



MEMORANDUM

Date: July 18, 2022

To: The Honorable Chair and Members
Pima County Board of Supervisors

From: Jan Llesher
County Administrator

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jan Llesher", is written over the printed name of the County Administrator.

Re: **Arizona Commerce Authority Broadband Grant Awards**

The attached Memorandum from Mark Hayes, Interim Director, Information Technology Department and Michelle Simon, Deputy Director, Pima County Public Library announces the 20 awardees of the Arizona Commerce Authority's Arizona Broadband Development Grant Program.

The awards include a \$5 million grant to Cox Communications, which is supported by an additional \$5.1 million commitment from Cox Communications and an additional \$2.5 million from the Pima County Public Library to assist with the provision of broadband infrastructure to Three Points and Sycamore Springs (Sahuarita/Corona de Tucson). This funding will help provide reliable internet to more than 1,300 area residents and assist with needed infrastructure for the Pima County Sheriff's Department, Ryan Airfield and other community institutions.

JKL/anc

Attachment

c: Carmine DeBonis, Jr., Deputy County Administrator
Francisco García, MD, MPH, Deputy County Administrator and Chief Medical Officer
Steve Holmes, Deputy County Administrator
Mark Hayes, Interim Director, Information Technology Department
Amber Mathewson, Director, Library District
Michelle Simon, Deputy Director, Library District



Date: July 13, 2022

To: Jan Lesher
County Administrator

Francisco Garcia, M.D., M.P.H.
Deputy County Administrator

From: Mark Hayes *MCH*
Interim Director, Information Technology

Michelle Simon *MS*
Deputy Director Support Services, PCPL

Re: **Arizona Commerce Authority Announces Broadband Grant Awards**

Yesterday, Arizona Commerce Authority (ACA) announced 20 awardees of the Arizona Broadband Development Grant Program. Governor Ducey launched this program by investing \$100 million to expand high-speed broadband to Arizona's unserved and underserved areas. As the state's leading economic development organization, Arizona Commerce Authority is responsible for the implementation of broadband infrastructure projects including the Arizona Statewide Middle-Mile Strategic Plan.¹

Pima County Partnership with Cox Communications receives \$5 million dollar ACA grant award.

The ACA \$12.6 million grant application, submitted by Cox Communications, was successful due in no small part to the commitment and support of Pima County staff and the Board of Supervisors. The \$5 million award will assist with the provision of broadband infrastructure to two communities – Three Points and Sycamore Springs (Sahuarita/Corona de Tucson). Cox Communications (\$5.1M) and Pima County Public Library (\$2.5M) committed the additional \$7.6 million for the project. More than 1,300 residences will have reliable internet because of the 36 miles of additional fiber and direct to home connections. Additionally, this project will bolster the current infrastructure used by the Pima County Sheriff's Department, Ryan Airfield, and several community anchor institutions.

Two additional awardees receive money for broadband in Pima County.

Pima County will benefit from the funding awarded to two additional projects – Expanded Broadband in Ajo and TOUA sites. Alluvion Communications received \$5 million for their project in Ajo and the Tohono O'odham Utility Authority received just under \$5 million for broadband infrastructure within the nation.

We are excited about how these projects align with the mission, vision, and goals of Connect Pima, Pima County's digital infrastructure and inclusion plan.² Improving broadband infrastructure, particularly in rural areas of the County, is the foundation for our future efforts.

CC: Amber Mathewson, Library Director
Carmine DeBonis, Jr., Deputy County Administrator

¹ Arizona Statewide Middle-Mile Strategic Plan, [37'-9 \(azcommerce.com\)](https://www.azcommerce.com)

² Connect Pima, Pima County digital infrastructure and inclusion plan, www.pima.gov/connect-pima