



August 18, 2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Bastrop County Cares (BCC), in conjunction with Bastrop County, has undertaken an initiative to determine those areas of the county that suffer with no or inadequate *internet access*, much less *broadband access*. *Broadband*, aka *high-speed internet access*, allows users to access the internet and related services at significantly higher speeds than those available through traditional telephone or wireless connections.

This kind of internet access is critical to efforts to expand educational (particularly K-12, at this point in time), economic, entertainment, medical, cultural, and you name it opportunities for residents of our County.

To this end, BCC has formed a community *Broadband Committee*, and contracted with *Connected Nation*, to survey county residents and businesses to learn about their broadband availability, and to identify areas that suffer poor or no such access. Once this identification phase is complete, plans will be developed to meet these and future broadband needs.

This task is largely a volunteer effort, but the expenses that are associated with this project are being underwritten by the following entities:

St. David's Foundation	*	The Hogg Foundation
Bastrop Economic Development Corp.	*	Elgin Economic Development Corp.
First National Bank of Bastrop	*	Frontier Bank of Texas
Smithville Chamber of Commerce		

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

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

For more information, call *Bastrop County Cares* at: (512) 581-4055.