Interagency and Community Broadband Advisory Council
Workforce Working Group
AGENDA

Date:	4/24/24
Time:	2:00-3:30PM
Location:	*Virtual:* *https://azcommerce.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJYpc-mtqj8tG9QPhODXH3P4GH9cmObRdxYT*

- **New business**
  - Digital Equity Capacity Grant Notice Of Funding Opportunity Announced
    - $16M for Arizona to meet goals determined by the State Digital Equity Plan
- **March meeting follow up**
  - Fiber Association report: https://fiberbroadband.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Broadband-Workforce-Development-Guidebook-FBA-and-Cartesian-April-2023.pdf
  - Cybersecurity and cybersafety and digital inclusion: https://www.commonsense.org/education/articles/23-great-lesson-plans-for-internet-safety
  - Digital Navigator provider coordination summit?
  - Permitting workforce presentation additional thoughts
- **Joint Competitive Application**
  - Steve Peters: anchor institutions, investments in sustainable programs
  - Peter Costa: remote work opportunities, what are the skill sets needed
    - Digital navigator program for those that need to be trained for infrastructure
    - Industry partnering with digital navigators
  - Alli Bone: need to pick workforce infrastructure versus digital navigators
  - Susan Anable: splicers and technician high-demand
    - Partnerships and leveraging existing program
  - Michelle Simon: DE dollars should be used for DE (train the trainer, toolkits, etc.) over workforce infrastructure dollars
  - Steve Peters: training and tech assistance to schools to training
  - Rene Guillen: workforce (1. DE – navigators, 2. Broadband industry workforce development, 3. Workforce – CSR, using digital access that comes as a part of BEAD)
    - Chart with sectors of funding eligible

- Sustainability, ROW permit staff high demand in urban AZ, BEAD demand will shift to rural, what happens next?
- ECJ: process of workforce digital navigation can be short, what happens next – a trajectory of skill building
- Reetika: few suggestions: Fiber Optic Technician Certification, Wireless Networking Certifications, Network Security Certifications, Broadband Infrastructure Design and Management Certifications, Cloud Computing and Virtualization Certifications, Data Analytics and Network Optimization Certifications Regulatory and Compliance Certifications
    - 5G and future workforce need and cyber security
- Michelle Simon: Flow of individual engagement:
    - Digital Equity Funding: Learning digital skills with in-person assistance, connecting to wraparound services
        - Many counties do not have community colleges, how do they leverage work such as CAC fiber splicing program
    - Local Funding/AZDES: enrollment in local One Stop, testing/job preparedness training
    - BEAD funding: connecting to opportunities for education/apprenticeship/internship
    - All Funding Streams: financial support for tuition/needed tools
- Peter: who are the people who are on the ground in those locations
- Maggie: focus application on specific geographic areas?
    - Ex: VR sets at areas with libraries that don't have community colleges
- **May meeting ask**
    - Workforce Presentation Lighting Rounds
        - 3-5 minute presentations for Workforce Working Group members to present on what they are working on currently
- **Workforce and Digital Equity Plan alignment**
    - Goal 3, Objective 3: ensure workforce opportunities for people within the covered populations[1] to prepare for jobs created by the BEAD program
    - Goal: by 2026, aim to have 25% of higher education institutions and organizations in Arizona providing access to training opportunities for covered populations, in the telecommunications industry
    - Implementation strategies:

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[1] Digital equity covered populations: low-income households, aging individuals, incarcerated individuals, veterans, individuals with disabilities, individuals with a language barrier (English learners and low level of literacy), individuals who are members of a racial or ethnic minority group, individuals who reside in a rural area

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KATIE HOBBS

- Conduct a gap analysis of higher education institutions currently providing training opportunities to covered populations
- Support institutions of higher education, state agencies, and organizations to implement training
- Provide workforce development opportunities to individuals who will play a vital role in the implementation of the BEAD program
- Increase awareness of workforce development opportunities with target outreach to covered populations
- Coordinate with Arizona@Work and BuildItAZ Apprenticeship initiative
- Coordinate with local workforce boards and the Workforce Arizona Council, established under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)