



## Connected Texas Releases Report on Digital Literacy

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### ***Lack of Digital Literacy Keeps More Than 1.4 Million Texans Offline***

**Austin, TX** – Today, Connected Texas is releasing a new report focusing on digital literacy across the state. Digital literacy is the knowledge of how to use a computer and the Internet. As the [Making the Connection through Digital Literacy](#) report makes clear, digital skills are now vitally important to ensuring the future success of the state's economy.

“Digital literacy is the key to making sure that both Texans who already have jobs, and those who are looking for jobs, are able to stay competitive with workers around the world,” says Connected Texas Executive Director Don Shirley. “Yet, right now, approximately 1.4 million Texans say that lack of digital literacy skills is the main reason they do not subscribe to home broadband service.”

Here are the report's key findings:

- 1.4 million (20% of) Texans who do not have broadband at home cite the lack of digital literacy as their main barrier to subscribing to service
- The top adoption barriers among Texans who report concerns about their digital literacy skills are:
  - Fear that the Internet is too complicated (446,000)
  - Do not know what broadband is or anything about it (357,000)
  - Have concerns about fraud or identity theft (310,000)
  - Are not comfortable using a computer (290,000)
- 51 is the median age of Texans who say a lack of digital literacy skills is their main barrier to broadband adoption

Connected Texas is actively working to bridge the digital literacy gap among all Texans. The initiative's [Every Community Online](#) (ECO) program offers free training on computer and Internet skills to Texans across the state who are interested in learning about the Internet. The program is offered in partnership with the Texas State Library's [TEAL](#) program and the Texas Connects Coalition's [Technology for All](#) program.

Anyone with an interest in improving digital literacy in Texas or bringing better broadband to local homes, businesses, and mobile devices is encouraged to join in the Connected Texas community planning effort. For more information on how to get involved, please contact Shirley at [dshirley@connectedtx.org](mailto:dshirley@connectedtx.org) or (512) 660-2006.

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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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