



## CONCLUSION

Connected Texas has successfully worked over the last five years to accelerate broadband technology access, adoption, and use. In partnership with Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA), Connected Texas has worked closely with rural communities across the state to identify community broadband needs and advance a meaningful technology initiative.

While Connected Texas' impact has been significant, the challenges remain. More and faster broadband is needed across Texas, and Connected Texas needs your help. There's never been a more important time. As technology evolves, the "digital divide" between urban and rural communities grows wider. Rural communities are left behind. For example, while multiple providers in Austin announced rolling out gigabit (1,000 Mbps) Internet connections, many rural communities are lucky if they have 3 Mbps service. Some communities in Texas still have no broadband at all.

Moreover, based on the new broadband benchmark 25 Mbps speeds, almost half of Texas households are left behind. Texas will not be able to maintain its economic edge in the world without making advanced broadband a priority for the entire state. Connected Texas is proud of the progress Texans have made over the last five years, and our commitment to improving broadband technology is steadfast.