



November 8, 2021 AZBSN COVID-19 Digital Access Task Force Teleconference Report

Attendees

Steve Peters, Oris Friesen, Henry Goldberg, Mark Goldstein, Robert Alvarado, Aaron Ball, Tracey Beal, Andrew Bevington, Melissa Boydston, Wes Brownfield, Kirk Busch, Erin Carr-Jordan, Michael Cohen, Josh Cohn, Jerry Crow, Brian Daly, Lindsay Dietz, Michael Edmonds, Marcelino Flores, Heather Floyd, Drew Garner, Lisa Gustinelli, Ian Hathcock, Cindy Hogan, Shereka Jackson, John Kelly, Debbie Kovesdy, Debra Kurtz, Tarma Liranzo, Ilana Lowery, Anna Maria Maldonado, Sophia Mayberry, Mala Muralidharan, Mauricio Orozco, Lawrie Prickett, Fernando Roman, Michelle Simon, Roniyur Singh, Andy Sinclair, Shannon Smith, Jeff Sobotka, Tom Tardy, Nicole Umayam, Rachna Vas, Albert Velarde, Manny Villa, 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.

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 he will try to convene a meeting of the task force leadership team next week to discuss new directions for the task force next year in terms of where the task force will be going and what it should be doing. Steve reviewed the list of task force members who signed up to be part of this task force leadership/design team. Steve has heard two major things from task force participants: 1) they would like to discuss what kinds of tasks our task force would like to accomplish next year; 2) they would like to have more opportunities for task force participants, particularly new participants, to share information on what their organizations do and connect with others.

Steve suggested some important tasks that our task force could focus on next year. Our task force could create a digital inclusion team, co-chaired by Nicole Umayam and Cindy Hogan (as discussed at previous task force meetings). This digital inclusion team would identify digital inclusion organizations in the state (such as those on our task force), would create mechanisms to share information, work on seniors digital inclusion, engage students to help with digital inclusion, and develop a statewide digital inclusion plan. Another key task area to consider could be cybersecurity, where the task force may create a cybersecurity team to help organizations and the public address cybersecurity issues.

Steve asked the attendees about their opinion on the above tasks for the task force next year. Shereka Jackson commented that she likes both proposals, but the term “cybersecurity” may scare people so there should be a simpler term for parents and students. Mala Muralidharan noted that libraries use the term “digital safety” because it is more easily understood and encompasses cybersecurity as well as how the public can be safe when they use the Internet. Mala added that the term “digital equity” is used more at a national level than digital inclusion, which deals with people who are not served (e.g. don’t have an Internet connection), whereas equity goes beyond being served to those who have not adopted broadband because they are not able to use it. Nicole Umayam clarified that digital equity also refers to the social condition of people such as being part of a minority group or a low-income group. Lindsay Dietz suggested our task force should have clear definitions of digital equity or digital inclusion as we use those terms. Lindsay added that her organization, the Arizona Alliance for Community Health Centers, is holding a webinar on cybersecurity for healthcare to inform patients about handling cybersecurity issues. Tom Tardy stated that cybersecurity education for the public on topics such as passwords and anti-virus protection is extremely important.

Updates: State Broadband Director, AZ State Library, ADE

State Broadband Director Update

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

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.

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.

The state Rural Broadband Development Grants (RBDGs) program will be launched this Friday November 12th. There is \$100 million in funding for this RBDGs program, which will be allocated 75% to rural areas and 25% to urban areas (Maricopa/Pima counties). Jeff stated that the RBDGs program will focus on last-mile infrastructure. Karen Ziegler asked what the deadline will be for RBDG applications, and Jeff replied that this will be detailed in the launch on Friday but want to get much done by the end of this year.

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 is pretty much done, and is primarily focused on middle-mile strategy for the state. This will drive state middle-mile fiber deployment for the next ten years. Wes Brownfield, Executive Director of the Arizona Rural Schools Association, commented that their Final Mile Project is focused on last-mile projects but a lot of work needs to be done on middle-mile development as well.

The ACA is in the process of hiring an Assistant Broadband Director as well as administrative help (see Jeff's post for a link to these positions announcements in the Appendix 2 Chat). Jeff invited task force participants to apply for the Assistant Broadband Director position. ACA has hired a Grants Administrator to help deal with the considerable regulatory compliance requirements of federal grants, and they work closely with the Governor's grant team. Steve Peters commented that these new positions are essentially moving towards establishing a State Broadband Office (as recommended in the Task Force Digital Access Strategy Report of November 2020).

Jeff concluded saying the new federal/state grant programs provide a once-in-a-generation opportunity for the state in the broadband and digital equity areas, and so the money needs to be used wisely. Jeff stated that Lake Havasu City and Yuma will have better broadband than the Phoenix area with their new FTTP projects, and so there is a lot of potential to make broadband impacts with these new grants. Jeff added that he will be leaning on our task force to provide digital equity recommendations for federal grants.

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 \$102 million in E-rate funding to Arizona for the 2021-22 funding year, which is about 4.3% of the amount awarded nationally. The Funds for Learning E-rate Trends Report 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. Other findings from this report are shown in Mala's written report in Appendix 1.

As discussed at the last task force meeting, 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, and generally maximize the use of federal/state funding to address digital equity issues.

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 182,000 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. Steve Peters thanked the task force EBB outreach team for its work in enrolling Arizona households.

Mala provided a detailed written report (see Appendix 1) about the broadband/digital equity components of the federal legislation: the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (passed last week); and the Build Back Better reconciliation spending bill still being considered in Congress. The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act includes: 1) Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment Program -- \$42.45 billion for state broadband infrastructure (including mapping and adoption) block grants; 2) Middle-Mile Broadband Infrastructure funding of \$1 billion; 3) Digital Equity Act Competitive Grants Programs funding of \$2.75 billion for planning grants to develop state digital equity plans, implementation projects, and supporting a range of digital inclusion and broadband adoption activities; 4) Affordable Connectivity Program with funding of \$14.2 billion to make the EBB program permanent (\$30 per month voucher for low-income households to use towards any Internet service plan). The Build Back Better bill Includes about \$1 billion for broadband: \$475 million to fund Wi-Fi enabled devices for low-income households; \$300 million for the FCC Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF) but will not allow funding for Chinese firms Huawei/ZTE equipment; \$250 million for public-private partnership pilot projects to find long-term affordable broadband solutions for urban areas; and \$100 million for outreach on the FCC’s broadband affordability programs.

The FCC Chair Pai’s “Keep America Connected Pledge” over a year ago with the onset of the coronavirus pandemic was signed by more than 800 companies. These companies pledged: not to terminate the Internet service of any residential or small business customers because of their inability to pay during the pandemic; waived late fees; and opened their Wi-Fi hotspots to any American.

ADE 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.

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, will launch a survey of schools next week to assess their needs and biggest challenges.

Steve Peters asked if this survey will address cybersecurity, and Sophia replied that there are questions about how schools are compliant with cybersecurity laws. John Kelly noted that the ADE Technology Task Force discussed a Mississippi survey of digital safety/cybersecurity and the ADE task force recommended schools tie into a centralized security operations service. Steve stated he is inviting Tim Roemer, Director of the Arizona Dept. of Homeland Security, to discuss a new state multi-agency cybersecurity center, and Karen Ziegler commented that she has worked with him.

“Arizona Pathways to Prosperity” Presentation

Aaron Ball, Director of College and Career Pathways & Southern Arizona Liaison of The Center for the Future of Arizona (CFA), delivered a presentation on the “Arizona Pathways to Prosperity” initiative led by the CFA. 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.

The CFA, a non-profit organization based in Phoenix, brings Arizonans together to create a stronger/brighter future for the state. They listen to Arizonans’ priority issues, share data on how Arizona is doing in these priority areas, bring critical issues to public attention, and work with communities and leaders to solve public problems. CFA conducted two major surveys: the first one conducted 10 years ago that helped launch initiatives in education/workforce development (with “progress meters”); and a second follow-up survey last year of 3000 Arizona citizens (representative of the entire state). A result of the survey was that 84% of Arizonans believe that a highly educated/skilled population is good for the state’s economy. Some other notable results from the survey were: 82% agreed that Arizona should increase the number of high-school graduates enrolled in universities/community colleges/trade schools; and 79% agreed it is important to provide affordable/reliable Internet and technology to all students.

The CFA Arizona Pathways to Prosperity initiative over the past six years has brought together industry and education to create seamless pathways that enable young people (grades 7-14) to earn degrees/credentials necessary for careers in high-demand industries such as information technology, energy, health care, and advanced manufacturing.

Arizona Pathways to Prosperity currently works with about 60 industry partners and 40 education partners in the Phoenix metro area, southern Arizona (Pima, Pinal, Santa Cruz counties), and Yuma County, and is expanding throughout the state. The pathways are industry-driven through sector partnerships. They work with industry to identify the jobs, skills, and credentials that businesses need to grow. In IT/cybersecurity, they work closely with the Greater Phoenix Chamber of Commerce and Pima Community College. They then partner with higher education and K-12 to design and implement the necessary education-career pathways.

The educational pathways approach has three major elements: career exploration (student awareness of career possibilities); early college programs where students earn credits in high school relevant to career pathways; and work-based learning. Career exploration helps overcome the problems students/families currently have of little knowledge about potential careers and the lack of experience teachers have with workforce needs of contemporary high-growth industries. This helps students identify what careers they want and the educational pathways to get there.

Arizona Pathways to Prosperity has brought to the state a middle-school career literacy/exploration curriculum with three modules. In one module “Stemploration”, students assume the role of a young professional and engage in problem solving to address contemporary career-based challenges. ASU has developed a cybersecurity learning approach for this part of the curriculum.

Arizona Pathways to Prosperity emphasizes strong partnerships of community colleges with high schools, and also pathways to universities. They have worked with the Greater Phoenix Chamber of Commerce, Pima Community College, and Maricopa County Community Colleges, to provide students with a robust cybersecurity pathway, including Google and AWS certifications. They have worked with Pima Community College to gain access to a virtual

cyberwarfare range at Virginia Tech. They were awarded a US Dept. of Education grant to educate minority/low-income students on computer science and cybersecurity pathways: they are working with 15 high schools and 4 community colleges across the state on this.

They have established several work-based learning programs. There are student internships (including virtual internships) to enable students to gain experience and make connections, and a cybersecurity internship has been established with Pima Community College IT Center of Excellence. There are apprenticeships, including a high-school cybersecurity apprenticeship, where students receive technical instruction and are paid for their work. There are also virtual educator externships, where educators are connected to industry and learn how to tie their curriculum to real-world applications (State Farm, SRP, and Sonora Quest have partnered for this in the cybersecurity area).

Steve Peters commented that he invited Aaron to discuss their work in cybersecurity and also to discuss how students can be engaged to work on cybersecurity through partnership of CFA with our task force.

Debbie Kovesdy, CEO of GenTech, asked about who is teaching this. Aaron replied that in the 15 high schools they work with, there are various computer science/IT/cybersecurity teachers, and there are 25 middle schools implementing the career literacy curriculum. Aaron invited task force participants to contact him if they wish to make connections with any of these schools they work with around the state. Steve Peters added that Aaron is very well-connected with Arizona schools and community colleges. Tom Tardy, CEO of GingerSec, remarked that he teaches cybersecurity at Paradise Valley Community College.

Shereka Jackson, CEO of Future Stars, asked about the demographic breakdown of the teachers. Aaron replied that they don't specifically track that, but they strive to provide opportunities for minority students to have teachers that are of similar backgrounds so they can feel more commonality with these career pathways.

Next Steps

The next AZBSN COVID-19 Digital Access Task Force overall meeting will be held on Monday, November 15th at 7:30 am.

Mark Goldstein, Chair of the Arizona Telecommunications & Information Council (ATIC), announced that ATIC will hold its final Board meeting of 2021 on Wednesday, November 10th at noon, and all interested are invited to attend.

Kirk Busch, CEO of BigData Southwest, announced that Chris Richardson, Acting ADE CIO, will be speaking at the Arizona Technology Council IoT committee meeting this Wednesday November 10th, and he will forward an e-mail to the task force about this.

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); Federal Legislation -- Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, Build Back Better Bill

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.

Funds For Learning Submits E-rate Survey Results to FCC

11th ANNUAL E-RATE TREND REPORT from Funds For Learning was released on Oct 30th. A record was set with 2164 applicants responding . On November 3, 2021, Funds For Learning met with the FCC to discuss the results of national survey.

Key 2021 report findings include:

- **E-rate remains a vital program for schools and libraries to achieve connectivity.** 97% agree that more students or library patrons are connected because of the E-rate program. 95% percent agree that E-rate funding is vital to internet connectivity
- **Network security is a critical issue deserving of E-rate support.** 75% -it is a serious and urgent concern. 97% - network security should qualify for e-rate support. Additionally we need to educate user, especially children on internet safety practices.
- **Applicants see the E-rate program’s administration in a positive light.** 91%
- **More students and library patrons are connected to the Internet because of the E-rate. [97%]**
- **E-rate funding is vital to achieving internet connectivity goals. [95%]**
- **Applicants can depend on E-rate funding every year. [89%]**
- **School and library facilities have faster internet because of the E-rate. [88%]**
- **The E-rate competitive bidding process lowers pricing. [68%]**

I highly recommend viewing the Funds For Learning Ex Parte Submission. [Click here](#) and the presentation. [Click here](#)

A strategic plan to use the funds that are coming down from Legislation for Broadband:

Amber Mathewson and **Michelle Simon** are heading a group to discuss BB planning for Pima County. The stakeholders 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. This is a ‘once in a century historic investment opportunity’ and we need to put out minds together and make the best use of it. We know it is coming, let us be prepared to do our best for **Digital Equity** (the problem and what to do to achieve it) with programs for **Digital Inclusion** (the how to achieve it).

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 182,337 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. **The**

new Infrastructure legislation made a permanent program renaming it Affordable Connectivity Program with a budget of \$14.2 B.

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

LEGISLATION

Broadband Legislation Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act bill and Build Back Better Bill:

1. Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act bill (H.R. 3684) \$1.2 trillion - \$65 B for Broadband will help ensure every American has access to reliable high-speed internet with an historic investment in broadband infrastructure deployment, just as the federal government made a historic effort to provide electricity to every American nearly one hundred years ago.

The bill will also help lower prices for internet service by requiring funding recipients to offer a low-cost affordable plan, by requiring providers to display a "Broadband Nutrition Label" that will help families comparison shop for a better deal, and by boosting competition in areas where existing providers aren't providing adequate service. It will also help close the digital divide by passing the Digital Equity Act (which creates new grant programs for digital inclusion), by requiring the Federal Communications Commission to adopt rules banning digital redlining, and by creating a new, permanent program to help more low-income households access the internet. Over one in four households will be eligible for this new Affordable Connectivity Benefit.

The \$65 billion in broadband funding could be a game-changer. The legislation will provide \$42.45 billion for broadband deployment, \$14 billion in subsidies for low-income consumers to connect to broadband, \$1 billion for middle mile investments, and \$2.75 billion for the Digital Equity Act. Anchor institutions can play a significant role in all 4 of these areas.

a. Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment Program (\$42.45 billion), the bill provides formula-based grants to states to competitively award grants for qualifying broadband infrastructure, mapping and adoption projects. The program would be administered by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), and funds would be available until expended.

States would receive a minimum of \$100 million; the remaining funding would be allocated in accordance with a formula that considers the number of unserved and high-cost locations in the state, on a comparative basis. The funding includes a 10 percent set-aside for high-cost areas. All projects would have to meet a minimum download/upload build standard of 100/20 megabits per second. To increase affordability, all funding recipients have an obligation to offer a low-cost plan as a condition of receiving funding.

The bill requires local coordination on the part of the state. Specifically, the bill requires the state to submit a "5-year-action plan" as part of its proposal, which "shall be informed by collaboration with local and regional entities."

States may use funds to competitively award sub-grants for:

- Unserved service projects (defined as an area that lacks access or access to 25/3 speed and latency sufficient to support real-time, interactive applications) and underserved service projects (defined as an area that lacks access to 25/100 speed and a latency sufficient to support real-time, interactive applications).
- Connecting eligible community anchor institutions, which is defined as an entity such as a school, library, health clinic, health center, hospital or other medical provider; public safety entity; institution of higher education; public housing organization or community support organization that facilitates greater use of broadband service by vulnerable populations, including low-income individuals, unemployed individuals and aged individuals.
- Data collection, broadband mapping and planning.
- Installing broadband infrastructure or providing reduced-cost services within a multifamily residential building, with priority given to a building that has a "substantial share" of unserved households or in a designated poverty area.
- Broadband adoption.

b. Enabling Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure (\$1 billion): Establishes a grant program at NTIA for the construction, improvement or acquisition of middle-mile infrastructure, which is defined as "any infrastructure that does not connect directly to an end-user location, including an anchor institution." The bill directs NTIA to make grants on a competitive basis to eligible entities for the construction, improvement or acquisition of middle-mile infrastructure. Eligible entities include: telecommunication companies, technology companies, electric utilities and utility cooperatives. The grant program is authorized for five years, from FY 2022 through 2026.

- \$1 billion is appropriated to remain available until September 30, 2026, for competitive grants. The Secretary of Commerce shall issue a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this bill. The Commerce Secretary shall make awards not later than 270 days after issuing the NOFO.

c. Digital Equity Act Competitive Grant Programs (\$2.75 billion): The legislation includes the Digital Equity Act of 2021 (H.R. 1841, sponsored by Rep. Jerry McNerney (D-Calif.) / S. 2018, sponsored by Sen. Patty Murray (D-Wash.)), which creates two grant programs for promoting digital equity, support digital inclusion activities and building capacity at the state-level for increased broadband adoption.

The Commerce Secretary shall issue a NOFO not later than 180 days after the funds are made available, and the Secretary shall make awards not later than 270 days after issuing the NOFO.

- **State Digital Equity Capacity Grant Program:** Appropriates \$60 million for planning grants to states to develop State Equity Plans; \$240 million for FY 2022 and \$300 million per year for FY 2023 to 2026, funding years to support implementation and digital inclusion initiatives. Makes distributions to states based on their populations, demographics, and availability and adoption of broadband.
- **Digital Equity Competitive Grant Program:** Appropriates \$250 million per year for competitive grants to public and nonprofit entities for a range of digital inclusion and broadband adoption activities.

d. Broadband Affordability:

- **Modifies Emergency Broadband Benefit and Makes Renamed Program Permanent (\$14.2 billion):** Makes the Emergency Broadband Benefit program at the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) permanent, renaming it to the Affordable Connectivity Program. The program provides a \$30 per month voucher for low-income families to use toward any internet service plan of their choosing. It builds on the Emergency Broadband Benefit, making the benefit permanent and expanding eligibility to help more low-income households.
- **Consumer Broadband Labels:** Requires the display of "consumer broadband labels." Consumer broadband labels were proposed by the FCC in 2016 in an effort to help consumers better understand what they are receiving in terms of pricing, performance levels and data caps.
- **Digital Discrimination:** Requires the FCC to adopt rules within two years to address digital discrimination. It also directs the FCC to develop "model policies and best practices" for states and localities to prevent digital discrimination.

2. Build Back Better Includes \$1 Billion-Plus for Broadband

Here is a draft of the House Reconciliation bill, This is still being debated . According to a draft copy of the compromise Build Back Better framework includes:

a. **WiFi Devices:**

- \$475 million for grants (plus another \$20 million in administrative expenses and another \$5 million on outreach) to fund the distribution of WiFi-enabled connected devices (desktops, laptops, tablets and phones) that will allow all those potential broadband subs, including in low income and diverse communities, to access the broadband that is being subsidized. The device money includes for both new and refurbished devices with a maximum of one household of two people or fewer and two devices for households with three or more.

b. **ECF (Emergency Connectivity Fund)**

- \$300 million more for the FCC's emergency connectivity fund for distant learning, though not for any equipment the agency has determined is a threat to national security, so none for tech from Chinese firms Huawei or ZTE.

c. **Urban PPP Pilots:**

- \$250 million for grants to public-private partnerships for pilot projects to find long-term solutions to boosting access to affordable broadband in urban areas. The government has been primarily focused on closing the rural digital divide, but has increasingly added urban communities and their affordability issues to its plate.

d. **Outreach:**

- \$100 million for outreach and education "regarding the broadband and communications affordability programs of the Federal Communications Commission."

e. **6G:**

- \$7 million to stand up a 14-member Future of Telecommunications Council to advise Congress on "the development and adoption of 6G and other advanced wireless communications technologies, including 14 ensuring equity in access to those technologies for communities of color and rural communities."

f. Affordability Advisory Committee:

- \$5 million to create the Affordable Urban and Suburban Broadband Advisory Committee, which as its name suggests, would advise the administration — specifically the FCC and National Telecommunications & Information Administration — on making broadband more affordable to both urban and suburban broadband subscribers.

Keep America Connected PledgeWe thank the 800 (and more) companies and associations signed the Chairman Pai's pledge, more than a year ago, which read as follows:

Given the coronavirus pandemic and its impact on American society, [[Company Name]] pledges to:

1. not terminate service to any residential or small business customers because of their inability to pay their bills due to the disruptions caused by the coronavirus pandemic;
2. waive any late fees that any residential or small business customers incur because of their economic circumstances related to the coronavirus pandemic; and
3. open its Wi-Fi hotspots to any American who needs them.

This is the right thing to do and we urge more Arizona service providers to help customers who need it the most. Thank you!

Appendix 2: Chat from Zoom

Lindsay Dietz to Everyone (7:33 AM)

Good morning Cindy ! You read my mind. Thanks for helping me posted

Nicole Umayam to Everyone (7:39 AM)

Shereka Jackson is a key voice in our digital inclusion discussions as well

Tracey Beal to Everyone (7:40 AM)

So happy to hear about the focus on digital inclusion!

Tom Tardy to Everyone (7:41 AM)

We can help with security topics

Erin Carr-Jordan to Everyone (7:42 AM)

The Digital Equity Institute is happy to engage around the state-wide inclusion strategy.

Mark Goldstein to Everyone (7:44 AM)

cybersecurity = staying safe online

Mark Goldstein to Everyone (7:45 AM)

On top of the \$65B for broadband in the just passed infrastructure package with several key digital equity (yeah!!!), The Verge reports on “The free laptop program built into the Biden reconciliation plan” creating a \$475M grant program at the Department of Commerce for community groups to distribute free or discounted desktops, laptops & tablets to low-income

households at <https://www.theverge.com/2021/11/2/22759759/build-back-better-biden-laptop-tablet-low-income-manchin-sinema-broadband> FYI.

Erin Carr-Jordan to Everyone (7:45 AM)
NDIA provides baseline definitions for both as well.

Nicole Umayam to Everyone (7:46 AM)
According to NDIA equity is the social condition. Inclusion encompasses the specific steps and strategies towards to achieve equity (the 5 legged stool), which must target specific underserved populations

Ilana Lowery to Everyone (7:46 AM)
[file: DigitalInclusionStrategyExecutiveSummary.doc.pdf]

Ilana Lowery to Everyone (7:46 AM)
Here's San Francisco's plan

Cindy Hogan to Everyone (7:47 AM)
Thank you, Nicole
Workforce

Mauricio Orozco to Everyone (7:48 AM)
A topic that has been mentioned is "Affordability"

Fernando Roman to Everyone (7:48 AM)
Who is included in the leadership team?

Tracey Beal to Everyone (7:48 AM)
I am interested in working with both digital inclusion and the youth training and deployment.

Lindsay Dietz to Everyone (7:49 AM)
Who is part of the leadership team ?
I agree

Marcelino Flores to Everyone (7:51 AM)
schedule quarterly events or outcomes

Erin Carr-Jordan to Everyone (7:53 AM)
We are working with several stakeholders to curate several age and grade appropriate digital literacy and safety programs (multi-modal)

Lindsay Dietz to Everyone (7:53 AM)
No
I apologize

Erin Carr-Jordan to Everyone (7:53 AM)
Sounds good

Mala Muralidharan to Everyone (7:54 AM)

NDIA recently posted definitions for “Digital Inclusion” and “Digital Equity”. These are working definitions that we will adjust as needed. As our work evolves, so must the definitions we use. The simplest way to think of the intersection of these two terms is that Digital Equity is the “what” (goals) and Digital Inclusion is the “how” (activities).

Mark Goldstein to Everyone (7:56 AM)

ACA's refreshed grant program launches this Friday! You go Jeff!!!

kirk busch to Everyone (7:59 AM)

#TeamSobotka ROCKS!

Mauricio Orozco to Everyone (7:59 AM)

Awesome news Jeff! Hard work pays off

Cindy Hogan to Everyone (8:00 AM)

PLUG FOR INCLUSION!!!

Lindsay Dietz to Everyone (8:00 AM)

Great news !

Mark Goldstein to Everyone (8:01 AM)

POTs and PANs had a great article “ReConnect Grants – Not for Everybody” on why the refined grant application process is still a bear, the likely mix of 100% grants vs. 75% grants and loan combos, and some great detail on grant scoring criteria and constraints at <https://potsandpansbyccg.com/2021/11/02/reconnect-grants-are-not-for-everybody/> FYI. They also cover “The ReConnect Grant Basic Rules” at <https://potsandpansbyccg.com/2021/11/01/>.

Heather Floyd to Everyone (8:02 AM)

Glad to hear AZ is invested in our State Broadband Office. Gives confidence that we will get the focus we need on Internet access and accessibility.

Jeff Sobotka to Everyone (8:04 AM)

Hi Everyone, I need to drop for an 8:00am call with our federal partners. A few important points.

1. The Infrastructure Bill (IIJA) passed Fri which will dive unprecedented investment in AZ Broadband. 2. The \$100M Broadband Grant Drops on Fri 11/12. 3.. We are hiring an Assistant Broadband Director and Administrative help. The app for the first is here:

<https://www.ziprecruiter.com/jobs/arizona-commerce-authority-570ed71a/assistant-broadband-director-a1780e6e>

Mauricio Orozco to Everyone (8:07 AM)

National Governors Association (NGA) report:

<https://www.nga.org/center/publications/broadband-affordability-resources/>

Mark Goldstein to Everyone (8:08 AM)

Telegeography has a detailed blog post “Out of this World: The International Satellite Broadband Battle Intensifies” with a good current state of play recap for the emerging LEO players and projects at <https://blog.telegeography.com/out-of-this-world-the-international-satellite-broadband-battle-intensifies> FYI.

Tom Tardy to Everyone (8:13 AM)
6G, can be fun. ha

Mala Muralidharan to Everyone (8:15 AM)
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.

Mark Goldstein to Everyone (8:15 AM)
The Arizona Tech Council has a virtual speaker event on Sustainability: Driving Human Progress + Helping Communities to Succeed on 11/16/21 at 3:30 PM. One presenter is Dominick Papas of the Arizona Commerce Authority speaking on Arizona Smart State Initiatives. Registration is \$10 for members (including ATIC Board members) & \$20 for non-members at <https://www.aztechcouncil.org/event/sustainability11-16/> FYI.

Tom Tardy to Everyone (8:17 AM)
It is up an running.
I was just up there a couple weeks ago.

kirk busch to Everyone (8:19 AM)
<https://azgovernor.gov/governor/news/2021/10/governor-ducey-launches-arizonas-new-cyber-command-center>

Lindsay Dietz to Everyone (8:26 AM)
This presentation looks great but I have to join another call unfortunately

Tracey Beal to Everyone (8:26 AM)
The Center for the Future of Arizona is an outstanding organization. So grateful for their partnership!

Debbie Kovesdy to Everyone (8:31 AM)
Who is teaching this?

Robert Alvarado to Everyone (8:32 AM)
Sorry have to head to next meeting. Have a great day everyone!

Tracey Beal to Everyone (8:36 AM)
Thanks so much! In need to head out to a meeting!

Aaron Ball to Everyone (8:37 AM)
Thanks Tracy!

Roniyur Singh to Everyone (8:37 AM)
Can you share your contact Aaron

Aaron Ball to Everyone (8:37 AM)
I neglected to mention that Andrew Bevington has been an awesome partner on our virtual internships and externships.

aaron.ball@arizonafuture.org

Debbie Kovesdy to Everyone (8:38 AM)

Yes

So it's teachers already in the education system already right? OK yes we will talk

Aaron Ball to Everyone (8:39 AM)

Yes Debbie. We are also working closely with CAC, AWC, PCC and MCCCCD

Debbie Kovesdy to Everyone (8:39 AM)

This was a great presentation. thank you!

Tom Tardy to Everyone (8:41 AM)

I will email you, I also teach at PVCC

Aaron Ball to Everyone (8:41 AM)

Excellent Tom. I believe my colleague Cathleen Barton has done some work with PVCC

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

First Name	Last Name	Organization	Job Title	Email	Phone	Mobile
Robert	Alvarado	Chicanos Por La Causa	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	
Tracey	Beal	School Connect	CeO	tracey@schoolconnectaz.org		
Andrew	Bevington	Pima County Superintendent of Schools Office	Director	andrew.bevington@pima.gov	1520599987	
Melissa	Boydston	Valley of The Sun United Way	VP	mboydston@vsuw.org		
Wes	Brownfield	Arizona Rural Schools Association	Executive Director	arsaschools@gmail.com	928.830.7182	
kirk	busch	BigData Southwest, Inc.	janitor	kirk.busch@bigdatasw.org	4803344997	
Erin	Carr-Jordan	ASU	Head of Social Impact	ecarrjordan@asu.edu		
Michael	Cohen	ATIC	Researcher	mikey1145@yahoo.com	520 390 6647	
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	
Brian	Daly	AT&T	Assistant Vice President	brian.k.daly@att.com	4252417544	
Lindsay	Dietz	AACHC	Director of Program services	Lindsayd@aachc.org		
Michael	Edmonds	Thrive in the 05	Steering Committee Member	mikemedmonds1@gmail.com	929-244-9477	
Marcelino	Flores	Pima County	Special Staff	Marcelino.flores@pima.gov		
Heather	Floyd	Valley TeleCom Group	Public Relations Specialist	heather.floyd@teamvtg.net	5203848912	
Oris	Friesen	ATIC	Secretary	oris@cox.net	602-689-1084	
Drew	Garner	Common Sense	Broadband State Policy Fellow	dgarner@commonsense.org		
Henry	Goldberg	ATIC	Vice Chair	hgolds2@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	Innovator in Residence	lisaniagaragustinelli@gmail.com	5619015089	5619015089
Ian	Hathcock	SBI. dba Cellular One	Director of Sales	ihathcock93@gmail.com	9282057713	
Cindy	HOGan	Literacy Connects - Tucson	Digital Inclusion Ambassador	cindyhogan333@gmail.com		
Shereka	Jackson	Future Stars	CEO	futurestarsaz@hotmail.com	6232210902	
John	Kelly	Triadvocates	Dog walker	John@triadvocates.com		
Debbie	Kovesdy	GenTech	ceo	debbie@gentechsupport.com	6025711014	
debra	kurtz	arizona state university	Librarian	dhanenk@asu.edu	9196042100	
Tarma	Liranzo	ETS	Program Manager	tarma.liranzo@ets-pllc.com		
Ilana	Lowery	Common Sense - Arizona	Director	ilowery@commonsense.org	6233410177	
Ilana	Lowery	Common Sense - Arizona	Director	ilowery@cox.net	6233410177	
Anna maria	Maldonado	Phoenix IDA	Consultant	Annamaria@phcic.com	6023219122	
Sophia	Mayberry	Fgg	Ghb	Sophia.mayberry@azed.gov		
Mala	Muralidharan	AZ State Library	E-rate Administrator for Public Libraries	mala@azlibrary.gov		
Mauricio	Orozco	Care1st Health Plan Arizona	Community Engagement Manager	morozco@care1staz.com	14802823631	
Lawrie	Prickett	SBI	IDS	Lprickett@cellularoneaz.com		
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	SFB-CRC	CRC Director	rsingh@sfb-crc.org	5203939872	
Shannon	Smith	Microsoft	Sr. Account Executive	Shannon.Smith@microsoft.com	4803399837	
Jeff	Sobotka	ACA	State Broadband Director	jeffs@azcommerce.com		
Tom	Tardy	GingerSec	CEO	Tom@gingersec.com	6024162102	
Nicole	Umayam	Arizona State Library, Archives and Public Records	Digital Inclusion Library Consultant	numayam@azlibrary.gov		
Rachna	Vas	Microsoft	Program Manager	rachnavas@microsoft.com	2026770991	2026770991
Albert	Velarde	SBI	AM	avelarde@cellularoneaz.com		
Manny	Villa	Sahuarita Unified School District	Director of IT	mvilla@sahuarita.net		
Karen	Ziegler	Karen Ziegler Consulting Services	Principle	karen.ziegler@karenzieglerconsulting.com		