planning and implementation. Sustaining these relationships helps smooth individual project execution as well as local and Tribal coordination.

3.2.1 Statewide Working Group

The Statewide Working Group consists of 27 leaders representing various statewide broadband interests. Statewide Working Group members have participated in monthly group discussions, provided written input, and continually promote data collection tools and provide feedback on program planning and design. For more on the role of the Statewide Working Group, see Section 0.

Exhibit 8: Statewide Working Group

Partner Type	Partner
Governor's Office	Texas Office of the Governor
State Agency	Texas Veterans Commission
State Agency	Texas Health and Human Services Commission
State Agency	Texas State Library and Archives Commission
State Agency	Texas Workforce Commission
State Agency	Texas Department of Agriculture
State Agency	Texas Division of Emergency Management
State Agency	Texas Department of Transportation
State Agency	Texas Department of Information Resources
State Agency	Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs
Tribal	Kickapoo Traditional Tribe of Texas
Tribal	Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas
Community-Based Organization (CBO) - Aging	AARP Texas
CBO - Minority-led	Texas Black Caucus Foundation
CBO - Digital Inclusion	Texas Association of Goodwills
CBO - Immigrant and Refugee	Connect Humanity
CBO - Disability	Disability Rights Texas
Philanthropy	Texas Rural Funders
Government Association	Texas Association of Regional Councils
Government Association	Texas Municipal League
Education	Texas Education Agency
Education	Operation Connectivity
State Chamber	Texas Association of Business
Broadband Coalition	Texas 2036
Industry	Guadalupe Valley Electric Cooperative

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3.2.2 Regional Working Groups

Twelve Regional Working Groups (RWGs) were established to align with the Comptroller's 12 economic regions. RWGs were tasked with collecting current and previous community-based broadband plans and data sets within their regional boundaries. Activities of RWG members in summer 2023 involved handling logistics for community events, facilitating in-person events and leveraging networks and communications channels for survey promotion. For more on the role of RWGs, see Section 5.1.3.

See Appendix for full list of RWG members.

3.2.3 Outcome-Area Task Forces

The BDO has also created six Task Forces, ranging from 10-36 members each, consisting of experts and leaders who specialize in or bring unique perspectives from a particular broadband-related outcome area. Task Force members provide critical input through meeting participation and completing homework exercises that inform the development of IIJA-related planning deliverables. Much like the Statewide Working Group, Task Force members have supported the BDO in promoting data collection tools and providing feedback on program drafts. For more on the role of the Task Forces, see Section 5.1.4.

Economic and Workforce Development

The Economic and Workforce Development Task Force is responsible for considering how broadband expansion and digital opportunity programs can best impact the Texas economy, the upskilling of Texans through online resources and the enhancement of job creation and job search through better access to and use of the internet.

Exhibit 9: Economic and Workforce Development Task Force

Partner Type	Partner
State Agency	Texas Workforce Commission
Regional Economic Development Coalition	The High Ground of Texas
Federal Reserve	Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas
CBO - Digital skills	Austin Urban Technology Movement (AUTMHQ)
CBO - Workforce	Goodwill Industries
Research	Technology and Policy Information Institute
Research	The University of Texas – Rio Grande Valley
Statewide Agriculture	Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service
Statewide Agriculture	Texas Farm Bureau
Rural Chamber	Texas Midwest Community Network
Urban Chamber	Greater Houston Partnership
Tech Industry	TechNet
Labor Union	Communication Workers of America

Education

The Education Task Force ensures the needs of educators and students for broadband access are duly represented as the state makes plans for the Texas BEAD Program and digital opportunity programs.

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Exhibit 10: Education Task Force

Partner Type	Partner
State Agency	Texas Education Agency
State Agency	Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board
Technical College System	Texas State Technical College
Education	Windham School District
Association	Texas Association of Community Colleges
Association	Texas Association of School Administrators
Association	Texas Association of Community Schools
CBO	Dallas Foundation
Nonprofit	Raise Your Hand Texas
Association	Texas School Alliance
Education	Tyler Independent School District (ISD)
Adult Education	Distance Education Professional Development Center (at Texas A&M)
HBCU/HSI	Paul Quinn College
Education Service Center (ESC)	ESC Region 1
Nonprofit	Changing Expectations
Education	Operation Connectivity
Association	Texas Public Charter Schools Association

Health

The Health Task Force represents the perspectives of the health care industry on broadband access in the population. This includes a particular emphasis on telehealth, which many argue promises to increase the competitiveness, productivity and accessibility of health care, as well as being critical to pandemic resilience.

Exhibit 11: Health Task Force

Partner Type	Partner
CBO	Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute
CBO	National Alliance on Mental Illness Texas
CBO	Texas e-Health Alliance
Association	Texas Association of Community Health Centers
Research Institute	Texas A&M College of Medicine
Association	Texas Association of Rural Health Clinics
Association	Texas Association of Community Clinics
Association	Texas Medical Association
Association	Texas Rural Health Association
State Agency	Texas Department of State Health Services
State Agency	Texas Health and Human Services Commission

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Rural Hospital	Texas Organization of Rural and Community Hospitals
Veteran Health Organization	Texas Veterans Commission
Research Institute	The University of Texas Medical Branch
Academy	Texas Academy of Family Physicians
Research Institute	Baylor College of Medicine

Essential Services

The Essential Services Task Force represents the perspectives on broadband from public safety and poverty relief organizations, including state and municipal agencies and nonprofits, as well as perspectives related to emergency management.

Exhibit 12: Essential Services Task Force

Partner Type	Partner
State Agency	Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs
State Agency	Texas Department of Criminal Justice
State Agency	Texans Veterans Commission
State Agency	Texas Division of Emergency Management
CBO	Feeding Texas
CBO - Disability	Texas Technology Access Program at The University of Texas
CBO - I&R	United Ways of Texas
CBO - Veteran	Combined Arms
State Entity	Commission on State Emergency Communications
State Agency	Texas Achieving a Better Life Experience

Civic and Social Engagement

The Civic and Social Engagement Task Force represents local governments and community-based nonprofits. Its focus includes identifying the role towns, local governments and community organizations have in facilitating broadband expansion, digital skills training and affordability.

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Exhibit 13: Civic and Social Engagement Task Force

Partner Type	Partner
Library - Rural	Abilene Library Consortium
CBO	Community Tech Network
CBO	Dallas Innovation Alliance
CBO	Senior Access (Capital Region)
CBO/Volunteerism	OneStar Foundation
CBO - Seniors	Texas AARP
CBO - Youth	Texas Network of Youth Services
State Agency	Texas Demographic Center
State Agency	Texas Department of Information Resources
State Agency	Texas State Library and Archives Commission
Government Association	Texas Association of Counties
Government Association	Texas Association of Regional Councils
Government Association	Texas Library Association
Government Association	Texas Municipal League
Philanthropy	Texas Rural Funders
VITA Tax Center	United Way Denton County
Library - Urban	Harris County Public Library
Philanthropy	T.L.L. Temple

Business and Telecom

The Business and Telecom Task Force serves as the primary voice of industry in shaping the BEAD Program in Texas, while also examining the best way for Texas to implement the Digital Opportunity Plan. Its members address all issues of concern to the telecommunications industry, and they diligently bring to the state's attention matters that are critical to running the BEAD Program and digital opportunity programs in a manner that achieves high industry participation and mobilizes a variety of proposed projects that will jointly reach as far as possible toward closing the digital divide in Texas with respect to infrastructure and broadband availability.

Exhibit 14: Business and Telecom Task Force

Partner Type	Partner
Utility	Lower Colorado River Authority
State Agency	Texas Department of Transportation
Electric	Graybar
Construction	Congruex
Construction	Mears Broadband
Construction	Texas Area Telecom
Research Institution	Internet2 Technology Evaluation Center at Texas A&M

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Provider Association	Texas Telephone Association
Provider Association	Texas Statewide Telephone Cooperative Inc.
Provider Association	Texas Cable Association
Provider Association	Wireless Internet Service Providers Association, Texas
Provider Association	Texas Electric Cooperative Association
Manufacturing Association	Texas Association of Manufacturers
Internet Service Providers AT&T Nextlink Internet Cobb Fendley HC Wireless LLC Crown Castle TekWav AW Broadband Nexstream Highline Bluebonnet Fiber Lit Communities	MSEC Communications LLC Electronic Corporate Pages Inc. Victoria Electric Coop/Infinium Broadband AMA TechTel SignalNet Broadband Inc. Net Ops Communications LLC AMA Communications Fiberlight Rock Solid Internet a Vtx1 Company Space Exploration Technologies Comcast

3.2.4   Texas A&M System

The BDO has further engagement with Texas A&M AgriLife, which connects agriculture and life sciences programs at Texas A&M University and the Texas A&M University System. The BDO provided the organization with a public engagement toolkit to promote public meetings and surveys to rural communities through their extension office community networks and communications channels. Efforts of this partnership have expanded outreach to rural areas and helped identify local broadband assets and needs. AgriLife has also shared relevant data and studies it has conducted, facilitated or contributed to. The information provided insight on the impact of broadband as well as the barriers faced across outcomes, such as rural and agricultural economies, health, education and social challenges.

The BDO has also contracted with the Internet2 Technology Evaluation Center (ITEC) at Texas A&M University. ITEC is a premier research lab focusing on public safety, communications and interoperability that convenes government, industry, practitioners and academia, creating collaborative teams to identify problems, define solutions and get technologies in the hands of first responders and other front-line professionals for testing and evaluation. ITEC's staff of experienced and knowledgeable engineers will provide technical support and assist the BDO with evaluating BEAD Program grant applications. They will ensure proposed technology solutions meet the technical guidelines established by the BEAD Program and provide actual intended benefits prior to funds being awarded.

3.2.5   Board of Advisors

The Broadband Development Office Board of Advisors was created in 2021 to provide guidance to the BDO regarding the expansion, adoption, affordability and use of broadband service and the programs administered by the office. The Board of Advisors is composed of 10 members, including the Texas Comptroller who serves as chair and a non-voting representative of the BDO. The other members are appointed by the Offices of the Texas Governor, Texas Lieutenant Governor and the Speaker of the House. These appointees represent and bring the perspective of critical outcome-areas such as education, hospitals and telehealth, economic development, historically disadvantaged communities, construction and ISPs.

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