

Case Study

OpCon Phase 3: Coronavirus Capital Project Fund (CCPF) Interagency Funding Request



Client	The Texas Education Agency (TEA)
Project	TEA Coronavirus Capital Project Fund Interagency Funding (CCPF) Request Submission
Objective	The objective of the project was to support the TEA in submitting an interagency funding application to the Texas Broadband Development Office for subgrantee projects that met the guidelines of the Coronavirus Capital Project Fund (CCPF). The focus was on funding projects in unserved communities throughout Texas, aiming to bring broadband access to these underserved areas.
Strategy	<p>GROW implemented a comprehensive approach to gather input and build coalitions to address the broadband needs. Our approach included:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">Statewide Mapping: Leveraging their existing statewide mapping work, GROW identified 58 Census Block Groups with the highest concentrations of unserved and underserved households. These regions became the target areas for potential projects that aligned with the CCPF specifications.Community Engagement and Coalition Building: GROW conducted listening tours, engaging with community members, local education agencies (LEAs), health and human services representatives, workforce development organizations, and non-profit organizations. The purpose was to gather input and gain a better understanding of broadband availability, adoption, affordability, devices, and digital skill training needs within the target communities.Community Survey: GROW developed a Community Survey/RFI process to identify eligible families in the selected regions. The survey was administered in collaboration with local governments, community social workers, educational agencies, non-profit organizations, and commercial internet providers. Multiple modes of application submission were provided, including paper-based, digital, in-person, and phone applications.Workshops: GROW conducted workshops with stakeholders in each region to help them understand the qualitative and quantitative data required for completing a CCPF subgrantee application. These workshops covered topics such as easements, vertical assets, and definitions of underserved and unserved areas.Development of Subgrantee Applications: GROW supported the formation of Community Coalitions in nine regions across Texas, composed of various community representatives. The coalitions developed procedural plans, aligned with common goals, and followed an implementation and evaluation framework for project submissions. GROW reviewed and provided feedback

	<p>on the project proposals and facilitated legislative testimony to secure local contributions.</p> <p>6. Research & Data Collection: GROW implemented data-driven decision-making by leveraging the Qualtrics platform to conduct electronic and paper surveys among community members and end-users. Surveys focused on satisfaction with internet services, additional services offered, and the impact of connectivity on job seeding, education, and healthcare.</p>
Results	<p>The GROW team’s comprehensive approach to the CCPF project was demonstrated through:</p> <p>Listening Tours: Conducted 12 tours with a total attendance of 1,000+ participants. Community Survey: Received responses from 20,000+ individuals.</p> <p>Workshop Sessions: Organized 45 sessions to educate stakeholders on the CCPF application process.</p> <p>Local ARPA Funds Committed: Secured commitments of \$48.5 million in local funds for the subgrantee projects.</p> <p>CCPF Funds Applied for: Submitted applications for a total of \$115.1 million in CCPF funding.</p> <p>GROW's holistic strategy of active community engagement, coalition building, and data-driven decision-making contributed to significant progress in achieving digital equity in underserved regions of Texas. Through the TEA CCPF application process, nine Community Coalitions were formed, and substantial commitments of local funds were secured. The project empowered communities, improved connectivity, and paved the way for bridging the digital divide in marginalized areas of the state.</p>