



## We need your help.

Internet access is vital for business, for home, for students and for our quality of life. Connected Nation and Bastrop County CARES are working to assess the state of broadband in Bastrop County, establish an internet planning process, and plan to address our current and future broadband needs.

### The FIRST step for improving your internet connection is knowledge.

**We need you to fill out the online survey.** We are asking residents, businesses and other organizations across the county to input the availability and speed of internet access in their area. This is our vital first step.

The survey results will help us better understand the existing resources and capabilities to support our mission of better internet – access, adoption, and use – in Bastrop County.

### Bastrop County Internet Survey CONNECTED™

Powered by Connected Nation

To take the 10-minute survey as a resident, business owner or designated representative of an organization, please go to:

<https://www.myconnectedcommunity.org/bastrop-county/>

For those unable to take the survey online, paper copies will be available starting the week of August 3, 2020 at:

- Bastrop County Courthouse Annex, 804 Pecan Street, Bastrop TX
- Bastrop County Elgin Annex, 704 Bull Run Road, Elgin TX
- Bastrop County Cedar Creek Annex, 5540 FM 535, Cedar Creek TX
- Bastrop County Smithville Annex, 1624 NE Loop 230, Smithville TX

*For more information about this broadband initiative or the Bastrop County Broadband Committee, please email [info@bastropcares.org](mailto:info@bastropcares.org). This was made possible by St. David's Foundation.*

# ***Bastrop County Broadband Initiative***

## **What Is Broadband?**

Broadband, or high-speed Internet access, allows users to access the Internet and Internet-related services at significantly higher speeds than those available through traditional telephone or wireless connections. Broadband speeds vary significantly depending on the technology and level of service available and ordered.<sup>1</sup>

## **Why Broadband?**

- Broadband is an important tool for expanding educational and economic opportunities for consumers in remote locations.
- Broadband makes "telemedicine" possible: patients in rural areas can confer online with medical specialists in more urban areas and share information and test results very quickly.
- Connecting to streaming video content is made possible by broadband.
- Broadband allows you to shop online and conduct your business more quickly and efficiently.
- Broadband helps you efficiently access and use many reference and cultural resources via the Internet.
- You also need broadband to best take advantage of **many distance learning opportunities**, like online college or university courses, continuing or senior education programs, and today's need **for K-12 distance learning**.<sup>2</sup>

## **What types of Broadband are available?**

Broadband can be provided over several different platforms: Digital Subscriber Line (DSL), Cable Modem, Fiber, Wireless, Satellite.

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<sup>1</sup> For more information: Federal Communications Commission, *Getting Broadband Q&A*, at: [https://www.fcc.gov/sites/default/files/getting\\_broadband\\_qa.pdf](https://www.fcc.gov/sites/default/files/getting_broadband_qa.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> It appears as though each of the school districts in Bastrop County will rely, to some degree or another, on the internet to begin their 2020-21 school years.