

A Community Guide to the Texas Digital Opportunity Plan (TDOP)

December 13, 2023



TEXAS BROADBAND
DEVELOPMENT OFFICE



INSTITUTE FOR
Local Self-Reliance



Agenda



- Welcome: Texas BDO
- Poll and virtual introductions via chat
- Deep Dive of the Texas Digital Opportunity Plan (TDOP)
- 10-Minute Break
- Breakout Rooms
- TDOP Engagement, Participation, and Toolkit
- Q&A Session

A Community Guide to the Texas Digital Opportunity Plan (TDOP)

Today, we will discuss the Texas Digital Opportunity Plan (TDOP), which will serve as a roadmap for expanding the use of **reliable and affordable broadband, device deployment programs, digital skills training, and cybersecurity awareness** for all Texans.

A Community Guide to the Texas Digital Opportunity Plan (TDOP)

Overview of TDOP's Objectives and Scope

- Creation of the TDOP led by the State's new **Broadband Development Office**.
- This plan is the **first of its kind**.
- The TDOP addresses everything Texans need to be able **to adopt and make use of high-speed internet**. It is not about building infrastructure, but everything else.
- The TDOP will **inform a grantmaking strategy** for implementation.

Reminder: TDOP is a draft now. Comments will inform final plan.

A Community Guide to the Texas Digital Opportunity Plan (TDOP)

Key Components

- Framework for the next 3-5 years of digital inclusion work in the state
- Needs Assessment
 - Informed by community members through surveys and conversations
 - Identifies needs and barriers to universal broadband adoption and use for “Covered Populations”

A Community Guide to the Texas Digital Opportunity Plan (TDOP)

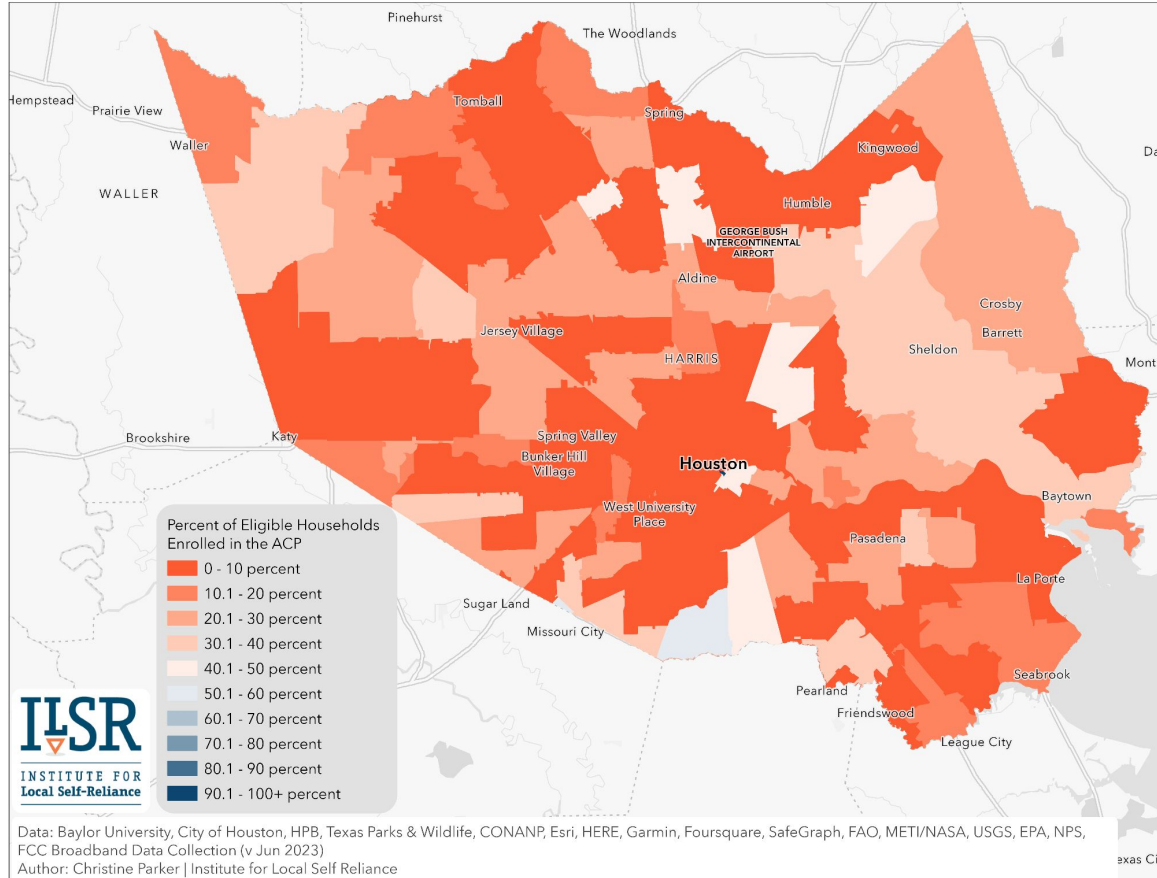
Key Components

- Asset Inventory
 - Crowdsourced information on what and who is working in Texas to advance digital inclusion and opportunity
 - Living database - BDO will continue to expand as they hear from you
- Implementation Strategies (Chapter 5 of Plan)
 - State will invite Texas stakeholders to partner and apply!
- Key terms (slide 4 of the TDOP deck)

Digital Divide, Digital Inclusion, and Digital Opportunity

THE ISSUE: The **Digital Divide** is the gap between communities that do and do not have equitable access and use of digital skills training, the Internet, and computers.

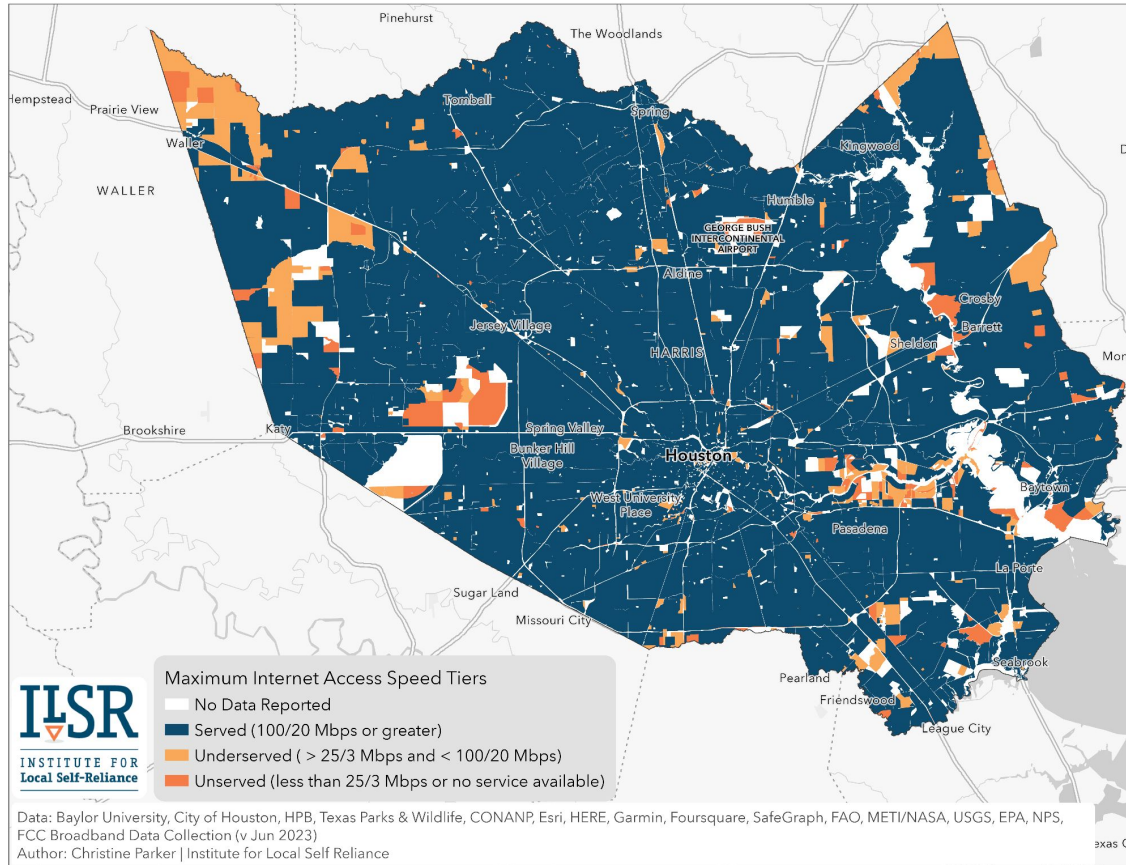
THE MAP: Percent of Eligible Households Enrolled in the ACP



Digital Divide, Digital Inclusion, and Digital Opportunity

THE WORK: Digital Inclusion requires intentional strategies and investments to reduce and eliminate historical, institutional, and structural barriers to access and use of technology.

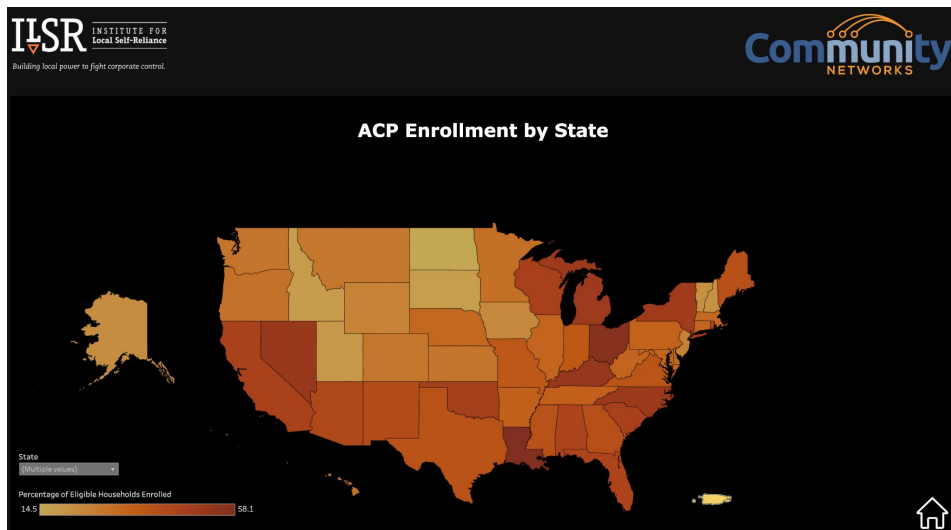
MAP: Maximum Internet Access Speed Tiers



Digital Divide, Digital Inclusion, and Digital Opportunity

THE GOAL: **Digital Opportunity** is a condition in which all individuals and communities have the information technology capacity necessary for civic and cultural participation, employment, lifelong learning, and access to essential services.

Map: **ACP Dashboard** by ILSR



Pivotal Features of TDOP - 1/2

Pivotal Features of TDOP	Goals
Explanation of glossary (Page 13 of TDOP)	Glossary that clearly defines terms in the TDOP.
Identification of NTIA Covered Populations (Page 17 of TDOP)	Defines NTIA's covered and underserved populations
Statistics on Covered Populations in Texas	NTIA identified eight "covered populations" that have historically experienced lower rates of computer and internet use.
Regional focus areas	Aligned with the Comptroller's twelve economic regions of the state
Creation of the Texas Broadband Development Office	Established to form a long-term, statewide plan that addresses strategies and goals for expanding access to and further adoption of broadband services

Pivotal Features of TDOP - 2/2

Pivotal Features of TDOP	Goals
The TDOP will be used to create a grantmaking plan	Following public comment period for the TDOP, the BDO will develop a capacity grant funding program to fund and empower aligned organizations across the state of Texas.
The evidence the state will use to make grant making decisions - Chapter 3 of TDOP Plan (Needs Assessment)	Will include Census Bureau's ACS, NTIA's Digital Equity Act Population Viewer, Data from the Digital Opportunity Survey, and the DRMTS and qualitative assessments from public engagement
Goals and KPIs	BDO has set five Texas goals that align with NTIA's measurable objective categories
Regional Working Groups	Reaching out to Counties and Covered Populations that were underrepresented in our survey data.

The Texas Digital Opportunity Plan's 5 Goals

BDO has set five Texas goals that align with NTIA's measurable objective categories:

NTIA Measurable Objectives	Goals
Broadband Availability and Affordability	All Texans have access to reliable, affordable internet service at home.
Device Availability and Affordability and Technical Support	All Texans have access to affordable computers and other internet-enabled devices in their home, with corresponding technical support services.
Digital Literacy	All Texans have a broad foundation of digital literacy skills and access to a continuum of digital skills development programs.
Online Privacy and Cybersecurity	All Texans feel safe online and are familiar with cybersecurity and online privacy measures.
Online Accessibility and Inclusivity of Public Resources	All Texans can utilize the internet for public resources and services.

Impact Assessment of TDOP

- What is a Key Performance Indicator (KPI)?
 - A Key Performance Indicator is a quantifiable measure of performance over time for a specific objective.
- Each KPI relates to one or multiple of the four core strategies outlined in the TDOP.
- Image from Page 48 of TDOP

Key Performance Indicator (KPI)	Baseline (See Appendix B for a version of this table with covered population data)	Target	Implementation Strategies (See activity details in Ch 5)
NTIA Measurable Objective Category 1: Broadband Availability and Affordability			
Texas Goal 1: Expand adoption of reliable, affordable broadband internet service at home for all Texans.			
1.1 Increase the percentage of Texans with reliable broadband subscriptions available in their homes.	68% of Texas households subscribe to broadband internet. ¹	80% by 2030	Strategy 1: Partner with and fund statewide organizations Strategy 2: Fund local partners Strategy 3: Promote internet adoption
1.2 Decrease the percentage of individuals who cite cost as a barrier to home internet service.	59% of respondents who are not connected state that home internet services are too expensive. ²	50% by 2030	Strategy 3: Promote internet adoption
1.3 Increase the percentage of Texans who are aware of and enrolled in ACP and/or other low-cost or subsidized internet service options.	38% of eligible households enrolled in the ACP. ³ 40% of 2023 Digital Opportunity Survey respondents have heard about ACP. ²	60% enrolled by 2030	Strategy 3: Promote internet adoption

Impact Assessment of TDOP

How the BDO will measure effectiveness, impact, and progress?

- Within each Digital Opportunity Goal, the BDO has developed multiple KPIs that will guide our program effectiveness over the coming years.
- Image from Page 48 of TDOP

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Strategies to Address Needs



BDO anticipates funding the following four primary strategies to address these needs and other barriers identified in the plan and to realize its goals.

1. Partner with and Fund Statewide Organizations
2. Fund Local Partners
3. Promote Internet Adoption
4. Maintain a Living Digital Opportunity Plan

What Comes After the Texas Digital Opportunity Plan?



The BDO is accepting public comments through **Jan. 5, 2024**. Following the public comment period, the **BDO will develop a capacity grant program to fund and empower aligned organizations** across the state of Texas.

- Approval of the TDOP - **Spring 2024**
- BDO Develops Competitive Grant Program - **Anticipated Summer 2024**
- Grant Applications Open - **Anticipated Fall 2024**

Public Comment FAQs

10-Minute Break

What is Public Comment?

- An opportunity for Texas residents to review and give their feedback on the Texas Digital Opportunity Plan.
- A requirement for receive federal funding needed to connect Texans to reliable, high-speed internet and digital resources.

How will the BDO use comments?

- The BDO will review every comment.
- Comments will help to refine the plan to expand digital opportunity and future funding strategies.

Who should comment?

- All Texas residents and organizations.
- The BDO is especially interested in hearing from individuals identifying with a covered population group or organizations that serve these communities.

Will my comments be anonymous?

- No. Your name and email address will be shared with the BDO.
- All comments will be included in the plan, with names and email addresses removed.

Practical Application Interactive Breakouts

Applying TDOP Principles in Communities

Group Discussion: Think about ways resources can be shared, or combined, to tackle the primary barriers of communities in Texas.

- Where are there still gaps?
- Are there other groups in the room or outside of the current ecosystem that might be able to help fill those gaps?
- What are actionable steps your community can take for implementing TDOP's components?
- What are the collaborative partnerships and resources that you need to implement the TDOP?

TDOP Engagement, Participation, and Toolkit

- Help refine and improve upon the plan. How will the BDO use comments?
 - Suggest changes you'd like to see in the document.
 - Share where your organization could be helpful in implementation.
 - Provide additional information that the plan may not capture.
 - Correct the record if needed.

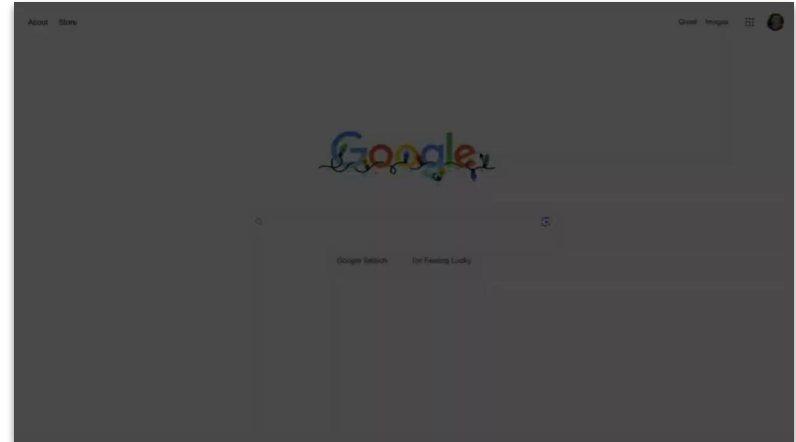
TDOP Engagement, Participation, and Toolkit

- The TDOP public comment process is open to all Texans, and the BDO encourages residents, local governments, community-based organizations, and others to provide feedback.
- The BDO is especially interested in hearing from individuals and organizations that represent:
 - Older adults
 - Veterans
 - English language learners
 - Individuals living with disabilities
 - Individuals who primarily live in rural areas
 - Racial and ethnic minorities
 - Those living at or below the federal poverty level.

TDOP Engagement, Participation, and Toolkit

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- The BDO has created a toolkit containing materials and action items that you can use to get the word out about the Texas Digital Opportunity Plan Public Comment Period
- Download and review the draft TDOP (www.broadbandfortexas.com/tdop) and explore the NTIA funding program directory (<https://internetforall.gov/programs>)
- **Video: Public Comment Tool Demonstration**



Q&A Session



Please submit your questions in the chat box

After this event concludes, please visit www.broadbandfortexas.com/tdop to download the Texas Digital Opportunity Plan, and submit your public comments.

Thank You

If you have any questions about the draft TDOP public comment process, please email digital.opportunity@cpa.texas.gov.

Please link to this [online form](#) to read the TDOP and provide comments.

The BDO is accepting public comments
through **Jan. 5, 2024.**

The online portal will close at 5 PM CST