

**Forums on Rural Economic Development
2023 Annual Report**



**STEPHEN F. AUSTIN
STATE UNIVERSITY**
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SYSTEM
NACOGDOCHES, TEXAS

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**STEPHEN F. AUSTIN
STATE UNIVERSITY**
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SYSTEM
NACOGDOCHES, TEXAS

From Our Regional Leaders

SFASU Interim President Gina Oglesbee

Stephen F. Austin State University is proud to play a leading role in the economic development of our local region and beyond. Through our academic programs, research initiatives and community partnerships, we are committed to helping rural communities thrive.



Our Center for Applied Research and Rural Innovation, or CARRI, was established in 2022 as a key part of this effort. CARRI supports faculty research, student engagement and community partnerships focused on the unique needs and challenges of rural communities.

This annual report highlights the important work that CARRI is doing to support our rural communities. It is a testament to the dedication of our faculty, staff and students as well as the strong partnerships we have with our rural partners.

CARRI has already significantly impacted our region. The center provided scholarships to rural students, funded internships and faculty research projects, and partnered with communities to develop and implement innovative solutions to rural challenges.

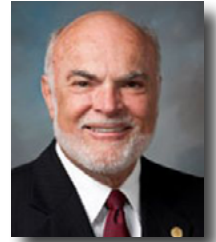
CARRI is engaged with rural communities in many ways, such as:

- working with the Texas Forest Country Partnership to host a series of economic **development forums** in 12 counties
- supporting a sustainability student project focused on **renewable energy and weatherization** in Deep East Texas
- and identifying and working with partners to develop a **new rural innovation hub** in Nacogdoches.

We are grateful for the support of our elected officials and community leaders who recognize the importance of rural economic development. We appreciate the funding support from the Texas Legislature, the U.S. Economic Development Administration, donors and partners who help make CARRI's work possible. Thank you for seeking to learn more about CARRI's efforts, successes and opportunities as we build a more vibrant and prosperous future for Deep East Texas and beyond.

Texas Senator Robert Nichols

Stephen F. Austin State University has played an integral role as part of the economic engine that drives East Texas. Their dedication to rural Texas and the people who live here is a hallmark of the university. Not only do they provide high quality educational opportunities, they bring together industry, education, and community partners to ensure that East Texas continues to grow and thrive. Connecting students with local entities through the Center for Applied Research and Rural Innovation fosters collaboration and innovation while providing hands-on experiences and opportunities. I'm proud of the work SFASU continues to do in our community and applaud their commitment to East Texas.



TFCP Board Chair Cathy Bennett

The Texas Forest Country Partnership, established in 1960, is a regional economic development organization committed to coordinating economic development-related activities in Deep East Texas and further enhancing the appeal of the 12-county area that it serves.



By bringing together industry leaders, concerned citizens, public officials, and state agencies, the TFCP works to advance the following initiatives.

- The promotion of a strong and vibrant workforce.
- Support in developing a strong tourism industry.
- The development of a strengthened rural health care delivery system.
- The perpetuation and wise use of natural resources.
- The promotion of strong educational programs.
- The initiation of an annual economic summit.

Through collaboration with the Center for Applied Research and Rural Innovation and participating residents in each county in our Region, forums were conducted to identify specific economic development needs within each county.

The Texas Forest Country Partnership is honored to be a part of this collaborative effort and would like to thank our members, leaders, and organizations in our Region who helped make this possible by working together to advance economic growth.

Executive Summary

The Deep East Texas region is located at the crossroads of Arkansas and Louisiana. It is flanked by the Northeast, East, and Southeast eco-regions of Texas and serves as the central gateway to the rural economic landscape of the enterprising State of Texas. Stephen F. Austin State University (SFASU) holds the distinction as the top rural-serving higher education institution in Texas (Alliance for Research on Regional Colleges), educating thousands of students each year and serving as an economic anchor not only for the city of Nacogdoches but also for the twelve-county region. SFASU is the dominant higher education hub, deeply rooted in the SFASU Way of unity, respect, caring, responsibility, and integrity, and has contributed to the economic well-being of the region.

The SFASU Center for Applied Research and Rural Innovation (CARRI) has partnered with local governments to host forums for regional economic development (FREDs), giving residents of our rural counties a voice in creating a strategic vision for their respective communities. At the invitation of our county judges, residents and county leaders participated in a half-day session to discuss strengths, challenges, opportunities, and pressing needs for their counties. The purpose of the sessions was to assess the state of the region at the local level and to address and analyze the opportunities for improvement.

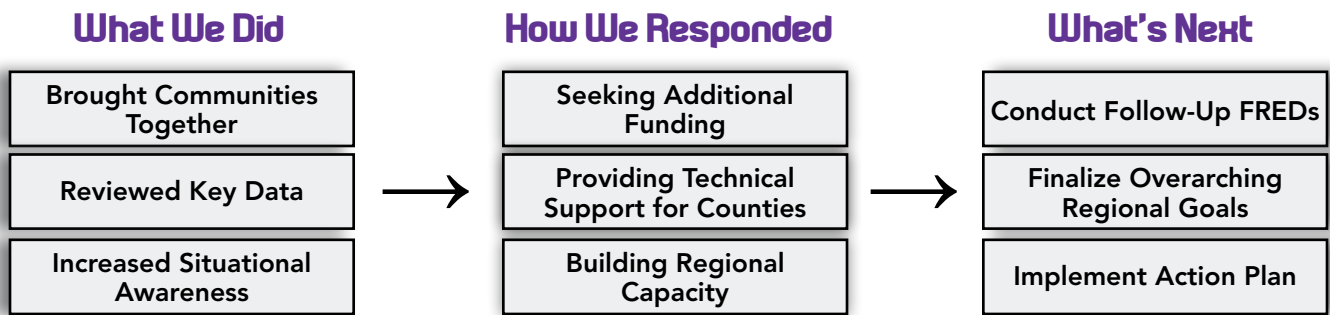
The CARRI, together with the Texas Forest Country Partnership, the twelve County Judges, and a collaboration that included Deep East Texas Workforce Solutions, Deep East Texas Council of Governments, State legislators, mayors, school districts, academics, chambers, and more, has developed this summary of key strategies for each county based on community feedback, recent information from the census, education and healthcare systems, and economic development offices. We are grateful for the team of Kelly Hall and Dave Jochum who facilitated the discussion and generated the county strategies and recommendations for each county.

This report contains individual county profiles, individual county strategies, next steps, and a summary of resources. Based on the most timely and complete information as of November 2023, it is a tool for our counties, legislators, community leaders, philanthropic partners, educators, and researchers to guide our policy on economic development.

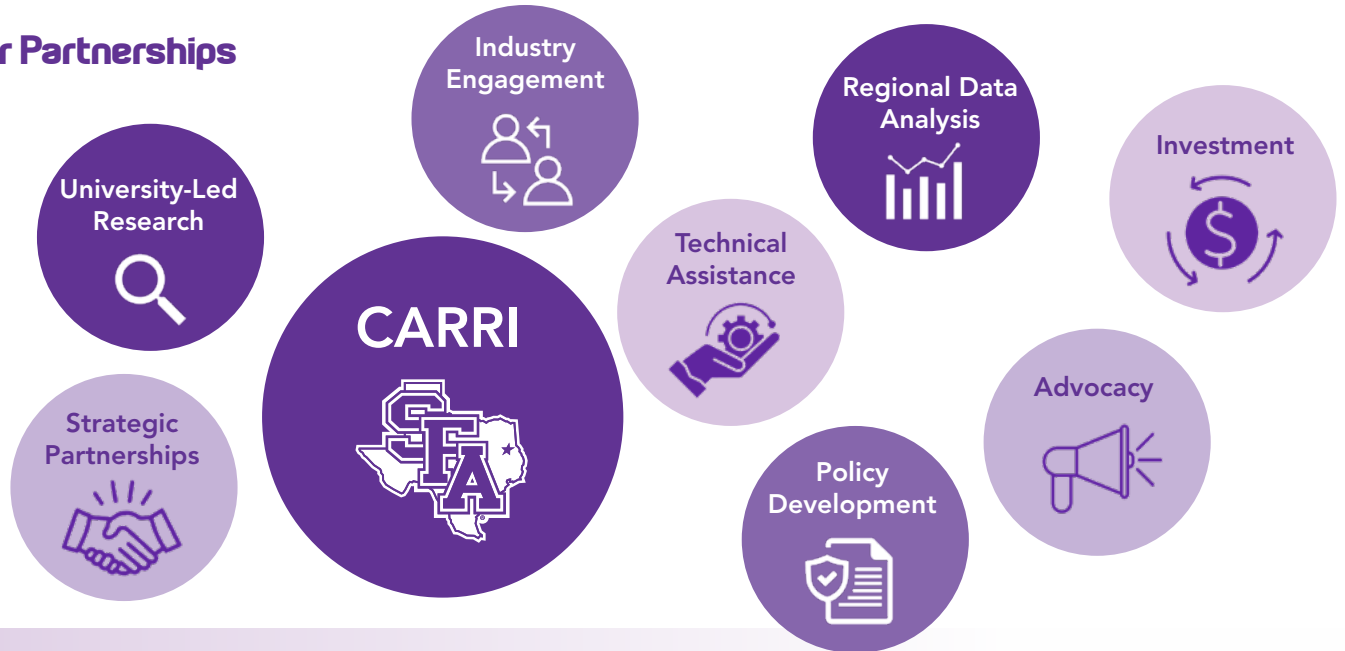
Together, we can create a vision, set and achieve goals, and drive impact to ensure our families and communities will thrive. We welcome anyone who wants to make a home, build a business, and make a difference in Deep East Texas.



Forums on Regional Economic Development



Our Partnerships



About CARRI

The Center for Applied Research and Rural Innovation at Stephen F. Austin State University brings faculty and students together with business, industry, education and community partners in dynamic, interactive environments. Through these interactions, students will learn how to use their skills to work in teams with other students from multiple disciplines in order to solve complex, real-world problems for rural and smaller communities.

The center, in concert with the work being implemented by colleges, universities, and public and private entities throughout our region, will help realize the vision for growth that has been developing for more than a decade by supporting these primary goals:

- Generate a creative economy and engine for vitality and growth that attracts business and industry and encourages talented individuals to stay and invest in the region.
- Create a unique, innovative culture that builds on local strengths and creates a distinctive advantage for the region, including generating jobs and improving the quality of life.
- Increase the capacity of the regional workforce in key areas such as data analytics, digital media, and tech commercialization and transfer.
- Foster collaboration among higher education, business and industry, and local agencies to address issues and solve problems that no one entity can address by itself.
- Develop regional leaders in business and education who understand the challenges and opportunities of this swiftly changing environment.

Angelina County, Texas

County Profile

County Seat: Lufkin

Strategic Priorities:

Workforce Development, Regional Branding, Industry Expansion, Regional Airport and Healthcare

County Features:

Lufkin is home to the Museum of East Texas and Sam Rayburn Lake



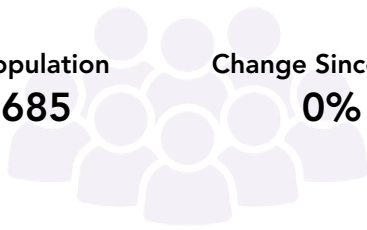
Demographics

2020 Population

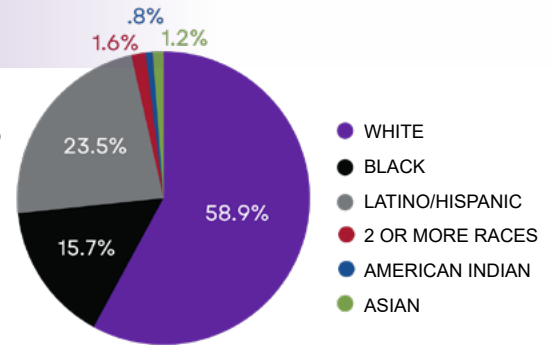
86,685

Change Since 2010

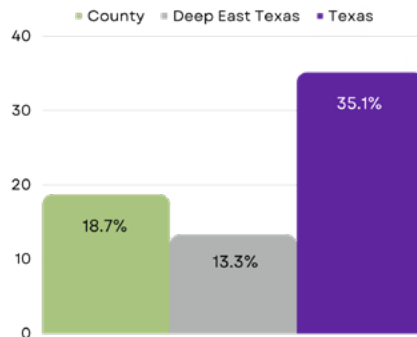
0%



Racial Makeup of County



Home Language Other Than English



Median Age

County: **38**

Deep East Texas: **43.6**

Texas Average: **35**

Millennials

County: **18.6%**

Deep East Texas: **17.5%**

Texas Average: **24.7%**

Retirement Eligible

County: **29.2%**

Deep East Texas: **33.5%**

Texas Average: **29.7%**

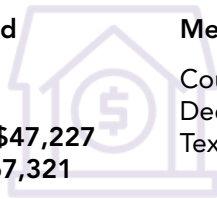
Income

Median Household Income

County: **\$55,377**

Deep East Texas: **\$47,227**

Texas Average: **\$67,321**



Median House Price

County: **\$115,600**

Deep East Texas: **\$108,275**

Texas Average: **\$202,600**

New Building Permits 2022



County: **147**

Deep East TX County Avg: **150**

Broadband



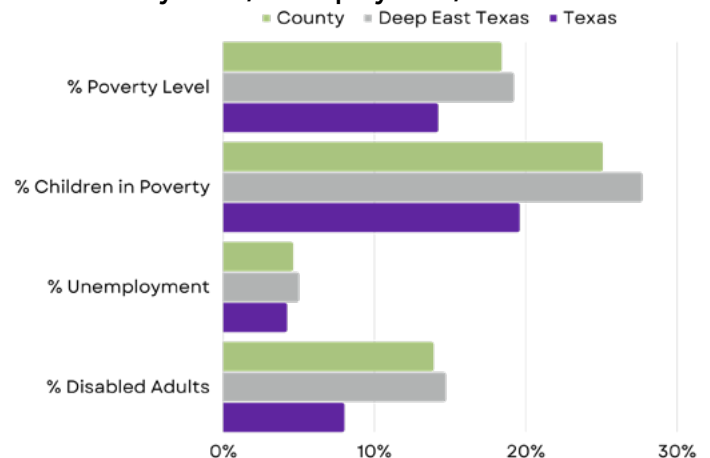
Unservd*

0%

Underserved**

49%

Poverty Level, Unemployment, Disabilities



*Unservd Locations where max speed is less than 25/3 Mbps down/up (the speed sufficient to stream video on one device)

**Underserved Locations where max speed is between 25/3 Mbps down/up and 100/20 Mbps down/up (the speed sufficient to download files quickly or stream multiple devices concurrently)

Education

Angelina County, Texas

High School Completion Rate

County: **84%**
 Deep East Texas: **83%**
 Texas Average: **85%**

High School Graduates 2021

997

High School Graduates Enrolled in Higher Ed 2021

451

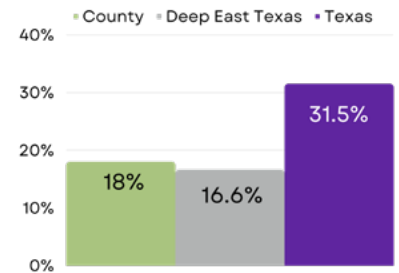
Community College Region

Angelina College
 Miles From County Seat to Community College Partner: **N/A**
 Miles From County Seat to SFASU: **28**

Child Care Availability

Child Care Seats: **3,623**
 County Available Seats/1000 Residents: **41.8**
 Deep East Texas Average Available Seats/1000 Residents: **24.2**

Adults With Bachelor's Degree



Health

Adults Who Are Obese

County: **41%**
 Deep East Texas: **40%**
 Texas Average: **36%**



Adults Who Smoke

County: **22%**
 Deep East Texas: **24%**
 Texas Average: **13%**



Ratio of Primary Care Physicians to Residents

County: **1,523:1**
 Deep East Texas: **4,754:1**
 Texas Average: **1,641:1**



Hospital Presence: Served by Woodland Heights Medical Center (145 beds) and St. Luke's Health - Memorial Hospital (279 beds)

Mental Health Care Services: Served by Burke Mental Health Services and Oceans Behavioral Hospital of Lufkin

Maternal Care Status: **Full Access**

Maternal Care Status

No Access = No hospitals and birth centers offering obstetric care and no obstetricians.
Low Access = Fewer than two hospitals or birth centers and fewer than 60 obstetricians/10,000 births.
Full Access = Two or more hospitals and birth centers and 60 or more obstetricians/10,000 births.

Business and Industry

Lufkin Chamber of Commerce

750 Businesses

Angelina County Airport

63 Airport Operations/Day

Specialized Skills by Demand

1. Nursing
2. Merchandising
3. Nursing Care

Top Industries by Number of Jobs

1. Local Government
2. Food Service and Drinking Places
3. Ambulatory Health Care Services

Top Industries by Earnings

1. Securities and Finance
2. Utilities
3. Mining

Occupations by Job Openings

1. Registered Nurses
2. Retail Salespersons
3. First-Line Retail Supervisors

County Strategies

Strategy 1

Establish comprehensive workforce programs by forging alliances with recruitment companies, incentivizing business growth, and prioritizing partnerships with healthcare agencies.

Strategy 2

Facilitate a cohesive regional branding initiative, promoting Angelina County as a hub for innovation and economic priorities.

Strategy 3

Explore the feasibility of and benefits of a regional airport to enhance connectivity and foster economic growth.

Houston County, Texas

County Profile

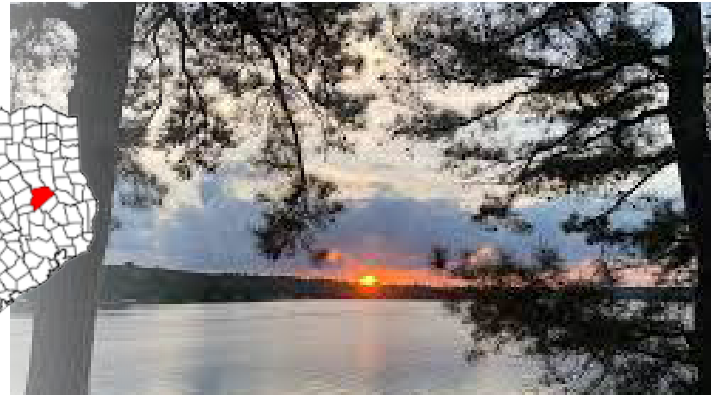
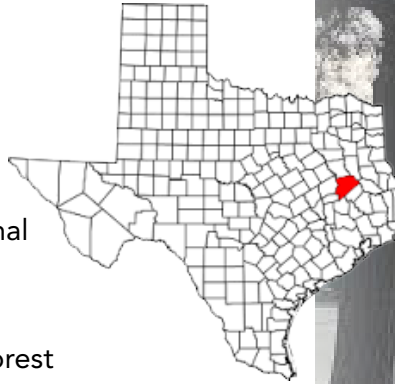
County Seat: Crockett

Strategic Priorities:

Broadband, Workforce Development, Affordable Housing, Healthcare, Regional Assets

County Features:

Home to the Davy Crockett National Forest



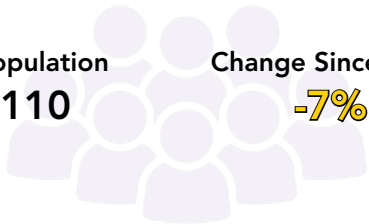
Demographics

2020 Population

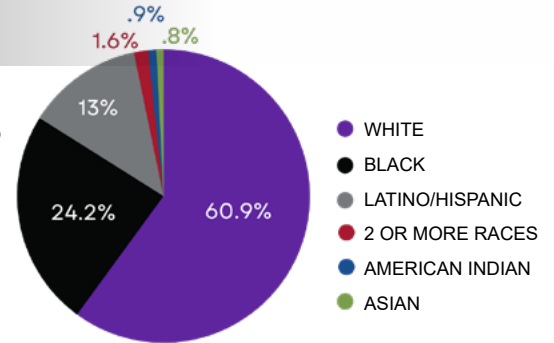
22,110

Change Since 2010

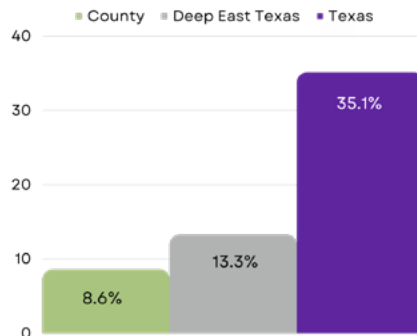
-7%



Racial Makeup of County



Home Language Other Than English



Median Age

County: **44.1**

Deep East Texas: **43.6**

Texas Average: **35**

Millennials

County: **18.0%**

Deep East Texas: **17.5%**

Texas Average: **24.7%**

Retirement Eligible

County: **36.4%**

Deep East Texas: **33.5%**

Texas Average: **29.7%**

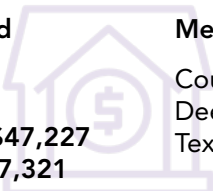
Income

Median Household Income

County: **\$43,644**

Deep East Texas: **\$47,227**

Texas Average: **\$67,321**



Median House Price

County: **\$118,100**

Deep East Texas: **\$108,275**

Texas Average: **\$202,600**

New Building Permits 2022

County: **3**

Deep East Texas County Average: **150**



Broadband



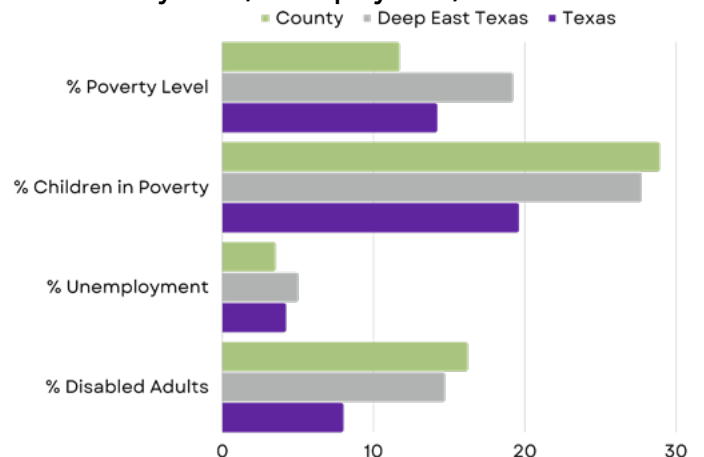
Unserved*

3%

Underserved**

58%

Poverty Level, Unemployment, Disabilities



*Unserved Locations where max speed is less than 25/3 Mbps down/up (the speed sufficient to stream video on one device)

**Underserved Locations where max speed is between 25/3 Mbps down/up and 100/20 Mbps down/up (the speed sufficient to download files quickly or stream multiple devices concurrently)

Education

Houston County, Texas

High School Completion Rate

County: **80%**
 Deep East Texas: **83%**
 Texas Average: **85%**

High School Graduates 2021

188

High School Graduates Enrolled in Higher Ed 2021

80

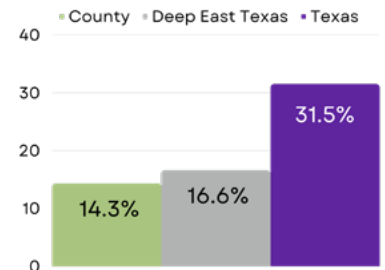
Community College Region

Angelina College
 Miles From County Seat to
 Community College Partner: **50**
 Miles From County Seat to SFASU: **56**

Child Care Availability

Child Care Seats: **365**
 County Available Seats/1000 Residents: **16.5**
 Deep East Texas Average Available Seats/1000 residents: **24.2**

Adults With Bachelor's Degree



Health

Adults Who Are Obese

County: **42%**
 Deep East Texas: **40%**
 Texas Average: **36%**



Adults Who Smoke

County: **24%**
 Deep East Texas: **24%**
 Texas Average: **13%**



Ratio of Primary Care Physicians to Residents

County: **5,709:1**
 Deep East Texas: **4,754:1**
 Texas Average: **1,641:1**



Hospital Presence: Served by Crockett Medical Center (25 beds)

Mental Health Care Services: Served by Burke Mental Health Services

Maternal Care Status: **Low Access**

Maternal Care Status

No Access = No hospitals and birth centers offering obstetric care and no obstetricians.

Low Access = Fewer than two hospitals or birth centers and fewer than 60 obstetricians/10,000 births.

Full Access = Two or more hospitals and birth centers and 60 or more obstetricians/10,000 births.

Business and Industry

Crockett Area Chamber of Commerce

250 Businesses

Houston County Airport

24 Airport Operations/Day

Specialized Skills by Demand

1. Merchandising
2. Nursing
3. Stocking Merchandise

Top Industries by Number of Jobs

1. Local Government
2. Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services
3. Fabrication Metal Production Manufacturing

Top Industries by Earnings

1. Oil & Gas Extraction
2. Mining
3. Wholesale Electronic Markets

Occupations by Job Openings

1. First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales
2. Licensed and Vocational Nurses
3. Retail Salespersons

County Strategies

Strategy 1

Create targeted workforce development initiatives that cater to the evolving needs of the contemporary business landscape while concurrently addressing gaps and promoting wellness in the healthcare infrastructure.

Strategy 2

Promote affordable housing models, enhancing the quality of life for residents.

Strategy 3

Strengthen healthcare infrastructure, address gaps, and promote wellness in the community.

Jasper County, Texas

County Profile

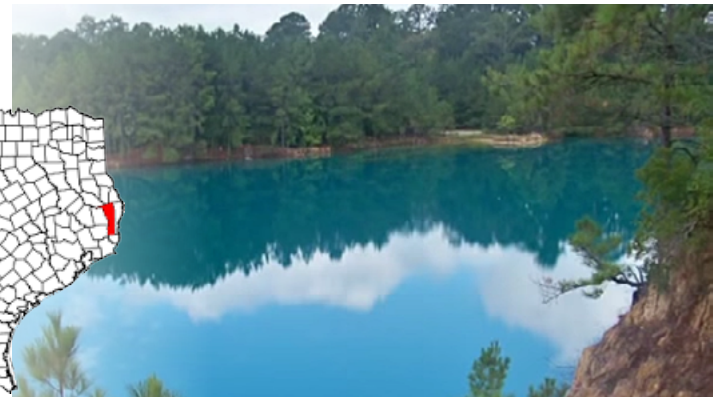
County Seat: Jasper

Strategic Priorities:

Unified Spirit, Hub for County Development, Infrastructure, Education, Communication

County Features:

Home of the Sam Rayburn Reservoir



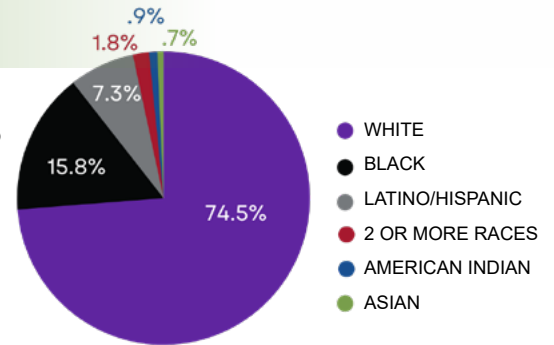
Demographics

2020 Population
32,053

Change Since 2010
-10%



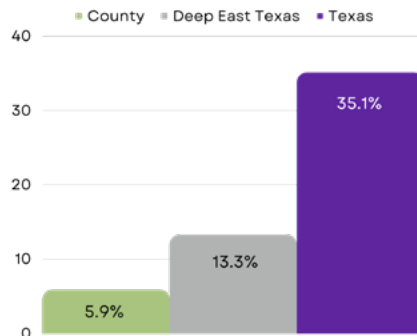
Racial Makeup of County



Median Age

County: **42.5**
Deep East Texas: **43.6**
Texas Average: **35**

Home Language Other Than English



Millennials

County: **17.5%**
Deep East Texas: **17.5%**
Texas Average: **24.7%**

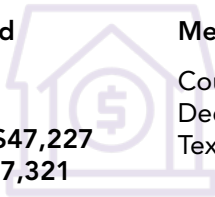
Retirement Eligible

County: **35.8%**
Deep East Texas: **33.5%**
Texas Average: **29.7%**

Income

Median Household Income

County: **\$44,356**
Deep East Texas: **\$47,227**
Texas Average: **\$67,321**



Median House Price

County: **\$106,600**
Deep East Texas: **\$108,275**
Texas Average: **\$202,600**

New Building Permits 2022

County: **32**
Deep East Texas
County Average: **150**



Broadband



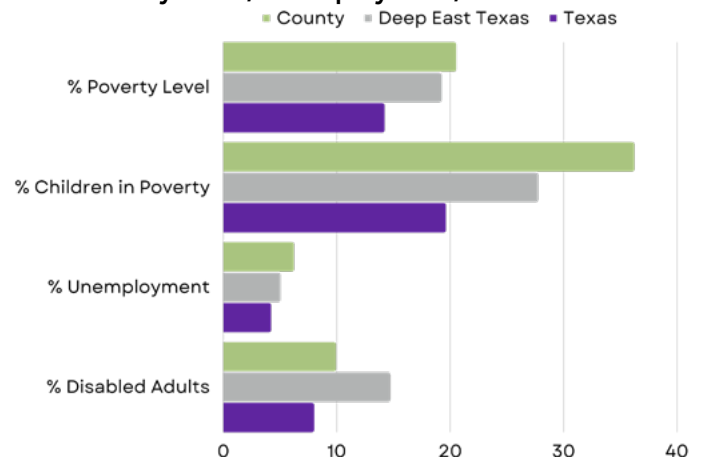
Unserved*

0%

Underserved**

56%

Poverty Level, Unemployment, Disabilities



*Unserved Locations where max speed is less than 25/3 Mbps down/up (the speed sufficient to stream video on one device)

**Underserved Locations where max speed is between 25/3 Mbps down/up and 100/20 Mbps down/up (the speed sufficient to download files quickly or stream multiple devices concurrently)

Education

High School Completion Rate

County: **84%**
 Deep East Texas: **83%**
 Texas Average: **85%**

High School Graduates 2021

372

High School Graduates Enrolled in Higher Ed 2021

151

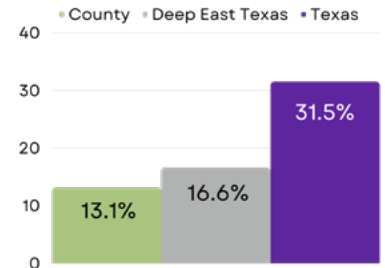
Community College Region

Lamar Tech
 Miles From County Seat to
 Community College Partner: **56**
 Miles From County Seat to SFASU: **76**

Child Care Availability

Child Care Seats: **886**
 County Available Seats/1000 Residents: **27.6**
 Deep East Texas Average Available Seats/1000 Residents: **24.2**

Adults With Bachelor's Degree



Health

Adults Who Are Obese

County: **39%**
 Deep East Texas: **40%**
 Texas Average: **36%**



Adults Who Smoke

County: **25%**
 Deep East Texas: **24%**
 Texas Average: **13%**



Ratio of Primary Care Physicians to Residents

County: **2,948:1**
 Deep East Texas: **4,754:1**
 Texas Average: **1,641:1**

Hospital Presence: Served by Christus Southeast Texas - Jasper Memorial (59 beds)

Mental Health Care Services: Served by Burke Mental Health Services

Maternal Care Status: **Low Access**

Maternal Care Status

No Access = No hospitals and birth centers offering obstetric care and no obstetricians.

Low Access = Fewer than two hospitals or birth centers and fewer than 60 obstetricians/10,000 births.

Full Access = Two or more hospitals and birth centers and 60 or more obstetricians/10,000 births.

Business and Industry

Jasper/Lake Sam Rayburn Chamber of Commerce

350 Businesses

Jasper County Airport

44 Airport Operations/Day

Specialized Skills by Demand

1. Merchandising
2. Nursing
3. Cash Register

Top Industries by Number of Jobs

1. Local Government
2. Ambulatory Health Care Services
3. Food Service and Drinking Places

Top Industries by Earnings

1. Chemical Manufacturing
2. Paper Manufacturing
3. Machinery Manufacturing

Occupations by Job Openings

1. Registered Nurses
2. Supervisors of Retail Sales
3. Retail Salespersons

County Strategies

Strategy 1

Develop a unified platform within Jasper County that cultivates collaboration among communities, fostering specific regional development efforts while enhancing facilities and opportunities to **establish the county as a sought-after hub for businesses and residents.**

Strategy 2

Implement infrastructure projects that **facilitate growth and connectivity** within and beyond the county.

Strategy 3

Fortify educational initiatives, focusing on workforce development and aligning education programs with market demands.

Nacogdoches County, Texas

County Profile

County Seat: Nacogdoches

Strategic Priorities:

Broadband, Workforce Development, I69 Corridor, Affordable Housing, Infrastructure

County Features:

Home of Stephen F. Austin State University



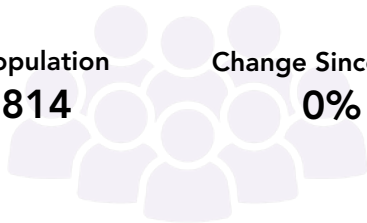
Demographics

2020 Population

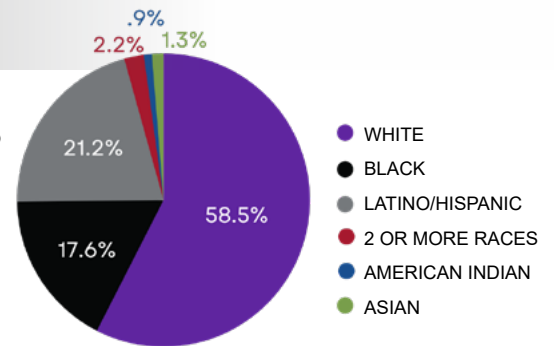
64,814

Change Since 2010

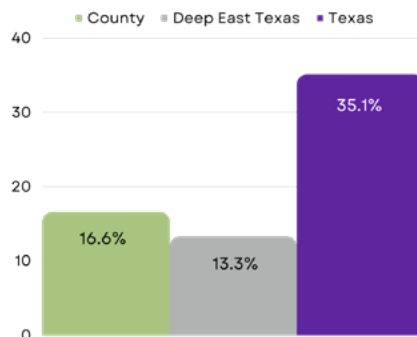
0%



Racial Makeup of County



Home Language Other Than English



Median Age

County: **31.2**

Deep East Texas: **43.6**

Texas Average: **35**

Millennials

County: **16.9%**

Deep East Texas: **17.5%**

Texas Average: **24.7%**

Retirement Eligible

County: **26.5%**

Deep East Texas: **33.5%**

Texas Average: **29.7%**

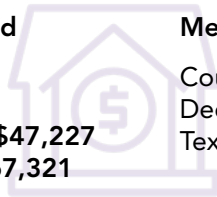
Income

Median Household Income

County: **\$47,306**

Deep East Texas: **\$47,227**

Texas Average: **\$67,321**



Median House Price

County: **\$140,900**

Deep East Texas: **\$108,275**

Texas Average: **\$202,600**

New Building Permits 2022



County: **36**

Deep East Texas

County Average: **150**

Broadband



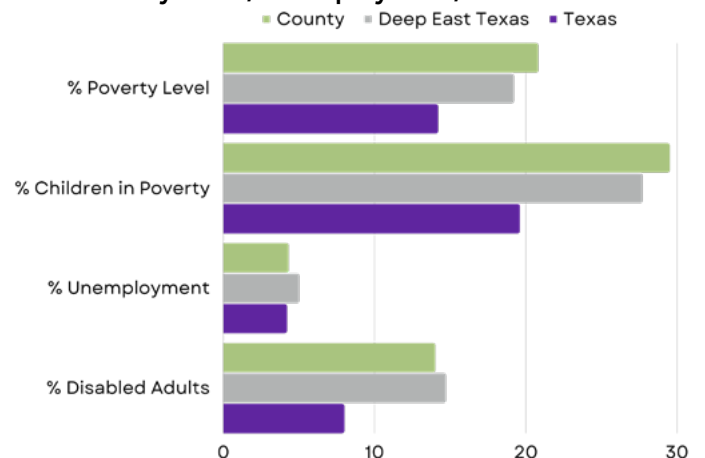
Unserved*

0%

Underserved**

46%

Poverty Level, Unemployment, Disabilities



*Unserved Locations where max speed is less than 25/3 Mbps down/up (the speed sufficient to stream video on one device)

**Underserved Locations where max speed is between 25/3 Mbps down/up and 100/20 Mbps down/up (the speed sufficient to download files quickly or stream multiple devices concurrently)

Nacogdoches County, Texas

Education

High School Completion Rate

County: **85%**
 Deep East Texas: **83%**
 Texas Average: **85%**

High School Graduates 2021

667

High School Graduates Enrolled in Higher Ed 2021

282

Community College Region

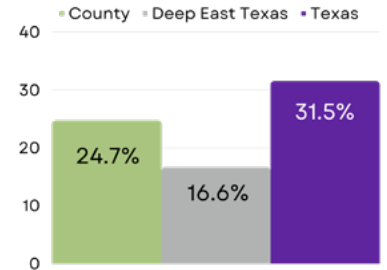
Angelina College
 Miles From County Seat to Community College Partner: **25**

Miles From County Seat to SFASU: **N/A**

Child Care Availability

Child Care Seats: **1,669**
 County Available Seats/1000 Residents: **25.8**
 Deep East Texas Average Available Seats/1000 Residents: **24.2**

% of Adults with Bachelor's Degree



Health

Adults Who Are Obese

County: **40%**
 Deep East Texas: **40%**
 Texas Average: **36%**



Adults Who Smoke

County: **21%**
 Deep East Texas: **24%**
 Texas Average: **13%**



Ratio of Primary Care Physicians to Residents

County: **1,408:1**
 Deep East Texas: **4,754:1**
 Texas Average: **1,641:1**

Hospital Presence: Served by Nacogdoches Medical Center (161 beds) and Nacogdoches Memorial Hospital (231 beds)

Mental Health Care Services: Served by Burke Mental Health Services

Maternal Care Status: **Full Access**

Maternal Care Status

No Access = No hospitals and birth centers offering obstetric care and no obstetricians.

Low Access = Fewer than two hospitals or birth centers and fewer than 60 obstetricians/10,000 births.

Full Access = Two or more hospitals and birth centers and 60 or more obstetricians/10,000 births.

Business and Industry

Nacogdoches County Chamber of Commerce

650 Businesses



Specialized Skills by Demand

1. Merchandising
2. Food Safety & Sanitation
3. Nursing

Top Industries by Number of Jobs

1. Local Government
2. State Government
3. Food Service and Drinking Places

Top Industries by Earnings

1. Securities, Commodity Contracts, Finance
2. Utilities
3. Oil and Gas Extraction

Occupations by Job Openings

1. Registered Nurses
2. First-Line Supervisors, Retail
3. Production Workers

County Strategies

Strategy 1

Implement a multi-faceted approach to regional development, focusing on facilitating growth along the I69 corridor to **enhance regional connectivity and business expansion**. Simultaneously, **prioritize infrastructure improvement** initiatives in collaboration with property developers to foster sustained growth across various sectors.

Strategy 2

Advocate for the development of affordable housing projects, creating alliances with property developers to foster community growth.

Strategy 3

Initiate infrastructure improvement projects focusing on road networks, utilities, and other critical assets, fostering a conducive environment for growth.

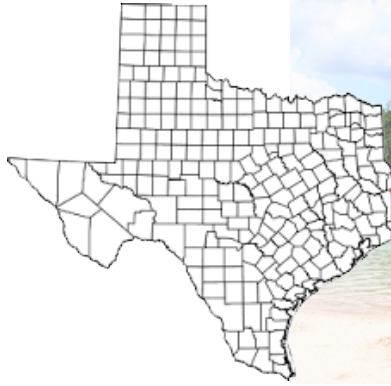
Newton County, Texas

County Profile

County Seat: Newton

Strategic Priorities:

Workforce Development, Healthcare, Housing, and Urban Development



Demographics

2020 Population

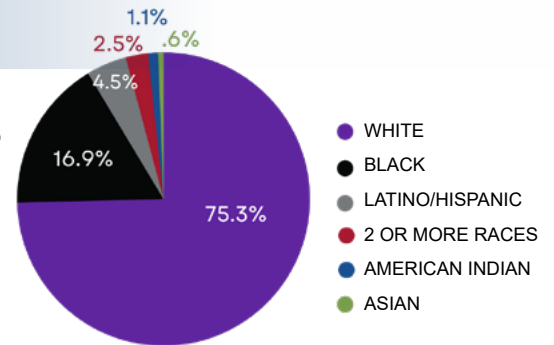
11,812

Change Since 2010

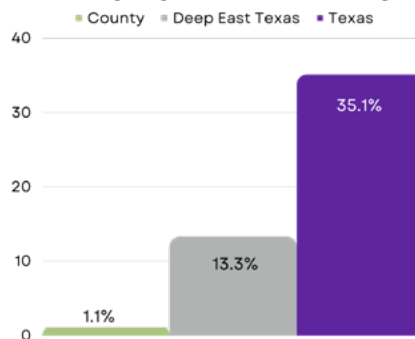
-18%



Racial Makeup of County



Home Language Other Than English



Median Age

County: **44.7**

Deep East Texas: **43.6**

Texas Average: **35**

Millennials

County: **18.6%**

Deep East Texas: **17.5%**

Texas Average: **24.7%**

Retirement Eligible

County: **38.2%**

Deep East Texas: **33.5%**

Texas Average: **29.7%**

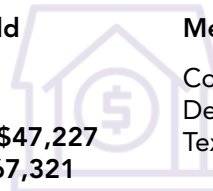
Income

Median Household Income

County: **\$38,116**

Deep East Texas: **\$47,227**

Texas Average: **\$67,321**



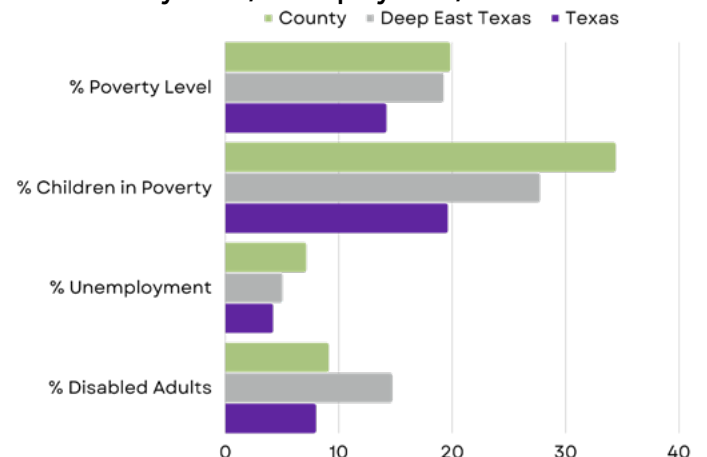
Median House Price

County: **\$81,600**

Deep East Texas: **\$108,275**

Texas Average: **\$202,600**

Poverty Level, Unemployment, Disabilities



New Building Permits 2022



County: **N/A**

Deep East Texas

County Average: **150**

Broadband



Unserviced*

0%

Underserved**

95%

*Unserviced Locations where max speed is less than 25/3 Mbps down/up (the speed sufficient to stream video on one device)

**Underserved Locations where max speed is between 25/3 Mbps down/up and 100/20 Mbps down/up (the speed sufficient to download files quickly or stream multiple devices concurrently)

Education

Newton County, Texas

High School Completion Rate

County: **84%**
 Deep East Texas: **83%**
 Texas Average: **85%**

High School Graduates 2021

100

High School Graduates Enrolled in Higher Ed 2021

33

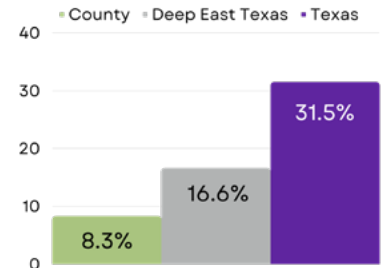
Community College Region

Lamar Tech
 Miles From County Seat to
 Community College Partner: **72**
 Miles From County Seat to SFASU: **91**

Child Care Availability

Child Care Seats: **75**
 County Available Seats/1000 Residents: **6.3**
 Deep East Texas Average Available Seats/1000 Residents: **24.2**

Adults With Bachelor's Degree



Health

Adults Who Are Obese

County: **40%**
 Deep East Texas: **40%**
 Texas Average: **36%**



Adults Who Smoke

County: **27%**
 Deep East Texas: **24%**
 Texas Average: **13%**



Ratio of Primary Care Physicians to Residents

County: **N/A**
 Deep East Texas: **4,754:1**
 Texas Average: **1,641:1**

Hospital Presence: **None**

Mental Health Care Services: Served by Burke Mental Health Services

Maternal Care Status: **No Access**

Maternal Care Status

No Access = No hospitals and birth centers offering obstetric care and no obstetricians.

Low Access = Fewer than two hospitals or birth centers and fewer than 60 obstetricians/10,000 births.

Full Access = Two or more hospitals and birth centers and 60 or more obstetricians/10,000 births.

Business and Industry

Newton County Chamber of Commerce

NO AIRPORT



Specialized Skills by Demand

1. Manufacturing Operations
2. SAP Applications
3. Refinery Experience

Top Industries by Number of Jobs

1. Local Government
2. Gas Stations
3. Crop Production

Top Industries by Earnings

1. Utilities
2. Professional, Scientific and Technical Service
3. Forestry and Logging

Occupations by Job Openings

1. Physicians
2. General Internal Medicine Physicians
3. Family Medical Physicians

County Strategies

Strategy 1

Collaborate with local institutions to **establish training programs in various trades.**

Strategy 2

Initiate a comprehensive plan to **attract healthcare providers to the county.**

Strategy 3

Develop affordable housing methods and encourage revitalization of downtown areas through incentives and grants.

Polk County, Texas

County Profile

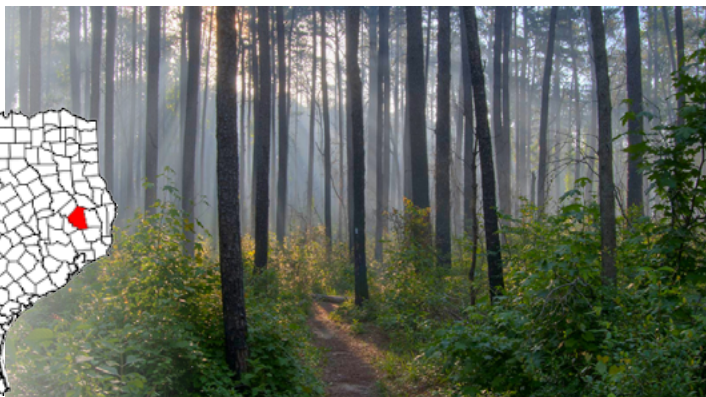
County Seat: Livingston

Strategic Priorities:

Community Development, Infrastructure, Talent Attraction / Retention, Family Activities, and Beautification

County Features:

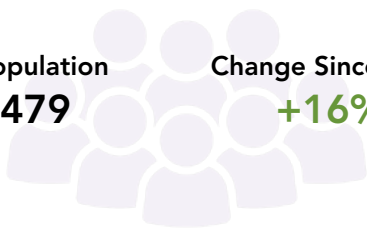
Lake Livingston offers a rich natural environment, and much of the county is an hour from George Bush Intercontinental Airport



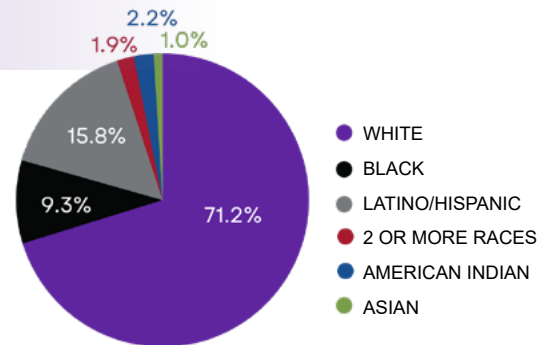
Demographics

2020 Population
52,479

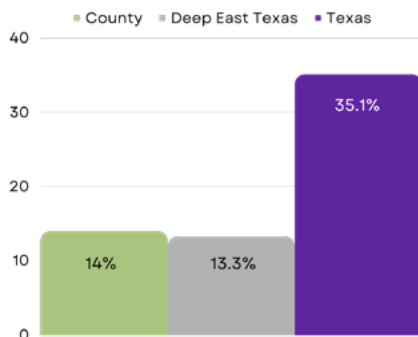
Change Since 2010
+16%



Racial Makeup of County



Home Language Other Than English



Median Age

County: **44**
Deep East Texas: **43.6**
Texas Average: **35**

Millennials

County: **17.8%**
Deep East Texas: **17.5%**
Texas Average: **24.7%**

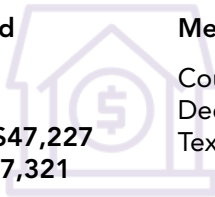
Retirement Eligible

County: **35.8%**
Deep East Texas: **33.5%**
Texas Average: **29.7%**

Income

Median Household Income

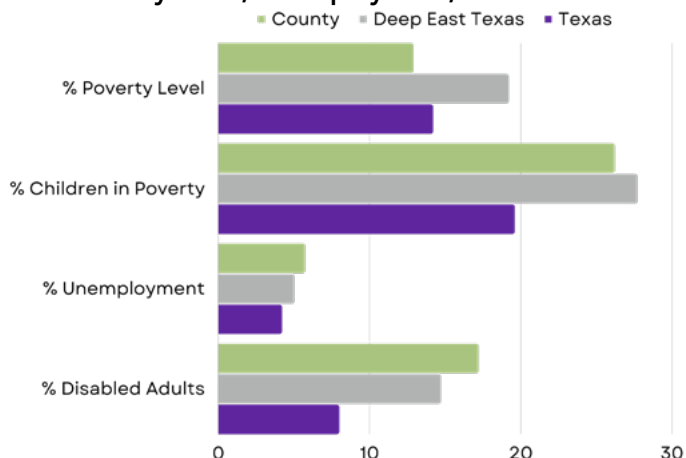
County: **\$55,826**
Deep East Texas: **\$47,227**
Texas Average: **\$67,321**



Median House Price

County: **\$126,200**
Deep East Texas: **\$108,275**
Texas Average: **\$202,600**

Poverty Level, Unemployment, Disabilities



New Building Permits 2022

County: **987**
Deep East Texas
County Average: **150**



Broadband



Unserved*

0%

Underserved**

58%

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**Underserved Locations where max speed is between 25/3 Mbps down/up and 100/20 Mbps down/up (the speed sufficient to download files quickly or stream multiple devices concurrently)

Education

High School Completion Rate

County: **80%**
 Deep East Texas: **83%**
 Texas Average: **85%**

High School Graduates 2021

343

High School Graduates Enrolled in Higher Ed 2021

140

Community College Region

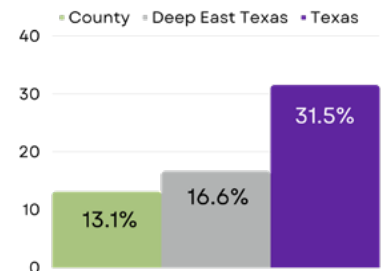
Angelina College
 Miles From County Seat to
 Community College Partner: **43**
 Miles From County Seat to SFASU: **69**

Child Care Availability

Child Care Seats: **1,077**
 County Available Seats/1000 Residents: **20.5**
 Deep East Texas Average Available Seats/1000 Residents: **24.2**

Polk County, Texas

Adults With Bachelor's Degree



Health

Adults Who Are Obese

County: **38%**
 Deep East Texas: **40%**
 Texas Average: **36%**



Adults Who Smoke

County: **25%**
 Deep East Texas: **24%**
 Texas Average: **13%**



Ratio of Primary Care Physicians to Residents

County: **1,963:1**
 Deep East Texas: **4,754:1**
 Texas Average: **1,641:1**

Hospital Presence: Served by CHI St. Luke's Health - Memorial Livingston (66 beds)

Mental Health Care Services: Served by Burke Mental Health Services

Maternal Care Status: **Full Access**

Maternal Care Status

No Access = No hospitals and birth centers offering obstetric care and no obstetricians.

Low Access = Fewer than two hospitals or birth centers and fewer than 60 obstetricians/10,000 births.

Full Access = Two or more hospitals and birth centers and 60 or more obstetricians/10,000 births.

Business and Industry

Livingston-Polk County Chamber of Commerce

307 Businesses

Livingston Municipal Airport

25 Airport Operations/Day

Specialized Skills by Demand

1. Merchandising
2. Housekeeping
3. Restaurant Operations

Top Industries by Number of Jobs

1. Local Government
2. Wood Product Manufacturing
3. Food Services and Drinking Establishments

Top Industries by Earnings

1. Pipeline Transportation
2. Securities, Commercial Contracts and Finance
3. Management of Companies

Occupations by Job Openings

1. Home Health and Personal Care Aides
2. First-Line Supervisor of Retail Sales Workers
3. Retail Salespersons

County Strategies

Strategy 1

Encourage the establishment of **business development** and social event spaces.

Strategy 2

Develop **infrastructure projects** targeting roads, public utilities, and other key areas.

Strategy 3

Initiate **community-led beautification projects** to enhance the visual appeal of the county.

Sabine County, Texas

County Profile

County Seat: Hemphill

Strategic Priorities:

Education/Workforce Development, Familial Poverty, Affordable and Safe Housing, Business Growth, and Community Resiliency

County Features:

Adjacent to Sabine Parish, Louisiana



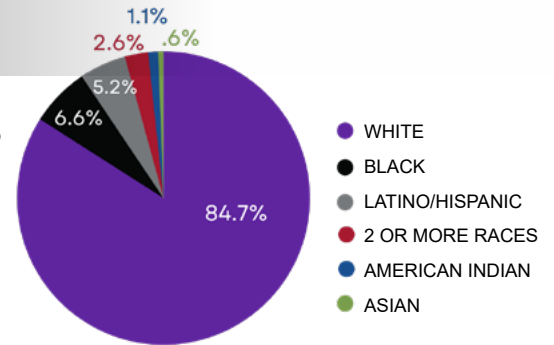
Demographics

2020 Population
9,950

Change Since 2010
-8%



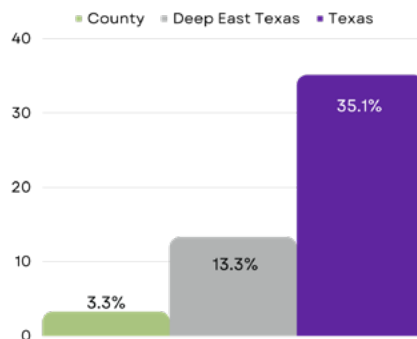
Racial Makeup of County



Median Age

County: **53.9**
Deep East Texas: **43.6**
Texas Average: **35**

Home Language Other Than English



Millennials

County: **13.2%**
Deep East Texas: **17.5%**
Texas Average: **24.7%**

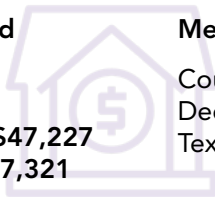
Retirement Eligible

County: **48.4%**
Deep East Texas: **33.5%**
Texas Average: **29.7%**

Income

Median Household Income

County: **\$41,308**
Deep East Texas: **\$47,227**
Texas Average: **\$67,321**



Median House Price

County: **\$114,300**
Deep East Texas: **\$108,275**
Texas Average: **\$202,600**

New Building Permits 2022

County: **1**
Deep East Texas
County Average: **150**



Broadband



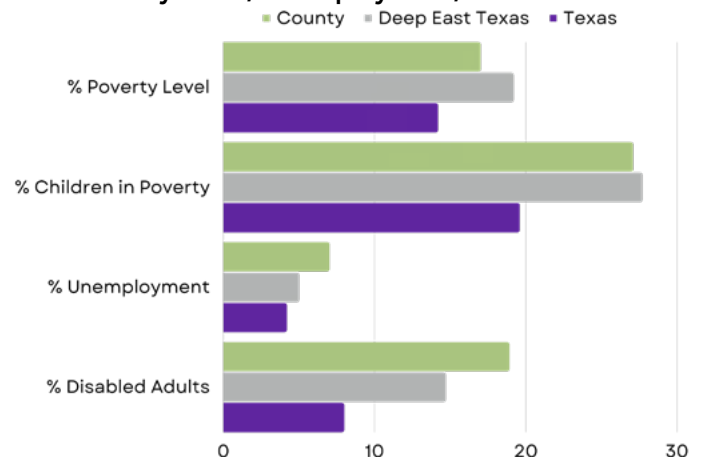
Unserved*

5%

Underserved**

81%

Poverty Level, Unemployment, Disabilities



*Unserved Locations where max speed is less than 25/3 Mbps down/up (the speed sufficient to stream video on one device)

**Underserved Locations where max speed is between 25/3 Mbps down/up and 100/20 Mbps down/up (the speed sufficient to download files quickly or stream multiple devices concurrently)

Education

High School Completion Rate

County: **86%**

Deep East Texas: **83%**

Texas Average: **85%**

High School Graduates 2021

95

High School Graduates

Enrolled in Higher Ed 2021

31

Community College Region:

Angelina College

Miles From County Seat to

Community College Partner: **60**

Miles From County Seat to SFASU: **61**

Child Care Availability

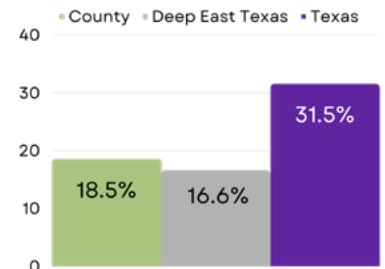
Child Care Seats: **337**

County Available Seats/1000 Residents: **33.9**

Deep East Texas Average Available Seats/1000 Residents: **24.2**

Sabine County, Texas

Adults With Bachelor's Degree



Health

Adults Who Are Obese

County: **39%**

Deep East Texas: **40%**

Texas Average: **36%**



Adults Who Smoke

County: **24%**

Deep East Texas: **24%**

Texas Average: **13%**



Ratio of Primary Care Physicians to Residents

County: **5,254:1**

Deep East Texas: **4,754:1**

Texas Average: **1,641:1**



Hospital Presence: Served by Sabine County Hospital (25 beds)

Mental Health Care Services: Served by Burke Mental Health Services

Maternal Care Status: **Full Access**

Maternal Care Status

No Access = No hospitals and birth centers offering obstetric care and no obstetricians.

Low Access = Fewer than two hospitals or birth centers and fewer than 60 obstetricians/10,000 births.

Full Access = Two or more hospitals and birth centers and 60 or more obstetricians/10,000 births.

Business and Industry

Sabine County Chamber of Commerce

137 Businesses

Pineland Municipal Airport

1 Airport Operation/Day



Specialized Skills by Demand

1. Merchandising
2. Cash Register
3. Housekeeping

Top Industries by Number of Jobs

1. Local Government
2. Ambulatory Health Care Services
3. Nursing and Residential Care Facilities

Top Industries by Earnings

1. Support Activities for Mining
2. Mining
3. Professional, Scientific and Technical Services

Occupations by Job Openings

1. Home Health and Personal Care Aides
2. First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers
3. Retail Salespersons

County Strategies

Strategy 1

Forge partnerships with area universities, colleges, and public schools to **develop a curriculum that specifically caters to the area's workforce demands**, thereby creating a pipeline of skilled professionals and fostering business growth with networks and resources.

Strategy 2

Develop partnerships to empower low-income families with knowledge and resources by providing tailored solutions. **Facilitate affordable housing projects** in collaboration with private sector players, focusing on creating safe, sustainable, and community-centered spaces that assist families in transitioning from renting to homeownership.

Strategy 3

Develop programs that foster community engagement, building a resilient society that stands united and works together to bring meaningful transformation to the county.

San Augustine County, Texas

County Profile

County Seat: San Augustine

Strategic Priorities:

Business Development, Infrastructure/
Utilities, Affordable Housing, and
Readiness for Change



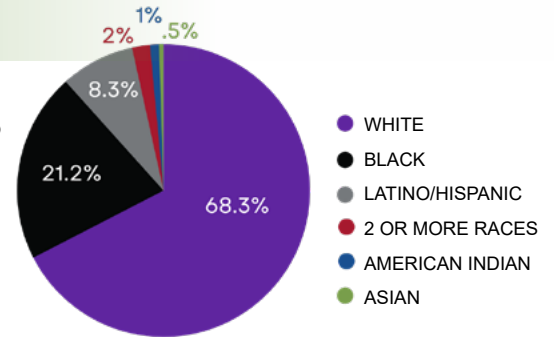
Demographics

2020 Population
7,890

Change Since 2010
-11%



Racial Makeup of County



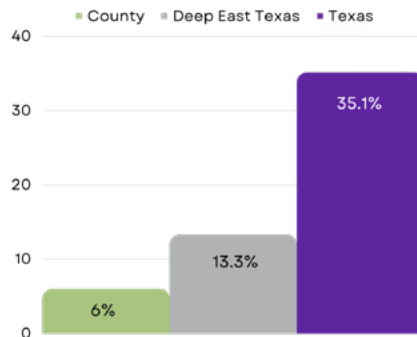
Median Age

County: **48.7**

Deep East Texas: **43.6**

Texas Average: **35**

Home Language Other Than English



Millennials

County: **14.7%**

Deep East Texas: **17.5%**

Texas Average: **24.7%**

Retirement Eligible

County: **43.6%**

Deep East Texas: **33.5%**

Texas Average: **29.7%**

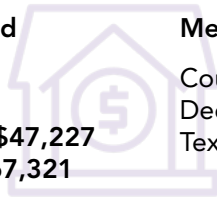
Income

Median Household Income

County: **\$43,130**

Deep East Texas: **\$47,227**

Texas Average: **\$67,321**



Median House Price

County: **\$72,200**

Deep East Texas: **\$108,275**

Texas Average: **\$202,600**

New Building Permits 2022



County: **0**

Deep East Texas

County Average: **150**

Broadband



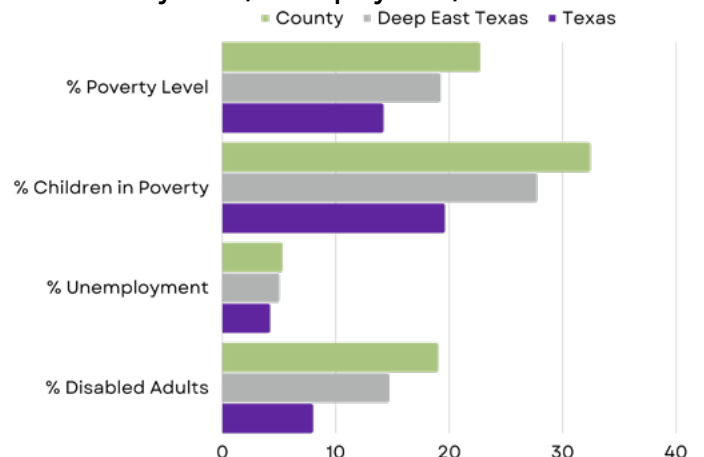
Unservd*

0%

Underserved**

80%

Poverty Level, Unemployment, Disabilities



*Unservd Locations where max speed is less than 25/3 Mbps down/up (the speed sufficient to stream video on one device)

**Underserved Locations where max speed is between 25/3 Mbps down/up and 100/20 Mbps down/up (the speed sufficient to download files quickly or stream multiple devices concurrently)

Education

San Augustine County, Texas

High School Completion Rate
 County: **81%**
 Deep East Texas: **83%**
 Texas Average: **85%**

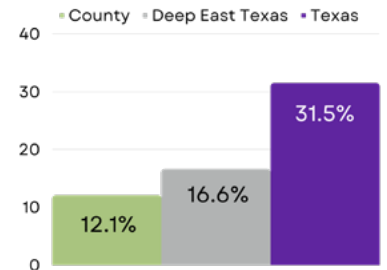
High School Graduates 2021
 54

High School Graduates Enrolled in Higher Ed 2021
 21

Community College Region:
 Angelina College
 Miles From County Seat to
 Community College Partner: **48**
 Miles From County Seat to SFASU: **36**

Child Care Availability
 Child Care seats: **68**
 County Available Seats/1000 Residents: **8.6**
 Deep East Texas Average Available Seats/1000 Residents: **24.2**

Adults With Bachelor's Degree



Health

Adults Who Are Obese
 County: **41%**
 Deep East Texas: **40%**
 Texas Average: **36%**



Adults Who Smoke
 County: **25%**
 Deep East Texas: **24%**
 Texas Average: **13%**



Ratio of Primary Care Physicians to Residents
 County: **4,124:1**
 Deep East Texas: **4,754:1**
 Texas Average: **1,641:1**

Hospital Presence: Served by CHI St. Luke's Health - Memorial San Augustine (18 beds)
Mental Health Care Services: Served by Burke Mental Health Services
Maternal Care Status: **No Access**

Maternal Care Status
No Access = No hospitals and birth centers offering obstetric care and no obstetricians.
Low Access = Fewer than two hospitals or birth centers and fewer than 60 obstetricians/10,000 births.
Full Access = Two or more hospitals and birth centers and 60 or more obstetricians/10,000 births.

Business and Industry

San Augustine County Chamber of Commerce
 150 Businesses

San Augustine County Airport
 1 Airport Operation/Day

Specialized Skills by Demand

1. Nursing
2. Writing Skills
3. Long-Term Care

Top Industries by Number of Jobs

1. Local Government
2. Nursing and Residential Care Facilities
3. Support for Mining

Top Industries by Earnings

1. Utilities
2. Support for Mining
3. Professional, Scientific and Technical Services

Occupations by Job Openings

1. Registered Nurses
2. Nursing Assistants
3. Home Health and Personal Care Aides

County Strategies

Strategy 1
 Enhance adaptability of Utility Infrastructure by drafting a master plan focusing on **strengthening and enhancing the existing utility infrastructure**, including broadband connectivity, and sustainable energy solutions.

Strategy 2
 Empower community leaders and stakeholders for change through change management workshops, fostering a growth mindset. **Drive business growth by tailoring skill development programs, identifying startup grants, and offering market expansion support.**

Strategy 3
Facilitate affordable housing growth by developing housing policies and encouraging innovative solutions in housing, such as modular homes and green building practices.

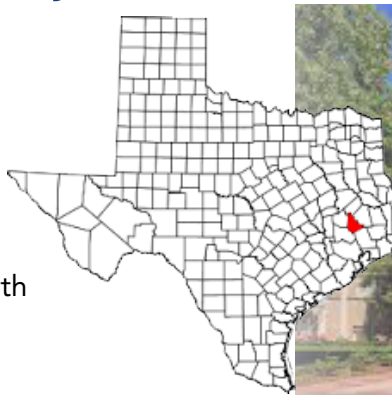
San Jacinto County, Texas

County Profile

County Seat: Coldspring

Strategic Priorities:

Education/Workforce Development, Lake Livingston, Health Care, Poverty & Population Loss, Balanced Business Growth

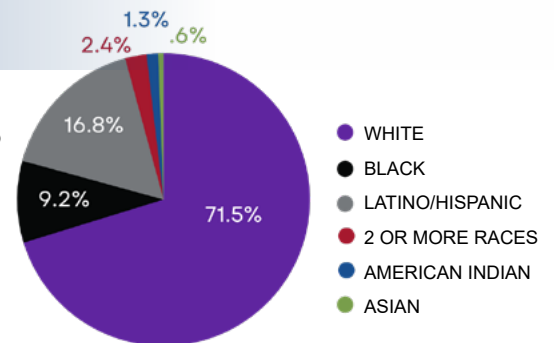


Demographics

2020 Population **27,657**
Change Since 2010 **+5%**



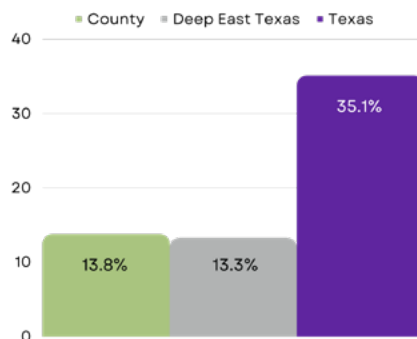
Racial Makeup of County



Median Age

County: **45.3**
Deep East Texas: **43.6**
Texas Average: **35**

Home Language Other Than English



Millennials

County: **16.4%**
Deep East Texas: **17.5%**
Texas Average: **24.7%**

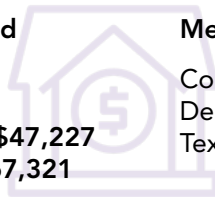
Retirement Eligible

County: **38.8%**
Deep East Texas: **33.5%**
Texas Average: **29.7%**

Income

Median Household Income

County: **\$46,678**
Deep East Texas: **\$47,227**
Texas Average: **\$67,321**



Median House Price

County: **\$135,200**
Deep East Texas: **\$108,275**
Texas Average: **\$202,600**

New Building Permits 2022

County: **586**
Deep East Texas
County Average: **150**



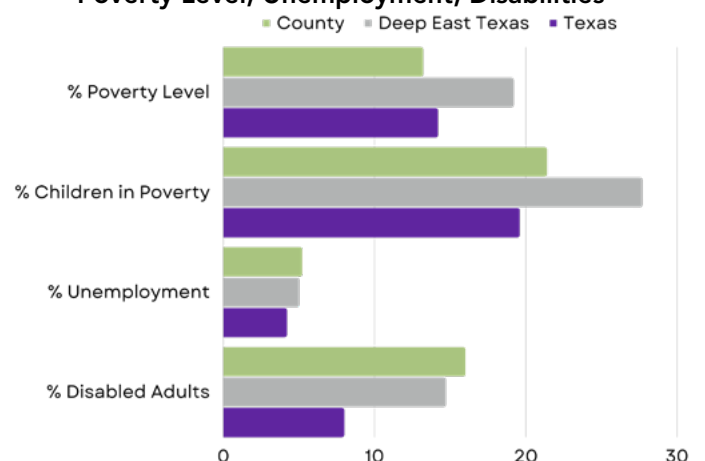
Broadband



Unservd* **0%**

Underserved** **63%**

Poverty Level, Unemployment, Disabilities



*Unservd Locations where max speed is less than 25/3 Mbps down/up (the speed sufficient to stream video on one device)

**Underserved Locations where max speed is between 25/3 Mbps down/up and 100/20 Mbps down/up (the speed sufficient to download files quickly or stream multiple devices concurrently)

Education

San Jacinto County, Texas

High School Completion Rate
County: **84%**
Deep East Texas: **83%**
Texas Average: **85%**

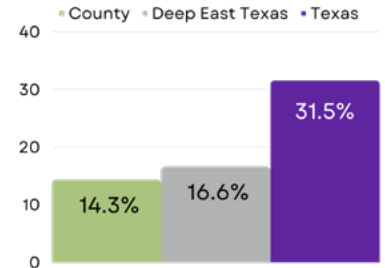
High School Graduates 2021
222

High School Graduates Enrolled in Higher Ed 2021
55

Community College Region:
Angelina College
Miles From County Seat to
Community College Partner: **61**
Miles from County Seat to SFASU: **87**

Child Care Availability
Child Care Seats: **304**
County Available Seats/1000 Residents: **11.0**
Deep East Texas Average Available Seats/1000 Residents: **24.2**

Adults With Bachelor's Degree



Health

Adults Who Are Obese
County: **39%**
Deep East Texas: **40%**
Texas Average: **36%**



Adults Who Smoke
County: **23%**
Deep East Texas: **24%**
Texas Average: **13%**



Ratio of Primary Care Physicians to Residents
County: **14,651:1**
Deep East Texas: **4,754:1**
Texas Average: **1,641:1**

Hospital Presence: None

Mental Health Care Services: Served by Burke Mental Health Services

Maternal Care Status: No Access

Maternal Care Status

No Access = No hospitals and birth centers offering obstetric care and no obstetricians.

Low Access = Fewer than two hospitals or birth centers and fewer than 60 obstetricians/10,000 births.

Full Access = Two or more hospitals and birth centers and 60 or more obstetricians/10,000 births.

Business and Industry

Coldspring Chamber of Commerce
100 Businesses

NO AIRPORT



Specialized Skills by Demand
1. Organizational Communications
2. AED Use
3. CPR

Top Industries by Number of Jobs
1. Local Government
2. Professional, Scientific and Technical Services
3. Food Service and Drinking Places

Top Industries by Earnings
1. Utilities
2. Rail Transportation
3. Machinery Manufacturing

Occupations by Job Openings
1. Home Health and Personal Care Aides
2. First-Line Supervisor of Retail Sales
3. Registered Nurses

County Strategies

Strategy 1

Establish alliances with industry leaders to **enhance skills and nurture business, ensuring a nimble workforce that aligns with market trends.** Harness Lake Livingston's natural beauty for economic growth through strategic tourism initiatives while nurturing local businesses and preserving community charm.

Strategy 2

Collaborate with state and private sectors to bolster the healthcare infrastructure in the county and **focus on community health initiatives for preventative care and healthy living.**

Strategy 3

Combat poverty and population decline by **launching economic empowerment programs, creating vibrant community spaces, and improving quality of life.** Foster unity and engagement through forums encouraging community dialogue, unity-building, and collaborative problem-solving.

Shelby County, Texas

County Profile

County Seat: Center

Strategic Priorities:

Strategic Planning, Economic Development, Collaboration, Responsibility and Change Management



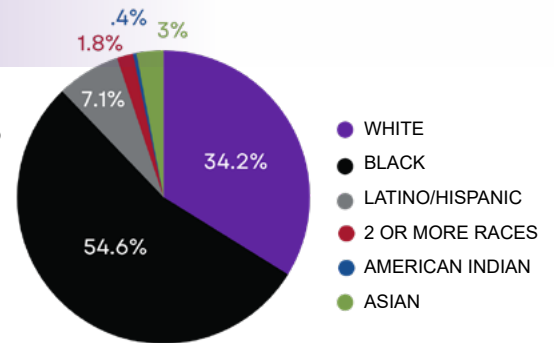
Demographics

2020 Population
23,550

Change Since 2010
-7%



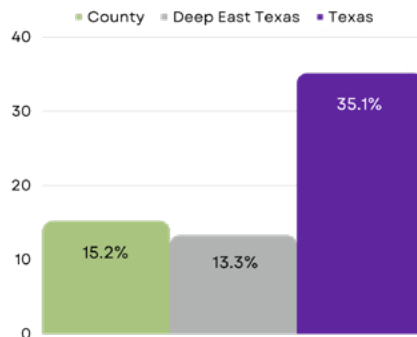
Racial Makeup of County



Median Age

County: **38.9**
Deep East Texas: **43.6**
Texas Average: **35**

Home Language Other Than English



Millennials

County: **17.7%**
Deep East Texas: **17.5%**
Texas Average: **24.7%**

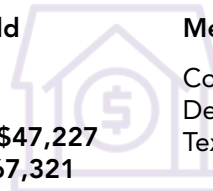
Retirement Eligible

County: **31.3%**
Deep East Texas: **33.5%**
Texas Average: **29.7%**

Income

Median Household Income

County: **\$44,504**
Deep East Texas: **\$47,227**
Texas Average: **\$67,321**



Median House Price

County: **\$87,200**
Deep East Texas: **\$108,275**
Texas Average: **\$202,600**

New Building Permits 2022

County: **1**
Deep East Texas
County Average: **150**



Broadband



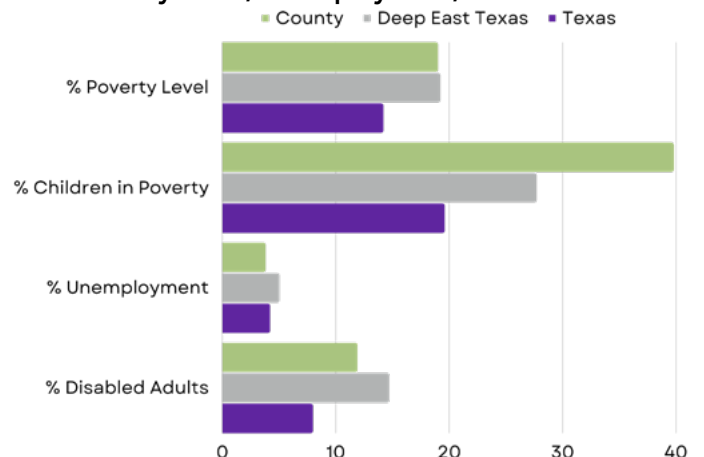
Unservd*

0%

Underserved**

73%

Poverty Level, Unemployment, Disabilities



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**Underserved Locations where max speed is between 25/3 Mbps down/up and 100/20 Mbps down/up (the speed sufficient to download files quickly or stream multiple devices concurrently)

Education

High School Completion Rate

County: **81%**
 Deep East Texas: **83%**
 Texas Average: **85%**

High School Graduates 2021

354

High School Graduates Enrolled in Higher Ed 2021

185

Community College Region:

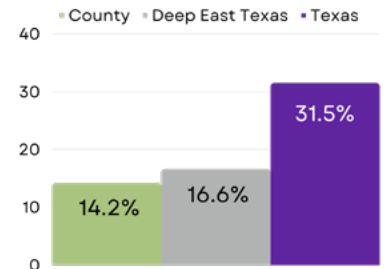
Angelina College
 Miles From County Seat to
 Community College Partner: **29**
 Miles From County Seat to SFASU: **35**

Child Care Availability

Child Care Seats: **281**
 County Available Seats/1000 Residents: **11.9**
 Deep East Texas Average Available Seats/1000 Residents: **24.2**

Shelby County, Texas

Adults With Bachelor's Degree



Health

Adults Who Are Obese

County: **41%**
 Deep East Texas: **40%**
 Texas Average: **36%**



Adults Who Smoke

County: **23%**
 Deep East Texas: **24%**
 Texas Average: **13%**



Ratio of Primary Care Physicians to Residents

County: **4,983:1**
 Deep East Texas: **4,754:1**
 Texas Average: **1,641:1**



Hospital Presence: **None**

Mental Health Care Services: Served by Burke Mental Health Services

Maternal Care Status: **Low Access**

Maternal Care Status

No Access = No hospitals and birth centers offering obstetric care and no obstetricians.
Low Access = Fewer than two hospitals or birth centers and fewer than 60 obstetricians/10,000 births.
Full Access = Two or more hospitals and birth centers and 60 or more obstetricians/10,000 births.

Business and Industry

Shelby County Chamber of Commerce

385 Businesses

Center Municipal Airport

34 Airport Operations/Day



Specialized Skills by Demand

1. Nursing
2. Medicaid
3. Medicare

Top Industries by Number of Jobs

1. Local Government
2. Food Manufacturing
3. Support for Mining

Top Industries by Earnings

1. Support for Transportation
2. Pipeline Transportation
3. Oil and Gas Extraction

Occupations by Job Openings

1. Registered Nurses
2. Medical Scientists
3. Post-Secondary Teachers

County Strategies

Strategy 1

Develop a comprehensive plan for addressing the county's needs, fostering a vision for economic development.

Strategy 2

Encourage collaboration and information sharing among various sectors, breaking silos, and promoting unity.

Strategy 3

Cultivate a culture of responsibility and willingness to change, encouraging communities to actively participate in shaping a brighter future.

Trinity County, Texas

County Profile

County Seat: Groveton

Strategic Priorities:
Unified Development, Education,
Healthcare, and Water Supply



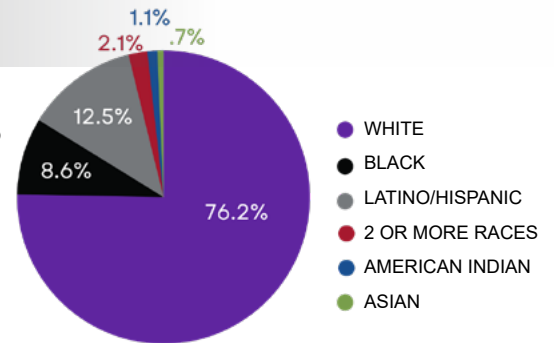
Demographics

2020 Population
13,654



Change Since 2010
-6%

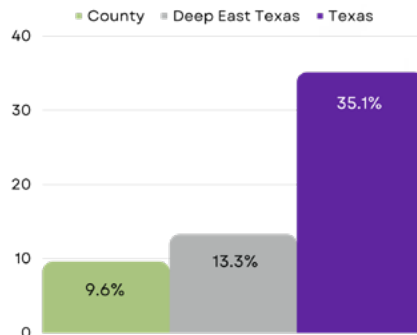
Racial Makeup
of County



Median Age

County: **49.3**
Deep East Texas: **43.6**
Texas Average: **35**

Home Language Other Than English



Millennials

County: **14.7%**
Deep East Texas: **17.5%**
Texas Average: **24.7%**

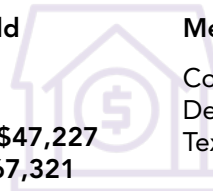
Retirement Eligible

County: **43.5%**
Deep East Texas: **33.5%**
Texas Average: **29.7%**

Income

Median Household
Income

County: **\$45,392**
Deep East Texas: **\$47,227**
Texas Average: **\$67,321**



Median House Price

County: **\$92,500**
Deep East Texas: **\$108,275**
Texas Average: **\$202,600**

New Building
Permits 2022



County: **4**
Deep East Texas
County Average: **150**

Broadband



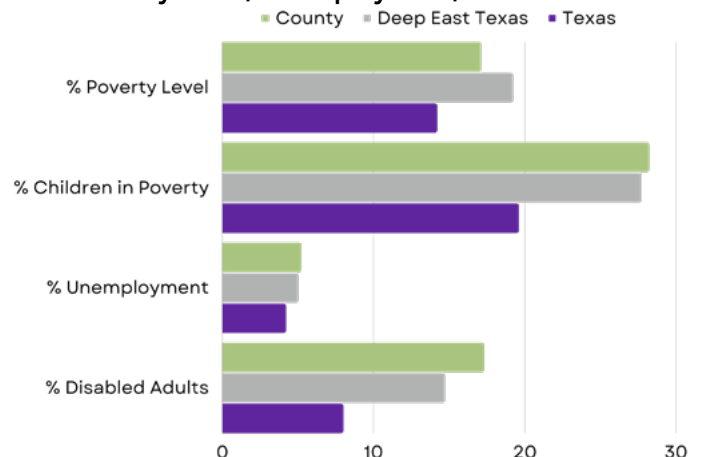
Unservd*

6%

Underserved**

84%

Poverty Level, Unemployment, Disabilities



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Education

Trinity County, Texas

High School Completion Rate

County: **84%**

Deep East Texas: **83%**

Texas Average: **85%**

High School Graduates 2021

132

High School Graduates

Enrolled in Higher Ed 2021

49

Community College Region:

Angelina College

Miles From County Seat to

Community College Partner: **55**

Miles From County Seat to SFASU: **73**

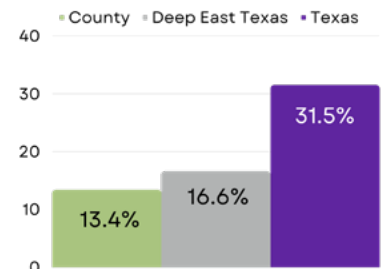
Child Care Availability

Child Care Seats: **180**

County Available Seats/1000 Residents: **13.2**

Deep East Texas Average Available Seats/1000 Residents: **24.2**

Adults With Bachelor's Degree



Health

Adults Who Are Obese

County: **41%**

Deep East Texas: **40%**

Texas Average: **36%**



Adults Who Smoke

County: **24%**

Deep East Texas: **24%**

Texas Average: **13%**



Ratio of Primary Care Physicians to Residents

County: **7,442:1**

Deep East Texas: **4,754:1**

Texas Average: **1,641:1**

Hospital Presence: Served by MidCoast Medical Center - Trinity (45 beds)

Mental Health Care Services: Served by Burke Mental Health Services

Maternal Care Status: **No Access**

Maternal Care Status

No Access = No hospitals and birth centers offering obstetric care and no obstetricians.

Low Access = Fewer than two hospitals or birth centers and fewer than 60 obstetricians/10,000 births.

Full Access = Two or more hospitals and birth centers and 60 or more obstetricians/10,000 births.

Business and Industry

Trinity County Chamber of Commerce

Groveton-Trinity County Airport

7 Airport Operations/Day

Specialized Skills by Demand

1. Merchandising
2. Restaurant Operations
3. Housekeeping

Top Industries by Number of Jobs

1. Local Government
2. Religious, Civic and Similar Organizations
3. Food Service and Drinking Places

Top Industries by Earnings

1. Utilities
2. Forestry and Logging
3. Fabricated Metal Products

Occupations by Job Openings

1. First-Line Supervisors of Retail
2. Customer Service Representatives
3. Home Health and Personal Care Aides

County Strategies

Strategy 1

Develop a unified county development plan fostering a growth mindset among communities.

Strategy 2

Enhance workforce development through CTE programs and educational initiatives and strengthen healthcare systems by encouraging partnerships and investment in healthcare facilities.

Strategy 3

Launch initiatives to safeguard water supply systems and promote water conservation.

Tyler County, Texas

County Profile

County Seat: Woodville

Strategic Priorities:

Workforce Development/CTE/Career Pathways, Broadband, Family-Centric Activities, Redevelopment

County Features:

Home of Big Thicket National Preserve



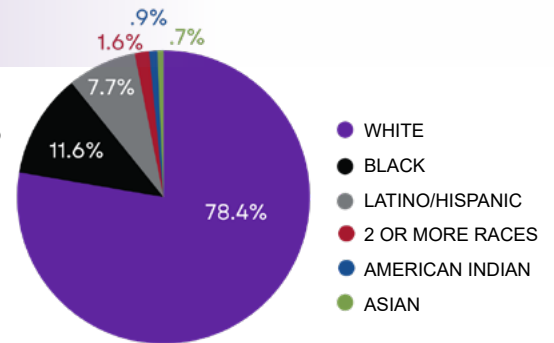
Demographics

2020 Population
20,077

Change Since 2010
-8%



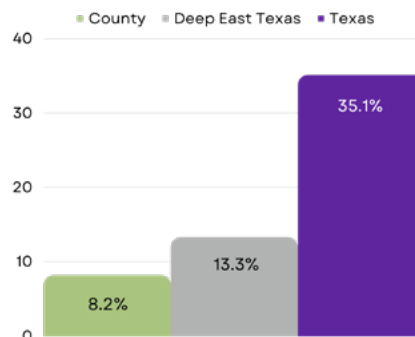
Racial Makeup of County



Median Age

County: **42.6**
Deep East Texas: **43.6**
Texas Average: **35**

Home Language Other Than English



Millennials

County: **19.0%**
Deep East Texas: **17.5%**
Texas Average: **24.7%**

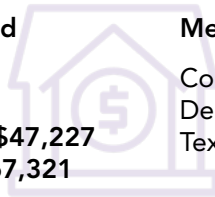
Retirement Eligible

County: **36.5%**
Deep East Texas: **33.5%**
Texas Average: **29.7%**

Income

Median Household Income

County: **\$49,130**
Deep East Texas: **\$47,227**
Texas Average: **\$67,321**



Median House Price

County: **\$108,900**
Deep East Texas: **\$108,275**
Texas Average: **\$202,600**

New Building Permits 2022

County: **4**
Deep East Texas
County Average: **150**



Broadband



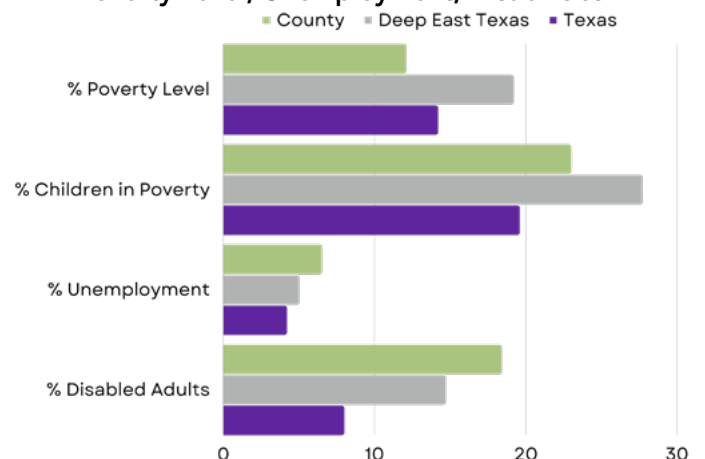
Unserved*

0%

Underserved**

47%

Poverty Level, Unemployment, Disabilities



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**Underserved Locations where max speed is between 25/3 Mbps down/up and 100/20 Mbps down/up (the speed sufficient to download files quickly or stream multiple devices concurrently)

Education

High School Completion Rate

County: **81%**
 Deep East Texas: **83%**
 Texas Average: **85%**

High School Graduates 2021

180

High School Graduates Enrolled in Higher Ed 2021

72

Community College Region:

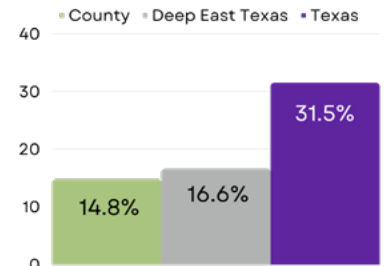
Angelina College
 Miles From County Seat to
 Community College Partner: **52**
 Miles From County Seat to SFASU: **71**

Child Care Availability

Child Care Seats: **173**
 County Available Seats/1000 Residents: **8.6**
 Deep East Texas Average Available Seats/1000 Residents: **24.2**

Tyler County, Texas

Adults With Bachelor's Degree



Health

Adults Who Are Obese

County: **35%**
 Deep East Texas: **40%**
 Texas Average: **36%**



Adults Who Smoke

County: **24%**
 Deep East Texas: **24%**
 Texas Average: **13%**



Ratio of Primary Care Physicians to Residents

County: **5,398:1**
 Deep East Texas: **4,754:1**
 Texas Average: **1,641:1**

Hospital Presence: Served by Tyler County Hospital (49 beds)

Mental Health Care Services: Served by Burke Mental Health Services

Maternal Care Status: **No Access**

Maternal Care Status

No Access = No hospitals and birth centers offering obstetric care and no obstetricians.

Low Access = Fewer than two hospitals or birth centers and fewer than 60 obstetricians/10,000 births.

Full Access = Two or more hospitals and birth centers and 60 or more obstetricians/10,000 births.

Business and Industry

Tyler County Chamber of Commerce

113 Businesses

Tyler County Airport

3 Airport Operations/Day

Specialized Skills by Demand

1. Accounting
2. Business Valuation
3. Merchandising

Top Industries by Number of Jobs

1. Local Government
2. State Government
3. Food Service and Drinking Places

Top Industries by Earnings

1. Oil and Gas Extraction
2. Utilities
3. Rail Transportation

Occupations by Job Openings

1. Home Health and Personal Care Aides
2. First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers
3. Software Developers

County Strategies

Strategy 1

Strengthen workforce development by partnering with educational institutions for CTE programs meeting market needs by **creating educational pathways promoting continuous skill enhancement, and cultivating a versatile workforce** driving growth across sectors.

Strategy 2

Develop and promote family-friendly activities and venues by creating recreational spaces, the organization of community events, and establishment of centers that offer programs fostering family well-being and cohesion.

Strategy 3

Launch a revitalization initiative targeting underutilized commercial spaces and areas with high business potential. This initiative should aim to attract private investments coupled with incentives to create a business-friendly ecosystem.

What's Next?

The role of the SFASU- Center for Applied Research and Rural Innovation is to be a catalyst for rural economic development. The FREDs have provided a springboard from which we can begin to formulate plans to improve the economic development capacity of our region's counties. Our next steps will involve a second series of conversations with our counties. Slated to begin in early 2024 we will convene gatherings with our rural counties. Building on existing and new partnerships we wish to engage in discussions for moving forward with goals and objectives.

SFASU and the Economic Development Administration have made significant investments to support our region. Over the next 5 years funding in the amount \$ 6,000,000 designated for construction, programming and technical assistance.

Our next steps include:

- The renovations and opening of the physical location which will house the Center for Applied Research and Rural Innovation
- The designation of University Center by the Economic Development Administration focused on providing technical assistance, tools, resources, technology, and data analysis
- Funding to support staffing, consultation, convening of stakeholders and capacity building programs

Realized benefits will include:

- Site Selection and marketing tool kits
- Comprehensive virtual Economic Resiliency center
- Annual infrastructure needs analysis
- Workforce training for the jobs of the future
- A streamlined communication process and up to date, relevant information
- A regional resource guide to aide in business attraction, retention and expansion
- Formation of a Regional Economic Development Alliance serving Deep East Texas
- Staffing resources to carry out the work of our plan
- Access to University resources and research opportunities

As a resource hub, CARRI recognizes the need for innovation and use of technology to advance the region. Our aim is to coordinate, design, and leverage university programming to strengthen and enhance the capacity of the Deep East Texas economic development region to market and attract new business while working with our partners to educate, train and retain talent.



Acknowledgments

Special thanks to our partners and supporters, county residents, and other contributors to the 2023 Forum for Rural Economic Development series.

Contributors

Kelly Hall and Dave Jochum, consultants and creators of the regional plan and facilitators of the forum sessions; Dr. Mikhail Kouliavtsev, director of the Center for Business and Economic Research in SFASU's Rusche College of Business; Nancy Windham, CEO of Texas Forestry Partnership; and Connie Casson, CEO of Blue Seats Consulting.

Legislators

Thank you to the Deep East Texas Legislative Delegation for participating in our county forums and for recognizing the importance and value of rural economic development. We appreciate your advocacy and support.

State Sen. Robert Nichols
State Rep. Trent Ashby
State Rep. Ernest Bailes
State Rep. Travis Clardy
State Rep. Dade Phelan, Speaker of the House

U.S. Sen. John Cornyn
U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz
U.S. Rep. Brian Babin
U.S. Rep. Morgan Luttrell
U.S. Rep. Nathaniel Moran
U.S. Rep. Pete Sessions

Strategic Partners

Texas Forest Country Partnership
Deep East Texas Workforce Solutions
Deep East Texas Council of Governments
T.L.L. Temple Foundation
Rusche College of Business Center for Business and Economic Research
Stephen F. Austin State University Office of Academic Affairs
Stephen F. Austin State University-Office of the President
Participating Residents of the 12-County Deep East Texas Region

Sources

[2020 Census - Demographic Profile](#)
[American Hospital Directory](#)
[Texas Broadband Development Office](#)
[Texas Health and Human Services](#)
[Texas A&M University Real Estate Research Center](#)
[Texas Parks & Wildlife](#)
[AirNav.com](#)





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