



# Update to Community Technology and Telecommunications Commission

March 9, 2011

**austinfree.net**

ACCESS IS POWER



**Best news first: New Executive Director!**  
**Juanita Budd**



## BTOP Grant

Broadband Technology Opportunities Program  
for Public Computer Centers through the  
Department of Commerce as part of the  
American Recovery and Reinvestment Act  
stimulus



**BROADBANDUSA**  
CONNECTING AMERICA'S COMMUNITIES



- Grant was to the Texas Connects Coalition
  - Technology for All in Houston
  - Metropolitan Austin Interactive Network in Bastrop
  - Austin Free-Net
- \$9.6 MM in federal funds, \$2.6 MM matching funds – total budget \$12. 2 MM
- 2nd largest Public Computer Center Grant in the nation



- Creating or improving 70 computer labs in Houston, Austin, Bastrop County, San Antonio, Brazos Valley (Brenham, Bryan, Caldwell area) and web-based resources
- \$1.7 MM to AFN over 2 years – 1st draw was received in October
- To enhance and improve our sites and programs



Replacing 90 old computers in 12 locations, and increasing the number of computers where possible. We just got the first 40!





Training, management and communications specialists and lab monitoring personnel to increase open access hours and training opportunities, community outreach – 17 FTE's



We will do the best possible job and delight everyone with the results. We will take advantage of the momentum created, data collected and our strength in our partnerships to create funding strategies to sustain our services and programs after this grant.