



Connected Texas Releases New Broadband Availability Figures

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***Research shows a significant increase in 10 Mbps
broadband availability in the past six months***

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Austin, TX – New research unveiled today by Connected Texas shows 89.94% of Texans have fixed broadband availability at the 10 Mbps download/1.5 Mbps upload threshold across the state, a 9.66 percentage point increase compared to just six months ago.

“A 9.66 percentage point increase in 10 Mbps speeds is an exciting development, even if that speed is primarily available within non-rural/urban areas of Texas,” said Connected Texas Executive Director Don Shirley. “Broadband growth in rural Texas is still lagging non-rural areas, and it is vital that we get rural Texans the same access to higher speeds so they can leverage all that broadband has to offer. This will be the focus of our future work.”

The data are being released in conjunction with GIS Day 2013, which celebrates the use of geographic information systems (GIS) to analyze diverse topics in local, state, federal, and international applications. Connected Texas has been working to ensure that Texas residents have access to the economic, educational, and quality-of-life benefits derived from increased broadband

access, adoption, and use. Part of that work includes maintaining detailed GIS analysis of broadband availability across the state to support broadband planning efforts. This is the eighth comprehensive broadband availability data refresh since the program started in 2010.

Key findings within the new broadband availability data include:

- Broadband availability at 10 Mbps download/1.5 Mbps upload increased 9.66 percentage points, from 80.28% in April 2013 to its current 89.94% (excluding mobile wireless and satellite services).
- Broadband availability at 6 Mbps download/1.5 Mbps upload increased 8.37%, from 82.73% in April 2013 to its current 91.10% (excluding mobile wireless and satellite services).
- Fixed wireless broadband availability at 768 Kbps download/200 Kbps upload increased 12 percentage points in the past year, from 69.10% in October 2012 to its current 81.10%. The increase is due to several factors including network expansion (installation of additional towers), increased provider participation, and field validations that led to data inclusion for several non-participating providers.
- 96.10% of Texas' 2.9 million rural households now have access to broadband service of at least 768 Kbps download/200 Kbps upload (excluding mobile wireless and satellite services); 89.97% have access to at least 3 Mbps download/768 Kbps upload (excluding mobile wireless and satellite services).
- 93.76% of Texas' 8.9 million households are now able to choose from more than one provider for broadband service, up from 86.02% back in October 2011.
- Only 30.74% of Texas households have access to broadband service of at least 100 Mbps download/1.5 Mbps upload.
- Broadband service of at least 1 Gbps download is currently unavailable for any Texas household.

Connected Texas recently celebrated [Bastrop County's](#) designation as being the first certified Connected community in the state of Texas. However, there are numerous communities across Texas that still lack affordable and attainable access to broadband services. Connected Texas continues to work with communities across the state to support comprehensive community broadband planning efforts and provide technical assistance.

Nonprofit Connected Texas has been working since 2010 to ensure that Texas

residents have access to the economic, educational, and quality-of-life benefits derived from increased broadband access, adoption, and use. Part of that work includes maintaining detailed analysis of broadband availability across the state to support broadband planning efforts. Last year, Connected Texas released an innovative broadband mapping tool called [My ConnectView™](#), offering unmatched views of the Texas technology landscape. Residents and businesses are encouraged to use the interactive map to find area providers and help validate the data. To report that broadband is not available in a given area, consumers can fill out a [broadband inquiry](#).

Connected Texas' research was conducted as part of the State Broadband Initiative grant program for Texas, funded by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA). The data were gathered in accordance with the requirements of the NTIA. The process begins by contacting all known providers in the state and providing information about the broadband mapping project. Information on broadband service areas is collected from each provider through voluntary participation and is subject to confidentiality protections. Connected Texas strives to maintain a flexible mapping process to be able to collect data from providers in a variety of formats based on providers' technical capabilities and resources.

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About Connected Texas: Connected Texas is a subsidiary of Connected Nation and operates as a non-profit in the state of Texas. The Texas Department of Agriculture is leading the initiative to increase broadband Internet access, adoption, and use across the state. Connected Texas was commissioned by the state to work with all Texas broadband providers to create detailed maps of broadband coverage and development of a statewide plan for the deployment and adoption of broadband. For more information visit: <http://www.connectedtx.org>.

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