

## **ATIC Board Agenda for Wednesday, February 14, 2024**

### **1. Administrative**

- 1.1. Self-Introductions
- 1.2. Modifications to and Acceptance of Agenda Draft
- 1.3. Acceptance of Minutes from January 10, 2024, Board Meeting
- 1.4. Treasurer's Report (Ron Schott)
- 1.5. ATIC Board Membership Considerations
  - 1.5.1. ATIC Broadband Providers Working Group Meeting & Next Steps
  - 1.5.2. ATIC Board Elections Follow Up
- 1.6. Review of Outstanding Action Items as Documented in January 10, 2024, Minutes

### **2. Informational Presentations**

- 2.1. None Scheduled

### **3. Activity Reports**

- 3.1. Arizona Broadband Office Report (Sandip Bhowmick)
  - 3.1.1. Broadband Grants, Rural Community Outreach & Projects
  - 3.1.2. Digital Equity Initiatives & Opportunities
  - 3.1.3. ACA Broadband Strategy & ATIC Role/Support
- 3.2. Arizona Broadband Stakeholder Network (Steve Peters)
  - 3.2.1. AZBSN Digital Access Task Force Updates
  - 3.2.2. AZBSN Leadership Group, Committees & Initiatives
  - 3.2.3. Outreach Activities with Newsletters & Webinars
- 3.3. Technology in Education/eLearning
  - 3.3.1. Arizona Technology in Education Association (AzTEA) (Nan Williams)
  - 3.3.2. Greater Arizona Educational Leadership (GAZEL) (Steve Peters)
  - 3.3.3. Sun Corridor Network (SCN) (Laura Etter)
- 3.4. Arizona State Library (Holly Henley, Mala Muralidharan)
- 3.5. Telehealth (Michael Holcomb)
- 3.6. Government Affairs
  - 3.6.1. Arizona Broadband Policy Update (John Kelly, Mark Goldstein)
  - 3.6.2. Federal Broadband Policy Update (Nicole Umayam/NTIA, Mark Goldstein)

### **4. Information and Action Plans**

- 4.1. ATIC Website & Teleconferencing (All)
  - 4.1.1. AZBSN Communications & Newsletter
- 4.2. ATIC Mailing List & CRM (All)
- 4.3. New Business and Motion Considerations (All)

### **5. Events Attended and Upcoming Meetings**

### **6. Announcements**

### **7. Adjourn**

## **ATIC Board Meeting Minutes**

**February 14, 2024**

### **Attendees:**

#### **ATIC Board Members:**

**Mark Goldstein, Henry Goldberg, Oris Friesen, Ron Schott, John Kelly, Kirk Busch, Corey Christians, Jerry Crow, Laura Etter, Heather Floyd, Rob Gallegos, Holly Henley, Michael Holcomb and Andy Phelan.**

#### **ATIC Associates & Guests:**

**Steve Peters (Coordinator, Arizona Broadband Stakeholder Network Digital Access Task Force), Mala Muralidharan (State E-rate Administrator for Public Libraries), Andy Tobin (Owner, Tobin Business Solutions), Tamara Rosenberg (State Broadband Coordinator for Arizona, Resound Networks), Caroline Klebacha (Archaeological Compliance Specialist, Arizona State Historic Preservation Office), Dario Solis (Business Engagement Manager, ASU Fulton Schools of Engineering), Robin Dumas (Economic Development Program Director, SEAGO), Leslie King (Lt. Colonel, National Guard Cyber Joint Task Force).**

**Quorum Met with 14 ATIC Board Members Present (Quorum = 10)**

**A replay of the meeting is available at <https://youtu.be/s48kXskrW6c>.**

**Many thanks to Nan Williams and the Arizona Technology in Education Association (AzTEA, <http://aztea.org/>) for the use of their Zoom Video account for video conferencing and dial-in capabilities and to the Arizona State Library for providing additional support.**

**The next Board Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 13, 2024, virtually. The schedule of ATIC Board Meetings for the balance of 2024 can be found towards the end of these minutes.**

## 1. Administrative

### 1.1. Self-Introductions

See the list of attendees above.

### 1.2. Modifications to and Acceptance of Agenda Draft

**MOTION: To accept the Agenda**

**MOVE: Henry Goldberg**

**SECOND: Oris Friesen**

**Passed Unanimously**

### 1.3. Acceptance of Minutes from January 10, 2024, Board Meeting

Oris Friesen writes the draft minutes, after which they are reviewed carefully by Henry Goldberg, and Mark Goldstein does a final edit of the draft minutes before issuing them to the entire Board as a draft for review, comment, and approval.

**MOTION: To accept the Minutes**

**MOVE: Heather Floyd**

**SECOND: Andy Phelan**

**Passed Unanimously**

### 1.4. Treasurer's Report

Ron Schott, Treasurer, circulated via email the Desert Financial Credit Union statement with account and transaction details for Board reference, which are included at the back of these Minutes. Ron reported that current funds on hand total \$8043.52. All major bills have been paid. Mark has some outstanding bills of a few hundred dollars from the past six months for which he needs to be reimbursed.

Ron noted the annual Directors & Officers Insurance was paid on July 11, 2023. At the October Board meeting John Kelly had commented that ATIC might wish to consider dropping the Directors & Officers insurance since it may not be necessary for our type of organization. John stated he spoke to an insurance broker about this, and this may be an expense ATIC does need to have. John said there seems to be no risk-associated tasks that ATIC is engaged in, such as consulting, operational, or financial exposure. Henry Goldberg stated he does not feel comfortable dropping this insurance since the directors/officers are doing this work pro-bono and have no protection against any possible lawsuits, and some officers such as Mark and Henry are doing or may do consulting work in areas that relate to ATIC activities. Mark pointed out that the consulting he does is not for ATIC, and he carries his own professional liability insurance for his consulting firm. Kirk said that if we decide to do some tasks for ACA that may change our risk status so we should probably keep it for now. Mark also noted that we may be involved in some new state broadband and digital equity projects. John explained that the insurance does not protect us against

frivolous lawsuits other than if, as officers, we act in ways that are incompatible with our fiduciary responsibilities, and his firm carries liability insurance protection against lawsuits rather than Directors & Officers Insurance. He suggested that we talk to our broker about this. Mark suggested that we take a wait-and-see position, especially since the insurance is paid up through the middle of 2024 and take no action at this time. ATIC continues to consider making a decision on this.

Steve Peters reported that there are no funds remaining in the Arizona Broadband Stakeholder Network account. The most recent sponsors were Karen Ziegler Consulting Services and Triad Wireless. Steve has launched a sponsorship drive to raise further funding (<https://www.arizonatele.org/funding-request-2020.html>) and needs to become more active in securing some sponsorship renewals and new sponsorships. He is speaking with Sandip Bhowmick (State Broadband Office Director) and others about obtaining funding from upcoming digital equity funding and other sources.

Mark has noted at previous meetings that the ATIC bank balance has been drifting down, but with remote ATIC Board meetings we no longer have to pay for lunches for attendees. Mark has commented in the past that ATIC needs to pursue its own funding, which would include sponsorships. ATIC needs to initiate a financial campaign for sponsors and other sources of funding to support and undertake new projects. Mark noted that in the past ATIC has been paid to host rural broadband workshops and has pursued various projects when it had more funds.

### **1.5. ATIC Board Membership Considerations**

Mark has followed up with Brent Nelson of the Navajo Nation Department of Diné Education and Joy Whiting, the Apache County Superintendent of Schools, about joining the ATIC Board. He has asked Ian Hathcock about contacting Sonia Nez, the Navajo Nation Broadband Manager, and is waiting to hear from Ian.

Henry Goldberg suggested removing some inactive Board Members. Mark indicated that Bill Bolin, Matt Dostal and Marisa Walker may wish to be removed from the Board and he will contact them about this. Kirk Busch commented that Marisa Walker of the Arizona Commerce Authority (ACA) keeps an eye out for what ATIC is doing, so we should discuss this with her, and Mark noted that Sandip Bhowmick represents ACA on the ATIC Board. Mark will also talk to Jeff Mirasola of Lumen Technologies about continuing or providing a replacement.

Two people, who have attended AZBSN meetings, have contacted Mark recently about interest in joining the ATIC Board: Tamara Rosenberg of Resound Networks (<https://resoundnetworks.com/>), who is attending today, and Mignon Hollis of the Arizona Regional Economic Development Foundation (AREDF, <https://aredf.org/>) located in Sierra Vista. Mark has encouraged them to engage with ATIC and attend the February ATIC Board Meeting. He also spoke with Shaun Story of Calix Networks, who is potentially interested in becoming a sponsor of ATIC and/or AZBSN.

Kirk Busch proposed that we consider Dr. Dario Solis as a new Board Member. Dario is the Business Engagement Manager for the ASU Fulton Schools of Engineering,

and he explained his role there. He has been with ASU for five years and has worked on IoT applications in education and smart cities. His primary role now is catering to ASU relationships with companies and paying close attention to companies' impacts on Arizona communities in terms of talent, technology, and research.

**MOTION: To nominate Dr. Dario Solis as a Board Member.**

**MOVE: Kirk Busch**

**SECOND: Henry Goldberg**

**Passed Unanimously**

Kirk asked for a head shot and bio from Dario which Kirk will place on the website as well as update background info &/or links for other Board members. Kirk also suggested that new attendees should put their contact information in the chat.

### **1.5.1. ATIC Broadband Provider Working Group Meeting and Next Steps**

Mark had some recent discussions with Sandip Bhowmick, State Broadband Director at ACA, but there is nothing new to report. As reported previously, an outcome of the January 2022 ATIC Board meeting was to create an ATIC Broadband Provider Working Group whose function would be to provide a platform for providers to share information, meet & network, and engage on policy issues since there is no telecom service provider trade association in Arizona. The goal of this working group is to focus on addressing common issues and opportunities for the broadband service providers in Arizona. The group was launched on April 6, 2022, with a hybrid gathering hosted at Big Data Southwest's DataCenter & SmartCity IoT Infrastructure Summit

Mark has started a Slack channel populated with a list of about 160 provider representatives across about 80 companies from his spreadsheet. Mark circulated this spreadsheet to Sandip Bhowmick and Nicole Umayam for their reference and any additions/changes.

Mark convened a second meeting of the ATIC Broadband Provider Working Group, as a part of the Big Data Southwest's DataCenter & SmartCity IoT Infrastructure Summit (#USDC23, <https://www.bigdatasw.org/>) on January 26, 2023, at the Desert Willow Conference Center in Phoenix. He has activated the Slack channel and about fifteen people have joined it, but it is not very active yet.

At a previous ATIC board meeting Mark suggested we might create parallel Slack channels for two working groups with the Broadband Providers Working Group focusing on concerns of the communications providers, as initially planned. The second group would deal with topics and issues of economic development that include localized concerns as well as those that transcend county boundaries.

Mark noted that the Slack Channel has not taken off as he had hoped and is open to taking comments on this.

## **1.5.2. ATIC Board Elections Follow Up**

At the September 13<sup>th</sup> ATIC Board Meeting, John Kelly was elected the new ATIC Lobbyist on the ATIC Executive Committee replacing Mike Keeling, who will still remain an ATIC Board member. Annual Election of Officers will occur at the April 10<sup>th</sup> ATIC Board Meeting.

## **1.6. Review of Outstanding Action Items as Documented in January 10, 2024, Minutes**

Nothing to report

## **2. Informational Presentations**

2.1. None were scheduled.

## **3. Activity Reports**

### **3.1. Arizona Broadband Office Report (Sandip Bhowmick)**

Sandip Bhowmick, State Broadband Director at the Arizona Commerce Authority (ACA) State Broadband Office, was unable to be present so Mark overviewed their recent activities. Mark had previously reported that Volume II of the Arizona BEAD Initial Proposal was submitted to NTIA in late December 2023 in addition to Volume I which had been submitted earlier. The Digital Equity Plan draft was posted on the ACA website on January 2, 2024. Comments on this were accepted by the ACA until February 1<sup>st</sup>. The State Broadband Office integrated 43 public comments received into a revision of the Digital Equity Plan, and the revised Digital Equity Plan was submitted to NTIA for review. This was the 4<sup>th</sup> document submitted to NTIA related to BEAD and Digital Equity planning.

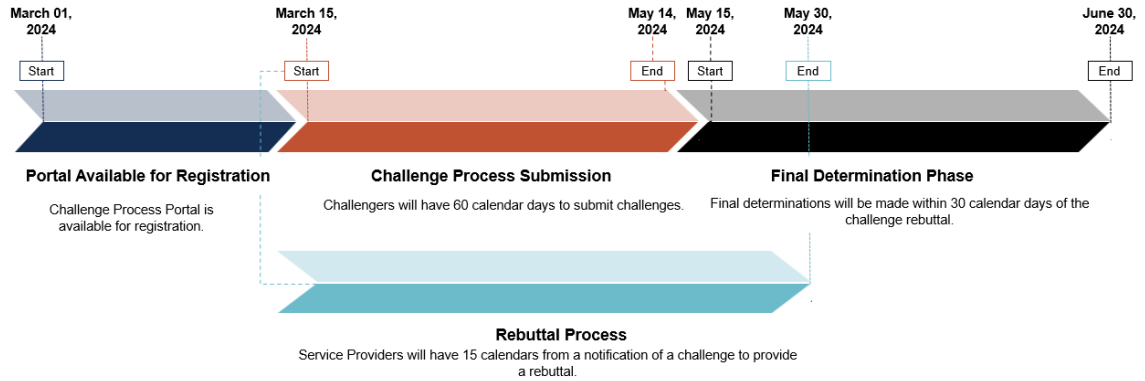
The next activity is the BEAD Challenge Process. The Challenge Process begins with a preview period where the state challenge map is posted, and this will be followed by a 30-day challenge period and two weeks for service providers to rebut challenges. A vendor is creating a state map which takes the FCC broadband map and supplements it with state knowledge on broadband-serviceable locations. ACA will shortly schedule map challenge webinars for various stakeholder groups and offer office hour slots to individual ISPs who would like to meet one-off with Sandip and team. See <https://www.azcommerce.com/broadband/arizona-broadband-equity-access-deployment-program/the-challenge-process/> for details and resources.

The state map classifies the household locations to be unserved (under 25/3 Mbps), underserved (under 100/20 Mbps) or served. The state map classifies Community Anchor Institutions (CAIs) as served if they have at least 1 Gbps symmetrical service.

Challenges are what people believe to be false positives or false negatives. False positives are where a service provider declares they are serving locations that are currently showing as unserved/underserved or they have a funded grant or enforceable commitment to service a location. False negatives are where the map

shows a location is served but an entity (e.g., a community) declares that the service provider has not delivered the service or provided the appropriate speed (as measured by speed tests).

## Challenge Process Timeline



**Challenge Process Submission Starts and Rebuttal Starts on a Rolling Basis**

Heather Floyd noted that there will be four webinars on February 20-22 to explain the challenge process to the different entities that can submit challenges -- local governments, tribal governments, ISPs and non-profits. This is described at: <https://www.azcommerce.com/broadband/arizona-broadband-equity-access-deployment-program/>. Non-profits and communities and ISPs can challenge the maps but not individuals.

After the challenge process, the State Broadband Office will derive a final set of unserved and underserved locations. Then it will define project areas bundled geographically that will be open to service providers to bid on for BEAD grant applications. The BEAD Initial Proposal Volume II describes the scoring procedures for evaluating the bids, with the scoring favoring fiber solutions. In designated areas of a high fiber cost exceeding a specified threshold, fixed wireless or satellite solutions will be considered. Henry asked about how the CAIs are included in the project areas, and Mark replied that the CAIs would be included in the project areas with the unserved/underserved households. Arizona has been allocated \$993 million for BEAD grant funding to serve all the unserved/underserved locations.

Steve said the ACA challenge process webinars are listed in the AZBSN newsletter. Steve hopes to arrange with Sandip Bhowmick a study session on the challenge process, which would be similar to previous AZBSN study session on the BEAD and Digital Equity plans. Mark commented that the State Broadband Office and the Governor’s Office would promote this study session with the relevant stakeholders.

Mark noted that the Governor’s Interagency and Community Broadband Advisory Council, chaired by Maggie Farry and Sandip, has only met once, but its six working groups meet once a month. This Council has six working groups: 1) Infrastructure and

Permitting; 2) Mapping; 3) Digital Inclusion; 4) Affordability; 5) Workforce; and 6) Outreach. If you are interested in participating contact Maggie Farry, Intergovernmental Affairs Director, Office of the Governor at mfarry@az.gov or (602) 290-5726. The meetings are recorded and you must contact Maggie to get on the distribution list for the recordings).

Henry asked if the working groups are developing mission statements and timelines. Mark responded that these working groups are less formal, and Maggie will later issue a summary of the findings and recommendations but he does not know when that will be. Steve added that Ben Blink and others in the Workforce group are getting together to discuss workforce training issues.

Steve Peters held a special AZBSN Digital Equity Plan study session on Thursday January 18, which was a two-hour session for reviewing and commenting on the Digital Equity Plan draft.

Another item of interest was the two-day “Internet for All Broadband Summit” jointly produced by Governor Hobbs’ Office and the ACA at the Mesa Convention Center on January 23-24. The 1<sup>st</sup> day was focused on broadband infrastructure topics, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> day was primarily focused on digital equity topics.

ACA also hosted one of its monthly digital equity roundtables on January 16.

The State Broadband Office at ACA has been staffing up. There are now about eight staff members listed, including broadband and digital equity program managers, a GIS specialist, and a tribal liaison, with two more staff to be hired in the near future.

Mark stated previously that he anticipates some of the \$993 million in Arizona BEAD grant funding to be awarded in late 2024, but most of the money will likely not be awarded until 2025.

Mark also noted there will be funding in the millions of dollars allocated by NTIA for the Arizona’s State Digital Equity Program.

Community Anchor Institutions (CAIs) can be included for BEAD infrastructure funding but at a lower priority than the unserved and underserved households. CAIs include any community focused site that offers education or training. The State Broadband Office has put in significant efforts to identify all the CAIs in the state beyond schools and libraries, such as boys & girls clubs and senior centers. Mark added that if fiber is deployed to a community it will be deployed along laterals (streets) that typically pass CAIs, so that fiber would only need to be provided for the last short distance, perhaps a hundred feet or so, to reach a CAI which could be funded by the service provider as a good business prospect if not funded by BEAD.

### **3.1.1. Broadband Grants, Rural Community Outreach & Projects**

The content for this section is included above in Section 3.1.



### **3.1.2. Digital Equity Initiatives & Opportunities**

The content for this section is included above in Section 3.1.

### **3.1.3. ACA Broadband Strategy & ATIC Role/Support**

The content for this section is included above in Section 3.1.

## **3.2. Arizona Broadband Stakeholder Network (Steve Peters)**

**3.2.1.** Steve Peters, Coordinator of the AZBSN Digital Access Task Force, said at a previous meeting that the bill for extended funding of the ACP has been introduced in Congress today so we hope it will pass. If extended ACP funding does not pass then other options will need to be considered because it would severely impact broadband access for low-income rural residents. The FCC is addressing potential strategies in the event ACP is not funded.

Steve reported that the State Broadband Office staff have been providing regular updates on State Broadband Office activities at AZBSN Task Force meetings. Sandip Bhowmik has told Steve he would like AZBSN to help with their outreach. Steve is beginning to develop an AZBSN plan for 2024 to support State Broadband Office plans and initiatives.

Steve described a number of recommendations he prepared on behalf of AZBSN that he submitted as formal comments to the State Broadband Office on their Digital Equity Draft Plan for their consideration.

- 1) There is a need for an entity like AZBSN to enable information sharing and collaboration. He also suggested that they reference the AZBSN Strategic Plan document published in November 2020.
- 2) Cybersecurity awareness mentioned in the plan is not sufficient. AZBSN has organized a team to develop a state cybersecurity strategy.
- 3) A digital inclusion sustainability strategy and ecosystem description is needed when the federal digital equity plan funding expires.
- 4) Local digital inclusion planning teams should be included. The Local First Arizona Economic Recovery Center could help communities do planning, find grants and manage grants.
- 5) Provide program development and community training for local community-based organizations.
- 6) Affordability of Internet service needs to go beyond ACP discussions. There should be discussion about leveraging E-rate, Sun Corridor Network, and the Final Mile Project to provide an array of low-cost broadband infrastructure solutions. Steve is planning to arrange an AZBSN session in the near future to discuss this.

As noted in a previous meeting, Steve continues to work on organizing an AZBSN Cybersecurity and Cyber Safety team to provide recommendations for the state planning on this important topic. This team will be led by JT LaGrand, Jon Haass (Embry Riddle University), and Mala Muralidharan, and

there are about a dozen participants on the team. Steve expects this team will convene meetings soon.

Several broadband providers have approached Steve about becoming an AZBSN sponsor. Steve will be looking at how broadband providers support digital inclusion and cyber safety.

#### **3.2.1.1. Updates to AZBSN Task Force Report**

Steve said at a previous meeting that Karen Ziegler and John Kelly had been unable to get traction on the proposed project. So there has been no progress on working on an update to the November 2020 AZBSN Digital Access Strategy Report and there is nothing new to report.

#### **3.2.2. AZBSN Leadership Group & New Initiatives**

Steve said at a previous meeting he will report on these topics after an updated plan has been issued.

Mark urged Steve to initiate some action on re-constituting the AZBSN Leadership Team and involve some additional people to assist in making this happen so the full load is not carried only by Steve. Steve agreed.

#### **3.2.3. Return to Outreach Activities with Newsletters & Webinars**

No new action to report in this area.

### **3.3. Technology in Education/eLearning**

#### **3.3.1. Arizona Technology in Education Association (AzTEA) (Nan Williams)**

Nan Williams serves as Executive Director of AzTEA (<https://aztea.org/>) and sits on the EDTechCommittee for the Arizona Department of Education (ADE) which is rewriting the Educational Technology standards this year. She is also participating in the ADE Technology Task Force on the Digital Learning Subcommittee and she is part of the ISTE policy group on digital equity access. She has also been working with the Arizona Rural Schools Association and their Final Mile Project (<https://www.finalmileproject.com/>).

Since AzTEA is now a CoSN affiliate, AzTEA is holding monthly chats with CIOs and CTOs of school districts to assist them in becoming certified educational technology leaders.

### **3.3.2. Greater Arizona Educational Leadership (GAZEL) (Steve Peters)**

The GAZEL Board hasn't met since early 2022 and needs reactivation and refreshing to further operationalize GAZEL. Steve discussed impending plans to do just that. The GAZEL Board still needs to acquire Directors & Officers (D&O) insurance for good governance and proper protections, especially if it is to propose and manage funded projects.

Work to produce a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between GAZEL and ATIC on the AZBSN has been on hold and a determination should be made about whether this is still necessary and if so, how to accomplish it. Mark stated that GAZEL needs to be reinvigorated including its interaction with ATIC on the AZBSN Digital Access Task Force.

### **3.3.3. Sun Corridor Network (SCN) (Laura Etter)**

Laura Etter gave a report on recent Sun Corridor Network (SCN) activity. Laura's contact points are: Sun Corridor Network - <https://suncorridor.org/> and [Laura@suncorridor.org](mailto:Laura@suncorridor.org).

The SCN is Arizona's Research & Education Network supporting the state universities, education, healthcare, government and CAIs. She emphasized that SCN is not an ISP but works on increasing connectivity in communities.

Laura described SCN's work on a broadband map for Maricopa County funded by the county. It shows by census tract the percent of households that have a fixed broadband subscription by type of technology used, as well as describing the reasons people don't have broadband subscriptions. The map provides similar data for other counties in the state where they have the information. Laura demonstrated various features of the map. AZ-1 (pronounced "as one") is a portal of resources dedicated to broadband and digital equity efforts throughout Arizona. (<https://az-1.info/>). Its purpose is how to help people get the resources they need. SCN encourages people to check out the map and compare it to the State Broadband Office broadband map. The map includes the entire state of Arizona.

Mark asked about the relationship of the SCN Map to AZGEO and Laura said the data comes from AZGEO and is what can be shared publicly. For reference, here is the AZGeo Public Map <https://azgeo.maps.arcgis.com/home/item.html?id=0677d03f776045338de4a286f16e98b0>. Mark stated that the State Broadband Office Map is for more specific purposes related to BEAD such as the broadband challenge process, while the SCN Map has more general applications.

Laura discussed other SCN activities. SCN participates in the Yuma County Connectivity Project on new precision agriculture applications. eX2 is the

contractor selected by ADOT/ACA to manage state middle-mile fiber leasing, and SCN will be determining how to use the dedicated middle-mile fiber strands for educational purposes. The SCN is also working on improving communications between communities/local governments and ISPs on their connectivity needs.

### **3.4. Arizona State Library (Holly Henley, Mala Muralidharan)**

Mala reported the last date to submit E-rate applications is March 27<sup>th</sup>, and the last date for submitting the E-rate RFPs is February 28<sup>th</sup>. She and her colleagues work on Category 1 Internet access to the door and also Category 2 which is internal networks for E-rate applications within the building. There is a 5-year cycle for Category 2 E-rate budgets, 2025-26 being the last year of this cycle. The capped budget for each school and library for 5 years is calculated by multiplying the square footage of the building by \$4.50 per sq. ft. It must be used by June 30, 2026, or it is lost but it can be shifted among buildings in a district. There is about \$15 million left for the libraries which must be spent by the deadline. Mala has made recommendations on how to use the Category 2 funding more efficiently. Corey Christians commented that in Yavapai County they have more Category 2 funding than they can use and would like to use it for filters, and Mala replied that they have asked for Category 2 funding to be allowed for filters for Internet connections.

Regarding ACP there was much discussion on the issue of continuation of ACP funding at the recent NDIA conference. Senator Lujan sent a message about the importance of ACP. He has scheduled meetings with ALA, COSN SHLB and others. FCC Chair Jessica Rosenworcel sent a letter to Congress about the importance of ACP. Over 22 million households are enrolled in ACP, 75% of these households use Internet for telehealth, ISPs will lose customers if ACP ends, the BEAD program success will be impacted if ACP ends, 240 organizations funded for ACP outreach have not completed their projects, and the termination of ACP will undermine confidence of the general public in government programs. You can find more details at <https://www.affordableconnectivity.gov/>.

There is a US Dept. of Education National Educational Technology Plan that recommends changes under three areas: digital usage divide, digital design divide and digital access divide. It can be downloaded at <https://tech.ed.gov/netp/>.

Cybersecurity comments for E-rate eligible funding had a January 29 deadline and replies are due by February 27. The E-rate hotspot lending program has mixed support. It costs \$198 million at least and the program is cumbersome to track usage.

For more details, see the State Library Report below, submitted by Mala.

## ATIC Board Meeting February 14, 2024, State Library Report

### E-RATE :

1. E-rate Application process for FY 2024-5 will close on **Wednesday, March 27, 2024**, at 11:59 p.m. ET.
2. **Wednesday, February 28, 2024 is the last date that you can submit and certify an RFP FCC Form 470 and still wait the required minimum 28-day period** before submitting and certifying your FCC Form 471 by March 27, 2024, the last date of the FY2024 application filing window.
3. **Funding Year (FY) 2024 Eligible Services List Released December 15** [Eligible Services List page](#) to learn which services are eligible for E-Rate discounts for the upcoming funding year.
4. **Category 2 is a 5 year cycle Next year is the last year Sq ft x \$4.50. We have lots of money on the table more than \$15 M**
5. Milan and I will help all applicants through the process as needed.  
[Milan.eaton@azed.gov](mailto:Milan.eaton@azed.gov)  
[Mala@azlibrary.gov](mailto:Mala@azlibrary.gov)

**E-rate reimburses nearly \$ 85 M in recurring internet costs for Schools and Libraries**

**ACP :** The Affordable Connectivity Program stopped accepting new applications and enrollments on February 7, 2024. Please refer to the FCC's website at [fcc.gov/acp](http://fcc.gov/acp) for more information. Consumers had to be approved and enrolled with a service provider by 11:59 p.m. ET on February 7 to receive the benefit.

**Arizona has 522,188 households enrolled and the USA has 23 million households nationwide—in rural America, urban America.**

At the NDIA conference Jessica Rosenworcel's FCC's chairwoman spoke about the importance of ACP which enable more than 23 million households to get online and stay online and participate in modern life and her request to Congress to continue it so that they can continue to have the high-speed internet service. Congress cannot ignore the popularity and importance of this critical program to bridge the digital divide. She spoke about how the internet is a vital communication channel for teacher to parents, for Telemedicine (She mentioned that 75% of the households use internet for Telehealth), for business, banking, job applications, working from home, - all of which will be affected if the ACP goes away.

Other speakers spoke about how this will affect roughly 1,700 internet service providers who will be affected by the termination of the ACP as many households will no longer be able to afford to pay for the program.

The Administrator of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration previously informed Congress, losing the ACP would undermine the historic \$42.5 billion Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program, for which the ACP supports a stable customer base to help incentivize deployment in rural areas.

Ending ACP enrollments will also mean that the more than 240 outreach grant awardees across the country will need to wind down their grant-funded ACP outreach. Even worse is the fact that this will confuse the customers and undermine their confidence in the government and be a setback for the progress this program has made towards closing the digital divide.

Senator LuJan also sent a recorded message for NDIA Conference echo similar sentiments.

**National Educational Technology Plan:** [National Educational Technology Plan - Office of Educational Technology](#)

In January 2024, the U.S. Department of Education’s Office of Educational Technology released the 2024 National Educational Technology Plan (NETP.) This is the call to action to close the digital divide in three major areas: digital use, digital design, and digital access.

NETP frames three key divides limiting the transformational potential of educational technology to support teaching and learning, including:

- The **Digital Use Divide**, addressing opportunities to improve how students use technology to enhance their learning, including dynamic applications of technology to explore, create, and engage in critical analysis of academic content and knowledge;
- The **Digital Design Divide**, addressing opportunities for educators to expand their professional learning and build the capacities necessary to design learning experiences enabled by technology; and
- The **Digital Access Divide**, addressing opportunities for students and educators to gain equitable access to educational technology, including connectivity, devices, and digital content. This also includes accessibility and digital health, safety, and citizenship as key elements of digital access.

The Plan recommends leveraging “public/private partnerships and community collaboration to bring broadband internet access to previously under-connected areas and ensure student access to ‘everywhere, all-the-time learning.’”

**FCC PRIORITIES** : Learn Without Limits :

**1. Wi-Fi on school buses** : No updates to the Jan report

**2. Cybersecurity Comments deadline was Jan 29<sup>th</sup> - Cybersecurity Pilot Changes Suggested**

The deadline for initial comments to the Federal Communications Commission's Notice of Proposed Rulemaking for the creation of a cybersecurity pilot program for K-12 schools and public libraries passed on January 29, 2023. In total, the Commission received almost 40 comments and ex parte meeting summaries regarding the pilot proposal. Commenters **unanimously agreed that the FCC should move forward with the pilot, citing the urgent and critical need for advanced cybersecurity protections in our nation's schools and libraries.** Common themes emerging from multiple commenters include:

**Shorten the duration:** The most common area of agreement among commenters was that the FCC's proposed three-year pilot timeframe is too long. Commenters cited the need to expedite the pilot so that permanent E-rate rule changes (or a permanent cybersecurity program) for all applicants could happen sooner.

**More funding:** A number of comments suggested that the proposed funding level of \$200 million might not be enough to fund the number of projects required to perform an accurate data analysis. Suggested funding levels for the pilot varied (Funds For Learning suggested \$312 million.)

**Broaden definition of eligible services:** Several commenters suggested that the FCC refrain from implementing a specific list of products, services, or technologies as eligible for pilot program support, instead advocating for a broader (or categorical) eligible services framework which would allow for a variety of solutions to be funded and studied.

**Tracking success:** A few commenters proposed that the FCC measure the success of the pilot program by requiring applicants to commit to a specific cybersecurity posture or framework, reporting the effect the pilot funds would have on their progress toward full implementation of that initiative. Commenters argue that this method of tracking the program's success would be more objective given the uncertain nature of cyber attacks on schools and libraries.

**Privacy concerns:** Several commenters urged the FCC to carefully consider the information collected via the Form 484 application to participate in the pilot, as well as

what information is made publicly available. Commenters cautioned that public disclosure of applicants' cybersecurity posture and current systems could show vulnerabilities or attack vectors that were previously undisclosed.

Reply comments to the cybersecurity NPRM are due February 27, 2024. Comments and reply comments submitted to the FCC may be viewed [here](#).

### **3. HotSpot Lending from Libraries and Schools through E-rate: Mixed Support for E-rate Hotspots**

The initial comment deadline for the Federal Communications Commission's E-rate hotspot Notice of Proposed Rulemaking was January 16, 2024. The Commission received more than 60 comments during the initial comment period, with commenters showing a mixture of support and opposition for making Wi-Fi hotspot service eligible for E-rate discounts.

**The Need :** Near unanimous agreement among NPRM commenters, for the clear and urgent need for student internet access off-campus. Commenters disagreed on the best way to support that need, but all seemed to agree that the necessary tools for remote learning are no longer a luxury but a necessity.

**Is E-rate the solution?:** Supporters of the proposal argue that the E-rate program is an efficient and effective way of addressing the homework gap using a mature program with existing checks and balances. Those who oppose the proposal argue that the laws governing the E-rate program do not allow for support outside school or library property and/or that other federal programs are more ideally suited to address at-home connectivity.

**E-rate applicants support Wi-Fi hotspots:** Most of the schools and libraries who submitted comments were in favor of adding Wi-Fi hotspots to the E-rate program's Eligible Services List. Further, many advocated for broadening the scope of eligible services to include broadband technologies other than hotspots in cases where alternative modes of connectivity could be proven cost-effective.

**Cost concerns:** A number of commenters expressed concern about the potential cost of adding hotspot service to the E-rate program, with some supporting per-applicant device count or funding amount caps. Other commenters suggested restructuring the program's funding prioritization mechanism to ensure that on-campus connectivity continues to be the primary focus. Funds For Learning estimates that adding hotspot



service to the program would **increase the total demand for E-rate funds by approximately \$198 million.**

#### **End of Library Report**

### **3.5. Telehealth (Mike Holcomb)**

Mike Holcomb Interim Director of the Arizona Telemedicine Program (ATP) and newly elected to ATIC's Board, reported that the search for a Director of the ATP is still on-going. He also spoke about UofA financial issues. One effect of the funding issues is that IT roles will be centralized for efficiency and compliance reasons rather than having functions done by individual departments. The new acting CIO of the University of Arizona is Lanita Collette, who has attended an ATIC Board Meeting in the past.

USAC, which administers ACP, provides useful information on the ACP and the smaller Lifeline program.

Mike will be attending the tribal health literacy summit in March. The Arizona Advisory Council on Indian Health Care is putting this on in Phoenix, and broadband will be discussed there under social detriments of health. See Tribal Health Literacy Summit, Registration:

[https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/THLS\\_NPT](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/THLS_NPT). The agenda is at [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1zKmD7WESg0OOFWh2UZbRiS4MtVPtk\\_FfW/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1zKmD7WESg0OOFWh2UZbRiS4MtVPtk_FfW/view).

The Health and Human Services (HHS) substance abuse report that makes permanent telehealth for allowable opioid treatment is at <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2024/02/02/2024-01693/medications-for-the-treatment-of-opioid-use-disorder#:~:text=This%20final%20rule%20permits%20initiation,or%20was%2C%20accomplished%20via%20audio%2D>.

ATP will publish a blog about this HHS rule on its Southwest Telehealth Resource Center website: <https://southwesttrc.org/blog>.

### **3.6. Government Affairs**

#### **3.6.1. Arizona Broadband Policy Update (John Kelly, Mark Goldstein)**

John reported that the Senate Government Committee recommended dissolution of the Arizona Commerce Authority (ACA) with its functions to be distributed in an undefined way. The House Appropriations Committee recommended that ACA be renewed for 4 years and the Chairman of the committee recommended 6 years. Henry asked how this dispute will be resolved, and John said he does not know. Mark noted that he submitted (representing his company not ATIC) a supporting statement for

continuation of the ACA on the legislature's Request to Speak system.

John spoke to Representative Dunn, who chairs the rural caucus, and the ACA legislative liaison about ATIC's proposal to organize an informal broadband briefing for legislators, where Sandip Bhowmick would be the major presenter. They supported this proposal, so John will work on arranging this, likely as a breakfast briefing, and some ATIC Board members will be invited to attend.

The bill advocating for Arizona Corporation Commission (ACC) oversight of broadband is dead.

John reported that he will continue to provide weekly updates to select ATIC officers and board members on bills and activities at the state legislature. The ACA bill is one bill that directly impacts ATIC. Other relevant bills that may be introduced may address telehealth, education technology, and artificial intelligence. Steve Peters asked whether John's firm TriAdvocates lobbies the federal government/agencies, and John replied that they only lobby state government/agencies.

### **3.6.2. Federal Broadband Policy Update (Nicole Umayam/NTIA, Mark Goldstein)**

Nicole Umayam is the Arizona Broadband Liaison Federal Program Officer (FPO), for the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA). As such she serves as the interface for the state of Arizona to the NTIA at the national level, supporting the State Broadband Office on the BEAD and Digital Equity Programs. Nicole has shared with NTIA key activities in Arizona such as those of the Arizona State Library and the ADE Final Mile Project. Nicole was not present at today's meeting and thus provided no federal broadband policy update.

Mark said there is a move to make all recent federal broadband grants tax-free. This has some momentum. The currently active bipartisan and bicameral S. 341/H.R. 889, the Broadband Grant Tax Treatment Act would amend the Internal Revenue Code to ensure funding for broadband deployment from the Infrastructure Law including programs such as BEAD, the Middle Mile program, and the Tribal Broadband Connectivity Fund, and other similar federally funded broadband programs will not be considered taxable income. See <https://insidetowers.com/telecom-industry-to-congress-spare-broadband-grants-from-taxes/>. Mark noted that this is important to service providers in enabling investments in broadband infrastructure.

## **4. Information and Action Plans**

### **4.1. ATIC Website & Teleconferencing (All)**

As noted previously by Mark and Steve, the ATIC website is aging a bit so this is an opportunity to clean it up and restructure it. The website is shared with AZBSN. Steve Peters had commented that there could be transcripts of ATIC Board meetings (as they do for AZBSN task force meetings) in combination with the recordings of the meetings and will discuss this with Oris and Mark. Responding to Henry Goldberg's request to update the ATIC website at the October 11<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting, Kirk Busch reported that he updated the website to show John Kelly as the ATIC Lobbyist, moved Mike Keeling to the ATIC Board members section, and added PJ Way to the Board members section. Kirk stated that he still has to add the bios that were previously on the website for many ATIC Board members as attached pdfs by now using links to an external webpage for improved security. Kirk will send an e-mail to these ATIC Board members to send him updated bios as either a pdf or a link to their LinkedIn profile.

The website needs to be leveraged to publicize the Digital Access Task Force Report recommendations as well as using it for communications and public engagement, such as newsletters. Kirk noted that he will continue to promote ATIC/AZBSN on LinkedIn and elsewhere.)

#### **4.1.1. AZBSN Communications & Newsletter**

Mark at a previous meeting suggested that we should think about how to leverage some of the information sessions from the Monday morning AZBSN-COVID Digital Access Task Force meetings.

There remains a continuing need for volunteers to work  
(1) on regular maintenance of the Weebly ATIC website and  
(2) on providing a regular newsletter about all that's going on in the broadband world.

#### **4.2. ATIC Mailing List & CRM (All)**

Steve is discussing with Mark and Kirk Busch subscribing to a CRM/E-mail management service to meet the needs of the AZBSN Task Force.

#### **4.3. New Business and Motion Considerations (All)**

##### **ATIC vs. AZBSN Roles and AZBSN Governance.**

At a previous meeting Mark reminded everyone of the issue raised by Janet recently concerning AZBSN governance and oversight. Since Janet has retired this item has been removed from the minutes.

Also at a previous meeting Mark added that we did start to develop a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in 2020 and the Executive Committee held several meetings on this topic. One of the decisions that was made was to

let the finances of AZBSN operate under the management of GAZEL. However, the GAZEL Board has not met for some time and is not effectively acting in an operational capacity. Kirk Busch asked about the state of the draft MOU and Mark said he would send him a copy.

## **5. Events Attended and Upcoming Meetings**

Oris will send a copy of this meeting's chat to Steve, Henry and Mark.

Kirk Busch will send a request for bios and headshot to all Board Members.

Mark mentioned the Story Collider is bringing its science storytelling show to Phoenix on April 26th, partnering with and at the Arizona Science Center! They are seeking true stories about your personal experiences with science, to be included in the show. For examples of great stories, you can hear their podcast at [www.storycollider.org/podcast](http://www.storycollider.org/podcast). If you're interested, please send an email to [stories@storycollider.org](mailto:stories@storycollider.org) and include a short (1-2 paragraphs) summary of your story. You can also fill out the form at <https://www.storycollider.org/submissions>.

## **6. Announcements**

## **7. Adjourn**

At 2:05 pm

## **Upcoming ATIC Board Meetings**

**Upcoming ATIC Board Meetings for 2024 are scheduled for the second Wednesdays of the month (except August and December) from 12:00-2:00 p.m. and will be held fully virtually until further notice. Board Meetings are open for all to participate. Please plan to join us.**

- **March 13, 2024 from 12:00-2:00 pm**
- **April 10, 2024 from 12:00-2:00 pm**
- **May 8, 2024 from 12:00-2:00 pm**
- **June 12, 2024 from 12:00-2:00 pm**
- **July 10, 2024 from 12:00-2:00 pm**
- **No Board Meeting in August (Summer Break)**
- **September 11, 2024 from 12:00-2:00 pm**
- **October 9, 2024 from 12:00-2:00 pm**
- **November 13, 2024 from 12:00-2:00 pm**
- **No Board Meeting in December (Happy Holidays!)**

## **ATIC Special and Public Meetings**

**AZBSN Digital Access Task Force continues to hold meetings every Thursday morning (except holidays) at 8:00 a.m. See the Planning page at <https://www.arizonatele.org/covid19-planning.html> for details.**

**Also see Task Force information and related resources at <https://www.arizonatele.org/covid19-about.html>.**

**Future AZBSN newsletter, webinars, and roundtables are under development.**



See how you helped in 2023!

## Dashboard

Is your contact information up to date? ▼

### Accounts

Checking  
\$459.48

ATIC 434041  
\*\*\*\*04061-0400

▲ \$459.48  
\$459.48

Savings  
\$7,574.04

ATIC 073206  
\*\*\*\*04061-0000

▲ \$7,574.04  
\$7,599.04

▲ Available Balance

### Important Information

Will vs. trust: How to choose

Learn how to choose which is right for you in this quick read.

January 31, 2024

Blog | Four tips to stay safe online

Here are four tips you can start implementing today to strengthen your online security.

January 31, 2024

### Quick Links

[Credit Card Login](#)

[Investments \(Raymond James\)](#)

[Mortgage Loans \(MILOS\)](#)

[Identity Secure](#)

[Mobile App 301](#)

### Link External Accounts



[Get Started](#)

**Desert Financial Credit Union**

Arizona Telecommunications And Information  
 ATIC 434041 \*\*\*\*\*04081-0400

*Transaction History*

	Statement Period: <b>All Dates</b>   Date of Statement: <b>02/06/2024</b>
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**Posted Transactions (78)**

DATE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	BALANCE
01/10/24	CENTURYLINK AUTO PAY AZ TELCOM INFO COUNCIL	-26.01	\$459.48
12/12/23	CENTURYLINK AUTO PAY AZ TELCOM INFO COUNCIL	-26.27	\$485.49
11/10/23	CENTURYLINK AUTO PAY AZ TELCOM INFO COUNCIL	-26.27	\$511.76
10/11/23	CENTURYLINK AUTO PAY AZ TELCOM INFO COUNCIL	-26.61	\$538.03
09/12/23	CENTURYLINK AUTO PAY AZ TELCOM INFO COUNCIL	-26.85	\$564.64
08/10/23	CENTURYLINK AUTO PAY AZ TELCOM INFO COUNCIL	-26.49	\$591.49
07/11/23	DRAFT #2226 TRACER 53197395	-933.00	\$617.98
07/11/23	CENTURYLINK AUTO PAY AZ TELCOM INFO COUNCIL	-26.37	\$1,550.98
06/27/23	ARIZONA TECHNOLOGY 8699 WWW.AZTECHCOU AZ IGOQJ9JX	-400.00	\$1,577.35
06/20/23	ONLINE BANKING TRANSFER FROM 0000	\$1,000.00	\$1,977.35
06/12/23	CENTURYLINK AUTO PAY AZ TELCOM INFO COUNCIL	-26.75	\$977.35
06/05/23	DRAFT #2225 TRACER 52470921	-10.00	\$1,004.10
05/19/23	DRAFT #2224 TRACER 52175931	-500.00	\$1,014.10
05/12/23	ONLINE BANKING TRANSFER FROM 0000	\$1,000.00	\$1,514.10
05/12/23	CENTURYLINK AUTO PAY AZ TELCOM INFO COUNCIL	-26.37	\$514.10
04/11/23	CENTURYLINK AUTO PAY AZ TELCOM INFO COUNCIL	-25.75	\$540.47
03/14/23	CENTURYLINK AUTO PAY AZ TELCOM INFO COUNCIL	-26.13	\$566.22
02/10/23	CENTURYLINK AUTO PAY AZ TELCOM INFO COUNCIL	-25.61	\$592.35