



# AnchorNETS

**Bridging the digital divide  
one anchor institution at a time**

OCTOBER 10–12, 2023  
CRYSTAL CITY, VA



## WELCOME

Dear SHLB Conference Attendees,

Thank you for attending the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual SHLB Conference – AnchorNets! This year’s program is our biggest and best ever. Our program includes a dozen federal broadband policymakers from NTIA, FCC, Treasury, the Office of Science and Technology Policy, and the Rural Utility Service. We scan the broadband landscape to cover issues like pole attachments, ACP funding, open access, E-rate, Rural Health Care, spectrum policy, digital opportunity, and the future of the Universal Service Fund.

As usual, we look at the broadband world with an eye on the needs of schools, libraries, healthcare providers and other community anchor institutions. Anchors are the pillars of successful communities. They bring people together, providing access to technology and digital skills training that allow people to find jobs, finish degrees, and flourish in the digital future.

Due to SHLB’s advocacy efforts, anchor institutions are embedded in the most critical federal broadband programs – BEAD, ReConnect and Capital Projects Fund. And for good reason: Anchors can be key strategic partners for states and broadband providers. Anchor institutions know the needs of the community, they often have fiber infrastructure that can be leveraged to provide back-haul, they can help extend affordable wireless service to low-income homes by deploying new wireless 5G networks (“to and through!”), and they promote broadband education and adoption.

It is now our job to follow through on the promises of these programs. The AnchorNets conference will help all stakeholders realize the dream of affordable broadband for all.



**John Windhausen, Jr.**  
Executive Director

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Windhausen, Jr." in a cursive style.



**Cindy Aden**  
SHLB Board Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cindy Aden" in a cursive style.

P.S. Don’t forget that SHLB is a membership organization, and membership dues are our primary means of financial support. If you agree with our mission, please consider joining or recommending membership to your friends and colleagues. Visit [www.shlb.org/membership/overview](http://www.shlb.org/membership/overview).



### Become a SHLB member today!

The SHLB Coalition is a mission-driven, public interest organization that advocates for policies and programs that enable anchor institutions to obtain and promote open, secure, high-quality broadband services to support connectivity and opportunity for all. SHLB works with a diverse coalition of member organizations from across the broadband ecosystem to advance its mission. Your membership supports this work and gives your organization a seat at the table where it can help shape SHLB’s advocacy and programs.

**To learn more visit [www.shlb.org/membership/overview/](http://www.shlb.org/membership/overview/).**

## SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

### Tuesday, October 10

12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Salons J/K	Insights Track Lunch (Invitation Only)
1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Salons A/B	Digital Equity and Inclusion Showcase
1:00 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.	Salons J/K	Insights Track
4:15 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.	Salons C–E	Conversation with Jordan Arnold, White House staff
4:45 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.	Salons F–H	Speed Networking
5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.	Skyview	Tuesday Reception
6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.	Salons J/K	Insights Track Dinner (Invitation Only)

### Wednesday, October 11

7:30 a.m. – 8:15 a.m.	Foyer	BREAKFAST
8:15 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.	Salons B/C/H/J	Keynote Speakers: Louis Riggs, Missouri State Representative and Danae Wilson – Assistant Director for Internet Access, White House Office of Science and Technology Policy
9:45 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	Salon K	Session: Will Congress Confront the ACP Connectivity Cliff?
9:45 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	Salon A	Session: Simplifying E-rate: Impact on Tribal and Small Schools and Libraries
9:45 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	Salons H/J	Session: How Successful is the Tribal Broadband Program?
9:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.	Salons D/E	RHC Workshop: Healthcare Networks and Cybersecurity and USAC Q&A
11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.	Salon A	Session: No Going Back: The End of ECF and What's Next for E-rate?
11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.	Salon K	Session: How Can States and Anchors Prepare for Digital Equity Act Funding?
11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.	Salons F/G	Session: How Will Middle Mile Grants Solve the Digital Divide?
12:15 p.m. – 12:45 p.m.	Salons B/C/H/J	LUNCH
12:45 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.	Salons B/C/H/J	Keynote Speakers: Monique Tate – Co-Director, Community Tech NY and Neil Mylet – Chairman, MyletX
1:45 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Salons D/E	Broadband Innovations Showcase
1:45 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.	Salon A	Session: From Pilot to Progress: How Can the FCC Answer the Call for Cybersecurity Funding?
1:45 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.	Salon K	Session: Two Worlds Collide: Healthcare and Broadband Working Together in a Post-COVID Era
1:45 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.	Salons F/G	Session: How are ReConnect and CPF Meeting the Mission?
3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Salon K	Session: Is RHC Poised for a Bigger and Better Future?
3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Salon A	Session: Open Access and Innovative Broadband Deployment Models
3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Salons F/G	Session: Advancing Digital Equity Through Higher Ed Partnerships
4:15 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Alexandria	Birds of a Feather
4:15 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Salons B/C/H/J	SHLB Member Meeting (Members Only)
5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.	Skyview	Wednesday Reception
6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.	Pentagon	SHLB Board Dinner (Board Members Only)

### Thursday, October 12

8:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.	Foyer	Breakfast
8:30 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.	Salons B/C/H/J	Keynote Speaker: Joey Wender, Director, Capital Projects Fund
9:30 a.m. – 10:45 p.m.	Salon A	Session: How the BEAD and Connecting Minority Communities Programs will Address the Needs of CAIs
9:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.	Salon K	Session: The Role of Wireless Networks in Closing the Digital Divide
9:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.	Salons F/G	Session: Laying the Groundwork for Broadband: How to Handle Poles and Permits
11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Salon A	Session: From Issues to Solutions: A Look Inside State BEAD Plans
11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Salons K	Session: Creating a Technology Neutral Spectrum Policy
11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Salon F/G	Session: Chaos and Compromise: Reforming USF and Resolving the Contribution Crisis
12:00 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.	Salons B/C/H/J	Lunch: Closing Panel – Congressional Staff

## Insights Track Lunch

12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. | Salons J/K

Invitation-only lunch for Insights Track attendees.

## Insights Track

1:00 p.m. – 3:45 p.m. | Salons J/K

Engage these experts on broadband policy and politics in an interesting conversation about the politics of solving the digital divide.

### Moderator:



**Cindy Aden**  
Chair  
SHLB Coalition

### Speakers:

1:00 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.



**Teresa Ferguson**  
Sr. Director, Broadband and Infrastructure  
Funding, National Rural Telecommunications  
Cooperative (NRTC)

2:00 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.



**Angela Siefer**  
Executive Director,  
National Digital Inclusion Alliance

3:00 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.



**Ansley Erdel**  
Managing Partner  
Salt Point Strategies, LLC



**Gerald Leverich**  
Vice President,  
Salt Point Strategies



## Insights Track Dinner (invitation only)

6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. | Salons J/K

Invitation-only dinner for Insights Track attendees.

# Digital Equity and Inclusion Showcase

1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. | Salons A/B

The Digital Equity and Inclusion Showcase is a series of 15-minute presentations featuring initiatives, projects, and partnerships designed to advance equity and inclusion in communities.

1:00 p.m. - Powerful New School District Digital Equity Dashboard

1:15 p.m. - #OaklandUndivided: A Model for Post-Pandemic Digital Equity

1:30 p.m. - Achieving Digital Equity through Public-Private Partnerships in East Moline School District (IL)

1:45 p.m. - A Model to Address Digital Inclusion Barriers in Rural, Urban and Tribal Communities

2:00 p.m. - No Mind Left Behind – Affording Equitable Access to Behavioral Health Services

2:15 p.m. - Digital Opportunities Compass: Metrics to Guide Broadband and Digital Equity Policy

**Refreshment Break - 2:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

3:00 p.m. - Western Governors University (WGU): Lessons Learned from the Online Access Scholarship

3:15 p.m. - The Washington State Libraries LibTech Initiative for Small and Rural Libraries

3:30 p.m. - Public Libraries Expanding Access and Equity

3:45 p.m. - Library Innovations for Digitally Resilient Communities

## Moderators:

Rosie Connor – Director of Education and Economic Inclusion, Western Governors University

Lauren Moore – Librarian, New York State Library

## Speakers:

Lauren Abner – Technology Consultant, Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives

Al Brown – CEO, SmartWAVE

Dianne Connery – Director, Pottsboro Library (TX)

Rosie Connor – Director of Education and Economic Inclusion, Western Governors University

Pierrette Dagg – Director of Technology Impact Research, Merit Network

Addison Davis – Former Superintendent, Hillsborough County Schools

Emily Galbreath – Senior Manager, Scholarships Strategy, Western Governors University

Shamichael Hallman – Director of Civic Health and Economic Opportunity, Urban Libraries Council

Cody Hanson – IT Strategist, Washington State Library

Dr. Kyla Johnson – Trammell, Superintendent, Oakland Unified School District

Keith Krueger – CEO, CoSN – the Consortium for School Networking

Colin Rhinesmith – Founder and Director, Metropolitan New York Library Council (METRO)

Michael Wallace – Assistant Director of Operations, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences e-Link

Martin Maize – Senior Project Manager, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences e-Link

Vicky Yuki – Senior Programs Manager, NDIA

## Conversation

4:15 p.m. – 4:45 p.m. | Salons C-E

Jordan Arnold – Policy Advisor, White House Infrastructure Implementation Team

## Speed Networking

4:45 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. | Salons F-H

Meet new colleagues in friendly 5-minute conversations. Refreshments will be provided.



## Tuesday Reception

5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. | Skyview

Wind down from a busy day with a drink and some good conversation.



## Breakfast

7:30 a.m. – 8:15 a.m. | Foyer

Enjoy a continental breakfast before an action-packed Day 2!



## Keynote Speakers



**Louis Riggs – State Representative, Missouri House of Representatives**

Representative Louis Riggs (R) represents District 5 in the Missouri House of Representatives. He was elected in 2018. He has served as Chair of the Interim Committee on Broadband Development, Chair of the Special Committee on Broadband Development, and the Chair of the Committee on Workforce and Infrastructure Development. He is Vice Chair of the Subcommittee on Appropriations, General Administration, former Vice Chair of the Committee on Economic Development, former Chair of the House Republican Policy Development Caucus, former Chair of the House Republican Rural Caucus, and serves on the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules and the Joint Committee on Rural Development. In addition to his legislative duties, Riggs has served as a college professor since 2008 and is an attorney in private practice since 1990. *Please visit our conference website to learn more about Louis Riggs.*



8:15 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. | Salons B/C/H/J

**Danae Wilson – Assistant Director for Internet Access, White House Office of Science and Technology Policy**

Danae Wilson works to bring technology services to regions and communities where service does not exist or is extremely limited. She is the assistant director for Internet access at the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy. Wilson previously served as the telecom and technology co-chair for the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, the Native Nations Communication Task Force Committee co-chair for the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), a member of the FCC Intergovernmental Affairs Committee, a member of the Native Public Media Advisory Board, a member of the State of Idaho Broadband Task Force, and the National Congress of American Indians' representative to the FirstNet Authority tribal working group and SAFECOM.

**Networking Break - 9:30 a.m. to 9:45 a.m.**

## Breakout Sessions

9:45 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. | Salon K

### Will Congress Confront the ACP Connectivity Cliff?

The ACP and ECF programs have connected several million low-income households to affordable broadband, but funding for both programs will be expiring soon. Congress is considering new funding to support these programs. The FCC has proposed to incorporate some lessons learned from the ECF program into the E-rate program - will it do the same for ACP? This panel will explore the prospects for more Congressional funding and consider alternatives if Congress fails to act.

**Speakers:**

**Amina Fazlullah – Senior Director, Equity Policy, Common Sense Media**

**Cheryl Leanza – Best Best & Krieger LLP**

**Lynn Follausbee – Vice President, US Telecom**

9:45 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. | Salon A

### Simplifying E-rate: Impact on Tribal and Small Schools and Libraries

While the E-rate program is largely successful, the application process can be confusing, which discourages some smaller schools and libraries - especially Tribal - from applying for E-rate funding. This summer, the FCC simplified the application process and adopted many of the recommendations that SECA, SHLB, and other public interest groups suggested to reduce the burden on applicants. This panel will highlight some of these reforms, such as the new cost allocation standards and E-rate eligibility for Tribal College and University Libraries; explore proposals for further consideration such as a rolling application process for Category Two projects and how to handle transition of service; and also review the status of the FCC's proposed E-rate competitive bidding portal.

**Moderator:**

**Rachel Schemelin – E-rate and Broadband Education Consultant, Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction**

**Speakers:**

**Bob Bocher – Senior Fellow, American Library Association**

**Heather Hutto – Executive Director, Bristow Public Library**

**Debra Kriete – State E-rate Coordinator & SECA Chairperson, South Dakota DOE & State E-rate Coordinators' Alliance**

**Gina Spade – Principal, Broadband Legal Strategies, LLC**

9:45 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. | Salons F/G

### How Successful is the Tribal Broadband Program?

The \$3 billion Tribal Broadband Program is well underway. NTIA has awarded 93 grants to HBCUs and other Minority Serving Institutions, which will help these institutions positively impact the broadband capacity of their campuses, and surrounding anchor communities. In addition, over \$1.77 billion has been awarded to 166 Tribal entities for high-speed Internet infrastructure or promoting Internet use and adoption. Panelists will discuss how these programs worked so far, and what lies ahead.

**Moderator:**

**Cindy Aden – Chair, SHLB Coalition**

**Speakers:**

**Adam Geisler – President and Chief Operating Officer, Tribal Ready, PBC**

**Danae Wilson – Assistant Director for Internet Access, White House Office of Science and Technology Policy**

# RHC Workshop: Healthcare Networks, Cybersecurity, and USAC Q&A

9:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. | Salons D/E

**9:45 a.m. - How Can Healthcare Networks Better Manage Increasing Cyber Threats?** Join us for a discussion with networking experts on the essential role cybersecurity fills in healthcare and how federal funding partners can play a central role in helping to combat a new generation of threats to secure healthcare delivery.

**11 a.m. - Collaboration is Key: USAC/SHLB Rural Health Care Program Roundtable.** Join us for a moderated Question and Answer session between SHLB members and USAC to discuss programmatic ideas and concerns about the Rural Health Care Program.

## Moderators:

Kim Gaffney Corriher – Director of Government Operations, Southern Ohio Health Care Network

Hunter Babin – Principal, Telconnections, Inc.

## Speakers:

Matt Hiatt – Chief Technology Officer, Palmetto Care Connections

Kate Pierce – Senior Virtual Information Security Officer, Fortified Health Security

Rob Jenkins – MA, PMP, PCCP – Senior Director, Broadband Services Colorado Hospital Association

Jim Rogers – President, HealthConnect Networks

Kathy Schwarting – Chief Executive Officer, Palmetto Care Connections

Networking Break - 11:00 a.m. to 11:15 a.m.

## Breakout Sessions

11:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. | Salon A

### No Going Back: The End of ECF and What's Next for E-rate?

The Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF) offered valuable funding so that schools and libraries could provide devices and broadband connectivity to low-income students and library patrons. Now that the ECF program is winding down, FCC Chairwoman Rosenworcel has proposed a new Learn Without Limits initiative that would extend E-rate funding for hotspots and WiFi on school buses. This panel will explore the FCC's Learn Without Limits proposal, discuss long-term connectivity options such as deploying CBRS or WiFi-based networks from an anchor institution to the community, and explore the full range of ways that E-rate can bring affordable broadband connectivity to those in need.

#### Moderator:

Rachel Botts – Director of Technology Transformation and Senior Account Manager, Kellogg & Sovereign

#### Speakers:

Ty Beauchamp – Integrated Library Systems Manager, Harris County Public Library

Michael Flood – Founder & Principal Consultant, Alpine Frog, LLC

Misty Hawkins – Library Director, Arkansas River Valley Regional Library System

Roger Zambrano – Director of Network Engineering and Communications, Los Angeles County Office of Education

11:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. | Salon K

### How Can States and Anchors Prepare for Digital Equity Act Funding?

The Digital Equity Act provides \$2.75 billion to establish three grant programs that promote digital equity and inclusion. They aim to ensure that all people and communities have the skills, technology, and capacity needed to reap the full benefits of our digital economy. While there is great excitement about the program, there are many questions as well. What is the difference between the capacity and competitive grants? What anchor institutions are eligible for this funding? And when will the funding start to flow? Panelists will identify the key criteria that States and NTIA will use in awarding this funding.

#### Speakers:

Angela Thi Bennett – Digital Equity Director, NTIA

Angela Siefer – Executive Director, National Digital Inclusion Alliance

Ji Soo Song – Digital Equity Advisor, U.S. Department of Education

11:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. | Salons F/G

### How Will Middle Mile Grants Solve the Digital Divide?

Local networks are important for bringing high-speed internet to communities. But local networks aren't enough. Middle mile infrastructure ensures that reliable high-speed internet service is available for even the most remote communities. This panel will give a progress report on NTIA's \$1 billion Middle Mile Broadband program

#### Moderator:

Jen Leasure – President and CEO, The Quilt

#### Speakers:

Gayle Nelson – Vice President, Zayo Education

Tracy Doaks – President and CEO, MCNC

Jordan Weinstock – Broadband Specialist, NTIA



## Lunch

Take a break from a day of Conference sessions with a plated lunch. Exhibitors will be nearby in the ballroom foyer.

12:15 p.m. – 12:45 p.m. | Salons B/C/H/J

## Keynote Speakers

12:45 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. | Salons B/C/H/J



**Monique Tate – Co-Director, Community Tech NY**

Monique Tate is a digital equity activist & advocate and loves talking about the best practices for including the community in digital equity solutions!!



**Neil Mylet – Chairman, MyletX**

Neil is an inventor, farmer, and humanitarian who enjoys making the world a better place.

**Networking Break - 1:30 p.m. to 1:45 p.m.**

## Broadband Innovations Showcase

1:45 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. | Salons D/E

The Broadband Innovation Showcase is a series of 15-minute presentations featuring innovative projects designed to bring broadband to unserved and underserved communities.

1:45 p.m. - Breaking Down the Digital Divide and Education Gap with Category 1 Funding

2:00 p.m. - Partnering to Build a Wireless Network to Reach Rural Washington Students

2:15 p.m. - Use of Private Mobile Networks in Education: Examples from the Field

2:30 p.m. - South Bend Partnership deploys CBRS to Connect Low-Income Students

**Refreshment Break - 2:45 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

3:00 p.m. - Activating Digital Equity Ecosystems at Scale

3:15 p.m. - Project Waves: Bringing broadband to Baltimore MDUs

3:30 p.m. - Leveraging Digital Equity Partnerships for Anchor Institutions... at Scale

3:45 p.m. - Middle Mile Model for Rural America

### Moderators:

**Candace Browdy – Executive Director, ConnectLakeCounty (IL)**

**Melissa Slawson – General Counsel and Vice President of Government Affairs and Education, GeoLinks**

### Speakers:

**Richard Burnson – Director of Network Services, Chicago Public Schools**

**Dr. Erin Carr-Jordan – President/CEO, Digital Equity Institute**

**Sachin Gupta – Dir. of Government Business & Economic Development, Centranet**

**Jack Hanley – Alefedge**

**David Hartshorn – Chief Executive Officer, Geeks Without Frontiers**

**Dave Irek – Global Practice Manager-Infrastructure, Netsync**

**Derek Masseth – Executive Director, Sun Corridor Network**

**Patrick McGuire – Technology Equity Manager, City of South Bend**

**Samantha Musgrave – Director, Project Waves**

**Garren Shannon – Director of IT Services, Pullman Public Schools**

**Bre Urness-Straight – Director of Educational Technology, Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, Washington**

**Maia Wagner – Digital Inclusion and Impact Programs, Dell Technologies**

**Devin Weaver – Director of Engineering, Project Waves**

**Matt Yeager – Assistant Superintendent, Garland Independent School District**

**Networking Break - 4:00 p.m. to 4:15 p.m.**

## Birds of a Feather

4:15 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. | Alexandria

An informal gathering of like-minded individuals who wish to discuss a certain topic without a pre-planned agenda. In this session we will discuss: **E-rate/Rural Healthcare, Wireless, BEAD and Social Media/ Public Relations**

## SHLB Member Meeting

4:15 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. | Salons B/C/H/J

This is your opportunity to hear directly from SHLB staff about the vision for the organization's future and provide input on SHLB's proposed strategic plan for 2023 - 2025. **SHLB members only.**

## Wednesday Reception

5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. | Skyview

Wind down from a busy day with a drink and some good conversation.

## Breakout Sessions

1:45 p.m. - 2:45 p.m. | Salon A

### From Pilot to Progress: How Can the FCC Answer the Call for Cybersecurity Funding?

Schools and libraries are subject to increasing cyber-attacks that can cripple connectivity for students and library patrons. The FCC is now considering a pilot program outside of the E-rate program to provide \$200M for cybersecurity to schools and libraries. This panel will explore the prospects of the FCC's proposal, examine the cyber-security ecosystem, and evaluate the specific needs of vulnerable institutions like schools and libraries.

#### Moderator:

Reg Leichy - Founding Partner,  
Foresight Law + Policy, PLLC

#### Speakers:

Josh Chisom - Broadband Opportunities Program  
Manager, California State Library

John Harrington - CEO, Funds for Learning

Keith Krueger - CEO, CoSN - the Consortium for  
School Networking

1:45 p.m. - 2:45 p.m. | Salon K

### Two Worlds Collide: Healthcare and Broadband Working Together in a Post-COVID Era

The COVID pandemic launched a whole new focus on healthcare, which in turn put a new emphasis on digital equity - how do marginalized communities use telehealth when they don't have broadband access or the devices and digital skills to engage? Recognizing this, the health and broadband sectors have compelling incentives to work together. This session discusses the growing alignment between the broadband world and the healthcare sector, how anchors are taking a leading role, and the potential impact of this alignment on the digital divide.

#### Moderator:

Lesley LaFile - Director of Grants & USAC Funding,  
Prairie Health Ventures

#### Speakers:

Mary DeVany - Associate Director, Great Plains Telehealth  
Resource & Assistance Center

CAPT Heather Dimeris, M.S. R.D - Director, Office for the  
Advancement for Telehealth

Deb Fuglie - Senior Consultant, Solarity

1:45 p.m. - 2:45 p.m. | Salon F/G

### How are ReConnect and CPF Meeting their Broadband Mission?

The RUS ReConnect is a four-year loan and grant program that furnishes funding for broadband service in rural areas that do not have sufficient access to broadband today. The Treasury Department's Capital Projects Fund is providing \$10 billion to states, territories and Tribal governments to fund critical capital projects that enable work, education and health monitoring. This panel will explore the progress and benefits of these two important federal broadband programs, and explain how they complement the upcoming BEAD program.

#### Speakers:

Charles Eberle - Senior Broadband Policy  
Advisor, Department of Treasury (CPF)

Laurel Leverrier - Assistant Administrator,  
RUS Telecommunications Programs, United  
States Department of Agriculture

## Networking Break - 2:45 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. | Salon A

### Open Access and Innovative Broadband Deployment Models

There are many pathways to getting broadband to the unserved and underserved, but the viable options will depend on the local geography and economics. This session looks at the various deployment models, including open access, non-exclusive licensing, and municipal broadband and how these choices impact anchor institutions and the surrounding communities. Panelists will also discuss policy considerations that states and communities might address to encourage certain models over others.

#### Moderator

Jeff Reiman - President, The Broadband Group

#### Speakers:

Gigi Sohn - Executive Director, American Association  
for Public Broadband (AAPB)

Thomas Jones - Counsel for Granite  
Telecommunications, LLC

Josh Leonard - Broadband Business Lead,  
Burns & McDonnell

3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. | Salon K

### Is RHC Poised for a Bigger and Better Future?

The Rural Health Care Program has extended valuable broadband connectivity to some of the nation's most remote healthcare facilities. The FCC adopted an Order earlier this year that included several SHLB recommendations to streamline the program, but several issues remain to be decided, such as the overall funding levels and internal caps, the list of eligible entities, the future of the Connected Care pilot program, and whether rural discounts should be applied to the HCF side of the program. This panel will also explore the long-term funding prospects for this vitally important program.

#### Moderator

Dan Kettwich - Chief Executive Officer, ADS Advanced  
Data Services, Inc.

#### Speakers:

Jeffrey Mitchell - Principal, Mitchell Law, PLLC

Kathy Wibberly - Director, Mid-Atlantic Telehealth  
Resource Center at University of Virginia

Shar DoDoo - Director of Rural Health Care Consulting  
Services (RHC), Kellogg & Sovereign

3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. | Salon F/G

### Advancing Digital Equity Through Higher Ed Partnerships

The higher education community cares deeply about bringing affordable broadband to students on campus and at home and is often taking the lead in creating holistic broadband solutions. This panel will explore how higher education, research and education networks and the private sector are working together to deploy innovative broadband networks and foster digital inclusion training to benefit college communities.

#### Moderator

Stephanie Stenberg - Director of the  
Community Anchor Program (CAP), Internet2

#### Speakers:

Derrick Frost - SVP Operations & Private  
Wireless, Kajeet

Denise Shorey - President and CEO,  
e-Luminosity

Lynn Burgan - CFO, MoreNet



## SHLB Board Dinner

For SHLB Board of Directors only.

6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. | Pentagon



## Breakfast

8:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. | Foyer

Enjoy a continental breakfast before the morning keynote.



## Keynote Speaker

8:30 a.m. – 9:15 a.m. | Salons B/C/H/J



**Joey Wender – Director,  
Capital Projects Fund**

Joey Wender currently serves as Director of the Capital Projects Fund, overseeing the \$10 billion program at the U.S. Department of the Treasury and helping to ensure that all communities have access to high-quality modern infrastructure, including broadband, needed to access critical services. He previously served for nearly 13 years on Capitol Hill, most recently as Senator Ed Markey’s Senior Policy Advisor, where he led a team covering a wide range of issues including telecommunications and infrastructure. Wender also worked as then-Representative Markey’s Legislative Director. Prior to working for Markey, Wender served as Counsel for the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. He received his BA from Wesleyan University and graduated magna cum laude from Harvard Law School.

**Networking Break - 9:15 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.**

## Breakout Sessions

9:30 a.m. - 10:45 a.m. | Salon A

### How the BEAD and Connecting Minority Communities Programs will Address the Needs of CAls

The Broadband Equity Access and Deployment (BEAD) program will provide an unprecedented \$42.5 billion in funding to bring high-speed broadband to all homes and anchor institutions over the next few years. The program administrators at NTIA are determined to maximize the effectiveness of these broadband grants to make sure the funding is used wisely and provides access to future-proof technologies where economically feasible. This presentation by NTIA will walk through the detailed mapping, financial and Buy America requirements, with a special focus on how anchor institutions will be included in the broadband roll-out plans.

**Speakers:**

**Evan Feinman – Director, Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program, National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA)**

**Dr. Jon Gant – Director, Office of Minority Broadband Initiatives, NTIA**

9:30 a.m. - 10:45a.m. | Salon K

### The Role of Wireless Networks in Closing the Digital Divide

Fixed and mobile wireless networks are steadily making their mark as a fast-to-deploy, cost-effective alternative to fiber to reach unserved and underserved communities. The technology is also advancing, mitigating some of the notable past shortcomings of these networks. This panel explores the current and potential contributions of wireless networks – particularly school, library and community initiatives – to connect low-income households and thereby contribute directly to closing the digital divide.

**Moderator:**

**Arnold Liyai – Program Manager, US-Ignite**

**Speakers:**

**Carl Guardino – Vice President of Government Affairs, Tarana Wireless**

**Ann Grabowski – Division Manager – Digital Equity & Empowerment, San Jose Public Library**

**Garren Shannon – Director of Information Technology Services, Pullman Public Schools**

9:30 a.m. - 10:45a.m. | Salons F/G

### Laying the Groundwork for Broadband: How to Handle Poles and Permits

Streamlined access to utility poles and rights-of-way is essential to the success of future broadband deployment plans. Lack of clear pole policies deters and delays efforts for both pole owners and attachers to connect communities in need – which can include (often small or rural) anchor institutions. This panel will discuss how federal and state policymakers can expedite the process, including creating pole replacement funds, establishing task forces, and setting timelines for processing pole attachment applications.

**Moderator:**

**David Soffer – Director of Business Development, WANRack**

**Speakers:**

**Van Bloys – Managing Counsel, Crown Castle**

**Kiera Reardon – State Policy & Agency Partnerships Manager, Maine Connectivity Office**



## Breakout Sessions

### 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. | Salon A From Issues to Solutions: A Look Inside State BEAD Plans

Broadband leaders nationwide have been hard at work developing their BEAD and Digital Equity plans to connect the unserved and underserved throughout their states/territories and Tribal areas. NTIA announced the amount of funding allocated to each state, and Initial Proposals are due by the end of this year. This panel explores some of the issues broadband offices have faced during the planning process, their ideas for creative solutions, how they intend to connect eligible anchor institutions, and offers a look behind the scenes as they prepare to award their broadband grants in 2024.

#### Moderator:

**Kyle Stewart** – Government Relations Specialist, Crown Castle

#### Speakers:

**Valarry Bullard** – Director of Broadband, New Jersey Office of Broadband Connectivity

**Christine Hallquist** – Executive Director, Vermont Community Broadband Board

**Bree Maki** – Director, Minnesota Office of Broadband Development

### 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. | Salon K Creating a Technology Neutral Spectrum Policy: The Role of Shared Spectrum Models

With less and less spectrum available, shared spectrum alternatives need to be considered when making spectrum allocations. Shared spectrum allows for democratization of spectrum use, especially for community anchor institutions. Examples of how CBRS spectrum is being used highlight the importance of shared spectrum in the future.

#### Moderator:

**Michael Calabrese** – Director, Wireless Future Program & Senior Research Fellow OTI, New America Foundation

#### Speakers:

**Coleman Bazelon** – Brattle Group

**Harold Feld** – Senior Vice President, Public Knowledge

**Clint Odom** – Vice President, T-Mobile

### 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. | Salons F/G Chaos and Compromise: Reforming USF and Resolving the Contribution Crisis

The Universal Service Fund is the largest federal funding program to ensure that high-speed broadband is available and affordable to all. But future funding for this program is at risk because of the obsolete funding mechanism that collects fees on (declining) telephone service to fund (expanding) broadband services. At the same time, there is a heightened need for additional resources to support devices, digital literacy training and improvements to the E-rate and Rural Health Care programs. This panel will explore funding solutions to preserve and advance universal service going forward.

#### Speakers:

**Jenna Leventoff** – Senior Policy Counsel, ACLU

**Lindsay Stern** – Attorney and Policy Advisor, INCOMPAS

**Scott Wallsten** – President and Senior Fellow, Technology Policy Institute



## Closing Speakers

12:00 p.m. - 1:45 p.m. | Salons B/C/H/J

### Congressional Panel

Join U.S. Congressional staff as they discuss policy priorities and share their insights on the prospects for future legislation targeting digital access and equity. Lunch will be served.

#### Moderator:

**Maria Curi** – Tech Policy Reporter, Axios

#### Speakers:

**Emerald Garrett** - Legislative Assistant, Office of Congressman James E. Clyburn

**Dan Miller** – Professional Staff Member, Committee on Energy and Commerce, Democratic Staff

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