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ATIC Board Agenda for Wednesday, October 13, 2021

1. Administrative

- 1.1. Self-Introductions
- 1.2. Modifications to and Acceptance of Agenda Draft
- 1.3. Acceptance of Minutes from September 8, 2021 Board Meeting
- 1.4. Treasurer's Report (Ron Schott)
 - 1.4.1. Elimination of Post Office Box 1119 Mailing Address
- 1.5. ATIC Board Membership Considerations
- 1.6. Review of Outstanding Action Items as Documented in September 8, 2021 Minutes

2. Informational Presentations

- 2.1. None Scheduled

3. Activity Reports

- 3.1. Arizona Broadband Strategic Plan & FirstNet (Jeff Sobotka)
 - 3.1.1. Rural Community Outreach
 - 3.1.2. ACA Broadband Strategy & ATIC Role/Support
- 3.2. Arizona Broadband Stakeholder Network (Steve Peters)
 - 3.2.1. AZBSN COVID-19 Digital Access Task Force Updates
 - 3.2.2. New Initiatives to Carry Out the Report's Recommendations
 - 3.2.3. Return to Outreach Activities with Newsletters & Webinars
- 3.3. Greater Arizona Educational Leadership (Steve Peters, Nan Williams)
 - 3.3.1. Arizona Technology in Education Association (AzTEA)
 - 3.3.2. GAZEL Innovative Learning Collaborative Initiatives
- 3.4. Arizona State Library (Holly Henley, Mala Muralidharan)
- 3.5. Telehealth (Janet Major, Jeff Sobotka)
- 3.6. Government Affairs (Mike Keeling, Mark Goldstein)
 - 3.6.1. Consideration of Endorsing Common Sense Arizona's ECF Extension Letter

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



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ATIC Board Meeting Minutes

October 13, 2021

Attendees:

ATIC Board Members:

Jerry Crow, Oris Friesen, Henry Goldberg, Mark Goldstein, Kirk Busch, Nan Williams (opened the Zoom meeting and left,) Andrew Bevington, Ron Schott, Andy Phelan, Mala Muralidharan proxy for Holly Henley (Arizona State Library), Lawrie Prickett proxy for Ian Hathcock (Cellular One), Janet Major and Michael Cohen.

ATIC Associates & Guests:

Steve Peters (AZBSN & GAZEL) and Lindsey Dietz (Arizona Alliance for Community Health Centers (AACHC)).

Quorum Met with 12 ATIC Board Members Present – not counting Nan Williams (Quorum = 8)

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, November 10, 2021, and will be held fully virtually, as will all our meetings until further notice. The schedule of remaining ATIC Board Meetings for 2021 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 as modified

**MOVE: Oris Friesen
SECOND: Kirk Busch
Passed Unanimously**

1.3. Acceptance of Minutes from September 8, 2021, Board Meeting

MOTION: To accept the Minutes as submitted

**MOVE: Jerry Crow
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 \$11,902.74 with no major recent expenses other than the CenturyLink bill.

Steve is continuing to send out an AZBSN COVID-19 Digital Access Task Force sponsorship package and will be contacting other potential funders. Note that GAZEL remains the fiscal agent for AZBSN funds.

Mark has said previously 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.

1.4.1. Elimination of Post Office Box 1119 Mailing Address

Mark reported that due to minimal usage and to avoid the annual \$250 fee, the ATIC Post Office Box has been discontinued. Ron agreed to contact the IRS, ACC and the D&O insurance provider about the change. Mark agreed to notify CenturyLink and will work with Steve to make sure all contact information for the website and collateral are adjusted as needed. Many contacts can be handled electronically. Mark will set up any necessary forwarding mechanism for paper mail to his home addresses likely effective

for six months after the post office box is shut down.

1.5. ATIC Board Membership Considerations

Mark noted that we have an ongoing interest in acquiring more representation from rural communities and other groups.

We have twenty-three Board members and we can have up to thirty-five according to our bylaws.

Andy Phelan has taken a new position as Director of Accounting & Finance at Sonoran Schools in Gilbert, Arizona. Oris will update the website to reflect this change.

Mark contacted Alan Pruitt who has resigned from Western Arizona Economic Development District (WAEDD). Mark sent Alan an e-mail asking if he could recommend someone else from rural Arizona to become an ATIC Board member. Mark also asked Karen Ziegler and John Lucas if they would like to become Board members. John said he will consider the request after the start of next year. A woman at the Paloma School District suggested Wes Brownfield, Executive Director of the Arizona Rural Schools Association, as a potential ATIC Board member – Wes is involved with the AZBSN COVID-19 Digital Access Task Force..

Other suggestions included a tribal contact from Alluvion, the Gila River communications company; Mauricio Orozco as a representative of healthcare, suggested by Janet Major; an ADE representative such as Sophia Mayberry, suggested by Mark; Toni Broberg of AT&T, suggested by Mark; and a Hopi representative recommended by Jeff Sobotka was suggested by Janet. Mark said he would try to contact Jerolyn Takala, the Hopi IT Director, for possible names. Janet also suggested Lindsey Dietz of the Arizona Alliance for Community Health Centers as a possible board member of ATIC.

Mark will also talk to Toni Broberg about sponsoring ATIC or AZBSN.

Mark will investigate why the emails to Jeff Mirasola of Lumen Technologies have been bouncing.

1.6. Review of Outstanding Action Items as Documented in September 8, 2021, Minutes

ACTION ITEM: Mark had a previous action to contact Alan Pruitt Executive Director of the Western Arizona Economic Development District in Yuma as a potential Board Member.

This item is closed.

ACTION ITEM: Mark also had another previous action item to work with Jeff Sobotka to identify some rural representatives as potential Board Members. Mark may also talk to Gene Carl of Cox Communications and Toni Broberg of AT&T about Cox and AT&T potential ATIC Board members.

This item also remains open for next month.

2. Informational Presentations

2.1. None were scheduled.

3. Activity Reports

3.1. Arizona Broadband Strategic Plan & FirstNet (Jeff Sobotka)

3.1.1. Rural Community Outreach

No report.

3.1.2. ACA Broadband Strategy & ATIC Role/Support

Jeff Sobotka, State Broadband Director at the Arizona Commerce Authority (ACA), was unable to attend, and Mark provided a summary update of activities.

In the meeting last month Mark reviewed the historical process that led up to KPMG being selected by the ACA to update the 2018 state broadband strategic plan to focus on middle-mile fiber strategies as well as to identify rural communities' needs for broadband which can be addressed by upcoming federal and state broadband grant funding. KPMG's draft report is being reviewed internally and will be released in early November at the time the Rural Broadband Development Grants (RBDGs) program is launched.

The state RBDGs program will be \$100 million, which Jeff is currently thinking about allocating entirely for broadband infrastructure, with no funding for community planning grants. Mark and Janet think we should push back on this to include funding for community planning grants. Steve noted that the RBDGs don't provide funding for digital inclusion. Jeff may consider using some RBDGs funding for planning grants or digital inclusion.

Mark reported that grant funding for states and tribes totaling \$10 billion are available from the U.S. Treasury with an application deadline of December 27. Arizona will receive about \$190 million from the Treasury program, and Jeff is currently considering applying a large portion of this to state fiber middle-mile projects.

In a previous meeting Mark elaborated on the \$65 billion proposed for broadband purposes in the current bipartisan Senate federal \$1.2 trillion infrastructure package under consideration. A majority \$42.5 billion would go to the states as state block grants (Mark estimates likely about \$500-800 million to Arizona) and would be used primarily toward bringing broadband to unserved areas; \$15 billion would go to the USDA ReConnect program for funding rural broadband deployment projects with some tribal set asides and \$5 billion for libraries; and \$10 billion would be equally split between a bond program to fund public/private broadband partnerships and a digital equity program aimed at increasing broadband adoption. This funding would be over about a five-year period.

Mark said at the national level the broadband elements in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Framework (BIF) legislation seem pretty secure although there are some issues raised by SHLB and others about the low priority of Community Anchor Institutions (CAIs). 2022 will be an intense year for Arizona with \$500 million to \$1 billion dollars allocated for broadband infrastructure and digital equity projects. The infrastructure money will likely stretch over 5 years while digital equity initiatives will vary.

Janet gave an update on a 211 design modeled on the San Diego program, presented at a recent webinar, where the partners plan to provide tools to connect people to healthcare providers. Janet plans to do a similar webinar on 211. The webinar also featured a speaker on a broadband plan for telehealth in Colorado developed in 2018, which was derived from the Arizona broadband plan. Janet said she is eagerly awaiting the release of the KPMG report and hopes to focus on digital equity and healthcare plans.

3.2. Arizona Broadband Stakeholder Network (Steve Peters)

3.2.1. ASBSN COVID-19 Digital Access Task Force Updates

Steve Peters reported on the AZBSN COVID-19 Digital Access Task Force. The Task Force meets every Monday morning and is now attended by some 50-60 representatives from broadband service providers, technology companies, state and local government agencies, educational organizations, non-profits and consultants. Updates are provided at the weekly meetings from Jeff Sobotka, the State Broadband Director at the Arizona Commerce Authority (ACA); Sophia Mayberry and Milan Eaton from the Arizona Department of Education (ADE); Mala Muralidharan of the Arizona State Library; Janet Major, representing Telehealth; Derek Masseth of the Sun Corridor Network (SCN); and Lea Márquez Peterson, Chair of the Arizona Corporation Commission (ACC). There are also valuable presentations given at Task Force meetings, the most recent one from the acting CIO of ADE.) Rachna Vas from Microsoft has said the Task Force is the most comprehensive of its kind that she has seen in the nation. Rachna is

recommending that Microsoft's education lead for Arizona participate in the Task Force. Microsoft is open to working with non-tribal programs and she plans to talk to Jeff, Mala, Derek, and Steve about a Microsoft partnership. This is a real opportunity and needs to be followed up with potential funding for the Task Force coming from Microsoft.

Steve also noted the success of the "Kibitzing with Colleagues" sessions following the Monday meetings. During these sessions people can engage with other participants in free ranging discussions without any set agenda or other formalities.

The "AZBSN COVID-19 Digital Access Task Force Report and Recommendations (Digital Access Strategy Report)" was published in November 2020 and is available to be forwarded to appropriate parties. There is a landing page for the Report and one for the Task Force, both of which have been updated. People can download the Report from its landing page at <https://www.arizonatele.org/taskforce-report-2020.html>.

Henry Goldberg has created a database of all Task Force presentations delivered at our AZBSN COVID-19 Digital Access Task Force Meetings since the Task Force began operating on March 23, 2020. There have been 50 presentations delivered over the past 19 months through October 4, 2021. The database shows the presentation topic, brief description of the presentation, and the presenter for each meeting. Steve will convert this spreadsheet to a Google sheet with links to corresponding Task Force reports, presentations, and meeting recordings, that will be posted on the Task Force website.

Steve also reported that an activity of the Task Force currently is the Chicanos Por La Causa (CPLC) Economic Development Administration (EDA) grant application being led by Robert Alvarado, Vice President of Information Management & Technology Services of CPLC. CPLC is working with a number of Task Force participants on applying for this grant. It is close to completion and will be submitted by October 19th. The target region consists of the four southern Arizona counties: Santa Cruz, Cochise, Pima and Yuma counties. The focus is on digital inclusion activities and plans for these counties to meet workforce development and small business needs, including establishing community navigator resources. Henry Goldberg noted that broadband infrastructure gaps in county plans will also be addressed as well as workforce development training. The current EDA grant application is for a Phase 1 planning grant of \$500,000, and if awarded, there will be a later application for a larger Phase 2 implementation grant. Mala expressed hope that we have enough data to take us to the next cut, which is the implementation phase. Steve stated a goal is to extend county Broadband Action Teams to include Digital Inclusion Teams. Henry noted that digital access is a more encompassing

term as specified by our Task Force to cover digital inclusion/equity and broadband infrastructure development. CPLC and Steve are requesting letters of support for the grant application. A request for letters of support will be posted on the Task Force website. Henry and Mala noted that with a submission deadline of October 19 there is little time to prepare and submit Letters of Support. Janet would like a copy of the draft application, but Steve first needs to get a finalized version from CPLC.

Nicole Umayam and Cindy Hogan are putting together an Arizona Digital Inclusion Directory, describing all the organizations in the state doing digital inclusion work. Mala said they have sent forms to all such organizations, and the directory should be posted on the Connect-Arizona website in about four weeks. Steve will create a team on Digital Inclusion for the Task Force. Steve noted there is also a need to address cybersecurity, which is an issue that repeatedly comes up.

Henry recommended that Steve provide a report on the expenditures and financial situation of the AZBSN Task Force at the November 10th ATIC Board Meeting, and Mark agreed that this report should be provided.

3.2.2. Marketing the AZBSN COVID-19 Digital Access Task Force Report

As noted at previous meetings, there remains a need is to develop a publicity and marketing campaign for distributing the report to all the relevant organizations. A marketing/planning committee needs to be created to plan and execute such a campaign, and the existing database of Arizona economic development leaders and decision-makers needs to be cleaned up and expanded.

Mark re-iterated that the planning committee to follow up on the Task Force's digital access strategy report recommendations should begin meeting. Steve agreed but indicated that he first wants to integrate recent attendees into the Task Force mix.

3.2.3. Return to Outreach Activities with Newsletters & Webinars

Mark mentioned at previous meetings a desire to initiate a newsletter with a broad focus on webinars and customers.

3.3. Greater Arizona Educational Leadership (Steve Peters, Nan Williams)

3.3.1. Arizona Technology in Education Association (AzTEA)

Nan Williams serves on the EDTech Committee 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/>).

Nan submitted a list of upcoming events via email.
Digital Teaching and Learning Guide
<https://www.azed.gov/technology/digital-teaching-learning>

AzTEA ISTE Certified Educator December 27th registration:
<https://bit.ly/azteaicew21>

AzTEA Fall Virtual Conference 2021: Creating the Next Best: Finding Your Balance, Oct 23rd Registration <https://bit.ly/azteaf21conf>

AZ Science Teachers Association 10-30 & 11-4/5 <https://azsta.org/>.

3.3.2. GAZEL Innovative Learning Collaborative Initiatives

There was no report, but Steve has noted previously that GAZEL needs to be reinvigorated. The GAZEL Board needs to reconstitute itself and purchase D&O insurance.

Steve still intends to call a GAZEL Board meeting to discuss future plans shortly. GAZEL is the fiscal manager for AZBSN. The AZBSN Task Force has been the main focus of GAZEL in the past year. GAZEL is a 501(c)(3) and so can more easily attract funding from sponsors.

Work is still going on to produce a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between GAZEL and ATIC on the AZBSN.

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

Mala Muralidharan reported that Arizona has received \$98.3 million out of \$2.14 billion in E-rate funding, approximately 4.6% of the total amount awarded nationally, which is great. Arizona has asked for an extension, because of the COVID shutdown on the Navajo Nation and supply chain disruptions, similar to considerations given for national disasters.

E-rate funds along with the state match of \$11 million (initiated in 2017) has helped build more than 1600 miles of fiber middle and last mile to date, and the fiber buildout is continuing.

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) released the draft E-rate

Eligible Services List for the Funding Year 2022 and it does not include cyber security products or services. The comment period ended on September 27. There were many public comments focusing on including cybersecurity and Wi-Fi on school buses. It is important for the public to show that they are concerned with cybersecurity. The image of support is as important as the amount of funding requested. Steve suggested that we may need a special group to address cybersecurity and has talked to Jerry Crow about this. Mala noted there are concerns from schools about hacking into student data, and individual libraries also have security issues even though the Arizona State Library security falls under the Secretary of State. Nan said that state Chief Information Security Officer (CISO) Tim Roemer is interested in cyber security and should be included in any such conversation in addition to Chris Richardson at ADE.

Mala reported that the FCC extended the gift rule, which allows providers to gift increased bandwidth if necessary and requested by an entity.

Regarding the Emergency Broadband Benefit (EBB) application process, Arizona has more than 168,000 households that have applied, placing us in the top 11 states nationally. At the recent National Tribal Council meeting the FCC chair commented that Arizona and the Navajo Nation are national leaders in the EBB activity with the Navajo Nation having the most EBB enrollments of any tribe. There is still \$2.5 billion of the original \$3.1 billion remaining in the EBB program.

Mala also reported that the second wave window for filing for the Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF) closed on October 13. Arizona received \$ 38,7 million in the first wave and \$34.4 million in the second wave.

Henry Goldberg asked if there are any reports on how many students have benefitted from ECF funding. Mala said the number of libraries that have benefitted can be reported on but we don't have data on the number of students or library patrons that have benefitted in terms of devices and broadband access provided. Henry commented that we need better data on the accomplishments of ECF and future needs of students to be able to understand whether ECF funding should be extended in the future. Mala thinks USAC has done a lot of data sharing from which some of those kinds of analyses can be derived. She also noted that the current EBB is a stopgap program until the fiber buildout can be accomplished. Also the ECF is for the school kids to have access at home and they only get hotspots – not FTTH. The ECF extension being requested is for five years and is an interim solution.

The Connect AZ website is on Wordpress now and its map of public Wi-Fi locations has received over 274,000 views. There have also been 1100 calls to the digital navigators. The average call length is 45 minutes.

Mala has been working with a “telehealth in libraries” pilot project with the Pima

County public libraries, and with NAU to make kiosks available in libraries at remote locations in northern Arizona. If successful, they want to roll out telehealth in libraries across the state.

The annual Schools, Health & Libraries Broadband (SHLB) Conference is on October 27-29 at Crystal City near Arlington, Virginia, and features several speakers from Arizona.

Mala attended the 2021 National Tribal Broadband Summit that was held on three Fridays, for which 1300 people registered

Mala also recommended three webinars that can be viewed on the SHLB website. They are:

- USForward: Securing the Future of USF
- Virtual Fireside Chat – “Repairing Broken Broadband Policy”
- Navigating New Funding for a More Inclusive Digital World

See the detailed State Library Report, submitted by Mala after the meeting, on the following pages.

ATIC Oct 13, 2021 State Library Report

E-rate : AZ 21 Waves of Funding has been awarded **totalling 2.14 B** of that AZ has received **98.3 M** **Approx 4.6%**

Challenges:

- Requesting FRN Extension by one more year : We are all concerned with Backlog and supply-chain issues 6-9 months for E-rate and ECF and need an automatic extension for Category 2 and /or allow product substitution or price increases or gift-rule waiver (manufactures willing to loan you to get you going or lease or loan you switches and routers). Especially in areas hit by natural disaster.
- FCC has extended the gift rule : <https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DA-21-1257A1.pdf>

On August 27, 2021, the Federal Communications Commission released the draft

Eligible Services List for Funding Year 2022. The FY2022 draft ESL is in WC Docket No. 13-184 <https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DA-20-1418A1.pdf>

Reply comments were due Oct. 12.

Initial comments included WiFi on school buses and Cyber security

<https://www.reuters.com/investigates/special-report/usa-oneamerica-att/>

It is not just people clicking on phishing mails but also D-DOS break-in by student hackers

Emergency Broadband Benefit - Total available 3.1 B

168,614 AZ households have applied so far. Arizona is the top 11th States. Details on the EBB application process is at: fcc.gov/broadbandbenefit
Rosenworcel Commented on Arizona having that largest number of Navajo Nation applicants during her Keynote at the Tribal Conference.

THE EBB is critical to enroll as many as possible to quantify the need - and extend the program
solutions beyond extension

Emergency Connectivity Fund: Today is the application deadline for second ECF filing window.

In the first wave Over \$1.1 Billion Committed in Second Funding Wave Total committed to Arizona received 38.74 M in the first wave and 35.40 in the 2nd wave or a total of \$74.14 B in the 2 waves.

Total \$2.3 B committed - Kudos to USAC for a quick turnaround. Almost 10 million student connected with devices and internet. Still nearly at the top 15 for the amount approved.

Arizona Applicants applied for \$200M and is 6th Nationally. AZ's ask was approx. \$147 per student

Telehealth in Libraries: Working with Pima County to pilot the project both in library and on the road. Janet and the telehealth team at NAU and Indian Health System.

SHLB: Recent SHLB webinar recordings available: SHLB.org/webinar. **They are looking for new members.**

I. USForward: Securing the Future of USF :Carol Matthey overview

USForward, a research report by on how to stabilize the contributions mechanism for the Universal Service Fund (USF). Over the last two decades the demand for internet has increased dramatically, calling into question the sustainability of E-rate, Rural Health Care, and the other USF programs. USForward proposes a realistic and effective solution: **Expanding the existing revenues-based contributions base to include revenues from broadband internet access.** If the FCC pursues this option, the report projects that the contribution factor would significantly decrease and remain under 4 percent over the next several years.

II. Virtual Fireside Chat – “Repairing Broken Broadband Policy” – with Christopher Ali
Broadband policies rural AZ Author of “Farm Fresh Broadband” Dr. Christopher Ali argues that rural broadband policy is both broken and incomplete, proposing a new national broadband plan. Join SHLB Coalition Executive Director John Windhausen for a virtual fireside chat with Dr. Ali, to pick his brain on where the U.S. is going wrong and how to course correct rural broadband policy moving forward. And of course, they’ll discuss where community anchor institutions fit into it all.

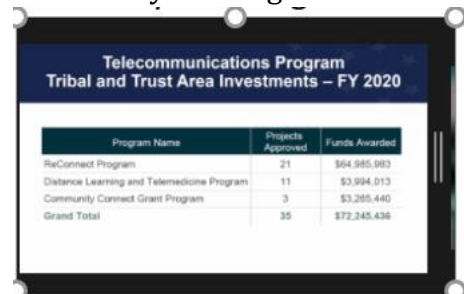
III. Navigating New Funding for a More Inclusive Digital World – More inclusive Digital world
Angela Bennett, Amy Huffman, NDIA were panelists. New federal funding

programs have created exciting opportunities to address broadband inequities in US communities. New state initiatives are also cropping up, geared towards increasing digital equity. And there may be more to come. For local digital inclusion organizations and coalitions, navigating these programs to match the right resources with community needs is the new challenge. This panel of local, state, and federal experts will provide shared perspectives into how digital inclusion funding and legislation is changing the digital inclusion landscape, how stakeholders should consider leveraging the funds, and what still needs to be done to close the digital divide

National Tribal Broadband Summit

Three Fridays of the 2021 Online National Tribal Broadband Summit. Last one was on Friday, October 1

- *Makah Middle mile Session* Chief Bruener spoke about how unprepared they were. This is very encouraging for others in a similar environment. There is no single solution but they did what each community needed and could afford.
- *Using FCC E-Rate Funding to Provide Fiber Connectivity to the Navajo Nation Session* Fred Brakeman 35 sites within a mile of existing middle mile and may take 6-24 months to complete the project. Making slow progress. Challenges include CIPA filtering, permitting processes, shut down. State Library will train on digital resources when they are ready.
- *Using Technology to Provide Access to Care Session* on TeleHealth - could not attend full session as I was attending another sessions. Indiancountryecho.org.
- *Overview of Rural Utilities Services Programs* –
- RUS a dept of USDA funds infrastructure funding – water, power, sewage AND telecommunication. Its various Telecom programs are for construction; expansion; upgrading in the areas of business, learning and telemedicine. Funding only for Institutions not individual households. They have smaller scaler projects, mid level program for building networks and more involved, multi-year high-level projects– mainly for providers to scale up. They gave what they called ProTips – Leveraging other grants, community involvements, collaboration, attend the webinars.
- Several students lead by Dr. Traci Morris from ASU's American Indian Policy Institute did a Capstone project. The full research paper can be downloaded for free at https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=3926811 They did a comparative study of 4 communities that lacked broadband and provided them with Broadband access.



Program Name	Projects Approved	Funds Awarded
ReConnect Program	21	\$94,985,993
Distance Learning and Telemedicine Program	11	\$3,994,013
Community Connect Grant Program	3	\$3,265,440
Grand Total	35	\$102,245,446

Broadband Legislation Tracking: - Progressives won - did not vote for the Infrastructure without reconciliation bill.. Recon Bill House version has \$4 Billion for ECF not sure about Senate Bill. There may be more revisions and adjustments before this is finally passed.

There is a huge need for us to have a plan in place at the State Level that includes Broadband needs for Health and Educations, Business, Telehealth care, Digital inequity, to and through Anchors, Broadband Adoption and Digital Inclusion, building infrastructure using affordable technology.

End of State Library Report

3.5. Telehealth (Janet Major)

Janet Major, Associate Director for Innovation and Digital Health, Arizona Telemedicine Program and Southwest Telehealth Resource Center (<https://telemedicine.arizona.edu/>), is the lead for the Arizona Telehealth Broadband Action Team (BAT).

The BAT meets monthly on the first Tuesday of the month. There are 75 invitees and roughly half participate regularly. The BAT is looking to identify counties that need assistance.

Janet and Steve Peters attended the Southern Arizona Technology Council Meeting. Janet stated she hands out information about the EBB program at various meetings. The Governor has appointed a telehealth council. The Arizona Telemedicine Program is celebrating its 25th anniversary this month.

3.6. Government Affairs (Mike Keeling, Mark Goldstein)

3.6.1. Consideration of Endorsing Common Sense Arizona's ECF Extension Letter

Ilana Lowery of Common Sense Arizona asked ATIC to sign on to a letter of support for extending the ECF program funding. Henry Goldberg objected to ATIC endorsing this letter for several reasons: not having sufficient data on what the ECF has accomplished and what is needed in the future; data in the Common Sense Letter of students lacking Internet access is not consistent with data in our AZBSN Task Force report; ECF does not support building new broadband infrastructure and there is a lot of funding for broadband infrastructure in the federal infrastructure bill which could be reduced if the ECF is extended; and ECF extension could be requested in 2022 if needed. Mark requested Henry to send him an e-mail describing his objections that he would forward to Ilana Lowery.

MOTION: To sign on to a coalition letter Common Sense-Arizona is drafting to call on Congress to extend the ECF. Note that such policy issue votes require a 2/3 majority of Board members present.

MOVE: Oris Friesen

SECOND: Andrew Bevington

Aye – 9

Nay – 2

Passed

See the related “ATIC Support for Common Sense Coalition Letter on Extending ECF Funding Discussion 10/6-15/21” thread embedded at the back of these minutes for more information.

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. For example, the resources page is out of date. The website needs to be leveraged to publicize the COVID-19 Digital Access Task Force Report recommendations as well as using it for communications and public engagement, such as newsletters.

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)

Nothing to report.

5. Events Attended and Upcoming Meetings

6. Announcements

7. Adjourn

Upcoming ATIC Board Meetings

Upcoming ATIC Board Meetings for 2021 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.

- November 10, 2021 (Zoom &/or Dial In)
- No Board Meeting in December (Happy Holidays!)

ATIC Special and Public Meetings

AZBSN COVID-19 Digital Access Task Force continues to hold meetings every Monday morning at 7:30 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.



OUR NEW PRESCOTT VALLEY FRY'S
BRANCH IS NOW OPEN



Arizona T... ▾



NEW! Order replacement debit cards in Online Banking.



Dashboard

Accounts

Checking

\$351.13

ATIC 434041

▲ \$351.13

04081-0400

\$351.13

Savings

\$11,551.61

ATIC 073206

▲ \$11,551.61

04081-0000

\$11,576.61

▲ Available Balance



Important Information

NEW Card Manager Widget!

Replace your debit card, report your card lost or stolen, or add a travel alert inside Online Banking.

September 28, 2021

How to Get the Best Mortgage Rate

These factors can help influence a lower interest rate.

August 26, 2021

Quick Links

Credit Card Login

Investments (Raymond James)

Mortgage Loans (MLOS)

Identity Secure

Mobile App 101

Link External Accounts



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ATIC 434041 04081-0400*Transaction History*Statement Period: **All Dates**Date of Statement: **10/13/2021****Posted Transactions (100)**

DATE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	BALANCE
10/12/21	CENTURYLINK AUTO PAY AZ TELCOM INFO COUNCIL	-\$26.42	\$351.13
09/10/21	CENTURYLINK AUTO PAY AZ TELCOM INFO COUNCIL	-\$25.93	\$377.55
08/11/21	CENTURYLINK AUTO PAY AZ TELCOM INFO COUNCIL	-\$26.81	\$403.48
08/05/21	DRAFT #2219 TRACER 38891771	-\$909.00	\$430.29
07/23/21	ONLINE BANKING TRANSFER FROM 0000	\$1,000.00	\$1,339.29
07/16/21	DRAFT #2218 TRACER 38498478	-\$400.00	\$339.29
07/13/21	CENTURYLINK AUTO PAY AZ TELCOM INFO COUNCIL	-\$26.81	\$739.29
07/07/21	DRAFT #2217 TRACER 38271329	-\$10.00	\$766.10
06/10/21	CENTURYLINK AUTO PAY AZ TELCOM INFO COUNCIL	-\$26.56	\$776.10
05/11/21	CENTURYLINK AUTO PAY AZ TELCOM INFO COUNCIL	-\$25.56	\$802.66
04/12/21	CENTURYLINK AUTO PAY AZ TELCOM INFO COUNCIL	-\$25.81	\$828.22
03/15/21	CENTURYLINK AUTO PAY AZ TELCOM INFO COUNCIL	-\$27.66	\$854.03
02/10/21	CENTURYLINK AUTO PAY AZ TELCOM INFO COUNCIL	-\$27.17	\$881.69
01/22/21	DRAFT #2216 TRACER 34849688	-\$445.79	\$908.86
01/12/21	CENTURYLINK AUTO PAY AZ TELCOM INFO COUNCIL	-\$27.17	\$1,354.65
12/23/20	DRAFT #2215 TRACER 34216767	-\$800.00	\$1,381.82
12/11/20	CENTURYLINK AUTO PAY AZ TELCOM INFO COUNCIL	-\$26.91	\$2,181.82
11/27/20	DRAFT #2214 TRACER 33656699	-\$800.00	\$2,208.73
11/25/20	ONLINE BANKING TRANSFER FROM 0000	\$2,000.00	\$3,008.73

ATIC Support for Common Sense Coalition Letter on Extending ECF Funding Discussion 10/6-15/21

From: Ilana Lowery <ilowery@commonsense.org>

Sent: Friday, October 15, 2021 2:35 PM

To: markg <markg@researchedge.com>

Cc: Eaton, Milan <Milan.Eaton@azed.gov>; hgold52@aol.com; oris@cox.net; Ron Schott <rschott@aztechcouncil.org>; mike@keelinglaw.org; Mala Muralidharan <mala@azlibrary.gov>; AZ Info & Telecom Council <aticarizona@gmail.com>

Subject: Re: ATIC Support for Common Sense Coalition Letter on Extending ECF Funding

Hi Mark,

Unfortunately, there was a very quick turnaround on the letter to the senators, as I mentioned in the email, mostly because of how rapidly everything is moving in D.C. and the day-to-day discussions around budget reconciliation. So while there was a spirited debate at the meeting, it is too late to include ATIC on the letter.

But if you will indulge me for a few minutes, I'd like to address the concerns. Common Sense's number is a persistent number — it estimates the number of students and teachers in each state that would fall into the K-12 digital divide based on specifics around robust distance learning. Many other digital divide numbers are not as specific as to why someone is in the divide and are more temporary — often tracking who needs help right now and not those programs that will be needed to serve families and students over the long haul. No number is really better - they are just different.

Also, let me better explain our position at Common Sense since I was not able to be a part of the conversation at the meeting. Common Sense is not opposed to any of the \$65 billion in the infrastructure package. In fact, we are actively supporting its inclusion.

The Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF) is pulled out separately because of how the packages operate. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Framework (BIF) is passed through normal order — meaning it allows for both \$ and legislative language, which is precious and limited. Programs getting just funding don't need to flow through normal order, and that's ECF. It is why the ECF is in the budget reconciliation resolution — not because of a lack of bipartisan support. Sen. Manchin is a key supporter, as well as others (also, for what it's worth, it is one of the few means-tested pieces of the budget reconciliation resolution).

We don't expect the ECF to do it all — however, Common Sense is actively seeking changes to the ECF to allow for better use by libraries and for broadband deployment by anchor institutions. We are also actively pursuing more flexible use of E-rate.

You may not be aware, but Common Sense helped to create the \$10 billion Treasury Fund, participated in comments, and is working to lift up these dollars to enhance broadband infrastructure, anchors extending capacity, nontraditional providers, and digital inclusion/digital citizenship programs.

We are actively supporting broadband dollars in BIF — support of DEA, redlining language, and broadband infrastructure dollars, and we are trying to ensure broad use of those dollars.

The \$4 billion for ECF in reconciliation does not endanger the \$65 in BIF - however, without our voices, ECF will run dry by 2022, and we won't have the same political climate to support dollars for ECF, especially after the \$65 billion is out the door for the "digital divide."

It is worth repeating that none of the \$65 billion in BIF is directed at schools and libraries. If we were to miss this moment, ECF could just wither. If we don't make it in this time, Common Sense will keep at it, but politically it'll be much harder. \$4 billion doesn't stick out as much when \$65b billion or trillions are on the table.

Thanks for considering the request, letting me know what the concerns were, and for ultimately approving sign-on to the letter. Perhaps next time we will have more lead time to get everyone included.

Have a good weekend,

On Fri, Oct 15, 2021 at 2:04 PM Mark Goldstein <markg@researchedge.com> wrote:

Ilana,

We considered your letter for ATIC support on Wednesday at our regular Board meeting.

There was some lively discussion especially over some objections our Vice Chair Henry Goldberg has made, echoed by Milan Eaton/ADE who is not a Board member.

In the end, the Board voted to support your letter by a vote of 9 to 2 exceeding the two thirds majority needed for such a policy vote, so you may include ATIC as a supporting organization.

A discussion thread about the letter is included below FYI. We'd welcome further engagement if you'd like to further discuss with the correspondents or perhaps in an AZBSN Monday meeting.

Thanks for all you do for the Arizona tech community and digital equity nationally. Cheers!

From: Eaton, Milan <Milan.Eaton@azed.gov>

Sent: Thursday, October 14, 2021 5:29 AM

To: hgold52@aol.com; markg@researchedge.com; markqirc@gmail.com; oris@cox.net; rschott@aztechcouncil.org; mike@keelinglaw.org; mala@azlibrary.gov

Subject: RE: Henry Goldberg Opposed to Common Sense Request to Support Coalition Letter on Extending ECF Funding

Henry has all the same concerns as I do. That's the main reason I'm keeping my opinion out of the mix and pulling ADE in.

ECF is spending billions on **hotspots**. In Arizona, we took 200 Verizon hotspots and distributed them across rural arizona in the areas Verizon had coverage. We never had more than 12 hotspots in use in a 30 day period. This leads me to believe that hotspots are not the answer and we should pursue actual broadband builds in our rural areas.

For **devices**, after 2 window openings, we should have provided every student in the country with a laptop or Chromebook. "Should" be a non-issue now and local districts should be able to pick up the ball from here.

We are not sure the impact yet and it would be great if there were a mechanism to measure the success...

From: hgold52@aol.com <hgold52@aol.com>

Sent: Wednesday, October 13, 2021 3:15 PM

To: markq@researchedge.com; markqirc@gmail.com; oris@cox.net; rschott@aztechcouncil.org; mike@keelinglaw.org; mala@azlibrary.gov; Eaton, Milan <Milan.Eaton@azed.gov>

Subject: Henry Goldberg Opposed to Common Sense Request to Support Coalition Letter on Extending ECF Funding

To: Mark Goldstein and ATIC Executive Committee, Mala Muralidharan, Milan Eaton

Mark,

As you requested at today's ATIC Board Meeting after the ATIC Board approved endorsing the attached Common Sense Letter to Senators Sinema/Kelly for Congress to extend ECF funding, I am sending you my brief explanation of why I opposed this endorsement.

While I am supportive of the current ECF funding to provide an interim solution to provide home Internet connectivity and devices for students and teachers, I am opposed to the ATIC endorsement of the Common Sense letter for the following five reasons:

1) We do not have data on what the ECF program funding this year has accomplished so far in terms of improving Internet connectivity for students in Arizona. We need this data to know what the value would be of additional ECF program funding in terms of continuing this Internet connectivity funding and needs for additional devices beyond what the ECF program funding received will have purchased.

2) The data quoted in the Common Sense Letter of 30% of student lacking access to the Internet is not consistent with the data quoted in our AZBSN COVID-19 Digital Access Task Force Nov. 2020 Digital Access Strategy Report. On page 9 of that report, our best estimate was that 20% of Arizona K-12 students (209,000 students) lacked broadband Internet service at home -- this was based on Pew Research Center data and supported by data collected by the Arizona Dept. of Education. With the additional broadband Internet connectivity provided by this year's ECF program, the percentage of

Arizona students not having adequate connectivity should now be lower than 20% (we don't know how much lower because the effects of the ECF program have not been provided yet) and so that is not at all consistent with the 30% figure provided in the Common Sense letter.

3) The ECF program does not support building new broadband infrastructure if broadband service is already available in an area. There is a lot of federal funding proposed for broadband infrastructure in the federal infrastructure bill being considered in Congress as well as the state Rural Broadband Development Grants program. ATIC and other state organizations need to understand how this broadband infrastructure funding should best be applied to meet the needs of schools and communities before requesting additional federal funding to extend the ECF program for a number of years, which may not be the best way to approach the broadband connectivity issue for schools.

4) There is already considerable uncertainty about Congress passing the infrastructure bill given the debate about whether to simultaneously pass the reconciliation spending bill. Requesting additional ECF funding beyond the \$65 billion for broadband infrastructure in the infrastructure bill, will only make it less likely that the infrastructure bill will be passed if there is more confusion injected about whether this additional ECF funding is needed or should be substituted for some broadband infrastructure funding. I don't think there is clarity on the most effective way to approach broadband funding at this point.

5) A letter as proposed by Common Sense could be submitted in 2022 if we have a better understanding of the impacts of the ECF funding already received, and it is determined clearly what the short-term role of such ECF funding would be.

Please submit my e-mail to Ilana Lowery with your ATIC endorsement of their letter.

-----Original Message-----

From: hgold52@aol.com

To: aticarizona@gmail.com <aticarizona@gmail.com>; markg@researchedge.com <markg@researchedge.com>; oris@cox.net <oris@cox.net>; rschott@aztechcouncil.org <rschott@aztechcouncil.org>; mike@keelinglaw.org <mike@keelinglaw.org>

Cc: milan.eaton@azed.gov <milan.eaton@azed.gov>; mala@azlibrary.gov <mala@azlibrary.gov>

Sent: Thu, Oct 7, 2021 2:00 pm

Subject: Common Sense Request to Support Coalition Letter on Extending ECF Funding

Steve, Mark, and ATIC Board Members:

I received the following request from Ilana Lowery of Common Sense to support their attached Coalition Letter to Congress (Arizona Senators) to extend the FCC Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF) in the Reconciliation Spending Bill being considered in Congress. I assume Steve and Mark also received this request.

I think we need input from Milan Eaton and Mala Muralidharan about the need for this extended ECF funding to support purchases of broadband Internet services and devices for home connectivity for students and teachers in Arizona. The letter indicates this support is still needed in the future, but it is not clear to me that the ECF funding applied for in Arizona is not sufficient for at least the upcoming school year given the restrictions on how the funding can be used (not for new broadband infrastructure) and requirements for libraries that are limiting their applications. I have copied Milan and Mala on this e-mail to get their input on this.

It looks like Common Sense is intending to submit this letter shortly, so it would be good to decide soon if the AZBSN COVID-19 Digital Access Task Force and/or ATIC wish to be signatories to this letter.

-----Original Message-----

From: Ilana Lowery <ilowery@commonsense.org>

To: hgold52@aol.com

Sent: Thu, Oct 7, 2021 12:51 pm

Subject: Re: Common Sense coalition letter on extending ECF funding

Hi Henry,

Sorry for the delay. The ECF letter that I mentioned in yesterday's email is attached so you can see what we are sending. I will be including the logos at the top and any additional partners depending on the final sign-ons before sending it to Arizona Senators.

Thank you in advance for your support!

On Wed, Oct 6, 2021 at 9:25 AM Ilana Lowery <ilowery@commonsense.org> wrote:

Hi Henry,

I hope you both are doing well.

As Common Sense-Arizona continues to advocate for the well-being of kids, both online and off, I wanted to share my colleague's latest [blog](#) that highlights new research from the Common Sense Census about the persistent homework gap and digital divide, which is still disproportionately a problem for Black and Hispanic/Latino kids.

This is a critical moment where we can make a difference for all children and families by making sure funding remains in the bipartisan infrastructure package for the Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF), **a program that is working in Arizona.**

As you already know, ECF is a lifeline for America's schools and libraries. Authorized by Congress as part of the American Rescue Plan, the ECF provides money for school and library systems to help connect students, staff, and library patrons who may lack sufficient internet access at home, or who may not have the devices they need to complete their schoolwork remotely.

The program allows K-12 public and private schools and public libraries to apply for funding to purchase **home Internet access services, laptop and tablet computers, hotspots, routers, and modems to provide home connectivity to students, educators, and library patrons**. Even before the pandemic, we knew the digital divide and homework gap were significant, but now more than ever, the need to make sure kids have an equal opportunity to succeed in school.

I wanted to give you a heads up on a coalition letter Common Sense-Arizona is drafting to call on Congress to extend the ECF. **Kids and families need our support now, and leaders in Washington need to hear that we care**. We have an opportunity — and an obligation — to make sure ECF funding remains in the reconciliation package being debated at this very moment.

My ask is a simple one: Sign onto the coalition's letter and show Arizona Telecommunications & Information Council's support at this critical time. I apologize for the quick turnaround, but as you know, things in Washington are moving pretty quickly right now. I hope to send the draft letter to you later today and would need your answer and logo by noon on Friday.

We will include a list of organizations' names and logos on the letter. Let me know if ATIC is willing to sign on.

Thank you for your consideration,

Ilana Lowery

Director | Common Sense - Arizona

M: 623-341-0177 e: ilowery@commonsense.org

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/ilana-lowery/>

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