TEXAS BROADBAND DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

Technical Assistance Program

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

The Texas Broadband Development Office (BDO) has established the Technical Assistance Program (TAP) to augment the capacities of local governments and communities to prepare for forthcoming state and federal funds, as well as to identify localized opportunities. TAP will provide contracted broadband planning and consulting specialists to work locally with program participants, and will empower communities that otherwise lack the necessary resources to overcome their local digital divides.

To provide technical assistance, the BDO has contracted the Cobb, Fendley and Associates team to deliver a portfolio of services to local communities based on the individual goals and needs of program participants and the areas they represent. Services include:

- Stakeholder identification and outreach
- Asset mapping
- Gap analysis and community needs identification
- Public private partnership identification and analysis
- Workforce development strategy
- Digital opportunities strategy and needs identification
- Network design assessments

ELIGIBILITY AND PARTICIPATION

Eligible participants in TAP include all Texas counties that lack the necessary capacity for broadband planning. Only one application will be awarded to any individual county.

Eligible applicants for TAP are the committee leaders of a county Broadband Planning Committee (BPC), as recognized by the committee's certification through the BDO.

Services will not be awarded to applications from BPCs that have not completed the necessary certification process.

BPCs that participate in TAP must be willing to do so by providing support in the following ways:

- Facilitating as a local point-of-contact.
- Selecting which services are needed for planning.
- Facilitating community outreach through localized public communication channels.
- Supporting the Cobb Fendley team's execution of services.
- Approving the county's drafted County Broadband Plan.
- Attending a presentation to the BDO of the county's plan.
- Reporting the products of TAP to your local communities.

CERTIFYING A BPC

To apply to TAP, a BPC must have already been certified with the BDO based on specific criteria identified in the Broadband Planning Committee Certification Form. The form must be submitted to the BDO before the TAP application period begins.

At a minimum, a committee must consist of a membership of:

- At least two members.
- At least one county-elected office holder.
- At least one appointed committee leader.
- A majority of committee leaders who live in the county they serve.

UPCOMING MILESTONES

April 2024 – Open Registration for Broadband Planning Committees

May 2024 – Open Application Window for Technical Assistance Program

CONTACT INFO

Web: comptroller.texas.gov
Email: broadband@cpa.texas.gov
Phone: 833-3-TEXBDO (833-383-9236)