

Texas Broadband Development Office Begins Work

In the 87th Texas Legislature, House Bill 5 by Representative Trent Ashby established the Texas Broadband Development Office (BDO). (The bill was sponsored in the Senate by Senator Robert Nichols.) In accordance with the legislation, the BDO will tackle several projects:

- creating an accurate broadband map of eligible vs. ineligible areas for financial assistance.
- establishing a long-term statewide plan that addresses strategies and goals for expanding access to and further adoption of broadband service.
- awarding grants or other financial instruments to meet the goals of the plan.
- setting the effective threshold speed for broadband service (25 megabits per second (Mbps) download/3 Mbps upload).
- engaging in outreach to communities regarding the expansion.
- addressing barriers for future expansion efforts.

BDO has announced that Ernst & Young was selected to carry out the duties needed to develop the broadband plan for the state of Texas mandated by HB 5. Ernst & Young will assist BDO staff in conducting public meetings around the state and collecting data to develop the eventual blueprint for closing the digital divide in Texas.

To learn more, visit the Texas Broadband Development Office website at BroadbandForTexas.com.