

# FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

# SA Digital Connects and Texas Broadband Development Office Seek Input from Public for Development of Digital Opportunity Plan

SAN ANTONIO, TX (May 11, 2023) – <u>SA Digital Connects</u> (SADC) and the <u>Texas Broadband</u> <u>Development Office</u> (BDO) are asking the public for input on internet accessibility, affordability and adoption. The BDO will use the survey to develop a <u>Texas Digital Opportunity Plan</u>, which is required to draw down federal funding for connecting all Texans to reliable, high-speed internet.

# What does this mean?

To secure state and federal funding for our community for broadband connectivity and digital literacy programs, the BDO needs information! This survey provides that information.

# What do I do if I am a community organization?

Take the <u>survey</u> on behalf of your organization so that the BDO knows what services are currently offered and what services need expansion or implementation.

What do I do for my household (and for any of my family and friend's) households? Take the <u>survey</u> while you are at home. The survey includes a speed test of your home internet. Your input could bring more funding to improve internet connectivity at your HOME!

SADC is the local public, private community collaboration who built and is implementing the San Antonio/Bexar County <u>Digital Equity Plan</u>. The nonprofit has been working with the BDO to close the digital divide for more than 20% of local residents who do not have high-speed, reliable, and affordable internet.

A major step for the BDO to build the plan is to identify digital opportunity barriers faced by Texans, such as lack of infrastructure, digital literacy, affordable service or access to devices. The survey, which includes an optional speed test, is available in English and Spanish. Widespread input will ensure the state develops a comprehensive and inclusive plan that effectively addresses the digital opportunity needs of all Texans. Let's do our part San Antonio and Bexar County!

SADC asks the community to take the Texas <u>Digital Opportunity Public Survey</u> to keep local momentum and help develop the state's plan to expand digital opportunities and future funding strategies in San Antonio and throughout Texas. The survey closes the end of June.

### SA Digital Connects:

SA Digital Connects is a public/private/community investment and unincorporated nonprofit dedicated to the implementation of the San Antonio and Greater Bexar County Community Digital Equity Plan and Roadmap that will lead to future action steps; including timelines, milestones, key stakeholder roles, and required investment for execution. With this roadmap, our community is "shovel ready" to make effective use of local, state and federal funding for key digital access and equity initiatives impacting households, students, older adults, veterans, people living with disabilities, workforce, telemedicine, and the justice system. For more information, visit our website.

#### **About BDO**

In 2021, the 87th Texas Legislature established BDO. In accordance with the legislation, BDO has been tasked with:

- Creating an accurate <u>broadband map</u> of eligible and ineligible areas for financial assistance. The map will have a challenge process to dispute any perceived inaccuracies.
- Establishing a long-term statewide <u>broadband plan</u> 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 statewide broadband plan.
- Setting the effective threshold speed for broadband service (25 Mbps download/3 Mbps upload).
- Engaging in outreach to communities regarding the expansion.
- Addressing barriers for future expansion efforts.

Go to the Comptroller's website to learn more about BDO.