



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS & EVENTS NEWSLETTER

CENTRAL TEXAS HIGHLIGHTS

July 26th, 2023

Texas Broadband Development Office Digital Opportunity Plan Surveys and Central Texas Public Meeting

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.

Workforce Solutions of Central Texas Summer Surge Hiring Event

Workforce Solutions of Central Texas will be holding its Summer Surge Hiring Event on **August 10th, 10:00 AM-2:00 PM** at the Bell County Expo Center! Dozens of employers from around the region will be participating in this job fair, so if someone you know is looking for a new career, be sure to point them towards this event! For more information, click [here](#)!

DID YOU KNOW?

EDA Tech Hubs Program

This program was created as part of the CHIPS Act, and has \$10 billion authorized over five years. It offers up to \$500,000 in grants in FY 2023 for initiatives that strengthen a region's capacity to manufacture, commercialize, and deploy critical technologies. Phase 1 will be for applications for Strategy Development Grants, which will fund activities such as development of plans for promoting broad-based economic growth, creating good paying jobs, assessing job quality, and helping students and workers gain the skills for jobs in target technology area. Deadline to apply is **August 15th, 2023**.

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



UPCOMING EVENTS

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](#)!

How Marketing Your Region Drives Local Growth
August 2, 1:00-2:00 PM
Registration Fee: \$190
To register, click [here](#)!



Find us on **Facebook**
IEDC Economic Development Academy
August 15-18
Registration Fee: Members-\$1,140
Non-members-\$1,400
To register, click [here](#)!