



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS & EVENTS NEWSLETTER

CENTRAL TEXAS HIGHLIGHTS July 12th, 2023

Texas Broadband Development Office Digital Opportunity Plan Surveys

The Texas Broadband Development Office (BDO) is in the process of creating the Texas Digital Opportunity Plan. This plan will guide future funding and broadband program implementation and serve as a roadmap over the next five years for expanding the availability of reliable and affordable broadband, device access, digital skills, and cybersecurity awareness. To create the plan, the BDO has a public survey and a survey for local governments and organizations to identify need for broadband as well as existing programs and service. The BDO is also hosting public meetings across the state to obtain feedback.

Please complete the public or local government survey [here](#). The deadline for submissions is **August 31st**.

The local public meeting for our region will be held on **Friday, July 28th** from **3:00-5:00pm** at the CTCOG offices in Belton. During the meeting, BDO staff will discuss Texas' broadband work and planning processes. If you have availability and would like to attend, please register [here](#) for this public meeting.

Local participation with the public survey and the public meeting are vital to make sure central Texas is represented in the Texas Digital Opportunity Plan. If you want to make sure your community's voice is heard, we encourage your participation.

Texas SB 1238 and HB 9

These bills passed during the last Texas legislative session expand unserved, underserved, and served areas on the Broadband map based on a new statutory definition that includes latency speeds of 100 ms or less to count as broadband service (SB 1238) and establish the Texas Broadband Infrastructure Fund-the largest broadband investment in state history (HB 9).

For more information, click [here](#) and [here](#)!

DID YOU KNOW?

Texas SB 28

This act creates a new Water Supply for Texas Fund. This fund will be administered by the State Treasury and aims to have seven million acre feet of new water supply by Dec.31st, 2033. Funds will be used to provide financial assistance to political subdivisions to develop water supply projects that create new water sources, and make transfers from the fund to the state water implementation fund for Texas and water bank account. It also establishes the Texas Water Fund, which will be a special fund outside the General Revenue Fund financing water infrastructure and conservation projects.

For more information, click [here](#)!



UPCOMING EVENTS

Driving Investment in Main Street Redevelopment
July 18, 1:00-2:00 PM
Registration Fee: Free
To register, click [here](#)!

TML Small Cities' Problem-Solving Clinics
July 27, 9:30 AM-1:30 PM
Texas Municipal Center, Austin
Registration Fee: \$40/person
To register, click [here](#)!

Exploring Outdoor Recreation as a Component for Economic Diversification
July 27, 2:00-3:00 PM
Registration Fee: Free
To register, click [here](#)!



Find us on Facebook
2023 TxCDBG Beginner's Implementation Workshop
July 25-26, 25: 8:30 AM-4:00 PM and 8:30 AM-12:00 PM
Registration Fee: Free
To register, click [here](#)!