## Greater Arizona Educational Leadership

# AZBSN
## Arizona Broadband Stakeholder Network

## Arizona Telecommunications and Information Council

# November 15, 2021 AZBSN COVID-19 Digital Access Task Force Teleconference Report

## Attendees

Steve Peters, Oris Friesen, Henry Goldberg, Mark Goldstein, Robert Alvarado, Aaron Ball, Andrew Bevington, Melissa Boydston, Wes Brownfield, Kirk Busch, Erin Carr-Jordan, Jennifer DeChant, Milan Eaton, Heather Floyd, Drew Garner, Lisa Gustinelli, Cindy Hogan, Shereka Jackson, John Kelly, Ryan Kelly, Debbie Kovesdy, Tarma Liranzo, Janet Major, Derek Masseth, Sophia Mayberry, Will McCullen, Mala Muralidharan, Mauricio Orozco, Cody Pedersen, Lawrie Prickett, Tracy Rexroat, Fernando Roman, Michelle Simon, Andy Sinclair, Roniyur Singh, Shannon Smith, Jeff Sobotka, Tom Tardy, Rachna Vas, Manny Villa, Joy Whiting, Karen Ziegler

## Task Force Sponsors, Participants List, Kibitzing with Colleagues, Task Force Directions for Next Year

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

Steve is continuing to seek further funding support for the task force's upcoming work, and welcomes any organizations interested in becoming sponsors.  He posted a link on the task force website on how organizations can become a sponsor.

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

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

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

Task Force Directions for Next Year

Steve stated there will be a meeting of the task force leadership team on Thursday, November 18th to discuss new directions for the task force next year in terms of where the task force will be going (as discussed at the last task force meeting).

<u>Task Force Digital Inclusion Team and Arizona Digital Inclusion Directory</u>
Cindy Hogan, co-chair with Nicole Umayam of the task force digital inclusion team, reported that they are working on rolling out an Arizona Digital Inclusion Directory that will be posted on the Connect-Arizona website, which is intended to be a one-stop place where one can find any organization doing digital inclusion work in the state. This will be a searchable directory through which organizations can make connections and collaborate where they provide digital resources on discounted or free Internet services, free or discounted devices, digital literacy (computer skills) training, or advocacy. Cindy posted a link in the Appendix 2 Chat for organizations to sign up to be part of this Arizona Digital Inclusion Directory, and Steve will send out an e-mail to the task force about this.

Cindy noted that she will be interested in the results of the November 18th task force leadership team meeting in planning the activities of the task force digital inclusion team.


# Updates:  State Broadband Director, AZ State Library, ADE and Final Mile Project, Telehealth

<u>State Broadband Director Update</u>

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

Jeff reported that the ACA Arizona Broadband Development Grant Program is launching today (November 15th) and information about it has been posted on the ACA website (www.azcommerce.com/broadband).  Jeff noted this is a very substantial program that has come a long way since the original Rural Broadband Development Grants (RBDGs) program which provided $3 million in grants for broadband infrastructure and community planning.  The Arizona Broadband Development Grant Program provides $100 million to expand high-speed broadband infrastructure to underserved areas of the state: $75 million will be targeted to rural counties and $25 million will be targeted to the urban counties (Maricopa and Pima counties). The funding comes from the American Rescue Plan Act.  The maximum rural grant award will be $10 million, and the maximum urban grant award will be $5 million.  Jeff expects there to be much more applied for than the available funding, similar to the NTIA broadband infrastructure grants program which is very oversubscribed (this program is modeled after the NTIA program). The deadline for applications is December 10, 2021, which is early because of the need to obtain fiber and carry out construction in the current national environment of substantial broadband funding competing for these resources.  The funding will be for last mile and/or middle-mile broadband infrastructure projects that are shovel-worthy.  There will be no funding for planning because communities will be coming up with their own funding (e.g. ARPA funding) to hire consultants to do any required planning.  Eligible applicants will include broadband service providers, local governments, Native American tribes, schools, and libraries.   All those interested in applying should go to the ACA website to access the application information.

Jeff expanded further on this ACA Arizona Broadband Development Grant Program.  He expects it to contribute greatly to addressing the digital divide, supporting telemedicine, and the economic development of communities that will be revitalized with broadband access.  The goal is for grant award winners to deploy their broadband infrastructure within 2 years.  ACA would

like to receive the best grant applications possible, and expect the selection process to be highly competitive.  Jeff noted that Yuma County Board of Supervisors is allocating $20 million of their ARPA funds to ALLO Communications for a Fiber-To-The Premise (FTTP) 10 Gigabit per second symmetrical service to every address, and substantial broadband infrastructure plans have been developed in other counties such as Mohave, Yavapai, and Pinal counties where county, state, and service provider funding is involved.  Jeff stated that it is important for organizations to work with their counties and get letters of support from them.  Steve Peters asked if there is a matching requirement for the grants, and Jeff responded that there is a matching requirement that is described in the grant application information.  Steve asked if Jeff could do a webinar on this grant program, and Jeff replied that he could do that.

There were various comments on this Arizona Broadband Development Grant Program.  Wes Brownfield commented that he does not believe there is much need for consultant planning studies with all of the consulting studies that have been done in the past, and that instead there is more need for facilitation.  Mark Goldstein commented that he put a link in the Appendix 2 Chat to the list of Arizona broadband consultants that he prepared for the task force last year.  Steve Peters added that the Local First Arizona Economic Recovery Center can provide consultant planning resources for communities wanting to apply for grants but lack resources for this.  Fernando Roman, Executive Vice President of the Communications Workers of America, asked if the grant program will ensure service providers do not have labor/OSHA violations, and stated that there should be a goal of hiring workers for long-term employment.  Jeff responded that they have requirements that service providers must have been in business for a substantial period of time, and he is excited about the job opportunities that will arise from this program for long-term infrastructure.  Karen Ziegler asked when the awards from this grant program will be made, and Jeff replied that he anticipates the awards will be announced in early January given that they are trying to get implementations going as quickly as possible.  Jeff added that there is always a panel, familiar with the state and telecommunications, which will review the applications and select the grant winners using a point-scale grading system.  Steve Peters asked about potential labor shortages for doing fiber installation.  Fernando Roman responded that he has not heard of such labor shortages, but there may be shortages of fiber-optic equipment imported overseas.  Milan Eaton commented that he has observed delays on equipment and manpower for E-rate projects, and he expects the equipment shortages to get worse and the manpower shortages to get better.  Shereka Jackson commented she has seen six-month delays on devices.  Wes Brownfield asked if fixed wireless (e.g. CBRS) is being considered as an access technology option for this grant program, and Jeff responded that they are technology agnostic but do have a preference for fiber where it is effective.

As reported at previous task force meetings, ACA engaged KPMG at the beginning of the summer to do an update of the 2018 state broadband strategic plan.  Jeff stated that the KPMG report will be released soon, and it is primarily focused on middle-mile strategy for the state.

The federal Infrastructure Bill (Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act) was passed on November 5th.  It will drive unprecedented investment in broadband infrastructure, and has funding allocated in a number of different buckets.  Jeff noted that Arizona will receive a state block grant for broadband infrastructure, and will also want to maximize its share of the entire broadband/digital equity funding available under this Infrastructure Bill.  Jeff stated that Arizona has $100 million in digital equity funding: $5 million for planning and $95 million for implementations.  Steve Peters commented that there should be work done on a state digital inclusion plan, and Jeff replied that he has been talking to Nicole Umayam about this.

As reported at previous task force meetings, the US Dept. of the Treasury Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund has allocated $190 million to Arizona for broadband infrastructure projects.  Jeff

must submit a state plan to the Treasury Dept. by December 27th on how these funds are to be used.

As reported at the last task force meeting, the ACA is in the process of hiring an Assistant Broadband Director as well as administrative help (see Mark Goldstein's post for a link to the Assistant Broadband Director position announcement in the Appendix 2 Chat). Jeff invited task force participants to apply for the Assistant Broadband Director position. Jeff stated that these positions are also posted on Indeed.

Arizona State Library Update

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

The Arizona State Library is using Library Services & Technology Act (LSTA) funding to establish pilot telehealth in libraries projects in two libraries in Pima County (Ajo and Arivaca libraries near the Mexican border). These projects enable library patrons to meet with public health nurses (assisted by University of Arizona student nurses and navigators) who connect to their doctors via technology available at the library. Libraries (and mobile vans) are provided telemedicine backpacks with equipment such as blood pressure testing, thermometers, and iPads to transmit health data securely (HIPAA-compliant) to doctors. If libraries require additional space for the telehealth visits, tents are pitched in the library parking lots. There will be four mobile vans for telehealth with antennas to provide broadband access. If the pilot projects are successful, telehealth will be rolled out to libraries around the state. Janet Major noted several additional points about these pilot projects: this will help prepare the healthcare workforce of the future (students connecting to mentors); patients can check out iPads for health education (e.g. breast cancer awareness or diabetes education) from home; and some patrons may cross border checkpoints to use these telehealth services.

The Senate Commerce Committee will hold a hearing on November 17th to discuss President Biden's nomination of Jessica Rosenworcel to serve as a commissioner of the FCC and chair of the FCC. President Biden also nominated Gigi Sohn to serve as an FCC commissioner and Alan Davidson to be Assistant Secretary of Communications & Information at the NTIA.

USAC has released about $102 million in E-rate funding to Arizona for the 2021-22 funding year, which is about 4.3% of the amount awarded nationally.

On November 8th, the FCC committed another $421 million in awards under the Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF) program, bringing the total program commitments to about $3 billion so far. This has supported 6,954 schools and 613 libraries with over 6.8 million connected devices and over 3.5 million broadband connections nationally. The second ECF filing window (which closed October 13th) had $1.9 billion requested. Arizona requested a total of $217 million under both ECF filing windows. Funds for Learning did a study which showed that ECF provided much-needed funding for laptops and Wi-Fi hotspots for K-12 students and library patrons, and that $4.5 billion is needed annually to provide secure devices with Internet connections to families in need of connectivity.

The Arizona State Library and task force EBB outreach team continue to work on outreach for the FCC Emergency Broadband Benefit (EBB) program (discussed at previous task force meetings). Arizona now has about 187,000 households enrolled which is #12 nationally, with 5000 new households added in the last week. There is still a lot of funding remaining in the EBB program ($2.3 billion of the original $3.1 billion), and so Arizona should continue to do EBB

outreach until the funding is exhausted (which will likely be about 9 – 10 months at the current rate of enrollments).  The new Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act that was passed makes the EBB program a permanent program called the "Affordable Connectivity Program", with a budget of $14.2 billion.

The Arizona State Library Connect-Arizona website is being used widely.  There have been 1413 calls to date (an average of 22 calls per week) to the navigators, with an average length of the call being 22 minutes. The navigators provide tech tutoring, device/software troubleshooting, library e-content information, and information about Internet service offers.  They provide Spanish and Navajo speaking navigators.  The free Wi-Fi map has had over 300,000 views.

Mala's written report in Appendix 1 provides more detailed information on the above areas.

ADE and "Final Mile Project" Update

Sophia Mayberry, Project Manager and Technology Policy Coordinator in the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction at the Arizona Dept. of Education (ADE), reported on recent ADE activities, and Milan Eaton, State E-rate Director at ADE, reported on "The Final Mile Project".

Sophia reported that the new ADE Office of Digital Teaching and Learning, on which Chris Richardson (Acting CIO of ADE) delivered a presentation to our task force on October 4th, launched today its survey of schools to assess their needs and biggest challenges.  This survey is being done in partnership with County school superintendents and the SciTech Institute.  ADE hopes this survey will get good participation and be very useful, so that it can be conducted for assessments in the future.  Joy Whiting, Apache County Schools Superintendent, asked if the survey is being sent to school superintendents as well as schools, and Sophia responded that she thinks it is being sent to all of these.  Kirk Busch asked whether ASU Lighting Up the Future is supporting this effort because it would be valuable to have a cohesive message with ASU involvement.  Mark Goldstein responded that he doesn't know if Lighting Up the Future would promote this type of activity.  Steve Peters responded that he would talk to Erin Carr-Jordan, Head of Social Impact at ASU, and Derek Masseth, Executive Director of the Sun Corridor Network, about this.  Erin Carr-Jordan responded that the ADE assessment will be tremendously helpful, and she would be happy to speak with Sophia and others on our task force about how ASU and its Digital Equity Institute can help with effective directions for technology in schools.

Sophia reported that ADE announced the opening of applications for ARPA-funded ESSER state funds for initiatives that support student success and recovery from the pandemic.  This includes support for learning loss, summer enrichment, and after-school programs.  Applications are due by December 10th.  Sophia posted a link in the Appendix 2 Chat about this, and encouraged task force participants to forward this information to organizations that may be interested in supporting students and families through this program.

Milan Eaton reported on "The Final Mile Project" discussed at previous task force meetings, for which ADE has provided $1.5 million in funding.  The initial five RFPs have been reviewed and award winner selected, with the Paloma Elementary School District (in Maricopa County) already deployed.  All five projects will be operational by December or January.  RFPs for the next five projects will be released shortly after the required legal process is completed.  Milan attended the National Rural Schools Conference where he discussed The Final Mile Project, and a number of states are interested in following Arizona's approach to demonstrate the viability of low-cost Internet access to student homes.

<u>Telehealth Update</u>

Janet Major, Associate Director for Innovation and Digital Health of the Arizona Telemedicine Program (ATP) and the Southwest Telehealth Resource Center, provided an update on her and teleheath activities.

National Rural Health Day is November 18th, and there is a week-long series of events. See Janet's post in the Appendix 2 Chat for a link to this webpage and a listing of the events.

Janet noted that with respect to telehealth in libraries, she would like to track all the digital equipment that is checked out and how it is used. In addition, Janet would like to put together a "Digital Assets in Libraries" directory, so that interprofessional teams that go out to the libraries know what is there.

# Valley TeleCom Group Presentation

Heather Floyd, Public Relations Specialist for Valley TeleCom Group, delivered a presentation to the task force on the company and its telecommunications services offerings in Arizona. Following is a summary of key points from the presentation, and the full presentation and meeting recording will be posted on the task force website.

Heather has been with Valley TeleCom for 5 years, and became its PR specialist in August. The company originated from Valley Telephone Cooperative in 1962, later purchased four exchanges, and combined everything under the name Valley TeleCom Group in 2000. It is a member-owned company that focuses on serving rural areas. They are headquartered in Wilcox, Arizona, have four offices, and operate a number of ILEC and CLEC exchanges.

Valley TeleCom provides telecommunications services in southeastern Arizona and southwestern New Mexico. They provide over 20 communities with high-speed Internet and phone services, serving 7000 Internet and 3000 phone customer members.

Valley TeleCom owns and operates its own long-haul fiber network from Arizona to El Paso, Texas (Heather displayed a map of this 300 miles of fiber in the presentation). They also have deployed fiber access infrastructure in various communities. They will be upgrading most of their current DSL customers to fiber access over the next five years. They also have a couple of fixed wireless access deployments.

Valley TeleCom provides services to Arizona customers in Cochise, Graham, and Greenlee counties. They will be building an E-rate project to Patagonia School in Santa Cruz county. Their new fiber project in Thatcher (Graham County) is a $9 million investment that will provide fiber access infrastructure passing about 1700 households.

They have deployed fiber to 17 schools in the past 5 years, some under the E-rate program. Their foundation has donated $10,000 to each school for purchasing equipment to learn at home, and also grant about $125,000 annually in scholarships.

Valley TeleCom staff are heavily locally-involved, serving in many volunteer roles in their communities.

Milan Eaton thanked Valley TeleCom for all the support they have provided for schools in Cochise County, including providing hotspots and free services for students. Steve Peters asked if Valley TeleCom is involved in The Final Mile Project. Milan replied that they are involved with one ECF project in Morenci, and may become involved with The Final Mile Project if projects are set up in areas they serve.

## Next Steps

The next AZBSN COVID-19 Digital Access Task Force overall meeting will be held on Monday, November 22nd at 7:30 am.

As noted above, the task force leadership team will meet on Thursday, November 18th to discuss a preliminary vision of what the task force would like to accomplish next year.

As noted above, Janet Major posted in the Appendix 2 Chat a list of events being held this week to celebrate National Rural Health Day.

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

## Appendix 1: Mala Muralidharan Report on: Nominations for FCC Commissioners and NTIA Assistant Secretary;  E-rate Program; FCC Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF) Program:  FCC Emergency Broadband Benefit (EBB Program); Connect-Arizona Website Usage; Telehealth in Arizona Libraries; Interesting Articles

The Senate Commerce Committee will convene an executive session on Wednesday, November 17, 2021 at 10:00am right after that will be the nomination hearing for Honorable Jessica Rosenworcel, to be a Commissioner of the Federal Communications Commission, among other nominations. Details about the executive session and nominations hearing can be view here.

President Joe Biden announced plans to nominate **Jessica Rosenworcel** and **Gigi Sohn** to serve as Commissioners of the Federal Communications Commission, designating Rosenworcel to serve as the FCC Chair. President Biden also nominated Alan Davidson for Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information at the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA).

### E-rate: AZ
**Funding Commitment**: USAC has released 30 waves of funding and AZ has received a funding commitment of $101.9 M. Cumulative commitments are $2.36 billion Nationwide.

**ECF: Another $421 Million Committed for ECF**

On November 8, 2021, the FCC announced another round of ECF commitments. The Commission committed over $421 million, bringing the total program commitments to over $3.05 billion. The FCC stated that the program to date has committed to supporting 6,954 schools, 613 libraries, and 80 consortia, which are approved to receive over 6.8 million connected devices and over 3.5 million broadband connections. With these additional commitments, the Commission has met its goal of responding to 70 percent of all applications within 100 days of the closing of the first filing window.

| State | Cumulative Total Committed Funding | State | Cumulative Total Committed Funding |
|---|---|---|---|
| Alaska | $4,776,115.02 | Montana | $2,919,882.69 |
| Alabama | $30,597,816.78 | North Carolina | $109,104,016.35 |
| Arkansas | $19,696,695.91 | North Dakota | $2,390,824.72 |
| Arizona | $96,865,872.56 | Nebraska | $15,137,014.75 |
| California | $287,673,682.49 | New Hampshire | $4,688,954.79 |
| Colorado | $18,195,143.65 | New Jersey | $72,180,022.63 |
| Connecticut | $32,076,204.57 | New Mexico | $36,971,837.76 |
| District of Columbia | $14,205,773.61 | Nevada | $5,769,283.81 |
| Delaware | $6,868,891.88 | New York | $409,639,028.89 |
| Florida | $131,664,626.15 | Ohio | $73,788,054.40 |
| Georgia | $124,958,200.85 | Oklahoma | $51,120,601.90 |
| Guam | $6,327,126.00 | Oregon | $59,552,653.14 |
| Hawaii | $34,726,326.30 | Pennsylvania | $53,864,448.40 |
| Iowa | $19,366,867.85 | Puerto Rico | $82,111,472.30 |
| Idaho | $14,860,066.52 | Rhode Island | $10,884,395.21 |
| Illinois | $173,142,773.23 | South Carolina | $10,351,797.88 |
| Indiana | $41,833,150.05 | South Dakota | $5,408,817.54 |
| Kansas | $15,828,963.79 | Tennessee | $34,285,156.04 |
| Kentucky | $50,488,625.85 | Texas | $296,698,698.02 |
| Louisiana | $49,953,129.83 | Utah | $30,995,790.62 |
| Massachusetts | $46,783,823.89 | Virginia | $54,163,200.22 |
| Maryland | $45,191,681.36 | Virgin Islands | $33,077.60 |
| Maine | $3,793,653.44 | Vermont | $3,185,401.23 |
| Michigan | $96,947,276.49 | Washington | $64,280,149.13 |
| Minnesota | $40,634,119.55 | Wisconsin | $53,986,165.51 |
| Missouri | $57,792,272.73 | West Virginia | $33,021,210.53 |
| Mississippi | $9,849,814.14 | Wyoming | $2,022,969.16 |
| **TOTAL** | | | **$3,053,653,619.71** |

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

**Second ECF Filing Windowclosed to October 13** About $1.9 Billion was requested. Here is a state by state demand map for ECF  https://www.fcc.gov/reports-research/maps/ecf-state-demand/ Arizona requested for 217 M for both windows put together.

**Funds For Learning Analyzed ECF requests:**This year's Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF) has provided a much-needed infusion of laptop computers and Wi-Fi hotspots to keep K-12 students and library patrons connected to the Internet. But that is not the only public service the ECF has provided. Up until this point, we have all been estimating what was needed to help our communities stay connected. The time for guessing is over. Now, there is solid data to inform our decision making: $4.51 billion is needed annually to provide secure devices with internet connections to families who otherwise lack adequate connectivity. Armed with real-world information, the ground has been laid for better laws and regulations.

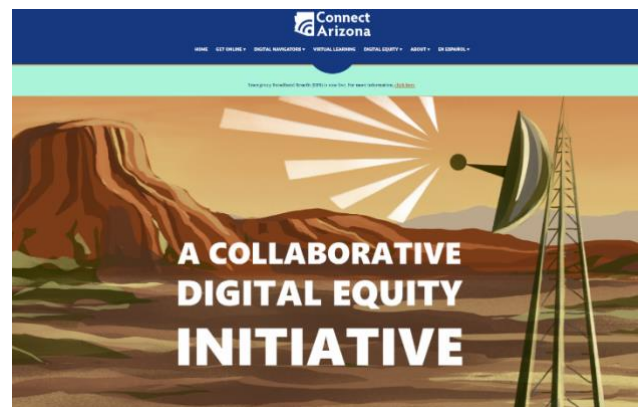| Item | 2022/23 |
|---|---|
| Devices[2] | $ 1,137,927,124 |
| Home Internet | $ 1,765,456,449 |
| Cybersecurity | $ 1,606,321,481 |
| **Total** | **$ 4,509,705,054** |

It is a fallacy to think that devices can be provided to students without cybersecurity. Distributing a device without cybersecurity is worse than not providing a device. Congress should require that devices and networks be secured, and they should provide the necessary resources to secure them.

**Emergency Broadband Benefit:** Total available 3.1 B. Arizona is still holding it's place of being among the top 15 states (12th). **$858,691,325 has been supported so far.**
We now have 186,831 Households in Arizona that signed up for EBB. About 5000 households signed up in the last week. Remaining appropriations available for disbursement $2.27 B

For Emergency Broadband Benefit general program information: Email: BroadbandBenefit@fcc.gov ; Online: fcc.gov/broadbandbenefit

**Connect-Arizona.com** 1,413 calls supported to date. Weekly average of 22 calls a week. Call length average of 22.4 minutes

- Top types of help provided: Tech tutoring (33.6%), Device and software troubleshooting (14.8%), Library e-content (26.5%), and internet offers (8.1%). 66 of the internet offers calls have involved supporting EBB sign ups
- The Connect Arizona website has over 18,800 page views. The free wifi map has over 300,000 views. Most referrers are directed to the site from Facebook, public library pages, DES, 211 Arizona, and school districts
- We compiled Arizona Internet Inequity County Profiles to provide stakeholders with local connectivity and digital equity data. These are available to be shared widely: https://connect-arizona.com/digital-equity/community-data
- Finalizing the agenda for the Digital Inclusion subgroup and the Arizona Digital Inclusion Directory
- We are in the process of hiring additional Navigators as we expect a higher volume of calls with increased paid Facebook ads and newspaper ads. These will target rural counties and Spanish language speakers

**TeleHealth Project**:
The State Library is using LSTA funding to pilot a project with Pima County Ajo and Arivaca libraries for a Telehealth project Theprojectprovidesopportunity for patrons to meet with a Public Health Nurse and connect to their medical professional via technology from the library. It will provide different levels of healthcare interprofessional teams including nurses, medical students, college of public health students plus entry level promotoras (navigators). If more space is required the project provides a tent that can be pitched in the parking lot to provide privacy as a safe place to meet with the teledoc. Broadband access will be provided by the Library and on mobile vans and can be taken outside of the library as well. The libraries and the mobile vans will be provided with backpacks and kits to record vitals and transmitted securely to the telehealth Doctors through secure portals.

Ajo has about 19% Native American (Tohono O'Odham) and Black Communities and is located on State Route 85 just 43 miles (69 km) from the Mexican border. Arivaca has 17% Hispanic and 3% Native American (Tohono O'Odham) is located 11 miles north of the Mexican border and 35 miles northwest of the port of entry at Nogales.Both are across formal border checkpoints, which makes it harder for patients going back and forth to their health care facilities.

**Interesting articles**

- [The Infrastructure Bill is About More than Money](#)

- [The Largest U.S. Investment in Broadband Deployment Ever](#)

- [The Largest U.S. Investment in Broadband Adoption Ever](#)

- [Investing in Middle Mile Infrastructure](#)

- [How the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act will Make Broadband More Affordable](#)

- [Addressing the Workforce Needs of the Telecommunications Industry](#)

- [Enhancing the Tribal Broadband Connectivity Grant Program](#)

## Appendix 2: Chat from Zoom

Mark Goldstein to Everyone (7:41 AM)
Finally some help for our Arizona broadband Energizer Bunny, Jeff Sobotka. $75B in new broadband and digital equity funding is about to flow to/through the states and Arizona can do great things in resolving the digital divide and advancing advanced practices and applications with it. ACA posting for Assistant Broadband Director is online at https://www.ziprecruiter.com/jobs/arizona-commerce-authority-570ed71a/assistant-broadband-director-a1780e6e FYI. You go Jeff!

Janet Major to Everyone (7:44 AM)
Need grant writing support? Here are some excellent grant resources:
learndesignapplyinc.com  info@learndesignapply.com
Local First Arizona   https://localfirstaz.com/azerc-grants
and just one more great resource:
The Southwest Telehealth Resource Center
https://southwesttrc.org/resources/funding_opportunities

Mark Goldstein to Everyone (7:54 AM)
I delivered a Next-Gen Wireless Overview & Outlook Briefing to the PhxMobi Emerging Tech Festival on Saturday, 11/13/21 exploring the next-generation wireless landscape with its underlying emerging technologies, protocols & standards, market trends & opportunities available to view/download on SlideShare at https://www.slideshare.net/markgirc/phxmobi-nextgeneration-wireless-overview-outlook-briefing-111321 FYI. I'll be offering a more in-depth 2+ hour version of this talk to the IEEE Computer Society Phoenix Chapter virtually on Wednesday, 12/8/21 at 7:00 PM. More info and free registration at https://r6.ieee.org/phoenix-cs/ FYI.

kirk busch to Everyone (7:56 AM)
will this be live between 9-noon ?
https://www.azcommerce.com/broadbrand

Mark Goldstein to Everyone (7:56 AM)
The AZBSN Arizona Broadband Consultants List with a total of 61 entries (V02M) is posted on the AZBSN Resources Page at https://www.arizonatele.org/covid-resources.html FYI.

Janet Major to Everyone (7:57 AM)
that's a great resource - I send people there all the time!

john kelly to Everyone (8:00 AM)
For 25 years (or more) many of the folks on this call have been working to advance broadband enablement with creativity, business model theories, and tons of planning. Today marks an important milestone where in addition to those efforts there will now be real money. This is remarkable. But let's remember we need to remain savvy and smart and use this money wisely because we are not likely to see this kind of investment window for a long long time. Great work, Jeff.

Milan Eaton to Everyone (8:01 AM)
Well said John.

Ryan Kelly to Everyone (8:01 AM)
Well said, Fernando.

Wes Brownfield ARSA to Everyone (8:03 AM)
Thank you everyone, I need to take off.

Manny Villa to Everyone (8:04 AM)
Take care Wes!

Janet Major to Everyone (8:04 AM)
thanks Jeff

Janet Major to Everyone (8:13 AM)
support groups, diabetes education

Melissa Boydston to Everyone (8:17 AM)
@Mala, do you have a document that states all this great success?

kirk busch to Everyone (8:19 AM)
Sophia, can you place link here?

Melissa Boydston to Everyone (8:20 AM)
100,000 to 10 million dollars are available for this grant!

Sophia Mayberry to Everyone (8:20 AM)
https://www.azed.gov/esser-arp-application

kirk busch to Everyone (8:21 AM)
Awesome JOB!

Mark Goldstein to Everyone (8:22 AM)
The ACA Broadband URL requires the end / to properly access. See
https://www.azcommerce.com/broadband/ for details of the new $100M grant programs later
today.

Joy Whiting to Everyone (8:23 AM)
joy.joywhiting@gmail.com
please use this email

Janet Major to Everyone (08:24 AM)
Please join us a week-long celebration of National Rural Health Day November 18, 2021

https://www.hrsa.gov/rural-health/about-us/rural-healthday.html
Starting Monday, the Arizona Telemedicine Program and Southwest Telehealth Resource Center
in collaboration with many of with our partners will be hosting:
*our annual Mid-Year Rural Health Policy Roundup with Alan Morgan, CEO of the National
Rural Health Association Monday November 15, 2021 12pm MT
*Advancing DEI in Healthcare Leadership Tuesday November 16, 2021 12pm MT
*Arizona Primary Care Office: HPSA's & Loan Repayment Programs Thursday November 18,
2021 12pm MT
https://telemedicine.arizona.edu/
Wednesday November 17th Join the annual Twitter Chat #RuralHealthChat: Digital Equity and
the Health of Rural Americans
#RuralHealthChat Twitter chat in honor of National Rural Health Day. Tune in to theTwitter
page, @RuralHealthInfo, or search the hashtag #RuralHealthChat at 12 p.m. central to discuss
Digital Equity and the Health of Rural Americans.

Derek Masseth to Everyone (8:27 AM)
not sure what's wrong with my mic this AM...Happy to follow up regarding ASU & SCN digital
equity activities!

Mauricio Orozco to Everyone (8:28 AM)

CMS EXPANDS COVERAGE FOR TELEHEALTH IN MENTAL HEALTH CARE-
https://www.healthleadersmedia.com/technology/cms-expands-coverage-telehealth-mental-
health-care

Cindy Hogan to Everyone (8:33 AM)
If you are a digital inclusion organization or practitioner and want to be on the Arizona Digital
Inclusion Directory please follow this link to provide your information:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdQSPc89Ze4PuFpc8xnHF0ldmkt3rCULfDxvqXt
mgTP5-vCZw/viewform

Milan Eaton to Everyone (8:34 AM)
Valley Telcom has fiber from Tucson to Nogales but the state is building fiber from Tucson to
Nogales (I-19)?

# Appendix 3: Registration Information for Attendees at Today's Task Force Meeting

| First Name | Last Name | Organization | Job Title | Email | Phone | Mobile |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Robert | Alvarado | CPLC | VP IMTS | robert.alvarado@cplc.org | | |
| Aaron | Ball | Center for the Future of Arizona | Director of College and Career Pathways | aaron.ball@arizonafuture.org | 5202714497 | |
| Andrew | Bevington | Pima County Superintedent of Schools Office | Director | andrew.bevington@pima.gov | 15207248213 | |
| Melissa | Boydston | VSUW | VP | mboydston@vsuw.org | | |
| Wes | Brownfield | Arizona Rural Schools Association | Executive Director | arsaschools@gmail.com | 9288307182 | |
| kirk | busch | BigData Southwest, Inc. | ceo | kirk.busch@bigdatasw.org | 4803344997 | |
| Erin | Carr-Jordan | ASU | Head of Social Impact | ecarrjordan@asu.edu | | |
| Jennifer | DeChant | Kajeet, Inc. | Director of External Affairs | jdechant@kajeet.com | 12072322800 | |
| Milan | Eaton | ADE | Erate | milangeaton@gmail.com | 6233326357 | |
| Heather | Floyd | Valley TeleCom Group | Public Relations Specialist | heather.floyd@teamvtg.net | 5203848912 | 5203496658 |
| 15 | Friesen | ATIC | Secretary | oris@cox.net | 6026891084 | |
| Drew | Garner | Common Sense | State Broadband Policy Fellow | dgarner@commonsense.org | | |
| Henry | Goldberg | ATIC | Vice Chair | hgold52@aol.com | 480-609-9279 | 480-433-3536 |
| Mark | Goldstein | International Research Center | President | markg@researchedge.com | 602-470-0389 | |
| Lisa | Gustinelli | Arizona State University Broadband Access and Equity Initiative | it administrator | lisanigaragustinelli@gmail.com | 5619015089 | 5619015089 |
| Cindy | Hogan | Literacy Connects - Tucson | Digital Inclusion Ambassador | cindyhogan333@gmail.com | | |
| Shereka | Jackson | Future Stars | CEO | futurestarsaz@hotmail.com | | |
| Ryan | Kelly | Pima Area Labor Federation, AFL-CIO | Field Director | rkelly@azaflcio.org | 5202560995 | |
| John | Kelly | Triadvocates | Dog walker | John@triadvocates.com | | |
| Debbie | Kovesdy | GenTech | CEO | debbie@gentechsupport.com | 6025711014 | |
| Tarma | Liranzo | ETS | Program Manager | tarma.liranzo@ets-pllc.com | | |
| Janet | Major | ATP/SWTRC | Associate Director | jmajor@telemedicine.arizona.e | 15204030736 | |
| Derek | Masseth | Sun Corridor Network | Executive Director | Dmasseth@suncorridor.org | | |
| Sophia | Mayberry | Project Manager | Arizona Department Of Educaiton | Sophia.mayberry@azed.gov | | |
| Will | McCullen | Pima Community College | project mgr | jwmccullen@pima.edu | | |
| Mala | Muralidharan | AZ State Library | E-rate Administrator | mala@azlibrary.gov | | |
| Mauricio | Orozco | Care1st Health Plan Arizona | Engagement Manager | morozco@care1staz.com | 14802823631 | |
| Cody | Pedersen | Smith Bagley Inc. dba Cellular One | pm | cpedersen@cellularoneaz.com | 19282053395 | |
| Tracy | Rexroat | Az Department of Education | Program Specialist | tracy.rexroat@azed.gov | 6023640322 | |
| Fernando | Roman | Communications Workers of America | Executive Vice President | froman@cwa7026.com | 5207097199 | |
| Andy | Sinclair | Arizona Department of Economic Security Division of Aging and Adult Services | Caps Capacity Development Coordinator | asinclair@azdes.gov | 4802632271 | 4802632271 |
| Roniyur | Singh | Sahuarita Food Bank & Community Resource Center | CRC-Director | rsingh@sfb-crc.org | 5203939872 | |
| Shannon | Smith | Microsoft | Sr. Account Executive | Shannon.Smith@microsoft.com | 14803399837 | |
| Jeff | Sobotka | ACA | State Broadband Director | jeffs@azcommerce.com | | |
| Tom | Tardy | GingerSec | CEO | Tom@gingersec.com | | |
| Rachna | Vas | Microsoft | Program Manager | rachnavas@microsoft.com | 2026770991 | 2026770991 |
| Manny | Villa | Sahuarita Unified School District | Information Technology Director | mvilla@sahuarita.net | | |
| Joy | Whiting | Apache County | Apache County Superintendent | joy.joywhiting@gmail.com | | |
| Karen | Ziegler | Karen Ziegler Consulting Services | pincipal | karen.ziegler@karenzieglercons | 6027992816 | |