

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**.



14.9%

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.
- ⇒ **SB 1238 (Nichols)** and **HB 2662 (Ashby)** – clean-up of HB 5 from 2021.



81%

of Texans supported using \$2 billion of federal funds to improve the state's broadband and emergency communications infrastructure in 2021.