

June 2, 2017

Dear Provider,

We would like to invite you to attend an informational session regarding the State of Arizona's latest efforts to develop a statewide broadband deployment strategy. Central to this project is a strong public-private partnership.

Governor Ducey noted in his 2017 State of the State address that "too many students, specifically in our rural areas, and in our tribal nations are missing out" on having access to high-speed internet. To address this challenge, the Governor, along with the Arizona Corporation Commission and others, created the Arizona Broadband for Education Initiative (ABEI), which uses state matching funds to leverage a higher amount of federal support to construct high-speed broadband to schools and libraries across the state. Approximately \$100 million in state and federal funding is available to build better broadband infrastructure, and nearly all of this buildout will likely be handled by the private sector.

This program does not stop at the school house door. Once high-speed broadband is brought to an "anchor institution," like a school or library, most of the capital intensive costs will have already been covered by state and federal funding. The marginal cost of extending broadband service to a nearby hospital, governmental center, or business hub might be very low.

Bigger picture: ABEI will ultimately connect not just schools, but also communities, counties, and ultimately the state.

We know this vision is not as easy as it sounds. It demands significant amounts of coordination and cooperation, time and money. It requires us to have the capacity to answer a herculean question: What is the state of broadband in Arizona?

We are finding that our data is woefully inadequate and in need of a critical update. We have tried to answer this question in the past by collecting information on utility corridors and coverage and aligning that data with critical infrastructure needs through an online database.

An update is necessary to further advance public-private partnerships. We will discuss our purpose and answer any technical/logistical questions you might have. The event will start at 2:30pm PM, June 29, 2017 at the ASU Sky Song Synergy 1 and 2 Conference Room located at 1365 N Scottsdale Rd., Building 3, Level 1, Scottsdale, AZ 85257. Attached is a property overview of the location where the meeting will be held.

If your organization is interested in attending this event, please RSVP by **Friday, June 16, 2017** to GFR@azdoa.gov. Due to space constraints, please limit your RSVP to two participants.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Regards,

Andy Tobin

Commissioner, Arizona Corporation
Commission

Craig Brown

Director, Arizona Department of
Administration

