In January 2023, the U.S. Treasury approved the BDO's program plan to support the TLMC program.

To further serve community needs for accessing high-quality internet, the BDO has partnered with three state agencies to expand broadband access across the state. The U.S. Treasury is reviewing or has approved \$36,644,162 in total project costs to fund broadband expansion through these state agency-driven broadband projects, with another \$2,611,177 in administrative costs to support the execution of these projects. These program plans include the Texas State Library and Archives Commission's (TSLAC) Infrastructure and Facility Access Improvement Grant Program (IFAIG), the Texas Department of Agriculture's (TDA) Texas Rural Hospital Broadband Program and the Texas Department of

Transportation's (TxDOT) El Paso District Safety Rest Area Broadband Infrastructure project. The state agency proposals build on years of experience working directly within these communities to support Texans. In June 2023, the U.S. Treasury approved the BDO's program plan for \$7.8 million in project costs to support TSLAC's IFAIG Program, which will expand broadband access to libraries throughout the state. As of June 30, 2023, the two other proposals are still pending a decision from the U.S. Treasury. Lastly, the BDO requested \$75 million in available federal monies in the CPF to implement the Texas Broadband Pole Replacement Program. Under this program, the BDO will reimburse the lesser of 50 percent of the eligible pole replacement costs paid or incurred by the applicant or \$5,000. This program will require eligible pole replacement costs to be directly related to the expansion of qualifying broadband service at minimum threshold speeds of 100/100 Mbps to meet the federal guidance related to CPF. The Texas Broadband Pole Replacement Program will be open to any person or entity paying eligible pole replacement costs, including investor-owned electric utilities, electric cooperatives and municipal utilities. Applicants will need to have commitments in place to support new and/or improved last-mile service before they may seek reimbursement for pole replacement costs. Providers will be eligible to apply for reimbursements for a portion of the costs of eligible pole replacements — those necessary to accommodate the deployment of retail broadband facilities in unserved areas — until the federal funds are exhausted. Pole owners receiving funds must agree not to pass along costs reimbursed by the fund to their electric and broadband customers. As of June 30, 2023, the program plan for this initiative is still pending a decision from the U.S. Treasury.

BDO Grant Plan Summary

Program Component	Description	Allocation Request			Decision (as of 6/30/23)
		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	Approved
1a: Broadband Infrastructure Projects	BDO – Texas Broadband Pole Replacement Program	\$75,000,000	\$0	\$75,000,000	Pending
1c: Multi-Purpose Community Facility Project	Texas State Library and Archives Commission – Infrastructure and Facility Access Improvement Grant Program	\$7,799,162	\$1,611,177	\$9,410,339	Approved
1a: Broadband Infrastructure Projects	Texas Department of Agriculture – Texas Rural Hospital Broadband Program	\$22,845,000	\$1,000,000	\$23,845,000	Pending
1c: Multi-Purpose Community Facility Project	Texas Department of Transportation – El Paso District Safety Rest Area Broadband Infrastructure Project	\$6,000,000	\$0	\$6,000,000	Pending
TOTAL:		\$475,451,405	\$25,023,758	\$500,475,163	

2 Use of Funds

As of June 30, 2023, the BDO has neither expended nor obligated project costs related to either of the two approved program plans; however, the office has expended administrative funds to support upcoming activities intended to fulfill the necessary components of the program plans and ensure the tenets of the CPF program are being met. The program administrative expenses for the reporting period totaled \$5,261,583.25 in cumulative obligation and \$2,699,601.67 in cumulative expenditure.

During this reporting period (July 2022 – June 2023), the BDO completed the following activities:

- Contracted a broadband mapping vendor to gather broadband availability data from Internet Service Providers (ISPs) during a data collection process in September 2022, which was used to create a public-facing statewide broadband development map to display eligible and ineligible designated areas in Texas.
- Published the [Texas Broadband Development Map](#) on Dec. 27, 2022.
- Logged a Bulk Fabric Challenge on behalf of Texas to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to reflect Texas broadband serviceable locations (BSLs) more accurately in the National Broadband Map.
- Created and executed a challenge process for the Texas Broadband Development Map in February and March 2023 to ensure accuracy.
- Engaged with Texas ISPs starting from the data collection period in September 2022 to this current reporting period, with plans to continue through the entirety of the BDO program.
- Established a last-mile competitive grant program: the Bringing Online Opportunity to Texans (BOOT) Program.
 - Supported by CPF funding approved through the BDO’s TLMC Program plan.
 - 35,920 BSLs in the state were eligible for the BOOT Program’s first round of funding.
 - Received more than 190 funding requests from 23 distinct applicants.
 - Applications received cover 21,348 locations in 62 counties and nine economic regions.
 - Applications will be posted in July 2023 for 30 days and open for challenges.

During the next reporting period, the BDO plans to implement these activities:

- Award first round of grants from BOOT program and thereby implement broadband funds through a competitive last-mile grant program to ensure communities in need have access to the internet to enable positive workforce, education and health outcomes.
- Update the Broadband Development Map to inform the BDO on regions of the state that need the greatest support.

- Develop a grant program through the TSLAC that will provide resources needed for selected state libraries to get connected to reliable internet.
- Following U.S. Treasury approval, develop a grant program through the TDA to help rural hospitals improve their broadband infrastructure, provide education and technical assistance, and identify additional resources that address broadband connectivity, reliability and adoption.
- Following U.S. Treasury approval, support the TxDOT to add last-mile broadband infrastructure into state-owned assets to allow at-need communities to access fast, reliable internet along the state highway system.
- Following U.S. Treasury approval, develop the Texas Broadband Pole Replacement Program to provide pole owners and providers assistance for replacing or creating infrastructure to ensure communities have the access they need.
- Develop a technical assistance program that will support broadband planning in communities with limited resources.
- Produce the planning deliverables needed to secure federal broadband funding related to the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA).
- Engage with community members and stakeholders to build relationships and better understand local needs for further broadband access.
- Build office capacity to ensure Texas is the best-connected state in the nation.
- Oversee and verify awardees' compliance with the guidelines of various funding opportunities.

3 Promoting Fair Outcomes

Upon expending project funds, the BDO will promote fairness among awardees and address critical needs as described in each approved program plan.

4 Labor

Upon expending project funds, the BDO will ensure funded projects and their awardees are using strong labor standards to promote effective and efficient delivery of high-quality projects while also supporting economic recovery through employment opportunities.

5 Community Engagement

The BDO has created a robust, comprehensive and ongoing public engagement model. The BDO identified key stakeholders with existing networks to reach communities in need and used the feedback received to inform its Texas Broadband Plan published in June 2022. This plan sets out goals and strategies for the state and serves as a roadmap to develop grant programs. The BDO continues to engage with broadband stakeholders to ensure that its goals and programs align with the needs of Texas communities.

Community engagement efforts include:

- Since May 2022, the BDO has hosted monthly roundtable discussions to help ISPs and other industry stakeholders understand federal funding requirements, facilitate mapping data requests, expand community involvement, encourage Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) enrollment information and provide a platform for industry to report areas of concern to the BDO.
- Since May 2022, the BDO has hosted seven meetings with its Board of Advisors. These meetings are open to the public and available virtually and in person.
- Since October 2022, the BDO has hosted monthly roundtable discussions to help local governments understand federal funding requirements, facilitate the map challenge process, expand community involvement, encourage ACP enrollment information and provide a platform for community leaders to report areas of concern. Attendees include representatives from area councils of government, universities and nonprofit organizations and elected officials. Attendees include representatives from the Texas Municipal League, Texas Rural Funders, Texas Department of Transportation, Dallas College and the South Dallas Employment Project.
- Comptroller Glenn Hegar and the BDO developed a partnership with the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) to provide older Texans with connectivity and digital literacy support. Comptroller Hegar participated in the tele-townhall with AARP members to discuss the BDO's efforts.
- Comptroller Hegar and the BDO partnered with Texas' First Lady Cecilia Abbott to promote the R.E.A.L. Friends Don't nationwide campaign. Using awareness and education, the campaign focuses on protecting children from harmful online content.
- In spring 2022, Comptroller Hegar and the BDO went on a 12-stop listening tour across the state to hear directly from communities about the barriers they face when trying to access reliable,

high-speed internet. These events elicited 998 total attendees and lead to 209 testimonials. The feedback received from these meetings was used to inform the state’s broadband plan.

- In 2022, the BDO published a public regional survey distributed online, in print and via telephone in both Spanish and English. These efforts were designed to foster the BDO’s understanding of the challenges that Texans face regarding broadband access. At the time of publication, more than 16,000 respondents completed the survey, including 147 in Spanish.
- To inform state broadband plans, the BDO hosted 66 virtual stakeholder roundtables, including virtual and statewide options, and facilitated 70 one-on-one interviews.
- The BDO deployed local radio spots, newspaper advertisements and direct mailers to reach unconnected Texans to better understand the barriers to connecting to reliable internet in communities in unserved and underserved areas.
- The BDO developed a Broadband Toolkit for local community leaders to engage in broadband expansion planning and development. The BDO will continue to expand the toolkit as additional needs are identified or greater awareness is required.
- Since January 2022, the BDO has published a monthly newsletter to push direct updates and other news to stakeholders, promote transparency and generate awareness of the BDO’s mission to close the digital divide. As of June 30, 2023, the newsletter serves more than 7,000 subscribers.
- The BDO has a dedicated outreach coordinator who works with stakeholders and local communities on engagement and educating the public.
- Establishing weekly coordination meetings with federal agencies allows the BDO to better understand complex federal requirements for programs under CPF and IJJA.
- Participating in a national network of state broadband offices allows the BDO to learn from and coordinate with other state offices on program development and implementation.
- The BDO gathered broadband expansion plans and programs developed by state agencies, counties, cities and other local entities to understand the framework of plans and proposals.
- In April 2023, the BDO established a statewide working group that includes representation from tribal governments and relevant state agencies and provides advisory support in the drafting of the state’s first digital opportunity plan.
- The BDO established six task forces organized around key broadband outcome areas: health care, education, economic development, essential services, civic and industry. These task forces help identify barriers to broadband access, affordability and adoption and leverage their partner

channels to connect additional stakeholders with the BDO. See Appendix for task force membership.

- The BDO also organized 12 regional working groups to ensure communities across the state have a direct line of communication with the office. These regional working groups are helping promote public surveys and facilitating in-person public meetings hosted by the BDO. See Appendix for task force membership.

In July and August 2023, the BDO will host 24 public meetings with two events in every region of the state. These events are structured to allow residents, local governments, ISPs and other stakeholders to directly communicate barriers to the BDO. All meeting materials are available in both English and Spanish, and four of the public meetings will be conducted in both English and Spanish. Meeting registrants may indicate the need for language/ASL interpretation; interpreters are made available for those requests. The BDO will host two virtual, statewide public meetings to maximize participation; ASL and Spanish interpreters will help facilitate these meetings.

In May 2023, the BDO published three surveys to gather feedback from stakeholders. An ISP survey was created to help the BDO understand the unique perspective of industry stakeholders. This survey received 79 responses. The BDO also created a digital resources mapping tool survey to better understand the resources already available in the state as well as to identify where gaps exist. As of June 2023, the BDO received 212 responses to this survey. Lastly, the BDO published a public survey to elicit feedback from Texas residents. The survey is available online in English, Spanish, Vietnamese and Mandarin. Audio files are also attached to the online surveys to assist those who struggle with reading print. The public survey is also available in printed form in English, Spanish and large print. The BDO has received more than 8,000 responses.

To expand transparency and encourage further engagement, the BDO has published and continues to maintain an [outreach website](#), which displays all opportunities to interact with the office and provides information on all working groups. Interested parties can also find meeting links, sign up for newsletters and access email contact information at this location.

The BDO is committed to staying engaged with broadband stakeholders across the state and maintains constant communication between advisory bodies, industry representatives, local governments and residents. All feedback received from the BDO's various public engagement efforts is used to make programmatic decisions to address the diverse needs of all Texans.

6 Appendix

Task Force Membership:

Business and Telecom Task Force

- Texas Telephone Association
- Texas Statewide Telephone Cooperative, Inc.
- Texas Cable Association
- Wireless Internet Service Providers Association – Texas
- Texas Electric Cooperative Association
- Texas Association of Manufacturers
- Texas Department of Transportation
- AT&T
- Internet2 Technology Evaluation Center (Texas A&M)
- Nextlink Internet
- Victoria Electric Cooperative/Infinium Broadband
- HC Wireless, LLC
- Lower Colorado River Authority
- Texas Area Telecom
- Crown Castle
- Mears Broadband
- TekWav
- AW Broadband
- Nexstream
- Rock Solid Internet, a Vtx1 Company
- Bluebonnet Fiber
- Lit Communities
- MSEC Communications, LLC
- Electronic Corporate Pages, Inc (Western Broadband)
- Cobb Fendley
- AMA TechTel
- Signalnet Broadband, Inc
- Net Ops Communications, LLC

- AMA Communications
- Graybar
- Fiberlight
- Congruex
- Highline
- Space Exploration Technologies
- Comcast

Civic and Social Task Force

- Abilene Library Consortium
- Community Tech Network
- Dallas Innovation Alliance
- Senior Access (Capital Region)
- OneStar Foundation
- Texas AARP
- Texas Network of Youth Services
- Texas Demographic Center
- Texas Department of Information Resources
- Texas State Library and Archives Commission
- Texas Association of Counties (Chair)
- Texas Association of Regional Councils (Secondary chair)
- Texas Library Association
- Texas Rural Funders
- United Way Denton County
- Harris County Public Library
- Texas Municipal League
- TLL Temple Foundation

Economy and Workforce Task Force

- Texas Workforce Commission
- The High Ground of Texas
- Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas
- Austin Urban Technology Movement

- Goodwill Industries
- Technology and Policy Information Institute
- Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service
- Texas Farm Bureau
- Texas Midwest Community Network
- Greater Houston Partnership
- TechNet

Education Task Force

- Texas Education Agency
- Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board
- Texas State Technical College
- Windham School District
- Texas Association of School Administrators
- Texas Association of Community Schools
- Dallas Foundation
- Raise Your Hand Texas
- Texas School Alliance
- Tyler Independent School District (ISD)
- Distance Education Professional Development Center (at Texas A&M)
- Paul Quinn College
- Education Service Center (ESC) – Region 1
- Changing Expectations
- Operation Connectivity
- Texas Public Charter Schools Association

Essential Services Task Force

- Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs
- Texas Department of Criminal Justice
- Texans Veterans Commission
- Texas Division of Emergency Management
- Feeding Texas
- Texas Technology Access Program (at UT)

- United Ways of Texas
- Combined Arms
- Commission on State Emergency Communications
- Texas ABLE

Health Task Force

- Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute
- National Alliance on Mental Illness Texas
- Texas e-Health Alliance
- Texas Association of Community Health Centers
- Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center
- Texas Association of Rural Health Clinics
- Texas Association of Community Clinics
- Texas Medical Association
- Texas Rural Health Association
- Texas Department of State Health Services
- Texas Health and Human Services (Chair)
- Texas Organization of Rural and Community Hospitals
- Texas Veterans Commission
- University of Texas – Medical Branch
- Texas Academy of Family Physicians
- Baylor College of Medicine

Organizations represented in the 12 regional working groups:

Alamo Area Regional Working Group

- Cuero Chamber of Commerce
- United Way of the Crossroads
- Karnes County
- Hill Country Telephone Cooperative
- San Antonio Food Bank
- Meals on Wheels Victoria
- City of Edna
- Golden Crescent Area Agency on Aging
- Golden Crescent Regional Planning Commission
- City of Saint Hedwig
- Community Action Committee of Victoria
- Workforce Solutions Golden Crescent
- ESC Region 20
- City of San Antonio
- Victoria County
- FiberLight
- Texas General Land Office
- City of Gonzales
- Vicortia Sales Tax Development Corporation President
- Jackson Electric Cooperative
- Goliad County Rural Transit
- Hallettsville Economic Development Corporation (EDC)
- City of Victoria
- University of Houston – Victoria
- City of Fredericksburg
- University of Texas at San Antonio
- San Antonio Housing Authority
- ESC Region 3
- SA Digital Connects
- The Arc of San Antonio
- Wilson County Public Libraries



- Infinium Broadband
- La Ward Telephone Exchange
- City of Gonzales
- Sparklight

Capital Area Regional Working Group

- Goodwill Central Texas
- Texans for the Arts
- Bastrop County Cares
- Guadalupe Valley Telephone Cooperative
- Lead for America – American Connection Corps
- Texas Computer Education Association
- Communications Workers of America
- Changing Expectations
- Colorado Valley Communications
- Lit Communities Broadband, Inc.
- City of Austin
- Nexstream
- Heritage Broadband
- Brightspeed
- Travis County Broadband and Digital Equity Office
- Hays County
- City of Bastrop
- Housing Authority of the City of Austin
- City of Creedmoor
- Lampasas EDC
- City of Taylor
- Llano County

Central Texas Regional Working Group

- United Way of Brazos Valley
- Central Texas Council of Governments
- Brazos WiFi

- Nortex Communications
- Brightspeed
- Brazos County
- Leon County
- City of Gatesville

Gulf Coast Regional Working Group

- Greater Houston Partnership
- Comcast
- Vaquero River Estates
- Houston-Galveston Area Council
- Fort Bend County
- Prairie View A&M University
- Harris County Broadband Office
- Fort Bend County
- Waller County

High Plains Regional Working Group

- Lubbock Chamber of Commerce
- Amarillo Area Foundation
- ESC Region 16
- Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center
- XIT Rural Telephone Cooperative
- West Texas Rural Telephone Cooperative
- South Plains Telephone Cooperative, Inc.
- Plains Internet, LLC
- Poka Lambro Telephone Cooperative, Inc.
- Five Area Telephone Cooperative
- Cap Rock Telephone Cooperative
- FiberLight
- Lubbock Public Library
- City of Amarillo

Metroplex Regional Working Group

- United Way Metro Dallas
- Quinlan EDC
- United Way Grayson County
- United Way Metro Dallas
- Oso Electric
- Family Literacy Coalition
- City of Dallas
- Communications Workers of America
- CARDBoard Project
- Revitalize South Dallas Coalition
- South Dallas Employment Project
- United Way of Metropolitan Dallas
- North Central Texas Council of Governments
- Family Literacy Coalition
- Dallas College
- Brightspeed
- Pottsboro Area Public Library
- Ellis County
- City of Waxahachie
- City of Terrell
- City of Fort Worth, Economic Development Department
- City of McKinney

Northwest Regional Working Group

- City of Coleman EDC
- Wichita Falls Chamber
- NORTEX Regional Planning Commission
- State Representative Stan Lambert's Office
- Cable One
- Taylor Telephone Cooperative, Inc
- Clay County Judge
- Scurry County



- Jones County Judge
- Mayor of Throckmorton

South Texas Regional Working Group

- City of Pharr, Director of External Relations
- SmartCom
- DHR Health
- Valley Baptist Legacy Foundation
- Bluebonnet Fiber
- Gigabit Fiber
- University of Texas Rio Grande Valley
- RGV 911
- Valley Telephone Cooperative
- Connect Humanity
- City of Edinburg
- Cameron County
- City of Brownsville

Upper East Regional Working Group

- TexAmericas Center
- State Bank of DeKalb
- GrantWorks
- East Texas Council of Governments
- Greater Longview United Way
- Bullard ISD
- Atlanta ISD
- ESC Region 7
- Congressman Nathaniel Moran's Office
- Eastex Telephone Cooperative, Inc.
- Conterra Networks
- ETEX Fiber
- BrightspeedLamar County
- Cass County

- Bowie County
- Delta County
- Bowie County

Southeast Regional Working Group

- Jasper EDC
- Texas Forest Country Partnership
- TLL Temple Foundation
- Deep East Texas Council of Governments
- Judy B. McDonald Public Library
- Nacogdoches ISD
- City of Onalaska Public Library
- Hardin County
- City of Port Arthur

Upper Rio Grande Regional Working Group

- Sacred Heart
- El Paso Chamber President
- Borderplex Connect
- Borderplex Jobs
- Big Bend Regional Hospital District
- West Texas Food Bank
- El Paso Community Action Program Project BRAVO
- Project Vida
- Hudspeth Community Resource Coordination Group (Region 10)
- El Paso Community Foundation
- Dallas Reserve Bank of Dallas
- San Elizario ISD
- University of Texas at El Paso
- Van Horn Education Foundation
- ESC Region 19
- El Paso Community College
- Big Bend Telecom

- Dell Telephone Cooperative
- Alpine Public Library
- Jeff Davis County and Rio Grande Council of Governments
- Hudspeth County
- El Paso County
- Workforce Solutions Borderplex

West Texas Regional Working Group

- Monahans Chamber of Commerce
- Richard C. Abalos Law Office
- GrantWorks
- Permian Basin Regional Planning Commission
- Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center
- PMD RE Consulting Services, LLC
- Angelo State University
- Greenwood ISD
- ESC Region 15
- ESC Region 18
- Concho Valley Electric Cooperative
- Poka Lambro Telephone Cooperative, Inc.
- Menard County
- Ector County ISD
- Big Bend Telephone Company
- Net Ops Comms
- Conterra