

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

Meeting Zoom Transcript

March 21, 2022

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

07: 07:32:53 Okay, good morning, and Jeff looks like you found our meeting notice.

07:33:01 He did head dig through the archives we were just talking about that that it's so hard to get people get stuff through and people finding their emails.

07:33:11 And it's really a challenge. Yes, so let's go ahead and get started.

07:33:18 Let's see, so we are recording this meeting and I do have the transcript on, and frankly I've been a little slow in finding an alternative to our transcripts.

07:33:32 There are some other transcript apps that transcripts that zoom provides are pretty poor.

07:33:38 At this point. But, anyway, thank you all for being here this morning.

07:33:43 I just want to remind you that almost this should be updated here.

07:33:58 That's weird. Okay, anyway. as always I want to thank our sponsors health care.

07:34:05 First health pion. The Satellite Broadcasting Association Valley.

07:34:12 The Sun United Way, Kaget and triad wireless appreciate your support again.

07:34:17 We're looking for new sponsors so please sign up and I will send emails out asking your so forward again, reminder that we do have our Tibetzing with colleagues as an optional

07:34:35 the event after our regular meetings, although today I will tell you frankly.

07:34:42 Last week wasn't it was a week from hell so I haven't scheduled a presentation.

07:34:48 But i'm thinking that we might actually do kibbutzin and questions.

07:34:52 There's a lot of stuff and a lot, of questions that have come up during our Tibetan session sessions. So i'm thinking that we might do that, although Drew, were you online, to see you yet i'm

07:35:04 on. So, Drew, Do you want to talk about your initiative? I don't know if you saw my email this morning, I did.

07:35:10 Yeah, and I can. I could talk briefly about that before I wanted to give a ting. Yep: So what Well, let's do that.

07:35:17 In lieu of our presentation this morning if that's good for you.

07:35:22 Okay, And this is what is going on here. Give me just a moment, please.

07:35:42 No, this is very weird. Okay? Well, okay, Well, I go to sworn.

07:36:12 I updated this, anyway. So let's just jump into the meeting.

07:36:20 And This is really weird, anyway. let's start with any any new people who have joined us this morning.

07:36:33 Anybody knew joining us this morning. I take that to be a mouth.

07:36:41 Okay, So let's jump into our so our next meeting is the 20 eighth.

07:36:50 Hopefully. You all have also gotten you a email the meeting announcement calendar announcements for March in April, and may if you didn't let me know and i'm going to try to

07:37:08 reset that also. and then a couple of things, Couple of announcements again.

07:37:15 Sureika, do you want to give us another quickie about your upcoming event?

07:37:23 On on April the 20 third. sure. Hello, everyone! Good morning, Shirka Jackson, Founder CEO of future Stars, Inc.

07:37:31 And we are hosting our seventh annual hands on stem fare at the Fay Gray Recreation Center in South Phoenix.

07:37:37 Our goal was 150 young, amazing students to come out and have a great time learning stem eating, having fun with the Dj.

07:37:44 So if you know kids that are in the area, send them out of them.

07:37:50 Sign up. First 100 kids get free t-shirts looking for volunteers and sponsors as well.

07:37:55 So let me know i'm available. Thanks So and Kirk Are you online?

07:38:04 Are you here yet. Okay, he's not here today. I see him. but sometimes he's multitasking.

07:38:13 So this is Mark. Did you want to talk about the April, the fifteenth event?

07:38:18 I do so sure i'll put a link in the chat But on April the sixth is a big data southwest smart city, and iot conference.

07:38:29 It's a hybrid event if you want to come live in Phoenix.

07:38:33 It's at the willow conference center which is about 44 street just below Broadway, and what's called the cotton Center, but fully hybrid, is fine as well remote.

07:38:47 If you prefer, and the morning part of the program does focus on the data center space.

07:38:56 But the afternoon more on broadband digital equity, workforce and economic development and elements like that.

07:39:05 So there will be a mid-afternoon broadband panel.

07:39:10 That Jeff, and I will kind of co-host I believe, or Jeff will be on, and i'll moderate, or something like that.

07:39:16 We're still working on that but that'll be followed by a breakout from the conference main program, which will be an Ati C formative meeting of a broadband providers as a working group.

07:39:34 And so we have now sent out an invitation I developed a list of Arizona broadband provider contacts, companies, and contacts.

07:39:45 I'm Sure it's not comprehensive but it was somewhere in the order of a 120 contacts.

07:39:50 I did get help from Mala and Jeff on that, and blasted out and invite this.

07:39:56 Some of you would also have been blind copied on late last week.

07:40:03 So, hoping to host that committee and get a robust participation and kick off a new atic element.

07:40:10 With that you all are going to be comped. Kirk will create a special Az Bsn code, and you can come to all or part of the day at your choice.

07:40:23 Okay, any questions from Mark about that event don't have that code yet.

07:40:30 But i'll put a link to the conference and it's information and the chat.

07:40:36 Thanks mark So let's just jump into our updates Jeff.

07:40:39 We're on, please, all right. So the most important update for those of you who are not aware the U.

07:40:46 Of a did advance to the sweet 16 last night, It was a good one, and the women are playing tonight.

07:40:54 They are. We are loaded this year. We could have 2 teams in the final 4, which would be pretty pretty amazing.

07:41:00 My voice is a little off it's because I was screaming at the Tv more than once.

07:41:07 Okay, So here are a few updates i've been traveling quite a bit lately, so I get behind on the email I was in a Dc.

07:41:14 I guess, 3 weeks ago, and last week I was in Dallas. I think I've already given you update on the Dc.

07:41:20 Stuff at the P. Threec. Conference, and so P.

07:41:24 Threec are our public private partnerships. So you have a lot of companies that that that everything, from construction to management consultants it was.

07:41:36 It was pretty interesting as you know we're working with Kpmg.

07:41:38 Pretty closely on a lot of stuff, and spent some time with them talking about the the next steps on our middle.

07:41:46 My strategic plan, and then I next step on. That is going to be an Rfp.

07:41:51 In the next 60 to 90 days. we're gonna hire what's called a neutral network of operator a company that will help us monetize this fiber that we're putting into the ground that's

07:42:03 conduit that we're putting into the ground how with the run the operations, I should say, in terms of making and also working with the design build for future builds.

07:42:13 I do not believe that the I 40 West was our last big announcement this year we're incredibly excited that you you know this is a legacy project for our governor who's term limited at the end of this year and we're hoping to

07:42:26 have some more big announcements like that, as we put fiber on our highways.

07:42:31 For those of you who did not read the plan We found that over 80% of the unserved and underserved are within 5 miles either side or highways.

07:42:41 We're talking interstates and state highways so using this as a backbone and and using this as a way to connect quickly the progress they're making on I 17 is amazing. if you haven't seen the video, it's

07:42:54 on the Aca. broadband website so this is something that's going to continue.

07:42:59 We felt that it was important that we brought in a third-party company that has experienced in these areas.

07:43:05 If you go around the country and you look at things like fiber runs on the Pennsylvania turnpike and some of these major facilities in the East Coast.

07:43:15 By and large this is the model that they use it also.

07:43:19 Again, as I mentioned, the very beginning helps us monetize this.

07:43:22 We do not want to be going back to the legislature asking for money to operate this moving forward, and if it does throw off enough money which I believe it will, it gives us the ability to make those builds into areas that that probably don't make a whole lot

07:43:35 of sense in terms of penciling, out initially but we've got a lot of small rural routes, a lot of small towns that we need to connect, and as we've talked about before fiber particularly fiber in the

07:43:45 middle mile is always our Jeff. Can you explain what you mean by monetizing each one of our?

07:43:55 We share this cool little party track. This is the only thing ads ever given me, so I like to make sure everybody sees it.

07:43:59 We're putting conduit in the in the highways each one of the conduit has multiple microducts smaller conduit within the conduit within one of the conduits.

07:44:09 We're going to have fiber specifically for education purposes Derek, massive, who's not from the Sun quarter is gonna it's sun quarter will continue in terms of connecting our educational institutions the other 6

07:44:22 are going to be available for carriers to to go ahead and blow their own fiber through the conduit.

07:44:28 For example, you have companies like Zao, and at and T.

07:44:33 And lumen that are in this business. In many cases the process and that of and construction is just.

07:44:38 So time-consuming and expensive we're really blowing through that quickly.

07:44:42 So they'll have the ability to get more fiber. This fiber will connect every couple miles, so every city town digital billboard cell phone tower will be within close to this fiber.

07:44:53 The what we aim to do is create competition on these routes.

07:44:57 So you have multiple carriers going in to say Winslow, Arizona, and if you're a ceiling wanting to set up shop and winslow Arizona you're gonna have multiple

07:45:06 options for back call. So this is this is the plan you're gonna see a lot of this orange stuff on the side of our highways.

07:45:12 Hopefully, and by monetizing it by leasing these conduits to a zao or aluminum, or an at T or a Verizon.

07:45:22 What that does is it provides funding for the operations and maintenance of this network?

07:45:27 So again, we're not running to Legislature asking for money. We're in a situation now where the legislature is very flush with money which is fantastic, but for those of us who've lived in Arizona for a little while

07:45:37 we all know how these cycles go. We want to make sure that we have funding for the down cycles of well, and we can continue to grow this now.

07:45:47 All right. next up, if I believe steve I don't know if I saw Mark I didn't see him, but but we had our Navajo nation broadband summit on Friday, which was incredibly productive this is a

07:46:00 third in a series of meetings with Navajo nation leaders. we were very blessed to have Vice President Lisa come to our facility in Phoenix, and I got a chance to spend some time with them amazing

07:46:12 guy understands the business side of this better than very few politicians.

07:46:18 I've i've met with by excuse me President Nez joined remotely.

07:46:22 There's Speaker House, unfortunately, could make it We had many of their delegates and other leaders from the Navajo nation.

07:46:29 We had carriers on. We had a good group in attendance and big group remotely.

07:46:34 We talked a lot about strategy with the Navajo nation for those of you who do not know they have allocated \$208,000,000 for broadband, which is really exciting the key.

07:46:47 I think, for any part of the State, but particularly a very rural area like that for all of us to work together.

07:46:54 The State of Arizona in terms of building on I 40.

07:46:57 The Navajo nation. They have a great middle Mall project, for example, underway with D rate funding

07:47:03 Our county, Navajo County, Apache County, Cocaineino County, all at the table.

07:47:11 One of our organizers, Supervisor Lena Fowler, is from Cocaine County.

07:47:15 We had multiple Coconut county supervisors at this meeting live which was great. I think a lot of them like to get out of Flagstaff when it's cold and I don't blame them believe me

07:47:23 I'm going up there this summer so we really started talking about what what's going on, what's interesting about the Navajo nation.

07:47:32 And and this is something I talked to our friends in Dc.

07:47:35 About a lot who aren't familiar with Arizona is.

07:47:38 It is roughly the size of West Virginia, and it mocked.

07:47:42 It goes through multiple states. So, in addition to myself, I had my counterpart.

07:47:47 Rebecca Dilch from Utah come down, and my counterpart Gar.

07:47:52 From New Mexico, actually in the in the facility, talking about how we can all work together, how we can connect.

07:48:00 Colorado got a last-minute invite.

07:48:01 They were able to join remotely. But again these big interstate solutions are going to be.

07:48:06 You're going to be hearing more about them We're having discussions with our border States, and others to talk about how we can take this Federal money and tie it together and benefit the region Erzona new

07:48:18 Mexico is a natural, was the Navajo nation.

07:48:22 I think if you look at arizona nevada, it's the natural and other area.

07:48:24 So we're definitely pushing forward and you know the Navajo Nation.

07:48:29 Broadband summit was successful. I don't know if mark has any thoughts. but we're definitely getting the right folks at the table just good to see them come together like that and talk the talk now it's time to walk the

07:48:44 talk. Yeah, they. they are very well funded, as we are in this instance.

07:48:50 And and if we all work together we can solve the problem.

07:48:55 And at the executive leadership they delegate Key Allen Baggage, who's one of the leaders of this organization.

07:49:02 Of these of these meetings from the legislative side is pushing again, if we can.

07:49:06 All there's no reason we can't solve this I will say upfront.

07:49:10 There are some, some challenges up on the Navajo nation.

07:49:14 Biggest one is rural addressing they have allocated it believe it's \$20,000,000 to solve this problem.

07:49:19 Once we get that's a big step in getting to the most rural parts.

07:49:23 Frankly for those of you who are on aware, Chris Percente, who worked with the Navajo nation recently resigned.

07:49:30 Chris was a okay. I work constantly. consider him a friend, and and he took a great job.

07:49:36 And then Tia working with them. so he will have another friend in Dc.

07:49:40 But that being said losing him up, there was a blow.

07:49:44 They did announce a new broadband person can't remember name off to speak with her so again.

07:49:51 This is it. This is a big part of the state and we're some progress.

07:49:57 Last, but not least probably we're starting to talk to different folks about our upcoming \$100 in digital equity funding.

07:50:06 We've met with great groups like common sense media We've we've we've read with Carrier.

07:50:12 You know, Google and Dell and others are interested in this.

07:50:16 Last week we had an extra meeting with the folks from Asu.

07:50:21 They have a person of their Erin card, Jordan, who is is top of the food chain in terms of working on these problems.

07:50:27 She seems to really have good grasp on what's going on, and

07:50:32 So these discussions will continue. As we formulate our plan.

07:50:35 We have beings coming up with our contacts in Dc.

07:50:40 From these different organizations to talk about what we like to do and we're gonna take some direction on this, But but ultimately we'll do it.

07:50:46 The way that that you know fits arizona so a lot.

07:50:50 I'm sorry if i'm just regurgitating here, but we've got a lot of stuff going on.

07:50:54 I'd be happy to answer any questions. Okay, any questions for Jeff.

07:51:00 Yes, this is Cindy. Do Have you selected an entity to to develop the digital equity plan for the State?

07:51:08 We have not selected name as of today. Do You have a have timing on that reference Here's a challenge to the the Governor's office recently appointed a new Infrastructures are I guess would be the term

07:51:24 I would use, and this is part of the Iij.

07:51:27 This is one of the challenge, the requirements, I believe It was about a week ago they they announced her, so I just started discussing with her the broadband side of this thing.

07:51:35 The So obviously she's going to have a role in what we do with this and definitely more to come on that we're good.

07:51:44 Thank you. other questions for Jeff going once. Oh, yeah, Mark here.

07:51:52 So last week you weren't here and so your ears may have been burning.

07:51:57 There was some discussion about whether you needed help from us or a group of us.

07:52:01 On thinking about the 192,000,000 in Treasury funds coming our way.

07:52:08 I suggested that you probably knew pretty well that there'd be some split between, maybe additional middle mile projects, and maybe refreshing.

07:52:18 The grant funding. But there were certainly were questions on the table about that, and about any assistance you might need work. You know, as I mentioned to Steve last week.

07:52:32 Yeah, definitely working on that. In fact, I have a meeting with treasury. I believe on Thursday talk about different options. I mean the key is to make sure we're in compliance.

07:52:40 The good news is is that when I was in Dc.

07:52:42 Of all the programs that were were talked about that is by far the most flexible.

07:52:48 What we have to do is we have to look at it where we know there's a lot of projects, I mean, as you guys know, with the the If the Abd G.

07:52:58 Grant. You know we had \$100,000,000. We have \$100,000,000 to give out.

07:53:02 We have \$440,000,000 worth of projects. Part of this is matching projects with funding programs to make sure that we maximize that.

07:53:12 So there are certain projects that that go across many boundaries that are able to be funded by you know, bead funding or middle- mouth funding or funding for our native American tribes.

07:53:24 There are other ones that make a whole heck of a lot of sense.

07:53:28 But quite frankly, don't qualify for those programs the treasury funding gives us a lot of flexibility on what we do.

07:53:33 So we're looking at this at a high level but also at a project level to try to understand the best way to do this.

07:53:40 It's almost like putting a puzzle together in terms of how we're doing. and as we move forward with the Grants, they're going to become more and more micro as we look at very very small.

07:53:51 Communities so trying to come up with a strategy that that allows us to roll that direction is what we're doing. to your point. I believe that there will be a combination of both

07:53:59 My suggestion to Steve to make sure that we don't have any blind spots rather than you know have a an open discussion about this is if the acsm atic wanted to come up with a list of maybe half a

07:54:13 dozen recommendations, or less about how to spend that money I mean That's certainly I will greet and consider and I could.

07:54:22 I could bring into the discussions again. i'm a big believer, and I certainly don't have all the answers, and if I have any blind spots in terms of what we could use the money for what we should use the money

07:54:30 for i'd love to hear it so if you all were able to put that together. I would definitely would appreciate that.

07:54:37 So, Jeff, can you just do a quick overview of what that money is?

07:54:41 And what if how can be used? Mark I I could certainly give you a presentation on that.

07:54:46 But that would take a lot longer. just just know that it's It's very flexible, and we're we can do with it.

07:54:53 You know we have that. we have the ability to look at both things like you know.

07:54:58 Fiber and highways grants there's a lot. and those are the discussions we're having with treasury is how far those boundaries can be pushed in terms of what we do with that this is by far our most

07:55:11 flexible funding, and and from our perspective, we want to make sure that that we spend this in the right way.

07:55:17 \$102,000,000 is a lot of money. so.

07:55:20 But when you start looking at the number of projects that do not qualify for other funding sources, it'll go very quickly.

07:55:30 Just to add to that that this is \$10,000,000,000 that did precede the infrastructure plan came out of an earlier legislative package that Treasury had and they did launch that and Jeff did

07:55:47 submit as other entities some initial requests for the allocation, and maybe parts of the plan.

07:55:55 Last December, but every State got at least a 100.

07:55:58 I think the smallest was 106. The largest was California, 540,000,000.

07:56:05 So, Arizona, 192 the but the other element to it that we haven't discussed.

07:56:09 Here is that every tribal entity was given an allocation of a \$167,000.

07:56:19 That they did have to request by december the 20 seventh, but that was an additional element.

07:56:27 I don't know how many arizona tribes or eligible entities managed to get theirs in.

07:56:32 I unfortunately know of some not here, but in some other states.

07:56:37 I work in that simply didn't get it together to ask for it.

07:56:41 But there will be tribal projects on a smaller scale, and that tribal money can be infrastructure, though that's not a lot for it.

07:56:50 It can be community center or digital equity. hey? mark you know That's a really good point. And that is something i'll bring up with Treasury on Thursday is exactly what tribes did in fact get right?

07:57:03 Yeah, Yeah, the toggle now and I think it's a \$192,222,002 or something.

07:57:10 It's some weird metric like that but yeah the the opportunity to do something really unique with this, because of the flexibility.

07:57:18 Is there where you know if there's a great idea or solution out there that we're just not saying i'd love to love together.

07:57:25 Get your feedback on it, and you know this is something that's going to happen quickly.

07:57:29 You know my my conversation with the the the gentleman who runs that program in Dc.

07:57:34 Was. But they want to get this money out. The Administration wants to see this money out.

07:57:38 They want shovel ready projects. They want to see this thing getting done, which is music to our ears.

07:57:44 So I think you're gonna see a lot of announcements on this, the initial thing that was due on December 20 seventh was more of an outline.

07:57:53 And as we go to more of a plan, and then an implementation you're gonna see this probably ahead of just about all other finding in terms of the the actual results, you know the shovel on the ground.

07:58:03 So that's also something we kick into consideration. some of these projects have to be done in sequence.

07:58:07 You know it's it's great to say you know we want fiber to every home, and you know x y z little town.

07:58:12 But if there isn't many and while connectivity out of that town, it just doesn't matter.

07:58:19 So you know that's Why, the the middle mall plan is so important to what we're trying to do in the State. Any other question?

07:58:29 I'm sorry. Go ahead. Well, one last thing and I worked I had here in a couple weeks.

07:58:34 Our mapping group is definitely moving forward with some momentum.

07:58:39 We have some really great folks. that that from from departments within the State of Arizona are Leader Jenna from from the State Land Department, is a Gis. expert.

07:58:52 She spends time nationally on this so we're very blessed to have her.

07:58:56 We are getting data from a lot of different sources we're evaluating different sources.

07:59:00 We've had vendors and to talk to us about it we're in a great position to put together something the goal is to have this done by the end of the fiscal year, which is June the

07:59:10 thirtieth. Obviously this is a evolving process and we'll always be adding data to the map.

07:59:18 But the goal is to have a map that is worthy of challenging the Fcc.

07:59:20 Maps, and that's really our challenge and jeff I we talked months ago about by being involved in that. I I guess I would like to ask if I could be, and I happen to be doing some client work that elsewhere on

07:59:41 sourcing for different kinds of data. So I may have some contributions to make Mark Levitt.

07:59:47 You know we're trying to work on getting something together. we have you know, kind of a beta or skeleton version out we're still debating the different data sources.

07:59:57 So a lot of this was just getting the funding to do this and getting the people to do this.

08:00:02 I think we're there. so we're about ready to start reaching out to yourself and others.

08:00:06 You know some of the carriers and some of the others in the industry. who have, you know, decades of knowledge in this area.

08:00:13 So you know. Okay, Okay, thanks, Jeff, That's good let's move on, Hey, Steve?

08:00:23 Hey, Steve, this is Kurt. I sorry about that.

08:00:25 I was multitasking like, Mark said, hurting cats on a speaker.

08:00:28 Hey panel call Jeff Just amazing work as we all know It's kind of funny to watch Cindy and Aaron's heads go up and down at the same time all you're talking about the the mapping can

08:00:40 we have Aaron make a little announcement too, as to her new role, which is as synergistics, what we're talking about in the digital equity space as as possible, real quick Steve Yeah, we're gonna

08:00:53 do that I've been in communication with there and i've heard to do my days again presentation about the task force about her initiative.

08:01:04 What she she she can say a couple things right the second can't see?

08:01:08 Okay, you're not your announcement yes, let's hear from her free time.

08:01:14 First I would I would just like to say that that i'm really looking forward to to participating in the big data event and and to moderating a panel.

08:01:23 And thanks again, Kirk, for asking me to participate i'm really excited about it.

08:01:27 I don't want to take time out of your calendar today, Steve.

08:01:28 I recognize that that it's a really quite fully practiced agenda. Just very briefly, i'm stepping into the managing director role for the Digital Equity Institute.

08:01:36 I would love to talk to anyone who is interested about making sure that we're forming a collaboration across the State, so we can amplify all of our impact, and we'll talk to you more about it when we have time on

08:01:47 the agenda. Maybe we can schedule that for next week. yes, definitely.

08:01:53 We've been trying for several weeks so welcome you should absolutely have Aaron on, I mean she's replacing Dominic papa who I used to work with who's just a great guy who moved the ball,

08:02:05 forward a big way. They're doing some stuff not just turn Arizona. but around the country which those are these are going to be great jobs for Arizona as well as an impact around the country.

08:02:17 So We'll try and get her there, and if you can tell her Typically, mark your calendar, and then i'll follow up with you.

08:02:25 Sounds good. Thanks so much. Sure. Okay, moving on mala you're on. Okay.

08:02:33 I just wanted to start with the where we left off for the discussion about the Treasury Capital Project fun because I was letter a Shelby webinar where they address this.

08:02:48 Joey vendor who is in Charge of that project book, and he is he his Senator Marquis's.

08:02:58 He was Senator marquis's prime aid and before he took on this role of working on the treasury.

08:03:07 Grant. the fund is not as well publicized and as it should be, but it has a lot of flexibility.

08:03:16 It allows for anything any project that has that enables work, education, or health monitoring.

08:03:27 If they are directly connected with that, that project would be eligible.

08:03:32 It does have administrative costs that can be taken care of.

08:03:38 About 5% of the total project fund that the the total grant front that has been asked for and it allows not only for broadband infrastructure building but also for devices equipment, construction.

08:04:00 Things that were not eligible in in other projects are all eligible here.

08:04:06 It also specifies that it should have at least a 100 mbps.

08:04:15 Download, and an upload between 20 and 100 so metrical is good, but if it's not, it's a metrical with 100 out 100 down and 2,200 up to would be good.

08:04:30 It can be used to improve Libraries are schools, but not to it.

08:04:35 Them any improvements it allows for digital literacy training programs.

08:04:43 It also allows for telehealth and health related projects anything that would help in improving the the community.

08:04:56 And the public that has public use of the funds would be accepted.

08:05:00 They there are it's, A three-step process the first step was to submission of an application, and I think that was the December deadline, and there is an execution of a grant agreement with Treasury that each State.

08:05:13 Has to do, but also the States can submit, grant plans to the Treasury, and this plan does not have to be just a one-time submission.

08:05:25 For example, if a State wants to submit a general state plan and include maybe just 2 or 3 counties in the first go round and then submit a second plan for the rest of them.

08:05:36 That's fine, too. They will accept it piecemeal there is a lot of flexibility in this I put 2 2 links in the Chan, one for the for the general application applicants, and the other for the tribal

08:05:54 applicants that has more details on the whole application process. They have to create a grant portal, and the submission has to be through the grand porter they were.

08:06:05 They have 3, 65 days they deadline after the grand portal has opened up.

08:06:10 I don't have the deadline dates on me right now.

08:06:15 I didn't take that down while I was attending the webinar, but it should be in the links that I provided

08:06:22 So that's a little bit more about that treasury capital funds which we need to really you know, ramp up and do something about, because it's a variable. that money is available right Now, Yeah, Okay, moving on to what

08:06:39 i'm sweating to the finish line this is march the 20 s.

08:06:45 Tomorrow is the deadline for submitting errate applications for the general applicant.

08:06:51 Schools and libraries. There they have extended new tribal library applicants, deadline to May.

08:06:59 The 20 sixth. so for Tribal Library has, or a Chapter House has never applied before, but they intend to apply this time that deadline is made 26.

08:07:11 So we we have time to recruit and get more tribal libraries to apply for the grant for error.

08:07:22 And if it has provided, you know quite a lot of funds for the state we've had about

08:07:27 I want to say \$1.6,000,000,000 that has come to the State in these last 20 years for Internet access for devices.

08:07:39 Not not in the sense of laptops and things like that.

08:07:44 But routers and hubs and switches, and those kind of things, and the median price for Mbps has dropped from \$4 80 cents to a dollar.

08:07:56 3 cents a dollar, 39 cents.

08:08:00 So that has that has also errate has helped in doing that as well.

08:08:06 And it's helped bring the prices down for one and this access point by about 49% from where from for \$100 to \$700.

08:08:21 Wireless access. So there's been a lot of improvement in the State and the country for because of eray dollars the Ecf project they had that the the Fcc.

08:08:38 Has committed over \$4.6,000,000,000 from the day from the time it was launched.

08:08:46 Of that Arizona has received funding commitment for a \$134,000,000, and Arizona is 8 nationally in the receipt of Ecf Funding.

08:09:01 This is great, because all our schools and libraries are applying for Ecf.

08:09:08 They applied for it in the 2 rounds of applications that was put up, and most of the projects have been funded.

08:09:16 86% of the projects have been funded. the rest are under review and will be funded, and as I had announced her year, Fcc.

08:09:26 We accepted the request made by Shelby by

08:09:33 Seek over just the steady rate Coordinators Alliance and American Dubai Association to extend the deadline and the day.

08:09:42 The deadline for utilization of this money, and that is, when they extended to June, the thirtieth of 2,023.

08:09:49 So those are all good news. as far as ebb, which does now acp the affordable connectivity program.

08:09:57 Oh, we have i'm sorry like granton is really howling at the background.

08:10:03 If you hear him it's because he's getting ready to go to school and throwing temper tantrums.

08:10:09 So forgive me if you're here hearing those noises the Acp. it's moving along steadily.

08:10:19 Last week we had another 4,000 between 4 to 5,000 applicants that signed up

08:10:27 I haven't put the the enrollment tracked in the chat.

08:10:34 As soon as I finished speaking, as of today as a fourteenth of March.

08:10:38 The we have had 234,000 households that have signed up to be on.

08:10:45 But to get trustee funding for discounted Internet access.

08:10:52 So any questions. be happy to take it otherwise back to you, Steve?

08:11:12 Any questions questions for Mama. awesome Job Mahler.

08:11:18 You're amazing! thank you how are you or nicole Do you have anything we're going to jump down to.

08:11:25 We Marcus Peterson, the apparently online we haven't heard from her for a while.

08:11:30 But, Polly, you have anything you want to add I'm not sure. Holly is okay, Polly, and Nicole are are en route to the Pla.

08:11:44 The Public Library Association person. so so Cindy will hold you until after we hear from Leah.

08:11:55 Really I haven't seen you on a while understand you're online?

08:11:58 Would you like to kind of give us an update of what's happening.

08:12:02 Good morning, Steve. You can hear me. Okay. , car.

08:12:06 Okay. Great. No, no real update. I just wanted to thank Jeff for the invitation broadband initiative for the Navajo Nation Media, he hosted. On Friday.

08:12:14 I really enjoyed speaking, explaining the role of the corporation.

08:12:21 But no, no real update here on last year. but questions so what's the latest with looking at the the the docket and the looking at some changes to the universal service.

08:12:33 Fund it's. still something that is pending there's still a number of States that are making to you know, moving it from land lines of broadband.

08:12:43 So our legal has taken a stab at it, and we just need to get that.

08:12:49 Moving forward again. we've had a couple other hot items on our agenda.

08:12:54 Late. you have any idea about timing or what's next steps or anything you need from us.

08:13:03 Not at this point. No, I do appreciate the the meeting that we had where a lot of different folks dialed in to hear and to give perspective.

08:13:12 But no, nothing. No action at this time is needed. Okay, thank you, Leah.

08:13:17 But you could join us today. I know as jeff as Kirk said.

08:13:23 You're you're very busy so appreciate you taking the time to be Cindy, you want to give us a quickie on what's happening in digital inclusion.

08:13:33 Sure So the the new, the digital inclusion network under the Azbsn task force

08:13:40 We've got 2 entities one is going already it's a it's a practitioner's meeting it happens every 2 2 weeks on Thursdays, where where we address a topic the most current topic We talked about was Acp and

08:13:55 we did create a media kit and media and resource toolkit that I will put in that a link to in the chat.

08:14:03 It has all kinds of things that can be sent out to networks about the Acp.

08:14:09 And getting people signed up. We want to keep that momentum moving forward.

08:14:12 We're also starting another meetup space. We We believe it's going to be on March.

08:14:18 The 30 first will be the first meeting we haven't picked a time yet.

08:14:21 So we'll keep steve apprised of that, and so he can get invitations out to everybody.

08:14:30 A number of people on the on our call on Mondays is also on the Piedmont County strategic plan for digital access, inclusion and adoption.

08:14:39 I'm Code Andrew Bevington, and I are co-chairing the digital inclusion.

08:14:44 I'm committee on on that effort and We're currently identifying the digital literacy assets throughout Pima County, and also gathering information from community members and organizations about about some of the gaps we're

08:14:59 doing a gap analysis for that for that project where I'm also involved in the

08:15:08 A group that's talking about digital inclusion barriers experienced by older adults.

08:15:15 And we are meeting everyone it's not a regular meeting so far.

08:15:18 But if you want to be involved with that, I can put my phone number an email in the chat.

08:15:23 You can get in touch with me. I also have a digital inclusion alliance blog post.

08:15:28 That describes the digital equity act funding timeline and i'll put that in the chat as well.

08:15:37 So cindy I think it's really interesting You've been doing a great job with the suffer down here in Bea County, and I think one thing that's unique.

08:15:46 About what's happening in pima county there's an addition to them.

08:15:49 Looking at connectivity issues as we've always talked about of the importance of digital equity and digital inclusion and the fact that they are actually working on a county plan that is that's include both the connectivity side as well as

08:16:07 digital inclusion. I think, as a good example of some of the things we need to do here in the State.

08:16:16 Absolutely yeah same thing dots here. really good it's a really good direction, and we're getting what i'm feeling like Steve, as I was kind of compiling my notes for a progress report over the weekend we're

08:16:30 we're actually collecting the kind of information that we'll want to feed up to the State level at once the digital equity plan starts moving because i'm getting i'm we're getting incredible anecdotal information about

08:16:43 what's going on. kind of in the trenches with people that are trying to sign up for college at Pema College and doing workforce.

08:16:55 Things we're getting a lot of information about and and we have someone on the call now who's who's pep ink, and they do.

08:17:03 They connect with labor labor's. agricultural workers across this across the State.

08:17:09 They're having a They have to get there they have to get their time sheets into the system from remote locations where they don't have Internet.

08:17:20 Access. So they have to kind of capture it. and then drive to where they can get Internet access.

08:17:25 There's all kinds of stuff going on that that we need to know about.

08:17:28 We need to be feeding to the people that are developing the equity plan.

08:17:33 Thank you, Cindy. Oh, Sandy, this is jeff you know that's a great example.

08:17:39 I talk to people all the time about how infrastructure and and digital inclusion at digital equity work hand in hand.

08:17:48 We're working very hard right now, particularly in yuma to build out a very robust network.

08:17:54 10 gigabit symmetrical we're working with a carrier who's going to do that that being said when you're in the fields and i've spent some time in the fields out there they're

08:18:03 massive, and a lot of people don't know that 90% of the lettuce in the country right now is coming out of the Yuma area, which is a remarkable statistic.

08:18:12 But but overlaying our are you know in terms of agriculture in terms of the ability to do self-driving tractors and drones of a wireless mesh layer or something along those lines I

08:18:23 mean there's several options, but also for the individual worker in the field, you know.

08:18:28 God forbid! you have a family issue. you know your kid gets sick at school, or I mean, those are the kind of things that we have to think about.

08:18:35 So we're gonna be talking to our wireless carriers as well about playing on that.

08:18:39 But great example about how digital equity and infrastructure work together.

08:18:44 So good stuff i'd like to add to that Cindy the we've had several examples where even police officers had to drive to a libraries parking lot to file a report.

08:19:00 You know there are numerous examples of people in the rural areas, not having access and coming to the library to to make funeral arrangements for their loved ones.

08:19:15 You know it is those kinds of things that are hot wrenching when you see, because everything requires a form to be filled and they can't do it over the phone, They have to come to some place where they can.

08:19:28 Access the Internet get the form downloaded fill it up even to do a funeral for a loved one.

08:19:37 So i've got live examples like that that really speak for the lack of access and the need.

08:19:46 The dire need in some some rural communities think we need to.

08:19:53 We need to move on I didn't see janitor you online today, Mala, Do you want to give us any updates on the telehealth and libraries?

08:20:06 Initiative. not really too much, because we are still working.

08:20:12 Ken Zambo, who is the project ahead in Pima County, is working hard to get all the bits and pieces lined up.

08:20:22 He's got the grant money squared away he's got he's worked with you.

08:20:27 He's working with you away to get the student nurses and their nurses.

08:20:34 Permission papers signed up he's also working on various all the other requirements to get the project going.

08:20:45 So right now, we're still working on the preliminaries that we need to get lined up for the project.

08:20:55 But we've been having weekly meetings to make sure that we are keeping each other updated on what's happening, and good quotes for the digital equipment as well as we even had a demo the nurse doctor

08:21:13 who is a part of the team to show us How this information can be passed on securely from the patient to the health care provider to without it being saved in between by any elements for the security of that data so we're working on all

08:21:36 those in integrities. We'll get it on the road soon enough.

08:21:42 Okay, Thank you. Mama and Steve Mark here tomorrow. Janet has been holding monthly series of grant workshops on Tuesday mornings, followed by open office hours for live Q.

08:21:57 And a that people can bring in an extended conversation usually the Thursday right after the Tuesday sessions, and I believe that there will be a session on April the twelfth.

08:22:12 It's 10 A. M. with jeff myself. and kimberly landing on Federal Grant overview.

08:22:21 Okay, thank you, Mark. So I want to remind you all that if you Haven't, when I've been trying to send out in my email and announcements listings of key things that are going on links and keep people and So forth.

08:22:35 So if you don't get a chance, to read those I encourage you to to try and keep up to date, and it's a good way to do that.

08:22:43 Not sure we have everything, but I try to keep up to date on information that people are sending me.

08:22:49 So anyway, moving on Sophie, I don't know if you're online.

08:22:54 I see Kelly, you are and I don't believe my one's online morning.

08:23:02 I'm just waiting to see if sophia is going to speak so I will take the floor.

08:23:07 Good morning. Everyone updates from just quickly. Tell people Yes, yes, I always forget to do that.

08:23:15 My name is Kelly Crucy. I work in the office of digital teaching and learning for the Arizona Department of Education.

08:23:22 It is a new office, and this week we are hoping on Wednesday to publish the data from an assessment that we did with the Leas in November and December.

08:23:33 So we sent this out to all of the local education agencies in the State, trying to collect information about their digital teaching and learning practices.

08:23:41 So we can identify gaps and help, be a resource and and leverage the States resources on behalf of the the schools in the State.

08:23:53 So we conducted this in November and December, and we have been putting together the the data, analyzing it and then pulling out from there the potential problems and potential solutions.

08:24:03 So we hope to publish that this wednesday and steve what I'd like to do is send links to you, and i'd be happy to talk about them in future meetings.

08:24:10 But we will publish a data, A dashboard on our website where people can look through all the information, all of the information that we pulled, and from the assessment is available and will be available as soon as we publish that so Steve i'll be in

08:24:24 contact with you, so I can help push that information out. I will also host some sessions where people can join for about a half an hour, just to inline like in a live session.

08:24:34 Get the information about the assessment and what we're doing moving forward.

08:24:37 Well, Charlie, you kind of took my next question is that certainly we'd be glad to help you, whether we have our own session or a session with you.

08:24:50 But brainstorming some solutions in additions to just getting a briefing on what the findings were.

08:24:56 Yes, that'd be great, because what we are really trying to do is focus on the Lea community and bring the the school communities together to discuss what they're doing, with what is working for them and sharing with one another what it is that

08:25:10 they're doing again to be successful when it comes to digital learning.

08:25:17 So would love to collaborate any way that we can, and have discussions and and brainstorm.

08:25:21 And so, Kelly, can you just remind me I know when you guys first started.

08:25:28 I wasn't clear about the you're mostly focused on the teaching and learning aspect versus the infrastructure side of my correct about that.

08:25:35 The infrastructure definitely plays into it and that's myelin's area, And so you know it through this assessment we are trying to collect data from the schools to determine you know Do they know how many students

08:25:48 which students do not have access to the Internet or digital learning.

08:25:54 And then from there, working with Myelin in his area to help bridge those gaps.

08:25:59 So thank you. Any questions questions for Kelly. This is Jeff.

08:26:05 I was just going to say the project. that myelin's working on is incredibly important for the State in general in particular to what we're doing with mapping.

08:26:14 So if you off working on that, I have no issue with him not being on the call, he's doing a great job. And we're looking forward to continuing collaborate with myelin and Kelly and the team at 88 Okay,

08:26:25 actually a ribbon cutting for final mile tomorrow.

08:26:28 So there's definitely some exciting things happening? There still I heard about that good deal.

08:26:35 How are you Hi, guys, that's my only announcement I know that there's a ribbon cutting for the final miles tomorrow.

08:26:39 So maybe if I see some pictures online i'll bring him here next week, I was gonna ask, is that gonna be online?

08:26:47 Or is that just face to face? I think it is just face to face like a like?

08:26:52 You've got some media coming and some fun students and parents coming to get together and celebrate that project.

08:26:59 But if I see some pictures I will bring you next week.

08:27:01 Okay, thank you, and I don't believe derek is here today.

08:27:08 And West. I don't believe you're online myelin's, not online.

08:27:13 Rory, are you online? not hearing that? Then I guess not.

08:27:21 So let's let's move on and any questions or comments. So drew Gardner.

08:27:31 I believe you're online, you want to tell us a little bit about common sense and some of the resources that you've created for particularly state planning.

08:27:44 Yeah, hi! everyone my name's drew i'm with common sense, and we're at the we work mainly with educators and parents to help children.

08:27:54 Family and teachers sort of grow up and navigate in the digital world.

08:28:00 Some of the things we've been working on recently are Well, we've been doing 2 projects that I think are relevant to this group.

08:28:09 One is really to the emergency connectivity fund which Mala talked about earlier, and the others related to the affordable connectivity program which everyone is talking about all the time for the affordable connectivity program.

08:28:24 I have been talking to some state program administrators particularly like Wick, the woman infant, and children component of a I forget Snap.

08:28:37 Maybe Anyway, it's a program that makes people eligible for the acp.

08:28:45 Some wick programs or other programs that confer acp eligibility are able to text their recipients.

08:28:54 Often these programs will text about like infant formula recalls and things of that nature.

08:29:02 In Oregon. I think it costs about 7 cents per text message, so it can be an expensive way to get the message out.

08:29:08 But we think, and i've written to the fcc about this on our recent comments.

08:29:14 That Federal funds, treasury bead, and this Fcc.

08:29:19 Grant program that's coming up that money could be used to pay the existing government programs to text their participants about the Acp.

08:29:30 And this would be a very good way to precisely target acp outreach to eligible participants.

08:29:38 Because those programs make their participants. eligible so if a state wick program, or if a state snap program or State Medicaid program has capacity to text, we think that's a fantastic way to do acp

08:29:52 outreach, and we're trying to work with states to do that now.

08:29:54 And we think Government Federal funds can support that one of the So in addition to getting funding, you also don't want to drive a whole bunch of traffic to the wick program administrators because they're already they're already

08:30:06 strapped. So we want the state to have an existing landing page to sort of help all the participants sign up. So it doesn't fall to the with program administrators. That's one thing We've been

08:30:21 helping States talk about the other is That emergency connectivity fund which we talked about earlier in Arizona currently Mal already gave the Arizona has gotten 136 about \$1,000 136

08:30:39 \$100,000 in Grant funding and that's currently supporting 350,000 devices for students.

08:30:48 So this is so. The emergency connectivity program allows schools to give devices and connectivity, home Internet service or hotspots to students that those schools or libraries have identified as not having device or connectivity, So the school first has the

08:31:05 school or library for a sense to do a digital needs assessment to identify students or patrons that lack connectivity.

08:31:14 And then those schools can apply for a grant from the Sdc.

08:31:18 And use that money to bring devices and connectivity to those people.

08:31:22 Currently Arizona is using this program for 350,000 devices, 77,000 connections.

08:31:29 However, this is a emergency program. And when it runs out of funding those devices and connections well presumably go away or need another form of support.

08:31:43 That's a big concern of ours however, treasury money, feed money.

08:31:49 So that ntia, the recent li jet all the all the Federal money for the most part can be used to support these students.

08:31:59 So we're proposing to states that they should consider using their capital projects fund or their arpa money, state, and local, recover money or their bead money.

08:32:11 2 make their own version of the emergency Connectivity fund and improve on it.

08:32:16 To allow schools to hire or libraries to hire technology directors.

08:32:23 There are some states that are doing this sort of work already up in the northeast, and the examples escaping here right now.

08:32:33 But anyway, that's one thing that i'd love to talk more about. yes, mala, that's the correct number.

08:32:42 But anyway, those are 2 of our recent proposals we've been talking to States about and i'd love to talk more to anyone who's interested in hearing about these or we're also interviewing anyone who is interested in student ongoing the

08:32:59 ongoing need for student connectivity we're doing a big interview project where we're going to take all this data about the emergency connectivity fund and present it nicely in a map to show each State how many students they're

08:33:12 connecting, and how many are at risk of losing connectivity when the program runs out.

08:33:17 So if you would like to talk about the ongoing importance of student connectivity, particularly on video, because we're gonna try to make a nice little video.

08:33:23 But we also just want good quotes. We want anything we can use to advocate for student connectivity.

08:33:29 Please reach out to d Garner at common sense dot org and i'd love to talk about it or connect with me here.

08:33:40 But that's my update for now steve so drew a couple of things.

08:33:45 I was a lame is not on the line, and so you just might just want to mention.

08:33:51 First of all, you just want to tell people about briefly about common sense, and who you guys are.

08:33:56 And, secondly, is to put your contact information in the chat with.

08:34:03 And also, as I was saying in Elaine, is not online.

08:34:05 I believe, today, but she is the Arizona director of i'm not mistaken.

08:34:11 Yeah. Elaine Lowry she's our Arizona Director I'm based in Dc Elena is based in Arizona.

08:34:19 And yeah, common sense. I can put i'll put a link to our about us in the chat, too.

08:34:27 But we work, we. So we have a digital citizenship program which is our digital inclusion.

08:34:36 Training for students and teachers is a curriculum that It's used by 88% of title one schools.

08:34:42 So we have a really big footprint in the education community.

08:34:45 And we're also looking to use that footprint to get the word out about Acp because a lot of title, one school, any school that uses community eligibility that offers free and reduced lunch for their whole student

08:34:59 population. Any school that does that. every single one of their students is eligible for the Acp.

08:35:06 So we want to work with those schools to Say all of Your students can sign up for \$30 off their Internet bill.

08:35:15 It's pretty simple you know that they're eligible. just direct them to either our website or the Fcc's website. That's a good way to keep your students connected.

08:35:27 So we have a big footprint in education and that we also, if you're a parent, you might know about us from our ratings and reviews of children's media.

08:35:36 We like the parents guide to the Internet where if you want to know how violent a piece of media is, or if there's language that's in appropriate or how adequate video game, is for

08:35:49 your student or your ch. We have a a ton of reviews for those media as well.

08:35:55 Those are educators, reviews, and then we also do research on media's, impact on students.

08:36:04 As well as we do a ton of stuff and i'm i'm trying to extemporize on it right now.

08:36:11 Steve anything i'm leaving off I don't think so Drew.

08:36:16 I think it's important for people to know that you guys do have a pretty significant national Yeah, footprint with a lot of access to resources.

08:36:27 Yes, and we we have some grant funding so we're looking to expand our capacity to help with broadband particularly digital equity.

08:36:35 I was messaging Cindy earlier. but we want to help States plan for the digital equity plans and for their infrastructure spending because we want to make sure that any connectivity that's built is going to support essential

08:36:50 uses like education. and at a reasonable cost so that's what we've been working with to help States. so that grant funding what is that for that's we just we're gonna we're currently deciding

08:37:06 how to use it. We might be doing some promotion of the Acp.

08:37:13 Or to hire additional staff to work directly with a few States to help them sort of understand the Federal funding and the technical specifications they need to meet in order to allow proper educational uses.

08:37:30 So that's that's one component right now of our grant our grant funding great it's true any questions for Drew, hey?

08:37:45 Hearing none. I think we're about out of time for today Does anybody have any another announcements?

08:37:52 Anything they want people to know about hearing none I guess we're done for today.

08:38:02 We will do our Tibetans after the meeting.

08:38:06 If anybody wants to stay online for a while. And with that thank you all for being here again.

08:38:13 And we will hopefully see you next week. Just one question. Those of you who join the meeting today.

08:38:22 Did you all get the calendar invites in addition to my weekly announcements?

08:38:30 Yes, no, maybe I had one in outlook this morning.

08:38:34 I'd have to check for the weeks going forward but definitely add one this morning, Yeah, me, too.

08:38:41 I have the aim by, but i'm not sure about the following ones: I have a invite also.

08:38:49 Well, I'm just trying to find out where the people are actually getting announcements.

08:38:55 This is not an easy thing to do, anyway. we are done for today.

08:39:00 Thank you all for joining us. And again, those of you want to stay online to Kibbutz look forward to continuing or just discussions. have a good week.