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ATIC Board Agenda for Wednesday, January 10, 2024

1. Administrative

- 1.1. Self-Introductions
- 1.2. Modifications to and Acceptance of Agenda Draft
- 1.3. Acceptance of Minutes from November 8, 2023, Board Meeting
- 1.4. Treasurer's Report (Ron Schott)
- 1.5. ATIC Board Membership Considerations
 - 1.5.1. ATIC Broadband Providers Working Group Meeting & Next Steps
 - 1.5.2. ATIC Board Elections Follow Up
- 1.6. Review of Outstanding Action Items as Documented in November 8, 2023, Minutes

2. Informational Presentations

- 2.1. None Scheduled

3. Activity Reports

- 3.1. Arizona Broadband Office Report (Sandip Bhowmick)
 - 3.1.1. Broadband Grants, Rural Community Outreach & Projects
 - 3.1.2. Digital Equity Initiatives & Opportunities
 - 3.1.3. ACA Broadband Strategy & ATIC Role/Support
- 3.2. Arizona Broadband Stakeholder Network (Steve Peters)
 - 3.2.1. AZBSN Digital Access Task Force Updates
 - 3.2.2. AZBSN Leadership Group, Committees & Initiatives
 - 3.2.3. Outreach Activities with Newsletters & Webinars
- 3.3. Technology in Education/eLearning
 - 3.3.1. Arizona Technology in Education Association (AzTEA) (Nan Williams)
 - 3.3.2. Greater Arizona Educational Leadership (GAZEL) (Steve Peters)
 - 3.3.3. Sun Corridor Network (SCN) (Laura Etter)
- 3.4. Arizona State Library (Holly Henley, Mala Muralidharan)
- 3.5. Telehealth (Michael Holcomb)
- 3.6. Government Affairs
 - 3.6.1. Arizona Broadband Policy Update (John Kelly, Mark Goldstein)
 - 3.6.2. Federal Broadband Policy Update (Nicole Umayam/NTIA, Mark Goldstein)

4. Information and Action Plans

- 4.1. ATIC Website & Teleconferencing (All)
 - 4.1.1. AZBSN Communications & Newsletter
- 4.2. ATIC Mailing List & CRM (All)
- 4.3. New Business and Motion Considerations (All)

5. Events Attended and Upcoming Meetings

6. Announcements

7. Adjourn



ATIC Board Meeting Minutes

January 10, 2024

Attendees:

ATIC Board Members:

Mark Goldstein, Henry Goldberg, Oris Friesen, Ron Schott, John Kelly, Kirk Busch, Corey Christians, Jerry Crow, Heather Floyd, Rob Gallegos, Mala Muralidharan (proxy for Holly Henley), Andy Phelan, Paul Ross and Nan Williams.

ATIC Associates & Guests:

Steve Peters (Coordinator, Arizona Broadband Stakeholder Network), Michelle Simon (Director, Office of Digital Inclusion, Pima County), Paul Melcher (Community & Economic Development Director, Town of Oro Valley), Shaun Story (Arizona Account Manager, Calix), Caroline Klebacha (Archaeological Compliance Specialist, State Historic Preservation Office), John Schurz (President and General Manager, Orbitel Communications), Dario Solis (Engineering Business Engagement Catalyst, ASU), Carrie Foote (Arizona Telemedicine Program, University of Arizona), John Champagne (Business Development Manager, CommNet Broadband), Tom Tardy (Owner, GingerSec Services), Michael Holcomb (Interim Director, Arizona Telemedicine Program, University of Arizona), Vanessa Figueroa (Broadband Grants Manager, Arizona Commerce Authority), Steve Johnson (Construction Manager, DC Deployed).

Quorum Met with 14 ATIC Board Members Present (Quorum = 10)

A replay of the meeting is available at
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DBnMbVqnMnc>.

Many thanks to Nan Williams and the Arizona Technology in Education Association (AzTEA, <http://aztea.org/>) for the use of their Zoom Video account for video conferencing and dial-in capabilities and to the Arizona State Library for providing additional support.

The next Board Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 14,

2024, virtually. The schedule of ATIC Board Meetings for 2024 can be found towards the end of these minutes.

1. Administrative

1.1. Self-Introductions

See the list of attendees above.

1.2. Modifications to and Acceptance of Agenda Draft

MOTION: To accept the Agenda

MOVE: Henry Goldberg

SECOND: Kirk Busch

Passed Unanimously

1.3. Acceptance of Minutes from November 8, 2023, Board Meeting

Oris Friesen writes the draft minutes, after which they are reviewed carefully by Henry Goldberg, and Mark Goldstein does a final edit of the draft minutes before issuing them to the Board as a draft for review, comment, and approval.

MOTION: To accept the Minutes

MOVE: Kirk Busch

SECOND: John Kelly

Passed Unanimously

1.4. Treasurer's Report

Ron Schott, Treasurer, circulated via email the Desert Financial Credit Union statement with account and transaction details for Board reference, which are included at the back of these Minutes. Ron reported that current funds on hand total \$8058.88. All bills have been paid. Mark has a couple of small receipts for Web hosting and domain names to submit.

Ron noted the annual Directors & Officers Insurance was paid on July 11, 2023. At the October Board meeting John Kelly had commented that ATIC might wish to consider dropping the Directors & Officers insurance since it may not be necessary for our type of organization. John stated he spoke to an insurance broker about this, and this may be an expense ATIC does need to have. John said there seems to be no risk-associated tasks that ATIC is engaged in, such as consulting, operational, or financial exposure. Henry Goldberg stated he does not feel comfortable dropping this insurance since the directors/officers are doing this work pro-bono and have no protection against any possible lawsuits, and some officers such as Mark and Henry are doing or may do consulting work in areas that relate to ATIC activities. Mark pointed out that the consulting he does is not for ATIC, and he carries his own professional liability insurance for

his consulting firm. Kirk said that if we decide to do some tasks for ACA that may change our risk status so we should probably keep it for now. Mark also noted that we may be involved in some new state broadband and digital equity projects. John explained that the insurance does not protect us against frivolous lawsuits other than if, as officers, we act in ways that are incompatible with our fiduciary responsibilities, and his firm carries liability insurance protection against lawsuits rather than Directors & Officers Insurance. He suggested that we talk to our broker about this. Mark suggested that we take a wait-and-see position, especially since the insurance is paid up through the middle of 2024 and take no action at this time.

Steve Peters did not report on the funds in the AZBSN GAZEL account at this meeting. Steve has launched a sponsorship drive to raise further funding (<https://www.arizonatele.org/funding-request-2020.html>) and needs to become more active in securing some sponsorship renewals and new sponsorships. He is speaking with Sandip Bhowmick (State Broadband Office Director) and others about obtaining funding.

Mark has noted at previous meetings that the ATIC bank balance has been drifting down, but with remote ATIC Board meetings we no longer have to pay for lunches for attendees. Mark has commented in the past that ATIC needs to pursue its own funding, which would include sponsorships. ATIC needs to initiate a financial campaign for sponsors and other sources of funding to support and undertake new projects. Mark noted that in the past ATIC has been paid to host rural broadband workshops and has pursued various projects when it had more funds.

ATIC Board Membership Considerations

Mark has yet to contact Brent Nelson of the Navajo Nation Department of Diné Education and Joy Whiting, the Apache County Superintendent of Schools, about joining the ATIC Board. Ian Hathcock committed to contact Sonia Nez , the Navajo Nation Broadband Manager, to have her consider attending ATIC Board meetings but Mark doesn't know the status of that and said he would contact Ian about this.

Two people, who have attended AZBSN meetings, have contacted Mark recently about interest in joining the ATIC Board: Tarmara Rosenberg of Resound Networks and Mignonne Hollis of the Arizona Regional Economic Development Foundation located in Sierra Vista. Mark has encouraged them to engage with ATIC and attend the February ATIC Board Meeting. He also spoke with Shaun Story of Calix Networks, who is potentially interested in becoming a sponsor of ATIC and/or AZBSN.

Mark asked Carrie Foote if she wants to be a Board Member to replace Janet Major who has retired. Carrie deferred to Mike Holcomb who said the Arizona

Telemedicine Program at the University of Arizona definitely wants to continue to be involved, and he is willing to fill Janet's position at ATIC. Mike is currently serving as Acting Director of ATP while a national search is underway for Dr. Ronald Weinstein's replacement. Mark then proposed a motion for Mike Holcomb to join the ATIC Board.

Mike spoke briefly about his background. He graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Management Information Systems in 1994 from the UofA. He was the initial architect of the Arizona Telemedicine Program (ATP) Network and has been the ATP Associate Director for Information Technology and worked closely with the founder Dr. Ronald Weinstein. The ATP network was disbanded in place of the Internet VPN in 2021. ATP continues to do research and training in telehealth, and conduct a variety of events and collaborations. Mark noted that ATIC has collaborated with the ATP on telemedicine policy for many years, co-produced a number of telemedicine summits, and that ATP hosted the June 2022 event where ATIC received the "Redefining American Healthcare Award" from the Healthcare Leadership Council.

MOTION: To nominate Mike Holcomb as a Board Member replacing Janet Major.

MOVE: Mark Goldstein

SECOND: Kirk Busch

Passed Unanimously

Kirk asked for a head shot and bio from Mike which Kirk will place on the website. Kirk also suggested that new attendees should put their contact information in the chat.

1.4.1. ATIC Broadband Provider Working Group Meeting and Next Steps

Mark had some recent discussions with Sandip Bhowmick, State Broadband Director at ACA, but there is nothing new to report. As reported previously, an outcome of the January 2022 ATIC Board meeting was to create an ATIC Broadband Provider Working Group whose function would be to provide a platform for providers to share information, meet & network, and engage on policy issues since there is no telecom service provider trade association in Arizona. The goal of this working group is to focus on addressing common issues and opportunities for the broadband service providers in Arizona. The group was launched on April 6, 2022, with a hybrid gathering hosted at Big Data Southwest's DataCenter & SmartCity IoT Infrastructure Summit

Mark has started a Slack channel populated with a list of about 160 provider representatives across about 80 companies from his spreadsheet. Mark circulated this spreadsheet to Sandip Bhowmick and Nicole Umayam for

their reference and any additions/changes.

Mark convened a second meeting of the ATIC Broadband Provider Working Group, as a part of the Big Data Southwest's DataCenter & SmartCity IoT Infrastructure Summit (#USDC23, <https://www.bigdatasw.org/>) on January 26, 2023, at the Desert Willow Conference Center in Phoenix. He has activated the Slack channel and about fifteen people have joined it, but it is not very active yet.

At a previous ATIC board meeting Mark suggested we might create parallel Slack channels for two working groups with the Broadband Providers Working Group focusing on concerns of the communications providers, as initially planned. The second group would deal with topics and issues of economic development that include localized concerns as well as those that transcend county boundaries.

Mark noted that the Slack Channel has not taken off as he had hoped and is open to taking comments on this.

1.4.2. ATIC Board Elections Follow Up

At the September 13th ATIC Board Meeting, John Kelly was elected the new ATIC Lobbyist on the ATIC Executive Committee replacing Mike Keeling, who will still remain an ATIC Board member.

1.5. Review of Outstanding Action Items as Documented in November 8, 2023, Minutes

Nothing to report

2. Informational Presentations

2.1. None were scheduled.

3. Activity Reports

Arizona Broadband Office Report (Sandip Bhowmick)

Sandip Bhowmick, State Broadband Director at the Arizona Commerce Authority (ACA) State Broadband Office, was unable to be present. Mark reported that Volume II of the Arizona BEAD Initial Proposal was submitted to NTIA in late December 2023 in addition to Volume I which had been submitted earlier. The Digital Equity Plan draft was posted on the ACA website on January 2, 2024. Comments on this will be accepted by the ACA until February 1st and can be submitted at <https://www.azcommerce.com/broadband/arizona-digital-equity-plan/>.

Steve Peters has scheduled a special AZBSN Digital Equity Plan study session on Thursday January 18, which will be a two-hour session for reviewing and commenting on the Digital Equity Plan draft.

Another item of interest is the two-day “Internet for All Broadband Summit”) jointly produced by Governor Hobbs’ Office and the ACA at the Mesa Convention Center on January 23-24. The registration is free and by each day of the event with the link at <https://www.azcommerce.com/broadband/internet-for-all-broadband-summit/>. The 1st day will be focused on broadband infrastructure topics, and the 2nd day will be primarily focused on digital equity topics.

ACA also hosts one of its monthly digital equity roundtables on January 16, registration for which is at this link: https://azcommerce.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_AI3PaHT5T8u341hDSCKs7A#/registration

The State Broadband Office at ACA has been staffing up. There are now about eight staff members listed, including broadband and digital equity program managers, a GIS specialist, and a tribal liaison, with two more staff to be hired in the near future.

With respect to the BEAD activity, there will be a pre-challenge period starting in January to prepare for the 30-day challenge period in the March time frame. Mark gave a brief explanation of the challenge process. The state will issue a list of household addresses that are classified as served, unserved, and underserved, regarding broadband capabilities, using a state broadband map based on the FCC national map. There are two types of challenges possible. Service providers can challenge addresses that are declared unserved or underserved to say they are served, and thus not eligible for BEAD grants. Alternatively, communities or other entities may challenge locations that are declared served to say they are unserved or underserved, and thus eligible for BEAD funding.

Mark said the pre-challenge period is for entities to analyze the list of addresses. They can then challenge them if necessary during the 30-day challenge window. There is also an issue of how the State Broadband Office will handle enforceable commitments for providing service where service providers say they intend to serve an area and should not be eligible for BEAD funding. Corey Christians commented on Altice defaulting on an ARPA grant in Yavapai County, and they had to cancel the agreement and issue another RFP which was awarded to Sparklight and Wecom but did not end up serving the entire area of the original agreement.

Mark stated he anticipates some of the \$993 million in Arizona BEAD grant funding to be awarded in late 2024, but most of the money will likely not be awarded until 2025. There will be a variety of geographical project areas that

service providers will bid on, and the proposals will be scored by the State Broadband Office as specified in the BEAD Volume II Initial Proposal. Fiber solutions will be favored, but if they are too costly, alternative solutions will be allowed, with lower points in the scoring in decreasing order for licensed fixed wireless, unlicensed fixed wireless, and satellite solutions.

Mark also noted there will be funding in the millions of dollars allocated by NTIA for the State Digital Equity Program. Mala Muralidharan commented that the Arizona State Library will be providing feedback on the State Digital Equity Plan draft.

Community Anchor Institutions (CAIs) can be included for BEAD infrastructure funding but at a lower priority than the unserved and underserved households. CAIs include any community focused site that offers education training. The State Broadband Office has put in significant efforts to identify all the CAIs in the state beyond schools and libraries, such as boys & girls clubs and senior centers. Mark added that if fiber is deployed to a community it will be deployed along laterals (streets) that typically pass CAIs, so that fiber would only need to be provided for the last hundred feet to reach a CAI which could be funded by the service provider as a good business prospect if not funded by BEAD.

Kirk Busch asked if the CAI category would include senior living institutions. Mark said they would probably be considered multi-dwelling units on the state map, but might be treated as a healthcare CAI. They would have a higher priority rating if recognized as unserved/underserved households, rather than a CAI for the purposes of BEAD funding. Mark said this is a question for Sandip at the Broadband Office. This led to a lengthy discussion about whom to call to improve the broadband capabilities of a given senior living center to see if it is listed as an unserved, underserved or served entity. Providing an appropriate level of broadband service to a senior living facility may be an affordability issue for the facility owner rather than an issue of broadband infrastructure availability to the facility. Mala noted that this is closely related to the need to renew the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) internet funding. Kirk also noted there are digital literacy and online safety issues that need to be addressed at senior centers.

3.1.1. Broadband Grants, Rural Community Outreach & Projects

John Champagne spoke about the \$11 million CommNet ACA ABDG grant to build FTTP in Apache County. The award covers the non-tribal area of Apache County. The plan is to physically start laying fiber to the homes and businesses in May at St. Johns, Eagar and Springerville. There are some smaller areas that will be covered as well, such as Concho, Vernon, Alpine, and Greer. There is fiber to the schools and libraries in these areas previously funded under E-rate special construction funding, and CommNet is also building middle-mile fiber for the county. They connect with Sparklight

in Pinetop for backhaul to the Internet long-haul network, and are working with John Lucas of Community Broadband Advocates to evaluate an alternative backhaul route for redundancy. Tom Tardy manages IT for the City of St. Johns (the County Seat).

3.1.2. Digital Equity Initiatives & Opportunities

The content for this section is included above in Section 3.1.

3.1.3. ACA Broadband Strategy & ATIC Role/Support

The content for this section is included above in Section 3.1.

3.2. Arizona Broadband Stakeholder Network (Steve Peters)

3.2.1. Steve Peters, Coordinator of the AZBSN Digital Access Task Force, said the bill for extended funding of the ACP has been introduced in Congress today so we hope it will pass. If extended ACP funding does not pass then other options will need to be considered because it would severely impact broadband access for low-income rural residents. The FCC is addressing potential strategies in the event ACP is not funded.

AZBSN held a Study Session on the BEAD Volume II Initial Proposal draft on November 27th. Vanessa Figueroa commented that questions on the BEAD Initial Proposal should go to Perla Lopez of the State Broadband Office or Nicole Umayam, the NTIA Federal Program Officer for BEAD and Digital Equity in Arizona.

Steve has arranged a study session for January 18 to comment on the Digital Equity Plan draft. Steve and Mark urged all to attend on January 18th and be prepared with questions.

Steve reported that the State Broadband Office staff have been providing regular updates on State Broadband Office activities at AZBSN Task Force meetings. Sandip Bhowmik has told Steve he would like AZBSN to help with their outreach. For the next couple of months, the AZBSN focus will be on the BEAD and Digital Equity Plans. Steve is beginning to develop an AZBSN plan for 2024 to support State Broadband Office plans and initiatives.

As noted in a previous meeting, Steve continues to work on organizing an AZBSN Cybersecurity and Cyber Safety team to provide recommendations for the state planning on this important topic. This team will be led by JT LaGrand, Jon Haass (Embry Riddle University), and Mala Muralidharan, and there are about a dozen participants on the team. Steve expects this team will convene meetings soon.

Several broadband providers have approached Steve about becoming an AZBSN sponsor. Steve will be looking at how broadband providers support digital inclusion and cyber safety.

At a previous meeting John Kelly commented that the AZBSN Task Force and State Broadband Office success with BEAD and Digital Equity will depend on effective engagement/coordination with local entities such as the League of Cities & Towns and the County Supervisors Association, who often lack information on relevant broadband/digital inclusion activities. Steve replied that these organizations are participating in the Governor's Interagency and Community Broadband Advisory Council. Steve stated that there should be simple clear summaries (e.g., executive summaries) of State Broadband Office plans and Governor's Broadband Advisory Council outputs for such organizations and will discuss this with the Governor's Office and AZBSN.

PJ Way commented that there is not a steady stream of communication out of the Governor's Broadband Advisory Council, and this must be addressed. For example, PJ has been asked about permitting, which is a complex process that involves various entities (e.g., cities, counties, tribes, forest service, railroads), and he also mentioned he will be submitting locations that are not served (where service is planned but not committed) to the State BEAD Challenge Process. PJ suggested ATIC/AZBSN could help with improving the Governor's Broadband Advisory Council communications. Steve added that there are recordings of the meetings of the Governor's Broadband Advisory Council and its six working groups (infrastructure and permitting; mapping; digital inclusion; affordability; workforce; outreach). Mark stated there is a broad audience that needs to be informed with simple, distilled, action-oriented communications.

3.2.1.1. Updates to AZBSN Task Force Report (11/20)

Steve said at a previous meeting that Karen Ziegler and John Kelly had been unable to get traction on the proposed project. So there has been no progress on working on an update to the November 2020 AZBSN Digital Access Strategy Report and there is nothing new to report.

3.2.2. AZBSN Leadership Group & New Initiatives

Steve said at a previous meeting he will report on these topics after an updated plan has been issued.

Mark urged Steve to initiate some action on re-constituting the AZBSN Leadership Team and involve some additional people to assist in making this happen so the full load is not carried only by Steve. Steve agreed.

3.2.3. Return to Outreach Activities with Newsletters & Webinars

No new action to report in this area.

3.3. Technology in Education/eLearning

3.3.1. Arizona Technology in Education Association (AzTEA) (Nan Williams)

Nan Williams serves as Executive Director of AzTEA (<https://aztea.org/>) and sits on the EDTechCommittee for the Arizona Department of Education (ADE) which is rewriting the Educational Technology standards this year. She is also participating in the ADE Technology Task Force on the Digital Learning Subcommittee and she is part of the ISTE policy group on digital equity access. She has also been working with the Arizona Rural Schools Association and their Final Mile Project (<https://www.finalmileproject.com/>).

Since AzTEA is now a CoSN affiliate, AzTEA is holding monthly chats with CIOs and CTOs of school districts to assist them in becoming certified educational technology leaders.

3.3.2. Greater Arizona Educational Leadership (GAZEL) (Steve Peters)

The GAZEL Board hasn't met since early 2022 and needs reactivation and refreshing to further operationalize GAZEL. The Board still needs to acquire Directors & Officers (D&O) insurance for good governance and proper protections.

Work to produce a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between GAZEL and ATIC on the AZBSN has been on hold and a determination should be made about whether this is still necessary and if so, how to accomplish it. Mark stated that GAZEL needs to be reinvigorated including its interaction with ATIC on the AZBSN Digital Access Task Force.

3.3.3. Sun Corridor Network (SCN) (Laura Etter)

Laura Etter, Deputy Director of the Sun Corridor Network (SCN), was unable to attend and thus there was no report.

3.4. Arizona State Library (Holly Henley, Mala Muralidharan)

Holly Henley, the State Librarian for Arizona, and Mala Muralidharan, E-rate Administrator for Public Libraries at the Arizona State Library, report on E-rate and Arizona State Library activities.

Mala said the libraries are well represented in the Digital Equity Plan

Mala reported that E-rate bidding process for the July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025 year has started. The filing window opens on January 17, and the last date to submit Form 470 to put out an RFP is February 28. The application window stays open until March 27th. E-rate brings to Arizona \$85 - \$90 million to cover Internet service costs and upgrading internal connections for schools and libraries each year

As mentioned above, a bill for \$6 billion in extended funding for ACP to continue through December 2024 has been introduced in Congress. Continuation of ACP is extremely important to support the education and telemedicine needs of low-income households, and many FCC grants already given for ACP outreach will also be affected. About 1700 ISPs offer ACP to their customers. This is really important to be approved. If the bill does not pass then an orderly shutdown of ACP will be initiated by the FCC. An open letter in support of ACP has been sent to Congress.

The FCC Learning Without Limits program proposal for Wi-Fi on school buses has been approved for eligibility under the E-rate program. The FCC has said that if used for educational purposes it can be placed on the E-rate eligibility list, but it is not clear how that would be enforced.

Cybersecurity is another component of the FCC Learning Without Limits program. The FCC's Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) seeking comments on a three-year, \$200 million cybersecurity pilot program for schools and libraries was published in the Federal Register. The publication of the NPRM establishes an initial comment deadline of January 29, 2024, with reply comments due February 27, 2024. The NPRM can be viewed in the Federal Register here. :<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2023/12/29/2023-27811/schools-and-libraries-cybersecurity-pilot-program>.

For more details, see the State Library Report below, submitted by Mala.

ATIC Board Meeting January 10, 2024, State Library Report

E-RATE :

1. E-rate Bidding process for FY 2024-5 is open now
2. **Funding Year (FY) 2024 FCC Form 471 Filing Window Opens January 17, 2024**
3. The Funding Year (FY) 2024 FCC Form 471 application **filing window will open on Wednesday, January 17, 2024**, at noon ET and **will close on Wednesday, March 27, 2024**, at 11:59 p.m. ET. In addition, the E-Rate Productivity Center (EPC) Administrative Window will close, Friday, January 12, 2024.
4. **Wednesday, February 28, 2024 is the last date that you can submit and certify an FCC Form 470 and still wait the required minimum 28-day period** before submitting and

certifying your FCC Form 471 by March 27, 2024, the last date of the FY2024 application filing window.

5. **Applicants need to update your E-Rate Productivity Center (EPC) profiles now** All applicants can now review their profiles and make any additional updates for changes that occurred after USAC's review of their Funding Year (FY) 2023 FCC Forms 471. As in the past, the EPC administrative window to update profiles will close – and the applicant profiles will be **locked** – on **January 12, 2024** before the FY2024 application filing window opens January 17, 2024. View the EPC Administrative Window [webinar slides](#) to learn more.
6. **Funding Year (FY) 2024 Eligible Services List Released December 15**
7. **The FCC Wireline Communications Bureau (WCB) released the Funding Year (FY) 2024 Eligible Services List (ESL) on December 15, 2023.** You can review the 2024 ESL on the [Eligible Services List page](#) to learn which services are eligible for E-Rate discounts for the upcoming funding year.
8. Milan and I will help all applicants through the process as needed.
Milan.eaton@azed.gov
Mala@azlibrary.gov

E-rate reimburses nearly \$ 85 M in recurring internet costs for Schools and Libraries

ACP : <https://www.fcc.gov/document/future-affordable-connectivity-program>

\$14.2 billion dollars for the ACP, the largest broadband affordability program in our Nation's history. This program now helps nearly 23 million households nationwide—in rural America, urban America, and everything in between—get online and stay online so that they have the high-speed internet service they need to fully participate in modern life Jessica Rosenworcel's FCC's chair [recent letter](#) to Congress hopefully will capitalize on this momentum over the next few weeks. Cannot ignore the popularity and importance of this critical program. [DOC-399614A1.pdf \(fcc.gov\)](#)

CONSEQUENCES of losing ACP If Congress does not provide additional funding for the ACP in the near future, millions of households will lose the ACP benefit that they use to afford internet service.

- This also means that roughly 1,700 internet service providers will be affected by the termination of the ACP and may cut off service to households no longer supported by the program. Some of the households enhance the offerings by increased bandwidths; Internet is a vital communication channel for teacher to parents, for Telemedicine, for business, banking, job applications, working from home, - all of which will be affected if the ACP goes away....
- Moreover, as the Administrator of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration previously informed Congress, losing the ACP would undermine the historic \$42.5 billion Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program, for which the ACP supports a stable customer base to help incentivize deployment in rural areas.

- The fact that the projected end date is less than four months away, the Commission expects to begin taking steps this week to start orderly wind-down procedures to give participating providers, households and other stakeholders sufficient time to prepare for the projected end of the ACP.
 - First An orderly shut down or transition - the Commission will offer ACP providers guidance on the timing and requirements for notifying participating households about the projected end of the ACP. To avoid consumer confusion and minimize the risk of consumer bill shock, providers must give consumers specific, frequent notice about the projected end of the program and their ACP discount, and how that will impact their internet bill.
 - Second, the Commission will announce a date for stopping the enrollment of new households in the ACP. While this step will preclude additional households from benefiting from this important program, it is necessary to slow the depletion of the remaining funding and reduce volatility in the program. This step will also stabilize the number of households affected by the end of the ACP and reduce consumer confusion. Ending ACP enrollments will also mean that the more than **240 outreach grant** awardees across the country will need to wind down their grant-funded ACP outreach.
 - Third, the Commission will formally determine the projected end date for the program. After this date is determined, the Commission will provide notice about the remaining time for the ACP and other information to facilitate the end of the program. In summary, the ACP is in jeopardy and, absent additional funding, we could lose the significant progress this program has made towards closing the digital divide. Yet we have come too far with the ACP to turn back. Accordingly, the Commission stands ready to assist Congress with any efforts to fully fund the ACP into the future.

Later today, Congresswoman Yvette D. Clarke, along with Congressman Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA), will finally introduce the ACP Extension Act

They were able to secure not only bipartisan support on the hill but the support of over **400 organizations** representing industry (ISPs and trade groups alike), state/local/tribal governments, public interest groups, and community-based organizations.

FCC PRIORITIES : Learn Without Limits :

1. W-Fi on school buses
2. Cybersecurity
3. Hot Spot lending from schools and Libraries through e-rate

Wi-Fi on school buses : The Commission adopted , the Declaratory Ruling: WC Docket No. 13-184

- Clarifying that use the use of Wi-Fi, or other similar **access point technologies**, on school buses is an educational purpose and the provision of such service is therefore **eligible for E-Rate funding**.
- Directs the Bureau to issue a supplemental funding year 2024 Eligible Services List Public Notice **seeking comment on the specific services and equipment that should be funded for this purpose**, and on the costs associated with funding these services through the E-Rate program.

The benefits will reach of the E-Rate program to ensure that the millions of students caught in the Homework Gap, and travel long distances to and from school, can more fully engage in their learning.

Bidding Guidance for School Bus Wi-Fi: On December 22, 2023, USAC provided guidance to applicants seeking bids for school bus Wi-Fi services and equipment. USAC states that “due to system settings,” the EPC system will require the **upload of an RFP document** when creating a bus Wi-Fi 470 as described above. Applicants are encouraged to include “the **number of buses being outfitted**” in the description, and are “strongly **encouraged to provide geographic location/route** information of the buses along with the service requirements for the bus route(s).”

USAC indicated that detailed instructions for preparing Form 471 applications for bus Wi-Fi will be provided at a later date, but provided the following suggestions:

Submit a separate FCC Form 471 for Wireless School Bus Services.

- ***Submit a separate funding request for each contract or vendor for these services.***
- ***Use “School Bus Wi-Fi” or similar name as the FCC Form 471 nickname.***
- ***List all schools as recipients of service that will be served by the buses.***
- ***Clearly explain the number of buses on the request in the FRN Narrative.***

Details at : <https://apps.usac.org/sl/tools/news-briefs/preview.aspx?id=1080>

Cybersecurity :

On December 29, 2023, the Federal Communications Commission’s Notice of Proposed Rulemaking seeking comments on a three year, \$200 million cybersecurity pilot program for schools and libraries was published in the Federal Register. The publication of the NPRM establishes an initial comment deadline of January 29, 2024, with reply comments due February 27, 2024.

The NPRM can be viewed in the Federal Register here.

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2023/12/29/2023-27811/schools-and-libraries-cybersecurity-pilot-program>

Cybersecurity Comments Due January 29

HotSpot Lending from Libraries and Schools through E-rate Emergency Connectivity Fund. This \$7.17 billion fund was designed to make sure that libraries and schools could connect patrons and students at home, with funding for devices and connectivity. To date, the program has helped over 17 million students get connected to their schools and teachers. **Awaiting Details.**

End of Library Report

3.5. Telehealth (Mike Holcomb)

Janet Major, former Associate Director for Innovation and Digital Health, Arizona Telemedicine Program and Southwest Telehealth Resource Center (<https://telemedicine.arizona.edu/>), has retired.

In her place Mike Holcomb, Interim Director of the Arizona Telemedicine Program (ATP) and newly elected to ATIC's Board, reported on telehealth activities. The Arizona Telemedicine Council is meeting on January 17. See <https://telemedicine.arizona.edu/about-us/atc>. The agenda includes the following topics: Summit Healthcare, Tuba City Regional Health Care Corporation, AI in Telehealth, ATP 2023 Year-in-Review, and ATP Updates.

On January 18 ATP is hosting a webinar on grant writing titled "Stand Out from the Rest: Untangling Telehealth, Broadband, and Digital Equity to Give Your Grant a Competitive Edge." The link for registration is <https://telemedicine.arizona.edu>. Mike is also looking forward to the Internet for All Arizona Broadband Summit on January 23 at which he will be speaking on a telehealth and digital health navigation panel including representatives of the Digital Equity Institute.

The tribal broadband connectivity program application window closes on January 23. For details see Tribal Broadband NOFO 2 at <https://www.internetforall.gov/program/tribal-broadband-connectivity-program/notice-funding-opportunity-2>.

Steve noted that the above links are also in the AZBSN notes.

3.6. Government Affairs

3.6.1. Arizona Broadband Policy Update (John Kelly, Mark Goldstein)

John Kelly reviewed some of Governor Hobbs' main themes in her State of the State address, such as securing the border, water management, and

healthcare facility licensing, and the fact that manufacturing is now the : #1 employer in the state. More details are available at this link: <https://triadvocates.com/article/triadvocates-navigator-january-8-2024>. The Governor highlighted the importance of getting broadband to everyone that needs it in the state, which is the first time John can recall this has been done in a State of the State Address in a number of years.

John noted that the Arizona Commerce Authority (ACA) is one of the strategic state agencies along with ADOA and ADOT that is up for periodic consideration of its continuation this legislative session. The Auditor General did a performance audit report on the ACA that tracked how well its incentives are working and its recruitment activities and expenditures. The business community has traditionally been a strong supporter of the ACA for its promotion of semiconductor manufacturing and workforce development. The continuation of ACA is of major importance since ACA is managing the CHIPS Act implementation, the new State Broadband Office and other matters of relevance to ATIC and its members.

John explained that the Senate Government Committee chaired by Senator Jake Hoffman has jurisdiction over whether the ACA will continue operating. Importantly, Senator Hoffman has separately introduced bill SB1044 to repeal the ACA, so clearly the ACA is at risk of being eliminated. Kirk Busch stated ACA was established as a public-private partnership to engage effectively with industry on economic development for the state. John commented that he does not think the ACA is likely to be discontinued, but rather this is more about political maneuvering relative to other issues the Governor must approve. Ron Schott said the Arizona Technology Council) is strongly in favor of the ACA:, noting that 17 of its 20 board members are from industry and it has been responsible for various important economic development initiatives.

In response to a reminder from Henry Goldberg, John replied that as the ATIC lobbyist he still plans to prepare a letter to the Legislature on the importance of the State Broadband Office and related ACA activities including relevant input from Steve Peters representing the AZBSN Task Force.

John reported that he will provide weekly updates (beginning January 12th) to select ATIC officers and board members on bills and activities at the state legislature. The ACA bill is one bill that directly impacts ATIC. Other relevant bills that may be introduced may address telehealth, education technology, and artificial intelligence.

Mark stated that he would still like to keep on the horizon ATIC doing a “Broadband 101 for Lawmakers” event as discussed at previous ATIC meetings. John noted that the rural caucus of the State Legislature would be

a good audience for this, and Representative Tim Dunn from Yuma could be a sponsor. Kirk Busch stated this would be similar to a past Solar 101 he did, so he will start moving this forward, including arranging a location for this at the State Capitol such as the Capitol Museum. Steve Peters added the League of Cities & Towns and the County Supervisors Association should be informed about this event.

3.6.2. Federal Broadband Policy Update (Nicole Umayam/NTIA, Mark Goldstein)

Nicole Umayam is the Arizona Broadband Liaison Federal Program Officer (FPO), for the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA). As such she serves as the interface for the state of Arizona to the NTIA at the national level, supporting the State Broadband Office on the BEAD and Digital Equity Programs. Nicole has shared with NTIA key activities in Arizona such as those of the Arizona State Library and the ADE Final Mile Project.

Nicole was not present at today's meeting and there was no federal broadband policy update provided.

4. Information and Action Plans

4.1. ATIC Website & Teleconferencing (All)

As noted previously by Mark and Steve, the ATIC website is aging a bit so this is an opportunity to clean it up and restructure it. The website is shared with AZBSN. Steve Peters had commented that there could be transcripts of ATIC Board meetings (as they do for AZBSN task force meetings) in combination with the recordings of the meetings and will discuss this with Oris and Mark. Responding to Henry Goldberg's request to update the ATIC website at the October 11th Board Meeting, Kirk Busch reported that he updated the website to show John Kelly as the ATIC Lobbyist, moved Mike Keeling to the ATIC Board members section, and added PJ Way to the Board members section. Kirk stated that he still has to add the bios that were previously on the website for many ATIC Board members as attached pdfs by now using links to an external webpage for improved security. Kirk will send an e-mail to these ATIC Board members to send him updated bios as either a pdf or a link to their LinkedIn profile.

The website needs to be leveraged to publicize the Digital Access Task Force Report recommendations as well as using it for communications and public engagement, such as newsletters. Kirk noted that he will continue to promote ATIC/AZBSN on LinkedIn and elsewhere.)

4.1.1. AZBSN Communications & Newsletter

Mark at a previous meeting suggested that we should think about how to leverage some of the information sessions from the Monday morning AZBSN-COVID Digital Access Task Force meetings.

There remains a continuing need for volunteers to work
(1) on regular maintenance of the Weebly ATIC website and
(2) on providing a regular newsletter about all that's going on in the broadband world.

4.2. ATIC Mailing List & CRM (All)

Steve is discussing with Mark and Kirk Busch subscribing to a CRM/E-mail management service to meet the needs of the AZBSN Task Force.

4.3. New Business and Motion Considerations (All)

ATIC vs. AZBSN Roles and AZBSN Governance.

At a previous meeting Mark reminded everyone of the issue raised by Janet recently concerning AZBSN governance and oversight. Since Janet has retired this item has been removed from the minutes.

Also at a previous meeting Mark added that we did start to develop a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in 2020 and the Executive Committee held several meetings on this topic. One of the decisions that was made was to let the finances of AZBSN operate under the management of GAZEL. However, the GAZEL Board has not met for some time and is not effectively acting in an operational capacity. Kirk Busch asked about the state of the draft MOU and Mark said he would send him a copy.

5. Events Attended and Upcoming Meetings

Kirk stated that the Arizona Technology Council STEMfest will be held on January 20th.

6. Announcements

7. Adjourn

At 2:05 pm

Upcoming ATIC Board Meetings

Upcoming ATIC Board Meetings for 2024 are scheduled for the second Wednesdays of the month (except August and December) from 12:00-2:00 p.m. and will be held fully virtually until further notice. Board Meetings are open for all to participate. Please plan to join us.

- **February 14, 2024 from 12:00-2:00 pm**
- **March 13, 2024 from 12:00-2:00 pm**
- **April 10, 2024 from 12:00-2:00 pm**
- **May 8, 2024 from 12:00-2:00 pm**
- **June 12, 2024 from 12:00-2:00 pm**
- **July 10, 2024 from 12:00-2:00 pm**
- **No Board Meeting in August (Summer Break)**
- **September 11, 2024 from 12:00-2:00 pm**
- **October 9, 2024 from 12:00-2:00 pm**
- **November 13, 2024 from 12:00-2:00 pm**
- **No Board Meeting in December (Happy Holidays!)**

ATIC Special and Public Meetings

AZBSN COVID-19 Digital Access Task Force continues to hold meetings every Monday afternoon (except holidays) at 3:00 p.m. See the Planning page at <https://www.arizonatele.org/covid19-planning.html> for details.

Also see Task Force information and related resources at <https://www.arizonatele.org/covid19-about.html>.

Future AZBSN newsletter, webinars, and roundtables are under development.



Get Started



Easy, safe and secure — make your debit card No. 1

Dashboard

Accounts

Checking

\$485.49

ATIC 434041

****04081-0400

▲ \$485.49
\$485.49

Savings

\$7,573.39

ATIC 073206

****04081-0000

▲ \$7,573.39
\$7,598.39

⊙ Pending Transaction * Available Balance

Important Information

There are no recent news articles.

Quick Links

Credit Card Login

Investments (Raymond James)

Mortgage Loans (MLOS)

Identity Secure

Mobile App 101

Link External Accounts



Get Started

Last 15 days

⊙ Logged in 1 time

Next 15 days

Desert Financial Credit Union

Arizona Telecommunications And Information
 ATIC 434041 *****04081-0400

Transaction History

Statement Period: All Dates	Date of Statement: 01/09/2024
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Pending Transactions (1)

Pending transactions may not be the final amount that posts to account.

DATE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
01/10/24	CENTURYLINK AUTO PAY AZ TELCOM INFO COUNCIL	-\$26.01

Posted Transactions (77)

DATE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	BALANCE
12/12/23	CENTURYLINK AUTO PAY AZ TELCOM INFO COUNCIL	-\$26.27	\$485.49
11/10/23	CENTURYLINK AUTO PAY AZ TELCOM INFO COUNCIL	-\$26.27	\$511.76
10/11/23	CENTURYLINK AUTO PAY AZ TELCOM INFO COUNCIL	-\$26.61	\$538.03
09/12/23	CENTURYLINK AUTO PAY AZ TELCOM INFO COUNCIL	-\$26.85	\$564.64
08/10/23	CENTURYLINK AUTO PAY AZ TELCOM INFO COUNCIL	-\$26.49	\$591.49
07/11/23	DRAFT #2226 TRACER 53197395	-\$933.00	\$617.98
07/11/23	CENTURYLINK AUTO PAY AZ TELCOM INFO COUNCIL	-\$26.37	\$1,550.98
06/27/23	ARIZONA TECHNOLOGY 8699 WWW.AZTECHCOU AZ IGOQJBJX	-\$400.00	\$1,577.35
06/20/23	ONLINE BANKING TRANSFER FROM 0000	\$1,000.00	\$1,977.35
06/12/23	CENTURYLINK AUTO PAY AZ TELCOM INFO COUNCIL	-\$26.75	\$977.35
06/05/23	DRAFT #2225 TRACER 52470921	-\$10.00	\$1,004.10
05/19/23	DRAFT #2224 TRACER 52175931	-\$500.00	\$1,014.10
05/12/23	ONLINE BANKING TRANSFER FROM 0000	\$1,000.00	\$1,514.10
05/12/23	CENTURYLINK AUTO PAY AZ TELCOM INFO COUNCIL	-\$26.37	\$514.10