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ATIC Board Agenda for Wednesday, September 13, 2023

1. Administrative

- 1.1. Self-Introductions
- 1.2. Modifications to and Acceptance of Agenda Draft
- 1.3. Acceptance of Minutes from July 12, 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 July 12, 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 (Janet Major)
- 3.6. Government Affairs
 - 3.6.1. Arizona Broadband Policy Update (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

September 13, 2023

Attendees:

ATIC Board Members:

Mark Goldstein, Henry Goldberg, Oris Friesen, Ron Schott, John Kelly, Sandip Bhowmick, Kirk Busch, Corey Christians, Michael Cohen, Jerry Crow, Heather Floyd, Rob Gallegos, Ian Hathcock, Holly Henley, Janet Major, Andy Phelan, Paul Ross and Manny Villa.

ATIC Associates & Guests:

Steve Peters (AZBSN Task Force and GAZEL Coordinator), Erin Lorandos (Digital Inclusion Library Consultant, Arizona State Library), Mala Muralidharan (E-rate Administrator, Arizona State Library), Andy Ridley (Workforce Program Manager, Arizona Career Readiness Credential Program, Arizona Office of Economic Opportunity), EJ John (Senior Research Analyst, American Indian Policy Institute, ASU), Debra Dupée (Private Citizen), John LaGrand, (User Advocate for Broadband & Technology), Nicole Umayam (Federal Program Officer for Arizona Broadband & Digital Equity, NTIA), Lawrie Prickett (Government Funding Specialist, Smith Bagley Inc.), Andy Tobin (President, Tobin Business Solutions LLC), Tom Del Giorno (Consultant, TeleWeb Marketing), David Shipley (Outside Sales, Valley Telecom Group), Mark Scanland (Outside Sales, Graybar Electric).

Quorum Met with 18 ATIC Board Members Present (Quorum = 9)

A replay of the meeting is available at <https://youtu.be/EXamdUPqs7E>

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, October 11, 2023, virtually. The schedule of ATIC Board Meetings for the rest of 2023 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: Kirk Busch
SECOND: Heather Floyd
Passed Unanimously

1.3. Acceptance of Minutes from July 12, 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: Heather Floyd
SECOND: Andy Phelan
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 \$8,135.49. Ron noted the annual Directors & Officers Insurance was paid previously, and he was later contacted to answer some questions for the insurance company audit of the insurance policy. The ATIC annual membership in the Arizona Technology Council had also been paid previously.

Steve Peters reported that there is still no money remaining in the AZBSN GAZEL account, and that he had not been paid his salary for a number of months. The last contribution AZBSN received was a while back from Karen Ziegler Consulting Services. 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 noted 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.

1.5. ATIC Board Membership Considerations

See Section 1.5.2 on the election of John Kelly for the position of ATIC Lobbyist on the ATIC Board Executive Committee to replace Mike Keeling, who will remain on the ATIC Board.

Mark has reached out and is waiting to hear from Brent Nelson of the Navajo Nation Department of Diné Education and Joy Whiting, the Apache County Superintendent of Schools about joining the ATIC Board. ATIC is looking to have additional tribal representation on our Board. Ian Hathcock stated he would contact Sonia Nez, the Navajo Nation Broadband Manager, to have her consider attending ATIC Board meetings, and Mark agreed that would be a good idea.

1.5.1. ATIC Broadband Provider Working Group Meeting and Next Steps

Mark had some discussions with Sandip Bhowmick, 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: The Broadband Providers Working Group (mentioned above) will focus 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.

1.5.2. ATIC Board Elections Follow Up

At a previous meeting, since Michael Keeling is leaving the post of Lobbyist, Kirk Busch asked if John Kelly would be interested in fulfilling that position. John asked for a list of duties the position entails. Mark outlined what Mike Keeling had done at the legislature, especially in the area of telehealth and said the role would evolve to meet current ATIC interests such as work on broadband-related bills and noting the requirement of filing the lobbyist forms annually. John noted that his firm TriAdvocates does lobbying work and tracks legislature activities, and it has as current clients Verizon Wireless and WANRack, so he would have to be careful about declaring conflicts-of-interest if he were the ATIC Lobbyist. John said he would consider this with his TriAdvocates associates and get back to the ATIC Board later about it.

Mark said John Kelly is very well-qualified since he was also in the past Governor Symington's Telecom Policy Officer and the first CIO of the State. At today's meeting, John stated he has cleared it with his TriAdvocates partners, and he is available to become the ATIC Lobbyist.

MOTION: To elect John Kelly as the ATIC Lobbyist on the ATIC Executive Committee.

MOVE: Mark Goldstein

SECOND: Kirk Busch

Passed Unanimously

John noted that he has been involved with ATIC and Arizona broadband issues for many years. TriAdvocates would provide ATIC with a periodic legislative report including Bill tracking. He commented that everyone wants to be successful in Arizona's implementation of the BEAD and Digital Equity funding. Steve Peters commented that there are Universal Service Fund (USF) and Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) federal funding issues that ATIC could possibly take a position on or encourage the Governor's office to do so. John responded that Mala Muralidharan and Nicole Umayam

follow and provide insights on federal issues, and that a key priority could be to educate new people at the State Legislature about broadband issues. Kirk Busch noted that in the early days of solar energy with Governor Brewer, his organization hosted an “Energy 101” for state lawmakers, and ATIC could do an analogous “Broadband 101” now for state legislators. Andy Tobin commented that such a workshop/briefing for state legislators would be useful.

1.6. Nothing to report

2. Informational Presentations

2.1. None were scheduled.

3. Activity Reports

3.1. Arizona Broadband Office Report (Sandip Bhowmick)

Sandip Bhowmick, State Broadband Director at the Arizona Commerce Authority (ACA) State Broadband Office, gave a thorough account of the State Broadband Office current and past activities at the June 14 ATIC Board meeting, which Henry Goldberg wrote up in detail. At this meeting, Sandip provided an update on the State Broadband Office BEAD Planning and Digital Equity Planning processes.

On September 22, the State Broadband Office published the BEAD Five-Year Action Plan, which is posted on the ACA website (<https://www.azcommerce.com/broadband/arizona-broadband-equity-access-deployment-program/>). This plan outlines the State Broadband Office capacity, types of funding they have, and the high-level planning objectives on how they will deploy the approximately \$1 billion BEAD funding they have. There is no public comment period required for the Five-Year Action Plan, but the State Broadband Office is taking feedback on it and invites ATIC feedback. In March or April 2024, they will re-publish this Five-Year Action Plan incorporating the feedback.

The next NTIA BEAD milestone is for the State Broadband Office to deliver the BEAD Initial Proposal that is due by December 27, 2023. This Initial Proposal will consist of two volumes - Volume 1 and Volume 2.

Volume 1 describes the challenge processes on the unserved/underserved locations in the state. Last year, the State Broadband Office submitted to the federal government approximately 60,000 unserved/underserved Arizona addresses that were missing from the FCC National Broadband Map and these were approved for inclusion. The next step is for Arizona to conduct a State Challenge Process where communities/stakeholders can submit other locations

that are currently marked as served but they say are not served. Volume 1 lays out how the State Challenge Process will be conducted. The State Challenge Process will occur in March or April 2024. There are two priorities for the State Challenge Process: 1) connecting the unserved and underserved households with high-speed broadband; and if funds are left over 2) connecting the Community Anchor Institutions (CAIs) with at least 1 Gbps symmetrical service. NTIA defines what CAIs are, which includes schools, libraries, higher-education institutions, workforce development facilities, and state/county/local/federal government buildings. The Governor's Office is also thinking about adding correctional facilities as CAIs. The State Broadband Office is requesting communities and other stakeholders to submit CAIs to be included in the State Broadband Office overall list of the CAIs in the state. The State Broadband Office will be using a financial model to determine how far they can take the state's \$1 billion BEAD funding in providing the required broadband services to the unserved/underserved households and CAIs. There will not be additional NTIA BEAD funding if the state adds more of such locations.

Volume 2 has various deliverable requirements, such as the sub-grantee selection process, workforce development plan, climate assessment, labor laws, and how Arizona will implement the overall needs from NTIA guidelines.

The State Broadband Office wants to publish Volume 1 by the end of September or early October. This will be kept open for public comments for 1 month or more, in particular hoping to receive missing CAIs data which will be needed for funding allocation determination. Volume 2 will be published on October 30th, which will then be open for public comment for the whole month of November. The overall Initial Proposal (Volumes 1 and 2) will be submitted to NTIA for review by December 27, 2023. Nicole Umayam commented that NTIA is looking forward to reviewing Arizona's Initial Proposal.

Steve Peters stated he has had discussions with Sandip and Karen Ziegler about holding two sessions for the AZBSN participants to provide feedback on the BEAD Plan documents - the first session would have Sandip provide an overview of what is in the documents, and the second session would be for AZBSN participants to provide feedback. Sandip responded that they want to present the BEAD planning documents to different stakeholder groups, and he would be happy to present this to AZBSN and explain the type of feedback they are looking for.

Sandip noted that the State Digital Equity Plan should be published by the end of this year for public comment. The tentative plan is to have the Digital Equity Plan submitted to NTIA by the end of December or early January 2024, based on an extension they have applied for to NTIA. The Digital Equity Plan is being produced by its contractor the Digital Equity Institute (DEI), whose President is Erin Carr-Jordan (an ATIC Board Member). Sandip stated the DEI went through a massive engagement process of listening sessions across the state over the

past few months. The whole plan is driven by their data capture from this process. DEI has started delivering pieces of the report to ACA and whole draft report is due soon for ACA review. The DEI is taking a deep look at census-based data (at the census-block level), including access, telehealth, and workforce development data. This is intended to ensure the Digital Equity Capacity Grant funding is well-spent to cover digital equity focus areas. DEI is also helping ACA create a sub-grantee selection process when the Capacity Grant is allocated to the state. The Digital Equity Plan will be posted for public comment, and will take as much feedback as possible in various formats - automated voice systems, feedback forms, e-mails, and paper copies in libraries available for hard copy feedback. Mark commented that the Arizona Digital Inclusion Celebration Summit will be hosted by the DEI and ShapingEDU on October 3rd.

Steve Peters asked about the Governor's new Broadband Advisory Council. Sandip responded that Governor Hobbs announced a new Interagency and Community Broadband Advisory Council, which held its first meeting on September 11th. This Council will include directors from various state agencies, such as ACA, Arizona Office of Economic Opportunity, Arizona Dept. of Transportation, Arizona Dept. of Administration, Sun Corridor Network, community colleges, as well as an industry representative. The Broadband Advisory Council will have a number of working groups covering areas such as infrastructure & permitting, mapping, digital inclusion, affordability, workforce. The State Broadband Office will have monthly meetings with the Broadband Advisory Council to get support/mentorship. Sandip will provide an update on this Broadband Advisory Council as he gets more information.

Mala Muralidharan asked about measuring long-term outcomes from the BEAD plan beyond connectivity and affordability, such as: how will this help someone get an education or a job, improving technology skills, and staying safe online. She suggested the libraries could distribute surveys to the communities on these things. Sandip responded that the BEAD process is heavily defined by NTIA, and NTIA is really organized in providing templates, resources, meetings. BEAD is concentrated on how Arizona will use its funding for broadband infrastructure deployment. The long-term outcomes Mala is inquiring are important and will be addressed in the Digital Equity planning done along with BEAD, and will involve continuous engagement with communities. Such issues will be incorporated in the Digital Equity Plan, and there may be application for grants to capture data and answer these questions through the digital equity planning process

3.1.1. Broadband Grants, Rural Community Outreach & Projects

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

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. AZBSN Digital Access Task Force Updates

Steve Peters reported that the AZBSN Digital Access Task Force Meetings are now held on Thursdays at 8:00 am. Meeting attendance has been somewhat lower than in the past, but he is looking to increase attendance as a number of new people have contacted him about attending.

Steve has been having conversations with Sandip Bhowmick about holding AZBSN workshops to discuss and give feedback on the State Broadband Office BEAD and Digital Equity Plan documents that are released for public comment.

Steve is working 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 he shared a list of experts who have committed to participate on this team. Steve will share with this team past work on an Arizona cybersecurity alliance he had done in 2003

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

Steve said at a previous meeting that Karen Ziegler has not been available due to health and family issues and John Kelly is very busy during the legislative season. So there has been no progress on working on an update to the November 2020 AZBSN Digital Access Strategy Report.

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 the 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 EDTech Committee 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/>). Nan was absent and there was no report.

AzTEA Fall 2023 Conference, Opening Digital Doors will be held on Saturday, October 28, 2023 from 8:00 AM-3:00 PM at Pendergast Learning Center (Phoenix Area). This event is intended to empower attendees to learn about a topic (tech tool and/or strategy for best practice in technology integration) and design a plan to apply their new learning in their own classroom/school the very next day! Sessions will be led by teachers, coaches, and administrators who are using these tools with their students or in their work. Cost is \$35 for members and \$50 for non-members (includes membership). More details and registration at <http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07ejxfc57f379250f8&llr=nh997tjab> FYI.

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.

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, Mala Muralidharan, E-rate Administrator for Public Libraries at the Arizona State Library, and Erin Lorandos, Digital Inclusion Library Consultant, reported on E-rate and Arizona State Library activities. Holly indicated she is participating in work on BEAD and Digital Equity, as well as with the Governor's new Broadband Advisory Council.

Erin Lorandos reported that she is working with Mala on telehealth in libraries events. She will be attending an event in Tuba City next week, and a Navajo County Library ACP outreach event on September 26th. Erin is also providing resources to libraries for Digital Inclusion Week in early October.

Mala reported on E-rate activities. On September 12th, a new draft of eligible services was released: cybersecurity is still not on this list, software needed for Category 1 equipment is eligible but associated consulting fees are not eligible, and if a library is occupying a shared building it must do a cost allocation for its portion of the networking costs. Comments on this eligible services list are due by October 12th.

Anna Gomez was confirmed on September 7th as an FCC Commissioner, so now all 5 FCC Commissioner seats are filled. There are two commissioners that have to be re-nominated after December. Anna Gomez is likely to re-open discussions on: net neutrality, E-rate Wi-Fi on school buses, E-rate ECF hotspots, and E-rate cybersecurity (there is a proposed \$200 million pilot program for K-12 schools and libraries). Mala has been talking to Mark Kelly of Fortinet (met through AZBSN) about providing free cybersecurity training for libraries staff, and it looks like that has been approved.

The biggest crisis right now is the very existence of the Universal Service Fund (USF), which is in jeopardy. No-one in Congress is talking about the USF funding, and the FCC seems paralyzed on it. The USF funds four important programs: E-rate programs for schools and libraries, the high-cost program for funding telecom service providers to serve customers in rural areas, the Lifeline program (telephone and Internet for low-income households at \$9.25 per month), and the rural healthcare program that subsidizes the cost of Internet for eligible healthcare providers. Some conservative activists are posing constitutional challenges against the USF. There is also the issue of USF contributions reform from the current system where telephone landline providers must contribute all the funding (36% of their revenues now go towards this). SHLB has been advocating for USF reform to have a broader base of contributors, and Mark emphasized that the current funding system is unsustainable. Senator Lujan of New Mexico has expressed concern about these USF issues. Steve Peters commented that the USF is critical for E-rate, and Mala responded that Arizona schools and libraries get over \$100 million annually to support their Internet services at current speeds.

There is also concern about the continuation of the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) funding. Current ACP funds are expected to run out by March 2024 with the success in enrolling a large number of households so far. There is nothing happening yet in Congress to renew the ACP funding. Governor Hobbs sent a letter to Arizona Senators Sinema and Kelly supporting the extension of the ACP. The BEAD funding will support broadband infrastructure buildouts, but broadband adoption by low-income households is heavily dependent on the ACP. Mark commented that he has heard there is consideration of allocating a portion of FCC Spectrum auction revenues (generating on the order of \$50 - \$60 billion) towards the ACP program. Heather Floyd commented that Senator Sinema is actively working on gaining support for ACP from Republican senators.

Pima County has received an NTIA grant for an open-access 134-mile fiber ring around the Tucson area. They are also working on the tools and resources for the community to successfully participate in the digital society. .

Andy Sinclair of the Arizona Dept. of Economic Security has posted a cybersecurity grant available, with an October 6th application deadline, for state and local governments to manage and reduce cyber risks.

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

ATIC Board Meeting September 13, 2023, State Library Report

E-RATE

- **FY2024 Draft Eligible Services List Released**

Yesterday September 12, 2023, the Federal Communications Commission issued a Public Notice seeking comment on its proposed Eligible Services List (ESL) for Funding Year 2024. The draft FY2024 ESL proposes two “minor revisions” to the list in the form of clarifications.

First, the draft ESL “clarifies that the **software necessary to operate or maintain Category One network equipment is eligible.**” Second, the draft “clarifies that **consulting fees not related to the installation and configuration of eligible components are ineligible.**” Finally, the Commission made “a minor edit to clarify that **off-campus use even if used for educational purposes is generally ineligible, and must be cost-allocated**” from E-rate funding requests. Apart from the clarifications regarding software for Category One equipment and consulting fees, the Commission did not propose adding or removing any products or services from the Eligible Services List.

FCC NEWS

- **ANNA GOMEZ’s confirmation as the 5th Commissioner**

On September 7, 2023, the United States Senate voted 55-43 to confirm the nomination of Anna Gomez to the Federal Communications Commission. The confirmation of Gomez fills all five Commissioner seats for the first time since President Joe Biden took office, and her term will run through 2026.

Now that Anna Gomez has been confirmed by the US Senate to give the Democrats a 3-2 majority, here are some items we expect to start moving forward.

One cautionary note: The Democrats' majority could be short-lived. The Senate must reconfirm Democratic Commissioner Starks' re-nomination by Jan. 3, 2024 or he will have to leave, and the FCC will revert to a 2-2 split.

1. Net Neutrality: The FCC is likely to re-open a controversial proceeding to re-assert regulatory authority over broadband as a Title II "telecommunications service." This proceeding could take a year or so. (SHLB has not taken a position on this issue)

2. E-rate School Bus Wifi: The FCC is likely to vote 3-2 to allow E-rate to support Wifi on school buses. This proposal has been pending for a year and is a favorite of Senator Lujan (D-NM) (SHLB supports this initiative.)

3. E-rate Hot spots: Chair Rosenworcel has proposed making hot spots eligible for E-rate support (basically incorporating the ECF program into E-rate). This has faced Republican opposition, but having a third Democrat vote may allow the FCC to move this forward. But the cost of this program still must be addressed. (SHLB supports.)

4. Cybersecurity: The FCC Chair has proposed a 3-year trial of cybersecurity funding within the USF (but outside of E-rate). \$200 million pilot program to support cybersecurity for K-12 schools and public libraries. If adopted, the proposal would open a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking to seek comment on how a pilot program should be structured "to support cybersecurity and advanced firewall-related services for eligible K-12 schools and libraries." Notably, the proposal seeks to "establish the pilot program within the Universal Service Fund, but separate from the E-Rate program, to ensure gains in enhanced cybersecurity don't come at a cost of undermining E-Rate's success in promoting digital equity."

In dialog with **Mark Kelly, Fortinet** - on Training for Libraries on cyber safety.

5. USF: Now it faces the biggest crisis of its existence, and Congress appears paralyzed in the effort to fix it. Unfortunately, we do not expect the FCC to address this, despite the urgency. The fund, paid for with a surcharge on phone bills, could be America's most important tool going forward to fix the so-called digital divide. Current USF funds (managed by USAC) support **The E-Rate Program:** This program helps tens of thousands of **schools and libraries** buy connectivity services and equipment.

The High Cost Program: This program, which counts various projects among its efforts including the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund, helps subsidize broadband deployment and operating costs for **telecom companies seeking to serve customers in rural parts** of the United States.

The Lifeline Program: This subsidy, which dates to the Reagan era and has evolved over the decades, aids several million **low-income households** with a monthly **benefit of \$9.25 for phone or internet services.**

The Rural Health Care Program: These subsidies flow to help subsidize the costs of internet connectivity for **eligible healthcare providers like hospitals and community health centers**, with the goal of benefiting consumers in remote parts of the country.

- Conservative activists claim it's an **unconstitutional tax**. Many observers think at least one of the cases has a chance of convincing some judges to kill the fund. There are also appeals pending in 5th and 6th circuit courts although the 11th circuit ruled against the appeal.
- The **USF contribution factor** is expected to increase to 36% next quarter, the highest level ever. (SHLB supports assessing broadband internet access service.).

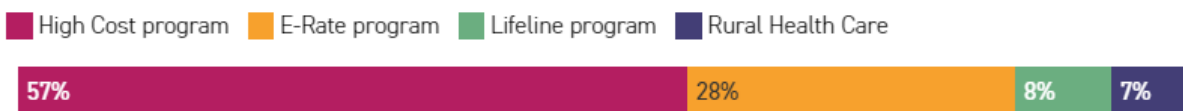
SHLB did report on **USF Contribution reform** <https://www.shlb.org/policy/research/USForward>
Sen. Luján has voiced concerns about the fund's long-term financial stability, as well as alarm about the legal challenges facing it.

[USF Politico Article https://www.politico.com/news/2023/08/21/universal-service-fund-broadband-00110255](https://www.politico.com/news/2023/08/21/universal-service-fund-broadband-00110255)

One more cautionary note: It will take Anna Gomez some time to staff up her office. She also plans to retain her position to lead the US Delegation to the International World Radio Conference in November. So it may take some time for her to develop her positions on the issues above. Commensense media has an entire advocacy team working on the USF and ACP issues.

Most Universal Service Fund money goes into the High Cost Program

Share of USF 2022 disbursement for authorized support programs



Total disbursement for authorized support programs in 2022 was \$7.4 billion.

Source: [Universal Service Administrative Co.](#)

Catherine Kim/POLITICO

ACP Affordable Connectivity Program: Governor Katie Hobbs sent a letter ton Aug 17th to Senator Kelly and Sen Sinema to support the extension of ACP. Currently at the rate at which it is being adopted it will expire by March 2024 and there is no talks at the white House or Congress on an extension Gov Hobbs mentioned that the the State is getting ready to deploy almost 1 B in BEAD funding and this program will help in the adoption and sustenance.

Pima Broadband Grant The U.S. Commerce Department announced that Pima County will receive a \$30.3 million grant to expand high-speed internet infrastructure and increase internet access for residents in unserved or underserved areas.

The five-year grant from the National Telecommunications Information Administration (NTIA) will fund the creation of a 134-mile open access fiber ring around the county. The open-access network can be made available to any viable carrier at a reasonable price to build the necessary infrastructure to connect unserved or underserved areas of the county. All Pima County community members will have equitable access to affordable and reliable high speed broadband internet, tools, and resources needed to successfully participate in our democratic society. [Pima County : Connect Pima \(civilspace.io\)](http://civilspace.io)

State and Local Cybersecurity Grant - Andy Sinclair DES

Grant Purpose: The Department of Homeland Security seeks to support state, local, and territorial governments with managing and reducing systemic cyber risks through its [State and Local Cybersecurity Grant](#). Applicants are required to focus on addressing the following program objectives:

- Understand their current cybersecurity posture and areas for improvement based on continuous testing, evaluation, and structured assessments.
- Implement security protections commensurate with risk.
- Ensure organization personnel are appropriately trained in cybersecurity.

Eligibility: Government entities. **Application:**


Click to [Apply](#) **Deadline:** 10/06/2023. Please share this DHS [State and Local Cybersecurity Grant](#) with your government officials networks.

TELEHEALTH

Tuba City Health Day is on Sept 20th 2023. The plan is to and test the Health Kit and zoom with a Health Service Provider. We also plan on providing ACP information and sign people up for ACP.


The event will be held at the Tube City Public Library where there is adequate Broadband and a room to have a private session with a doctor or nurse.

This is the 3rd site that this project is being extended to. The first two sites were in Pima County Ajo and Arivaca Libraries. Pima County, in partnership with the American Heart Association has supplied all its branch libraries with Stethoscopes.



health connect
AT YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY


**Tuba City Library
Health Fair**



**Thursday, September 21st
1:00-5:00 pm**

See a demonstration of health equipment available at the library, connect with local resources, and more!

Tuba City Library
78 Main Street,
Tuba City, Arizona 86045



This project is supported by the Arizona State Library, Archives & Public Records, a division of the Secretary of State, with federal funds from the Institute of Museum and Library Services.
Este programa cuenta con el apoyo de la Biblioteca Estatal de Arizona, Archivos y Registros Públicos, una división de la Secretaría de Estado, con fondos federales del Instituto de Servicios de Museos y Bibliotecas.

End of Library Report

3.5. Telehealth (Janet Major)

Janet Major, Associate Director for Innovation and Digital Health, Arizona Telemedicine Program and Southwest Telehealth Resource Center (<https://telemedicine.arizona.edu/>), is the lead for the Arizona Telehealth Broadband Action Team (BAT).

There is now available a national (including Arizona and Nevada) mapping platform to telehealth access points. It allows the user to search for the type of telehealth service they are looking for in a particular geographical location.

The telehealth in libraries program is proceeding with the 3rd site in Tuba City on the Navajo Nation, after the earlier pilots at the Ajo & Arivaca libraries. Nurses from the University of Arizona and NAU will be doing health screenings at the Tuba City event next week, and they hope the Lions Club will also be there again to do vision screenings. They will also do ACP enrollments there.

There are various upcoming telehealth events. The Arizona Dept. of Health Services in collaboration with Vitalist is holding an “Equity for All Arizonans” town hall on September 28th. The 2nd annual Arizona Telehealth Policy Summit will be held in Phoenix on October 24th: state legislators will participate, Ted Heath and the AHCCCS Assistant Director for Public Policy and Strategic Planning will be on Janet’s panel, discussing billing codes for community health workers to assist staff in using telehealth technology (which is important for the implementation of telehealth in libraries). The Arizona Diabetes Council will hold the 1st Tribal Diabetes and Health Equity Summit (for the 22 tribes in Arizona) at the We-Ko-Pa Casino Resort in Fort McDowell, where Holly Figueroa (President of the Arizona Rural Health Association) will be a keynote speaker.

3.6. Government Affairs

3.6.1. Arizona Broadband Policy Update (Mark Goldstein)

John Kelly stated that broadband and its associated uses remains one of the most bipartisan topics at the state legislature, and ATIC should explain the utility of telehealth and digital education to them. State agencies are required to submit their budget requests by September 1st, and there are nominations for directors of agencies. John will inform ATIC of anything relevant for us in that. Mark asked about the \$5 million approved for E-rate, and John responded that this has been allocated to Milan Eaton’s ADE program for leveraging additional funds for fiber buildouts at schools and libraries.

Mark discussed the \$23.6 million that the State government has approved for BEAD program matching funds. This will help communities and ISPs meet the 25% matching requirement for BEAD grants. This has so far been allocated as county flowthroughs, which will need to be further considered

by the legislature. Nicole Umayam commented that various entities beyond counties are eligible for the BEAD grants and project on tribal lands may also request waiving the matching requirements, so there will be a number of considerations for states on matching funds.

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.

Mark noted there is significant pushback on the BEAD Letters-of-Credit requirement that is difficult to obtain for small ISPs and non-traditional ISPs. SHLB and others have been lobbying for that to be modified, such as having performance bonds to guarantee projects. Nicole responded that NTIA has been encouraging comments on the letters-of-credit requirement, but it is still in place and is the same as adopted by the FCC to secure network deployments.

Nicole reported that the “Build America, Buy America Act” requirement for BEAD grants is open for comments to NTIA by September 21st. Mark commented the Build America, Buy America provisions for the NTIA middle-mile program were waived for electronic products like routers and switches, but were still in place for fiber products. The BEAD program preliminary waiver also requires Build America, Buy America of fiber optic cable and optical fiber products, with domestic manufacturers having or setting up facilities to supply these.

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 also 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.

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.

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 is not present today this will be moved to the October meeting agenda. Henry mentioned that Janet was concerned about the definition of roles for ATIC as opposed to AZBSN. For ease of reference, below is a copy (in blue text) of Janet's concerns as documented at the June 2022 meeting:

Janet would like to discuss the future role of ATIC. Janet feels AZBSN is subordinate to ATIC but that ATIC "has been 'lost' in the shuffle - and that all expertise is not 'owned' by AZBSN. Does ATIC still want to be an authority and resource for the general public? Does AZBSN want to be an affiliate of ATIC? Or continue the outreach work of ATIC as telecom experts under the name of AZBSN?" Cybersecurity is one of the five pillars of digital equity on which AZBSN is focusing. Should ATIC also deal with cybersecurity? Kirk suggested that maybe we need to define the roles more specifically but it is important to build on the established AZBSN brand to avoid confusion. Mark agreed with Janet and Kirk that we should consider better defining the ATIC roles, and ATIC is creating a new broadband provider working group. Mark noted that AZBSN is a partnership of ATIC and GAZEL, but GAZEL no longer has an active Board. Steve noted that digital equity, including cybersecurity, will be a key mission for AZBSN. Mark commented that ATIC may partner with ACA on rural outreach and with the Arizona Telemedicine Program on telehealth events in the future.

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

Mark and Kirk Busch noted the upcoming Arizona Technology Council Smart Cities and IoT Conference on September 19th, which Kirk organizes. At this conference, Mark will have a fireside chat with Sandip Bhowmick on the Arizona BEAD \$1 billion grants opportunity, which will be recorded. ATIC Board members and AZBSN participants received a discounted price to attend.

6. Announcements

7. Adjourn

At 1:50 pm

Upcoming ATIC Board Meetings

Upcoming ATIC Board Meetings for 2023 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.

- **October 11, 2023 from 12:00-2:00 pm**
- **November 8, 2023 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.



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\$564.64

ATIC 434041

****04061-0400

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\$564.64

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ATIC 073206

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▲ \$7,570.85

\$7,595.85

▲ Available Balance

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June 27, 2023

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June 27, 2023

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|-------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|------------|
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| AUG 10 2023 | CENTURYLINK AUTO PAY AZ TELCOM INFO COUNCIL Cable & Satellite | -\$26.49 | \$591.49 |
| JUL 11 2023 | DRAFT #2226 TRACER 53197395  | -\$933.00 | \$617.98 |
| JUL 11 2023 | CENTURYLINK AUTO PAY AZ TELCOM INFO COUNCIL Cable & Satellite | -\$26.37 | \$1,550.98 |
| JUN 27 2023 | ARIZONA TECHNOLOGY 8699 WWW.AZTECHCOU AZ IGOQJ9JX Online Services | -\$400.00 | \$1,577.35 |
| JUN 20 2023 | ONLINE BANKING TRANSFER FROM 0000 Credit Card Payments | \$1,000.00 | \$1,977.35 |
| JUN 12 2023 | CENTURYLINK AUTO PAY AZ TELCOM INFO COUNCIL Cable & Satellite | -\$26.75 | \$977.35 |
| JUN 5 2023 | DRAFT #2225 TRACER 52470921  | -\$10.00 | \$1,004.10 |