



**For Immediate Release**

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**TEXAS RURAL FUNDERS NAMES FIRST-EVER EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

*DR. KELTY GARBEE TO LEAD STATEWIDE COALITION FOCUSED ON ADDRESSING  
UNIQUE CHALLENGES FACING RURAL TEXANS*

**AUSTIN, TX** - Texas Rural Funders (TRF), a statewide coalition that helps develop and implement solutions for the unique public policy challenges facing rural communities, today named its first-ever Executive Director, **Dr. Kelty Garbee**.

Among her early priorities, Dr. Garbee will drive TRF's work at the State Capitol this legislative session, working to educate lawmakers and Texans about the critical importance of broadband access for rural Texas.

"As Texas Rural Funders continues to grow, the leadership of an experienced Executive Director will be critical to our continued success as we expand our work across Texas. Dr. Garbee has capably served as Vice President of TRF since our inception in 2017, and she brings a deep commitment and strong institutional knowledge to our organization and its priorities," said Ellen Ray, Executive Director of the Still Water Foundation and Board President of Texas Rural Funders.

Garbee brings 20 years of experience in non-profits, state government and philanthropy, including 15 years in Texas where she has launched and led a variety of statewide networks in the education sector.

"Texas Rural Funders is shining a light on the need for a statewide broadband plan to address access and equity," said Dr. Garbee. "It's just one of the issues where Texas Rural Funders is driving collaborative change, amplifying rural perspectives, and encouraging local and state leaders to address systemic challenges facing rural communities across our state."

Garbee begins her new role at TRF's April 6 member convening.

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## **About Texas Rural Funders**

*Texas Rural Funders is a coalition of funding organizations that believe the future of Texas depends on strong, successful rural communities. We are dedicated to working with rural communities to develop and implement solutions to their unique challenges. Learn more at [texasruralfunders.org](https://texasruralfunders.org).*