



88th Legislative Agenda

Executive Summary: SA Digital Connects continues to work to ensure all residents in San Antonio and Bexar County have access to **quick, reliable, and affordable** internet.

We know that affordable, high-speed internet is foundational to reducing systemic inequities and driving the next generation of societal and economic development.

Funding

- Create a sustainable, long-term funding for the following:
 - to maintain and support technology neutral broadband infrastructure, including issuance of grants to public private partnerships between local governments and internet service providers (ISP) to build out necessary broadband infrastructure in un/underserved areas with a permanently affordable service plan;
 - to assist ISPs with affordable service plans; and
 - to maintain and support digital literacy and digital skills training programs.
- One option for funding could be State general revenue surplus.

Access / Infrastructure

- Establish Broadband Standards and Quality Control Measures
 - Amend the definition of broadband in state statute to include latency requirements.
 - Ensure all broadband networks supported by public funding achieve 100/100Mbps speeds for end-users, unless exceptions are provided under federal law.
 - Create a “Broadband Ready Communities” program within the Broadband Development Office to encourage communities to streamline their permitting processes and Right-of-Way access.
 - Update state support for technology management (tech assistance for e-rate; TIMA Reform; etc.).

Affordability

- Continue to increase use of the Affordable Connectivity Program by outreach to disadvantaged communities.
- Advocate for more affordable internet options for everyone by including affordability in all state funded infrastructure grants.

Adoption / Digital Skills

- Study and improve digital literacy programs in Texas, including the state’s engagement with digital literacy and make recommendations.
- Establish a technical assistance outreach program for disadvantaged communities to apply for adoption and digital literacy grants awarded by the Broadband Development Office.
- Develop a statutory definition of “underserved” areas and populations aligning with the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and applicable to all state broadband programs, to include impoverished communities.