

Key Takeaways:

1. Despite historic state and federal efforts to increase access to high-speed internet in underserved rural and urban markets, challenges remain to **ensure stable funding for the state's broadband efforts**.

2. The number of Texas households with a high-speed internet subscription — a leading indicator of digital connectivity — has grown steadily over the years. It currently rests at 85%, according to the most recent Census estimates. This means there is still work to

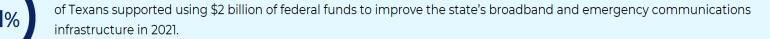
be done to ensure the remaining 1.4 million households that lack a broadband subscription can fully participate in the 21st century digital economy.



of Texas households do not have **broadband internet subscriptions**

Bills To Monitor:

- ⇒ HB 9 (Ashby) companion bill to HJR 125 that appropriates \$5 billion in broadband funding.
- ⇒ HJR 125 (Ashby) amends the Texas Constitution to create the Broadband Infrastructure Fund.
- ⇒ HB 3479 (Leach) Broadband Development Office grants to expand broadband services that facilitate communication with critical water and public safety entities.
- ⇒ HB 4383 (Lambert) establishes the Rural Schools and Communities Technical Assistance Center and assists with expanding broadband access in rural communities.
- ⇒ HB 4748 (Bernal) creation of regional broadband advisory groups.
- \Rightarrow SB 1238 (Nichols) and HB 2662 (Ashby) clean-up of HB 5 from 2021.



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