

Texas Digital Navigators Pilot Grant Training Program



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Program Goals:

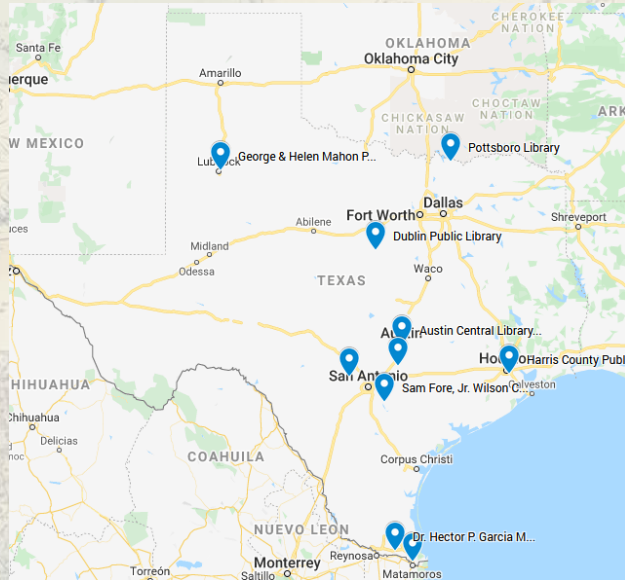
Thank you Chris Gauvreau from
the [Connecticut State Library!](#)

Full details at <https://www.tsl.texas.gov/ldn/arpa/digital-navigators>

1. Assist each selected library to **develop** and **implement** a **unique Digital Navigator program** with the help of a **trusted community partner** to **close the digital divide** in their area in a **measurable way**.
2. Build the **“Connectivity Literacy”** of Texas public library staff by:
 - a. developing their critical understanding of the **Texas internet connectivity landscape**
 - b. A deeper understanding of **approaches, providers, devices** and **educational resources** available to assist with digital inclusion through [asset mapping](#)



Grantees



Serving populations from 1,231 to 2,150,870:

- 3 Large Urban
- 2 Midsize Urban
- 1 Suburban
- 4 Small Rural
- 1 Statewide (TSLAC Talking Book Program)

Community partners include:

- Electric Coops
- Councils of Government (COGs)
- Housing authorities
- Workforce Solutions (Texas Workforce Centers)
- Food pantry
- Independent School Districts (ISDs)
- AARP

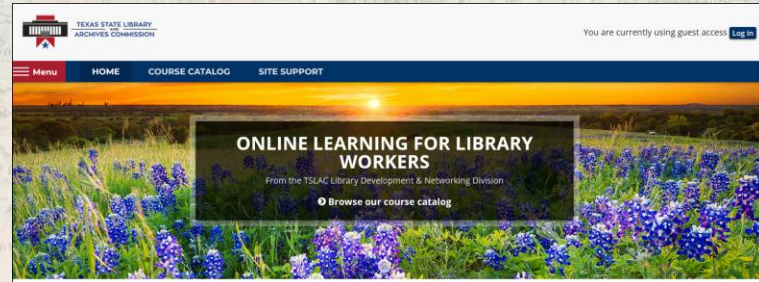
Audiences:

- Seniors
- Immigrants and those who are more comfortably conversant in a language other than English
- Community members in high poverty neighborhoods



Training

- Literacy Minnesota:
 - Initial DN training
 - Provide and train grantees on Northstar Digital Literacy
- TSLAC led 2x monthly cohort meetings
 - Grantee discussion
 - Practitioner Q&A
- Grant ends December 2022



Lessons Learned So Far:

- Digital Navigation is a paradigm shift for libraries:
 - **Loaning/lending does not equal device equity.** Trust that the relationship you make will bring that person back to the library for other services. It's a boomerang effect!
 - **Design your Digital Navigator program to reach a specific audience.** This will help you focus your success and meet your program goals, while (hopefully) mitigating burnout.
 - **Call it a pilot** and don't be scared to try something new! The goal is to increase digital equity, not to get it perfect.

