

Fast, reliable Internet access is essential to today's economy and quality of life



In 62% of communities, many in rural areas, public libraries are the **ONLY PLACE** where people can access the Internet for free



Highspeed Internet in public libraries supports:

- ▶ Job searching
- ▶ K-12 Homework
- ▶ Small business research
- ▶ eGovernment
- ▶ Distance learning
- ▶ Consumer health

Texas public libraries serving Texans (annually)



Persons visiting Texas public libraries



Internet sessions in Texas public libraries (Internet & wifi)

94% Texans who do not have access to adequate Internet speeds at their public libraries¹

The federal E-rate program plays a role by providing libraries with discounts on Internet costs:

	Average Monthly Cost ³	Annual Cost Per Library	Annual Estimated Statewide Costs	Estimated Statewide 75% E-Rate Discount ⁴
100 Megabits per second² 508 Small Texas Libraries (Serving <50K)	\$2,000	\$24,000	\$12,192,000	\$3,048,000
1 Gigabit per second² 76 Large Texas Libraries (Serving 50K+)	\$4,000	\$48,000	\$3,846,000	\$912,000

Public libraries provide needed Internet access – by leveraging the E-rate program, we can enable more Texans to succeed

¹ Data source: 2016 Texas Public Library Speed Test by the Texas State Library and Archives Commission.

² The FCC sets Internet speed standards for public libraries. The standards are 100 Mbps for libraries serving fewer than 50K people, and 1 Gbps for libraries serving more than 50K people.

³ Data source: E-rate Data Retrieval Tool: <http://www.slforms.universalservice.org/DRT/Default.aspx>

⁴ Data source: <https://www.tsl.texas.gov/ld/funding/discount.html>