

SA to DC 2024 Broadband Issue Team Recap

Roster

Chair J.D. Salinas III, AVP, External & Legislative Affairs, AT&T, Inc.

Co-Chair Rhia Pape, Executive Director, SA Digital Connects

Councilwoman Phyllis Viagran, City of San Antonio, District 3

Anita Fernandez, Partner OCI Group

Joel Perez, Managing Director, RSM US LLP

Louis Escareno, Attorney, Louis R Escareno PC

San Antonio and Bexar County Closing the Digital Divide

Broadband Panel

Lukas Pietrzak, NTIA

Jonathan Uriate, FCC

Rhia Pape, SA Digital Connects

Takeaways:

- The [Affordable Connectivity Program \(ACP\)](#) is vital to continued progress toward closing the digital divide; funding is running out this year if not reappropriated; no new sign ups after Feb 7, 2024
- The [Broadband Equity Access and Deployment \(BEAD\)](#) is a once in a generation funding opportunity to connect all unserved households across the country
- The [Texas Broadband Development Office \(BDO\)](#) submitted Vol 1 and Vol 2 BEAD proposals to NTIA, pending notice of acceptance
- Each state will conduct a “challenge process” for BEAD eligible locations, NTIA recommends wide-spread participation to ensure accuracy of the [FCC Map](#)
- Public-private partnerships are the necessary key to closing the digital divide

Capitol Hill Meetings:

- *Rep. Vicente Gonzalez (D-TX 34)*
- *Senator John Cornyn (R- TX)*
- *Rep. Henry Cuellar (D- TX 28)*
- *Rep. August Pfluger (R-TX 11)*
- *Rep. Lizzie Fletcher (D-TX 7)*
- *Rep. Jimmy Gomez (D-CA 34)*
- *Rep. Greg Casar (D-TX 35)*
- *Senator Ben Ray Lujan (D-NM 3)*