Texas State Library and Archives Commission

Legislative Report — Broadband Stimulus

Texas State Library and Archives Commission

Peggy D. Rudd, Director and Librarian
(512) 463-5460 • prudd@tsl.state.tx.us

Brent Byler, Intergovernmental Relations
(512) 608-1609 • bbyler@tsl.state.tx.us

Denise Hendlmyer, BTOP/PCC Grants Coordinator
(512) 463-2214 • dhendlmyer@tsl.state.tx.us

Introduction

In the 21st century, digital literacy is an imperative for anyone hoping to achieve his or her educational, earning or quality-of-life potential. To bridge the digital divide, the Texas State Library and Archives Commission is coordinating an ambitious initiative to reach new or underserved computer users in traditional and non-traditional settings. Texans, especially those in rural areas, will benefit directly from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act broadband grants by receiving increased access to broadband and therefore, better access to resources that support education, employment and self-sufficiency.

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Connecting Texas: Filling the broadband gap

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 was enacted to stimulate job creation and long-term economic growth. ARRA includes the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program, which is administered by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration in the U.S. Department of Commerce and provides grants for "deploying broadband infrastructure in unserved and underserved areas of the United States, enhancing broadband capacity at public computer centers and promoting sustainable broadband adoption projects."

The Broadband Initiatives Program, administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, has a similar purpose, with a focus on rural America. Congress appropriated $7.2 billion for distribution under both of these broadband programs, in the following categories:

- Comprehensive community infrastructure (middle- and last-mile[1])
- Public computer centers
- Sustainable broadband adoption
- State broadband data collection and development.

Creating the necessary infrastructure and providing new or enhanced broadband access will result in additional jobs, increased investment in technology and infrastructure and other long-term economic benefits across the nation, in communities large and small.

NTIA has provided grants to fund comprehensive broadband infrastructure projects, public computer centers and sustainable broadband adoption projects via its Broadband Technology Opportunities Program. It also has funded the creation of a national map to track broadband service capability and availability. (www.broadbandmap.gov)

The Texas State Library and Archives Commission led a consortium of 39 libraries to seek BTOP funding for the Technology Expertise, Access and Learning for All Texans Project (TEAL) to improve broadband access statewide, encourage lifelong learning, provide workforce skills development and support vulnerable populations in underserved regions of the state. NTIA awarded the TEAL project almost $8 million, and project partners provided $3.7 million in matching funds, for a total project cost of nearly $12 million. Even the smallest libraries in this multimillion-dollar project have big ideas for serving their communities, and improved broadband is key!

TEAL is using federal stimulus funds to upgrade 125 existing computer centers and to create 30 new computer centers and mobile computer labs. The 155 public computer centers will be located at 114 library buildings, 10 community college sites, 30 senior and youth centers and one K-12 school. The project will make an additional 2,058 computer workstations available for public use in Texas.

The purpose of this report is to identify all libraries and educational and community service institutions in Texas that benefited from federal broadband stimulus funds, to describe the scope of each broadband project and to gauge the total benefit for Texans.

Public libraries have always provided vital services to communities all across the country, but never more so than during the current economic downturn. For people who are searching for a job, preparing a resume, gaining or

1. Middle mile: projects designed to connect directly to community anchor institutions, administered through the USDA's Broadband Initiatives Program and the NTIA's Broadband Technology Opportunities Program.

Last mile: providing service to the end user in rural communities, administered through the BIP.
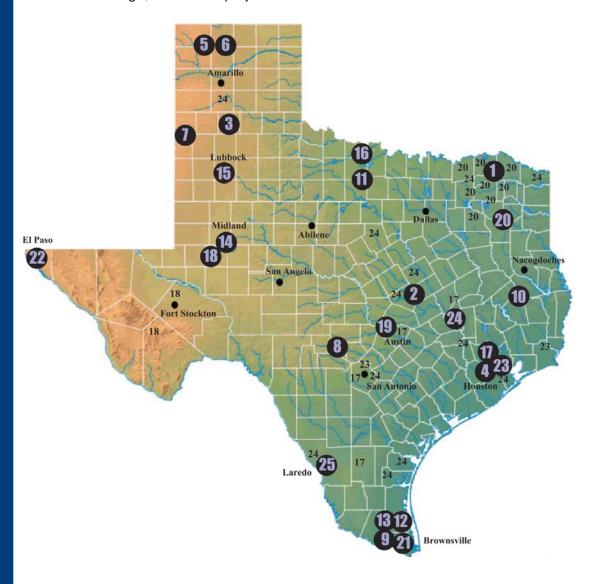
enhancing computer skills or applying for a job online, the public library is more important than ever. While almost all public libraries have public computers with Internet access, the adequacy of computers, network equipment and broadband connections varies widely, and libraries face significant challenges to their ability to meet the needs of their communities.

Federal broadband stimulus funds provided under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 are changing this picture and helping public libraries, frequently led by state library agencies, to overcome barriers and achieve robust Internet access to support economic development, workforce skills enhancement, formal education and lifelong learning, and paths to citizenship and civic engagement.

Texas projects map

PROJECT TYPE	TOTAL	AMOUNT
Public computer center	6	$31,910,533
Infrastructure	22	$202,595,713
Sustainable broadband adoption	4	$2,015,025
Mapping and planning	2	$8,026,500
Total	34	$244,544,771*

* Excludes large, multi-state projects

Texas projects map key

NO.	GRANTEE	AMOUNT	LOCATION
1	Blossom Telephone Co.	$1,944,373	Blossom
2	Electronic Corporate Pages Inc.	$1,306,376	Central Texas
3	Mid-Plains Rural Telephone Cooperative Inc.	$1,388,000	Tulia
4	Windstream Corp.	$1,613,509	Sugarland
5	XIT Rural Telephone Cooperative Inc.	$3,065,440	Dalhart & Stratford
6	XIT Rural Telephone Cooperative Inc.	$2,112,950	Texas Panhandle
7	Five Area Telephone Cooperative Inc.	$2,454,223	Bledsoe, Bula, Clays, Corner, Lazbuddie, Maple & Needmore
8	Hill Country Telephone Cooperative Inc.	$8,563,952	Ingram
9	ATSI Communications Inc.	$416,588	Progreso
10	Telecom Cable LLC	$634,050	Corrigan & Western Lakes
11	Medicine Park Telephone Co.	$132,645	Okla. & Scotland
12	Valley Telephone Cooperative Inc.	$38,520,868	South Texas Plains
13	Valley Telephone Cooperative Inc.	$15,697,856	Rio Grande Valley
14	Wes-Tex Telephone Cooperative Inc.	$16,891,875	Rural West Texas
15	PRIDE Network Inc.	$21,829,549	South Texas Plains
16	PRIDE Network Inc.	$6,309,931	Burkburnett & Iowa Park
17	Texas Connects Coalition (formerly Technology for All)	$9,588,279	Statewide & Houston
18	Region 18 Education Service Center	$11,946,728	Midland, Alpine & Fort Stockton
19	Texas State Library and Archives Commission	$7,955,941	Statewide
20	Peoples Telephone Cooperative Inc.	$28,825,356	12 East Texas counties
21	City of Brownsville	$865,920	Brownsville
22	City of El Paso	$8,395,752	El Paso
23	Mexican Institute of Greater Houston Inc.	$2,015,025	Houston
24	Texas A&M University System	$6,550,775	College Station
25	Mission Economic Development Agency	$3,724,128	Laredo

Non-mapped projects

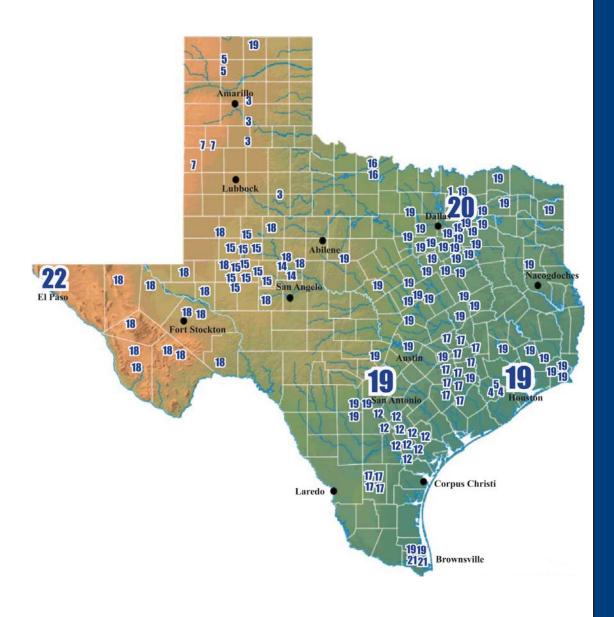For proprietary reasons, nine projects are not included on the Texas project map.

NO.	GRANTEE	AMOUNT	LOCATION
26	Connected Nation –Texas	$8,026,000	Statewide
27	Deaf Action Center of Louisiana	$1,380,513	Shreveport, La. & East Texas
28	ENMR Telephone Cooperative Inc.	$11,252,066	East N.M. & West Texas
29	ENMR Telephone Cooperative Inc.	$16,460,815	East N.M. & West Texas
30	Level 3 Eon LLC	$4,677,788	West Texas
31	Communication Service for the Deaf Inc.	$14,988,657*	Nationwide
32	One Economy Corp.	$28,519,482*	31 states & Washington, D.C.
33	Portland State University	$3,318,031*	South Texas
34	University Corp. for Advanced Internet Development	$62,540,162*	Nationwide

* Interstate project; not included in Texas funding total

Texas libraries & institutions benefiting from BIP & BTOP projects

Numbers correspond to the list starting on page 8.

The four larger numbers also represent 14 libraries and institutions in the El Paso area, 20 east of Dallas, 26 in the San Antonio region and 87 around Houston.

Libraries & institutions map key

Though only 22 projects are listed directly on the page 7 map, the following list contains all 34 BIP- and BTOP-funded projects with direct or indirect impact on libraries and related public institutions in Texas. In some cases, specific library impact information was not yet available.

NO.	GRANTEE	LIBRARIES & INSTITUTIONS	TYPE
1	**Blossom Telephone Co.**	Paris Public Library	MM
2	**Electronic Corporate Pages Inc.**	Libraries not specified	LM
3	**Mid-Plains Rural Telephone Cooperative Inc.**	Canyon Area Library Claude Public Library Rhoads Library, Dimmitt Swisher County Library, Tulia	MM
4	**Windstream Corp.**	Fort Colony Branch Library, Sugar Land Sugar Land Branch Library	LM
5	**XIT Rural Telephone Cooperative Inc.**	Dallam-Hartley County Library, Dalhart Mamie George Branch Library, Stafford	LM
6	**XIT Rural Telephone Cooperative Inc.**	Indirect impact to libraries	LM
7	**Five Area Telephone Cooperative Inc.**	Cochran County Love Memorial Library, Morton Friona Public Library Muleshoe Public Library	LM
8	**Hill Country Telephone Cooperative Inc.**	Indirect impact to libraries	LM
9	**ATSI Communications Inc.**	Indirect impact to libraries	LM
10	**Telecom Cable**	Indirect impact to libraries	LM
11	**Medicine Park Telephone Co.**	Indirect impact to libraries	MM
12	**Valley Telephone Cooperative Inc.**	Charlotte Public Library Dilley Public Library Ed Rachal Memorial Library, Falfurrias Jourdanton Community Library La Feria Public Library Live Oak County Library, George West Orange Grove School/Public Library, Alice Premont Community Library, Alice Reber Memorial Library, Raymondville	LM

KEY

BDD = Broadband data and development

CCI = comprehensive community infrastructure

LM = last mile

MM = middle mile

NM = non-remote

PCC = public computer centers

SA = sustainable broadband adoption

WiMAX = Worldwide Interoperability for Microwave Access

NO.	GRANTEE	LIBRARIES & INSTITUTIONS	TYPE
13	**Valley Telephone Cooperative Inc.**	Rio Grande Valley colleges & universities; libraries not specified	MM
14	**Wes-Tex Telephone Cooperative Inc.**	Howard County Library, Big Spring Martin County Library, Stanton	LM
15	**PRIDE Network Inc.**	Abernathy Public Library Dawson County Public Library, Lamesa Hale Center Public Library Kendrick Memorial Library, Brownfield Lamb County Library, Littlefield Lubbock Public Library Slaton City Library Sundown Branch Library Unger Memorial Library, Plainview City of Wolfforth Public Memorial Library	LM
16	**PRIDE Network Inc.**	Burkburnett Library Tom Burnett Memorial Library, Iowa Park	LM

17	**Texas Connects Coalition (formerly Technology for All)**	Bastrop Public Library
		Bryan + College Station Public Library System
		Buffalo Public Library
		Duval County/San Diego Public Library
		    Duval County/Freer
		    Duval County/Benavides
		Madison County Library, Madisonville
		Navasota Public Library
		Normangee Public Library
		Nancy Carole Roberts Memorial Library, Brenham
		Robertson County Library, Franklin
		Smith-Welch Memorial Library, Hearne
		Elmer P. & Jewel Ward Memorial Library, Centerville
		Harrie P. Woodson Memorial Library, Caldwell
			PCC

18	**Region 18 Education Service Center**	Alpine Public Library Andrews County Library Crane County Library Ector County Library, Odessa Fort Stockton Public Library Howard County Library, Big Spring Imperial Public Library Jeff Davis County Library, Fort Davis Marfa Public Library Martin County Library, Stanton Midland County Public Library City of Presidio Library Rankin Public Library Reagan County Library, Big Lake Reeves County Library, Pecos Terrell County Public Library, Sanderson Upton County Public Library, McCamey Van Horn City County Library, Culberson Winkler County Library, Kermit	MM

NO.	GRANTEE	LIBRARIES & INSTITUTIONS	TYPE
19	**Texas State Library and Archives Commission**	Arlington Public Library System/George W. Hawkes Central Library	PCC
		East Arlington Library	
		Lake Arlington Library	
		Northeast Library	
		Southeast Library	
		Southwest Library	
		Woodland West Library	
		Hugh Smith Recreation Center	
		Atlanta Public Library	
		Castroville Public Library	
		Coleman Public Library	
		Jennie Trent Dew Library, Goldthwaite	
		Eagle Pass Public Library	
		Eagle Pass Children's Library	
		Elgin Public Library	
		Gatesville Public Library	
		Gilbreath Memorial Library, Winnsboro	
		Claud H. Gilmer Memorial Library, Rocksprings	
		W. Walworth Harrison Public Library, Greenville	
		Harris County Public Library, Houston	
		Crosby Library	
		Evelyn Meador Library, Seabrook	
		Fairbanks Library	
		Galena Park Library	
		Jacinto City Library	
		Katy Library	
		South Houston Library	
		Stratford Library, Highlands	
		West University Library	
		Hewitt Public Library	
		Hidalgo Public Library	
		Houston Public Library	
		Acres Homes Multi-Service Center	
		Carverdale (C.L. Cora) Community Center	
		Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Research	
		Clinton Park Community Center	
		Collier Regional Library	
		Denver Harbor (Selena) Multi-Service Center	
		De Zavala Community Center	
		Dixon Library	
		Eastwood Community Center	
		Emancipation Community Center	
		Fifth Ward Library	
		Fifth Ward Multi-Service Center	
		Finnigan Park Community Center	
		Flores Library	
		Frank Library	
		Freed-Montrose Library	
		Heights Library	
		Henington-Alief Regional Library	
		Houston Community College Central Library	
		Houston Community College Central – South Campus	
		Houston Community College NE–Codwell	
		Houston Community College NE–Northline	
		Houston Community College NE–Pinemont	
		Houston Community College NW–Spring Branch	

NO.	GRANTEE	LIBRARIES & INSTITUTIONS	TYPE

19	**Texas State Library and Archives Commission** (continued)	Houston Community College SE Library	
		Houston Community College SW–Alief	
		Houston Community College SW–Stafford	
		Houston Community College SW–West Loop	
		Houston Metropolitan Research Center	
		HPL Discovery Green Library	
		HPL Southwest Express	
		Independence Heights Community Center	
		Johnson Library	
		Jungman Library	
		Kashmere Multi-Service Center	
		Kendall Library	
		Lakewood Library	
		Lakewood Community Center	
		Lincoln Community Center	
		Looscan Library	
		Magnolia Multi-Service Center	
		Mancuso Library	
		Mason Community Center	
		McCrane-Kashmere Gardens Library	
		McGovern-Stella Link Library	
		Melcher Library	
		Meyer Library	
		Moody Library	
		Northeast Multi-Service Center	
		Oak Forest Library	
		Park Place Regional Library	
		Pleasantville Library	
		Ring Library	
		Robinson-Westchase Library	
		Scenic Woods Regional Library	
		Shady Lane Community Center	
		Smith Library	
		South Post Oak Multi-Service Center	
		Southwest Multi-Service Center	
		Stanaker Library	
		Stimley-Blue Ridge Library	
		Sunnyside Multi-Service Center	
		Third Ward Multi-Service Center	
		Tuffly Community Center	
		Tuttle Library	
		Vinson Library	
		Walter Library	
		West End Multi-Service Center	
		Young Library	
		Huntsville Public Library	
		Lancaster Veterans Memorial Library	
		Senior Life Center, Lancaster	
		The Library at Cedar Creek Lake, Seven Points	
		Maffett Memorial Library, Groesbeck	
		McNair Library, Baytown	
		Palestine Public Library	
		Pasadena Public Library	
		Port Arthur Public Library	
		Port Isabel Public Library	
		Sachse Public Library	
		Salado Public Library District	

NO.	GRANTEE	LIBRARIES & INSTITUTIONS	TYPE
19	**Texas State Library and Archives Commission** (continued)	San Antonio Central Library Bazan Library Carver Library Collins Garden Library Antonio Cortez Library Forest Hills Library Great Northwest Library Avenida Guadalupe Assn. – Margarita R. Huantes Community Family Resource & Learning Center Avenida Guadalupe Association Inc. – Plaza Computer Center Sterling Municipal Library, Baytown Smithville Public Library Valley Mills Public Library Val Verde County Library, Del Rio Bertha Voyer Memorial Library, Honey Grove Ethel L. Whipple Memorial Library, Los Fresnos White Settlement Public Library	
20	**Peoples Telephone Cooperative Inc.**	Allen Memorial Library, Hawkins Bullard Community Library Camp County Public Library, Pittsburg Delta County Public Library, Cooper Franklin County Library, Mount Vernon Gilbreath Memorial Library, Winnsboro Cameron J. Jarvis Troup Memorial Library Lindale Library Mineola Memorial Library Mount Pleasant Public Library Noonday Community Library, Tyler Quitman Public Library Paris Public Library Rains County Public Library, Emory Sulphur Springs Public Library Tyler Public Library Van Zandt County Library, Canton Bertha Voyer Public Library, Honey Grove W. Walworth Harrison Public Library, Greenville Whitehouse Community Library	MM
21	**City of Brownsville**	Brownsville Public Library Southmost Library	PCC
22	**City of El Paso**	El Paso Public Library El Paso Library, Teen Town Esperanza Acosta Moreno Regional Library Armijo Library Richard Burges Regional Library José Cisneros Cielo Vista Library Dorris Van Doren Regional Library Clardy Fox Library Judge Edward S. Marquez Mission Valley Library Memorial Park Library Irving Schwartz Library Jenna Welch and Laura Bush Community Library Westside Library Ysleta Library	PCC

NO.	GRANTEE	LIBRARIES & INSTITUTIONS	TYPE
23	**Mexican Institute of Greater Houston Inc.**	Libraries not specified	SA
24	**Texas A&M University System**	Libraries not specified	MM
25	**Mission Economic Development Authority**	Laredo public computer center	PCC
26	**Connected Nation –Texas**	Mapping project	BDD
27	**Deaf Action Center of Louisiana**	Libraries not specified	PCC
28	**ENMR Telephone Cooperative Inc.**	Indirect support	MM
29	**ENMR Telephone Cooperative Inc.**	Middle-mile project; indirect library support	MM
30	**Level 3 Eon LLC**	Middle-mile project; indirect library support	LM
31	**Communication Service for the Deaf Inc.**	Libraries not specified	SA
32	**One Economy Corp.**	Multi-state project	SA
33	**Portland State University**	South Texas College	SA
34	**University Corp. for Advanced Internet Development**	Libraries not specified	MM

Project descriptions

Name: Blossom Telephone Co. **No. 1**

Project: Red River Broadband Expansion

Type: BIP Round 2, Middle Mile **Amount: $1,944,373**

Description: The project provides 26.5 miles of middle-mile fiber and transmission facilities to enhance broadband services in Blossom, making it available to unserved/underserved customers in remote rural areas in northeast Texas. This middle-mile fiber will enable Fiber-to-the-Premises providers to deliver significantly greater bandwidth at a reasonable cost. By leveraging the middle-mile fiber with wireless, last-mile facilities, the project enables Blossom to provide affordable broadband service to households, businesses and critical community facilities lacking high-speed broadband service. Broadband service potential will exceed 5Mbps to all Blossom wireline customers upon completion. Wireless customers will be offered packages up to 3Mbps along the middle-mile route.

Name: Electronic Corporate Pages Inc. **No. 2**

Project: Central Texas Rural Wireless Expansion

Type: BIP Round 2, Last Mile **Amount: $1,306,376**

Description: Electronic Corporate Pages Inc., in business since 1995, is building a network to serve a significant rural area that is sparsely populated and neglected. This project will offer more than 3Mbps in aggregate (upstream and downstream) to an area with an average household density of 10 per square mile. Using the latest in available backhaul technology and proven network management systems, ECPI is building a solid and reliable network for Central Texas.

Name: Mid-Plains Rural Telephone Cooperative Inc. **No. 3**

Project: Rural Texas Panhandle Mid-Plains

Type: BIP Round 2, Last Mile **Amount: $1,388,000**

Description: Mid-Plains is providing Fiber-to-the-Premises connectivity to customers in six rural areas covering 227 square miles in the central Texas Panhandle area, including Armstrong, Briscoe, Randall and Swisher counties. Many of the premises in these areas are at such a distance from the central office that Internet access speeds (using copper plant) are limited to subbroadband speeds and deemed unacceptable to our customer base. Fiber-to-the-Premises service offerings will give the highest-speed capabilities for current and future applications, support telephone service and allow an introduction of video offerings in the future. This project is extending full fiber capabilities to the most rural of establishments and giving them increased bandwidth comparable with any urban establishment.

Name: Windstream Corp. **No. 4**

Project: Windstream Sugar Land Inc.

Type: BIP Round 2, Last Mile **Amount: $1,613,509**

Description: Windstream provides digital phone, high-speed Internet and high-definition video and entertainment services to residential and business customers. In many of the rural areas it serves, the cost of broadband deployment is prohibitive. The grant allows Windstream to extend its broadband network to provide broadband to 1,250 homes and 139 businesses that otherwise could not enjoy the benefits of broadband. Windstream is using the same architecture, equipment vendors, technologies, processes and procedures it uses to provide broadband service to more than 1 million current customers, allowing rural customers to enjoy broadband at speeds of up to 12Mpbs.

Name: XIT Rural Telephone Cooperative Inc. **No. 5**

Project: XIT Rural Telephone Cooperative – FTTP & VDSL2 Combination

Type: BIP Round 1, Last Mile Non-remote **Amount: $3,065,440**

KEY

BIP = Broadband Initiatives Program

BTOP = Broadband Technology Opportunities Program

Middle Mile = Infrastructure link between "Internet backbone" data routes and last-mile connections

Last Mile = Connections to homes and businesses

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Description: XIT is deploying a combination of Fiber-to-the-Premises and Fiber-to-the-Node advanced DSL technology in two separate service areas in and around the communities of Dalhart and Stratford, using a combination of existing fiber and copper infrastructure to deploy advanced DSL service and new fiber infrastructure to deploy FTTP service.

Name: XIT Rural Telephone Cooperative Inc.	No. 6
Project: XIT Rural Telephone Cooperative – Round 2 Rural FTTP	
Type: BIP Round 2, Last Mile	Amount: $2,112,950

Description: XIT is deploying Fiber-to-the-Premises to multiple locations within its existing service area in the Northwest Texas panhandle, building fiber to connect homes and businesses in these areas to XIT's existing broadband and voice network.

Name: Five Area Telephone Cooperative Inc.	No. 7
Project: West Texas Broadband Infrastructure Development to Support Internet Adoption	
Type: BIP Round 2, Last Mile	Amount: $2,454,223

Description: Five Area is providing broadband service to 87 households and 408 businesses in the towns of Bledsoe, Bula, Clays Corner, Lazbuddie, Maple and Needmore in the rural west Texas counties of Bailey, Cochran and Parmer via a Fiber-to-the-Premise network.

Name: Hill Country Telephone Cooperative Inc.	No. 8
Project: Project Rural Connect	
Type: BIP Round 2, Last Mile	Amount: $8,563,952

Description: This project expands fiber optic facilities throughout the most rural of HCTC's 15 telephone exchange areas. The deployed architecture is a mix of Fiber-to-the-Premise and Fiber-to-the-Node with dramatically shortened copper loops, enabling downloads up to 20Mbps on retained copper and up to gigabit Ethernet on fiber.

Name: ATSI Communications Inc.	No. 9
Project: South Texas Broadband Technology Progreso	
Type: BIP Round 2, Last Mile	Amount: $416,588

Description: ATSI is building out a wireline network infrastructure allowing it to provide last-mile service of up to 6Mbps to subscribers in the underserved area of Progreso.

Name: Telecom Cable LLC	No. 10
Project: Last-mile Remote/Rural Telecom Cable	
Type: BIP Round 2, Last Mile	Amount: $634,050

Description: Telecom is increasing bandwidth capacity and providing broadband to the rural areas of Corrigan and Weston Lakes, using a combination of in-house and contract labor to engineer and construct the Last Mile.

Name: Medicine Park Telephone Co.	No. 11
Project: Sterling, Okla. to Scotland, Texas Rural Fiber Optic Route	
Type: BIP Round 2, Last Mile	Amount: $132,645

Description: Medicine Park is installing a 70-mile fiber transport network between Sterling, Okla., and Scotland, Texas. This network passes through three communities, of which 100 percent are underserved and 32.1 percent are completely unserved, and provides high-speed fiber connections to two health clinics, three town halls, four fire departments and one library.

Name: Valley Telephone Cooperative Inc.   **No. 12**

Project: Southern Texas Broadband Infrastructure Development and Adoption

Type: BIP/BTOP Round 1, Last-mile Non-remote   **Amount: $38,520,868**

Description: Development of broadband infrastructure in un- and underserved rural areas of the South Texas plains.

Name: Valley Telephone Cooperative Inc.   **No. 13**

Project: Rio Grande Valley Fiber Optic Network

Type: BTOP Round 2, Middle-mile Non-remote   **Amount: $15,697,856**

Description: The Rio Grande Valley Fiber Optic Network is a public-private partnership deploying a new, 166-mile fiber network to help transform a region of southern Texas with chronically high unemployment, persistent poverty areas and a large percentage of disadvantaged and minority populations. Valley Telephone Cooperative's VTX Communications is connecting 23 anchor institutions affiliated with the higher-education community, significantly improving instruction, research, and health services in the region.

Name: Wes-Tex Telephone Cooperative Inc.   **No. 14**

Project: Wes-Tex: Western Texas Broadband Infrastructure Development

Type: BIP/BTOP Round 1, Last-mile Non-remote   **Amount: $16,891,875**

Description: Wes-Tex is developing broadband infrastructure to increase Internet availability levels and access speeds by providing advanced broadband services to 11 underserved communities in rural areas of western Texas.

Name: PRIDE Network Inc.   **No. 15**

Project: PRIDE Network (Texas South Plains)

Type: BIP Round 1, Last-mile Non-remote   **Amount: $21,829,549**

Description: PRIDE Network is constructing a Fiber-to-the-Premises telecommunications infrastructure with a WiMAX service-extension overlay that will bring advanced broadband services to rural communities in the South Plains region of Texas. The network will initially offer synchronous data speeds of 1 to 100 Mbps, with the ability to increase to even higher speeds to ensure the greatest broadband benefits possible.

Name: PRIDE Network Inc.   **No. 16**

Project: Pride Network: Burkburnett & Iowa Park, Texas

Type: BIP Round 1, Last-mile Non-remote   **Amount: $6,309,931**

Description: PRIDE Network is constructing a Fiber-to-the-Premises telecommunications infrastructure with a WiMAX service-extension overlay that will bring advanced broadband services to the rural communities of Burkburnett and Iowa Park. The network will initially offer synchronous data speeds of 1 to 100 Mbps, with the ability to increase to even higher speeds to ensure the greatest broadband benefits possible.

Name: Texas Connects Coalition *(formerly Technology for All)*   **No. 17**

Project: Texas Connects

Type: BTOP Round 2, Public Computer Centers   **Amount: $9,588,279**

Description: The Texas Connects Coalition is a comprehensive statewide initiative significantly expanding broadband public computer center capacity in communities across Texas, from large metropolitan areas to very remote rural areas. It is developing and sharing best-practice models, standard resources and an interactive communications network supporting centers and technology projects. The coalition is providing computer access, technical support, digital literacy, workforce

development and other services to low-income and vulnerable populations via more than 60 centers, including libraries, work force centers, public housing facilities and other community locations across southwest Texas, Houston, Austin, San Antonio, Duval County and small rural communities in the Brazos Valley.

Name: Region 18 Education Service Center	**No. 18**
Project: Connect Southwest Texas	
Type: BTOP Round 2, Middle-mile Infrastructure	**Amount: $11,946,728**

Description: Connect Southwest Texas is a collaborative public-private effort with five regional broadband service providers to deploy critical middle-mile infrastructure in 19 economically distressed counties in Southwest Texas. The open-access network will provide sustainable, robust broadband connectivity for residents, businesses, governments and public-safety and community anchors including medical providers, schools, colleges, libraries and economic development entities that have faced insufficient broadband connectivity and access speeds, making it difficult to provide critical educational, economic and medical services. Region 18's Connect Southwest Texas project is deploying new, high-speed middle-mile infrastructure across the area. It also will deploy or improve videoconferencing capabilities at local K-12 and higher-education institutions and work with the Texas Department of Public Safety to link its locations in Midland, Alpine and Fort Stockton to the new network.

Name: Texas State Library and Archives Commission	**No. 19**
Project: Technology Expertise, Access and Learning for All Texans (TEAL)	
Type: BTOP Round 2, Public Computer Centers	**Amount: $7,955,941**

Description: To improve broadband access, encourage lifelong learning, provide work force development and support vulnerable populations in underserved regions of the state, the Texas State Library and Archives Commission is adding or upgrading public computer centers at libraries, community colleges, public schools, recreation centers and health facilities across the state. TEAL targets youth groups, senior citizens and English-as-a-second-language residents in an area where more than 31 percent of the population speaks a language other than English at home. TEAL is also facilitating statewide training for library staffs to make computer centers more accessible to people with disabilities, as well as un- and underemployed, by assisting with job searches and applications, resumé writing and other aspects of job and career development.

Name: Peoples Telephone Cooperative Inc.	**No. 20**
Project: East Texas Medical and Educational Fiber Optic Network	
Type: BTOP Round 2, Middle-mile Infrastructure	**Amount: $28,825,356**

Description: The People's Telephone Cooperative is deploying broadband service to educational, healthcare and government organizations across an economically distressed 13-county area in eastern Texas. The project is connecting community anchor institutions, especially hospitals, in Camp, Delta, Fannin, Franklin, Hopkins, Hunt, Lamar, Rains, Red River, Smith, Titus, Van Zandt and Wood counties to one another and to the University of Texas Health Science Center at Tyler, which serves as the region's hub for medical care and education.

Name: City of Brownsville	**No. 21**
Project: Connect Brownsville	
Type: BTOP Round 2, Public Computer Centers	**Amount: $865,920**

Description: To foster economic growth in a city with high levels of unemployment, Brownsville's Connect Brownsville project is increasing public computer access and awareness of broadband benefits among residents. The project is bolstering library broadband speeds, providing 176 new computers and deploying a mobile lab, in collaboration with Texas Southmost College, to provide residents with access to another 30 laptop computers. The project is also installing five new work stations at the United Way of Southern Cameron County, a key community development organization in the city, allowing community members to benefit from services such as basic math and reading, GED preparation, computer skills training and English-as-a-second-language classes through the Brownsville Literacy Center.

Legislative Report — Broadband Stimulus

Name: City of El Paso   **No. 22**

Project: Virtual Village

Type: BTOP Round 2, Public Computer Centers   **Amount: $8,395,752**

Description: The city of El Paso and surrounding areas face significant challenges from poverty, sparse geographic distribution and limited access to the tools necessary for economic development, including computers, broadband connectivity and other technology necessary to improve education, job attainment and health. A 2009 Digital El Paso survey showed that only 35 percent of El Paso-area households have high-speed Internet access, compared to more than 60 percent nationwide. The city's Virtual Village project is addressing these concerns through an extensive overhaul and expansion of its public computing capacity, more than doubling the number of public computer centers in El Paso City and county. The project is engaging hundreds of agencies, community institutions and local organizations to target vulnerable populations, particularly at-risk youth, the elderly, the unemployed and minorities, with training in and access to computer technology.

Name: Mexican Institute of Greater Houston Inc.   **No. 23**

Project: Sustainable Adoption through Training for Hispanic Adults

Type: Sustainable Broadband Adoption   **Amount: $2,015,025**

Description: According to studies, only 20 percent or so of primarily Spanish-speaking residents subscribe to broadband services in the home. To engage the Hispanic and English-as-a-second-language populations, as well as improve adoption rates in the Greater Houston, Beaumont and San Antonio areas, the institute is creating a broadband outreach and training program targeting Hispanic and minority communities. The program uses the institute's network of more than 100 existing community centers, many located at K-12 public schools, to conduct technology training sessions in Spanish for students and their families.

Name: Texas A&M University System   **No. 24**

Project: Texas Pipes

Type: BTOP Round 2, Middle-mile Infrastructure   **Amount: $6,550,775**

Description: To bring state-of-the-art communications capacities to underserved schools and other community-serving institutions across Texas, the Texas A&M University System is deploying a fiber-optic broadband network to provide 1Gbps to 10Gbps service to almost 50 community anchor institutions. The project extends service to 13 campuses and surrounding communities in Corpus Christi, Kingsville, College Station/Bryan, Waco, Canyon, Prairie View, Laredo, Texarkana, Commerce, Galveston, Stephenville, San Antonio and Killeen. These areas encompass four predominantly Hispanic communities, the Historically Black College of Prairie View A&M, and the area immediately adjacent to Fort Hood, the largest U.S. Army post in the country. The network will serve 114,000 students and 27,000 faculty and staff, as well as connect the university police departments to the state Department of Public Safety to enhance security and safety and help advance Texas' next-generation 911 network.

Name: Mission Economic Development Agency   **No. 25**

Project: Latino Microenterprise Tech Net

Type: BTOP Round 2, Public Computer Centers   **Amount: $3,724,128**

Description: The Mission Economic Development Agency, in collaboration with the National Association for Latino Community Asset Builders and a national network of Latino-serving economic development organizations, is creating 12 new public computer centers and expanding five existing ones in 13 communities throughout the United States. Each center expects to operate on the project's centrally managed network and provide computer training and adult education to a low-broadband adoption, high-unemployment target population through a standardized English-Spanish training curriculum. The project is adding 263 new workstations and replacing 37 existing workstations, enabling the centers to serve an additional 2,500 users per week and train an estimated 3,000 users per year. Broadband capabilities at each center will be increased to speeds of 1.5Mbps.

Name: Connected Nation – Texas   **No. 26**

Project: Data Collection, Integration and Validation

Type: BTOP Round 2, Broadband Data & Development   **Amount: $8,026,000**

Description: At the direction of the state, this project is leveraging the work of the established Texas Broadband Task Force, seeking input from experts at governmental agencies, nonprofits and trade associations to assess current programs and laws or regulations that can be used to overcome impediments to broadband growth and adoption. The project is researching barriers to broadband availability and adoption, and will work with a state university to peer-review its results and conclusions before presenting them publicly.

Name: Deaf Action Center of Louisiana   **No. 27**

Project: AccessAmerica Video Remote Interpreting

Type: BTOP Round 2, Public Computer Centers   **Amount: $1,380,513**

Description: The project is installing 81 new videoconferencing stations and enhancing the user experience at 19 existing stations serving deaf or hard-of-hearing people in Northwest Louisiana and sites in Alabama, California and Texas. Broadband and videoconference technology will provide on-demand, cost-effective sign language interpretation at 100 community partner sites, including community anchor institutions such as hospitals, courts, public safety agencies, shelters, schools and libraries. Each state-of-the-art video conferencing unit is expected to connect to trained American Sign Language interpreters working at a central call center or remotely.

Name: ENMR Telephone Cooperative Inc., dba ENMR-Plateau   **No. 28**

Project: ENMR-Plateau Middle Mile

Type: BTOP Round 1, Infrastructure   **Amount: $11,252,066**

Description: The ENMR-Plateau Middle Mile project is enhancing broadband capabilities for critical community anchor institutions in eastern New Mexico and west Texas by lighting a 1,600-mile-plus ring of fiber and constructing 74 miles of new fiber in five communities. The project is connecting more than 200 anchor institutions – including educational and health care facilities, public safety organizations and government agencies – at speeds of up to 1Gbps. In addition, the network is offering wholesale services and facilitating broadband expansion to an estimated 20 communities and an area with nearly 700,000 homes, more than 36,000 businesses and 263 anchor institutions.

Name: ENMR Telephone Cooperative, Inc., dba ENMR-Plateau   **No. 29**

Project: Extending the Middle Mile: ENMR-Plateau Middle-mile CCI Project

Type: BTOP Round 2, Infrastructure   **Amount: $16,460,815**

Description: To provide much-needed broadband capacity to critical community facilities in underserved west Texas and eastern New Mexico communities, ENMR-Plateau is constructing 189 miles of new fiber and using 418 miles of additional existing fiber to create a middle-mile broadband network spanning central and eastern New Mexico and parts of western Texas, and deploying this network to additional underserved areas with 1 Gbps middle-mile speeds. The project will facilitate distance learning and education for tens of thousands of residents by significantly improving broadband connections at schools and higher-education institutions.

Name: Level 3 Eon LLC   **No. 30**

Project: Expanding Broadband Access Across Texas

Type: BTOP Round 2, Infrastructure   **Amount: $4,677,788**

Description: The Expanding Broadband Access Across Texas project is building 17 new access points on Level 3's existing broadband network to enable last-mile providers to offer affordable high-speed services to underserved areas. The additional points of interconnection will offer broadband speeds between 50 Mbps and 10 Gbps on an open and nondiscriminatory basis to last-mile Internet service providers. These points of interconnection enable last-mile providers to transport data to the Internet backbone and provide affordable service to anchor institutions, homes and businesses. The project will enhance broadband capabilities for as many as 400,000 households, 21,000 businesses

and 214 community anchor institutions, including schools, government agencies and healthcare providers.

Name: Communication Service for the Deaf Inc.	No. 31

Project: Project Endeavor

Type: BTOP Round 2, Sustainable Broadband Adoption	Amount: $14,988,657

Description: Broadband's ability to expand educational and employment opportunities is especially meaningful for deaf or hard-of-hearing Americans, who face unique educational challenges and suffer from much higher unemployment than the national average. Communication Service for the Deaf is expanding broadband adoption among deaf and hearing-impaired people and providing them with online tools to more fully participate in the digital economy by employing discounted broadband service and specialized computers, technology training from a state-of-the art online support center customized to the community's needs and public access to videophones at anchor institutions from coast to coast, plus a nationwide outreach initiative. Thousands will gain access to online sign-language interpreters, captioned video services and other content and functionalities designed to advance their educational, employment and health interests.

Name: One Economy Corp.	No. 32

Project: 21st-century Information and Support Ecosystem

Type: BTOP Round 2, Sustainable Broadband Adoption	Amount: $28,519,482

Description: One Economy is implementing a comprehensive program of computer training, wireless Internet access, broadband awareness marketing and online content and applications to residents of 159 affordable and public-housing developments and low-income communities in 50 cities and towns across 31 states and Washington, D.C. The project has four principal programs: training 2,500 youth to become "Digital Connectors" who will then provide digital literacy training to others in their communities; deploying localized broadband networks in public housing developments; and creating online content and applications for low-income, low-literacy audiences.

Name: Portland State University	No. 33

Project: Learner Web Partnership

Type: BTOP Round 2, Sustainable Broadband Adoption	Amount: $3,318,031

Description: Partnering with adult literacy and basic education organizations with long histories in their respective states, Portland State University is leading the Learner Web Partnership project to increase broadband use among low-income, minority and other vulnerable populations by teaching digital literacy along with English literacy, educating participants to become informed consumers, and providing access to career paths in the digital economy. Partners will deploy existing Learner Web software for more than 20,000 residents. Instructional materials will address topics including use of broadband for job searches, education and health information, and smart consumer practices. The project focuses on the needs of adult learners using an approach that combines self-paced learning with live tutorial support.

Name: University Corp. for Advanced Internet Development	No. 34

Project: United States Unified Community Anchor Network (US UCAN)

Type: BTOP Round 2, Infrastructure	Amount: $62,540,162

Description: As part of a longstanding project to connect essential community anchor institutions across the country and facilitate closer collaboration and long-term benefits for education, research, health care, public safety and government services, University Corp. is creating a comprehensive 50-state network benefitting approximately 121,000 community anchors. The large-scale, public-private partnership will interconnect more than 30 existing research and education networks, creating a dedicated 100- to 200Gbps nationwide fiber backbone with 3.2Tbps total capacity to enable advanced networking features. The project will connect anchors across all disciplines into virtual communities with shared goals and objectives, including colleges, universities, libraries, major veteran and other health-care facilities and public-safety entities, with additional benefits to tribes, vulnerable populations and government entities.

Texas State Library and Archives Commission
P.O. Box 12927
Austin TX 78711-2927
www.tsl.state.tx.us