

Greater Arizona Educational Leadership  
**AZBSN** Arizona Broadband  
Stakeholder Network  
Arizona Telecommunications and Information Council  
**COVID-19 DIGITAL ACCESS TASK FORCE**

**Meeting Transcript**

**January 31, 2022**

**Disclaimer Notice: The following is the meeting transcript recorded through ZOOM. This document is not edited and contains numerous errors.**

07:36:09 Auto transcription. So, good morning, everyone. Welcome. Glad you could join us this morning as always, I hope you all had a good weekend and hope hopefully enjoying a little more cooler weather, although it's been rather cold in many cases

07:36:30 So to get started with as we always do I want to thank our sponsors Care First Arizona Health Plan; The Satellite Broadcasters Association; Valley of the Sun United Way and Kajeet. And today, I want to welcome our new sponsor Triad Wireless Rory Conaway has been participating in the task force stepped up to be a sponsor. We are looking for others who are participating the task force to join us.

07:37:19 So, moving on, is there anybody new to our task force today, who hasn't participated in any calls previously.

07:37:29 Going once, going twice.

07:37:32 Okay, if not, moving on, just reminder that the meeting schedule February 7, 14, 28 no meeting on February 21 which is Presidents Day, just wanted to remind you about that.

07:37:49 And let's see. So again, as always, I try to remind you, if you haven't done so, to please please please please fill out our Google form, so that we have your contact information, really want to keep a good track of who's participating in the task force.

07:38:15 The next thing is you probably all know is that after this meeting, we do our kibitzing with colleagues, which is basically an informal session, we stop sharing we stop recording. No presentations just opportunity for people to share, ask questions get input and so forth. So, I encourage you all if you have the time to stay online that may be 10 minutes and maybe an hour depending on how people are participating. So encourage you all to participate in that.

07:39:02 But anyway, on February 1 which is tomorrow. At 3:30, we are meeting with chairperson Lea Marquez Peterson regarding potential changes the Arizona, you know, the Universal Service Fund. They have opened a docket and Lea has asked that she would like to have input from this group about suggestions of how we might make changes to that to that fund. And in my conversations with Lea, there were several questions that came to mind. One is, should we continue the Universal Service Fund, and if so, how should that money be used. Who should manage it; should that money go through the Corporation Commission, should it go through ACA or other. And so there's a lot of questions as we continue to move ahead and have discussions about that, about that fund. Again, February 1, 3:30 to 4:30pm, and you'll get a more background about that fund how the money is being collected, how the money is being used today. But that money there was funding that was available that we use for Education Fund to match. Providers significant amount of money here in the state, and you'll hear about that. Also at the meeting tomorrow. So if you can make it a hope you all join you should have gotten an email from me.

07:40:42 So, moving on. Anything else Mark, you have an announcement of an event coming up. 07:40:50 I'm sure Thanks Steve, I am moderating a panel at ASU law school is a hybrid event Thursday at noon. It is a free event and it's on the Hot sectors in Arizona for consideration I have Walker, who chairs the bio industry, Dominic Papa, who recently moved from commerce where he headed Smart City stuff to AWS he's kind of a cloud guru now for them just some of

you may not have caught that transition quite yet. And someone on blockchain in FinTech and Greg head on. Software as a Service and software development so it's an hour long panel I'm going to put a link, and the flyer in the post. And you should also have that link in the email announcement about this meeting today.

07:41:58 So I actually would like to remind you that we do have our, although it needs to be updated some, but we do have our web page that has a lot of information about funding sources resources, and so forth.

07:42:15 And so I encourage you to check that out. And then also you may have noticed that, although it's getting a little long that I've started to include key and time we announcements in the meeting announcement.

07:42:28 So I encourage you to pay attention to that. Some things are immediate Some things are more long term but I encourage you to check out those announcements.

07:42:41 I don't think Tim has been joining us.

07:42:44 Tim Carter, with the Yavapai County school superintendent has been looking for a broadband coordinator. Anybody know if he actually found somebody yet

07:43:00 not, I don't think so not Yeah, that would be a bomb opportunity.

07:43:07 Yeah. In Carter's office it a would be a wonderful place to work. Yeah.

07:43:13 And then also want to again remind you, time is coming up pretty quickly here but Cindy, do you want to do another begging piece.. From Cindy Hogan, I work with an AmeriCorps member I work with Literacy Connects. At this time, and I'm going to the Digital Inclusion Alliance national Digital Inclusion Alliance conference in February. And I'm looking for sponsorship for that event to just cover my expenses. I get a stipend from AmericaCore or but I am Janet has, has offered her some support, and then just looking for a little bits and pieces whatever I can get.

07:44:00 So, my information in the chat.

07:44:05 Great.

07:44:06 Thanks, and Cindy as you all probably know Cindy has been a tireless worker, and probably one of the most knowledgeable people in the state, about digital inclusion and doing a hell of a lot of work down here in Tucson and pinwheel with the Pima County

07:44:20 plan that Michelle mentioned earlier, and this task force. So we really try to encourage you all to, to support her.

07:44:31 Okay.

07:44:33 With that, let's jump into our updates. Jeff you want to kick it off place.

07:44:42 A couple of big ones are grants closing. We're very excited.

07:44:46 What I have seen it will be incredibly oversubscribed.

07:44:51 A lot of projects, a lot of good projects, but as I remind everyone I talked to about this grant is that this is one of several that we're going to see this year, there's quite a bit of money coming from the iija funds.

07:45:04 And we intend to continue this process we had great luck with the first grant.

07:45:09 I'm sure we're going to have some great projects here. I haven't been able to talk to anybody about the grant applications for a little while now so I'm a little bit in the dark on what we're going to see in total and specifically but very very excited

07:45:21 about this project, we get to work quickly as commodity prices and labor prices are rising. We want to get this work done and get our folks served.

07:45:32 Next up we're going to be releasing our state broadband middle mile plan. Later this week, look for that probably on Thursday, possibly Wednesday, the governor's comms team is communicating a lot of this so I'm on for the ride for that.

07:45:51 It will give you a pretty good idea of what we're looking at in terms of highways, where the opportunities are like to do.

07:45:58 And I'm hopefully, 100% healed and back, so please get ahold of me these next couple weeks are going to be a little nutty with the grant applications and evaluation so that immediately I'm going to apologize in advance, but this is an exciting time, and

07:46:15 we're excited to evaluate and get that money out to the folks who will do the good work. So, thank you.

07:46:34 So Jeff a couple of things do you have any sense about whether or not you're going to be oversubscribed request for funds. Yes, absolutely. I expect to be seriously, to give you some perspective that the national level, NTIA had a 280, million dollar

07:46:40 grant that were in the running for for a project up in Heber-Overgaard. And I believe actually county is still in the running for that project.

07:46:48 They got over \$2 billion in applicants so I expect us to be seriously oversubscribed, and as I've told everyone no one's going to get what they want, they're going to hopefully get what they need, and we're going to get to work on this.

07:47:03 Cool. And then what's the latest on getting us some help.

07:47:09 Give us to start. We're excited.

07:47:11 I've been given clearance to get a little more help than I expected. So that's a good thing. So, if you do have any contacts or friends that that you feel would be a great applicant for our system broadband director job, please do have them go ahead and

07:47:26 apply, at least on Zip Recruiter, and Indeed if I remember correctly.

07:47:31 So Jeff Do you want to tell people quickly about what that job, primarily is going to be focused on, we're looking at a couple different things. We're looking for more than one.

07:47:45 As you can imagine, there's a lot going on. We need technical help we need folks that can take a look and evaluate, not just grant applications projects.

07:47:53 We have some major projects going on in our highways and hopefully that will continue.

07:47:58 But we're also looking for somebody who's an expert on federal and state grants. As you can imagine, all this client side of this is very very strict somebody who has the attention to detail and experience dealing with the grants not only our compliance

07:48:16 with the feds but but working with the grant recipients here in Arizona, to make sure that they're in compliance.

07:48:22 The ARPA funds there's quite a bit of language around, what we can do and can't do. The IJA is still going through the process of being done.

07:48:31 So that's important.

07:48:33 We're also looking as we really take a deep dive into digital inclusion in the next year, somebody who has some background in that, which I think is incredibly important.

07:48:44 That is certainly not my forte but I'm learning every day I'm learning a lot from folks like Cindy and, and the team at the State Library. But we need somebody who can interface on that level and help us we have quite a bit of money we have \$100 million.

07:48:58 Just for digital equity coming from the federal government. And we're going to need someone to help manage that process so that's a very diverse list of skills but my expectation is, is we're going to wind up with two to three people with that skill set

07:49:11 spread out across those three.

07:49:14 Sorry I was looking at Jeff, of having somebody specifically with digital inclusion.

07:49:20 That may not be the same as that.

07:49:25 Assistant Manager, is that correct, yes.

07:49:29 So is that official now that you guys, which we sort of expected, is that the ACA will take the lead and the Digital Inclusion grant and finding

07:49:42 a lot of work to be done. Obviously work with Derek and lab and the team at that time quarter, but we're running with that as we speak, and, you know, making sure at this point is that we get our paperwork in.

07:49:57 But that's an exciting project, and we're definitely looking for good ideas and I've had a chance to talk to Cindy and others and I just want to make sure that this money spent in a really productive way and I think that we have the folks in the circle

07:50:10 here to do that.

07:50:12 Arizona is a very unique state and that we do have a very rural area in addition to some very large cities, I would have Phoenix the fifth largest city in the country right now.

07:50:21 So you know finding that balance is going to be a key, and having somebody who understands the needs to rural and urban, as well as our tribal areas, I mean, gosh, we've spent a lot of time with our tribes, and there are some unique challenges, but I

07:50:37 will tell you that there's not a more motivated group than our tribal nations.

07:50:43 So Jeff as you and I have discussed that with the task force we're going to try and convince some folks to begin some discussion about that state plan with make it clear it's not our intent that the task force would be responsible for developing that

07:50:58 plan that certainly would be under you.

07:51:03 But of course collaboratively but I just wanted to let you know that I'm hoping that will still be able to do that.

07:51:10 Yeah, I think that's great. One idea that NTIA has done a really good job with throughout this process is they hold listening sessions, we get some folks on board, I'd love to partner with the easiest time to possibly have one or two listening sessions

07:51:25 around the state to help understand the need and some of our options. Good. Sounds like a plan. Well, I've been in touch with you about how do we get that coordinated and so forth.

07:51:36 That'd be great. Thank you. Okay. Thank you. Any questions for Jeff.

07:51:42 Okay, moving on to the State Library Malar you're online.

07:51:48 Can you hear me. Yes, so Mala, Holly, Nicole are all of you have some updates for us, please.

07:51:59 Yeah, I don't have too much to me, but on January 27 USAC announced that it has adopted the, the important order updating late program rules, and to clarify that private libraries can access the funding to provide Internet access to their community.

07:52:21 What is different in this as compared to what we currently have, is that currently tribal library has to apply to this entirely their state statewide to be eligible and try to differentiate libraries have different criteria for less interested they should

07:52:47 be eligible for the NSC a man that is given to us by MMO. She has slight modifications for that for the carbon libraries in that we we rejected them.

07:53:04 If they have a web presence of a good indicator open our up to the public, and if they hadn't changed that that would help them help customers to approach them.

07:53:21 We also wanted them to have some kind of collection agency collection or electronic collection, or a collection.

07:53:33 But now they don't have to apply to us.

07:53:40 They can directly apply for Ed, and the criteria that that was that.

07:53:50 They have a list of criteria that are uniformly applied across the country.

07:53:54 For all tribal of the reason they like them to comply with.

07:54:07 I would put that in my notes, so I don't want to take up the time here to talk about what those criteria for the audit report, it is multiple pages but I will summarize it for me.

07:54:13 So they actually did away with the conflict that some of the library, had as a sovereign nation. They didn't want to speak like they need to approve their eligibility.

07:54:32 And hence, the word, less than 30% of the library in the country that we're applying for, etc.

07:54:40 So, this is a step in the right direction.

07:54:45 I would have been posted sec news release in my report. And you will see the statements from Chairwoman doesn't bottle as many from the commissioners car and some politician statement as to why do you think this is a great idea and they expect more applications

07:55:06 from the state like police state from the tribe library.

07:55:11 They are also come to a massive outreach to the tribal libraries they have funding to do that from A to Z. And they're starting with promotion. Very, very quickly, because they are eligible to apply in 2023 for anything other than that, I don't have anything

07:55:35 else to report, we didn't have any new either to link to the funding release.

07:55:55 It's just the same as the funding commitment of last week, as 150 million dollars that has been submitted to Amazon so far back he was the question that is=f Holly wants to add anything about the eligibility for the tribal library.

07:56:02 More than what I mentioned.

07:56:06 I didn't see how are you online.

07:56:09 I am. I don't have anything to add I think Mala covered everything. Thank you. Good. All right, thank you. and Nicole Are you online.

07:56:18 No, she isn't today, sorry, see her.

07:56:30 Okay, moving on and I didn't see Janet Janet Are you online, Janet major. Yes, I am. Thank you see. Nope. Yeah, I did see you actually go ahead.

07:56:33 I do have a couple of things that I wanted to report we have put together a search committee to replace our director.

07:56:49 Meanwhile, I did an introduction to Mike and Mark and Arizona tech Council, we do have on our team a new person that we're very excited to have on our team Tara Sklar from the University of Arizona College of Law.

07:56:54 She's based in Washington DC and she will be not only an advocate and person who helps us with telehealth on Arizona but also nationally.

07:57:04 And so look for that Mark and Mike and anybody else I'd be happy to introduce you. And I also wanted to share in the chat the FCC released the awards for round two.

07:57:22 For the Covid 19 telehealth grants and we're very fortunate here in Arizona. There are six degrees. Well five communities that jumped out at me just at first glance, pacing glowed press get paid in Colorado city and it's interesting that there are community

07:57:30 health centers, there are a lot of people and a lot of great places that are going to be getting help from that award. So we're very lucky that Arizona was well represented.

07:57:40 I will also share I shared a flyer regarding the Arizona, or rural health, public policy Public Health Policy Forum tomorrow. Both Jeff and Leah Marquez Peterson will be on a broadband panel, and the registration link is there.

07:57:58 And then the last thing that I wanted to mention is the grant writing series that we've put together. I worked with learn design apply, Inc. Who Jeff and I've worked with before their, their major area of expertise are the DLT grants, but their grant

07:58:13 experts, no matter what kind of grant you're writing.

07:58:16 Since our telehealth Resource Center serves the five western states I've put together the series, so that for the month of February March and April.

07:58:24 The second Tuesday will be a grant workshop in Tuesday February 8 will kick off the series and everyone is welcome. And we will be focusing on that Western Region, that will be introducing the experts and give an overview of grants and grant writing tips,

07:58:40 which is great, whether you're writing and foundation grants state grants or a federal grant.

07:58:45 On Tuesday, March 8 will be dedicating the program to the urs Wdlt grants for anybody who's interested. And then in April I would like to dedicate that and partner with a CBS n and ACA to to focus in April on Arizona, certainly will be sharing the Arizona

07:59:04 resources at the first kickoff. But I would like to have a presentation that would focus just specifically on the state of Arizona so I'm looking forward to having some help with that and that would be on Tuesday April 12.

07:59:18 On the second Thursdays then following the Tuesday presentations, we will be hosting a virtual office hours so people who would like help with their grants people have questions about specific grants that they're writing.

07:59:31 So the format will be really great so that will be sharing a lot of information with providing a lot of resource support for people who are writing grants, and it'll be great to have the support of folks who are here, and to also be providing some great

07:59:50 resources,

07:59:51 glad that we're hoping to have some of the rulemaking done on the iija funding by the April seminar so we can speak to that I know that there are a lot of communities on a great call with the mayor of Flagstaff last week and the team up there that are looking

08:00:06 at infrastructure files for broadband and other things, so a lot more to come. A lot of this depends on how quickly our federal partners can can get those rules out but this is an exciting year and if you're not applying for these funds because you feel

08:00:20 like you're not.

08:00:22 You don't have in house talent or the ability to do it, you know definitely talk to Janet, and she's done a great job of helping you know coach folks up so that can go out and get this money.

08:00:33 There's probably a third, that is competitive and we're really going to be after people to get their applications and for that money.

08:00:41 Thanks, Jeff.

08:00:43 So couple of things.

08:00:45 The information about many of the events that Janet talked about is in the email announcement about this meeting. I've been trying to as I mentioned to West a lot of key things that are happening and, particularly, get those that are coming up but with

08:01:01 deadlines. So I encourage you all to check that out and find the links and join in in those efforts. So Janet, I know you had your celebration of your former director who I know you missed dearly.

08:01:20 So those interviews are going on now for placement interviews for the selection committee.

08:01:27 Okay.

08:01:28 But the dean is motivated he swears we're going to be on board 90 days and, and he's counting every time we talked to him and he tells us how many days are left so we've made some great suggestions for folks that we would like to see on that national

08:01:40 search committee and I'm looking forward to seeing the applications come in.

08:01:56 And the really great news about that is, is it means that we still have the opportunity to be a center of excellence as opposed to being consumed by another department.

08:01:57 So we're very fortunate that we are an established Center of Excellence where a program that's 25 years old and telehealth is such a hot thing that we're going to get some incredible applications.

08:02:07 Cool. Well, you are like one of the top, if not the top top medicine program in the country

08:02:15 in the world.

08:02:20 Okay, moving on anything, any questions for Janet.

08:02:25 Okay. If not, there's on Department of Education Sophia Island.

08:02:30 Kelly. Anybody got anything they want to share with us place.

08:02:36 Good morning, can you hear me I sure can. Good morning I was in the car earlier I think he tried to say hi to me Steve but I could not drive and do all of the things, no problem.

08:02:46 Well, I apologize, Sofia had to leave early for another meeting and she said she didn't have any updates, and I don't either but I can tell you as far as my office the digital, Office of Digital teaching and learning.

08:02:58 We are going through all of the data we're starting to make presentations internally to the Department of Education.

08:03:07 So hopefully by the end of this month we will have data and strategy that we can publish so we're starting to do those presentations this week, which is really exciting.

08:03:17 And we're starting to put a strategy and action into place as far as what we can do and and so like I said, hopefully toward the end of this month will be able to share that.

08:03:27 Right there. Go ahead, Mark. I just, I posted something relevant to add in the chat. Chris Richardson after six months is temporary CIO is back at ASU, so he posted an interesting blogged about that experience about what he learned at ad about them and

08:03:51 how he and how and what he helped doing there. And what he's bringing back to ASU from that. So that's a blog post on the ASU youtube youtube to side, and also the new ADE CIO, I think the name soon mentioned here before Elizabeth Neely is on board I

08:04:11 don't have her email but I posted or LinkedIn profile.

08:04:16 Thank you Mark for for doing that.

08:04:18 Chris did he posted a blog I think it was last week, I learned a new word from that blog called secondment I had not ever heard that term before.

08:04:27 But that's essentially what what Chris did when he left ASU and came here temporarily in that appointment and now he is back and we have Beth, so lots of changes but all very exciting and good and Chris has been a fantastic ambassador for this office.

08:04:40 Thank you Mark again for posting that.

08:04:55 So chobani we should probably connect with Chris and maybe invite her to participate with us with Beth. Yes.

08:04:56 I'm sorry. Yeah, no, no, no problem. Um, Yes, I know that you know she is just you know diving in headfirst and is, you know, going over and yes, absolutely.

08:05:03 But I can share this with her as well, and see if we can arrange that sounds like a plan. Thanks.

08:05:10 and my one I don't think you're online.

08:05:14 Okay, moving on, and Leah, are you online. Don't think so.

08:05:20 So again, just a reminder that that meeting is tomorrow.

08:05:26 And to urge you all to participate. I just I want to make a disclaimer about that meeting, is that at that meeting we may, and probably will not come up necessarily with a with a consensus, and our recommendation from this task force.

08:05:44 It kind of depends we haven't really had a process for doing that. But we are looking for ideas input and suggestions about that, about that fund. So I encourage you all to participate.

08:05:59 Learn more about that fund and provide your input.

08:06:04 So any questions about that before we move on.

08:06:10 Okay, Derek I didn't see you online are you here.

08:06:15 Okay. But Wes Brownfield you are we're online Do you still there.

08:06:23 Man standard. So, You want to give us, based on what's happening with the final mile project.

08:06:30 Oh, the latest is we're turning dirt on five projects.

08:06:38 Actually we're, we're turning dirt on three projects because we have one hung up in the supply the powers hung up in the supply chain.

08:06:46 So we got five projects in progress actually Paloma one of that five. They're live and running.

08:06:55 And we have RFP for five more.

08:07:00 And then we're out of money.

08:07:03 I was just gonna ask you whether you have enough money, you're only had one and a half million from a D.

08:07:10 What other funds have you had nothing Yeah, I've been asking hat and hand, we're hopefully when we get the next five started, and we get to the point we have five completed, and another five in advanced stage of progress.

08:07:27 That'll be a big enough proof of concept that.

08:07:32 And an example of what you can do with a million and a half dollars that success will attract benefactors so well. So I would suggest to you that you might want to contact it and I know I've talked about this before but the World Economic Recovery Center

08:07:54 if you did, and the grants and that they might be able to help you with planning with consultants and helping you to find some funding. So I don't know she hasn't been online recently but but she has been participating and they're very supportive of the

08:08:11 work we're doing.

08:08:12 Give me the name again because I forget it if I don't, I'll have to send it to you, west of the group.

08:08:19 Yeah, it's the it's the Arizona Rural Economic Development Center, I believe.

08:08:29 He was this was Jeff quick question I probably knew this but forgot how is the final mile project organized. Is it, is it a nonprofit, and is there a board of directors and how does that work.

08:08:41 We have a board of directors, there was a.

08:08:50 We had the help of Tim Carter, establishing the board of directors and Shawn record.

08:08:53 The superintendent out of Pima Unified is the chairman.

08:08:57 Glenn Lineeberry epic Miami is the vice chair.

08:09:03 Yeah, no, no, a couple of those gentlemen, great groups.

08:09:07 So you're not you're not wholly owned by the school districts or add or any other Okay, perfect. No we're not. We're separate, they won't have anything to do with us until we prove this concept.

08:09:17 Perfect.

08:09:18 So, so they actually created. I think the last time I talked with us or some time ago, is that they did not that you didn't have an actual separate entity is that now change that there's actually like a 501 c three and a board or not, not Yeah, I mean

08:09:38 the only board we have is the board of directors for the consortium.

08:09:43 The problem is, and we've all been so busy. And it was a group of work just getting into this point, that there are some decisions like that, that we need to make as a board, but try, try to get five superintendents get together for 30 minutes a week.

08:10:02 Yeah, and let me know how you did it.

08:10:08 You know, it's interesting, we want to succeed but we don't want to become victims of our own success, and especially during the legislative season.

08:10:20 I'm so busy and Shauna so busy and Glynis have been busy dealing with what happens at the legislature. Sometimes the obvious next move is just beyond us.

08:10:32 And that's one reason we haven't changed grant money. There is nobody on our board, who has the time to do that effectively, but this world electron. Rural Economic Development outfit.

08:10:45 Now that sounds hopeful.

08:10:56 Because it's, you know, we probably don't have the capacity to do grants, but boy if I knew somebody who had. I worked at anger really hard.

08:11:05 get to the folks in the Local First I don't know if you're familiar with. Okay, they actually have grant writers that they'll loan to y'all, and spoke at their conference last year really, they're very involved with ACA, they understand the ACA processes

08:11:18 very well, as well as the federal and state so my recommendation is to talk to Kimber and the folks over there.

08:11:25 Now I know Kimber dr Kimber. And I know somebody understand whose name escapes me right now. That's why I'm sorry, Katie. Katie boy is over that, because I use them.

08:11:38 She was on the call I think a couple of times, probably a couple of weeks maybe a month ago. Amy Bodde with both said, I'll send you her contact information West.

08:11:50 But as Jeff indicated that they do provide consultants, they do provide funding and they do provide assistance to help people write grants for exactly the reason that you talked about is that a lot of folks don't have either the time or the expertise

08:12:05 to do that. And that's really what they're there for is to help communities and organizations, find funding and write grants. So you definitely should be following up with them.

08:12:18 I will certainly do that. Thank you. This is worth.

08:12:26 This was worth a dime to join you guys today Yeah, I'm actually I've been meaning to contact him because he may actually want to consider just hiring a consultant rather than as a staff person.

08:12:35 And as you know it which Mark has done a great job putting together a directory of consultants. And that's how many of the communities have been able to get their grants and, and, and do their planning so just something to think about.

08:13:01 If I were you I contacted him pretty soon before he goes too far along the interviewing and hiring process. Yeah, I will.

08:13:01 I meant to do that a couple weeks ago, so I will try to do that. If you do it do it today don't do it tomorrow I did if it's not today do it Wednesday or later because he's going to be down for the legislature testifying tomorrow.

08:13:12 Okay.

08:13:14 I'll try and get him later today.

08:13:16 Any questions or comments for West before we move on.

08:13:22 I just want to thank everybody for letting me sit at the big kids table, even though some, some Mondays I don't show up, are always glad to have you West.

08:13:34 So, Cindy Do you want to give us an update on what's happening with the Digital Inclusion network that we're working on.

08:13:45 Think.

08:13:52 I'm sorry. Yes, I'm the Digital Inclusion network is kind of a smaller group of digital inclusion practitioners, we're going to have a meeting this week for practitioners on February 3 to discuss the affordable connectivity program, and if anyone would

08:14:07 like to attend they can email me and I'll put the put my email in the chat.

08:14:17 Okay.

08:14:16 And.

08:14:18 Do we have anything more about the seniors project that's going on down here in Tucson.

08:14:25 I'm not know where the group is kind of reorganizing to develop some specific things that we want to strive toward and work toward. And so, yeah, keep, I'll keep you posted.

08:14:43 Okay.

08:14:43 Thank you.

08:14:44 So, are there any other announcements before we move on to our presentation for today.

08:14:53 Going once, going twice.

08:14:56 If not, Hey, I got a, I've got a quick one and Shereka. I'm going to ask you to expand on this but I don't know if any of you saw the inclusion space, Dell, and Intel just launched a big thing at Channel Unified School District giveaway 4000 laptops.

08:15:14 I don't know if anybody saw that

08:15:17 did not.

08:15:19 I did I saw that that was. It's a devices and service pilot project. this is john Kelly with traffic gets.

08:15:27 And, and they're there, it's a high school with significant free and reduced lunch population.

08:15:33 And I know that the devices have attached services to it and it's one of the things that our education Task Force so long term plan group was thinking that this stage should think about for a lot of districts, facilitating that kind of an acquisition

08:15:50 project.

08:15:52 So I'm pretty excited I posted that on LinkedIn, a couple days ago, and I post things every once in a while on LinkedIn I usually get two or 300 hits back within about 48 hours I got over 700 hits on that which I thought was an interesting measurement.

08:16:06 Great, and John just FYI, that I have been talking with folks at Microsoft. Now we're working on some collaboration and you and I probably should talk since I know you're well connected with them.

08:16:19 So great, and then tell us well.

08:16:21 Yeah, yeah, I haven't had any contact with Intel, so maybe you can help with that.

08:16:28 We'll, we'll try. Okay. So, anyway, let's move on to our presentation for today. And you know I gotta say to Elena, that I cannot believe that with all this time that we have not had Common Sense Media do a presentation for us.

08:16:46 They've been an active participant and supporter of the task force for a long, long time. And so I'm really pleased to be able to hear from Common Sense Media Amina, who is the senior director for equity policy, Elaina Lowery who's the Arizona director

08:17:06 for common sense. And I think they're going to be pretty amazed to find out some of the stuff that they're actually engaged with here in Arizona and nationally, and Drew I don't know if you're online or not.

08:17:21 But Drew Garner has been participating pretty regularly and the task force is a state broadband policy fellow. So with that, I'm going to turn it over to Atlanta and may not.

08:17:34 And you guys are on, and I will stop sharing, and you're welcome to share.

08:17:40 Thank you, Steve.

08:17:41 Hopefully everybody can hear me.

08:17:45 Yeah, I was kind of surprised to that, after all this time we hadn't really presented but you know to be honest I think the presentation we're going to do today is much more aligned with this group as opposed to sort of a high level overview of, of who

08:18:01 common senses.

08:18:02 But I'm going to share my screen and I'm actually going to run through a little bit about who we are just for those of you that don't know, but it's really going to be important for me to share for Amina and for Drew to share the information that is sort

08:18:16 of midway through the presentation so I might go a little quick.

08:18:22 But, here we go.

08:18:25 Let's make sure we're sharing the right screen.

08:18:30 Can everybody see that.

08:18:33 Yes, yes.

08:18:34 Okay, great. So, um, Hold on one second.

08:18:41 Move you guys over here.

08:18:46 Okay. Um, so, you pretty much know me so I'm not going to bother with that. But this is this is who we are, we're a trusted guide for families educators and advocates who help kids thrive, particularly in the digital age we provide resources to harness

08:19:05 the power of media and technology, and to shape public policy to improve the well being of every child.

08:19:11 So we do this in three ways. We have three pillars Common Sense Media, common sense education and common sense kids action. So we like to say we re educate an advocate for kids families and schools.

08:19:24 And this is how we do it we have a very powerful platform.

08:19:28 And we leverage our reach and our impact to drive systemic change. and so you can see the numbers this is National.

08:19:37 I can certainly share some of the local numbers with all of you if you're interested.

08:19:42 But Common Sense Media has over, 108 million users, common sense education, we're in more actually well more than 60,000 schools across the country with our digital citizenship curriculum, we advocate in all 50 states, and our research has seen more than

08:19:59 3.5 billion impressions.

08:20:03 Since we we actually started in.

08:20:06 We're based in San Francisco and we actually started the organization launched in 2000, and I mean I helped me 2008, something like that, and that's right it's a it's a little over 15 years old.

08:20:22 Yeah, I think we're actually closer to 18 so yeah.

08:20:26 So, I already talked about this.

08:20:29 The digital citizenship and teaching resources, that is free, all of the resources that we have are free to both educators, students, families that are, are you know learning through technology we want to empower kids with the skills that they need to

08:20:45 compete in the global economy so all we do is, is based on that.

08:20:52 And then very quickly.

08:20:54 Oops.

08:20:57 Common Sense Media we rate all media for kids. So some of you who have children might be aware of the ratings and reviews that we have for movies and books and video games and everything like that.

08:21:12 We recently moved over, or not moved over but we recently started reviews, and we have a rubric for racing representation now, and we have a lot of our information almost, almost all of our information is in Spanish as well and it's all grounded in the

08:21:32 research that that we do. So again we offer parenting advice and then we have a new team Family and Community Engagement so we partner with school districts and community based organizations to reach low income, black and Latino families with relevant

08:21:48 content for for kids and families.

08:21:51 And then I mentioned the curriculum so I will go I will kind of skip that. But it is K through 12. It is free, and we have customizable presentations for, you know, every, every grade band every, every different topic that you can think of.

08:22:11 And then, next we have advocacy.

08:22:17 So that's what we're working on very, very hard now in Arizona is we're really working to promote tech equity to close the digital divide, to ensure digital Digital Inclusion so this is really the area that we want to talk to you about today.

08:22:36 Of course we want to protect privacy for kids families and consumers. We want to ensure competition and choices. We want to ensure that big tech companies platforms are being responsible.

08:22:51 And then of course we want to promote tech innovation in a number of different areas.

08:22:55 So I just wanted you to get an idea for those of you that may be familiar with us. You may have seen stories or, you know, have seen our research promoted and talked about on on any one of these in any one of these outlets.

08:23:12 So, When we started in Arizona.

08:23:15 In early, 2019. We knew that we were going to do these four things, and the first one was to raise awareness about the impact of media and tech on kids.

08:23:27 We wanted to empower young people to use technology safely and responsibly, and we wanted to support their digital well being.

08:23:34 We moved into building families and educators, knowledge, skills and confidence in harnessing technology as a positive force for kids. And, and now, as I said champion champion federal and state wide policies to close the digital divide.

08:23:49 And then, shout out to Tracy, and some of the other groups that we've worked, we've worked with over the last few years.

08:24:00 So, common sense kids action is our advocacy arm. We really want to make kids, our top priority across the country. So some of the things that we are working really hard on, in addition to positive media technology is early childhood.

08:24:19 Early Childhood for all so high quality early childhood for all 21st century learning, and then continued support for families and However, what in whatever way that looks like it could be supporting extension of the child tax credit for any of the other

08:24:35 federal benefits and things that are coming down the pike for for families and kids. So I know that was really quick but I do want to introduce you to a meetup as Lula, who's our Senior Director of equity policy, and then drew gardener is our state broadband

08:24:51 policy fellow and he'll, he'll follow up with Amina.

08:24:55 So, I mean, I know you're on. If you want to go ahead, I will jump right in and you can take it from there.

08:25:03 All right, and I'll just say next slide when I'm ready.

08:25:16 Elana before we move on and maybe they're going to touch on this but do you have a pretty significant chairperson for your organization. Maybe you want to talk he's our he's our he's actually, the founder and CEO Jim Jim's dire.

08:25:22 founder and and now serves as CEO of common sense. And he actually was just on a panel with the ASU smart region summit that was I think in mid January, mid January, and so yeah so he is actually behind all of the work that we're doing in terms of his

08:25:45 passion, and his, his concepts and his big ideas so yeah so thanks for thanks for that Steve. Sure.

08:25:56 Now means you're on, please. Yeah, absolutely. So, um, I just wanted to give a little bit of background on some of the advocacy work that we've been doing at the federal level, just a little bit of introduction My background is in digital divide in tech

08:26:13 policy and prior to joining common sense I was a Mozilla tech policy fellow and I focused on connectivity for rural tribal and refugee communities domestically and internationally.

08:26:26 And, and, you know, a lot, a lot of the work that I've been doing for common sense, especially since the start of the pandemic has really been focused in on connectivity for the K 12 digital divide.

08:26:43 And, and what we learned at the very start of the pandemic was that we have really loose definitions and loose understandings of what the like some people call it the homework gap, what what the K 12 Digital Divide look like there was like a general understanding

08:26:58 understanding of the digital divide, but there weren't a lot of specifics.

08:27:01 And what we got in feedback from policymakers at the federal level, especially at the state level honestly was, you know, just sort of this like sort of wide eyed asking us what exactly does that mean what what do we need to pay for what like what are

08:27:18 the programs need to look like.

08:27:22 And for those of us who've been working on the digital divide for many years.

08:27:26 I don't know it's a little bit of frustration because you know this isn't new didn't just appear with the pandemic but certainly I think it opened the eyes of many policymakers.

08:27:35 So we put together research to try to drill down on it and you know prior to the pandemic we found that a lot of the efforts to close the digital divide, especially when it came to the homework gap the K 12 digital divide.

08:27:50 You know relied on outside support and it seemed sort of acceptable to sort of send a kid or student out into a library parking lot after hours or to sit at Starbucks or McDonald's or wherever and then cobbled together connectivity and even in 2019 we

08:28:06 did a report where we saw that the presence of the digital divide at home was distorting how teachers were, you know, in students whom were distorting how teachers were actually assigning homework.

08:28:21 So you could have a great well connected school you could have a one to one devices you could have teacher training, everything could be great in the school.

08:28:32 But when teachers knew that those devices would go dark when the kids went home, they wouldn't assign homework that required, any kind of use of technology and so we're starting to pull back despite the fact that all these resources, had been available

08:28:47 in some schools and so we understood that you know really to truly close the K 12 digital divide, you had to go outside of the school walls, and make sure that families for connected but what did that actually include.

08:29:02 So next slide.

08:29:10 Well, part of the reason to do this. I think that was pushing a lot of thinking around the pandemic was this sort of concern about learning loss, and that having no access to school would be certainly accelerating learning loss and creating huge gaps,

08:29:28 what we know now is that, you know, obviously, everybody wants to have their students in school as much as possible.

08:29:37 But.

08:29:39 Next slide. We also understand that, you know, technology is an important tool for education regardless of what's going on in terms of the outside atmosphere and so it's really important that we give students the skills they need to be able to reach tutoring

08:29:55 additional resources just do their homework.

08:30:00 Explore concepts at the same pace that they're more well resourced counterparts might have. And so you know what we saw during the pandemic with the early days of the pandemic was that, you know, the sort of exacerbation of the digital divide.

08:30:16 And so we decided to drill down on exactly you know, what does it take to address that and so what we found, which is probably isn't surprising to anybody here is that you actually needed high speed broadband internet service.

08:30:31 And that you need to have actual devices so a mobile device was not going to be sufficient.

08:30:37 You know, again, probably not news to anybody here, but it was important to actually put that down on paper for a lot of the federal policy makers and next slide.

08:30:50 And for the first time, and you know as far as we could tell, we put together tech specs that actually looked at, you know, what do you need to do to be able to get robust access.

08:31:01 In the early days of the pandemic we're just trying to cobble together, anything and so we were sort of seeing baseline speeds are on 25 three Yes, you can do something with that.

08:31:11 But we found over time that the most sophisticated or the most sort of like useful application for really the ones that I'll add for two way video.

08:31:22 It was really about bringing other humans together right and so to do that with speed and data that's sufficient you needed about 210 Mbps.

08:31:33 And you know the reason we targeted that was because that met some of the current needs of some of the off the shelf technology that's available for education but it also needs some of the current needs for some of the other essentially uses outside of

08:31:47 education so in healthcare context and for some government services as well. It also helps drive the ability of these institutions whether educational institutions government institutions these institutions to start thinking about how they can plan long

08:32:04 term for how they want to support their use of technology, so that they can like have reliable standards that they can then build on top of and device portion again is nothing, nothing too surprising you know having a, an actual new device that is set

08:32:24 up for you know this curriculum specific so for some young learners a lighter device can work. But if you're really looking to incentivize you know STEM careers in high school students, you're probably want to have a little bit more of a robust device

08:32:38 really having devices that can meet the needs of the student, and then also making sure that you know you don't have students that are equipped with devices that are breaking down on them frequently because it just makes it that much harder to be able

08:32:52 to support them. Yeah, nothing, nothing too surprising but needed to be said. Next slide.

08:32:59 We also put a number two what we saw is the persistent K 12 digital divide. Now this is a number that you know we've estimated based on our research to try to understand Okay, what should the programs look like, How big do they need to be.

08:33:19 And going forward you know it's not like you get a laptop once and then boom you're done you're out of the digital divide forever, you know obviously you're going to potentially need support ongoing so we wanted to make sure that we came up with a persistent

08:33:33 number that really gave policymakers and understanding of the scope of the problem.

08:33:38 And we also felt it was important for us to understand the size of the teacher digital divide, so not listed on this slide, but there are about 400,000 teachers in the, in the digital divide as well.

08:33:53 Next slide.

08:33:57 And what we also found was that there was no state that does not experience the K 12 digital divide.

08:34:04 Even in states with the smallest numbers of students in the digital divide one in four students still did not have an adequate internet connection or device.

08:34:15 So, it meant that at the federal level, at the very least there's interest on all sides from states to get something on the table to get this resolved and.

08:34:27 And I think that politically that was helpful but also is just so start to see how far behind as a country we were.

08:34:38 And next slide.

08:34:39 Um, and, again, not surprising disproportionate impacts on rural communities black and white next in Native American households.

08:34:50 You know, so one thing that I do think that was interesting was that we didn't find a huge delta between urban, suburban and rural communities there were some reason where I students were in the digital divide, regardless of the type of community or and

08:35:05 so if you're an urban community, you may experience a combination of a lack of upgraded service or cost support needs suburban communities had similar problems, rural communities had similar problems.

08:35:20 So, you know, in all cases we saw a deep need again I think this was, you know, sad to see but also politically useful to actually spur federal policy makers, take some action.

08:35:33 An excellent.

08:35:35 And we also give them a number we did a cost estimate of what it would take to actually purchase devices, deal with repairs and tech support installation equipment service fees.

08:35:46 Now, This does not include the cost of reaching students who, you know, do not have access at all right so building networks, but to the extent that we could put a price on the cost of closing the digital divide, for kids who had some form of access but

08:36:05 we're in the digital divide. Nevertheless, we wanted to make sure to put a number on that. And our understanding was about six to \$11 billion.

08:36:26 We're able to secure about \$7 billion in the emergency connectivity fund.

08:36:20 In addition to other funds that came through cares and other emergency services for emergency funds.

08:36:39 And, and we are still pushing to add annual funds to the CF program and turn it into a permanent program, and using ECF is shorthand for forgetting for the emergency connectivity fund which is the program that provides schools and libraries with funding

08:36:46 for devices for students at home and connectivity as well.

08:36:52 And next slide.

08:36:56 And this probably was one of the more, more. I think influential pieces from our report for policymakers just to like sort of track through, you know what it means to have a disconnected student, and how that impacts all of us through annual GDP loss

08:37:13 and additional public costs, I think it like started to kind of dawn on folks that yes like \$7 billion dollars seems like a lot of money and annual funds around, you know, like, \$6 billion a year could be a lot of money but then losing 22 to \$33 billion

08:37:27 a year seemed like a lot more money.

08:37:32 Next slide.

08:37:35 So, you know, the good news is that you know the federal government is invested incredible amounts of funding for broadband planning long term infrastructure investments.

08:37:45 Everything that you guys have been talking about and coming down the pike so that's really exciting to see that's coming to fruition.

08:37:51 You know, and one of the things that we can do at common senses know we were happy to help support, planning, and in the use of these funds, whether it's, you know, helping make the case for making robust investments in infrastructure, or helping to understand

08:38:09 how to do digital inclusion and digital divide. Planning work.

08:38:14 You know, are some of our key suggestions around digital needs assessments. That's something that schools started doing during the pandemic we think it's a really great tool, not just for schools but for other institutions that touch in concerned populations

08:38:28 in the digital divide, broadband infrastructure upgrades that to us is something that is we kept on tripping over and talking to schools in different states who are putting together programs to close the digital divide and the early days of the pandemic

08:38:47 was that, you know they do one step forward with a program based on the infrastructure they had and then they realized that it wasn't actually providing quality service that allows students to effectively do any kind of digital curriculum.

08:39:02 And so then you'd have to go back to the drawing board so definitely you know deployment is a really important piece of the puzzle. And then you know lastly I think it's important to note that right now we don't have federal ACF as permanent we don't

08:39:21 have permanent funds to support schools and libraries to continue supporting students as they have with the funds.

08:39:29 It's going to be one offs through programs you know from industry partners or philanthropy.

08:39:36 And I think it'll be really important to see if states are able to take advantage of some of the federal funding that's coming down the pike to be able to plug those gaps.

08:39:46 Next slide.

08:39:50 Yeah.

08:39:52 So this is just a little slide for you to help visualize current federal support for Arizona.

08:40:01 It's broken down by program that's active right now, and like the, the impact it's having.

08:40:07 So, the MENA was just talking about the orange one the emergency connectivity Fund, which in Arizona, that is currently funding about 300,000 devices, and about 60,000 connections, and that funding will end on June 30 this year.

08:40:25 So, so it's unclear what's going to happen to the students that program is currently connecting and that those students are some of our largest priority at common sense.

08:40:37 There's also the, the affordable connectivity program which we've been talking about currently in Arizona that's about 200,000 households about 23% of the eligible population is currently connected to the huge opportunity to expand people on the ACA through

08:40:54 outreach and there'll be an opportunity from the FCC to get grant money to do just that sort of outreach.

08:41:02 Recently some rules came out for the American rescue plan act capital projects fund.

08:41:09 Every state.

08:41:10 Every state will get at least 100 million dollars from this fund that oh Arizona have the allocation.

08:41:16 \$190 million for Arizona 5% of it is available now to start working on planning. So the state can apply for that money and use a big chunk of it, to reach out to communities, and the state their plan for how they're going to use that batch of money.

08:41:34 As you already know, there's the ARPA state recovery funds. I believe 100 million of that was taken, and put into the Arizona state grant program that has a lot of it's very flexible.

08:41:48 You can use that anywhere. Almost there aren't speed requirements. So as long as you can demonstrate need, perhaps, by using school digital needs assessments, or any other planning, you can use that Treasury funds.

08:42:04 And then below it, you can see that counties have received about 1.5 billion and cities have received about 100 million, and they're below them or the individual breakdown.

08:42:24 for broadband projects, and it has pretty flexible restrictions. So if you know someone who has some authority over those funds. They're a good person to talk to you and to propose your project.

08:42:31 And that and then one last thing I want to show, Elena if you can stop sharing, I will take over.

08:42:38 I'm just going to show a couple resources.

08:42:42 We have recently released to help you.

08:42:51 And second,

08:42:51 share.

08:42:55 Okay, can you see that, oh wait no. Sure.

08:43:01 can you see, I mean it Can you see the primer.

08:43:05 No, no. Okay.

08:43:12 Okay, let me see I'm going to see if I can pull it up.

08:43:16 I should be able to get it right here hopefully

08:43:24 now. Yep. Okay, so we've released.

08:43:29 Our primer on policies that links to this in our presentation on we will share them around, but these just have ideas for states and localities for how they can best maximize all the federal funding that they're getting right now.

08:43:42 This as everyone knows is a once in a generational opportunity, and it's really important to invest this and infrastructure that's going to last for a long time.

08:43:51 Because like I said we're going to be using this.

08:43:54 If a kid doesn't have quality access to the internet.

08:43:58 I think that's, I think we can all agree that's really going to hurt their education.

08:44:02 So we want to make sure all kids have it.

08:44:05 So this is our primer and then we also have this, which is our federal funding guide to all the different broadband opportunities right now, and has a program name, the allocation amount, how it's being allocated deadlines recipients and uses and then

08:44:24 some links to further reading.

08:44:28 But hopefully, if you are like be confused by all the available opportunities for broadband finding this might help you organize some of that information.

08:44:38 And I know we're at time now. So I will wrap here, and I think I saw a question earlier as well, that that will

08:44:48 some new eligibility. Yeah, now I wasn't sure if it was about the ACP program, the affordable connectivity program, or the UCF program but I just put some information down the chat about both.

08:45:04 Okay, thank you guys real quick. The urban, suburban, rural all being the same is a bit of a head scratcher for me I'd love to see that research, check.

08:45:14 I found that that most world there's there's literally no infrastructure.

08:45:18 I'm just curious if you guys looked at the Tulsa Response Program, I found that one of the more effective programs.

08:45:24 They took care of that money and seems like a million years ago. And this is the summer of 2020, and they were able to hook up I believe it was 22,000 low income families.

08:45:35 Over the summer in the beginning of the pandemic whatever was running around with their hair on fire. And what they did was they worked with the existing providers in that case Coxon at amp T.

08:45:45 They didn't build it themselves and I'm curious if you guys have looked at programs where states, cities, counties have worked with existing providers versus build it themselves.

08:45:55 And the success rate of above.

08:45:57 Yeah, so, um, and Drew maybe I'll ask you to send our second report. So we did a second report was case studies. Now, granted this is case studies like it came out, you know, in the fall of 2020 so it's you know it was just at the beginning of taking

08:46:16 advantage of some of the funding that came out there and really our goal was to just try and see what schools are gravitating towards doing and what was working best for them.

08:46:27 So yes, the example that you're giving. I don't know that one in particular but I know of many others across the country that did similar things right where they did a digital needs assessment and kind of starts there, it starts with a digital needs assessment

08:46:40 at the school level, incredible advantage of making sure that your schools are doing a digital needs assessment is that you have a population where you're actually able to do.

08:46:53 Needs Assessments already. And when I say needs I don't mean you know grades or, you know, anything like that I mean, you know, do you have access.

08:47:01 Do you need, what level of access Do you have potentially been asking them about the cost of service that they're encountering.

08:47:09 What are your digital inclusion needs at home. What language do speak to your caregivers need support for digital inclusion, so you know you have a much better picture and then devices, of course, and you're able to, especially if you've got either state

08:47:24 policies or federal policies that ask for these types of fields with for for data retention student information system providers, those vendors would be able to automatically add those fields to sort of the suite of fields that are available to schools.

08:47:43 And if it's required by the state or the federal government, or even suggested.

08:47:49 Those are often freedom.

08:47:51 So there's a way to do the data gathering with an institution that's you know really robust and then you've got it down to the address.

08:48:01 That's just incredible amounts of data for anybody who's doing broadband work that you wouldn't normally have right like you got about 55,000,051 million students across the United States.

08:48:12 The with the needs assessments if you overlay that North Dakota did this in California we saw some of this. If you overlay that with partnerships with your existing providers within your district, they're able to sort of say very quickly, who they serve

08:48:27 and who they are unable to serve because of where their footprint is.

08:48:31 And then what schools were able to do is that they would become sort of like the super subscriber, where they purchase broadband based on broadband service based on the needs of their students their geographic locations and the the map, like providers

08:48:45 on top. I mean this is incredible work being done by schools like broadband should not be their number one priority.

08:48:52 top. I mean this is incredible work being done by schools like broadband should not be their number one priority. But yeah, they were able to do that so that was sort of the model we saw one of the ideas that we're looking at. I don't know if you're familiar with a company or group called information superhighway, but

08:49:02 but we're looking at because again when you're, you're asking students, you know, do you have broadband, or even parents and particularly in a culture appropriate environment.

08:49:12 You're not always getting accurate answer and make sure you're getting, you know people people have pride and I get I totally understand that.

08:49:35 in the student data cross referencing that in an anonymous way, so it's compliant with with state rules, and then basing your policy on that as opposed to, you know, I hate these were hearsay but but just you know feelings of what people think, because

08:49:40 I think there are some holes here in the, in the Phoenix area I know, I know Paul and the folks at Phoenix College are addressing some of that, but he's trying to get a very accurate picture of that.

08:49:53 And, yeah, I'm anxious to read a little bit more about what you guys have found and you know you guys been doing this for very long time. And we certainly can use all the help we can get.

08:49:59 But just make sure that we come up with programs that that define the actual program that was on a call Friday and that somebody had to Steve Jobs quote which I wrote down It was so good.

08:50:09 It said if you define the problem correctly you almost have the solution. And I think you guys have done a really good job of defining the problem here, so keep up the good work.

08:50:18 Thank you, ya know, and education superhighway is a group that we actually partnered with alongside Boston Consulting Group for our second report so hopefully, did you put it up there.

08:50:30 I don't know if you get stuck reports in the chat.

08:50:46 of the pandemic. Really interesting stories from Texas.

08:50:49 In terms of their, they had like multi phase effort through their, Department of Ed.

08:50:57 Really interesting stories from like small towns like San Rafael and California which is actually a pretty affluent town but then of course they had this pocket this concentrated pocket of families who were completely unconnected so you know because there

08:51:11 were parts of the community that hadn't been served. Even though this was like a on paper very well served community exactly where the low income students live where the was the place where you didn't have connectivity.

08:51:24 So that's some of this, like when you start to ask like where unconnected kids, they all kind of look the same, because even in urban areas, you can have these sort of like an upgraded or truly unconnected pockets.

08:51:37 And then all of a sudden, you might as well be in a very like rural area because it doesn't make a difference that you've got connectivity a block away that any have that there's some really good case studies in there and a half just circle back with

08:52:00 that's interested in talking about this more yeah that's accurate games. I can't stress that enough so thanks, think Paul had Paul had a question that's Paul, God just took things called quickly because I gotta run to another meeting.

08:52:04 There's certainly a lot of really good data out there and I would agree that once you start digging down into the data the census tract down to the census block, then you really start to find those pockets within areas that really are impoverished in

08:52:17 terms of internet connections, but also looked at the poverty statistics as well, that's an area that's often overlooked. But when you dig into that for some of the school districts even here in Central Phoenix.

08:52:31 We've got kids between the ages of five and 17. We're in some districts 30% of the students are in poverty.

08:52:40 And those numbers exist, but the other piece to that when it comes to is assessing the need for broadband. When I see, like in your report you put 210 right.

08:52:51 There's a lot of people who actually managed to get a lot of things to work on speed substantially lower with multiple people. So, I'm a little hesitant sometimes when I see some of these numbers that are put out there.

08:53:08 It's a flag to policymakers, yet.

08:53:11 Most folks, and I'll put up myself my own family. We don't have anywhere near that type of speed at home, but we're making things work and things work pretty well you know we can watch a few different streaming channels and video conferences at the same

08:53:26 time. So it's just one of those things that that when numbers like that do come out to policymakers, sometimes it also can exclude different types of technology, and it also can ramp up.

08:53:42 Sometimes unwarranted concerns.

08:53:46 But we do need to increase our bandwidth I would agree on that, but it's, It's an interesting dilemma that we're in.

08:53:53 Yeah, no I mean I think are, you know, to get that number we kick the tires with them, you know, at tech companies kind Academy I SPS and Department of Ed so you know we were trying to basically get a number that actually represented what both ed tech

08:54:13 platforms or SPS, and educators were. We're seeing as like an ideal.

08:54:21 Because what we didn't want to have happen is, I feel like folks in education already make do with very little. We wanted to make sure whatever came out was actually trying to hit that ideal in that robust mark.

08:54:36 And then, you know, be prepared for the future as well.

08:54:41 But certainly, in certain areas and certain geographic locations, you're going to have to come up with other alternatives and that's completely understood and, and I hear you on that one too.

08:54:53 So a couple of quick things because we're past time already. So joy I think you have your hand up, did you have something.

08:55:00 Yes, I'm sorry just really quickly I know we're out of time. I believe that the most recent survey that they send out is trying to gather the data exactly what you're talking about.

08:55:09 I am very very interested in getting this presentation, I don't know Steve if you're going to get it and hand it out to everyone if we have access to it if they're willing to give us.

08:55:18 These, these data numbers, and again Apache county has applied for some grants and I hope we're looking good, but the implementation, even after the infrastructure gets built there's a long way to go after the fact.

08:55:31 And what I've seen that you've presented so far is very very interesting to me I would love to have a sidebar conversation, get your contact information.

08:55:38 Because including teachers in the data I just feel like some of the stuff that you presented just feels more solution based, there's information for information sake and then there's information for solution sake, and I'm very interested in this and I

08:55:50 just wanted to put that out there I need, I would really love to talk to you and I agree with Jeff, the data has to be driven towards solution based, and I appreciate everything you've done I can't believe we haven't had this presentation before see this

08:56:02 is so great.

08:56:04 Well thanks we'll definitely connect offline I think we are sharing the slides.

08:56:09 I did want to just know for folks on this call.

08:56:13 We are putting together another sort of slate of research, you know, our hope is that this will be supportive for state broadband plans I know every states in a different place.

08:56:24 So, you know, it can't be one size fits all but our goal is to help drive through these essential uses like education and health care, etc. So to the extent there any ideas or thoughts on what's the kind of data you'd like to see please do reach out to

08:56:38 us.

08:56:39 So we do need to ask for now. Although we will continue with kibbetzing for any of you who want to continue to have some conversation. I do want to make sure Atlanta, couple of things.

08:56:53 One is that any of the presentation with Dr. My sister you guys share. If you can get those to me ASAP. And we'll be sending out the summary of the meeting, probably tomorrow morning.

08:57:05 But we'd like to be able to share any of those documents. So, and also there is and I'm going to leave it open for a little bit in the chat. People have posted some documents, and you can download those documents.

08:57:22 While the chat is open. So I encourage you to do that. As matter of fact, you can also save the chat if you so choose which of course will share the chat with you.

08:57:34 But any of those kinds of things. And then, Elana and Drew in particular and Amina, we really need to have a conversation about what's next for us and your guys and how we best coordinate with you.