Greater Arizona Educational Leadership
AZBSN Arizona Broadband Stakeholder Network
Arizona Telecommunications and Information Council

November 1, 2021 AZBSN COVID-19 Digital Access Task Force Teleconference Report

Attendees

Steve Peters, Oris Friesen, Henry Goldberg, Mark Goldstein, Andrew Bevington, Wes Brownfield, Kirk Busch, Josh Cohn, Jerry Crow, Milan Eaton, Michael Edmonds, Adam Fletcher, Heather Floyd, Drew Garner, Cindy Hogan, Shereka Jackson, Karina Jones, Debbie Kovesdy,Tarma Liranzo, Ilana Lowery, Janet Major, Sophia Mayberry, Will McCullen, Mala Muralidharan, Lawrie Prickett, Cindi Ptak, Jenny Rickel, Fernando Roman, Paul Ross, Roniyur Sardinha, Andy Sinclair, Shannon Smith, Athena Stuart, Paul Trujillo, Rachna Vas, Albert Velarde, Manny Villa

Task Force Sponsors, Kibitzing with Colleagues, Chicanos Por La Causa EDA Grant Application

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.

"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.

Chicanos Por La Causa EDA Grant Application
As discussed at previous task force meetings, Chicanos Por La Causa (CPLC), worked on an application for the Economic Development Administration (EDA) Build Back Better Regional Challenge (BBBRC) Phase 1 technical assistance awards grants program. The grant application was submitted on October 19th. The grant application included some letters of support, and they are still gathering further letters of support. CPLC expects to hear back from EDA by early December on whether they are selected as an award winner of this grant.

Steve Peters reported on the CPLC EDA grant application in the absence of Robert Alvarado, the Vice President of Information & Technology Services for CPLC. There were 18 applications from Arizona for the EDA BBBRC Phase 1 grants. Cindi Ptak, Arizona's EDA Representative, stated there were 529 grant applications nationally for this program, and awards will be made in December. Steve and Cindy Hogan commented that CPLC had a unique digital inclusion

proposal. Mala Muralidharan posted a link in the Appendix 2 Chat to the list of BBBRC Phase 1 applicants on the EDA website.

Cindi recommended that for Phase 1 award winners, when they are submitting Phase 2 implementation grant applications they should begin necessary planning for construction projects in Phase 1, and this would be also be useful for applying for other EDA grants. Wes Brownfield, Executive Director of the Arizona Rural Schools Association, commented that The Final Mile Project has already been doing RFPs for network construction projects but did not submit an EDA grant application.

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

State Broadband Director Update

In the absence of Jeff Sobotka, State Broadband Director at the Arizona Commerce Authority (ACA), Mark Goldstein, Chair of the Arizona Telecommunications & Information Council, provided an update on activities related to Jeff's role.

The USDA ReConnect broadband grants and loans program has been launched with an application window from November 24, 2021 – February 22, 2022 (see Mark's post in the Appendix 2 Chat about this program). Mark stated this is a program for larger grants, and the Community Connect smaller grants program may launch in the first quarter of next year.

The US Dept. of the Treasury Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund has allocated $192 million to Arizona for broadband infrastructure projects. Jeff Sobotka must submit a state plan to the Treasury Dept. by December 27th on how these funds are to be used. Mark stated that Jeff is leaning towards using a large portion of these funds for state middle-mile fiber infrastructure.

The state Rural Broadband Development Grants (RBDGs) program will be launched early this month.

As reported at previous task force meetings, ACA has engaged KPMG at the beginning of the summer to do an update of the 2018 state broadband strategic plan. KPMG had done similar work in other states. KPMG did about 20 interviews, and their report is focused on Arizona middle-mile fiber strategy as well as identifying and strategizing for underserved communities.

Kirk Busch asked Mark about the situation with the federal Infrastructure Bill that was passed by the Senate. Mark stated there has not been much news about the Infrastructure Bill, but the House Democrats only want to pass it in tandem with the "Build Back Better" reconciliation spending bill. The Infrastructure Bill includes $65 billion for broadband and digital equity, of which $42.5 billion is for state broadband block grants, $2 billion for tribal broadband (refreshing the NTIA tribal broadband program), and $1 billion for middle-mile fiber. The Infrastructure Bill has been largely untouched in the current debates, but SHLB is concerned that the broadband infrastructure section treats Community Anchor Institutions as a low priority. Mala Muralidharan commented that the Build Back Better bill proposes extending the Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF) funding, but she heard rumors that the $40 billion proposed over five years has been cut to just $300 million, which would provide little support so doesn't make much sense.

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.

USAC has released about $101 million in E-rate funding to Arizona for the 2021-22 funding year. USAC has funded about 96% of the applications received. Mala noted that permitting in Arizona for some fiber buildouts is taking a long time and there also are supply chain issues, which is a problem since there is one year allowed to use the E-rate funds awarded. Milan Eaton, State E-rate Director at the Arizona Dept. of Education, clarified that the permitting issues are primarily in national forests (e.g. Coconino National Forest), and fiber buildouts go fairly quickly (60 days) on tribal lands with service providers such as NTUA, Smith Bagley, and AT&T. Mala also reported on the Funds for Learning E-rate Trends Report which conducted a national survey on the E-rate program and had three conclusions: 1) E-rate is a vital program for schools and libraries to achieve connectivity; 2) network security is a critical area for future support; and 3) there is high satisfaction with USAC's administration of the E-rate program.

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 177,000 households enrolled which is #11 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.

The FCC Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF) program (discussed at previous task force meetings) provides $7.17 billion in support to schools and libraries for off-campus primarily home connectivity for students, school staff, and library patrons by covering purchases of broadband connectivity (mostly hotspots) and laptops/tablets, modems, and routers. The FCC has announced three waves of ECF funding: Arizona has received $82.7million so far. The 2nd ECF filing window closed on October 13th, and there was $1.9 billion requested nationally in that window.

Pima County has launched a broadband strategic planning process, which is headed by Amber Mathewson and Michelle Simon. Their initial meeting discussed their vision, mission, and goals. Mala emphasized this is important to do on a statewide basis to avoid duplication of effort and not leave gaps of underserved population.

President Biden announced plans to nominate Jessica Rosenworcel and Gigi Sohn to serve as Commissioners of the FCC, designating Rosenworcel (the acting FCC Chair) to serve as the FCC Chair. Biden also intends to nominate Alan Davidson for Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information at NTIA. John Windhausen, Executive Director of SHLB, endorsed these nominations.

Mala also announced breaking news that the Build Back Better bill is now including $1 billion for broadband, with $500 million to subsidize Wi-Fi devices and $100 million to educate the public on FCC broadband funding programs for low-income households, schools, and libraries.

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

Steve Peters commented that it appears most of the federal funding is for broadband infrastructure rather than digital equity. Mark Goldstein replied that he does not agree with that since there is funding for the EBB program and digital equity funding in the infrastructure bill. Fernando Roman, Executive Vice President of the Communications Workers of America, commented that Colorado, Minnesota, and New Mexico have broadband development commissions/councils which could be an appropriate model for Arizona to follow rather than leaving it all up to the ACA. Mark Goldstein responded that such councils usually set objectives but don't decide on individual grants awarded.

ADE and "The Final Mile Project" Update

Milan Eaton, State E-rate Director at the Arizona Dept. of Education (ADE), reported on recent ADE activities and "The Final Mile Project".

Milan stated that Arizona has been doing well in receiving E-rate grants over the last couple of years, obtaining about 4 – 4.5 % of the national amount awarded, which is far greater than the 2.2% share it used to receive.

As reported by Mala Muralidharan above, ECF funding has been coming to Arizona. There are also some special construction projects they filed for, one in a tribal area and one around Roosevelt Lake.

Pima County has hired John Lucas' Community Broadband Advocates firm to work on its broadband strategic planning process. Milan noted that Karen Ziegler and Karen Miller are on John Lucas's team, so there is a very good team working on this.

Milan 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 winners selected, with the Paloma Elementary School District (in Maricopa County) already deployed. Milan stated additional commercial customers can now also join to receive Internet service. All five projects (Paloma, Beaver Creek, Miami/Gila County, Chevelon Butte, and Holbrook) will be operational by December or January. Milan is working on writing the RFPs for the next five projects: Sonoita/Elgin, Quartzsite, Topock, St. Johns/Little Colorado Valley, and Vernon. This next round of RFPs may be released by the end of this week. Milan expects a number of competitive vendors to respond to this next round of RFPs, so there may be different technologies used in different parts of the state with varying geographies.

Steve Peters asked about funding for The Final Mile Project in the future. Milan responded that there has been some discussion of this but nothing concrete yet. Milan noted that they have done a per resident cost analysis (including results from a Yavapai County rural study), and will use this to estimate the costs of providing last mile connectivity to every unserved student in the state. Combining this with cost estimates of providing middle-mile fiber from Jeff Sobotka, they will be able to estimate the total costs of providing broadband connectivity. Milan added that Education Superhighway has cross-referenced addresses of student with service provider coverage areas, which will enable identifying areas that need help with broadband service. Mark Goldstein commented that the state RBDGs program will provide funding for middle mile and last mile projects, and the US Treasury Dept. funding will likely be allocated primarily to middle mile projects.

Wes Brownfield, Executive Director of the Arizona Rural Schools Association, commented that The Final Mile Project is a proof-of-concept that enables Milan to estimate per student cost and also shows the different technological approaches to effectively providing last-mile connectivity.

For example, Chevelon Butte has large ponderosa pines limiting wireless connectivity that requires more costly wireless solutions. Mark Goldstein added that the trend is to require provision of 100/20 Mbps service and possibly 100/100 Mbps symmetrical service, which limits using satellite service in combination with CBRS last-mile connectivity.

Telehealth Update

Janet Major, Associate Director for Innovation and Digital Health of the Arizona Telemedicine Program (ATP) and the Southwest Telehealth Resource Center, left early but posted in the Appendix 2 Chat that there is a Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) grant opportunity which provides funding related to opioid/substance use treatment including telehealth.

"Youth and Educators Succeeding" Presentation

Steve Peters welcomed back Adam Fletcher, Executive Director of "Youth and Educators Succeeding" to conduct a discussion with our task force following up on his earlier presentation on June 14, 2021. Steve invited Adam back because the issue keeps coming up about how do we engage young people to address the digital needs of communities. Following is a summary of key points from the discussion, and the meeting recording will be posted on the task force website.

"Youth and Educators Succeeding" (YES) is an international non-profit education organization whose mission is to engage students and educators together to transform learning and leadership. They partner with schools, corporations, foundations, state agencies, and education organizations to support digital equity through student leadership in technology. They have worked with 2500 K-12 schools worldwide in their 25-year history. In the 2020-21 school year, they worked with 123 U.S. schools, including 25 schools in Arizona (18 in Yuma and several in Tucson). YES' philosophy is that it is not enough to give students devices and connectivity, but they should also be involved in how these digital resources can be most effectively used in their schools and communities.

Adam stated that he started working on student engagement 21 years ago for the Washington state Superintendent of Public Instruction. It initially failed because people were scared or apathetic about discussing it. He asked task force participants to post in the Appendix 2 Chat what student engagement means to them. Responses included: learning; 100% attention; exchange; result of good teaching; digital equity for all; getting students involved in their learning; personalization; active participation; and students involved in problem solving, working with projects, collaborating across populations, and using/sharing assets. Adam emphasized that there are so many different definitions of student engagement, so he started researching this concept all around the country and the world. Adam now defines student engagement simply as "any time a student chooses anything over and over".

Adam has been reading our task force minutes and sees the participants are all engaged. He asks how can we create new entryways for more people to become more engaged to advocate and use technology effectively. We would like students to choose technology, connectivity, and digital equity to make a difference in their own lives and on their communities.

Adam asked the task force the question "What difference could student engagement make for this task force?". Debbie Kovesdy, CEO of Generation Tech Support LLC (who presented to

our task force on May 17th), responded that students working for their company educate the public on how to use digital resources, building a better tech generation, and bring sophisticated technological learning such as real-world coding, robotics, and computer science to schools. This provides their employed students with positive feedback and provides job opportunities for the students at the schools. Mala Muralidharan stated there will be less dropouts from schools and colleges because the students are doing what they love. Shereka Jackson, CEO of Future Stars (who presented to our task force on November 2, 2020), responded that students provide innovative and faster solutions that adults often overlook. Will McCullen, Program Manager at Pima Community College, responded that students rebel against knowledge out of context and prefer to find real-world solutions to problems.

Adam asked the task force another question "Who can student engagement affect besides the students themselves?" Cindy Hogan responded students engaged will become productive members of the economy in the future. Ilana Lowery responded student engagement improves our democracy. Will McCullen responded that student engagement improves small business.

Steve Peters asked Adam how student engagement can help support Arizona communities with training and tech support.   Adam responded that first task force participants should look at their website https://genyes.org for videos, documents, and research based on their 25-year history of working with schools. They use an open-ended curriculum to teach students the basics of technology,.and use their on-line ticketing system for student engagement (e.g. assist with presentation by a teacher, plugging in hardware at a library) to have students be assets and leaders for their communities. Students move from being passive technology users to become active technology leaders. YES would love to talk with Arizona communities and agencies about how they can work with them. YES activities with 18 schools in Yuma are one of their most popular programs in the country.

Steve commented that maybe our task force should set up a student engagement team for tech support and training needs. A number of organizations in our task force are working with students. As the task force thinks about providing tech support and training for communities, it should engage with students because they are an excellent resource and also enable student learning. Andrew Bevington, Director at Pima County School Superintendent's Office, stated that he would be happy to facilitate setting up a student engagement action team in Pima County and others on the task force could be involved with this.

Next Steps

The next AZBSN COVID-19 Digital Access Task Force overall meeting will be held on Monday, November 8th at 7:30 am.

Steve stated he will try to organize a meeting of the task force leadership team soon to plan for 2022. Steve wants to consider having more dialogue on topics of interest rather than longer presentations at next year's task force meetings (may just have 5-minute Ignite presentations with follow-up discussions).

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

Appendix 1: Mala Muralidharan Report on: E-rate Program, Pima County Broadband Strategic Planning, FCC Emergency Broadband Benefit (EBB Program), Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF), Build Back Better Act News, President Biden Nominations for FCC Commissioners and NTIA Leadership

E-rate: AZ

Funding Commitment: USAC has released 29 waves of funding and AZ has received a funding commitment of $101.8 M. Cumulative commitments are $2.34 billion. Nationwide, USAC has now funded 96% of the FY 2021 applications representing 82% of the requested funding. Multiple hurdles –Fiber buildout – permitting takes time; Supply chain issues.

11th Annual 'E-rate Trends Report' from Funds For Learning was released A record was set with 2164 applicants responding
Key 2021 report findings include:

- **E-rate remains a vital program for schools and libraries to achieve connectivity.** With a record number of sites served in 2021 (130,418), 97 percent of respondents agree that more students or library patrons are connected because of the E-rate program. Ninety-five percent agree that E-rate funding is vital to internet connectivity.
- **Network security is a critical issue deserving of E-rate support.** Seventy-six percent of applicants say network security is a serious and urgent concern. Ninety-seven percent of applicants agree that network security should qualify for E-rate support.
- **Applicants see the E-rate program's administration in a positive light.** Only 9 percent of applicants are dissatisfied with the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC), the program administrator. Since 2016, overall satisfaction with program administration has steadily increased.

"This year's Trends Report indicates that the E-rate program is solid and steady," said John Harrington, CEO of Funds For Learning. "While connectivity needs continue to evolve, the Trends Report tells a very important story about E-rate as a trusted resource for schools and libraries. The past two school years have showed us that school communities depend upon broadband access and network security."

Participation in this year's survey was at an all-time high with 2,164 responses counted, equivalent to 10.1 percent of all FY2021 E-rate applicants.

Findings from the report will aid and inform key policymakers and administrative members in maintaining the value of the E-rate program and adapting funding to meet stakeholder needs. To learn more about Funds For Learning's mission to ensure connectivity for all students, click here.

Download the complete 2021 E-rate Trends Report at www.fundsforlearning.com/e-rate-data/e-rate-trends-report/.

Pima County and Broadband Strategic Planning : Amber Mathewson and Michelle Simon are heading a group to discuss BB planning for Pima County. The Stake Holders met for their 1st discussion on Friday Oct 22 to discuss Vision, Mission and Goals. This is important for us to do it on a state -wide basis to avoid duplication of efforts and more importantly to not leave gaps of underserved population.

Emergency Broadband Benefit: Total available 3.1 B. Arizona is still holding it's place of being among the top 15 states (11th). **$858,691,325 has been supported so far.** We now have 177,224 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

Emergency Connectivity Fund:
First ECF window FCC has so far announced 3rd waves of ECF funding on Oct 25th for a total of $269 million

With the first three waves, the FCC is providing support for over 6.1M connected devices and nearly 2.9 million broadband connections to support 6,028 schools, 512 libraries, and 49 consortia. More details about which schools and libraries will receive funding can be found at https://www.fcc.gov/ecf-current-funding-commitments .

State	Cumulative Total Committed Funding	State	Cumulative Total Committed Funding
Alaska	$4,387,208.02	Montana	$2,521,585.85
Alabama	$28,591,134.49	North Carolina	$104,137,411.41
Arkansas	$17,510,547.80	North Dakota	$2,235,949.37
Arizona	$82,738,289.61	Nebraska	$14,773,210.48
California	$95,762,116.08	New Hampshire	$4,583,109.89
Colorado	$15,983,973.24	New Jersey	$68,404,332.23
Connecticut	$25,559,887.02	New Mexico	$19,299,991.30
District of Columbia	$14,007,473.76	Nevada	$5,354,091.17
Delaware	$6,868,891.88	New York	$404,947,229.05
Florida	$117,210,028.99	Ohio	$70,140,315.37
Georgia	$98,776,517.77	Oklahoma	$44,728,263.49
Guam	$6,327,126.00	Oregon	$58,976,995.70
Hawaii	$34,726,326.30	Pennsylvania	$46,422,509.27
Iowa	$17,821,158.85	Puerto Rico	$5,336,360.59
Idaho	$13,550,495.56	Rhode Island	$8,685,461.31
Illinois	$164,912,513.62	South Carolina	$9,842,165.40
Indiana	$36,093,361.81	South Dakota	$5,282,957.62
Kansas	$14,611,782.67	Tennessee	$33,780,828.55
Kentucky	$47,199,193.62	Texas	$244,152,123.65
Louisiana	$47,032,532.71	Utah	$30,008,692.68
Massachusetts	$44,843,843.16	Virginia	$49,943,399.02
Maryland	$33,231,851.70	Virgin Islands	$33,077.60
Maine	$3,507,970.24	Vermont	$1,720,458.44
Michigan	$89,385,001.10	Washington	$60,955,479.72
Minnesota	$36,779,800.11	Wisconsin	$52,605,153.65
Missouri	$48,602,476.63	West Virginia	$26,708,513.01
Mississippi	$8,737,280.47	Wyoming	$1,856,673.13
TOTAL			**$2,632,195,122.16**

Arizona First Window
1st wave :$38,742,438.05
2nd wave : $35,405,728.11
3rd wave :8,590,122.45
Total $82,738,289.61

Second ECF Filing Window closed to October 13 About $1.9 Billion was requested

Infrastructure and Build Back Better
Legislation: This is deeply concerning that for a program that has had over $6B in requests for under 1 year, the suggestion has been reduced to $300M available for the next 9 years. That won't be enough for 1 month. The original request was for $40B ($8B per year for 5 years) and that was dramatically cut to $4B. Cutting to $300M is completely puzzling.

BREAKING NEWS!!!Build Back Better Includes $1 Billion-Plus for Broadband | Multichannel News (nexttv.com)That includes almost a half-billion dollars to subsidize WiFi devices and $100 million to educate the public on the billions of dollars in broadband funding to low-income residents, schools, libraries and students the FCC is already handing out.

FCC News: 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 intends to nominate Alan Davidson for Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information at the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA).

John Windhausen, executive director of the Schools, Health & Libraries Broadband (SHLB) Coalition, made the following statement:

"We are extremely pleased with President Biden's announcements to appoint three outstanding leaders for the FCC and NTIA. Acting Chairwoman Rosenworcel has been a longtime champion for anchor institution broadband connectivity, particularly with her support of the E-rate program and passion for addressing the homework gap. Gigi Sohn's unparalleled commitment to the public interest will bring a fresh perspective to broadband issues and policies. Furthermore, Alan Davidson's deep industry and government experience gives him the credentials to bring strong leadership to NTIA as it administers multiple broadband funding programs in the near future. I'm confident that today's appointees will do great things for anchor institution connectivity and for the country. The SHLB Coalition congratulates Rosenworcel, Sohn, and Davidson on their upcoming nominations, and wishes them a speedy confirmation."

Appendix 2: Chat from Zoom

Mala Muralidharan to Everyone (7:31 AM)
Henry and Oris should be given an award for their tireless job of transcribing the meetings.

Janet Durckel to Everyone (7:32 AM)
[file: HRSA Rural Communities Opioid Response Program (Implementation) Summary.pdf]

Cindy Hogan to Everyone (7:33 AM)
Second that!

Janet Durckel to Everyone (7:33 AM)
Bonjour – sorry I can't stay - I have another meeting this morning but I wanted to pop in to share the following HRSA grant opportunity that provides funding for opioid and substance use disorder treatment, prevention, and recovery services – including telehealth (program summary attached). Just wanted to make sure everyone had the info in case this is applicable. The great thing about this program is that there is no match requirement and organizations must apply as consortiums of 4 or more.

Cindy Hogan to Everyone (7:34 AM)
Excellent, thanks Janet!

Ilana Lowery-Common Sense to Everyone (7:35 AM)
What's your address Wes for next year!?

Debbie Kovesdy to Everyone (7:35 AM)
I love Fireball!

Wes Brownfield ARSA to Everyone (7:38 AM)
The address is on the ARSA email and website. I'll have more Fireball next year!

Josh Cohn to Everyone (7:39 AM)
Who was the prime on the grant proposal?

Mala Muralidharan to Everyone (7:41 AM)
EDA – Applicants BBBRC Phase 1 applicants.xlsx (eda.gov)
https://eda.gov/files/arpa/build-back-better/BBBRC-Phase-1-applicant-list.pdf

Cindy Hogan to Everyone (7:47 AM)
The prime on our proposal was Chicanos por la Causa

Josh Cohn to Everyone (7:52 AM)
Thanks! The City was also a part of this proposal, correct?

Mark Goldstein to Everyone (7:57 AM)
Benton Institute had a great "USDA Prime Broadband" post on 10/28/21 detailing the $1.15B
being made available for broadband grants and loans available through the USDA
ReConnectProgram at https://www.benton.org/blog/usda-prime-broadband plus some good
NRECA analysis at https://www.electric.coop/electric-co-ops-welcome-usda-changes-to-the-
reconnect-broadband-funding-program and CTC's at https://www.ctcnet.us/blog/usdas-new-
reconnect-broadband-grant-rules-dramatically-expand-eligible-areas-and-effectively-redefine-
broadband/ FYI. The USDA ReConnect Program's application window is 11/24/21-2/22/22. See
the Program landing page at https://www.usda.gov/reconnect and upcoming webinars listed at
https://www.usda.gov/reconnect/events for more.

Heather Floyd to Everyone (8:03 AM)
I heard last week that Cochise County will be issuing an RFP for a Feasibility Study on Internet
access and needs for the county. That is a positive step for a comprehensive plan moving
forward.

Drew Garner to Everyone (8:07 AM)
I understand that the $42 billion can be used for "digital connectivity projects" in addition to
infrastructure. Examples of digital connectivity projects include providing computers and wifi
equipment.

Mala Muralidharan to Everyone (8:10 AM)
https://www.digitalinclusion.org/blog/2021/09/24/treasurys-10-billion-capital-projects-fund-will-
advance-digital-equity/

Drew Garner to Everyone (8:11 AM)

Thanks Mala, great resource

Mala Muralidharan to Everyone (8:14 AM)
See the link about the Treasury funds for Digital Equity ….no more updates from me, Steve.

Mala Muralidharan to Everyone (8:24 AM)
BREAKING NEWS Build Back Better Includes $1 Billion-Plus for Broadband
https://www.nexttv.com/news/build-back-better-includes-dollar1-billion-plus-for-
broadband?mc_cid=00077fb188&mc_eid=2f94ec7c76

Mala Muralidharan to Everyone (8:25 AM)
That includes almost a half-billion dollars to subsidize WiFi devices and $100 million to educate
the public on the billions of dollars in broadband funding to low-income residents, schools,
libraries and students the FCC is already handing out.

Adam F.C. Fletcher to Everyone (8:26 AM)
STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

Michael Edmonds to Everyone (8:26 AM)
learning

Drew Garner to Everyone (8:26 AM)
Participation

Milan Eaton to Everyone (8:26 AM)
100% attention

Andy Sinclair to Everyone (8:26 AM)
Exchange

Josh Cohn to Everyone (8:26 AM)
The result of good teaching.

Ilana Lowery-Common Sense to Everyone (8:26 AM)
Digital equity for all

Mala Muralidharan to Everyone (8:26 AM)
Getting students involved in their learning

Paul Ross to Everyone (8:26 AM)
personalization

Will McCullen to Everyone (8:26 AM)
Active participation and problem solving.

Heather Floyd to Everyone (8:26 AM)
students actively involved

athenastuart to Everyone (8:27 AM)
actively pursuing what is happening in school

Cindy Hogan to Everyone (8:27 AM)
one to one interaction with students

Debbie Kovesdy to Everyone (8:27 AM)
Students involved in problem solving, working with projects, collaborating across populations, using and sharing assets

Adam F.C. Fletcher to Everyone (8:29 AM)
Student engagement is any time a student chooses anything over and over.

Adam F.C. Fletcher to Everyone (8:33 AM)
What difference can student engagement make to our efforts?!?
* Students are getting "Ah ha's" by showing them how to...

Mala Muralidharan to Everyone (8:35 AM)
There will be less drop outs from school and colleges ... because they are doing what they love.

Adam F.C. Fletcher to Everyone (8:36 AM)
* Building a "better tech generation" by bringing sophisticated learning, real world applications, and new applications to schools

Mala Muralidharan to Everyone (8:36 AM)
They feel empowered

Will McCullen to Everyone (8:36 AM)
Students rebel at knowledge out of context. When the context, real world problems are available, real world solutions develop.

Mala Muralidharan to Everyone (8:36 AM)
Success breeds pride and pride makes them push the limits

Adam F.C. Fletcher to Everyone (8:37 AM)
* Innovative and creative solutions

Cindy Hogan to Everyone (8:38 AM)
One HUGE key is that human beings are introducing them to something good they can do over and over.

Will McCullen to Everyone (8:38 AM)
The community.

Cindy Hogan to Everyone (8:39 AM)
The economy

Adam F.C. Fletcher to Everyone (8:39 AM)

WHO does student engagement affect besides students themselves?!?
Ilana Lowery-Common Sense to Everyone (8:40 AM)
Student engagement impacts our democracy

Will McCullen to Everyone (8:40 AM)
Small business, risk assessment, security awareness, reducing the DHS caseload, etc.

Adam F.C. Fletcher to Everyone (8:40 AM)
https://genyes.org

Debbie Kovesdy to Everyone (8:42 AM)
The more technically aware people become the more sophisticated they will engage …purchase

Will McCullen to Everyone (8:43 AM)
How do you work around school security compliance issuese? Administrative accounts, etc.

Debbie Kovesdy to Everyone (8:44 AM)
yes there is that Will…. see quite a bit of those issues in schools.

Adam F.C. Fletcher to Everyone (8:45 AM)
https://genyes.org

Cindy Hogan to Everyone (8:46 AM)
Awesome, Adam!!!

Ilana Lowery-Common Sense to Everyone (8:47 AM)
Yes Andrew!

Will McCullen to Everyone (8:47 AM)
Off topic, but for fun we had a great event on Friday. https://youtu.be/c3Oxg-UBI4A?t=1307

Adam F.C. Fletcher to Everyone (8:47 AM)
Thanks Cindy!

Manny Villa to Everyone (8:47 AM)
Thank you Adam.

Ilana Lowery-Common Sense to Everyone (8:48 AM)
Thanks, Adam!

Adam F.C. Fletcher to Everyone (8:48 AM)
You're welcome Manny! Thanks for having me.

Drew Garner to Everyone (8:48 AM)
Thank you Adam!

Adam F.C. Fletcher to Everyone (8:48 AM)
YW Drew!

Mala Muralidharan to Everyone (8:48 AM)
Adam you are a great facilitator to get us to particpate

Debbie Kovesdy to Everyone (8:48 AM)
Adam and GenYES are amazing.   Thanks Adam

Adam F.C. Fletcher to Everyone (8:48 AM)
Debbie, YOU'RE amazing! TY!

Mala Muralidharan to Everyone (8:49 AM)
YES... GenYES is amazing!

Adam F.C. Fletcher to Everyone (8:49 AM)
Thanks Mala - it IS!

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

First Name	Last Name	Organization	Job Title	Email	Phone	Mobile
Andrew	Bevington	PCSO	Director	andrew.bevington@pima.gov	15207248213	
Wes	Brownfield	ARSA	Executive Director	arsaschools@gmail.com	928.830.7182	
kirk	busch	BigData Southwest, Inc.	ceo	kirk.busch@bigdatasw.org	4803344997	
Josh	Cohn	Pima County	Program Coordinator	Josh.Cohn@pima.gov	15207245458	
Jerry	Crow	Digital Forensics and Cloud Security	Cybersecurity Professional	jerry.crow@computer.org	4804515954	
Janet	Durckel	ATP/SWTRC	Associate Director	jmajor@telemedicine.arizona.edu	5204030736	
Milan	Eaton	Arizona Department of Education	Erate	milangeaton@gmail.com	6233326357	
Michael	Edmonds	Thrive in the 05	Steering Committee member	mikemedmonds1@gmail.com	929-244-9477	
Adam F.C.	Fletcher	YES - Youth and Educators Succeeding	E.D.	adam@yesk12.org	3604899680	
Heather	Floyd	Valley TeleCom Group	Public Relations Specialist	heather.floyd@teamvtg.net	5203848912	
Oris	Friesen	ATIC	Secretary	oris@cox.net	6026891084	6026891084
Drew	Garner	Common Sense	Broadband State 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	
Cindy	Hogan	Literacy Connects - Tucson	Digital Inclusion Ambassador	cindyhogan333@gmail.com		
Shereka	Jackson	Future Stars	CEO	futurestarsaz@hotmail.com		
Debbie	Kovesdy	Generation Tech Support LLC	CEO	debbie@gentechsupport.com	6025711014	
Tarma	Liranzo	ETS	Program Manager	tarma.liranzo@ets-pllc.com		
Ilana	Lowery	Common Sense Media	Arizona Director	ilowery@commonsense.org	6233410177	
Sophia	Mayberry	Project Manager	Arizona Department Of Education	Sophia.mayberry@azed.gov		
Will	McCullen	Pima Community College	Program Manager	jwmccullen@pima.edu		
Mala	Muralidharan	AZ State Library	E-rate Administrator	mala@azlibrary.gov		
Lawrie	Prickett	CELLULAR ONE OF NORTH EAST ARI	Ids	lprickett@cellularoneaz.com	9285370375	9282051604
Jenny	Rickel	Native Network	COO	jrickel@nativenetwork.com	5093000102	5096615100
Fernando	Roman	Communications Workers of America	Executive Vice President	froman@cwa7026.com	5207097199	520.709.7199
Paul	Ross	Phoenix College	AVP CIO	paul.ross@phoenixcollege.edu		
Roniyur	Sardinha	SFB-CRC	CRC Director	rsingh@sfb-crc.org	520-393-9872	520-393-9872
Andy	Sinclair	Arizona Department of Economic Security Division of Aging and Adult Services	CAPS Capacity Development Coordinator	asinclair@azdes.gov	4802632271	4802632271
Athena	Stuart	Stand for Children	organizer	astuart@stand.org		
Paul	Trujillo	NAU	Network Architect Engineer	Paul.trujillo@nau.edu		
Rachna	Vas	Microsoft	Program Manager	rachnavas@microsoft.com	2026770991	2026770991
Albert	Velarde	SBI	Account Manager	avelarde@cellularoneaz.com		
Manny	Villa	Sahuarita Unified School District	Director of Information Technology	mvilla@sahuarita.net		
Karina		Arizona Department of Education	Director	karina.jones@azed.gov		