December 13, 2021 AZBSN COVID-19 Digital Access Task Force Teleconference Report

Attendees

Steve Peters, Oris Friesen, Henry Goldberg, Mark Goldstein, Robert Alvarado, Tracey Beal, Andrew Bevington, Melissa Boydston, Wes Brownfield, Kirk Busch, Erin Carr-Jordan, Michael Cohen, Josh Cohn, Rory Conaway, Jerry Crow, Brian Daly, Jennifer DeChant, Michael Edmonds, Marcelino Flores, Heather Floyd, Drew Garner, Ian Hathcock, Holly Henley, Cindy Hogan, Brian Jung, John Kelly, Ryan Kelly, Debbie Kovesdy, Kelly Krusee, Ilana Lowery, Anna Maria Maldonado, Derek Masseth, Sophia Mayberry, Clarence McAllister, Mala Muralidharan, Jessica Novak, Mauricio Orozco, Dominic Pagliuca, Brian Petho, Lawrie Prickett, Tracy Rexroat, Lourdes Rodriguez, Paul Ross, Andy Sinclair, Roniyur Singh, Troy Smith, Jeff Sobotka, Nicole Umayam, Albert Velarde, Manny Villa, Joy Whiting, Karen Ziegler.

Task Force Sponsors, Events & Updates Webpage, Participants List, Kibitzing with Colleagues

Task Force Sponsors
Steve Peters again thanked Care1st Health Plan Arizona, Valley of the Sun United Way, the Satellite Broadcasting & Communications Association, and Kajeet for providing sponsorship funding for this task force. The sponsors are displayed on the task force website.

Steve is continuing to seek further funding support for the task force's work next year, and welcomes any organizations interested in becoming sponsors. He includes this request in his task force meeting announcements, and has posted a link on the task force website on how organizations can become a sponsor.

Task Force Events and Updates Webpage
Steve continues to add information relevant to the task force on the Events and Updates webpage of the task force website. Steve includes a link to this webpage/newsletter in his e-mails to the task force, and strongly encourages task force participants look at this webpage regularly for important information on programs (e.g. federal/state grant programs), events, and contacts. Steve regularly updates this webpage with new announcements and activities of interest to the task force.

Steve has also placed on this webpage a link to the task force's Digital Access Strategy report published in November 2020.

Task Force Participants List

Steve noted that the task force participants spreadsheet is located on the task force website. Steve again asked attendees to fill out the Google form on the website to be included in this spreadsheet. This is a good place for task force participants who are looking to connect with others on the task force.

Attendees at task force meetings showing their position and contact information are also included in an Appendix of each task force meeting report.

<u>"Kibitzing with Colleagues" Sessions</u>
Steve stated again that there are "Kibitzing with Colleagues" sessions held immediately after the Monday morning task force meetings, where task force participants can informally talk, share, or collaborate on any topics of interest. There is no agenda, no presentations, and no specified ending time for these sessions.

Updates: State Broadband Director, AZ State Library, ADE and "The Final Mile Project", ACC, Telehealth

<u>State Broadband Director Update</u>

Jeff Sobotka, State Broadband Director at the Arizona Commerce Authority (ACA), reported on his recent activities.

As reported at previous task force meetings, the ACA Arizona Broadband Development Grant Program launched on November 15th and information about it has been posted on the ACA website (www.azcommerce.com/broadband). The Arizona Broadband Development Grant Program (ABDG) provides $100 million to expand high-speed broadband infrastructure to underserved areas of the state: $75 million will be targeted to rural counties and $25 million will be targeted to the urban counties (Maricopa and Pima counties). The deadline for applications is January 31, 2022 – Jeff emphasized that this deadline will not be pushed out so if an organization is involved in an RFP process they should complete that as soon as possible. The ABDG will fund shovel-worthy projects, primarily focusing on last-mile infrastructure solutions (though middle-mile infrastructure can also be incorporated in applications). Jeff stated that there will be other broadband infrastructure funding opportunities in 2022 if communities do not apply for an ABDG grant, including the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) programs such as the Middle-Mile Broadband Infrastructure program.

As reported at previous task force meetings, ACA engaged KPMG at the beginning of the summer to do an update of the 2018 state broadband strategic plan focused on middle-mile strategy for the state. Jeff said the KPMG report will be released in the first week of January. Jeff noted that the KPMG report discovered the significant finding that over 80% of the state's underserved/unserved population is within a 5-mile radius of state/interstate highways, and the report also found that certain highways that were thought to be well-served are not. Jeff added that applicants for the ABDG program need not be concerned about having access to the KPMG middle-mile report. Steve asked Jeff if he could provide an overview of the KPMG report to our task force in January, and Jeff replied that he would.

Jeff discussed again the Assistant State Broadband Director that the ACA is hiring. This position will focus on state/federal grants administration as well as digital equity functions. The job is posted on Indeed for those that wish to apply. The position will remain open until the ACA finds the person they want to fill it, and is necessary to help Jeff in dealing with the extensive compliance requirements of grant programs. Steve Peters commented that our task force will

be taking a lead on what our digital inclusion network and others would like to see in the state digital inclusion plan with the upcoming federal Digital Equity Act funding, and would like to have a good working relationship with the new Assistant Broadband Director on this.

Mark Goldstein, Chair of the Arizona Telecommunications and Information Council, provided an updated version of his one-page summary of federal broadband infrastructure funding opportunities that was included in the summary report of the December 6th task force meeting. This is shown in Appendix 3. There are eight federal funding sources listed: CARES Act; USDA ReConnect Grant Program Round 3 ($1.15 billion) and Round 4 to launch in late 2022; USDA Community Connect Grant Program; NTIA Tribal Broadband Connectivity Grant Program; US Treasury Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund (Arizona's allocation of $192 million is being applied for by Jeff Sobotka by December 27th); IIJA BEAD program ($42.5 billion for primarily state block grants); NTIA Middle Mile Program ($1 billion); and Economic Development Administration (EDA) grant programs. Jeff Sobotka stated that he has already applied for Arizona's share of the US Treasury Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund, and there are still a lot of rules to be made for application for the various federal grant programs. Mark Goldstein added that a number of the programs depend on the release of the new FCC broadband maps, which will likely require these programs to be delayed until the 2nd half of 2022, but the NTIA Tribal Connectivity Grant program and Middle-Mile program will be available in the 1st half of 2022.

Arizona State Library Update

Mala Muralidharan, E-rate Administrator for Public Libraries at the Arizona State Library, reported on her and Arizona State Library recent activities.

On December 7th, the US Senate confirmed Jessica Rosenworcel to serve as Chair of the FCC (she is the first woman to be a permanent FCC Chair). Rosenworcel is strongly focused on closing the national digital divide. Gigi Sohn, nominated by President Biden to serve as an FCC commissioner, is still being considered for confirmation.

Arizona applied for $144.3 million in E-rate funding this fiscal year, and has received about $101.9 million in funding commitments so far. USAC was down the last couple of days due to a security breach, which is ironic since there has been a major proposal to include network security software to be eligible for E-rate funding. The FCC has put out a notice on proposed rulemaking regarding its proposal to implement a bidding portal through which service providers would be required to submit their bids to the E-rate administrator USAC instead of directly to school and library applicants. The intention of this bidding portal is to make the bidding process and selection transparent. However, the State E-rate Coordinators Alliance (SECA) and SHLB expressed concerns about this proposed bidding portal, such as creating more delays, conflicts with local procurement rules, and burdens for small applicants.

Arizona has enrolled 202,398 households in the FCC Emergency Broadband Benefit (EBB) program, including 5000 in the last week. Arizona is #12 nationally among all states in the number of households enrolled. As discussed at previous task force meetings, the EBB program will be replaced by the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) which is a long-term program (included in the Infrastructure Act) with $14.2 billion in funding. The Affordable Connectivity Program will provide a $30 per month benefit on Internet service instead of the $50 per month benefit under EBB, and the monthly benefit for households on tribal lands will be unchanged at $75 per month. Households can enroll in the EBB program until December 31, 2021, and will continue to receive their current monthly benefit during a 60-day transition period.

Jeff Sobotka commented that the FCC's Office of Inspector General has detected service provider fraud in the EBB program with certain "grossly overrepresented in EBB household enrollments" (see Jeff's post on an article on this and Paul Ross' post of a link to the FCC Office of Inspector General report in the Appendix 2 Chat). Mala responded that she has not seen information on this, but many of the devices provided to EBB applicants are proprietary to the service providers so that may be viewed as an abuse of the system. Mala added that schools provide devices to students under the ECF program and the EBB program provides devices to adults, and she hopes the valuable EBB/ACP programs will not be marred by abuse. Wes Brownfield said he would like to be aware of this issue of whether there are more devices being supplied than people who need them or schools supplying devices to adults, and Mala replied that she does not think schools are supplying devices to adults. Mala noted that E-rate Central and SHLB are proposing minimum standards for devices provided under FCC programs.

Arizona schools and libraries have received about $104 million in cumulative FCC Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF) program funding so far, including $7.2 million in the most recent 5th wave of funding. The ECF funding supports schools and libraries in enabling home connectivity: provides funding for one device (laptop/tablet) per student and a hotspot. The FCC has committed over $3.2 billion of the $5.2 billion requested nationally by applicants in the first ECF filing window.

See Mala's written report in Appendix 1 for more details on the above areas.

Steve Peters thanked the Arizona State Library for all the work they do that has provided valuable inputs to this task force.

ADE and "The Final Mile Project" Update

Sophia Mayberry, Project Manager and Technology Policy Coordinator in the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction at the Arizona Dept. of Education (ADE), reported on recent ADE activities, and Rory Conaway, CEO of Triad Wireless, provided a brief update on "The Final Mile Project".

Sophia introduced Kelly Krusee, Program Manager of the new ADE Office of Digital Teaching and Learning (ODTL), on which Chris Richardson (Acting CIO of ADE) delivered a presentation to our task force on October 4th. At previous task force meetings, Sophia discussed that ODTL launched its survey of schools to assess their needs and biggest challenges. This assessment survey will guide the planning of ODTL. Kelly is new to ADE and is managing this assessment survey.

Kelly provided a description of the ODTL assessment survey. ODTL was proposed by the ADE Superintendent of Public Instruction's Technology Task Force to regularly assess the needs of schools in the area of digital teaching and learning. The survey will close on December 15th. ODTL has tried to get every public school district and charter school to complete this survey, and want every county represented. The survey asks questions related to academics and technology on such areas as student/device ratios, the types of learning management systems (LMS) used, and the issues for students in doing digital learning. It takes 40 minutes – 1 hour for a school to complete the assessment. Kelly asked our task force participants who have contacts with schools to remind them to fill out this survey by December 15th. ODTL will analyze the results of the survey, and will publish the results and their recommendations on February 22, 2022. The ODTL goal is to create a network of communities of practice so that schools can learn best practices from each other, and also to provide the resources necessary to be successful in digital teaching and learning.

Paul Ross, CIO of Phoenix College, commented that with the large number of devices issued to students during the COVID crisis, the student/device ratios derived from the ODTL survey will provide up-to-date baseline numbers for schools and school districts. Paul added that he has heard that there may be a rollback now in digital resources, which would be detrimental to addressing digital equity, so knowing what schools are actually doing now will be very revealing in preventing rollbacks. Sophia responded that ODTL will do this survey again next year, so they can understand the needs for additional resources if schools are rolling back on 1-1 student/device ratio goals.

Lawrie Prickett, ICT information & Data Specialist of Smith Bagley dba Cellular One, asked about the mechanism ODTL is using to track survey responses, and Kelly replied that they use Qualtrics to obtain e-mail responses. Lawrie suggested that service providers have relationships with schools and could help with getting schools to fill out the assessment surveys, and Kelly replied that she would use service provider assistance with this.

Steve Peters asked if the ODTL survey is collecting information on technical support availability at schools. Kelly responded that the survey does ask what kind of technical support schools have such as help desks or training, as well as about schools' plans for this in the future. ODTL would like to put schools in touch with appropriate communities of practice in this area.

There were a couple of questions in the Appendix 2 Chat. One was about whether the survey tracks whether devices are collected at the end of the school year and loss/damage rates, and Kelly/Sophia replied that the survey does track that. Another was about whether ODTL has a tech leaders directory -- Kelly responded that she would look into this, and Sophia posted in the Chat that there is a list of tech leaders in schools and they have reached out to tech leaders in schools professional associations.

John Kelly, Principal Partner of Triadvocates, commented that he was a member of the ADE Technology Task Force, and stated that the results of the ODTL assessment survey will be very useful for our AZBSN COVID-19 Digital Access Task Force. Steve Peters concluded saying our task force is interested in collaborating with ODTL once their survey report is published.

Rory Conaway noted at the November 29th task force meeting that Triad Wireless won the first five RFPs for the ADE Final Mile Project. Rory reported that the Paloma school district deployment is completed and operational. Some of the other projects were delayed by school contracts or equipment supply chain issues. They are targeting January 15, 2022 to have four of the five projects completed, and the Chevelon Butte school district should hopefully be completed in the first half of February 2022.

ACC Update

In the absence of Lea Marquez Peterson, Commissioner and Chair of the Arizona Corporation Commission (ACC), Steve Peters reported that he will organize a meeting with Lea for our task force participants to provide recommendations on reforming the Arizona Universal Service Fund (AUSF) to support broadband in high-cost rural areas (discussed at previous task force meetings).

Telehealth Update

In the absence of Janet Major, Associate Director for Innovation and Digital Health of the Arizona Telemedicine Program and the Southwest Telehealth Resource Center, Steve Peters

reported that Dr. Ronald Weinstein, the founder of the Arizona Telemedicine Program of the University of Arizona, sadly passed away on December 3rd.

APS Strategic Fiber Program Presentation

Steve Peters noted that APS has been involved in broadband for many years in Arizona. Dominic Pagliuca, APS Senior Manager of Information Technology and Strategic Fiber Program, delivered a presentation to the task force on the APS Strategic Fiber Program. Following is a summary of key points from the presentation, and the full presentation and meeting recording will be posted on the task force website.

APS supports rural broadband efforts in Arizona with its Strategic Fiber Program (SFP). The SFP makes fiber available to service providers to increase the communications resiliency and reliability of their networks. Dominic's SFP presentation included: the role of fiber in the APS electric power grid, an overview of the SFP, an update on its fiber construction, and a description of APS existing fiber.

APS relies on its fiber communications backbone for power grid transmission operations (grid control and protective relaying). The major cost in deploying fiber in their network is for labor, so they deploy a large amount of fiber (432 strands) to make available surplus fiber to telecommunications service providers and third parties. APS currently also uses a lot of microwave but this is limited in bandwidth so they are modernizing their communications backbone by deploying fiber as a replacement. The leasing revenue from dark fiber helps reduce APS customers' costs for electricity.

Under the SFP, APS is building a 275-mile fiber ring that connects Phoenix to northern and northeastern Arizona. They had fiber islands in northeastern and northern Arizona. Dominic provided a construction update on SFP fiber deployment, showing a map of how the fiber will be deployed. They are deploying fiber from Phoenix north to Flagstaff, for which some fiber was already in place. They completed the segment last summer from Yavapai to Coconino substations. They are building a fiber leg from Scottsdale to a data center. They have submitted for a Tonto Forest permit to build fiber to Payson and beyond along a northeastern route (and have fiber from there that goes into Payson), and this should be completed by early 2023. They have fiber deployed from Chevelon Butte to Joseph City. The final leg to complete the ring from Joseph City to Flagstaff is currently planned for the end of 2023. This would provide a large resilient/redundant fiber middle-mile ring from Phoenix to Flagstaff to Joseph City to serve any communities along those routes with a protected communications network.

Telecommunications carriers attach to the SFP fiber ring at APS substations or at splice cases where fiber comes down from the pole (which are every 3 miles along the ring).

APS does also have about 2600 miles of existing fiber footprint, but a lot of that is not available for leasing to service providers because there is no surplus fiber especially in metro areas. They can provide fiber connections to telecom service providers in some areas: Yuma, Somerton, San Luis, Prescott, and Chino Valley.

Mark Goldstein commented that he is glad to see APS is making its fiber portfolio available for leasing to telecom service providers thereby being a partner in providing broadband services to rural communities.

Jeff Sobotka commented that APS has been an incredible partner for the state in providing fiber in two ways: 1) it is very difficult to provide redundant routes in rural forested areas (e.g. around Payson); 2) the state is building fiber along I-17 and planning fiber along I-40 and this is where APS fiber may be able to provider redundant paths for service providers. Jeff and Dominic noted that APS deploys a lot of its fiber using helicopter pole setting and stringing.

Kirk Busch, CEO of BigData Southwest, commented that APS has been an important partner for data centers. Kirk noted that there is an RFP for a Network Access Point (NAP) in Flagstaff for fiber interconnections (as discussed by Derek Masseth at the December 6th task force meeting). Jeff Sobotka stated there is a need to get agreement from a lot of players on the site for this, and APS would be a key partner in this on providing fiber and electricity. Dominic responded that he has spoken to Derek about this, and that their redundant fiber deployment would be useful for a NAP and data center in Flagstaff. Jeff emphasized that the NAP should be large enough and in the right location to meet the long-term needs of the service providers. Jeff added that Flagstaff will have the key ingredients for a successful NAP, and Kirk added that Flagstaff does not have the cooling issues for a data center that are as significant as in Phoenix.

Next Steps

The next AZBSN COVID-19 Digital Access Task Force overall meeting will be held on Monday, December 20th at 7:30 am. This will be an informal networking/kibitzing gathering with no agenda, updates, or presentation, just discussing, sharing, collaborating, and learning more about task force members and projects they may need help with. There will not be a meeting on December 27th for the holidays. The next meeting after that will be on January 3, 2022.

Steve is looking to arrange another meeting of the task force design team soon to discuss plans for the task force next year.

Rory Conaway asked if the task force is considering the effects of RDOF auctions and how it integrates with our efforts. Mark Goldstein responded that the task force rarely discusses RDOF. Rory stated that all service providers under RDOF have bid to provide 1 Gbps broadband service to 150,000 underserved homes in Arizona but will take 4 years to deploy. Jeff Sobotka disagreed saying he thinks there will be a very small percentage of RDOF broadband deployments in Arizona, and ACA is not waiting on RDOF in moving forward.

Steve wished all task force participants happy holidays and looks forward to their participation next year.

Jeff Sobotka thanked Steve for coordinating the task force and Mark Goldstein for his leadership and information, as well as Henry Goldberg and Oris Friesen for writing the task force summary reports (which are widely quoted to him).

Henry Goldberg and Oris Friesen will write up a summary report of today's task force meeting.

Appendix 1: Mala Muralidharan Report on: FCC Chair and Commissioners; E-rate Program; FCC Emergency Broadband Benefit (EBB Program) and New Affordable Connectivity Program ; FCC Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF) Program

FCC Chair confirmed : On December 7, 2021, the United States Senate confirmed Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel's nomination to another term serving on the Federal

Communications Commission (FCC). She is the first woman to permanently chair the agency.

Rosenworcel has been deeply involved in matters involving the E-rate program, the Emergency Connectivity Fund, and other matters related to the "Homework Gap" – a term that she helped coin. "This is an historic day for our nation," said John Harrington, CEO of Funds For Learning. "Chairwoman Rosenworcel is a stalwart advocate in the fight to close the digital divide, and I believe that she will strive to bring every American into today's digital ecosystem."

Gigi Sohn is an American politician and lawyer. As of recently, she has caught international attention as she has been as a nominee for the position f FCC Commissioner by the President, Joe Biden. Known for her impressive career in the field of law, she also garnered media attention due to her political views.

E-rate: AZ

Funding Commitment: USAC site was down the last couple of days due to security breach – ironic as we are fighting to make network protection software eligible for e-rate reimbursements.

has released 33 waves of funding and AZ has received a funding commitment of $101,882,348.43. No commitments in the last couple of weeks. Arizona applied for $144,298,83.86 this e-rate cycle. Awaiting to hear about the rest of the applications.

NEW BIDDING PORTAL This Notice of Proposed Rulemaking would seek comment on a proposal to implement a central document repository, or bidding portal, through which service providers would be required to submit their bids to the E-Rate program administrator, the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC), instead of directly to applicants.

What the *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* Would Do:

• Propose to establish a bidding portal for E-Rate competitive bidding documentation and require service providers to submit bids to USAC through the bidding portal rather than directly to applicants.

• Seek comment on whether the Commission's rules should be revised to require applicants to provide other competitive bidding documentation that is not captured in the bidding portal (e.g., bid evaluation matrices, questions from bidders, etc.), as well as contract documents, at the time they submit their FCC Form 471 funding applications to USAC.

• Seek comment on any potential benefits and burdens the adoption and implementation of this bidding portal and these associated changes would have on E-Rate participants and the public.

• Seek comment on any E-Rate rule modifications necessary to effectuate these changes.

SECA (State E-rate Coordinators Alliance) and SHLB (Schools, Health, Libraries, Broadband Coalition) expressed concern that this would mean more scrutiny, more delays, challenges and conflicts with local procurement rules, more questions on bids that may be just random bots promotions and a lot more. This will burden the smaller applicants even more as they have a hard time trying to login to one portal for E-rate with multiple authentication steps each time, and will put a lot more burden on the e-rate coordinators assisting these applicants. SHLB's e-rate group is hoping to get these questions in front of FCC to shape the NPRM (Notice of Proposed Rule Making).

Emergency Broadband Benefit: Total available 3.1 B. Arizona is still holding it's place of being among the top 15 states (12th). 202,398 Households in Arizona have signed up for EBB. About 5000 households signed up in the last week. California, Georgia, Illinois, Michigan, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennslyvania, Puerto Rico and Texas. Remaining appropriations available for disbursement approx. $2B. **Affordable Connectivity Program with a budget. of $14.2 B** will build upon and extend the Emergency Broadband Benefit (EBB) Program created in the Consolidated Appropriations Act of the Infra-structure Legislation of 2021.

What's Changing?
- The maximum monthly benefit will change from $50 per month to $30 per month for households **not** located on qualifying Tribal lands. The monthly benefit will remain at $75 per month for households on qualifying Tribal lands.
- Households have new ways to qualify for the Affordable Connectivity Program such as: receiving WIC benefits or having an income at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines.
- Households that qualified for the Emergency Broadband Benefit due to a substantial loss of income due to job loss or furlough since February 29, 2020 or by meeting the eligibility criteria for a participating provider's COVID-19 program will need to requalify for the Affordable Connectivity Program.

You can still apply for the EBB! Households enrolled in the Emergency Broadband Benefit Program as of 12/31/21 will continue to receive their current monthly benefit during a 60-day transition period.
More information about actions current Emergency Broadband Benefit recipients will need to take to continue receiving the Affordable Connectivity Program benefit after the transition period will be available in the coming weeks.
The FCC is seeking comment on the changes enacted in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and will be adopting rules for the Affordable Connectivity Program. You can view the public notice here: https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DA-21-1453A1.pdf
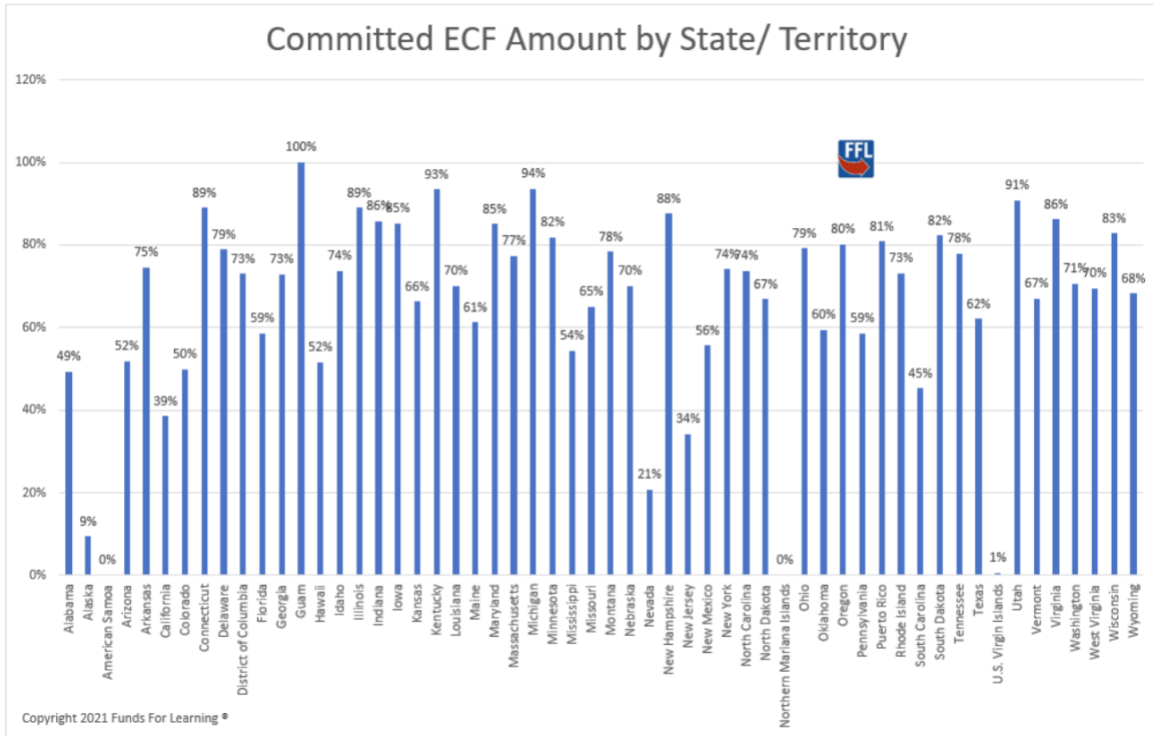
FCC's Public Notice DA 21-1453A1 is seeking comments on the implementation of the Affordable Connectivity Program ("ACP") established by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act ("Infrastructure Act"). .
E-rate Central and SHLB commented:
1. ACP rules should explicitly include homeless centers as eligible for support under the multiple dwelling unit provisions. Minor rule changes on family eligibility may be required to account for the transient nature of homeless center residents.
2. Allow Schools and school districts to auto enroll every household in a school where every child is eligible for free school lunch or breakfast. Schools and libraries, which are currently permitted to engage in bulk purchasing under the ECF program, should also be permitted to participate in the ACP program so that they can continue providing services to low-income families after the ECF program sunsets.
3. The FCC seems interested in minimum service standards for the devices. SHLB requested that the minimum service standards for connected devices under the program like a qwerty keyboard, adequate screen size to do research and video

conferencing, to include: adequate memory, adequate battery life to get through a school day, capable of video conferencing and video editing, and not a device that can only be used on one provider's system. Also FCC rejects smart phones as the device again (which a good idea overall).

Emergency Connectivity Fund: 82% of ECF Applicants Receive Commitments but only 52% of Arizona applicants have received funding commitments. (Analysis done by FFL)

The FCC has committed over $3.2 billion of the $5.16 billion requested by applicants in the first Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF) filing window.

Initial ECF Requests			
Applicant Type	Requested	Pending	Committed
Consortium	$88,584,489.07	$41,645,880.60	$46,938,608.47
Library	$37,841,120.67	$33,327,246.25	$4,513,874.42
Library System	$114,332,702.22	$42,573,302.54	$71,759,399.68
School	$312,877,446.51	$185,668,163.41	$127,209,283.10
School District	$4,607,565,018.50	$1,635,035,062.67	$2,972,529,955.83
Total	$5,161,200,776.97	$1,938,249,655.47	$3,222,951,121.50

More details about which schools and libraries will receive funding can be found at https://www.fcc.gov/ecf-current-funding-commitments .

Arizona's commitments are as below:

State	Wave 1 Total Committed Funding	Wave 2 Total Committed Funding	Wave 3 Total Committed Funding	Wave 4 Total Committed Funding	Wave 5 Total Committed Funding	Cumulative Total Committed Funding
Arizona	$38,742,438.05	$35,405,728.11	$8,590,123.45	$14,127,582.95	$7,214,239.57	$104,080,112.13

Appendix 2: Chat from Zoom

Mark Goldstein to Everyone (7:37 AM)
[file: US Federal Broadband Funding Opportunities 2021-2024 Summary V01B.docx]

Mark Goldstein to Everyone (7:38 AM)
I've made some updates of my brief summary of all the current and pending U.S. Federal Broadband Infrastructure Funding Opportunities, eight primary opportunities with a bullet for each. Posting the fresh version V01B here. Glad to talk a bit about in the meeting if there's time as well as ask Henry and Oris to again include in the meeting minutes and Steve to post on the AZBSN site.

John Kelly to Everyone (7:51 AM)
FCC inspector general has issued an advisory on the issue of fraudulent EBB enrollments.

Paul Ross to Everyone (7:52 AM)
https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-378079A1.pdf

Jeff Sobotka to Everyone (7:54 AM)
https://www.govtech.com/network/low-income-broadband-program-sees-significant-provider-fraud?utm_campaign=Newsletter%20-%20GT%20-%20GovTech%20Today&utm_medium=email&_hsmi=190885297&_hsenc=p2ANqtz--dK7WOp41jomjDg9ffA4kEn8O1FOf0RjMLflg4K4DuOjQUCvvdkLmL3XZ4PJOyHS8vNPHm0OMSirEyfteOwRkNf2akdw&utm_content=190885297&utm_source=hs_email

Paul Ross to Everyone (7:54 AM)
https://www.fcc.gov/sites/default/files/oig_advisory_cep_11222021.pdf

Mark Goldstein to Everyone (7:57 AM)
The Broadband Equity Partnership has launched a new National Broadband Resource Hub now in beta at https://www.broadbandhub.org/ with a variety of resources for government and community leaders to build a better broadband future.

Derek Masseth to Everyone (7:59 AM)
I must drop for an 8 o'clock. I have little to add to what my colleagues have already offered and my update of last week.

Kelly Krusee to Everyone (7:59 AM)
https://www.azed.gov/technology/opportunity-assessment-dashboard

Tracey Beal to Everyone (8:00 AM)
Must jump to another call! Great info this morning!

Jeff Sobotka to Everyone (8:00 AM)
Sophia has done an amazing job of bringing State of AZ agencies together to solve the digital
divide in K-12 education. Glad to see you are growing the team. Welcome Kelly!

Wes Brownfield ARSA to Everyone (8:01 AM)
If I hear anything I think the group should know about the ABE meeting today, I'll share it next
time...just NOT Monday. Cheers everyone.

Paul Ross to Everyone (8:03 AM)
Are you collection pre, during and post COVID approaches? Because I am hearing that during
COVID-19 large numbers of devices were issued, but now as schools return to the norm (pre
COVID) there is a rolling back occurring in terms of devices being loaned, dependent on district
and local school approaches to learning.

Rory Conaway to Everyone (8:03 AM)
Have we discussed the RDOF bid from last year?

Debbie Kovesdy to Everyone (8:04 AM)
Please list your contact information I would love to connect with you. Thanks, Debbie GenTech

Mark Goldstein to Everyone (8:04 AM)
[file: IEEE CS Phoenix - Next-Gen Wireless Presentation 12_09_20c.pdf]

Mark Goldstein to Everyone (8:05 AM)
I delivered an extensive Next-Gen Wireless Overview & Outlook presentation to the IEEE
Computer Society Phoenix Chapter on 12/8/21 exploring the next-generation wireless landscape
with its underlying emerging technologies, protocols & standards, market trends & opportunities.
My deck is posted here and available to view/download on SlideShare at
https://www.slideshare.net/markgirc/nextgeneration-wireless-overview-outlook-update-12821
FYI. Thanks to ATIC/AZBSN member Jerry Crow for once again inviting me and facilitating!

Rory Conaway to Everyone (8:08 AM)
Mark, this is great. Did you include Tarana in this presentation.

Sophia Mayberry to Everyone (8:08 AM)
The questions from the survey are on the website Kelly shared

Paul Ross to Everyone (8:09 AM)
What is the response rate to-date?

Mauricio Orozco to Everyone (8:09 AM)

Are devices collected at the end of the school year? Students are so far behind due to pandemic, any virtual strategies for summer school in 2022? Thanks

Sophia Mayberry to Everyone (8:11 AM)
Depends on the school Mauricio

Paul Ross to Everyone (8:11 AM)
Superintendents and Tech Leaders need to be targeted. Is there not a Tech Leaders directory?

Mark Goldstein to Everyone (8:11 AM)
Rory, Tarana Wireless is represented by two slides in the deck, my client and your technology partner with outstanding Fixed Wireless Access (FWA) equipment. See
https://www.taranawireless.com/

Sophia Mayberry to Everyone (8:11 AM)
We have a list of tech leaders in schools

Sophia Mayberry to Everyone (8:11 AM)
and we have reached out to tech leaders in schools professional associations

Paul Ross to Everyone (8:12 AM)
@Sophia, thank you for the added details.
Would be good to be asking about the loss and damaged rate too?

Sophia Mayberry to Everyone (8:13 AM)
I believe that is in there
I believe it is in reference to the system for getting machines out and repaired when they brake\

Paul Ross to Everyone (8:14 AM)
I have heard of rates between 1-2% to as high as 30%+.

Joy Whiting to Everyone (8:32 AM)
Thanks to Steve and all for what you do. I have an 8:30, I need to drop off.

Mark Goldstein to Everyone (8:38 AM)
We had a great AZBSN year with more to come thanks to you all! Happy Holidays! Best to you and yours for the rest of the year and the year ahead.

Paul Ross to Everyone (8:39 AM)
Sounds like a mission impossible video, that will be a blockbuster video.

AZ State Mala to Everyone (8:41 AM)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GqKbvHLFwGA Montana sent this to me

AZ State Mala to Everyone (8:42 AM)
Helicopter stringing fiber
Really Cool

Manny Villa to Everyone (8:44 AM)
Happy Holidays to everyone! I'll be here next week but just in case you can't join us... See you next year! 🎄 Be safe!

Drew Garner to Everyone (8:44 AM)
Haha, very cool Mala

Roniyur Singh to Everyone (8:44 AM)
Happy Holidays to those not attending next week.

Ilana Lowery to Everyone (8:45 AM)
Totally.agree Jeff!

Appendix 3: Mark Goldstein Summary of Federal Broadband Infrastructure Funding Opportunities (referenced in Appendix 2 Chat)

U.S. Federal Broadband Infrastructure Funding Opportunities Brief

The pandemic has brought with it a historic wave of federal recovery funding for economic stimulus and infrastructure investment, with a tsunami of new broadband funding in the pipeline to the States, territories, and Tribes as well as directly to community and provider projects. These current and emerging broadband infrastructure grant funding opportunities (complemented by digital equity program funding) include:

- In March 2020, the **Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act** was signed into law, the third major legislative initiative to address COVID-19 following the **Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act** and the **Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA)**. Though targeted to a variety of specific purposes, the states have significant discretion in program development and funding with many having committed substantial amounts to broadband projects and purposes. Leftover CARES funds may be used by states to offset matching requirements under some of the new broadband funding programs.

- The **USDA ReConnect Grant Program** currently in Round 3 provides funds for the costs of construction, improvement, or acquisition of facilities and equipment needed to provide broadband service to rural areas without sufficient broadband access. ReConnect can accommodate larger, multi community deployment opportunities, though with significant matching obligations. $1.15B is available for grants, loans, and combo funding with applications due by February 22, 2022. Sources indicate a ReConnect Round 4 will launch in late 2022. See https://www.usda.gov/reconnect

- The **USDA Community Connect Grant Program** is anticipated to reinitiate an additional funding round in April 2022. Grants are for up to $3M requiring ≥15% matching and are limited to a single contiguous area thus good for smaller, single community projects. See https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/community-connect-grants

- The **NTIA Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program (TBCP)** recently closed a $980M application window on September 1, 2021, but the recently enacted Infrastructure Bill has allocated an additional $2B likely to roll out quite soon due to being an established program and protocols. TBCP provides up to $50M funding to eligible tribal entities for broadband infrastructure deployment projects, including construction of middle mile and last mile networks and interconnection, as well as up to $2.5M for broadband affordability programs, digital inclusion and adoption efforts. Cost sharing or matching funds are not required and a provider subgrantee may own and operate the resultant infrastructure. See https://broadbandusa.ntia.doc.gov/resources/grant-programs/tribal-broadband-connectivity-program

- The **U.S. Treasury's Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund (CCPF)** provides $10 billion of Covid-19 Economic Relief allocating $106-540M to each state, Puerto Rico, and DC, as well as $100M to each territory and up to $167,524 to each Tribe to carry out critical capital projects that directly enable work, education, and health monitoring, including remote options for Broadband Infrastructure (prioritizing investment in ≥100/100 Mbps fiber projects), Digital Connectivity Technology, and Multi-Purpose Community Facilities. States, territories, and Tribes need submit their requests for their allocations then their plans and will roll out grant programs and projects starting in 2022. See https://home.treasury.gov/policy-issues/coronavirus/assistance-for-state-local-and-tribal-governments/capital-projects-fund

- The recently enacted **Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act** includes some $65B in direct broadband allocations in its **Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment (BEAD) Program** including $42.5B to state block grants likely to roll out starting 2H 2022 primarily as state designated projects or competitively awarded subgrants to projects in priority unserved areas (≥ 80% of households lacking 25/3 Mbps service) followed by underserved areas (≥ 80% of households lacking 100/20 Mbps service) broadband availability. See https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/3684/text

- BEAD also funds a new **NTIA Middle Mile Program** with $1B for projects providing high-speed backbone for communities, businesses, and anchor institutions with a focus on increasing redundancy/reliability and improving affordability starting 2H 2022 and requiring 30% matching funds. NCTA & ACA Connects will maintain a BEAD Implementation Tracker as regional programs roll out.

- The **U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration (EDA)** has current funding opportunities with $3B provided the agency in ARPA. Funds are available through six distinct challenges, with separate goals and application processes/deadlines for each, several of which are appropriate for broadband purposes as one form of supported community infrastructure and programs investment. See https://eda.gov/programs/eda-programs/ (V01B)

Appendix 4: Registration Information for Attendees at Today's Task Force Meeting

First Name	Last Name	Organization	Job Title	Email	Phone	Mobile
Robert	Alvarado	CPLC	VPIMTS	robert.alvarado@cplc.org		
Tracey	Beal	School Connect	CEO	tracey@schoolconnectaz.org		
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kirk	busch	BigData Southwest,	ceo	kirk.busch@bigdatasw.org	4803344997	
Erin	Carr-Jordan	ASU	Head of Social Impact	ecarrjordan@asu.edu		
Michael	Cohen	ATIC	board member	mikey1145@yahoo.com		5203906647
Josh	Cohn	Pima County	Program Coordinator	Josh.Cohn@pima.gov	15207245458	
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Jerry	Crow	Digital Forensics and	Cybersecurity	jerry.crow@computer.us	4804515954	
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Jennifer	DeChant	Kajeet, Inc.	Director of External	jdechant@kajeet.com		
Michael	Edmonds	Thrive in the 05	Steering Committee	mikemedmonds1@gmail.com	929-244-9477	
Marcelino	Flores	Pima County	Special Staff	Marcelino.flores@pima.gov		
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Henry	Goldberg	ATIC	Vice Chair	hgold52@aol.com	480-609-9279	480-433-3536
Mark	Goldstein	International	President	markg@researchedge.com	602-470-0389	
Ian	Hathcock	SBI. dba Cellular One	Director of Sales	ihathcock93@gmail.com	9282057713	
Holly	Henley	Arizona State Library, Archives and Public	State Librarian	holly.henley@cox.net		
Cindy	Hogan	Literacy Connects -	Digital Inclusion	cindyhogan333@gmail.com	5208911285	
Brian	Jung	MSS	Principal	bjung@mss-technologies.com	6023872100	
John	Kelly	Triadvocates	Dog walker	John@triadvocates.com		
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AZ State	Mala	Arizona State Library	E-rate Administrator for	mala@azlibrary.gov	14802215120	
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Sophia	Mayberry	Arizona Department Of Education	Project Manager	sophia.mayberry@azed.gov		
Clarence	McAllister	Fortis	CEO	cmcallister@fortisengineers.us		
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Andy	Sinclair	Arizona Department of Economic Security Division of Aging and	CAPS Capacity Development Coordinator	asinclair@azdes.gov	4802632271	4802632271
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