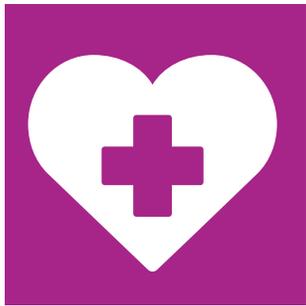
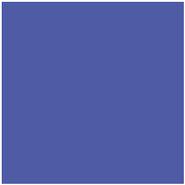


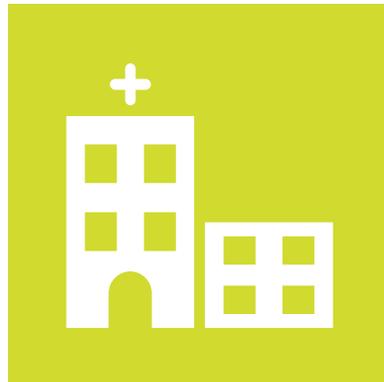
SHLB

SCHOOLS, HEALTH & LIBRARIES
BROADBAND COALITION



2016

ANNUAL REPORT





The Schools, Health & Libraries Broadband (SHLB) Coalition is a 501(c)(3) advocacy organization that supports research and public policies that promote open, affordable, high-capacity broadband connectivity for anchor institutions and their communities. Founded in 2009 in Washington, DC, the SHLB Coalition receives financial support from its non-profit and corporate members and from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. For more information, visit www.shlb.org/.

 WWW.SHLB.ORG

 [@SHLBCOALITION](https://twitter.com/SHLBCOALITION)

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MISSION

“to promote government policies and programs that enable schools, libraries, health care providers, other anchor institutions and their communities to obtain open, affordable, high-speed broadband connections to the Internet”

LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear SHLB Friends,

Thank you for making 2016 the most remarkable year yet for the Schools, Health & Libraries Broadband (SHLB) Coalition. Together, we impacted policy, grew our community, and geared up for the new administration.

Most notably, SHLB published “Connecting Anchor Institutions: A Broadband Action Plan,” a series of recommendations for policy-makers at the federal, state, and local levels. The release of the Action Plan kicked-off SHLB’s larger Grow2Gig+ Campaign, which aims to make gigabit speeds for anchor institutions a national priority.

We also celebrated many policy triumphs, such as the Lifeline Modernization Order, and encountered some obstacles, such as the FCC’s decision to cancel the proposed Order for Business Data Services. SHLB’s strength comes from its forward-looking perspective and its coalition-building activity, and many of this year’s initiatives have positioned us to tackle 2017’s policy issues with a full head of steam. The SHLB community has already crafted a broadband proposal for the upcoming infrastructure plan. SHLB also filed an emergency letter with ten Telehealth Networks and is currently urging the FCC to take immediate steps to enable adequate funding for the Rural Healthcare Program. In addition, SHLB has actively supported petitions to extend E-rate services beyond the school to surrounding residents. If successful, these petitions have the potential to significantly address the “homework gap.”

The upcoming year will certainly bring great change, but we cannot lose sight of our ideals and mission. We will continue fighting for open, affordable, high-capacity broadband to schools, libraries, health clinics, and all anchor institutions, and we can’t do it without you. Follow us online, sign up for our newsletter, attend a SHLB webinar, attend our Annual Conference, and recommend that your friends and colleagues become SHLB members.

We couldn’t have made such great strides in digital equity without your support. Let’s celebrate our collective successes and hit the ground running for this new year!

Sincerely,

John Windhausen, Jr.
John Windhausen, Jr.
SHLB Executive Director

LETTER FROM OUR CHAIR

Dear SHLB Community,

The digital divide is one of the biggest barriers to true equity in our country. Like other injustices, it should not be tolerated and it is a problem we must resolve. As the Montana State Librarian, I know the impact lack of broadband access has on communities. Of the 82 public libraries I serve just four meet the minimum guidelines set forth by the E-rate modernization order. SHLB provides hope to communities like those I serve.



In Montana we value neighbor helping neighbor. When I first joined SHLB in 2013, I found a community that shares this value and that recognizes the strength and influence it brings. SHLB brings together our neighbors – schools, libraries, health clinics, and other community anchor institutions – and unifies us around a common cause – resolving the digital divide.

SHLB’s Broadband Action Plan is a blueprint for how we can help our neighbors and communities. The policy recommendations found in the plan shaped SHLB’s actions in 2016 and will serve as the foundation of SHLB’s advocacy efforts in the coming year. It is no coincidence that SHLB saw our largest membership growth in a single year in 2016.

The end of 2016 marks the end of my term as Chair of SHLB’s Board of Directors. It has been my privilege to serve as the Chair for the past two years. In that time, SHLB has positioned itself as a policy leader and champion of digital equity and as a viable non-profit with the financial support, staff, and solid membership to carry us into the future. I would like to be the first to welcome Crosby Kemper III, Head of Kansas City Public Library, as the new Chairman. I know he will offer incredible insight and vision in SHLB’s next chapter.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve, and here’s to the many successes to come in 2017 and beyond!

Sincerely,

Jennie Stapp
Jennie Stapp
SHLB Board Chair



ACCOMPLISHMENTS

RELEASE OF BROADBAND ACTION PLAN

“Connecting Anchor Institutions: A Broadband Action Plan” was published July 13, 2016 to provide ideas and actionable policy recommendations for government leaders at the federal, state, and local levels to address the broadband needs of anchor institutions. The Action Plan provided a roadmap for communities trying to connect their anchors and has shaped SHLB’s policy initiatives.

PICTURE: Adrienne Furniss, Keith Krueger, Doug Levin, Jennie Stapp, Eric Brown, Bob Collie, Von Royal, Blair Levin, John Windhausen (Photo by Ralph Alswang)



GROW2GIG+ CAMPAIGN LAUNCH

“Grow2Gig+: Anchors Advance Communities” is SHLB’s campaign to make gigabit speeds for anchor institutions a national priority. The campaign includes the Broadband Action Plan, infographics, a social media campaign around #Grow2Gig, and a monthly webinar series. The Grow2Gig+ webinar series, which began in September 2016, highlights two policy papers from the Action Plan each month and features industry and thought leaders to guide the discussion.

PICTURE: John Windhausen (Photo by Ralph Alswang)

2016 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

SHLB’s Sixth Annual Conference was the most successful one yet. This conference focused on E-rate, Lifeline, Telehealth, and Fiber Build Out. Among the many highlights, we heard inspirational and informative addresses from Senator Angus King of Maine and Dr. Valerie Truesdale from the Charlotte-Mecklenburg School System. We learned about Libraries and Digital Inclusion from a Google Fiber panel and received updates from the Broadband Opportunity Council.

PICTURE: Valerie Truesdale (Photo by Diana Bowen)



TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES: BROADBAND GOALS FOR 2017 & BEYOND!

SHLB co-hosted the “Transforming Communities” event with Next Century Cities and US Ignite on November 30, 2016. The event brought together broadband champions from Congress, the Executive Branch, other federal, state and local agencies, community leaders including mayors and heads of anchor institutions, and policy experts.

PICTURE: Senator Angus King (Photo by Glenn Ricart)

TELEHEALTH PETITION

SHLB spearheaded the drafting of a Telehealth Petition to improve the Healthcare Connect Fund (HCF) and drive greater broadband investment to rural health clinics. The Petition for Rulemaking was filed with the FCC by SHLB along with six Telehealth Networks in December 2015. Almost all of the comments filed in the following months supported SHLB's request to modernize the Rural Health Care Program. On December 1, 2016 SHLB filed an emergency letter with ten Telehealth Networks urging the FCC to address the Rural Healthcare Program's fiscal cliff and to take immediate steps to prevent rural health clinics from losing their broadband connections.

LIFELINE MODERNIZATION

This past spring SHLB celebrated the modernization of the Lifeline program to include broadband subsidies for low-income people. Because of SHLB's participation in the Lifeline coalition and comments filed with the FCC, the modernization order allows community anchor institutions to serve as aggregators of Lifeline customers.

E-RATE WAIVERS

SHLB has actively supported Boulder Valley School District and Microsoft's Waiver Petitions to extend E-rate services beyond the school. If successful, these petitions have the potential to significantly address the homework gap. The FCC has not yet voted on this issue, and SHLB will continue to advocate for this change in 2017.

TRUMP TRANSITION

The SHLB Coalition crafted a Trump Transition document outlining its "American Broadband Connectivity" (ABC) proposal. This proposal would ensure anchor institution broadband is included in President-Elect Trump's infrastructure plan. SHLB is discussing the ABC proposal with key policymakers on Capitol Hill.

NO BUFFER BRAINS CAMPAIGN

Business Data Services (BDS) refers to the high-speed broadband lines used to transmit large amounts of data. BDS is a broken market with little or no competition. Even though the FCC removed Business Data Services reform from the agenda, SHLB's #NOBufferBrains campaign brought significant attention to the high prices paid by anchor institutions for these data circuits.

ANCHOR BYTES NEWSLETTER

SHLB aims to be a hub of information and resources for anchor institutions and broadband policymakers. To fulfill that mission, in May SHLB initiated Anchor Bytes, a monthly newsletter to highlight SHLB's and members' activities.

IN 2016,
SHLB STAFF
HAD THE
HONOR OF
MAKING



BOARD MEMBER ELECTION

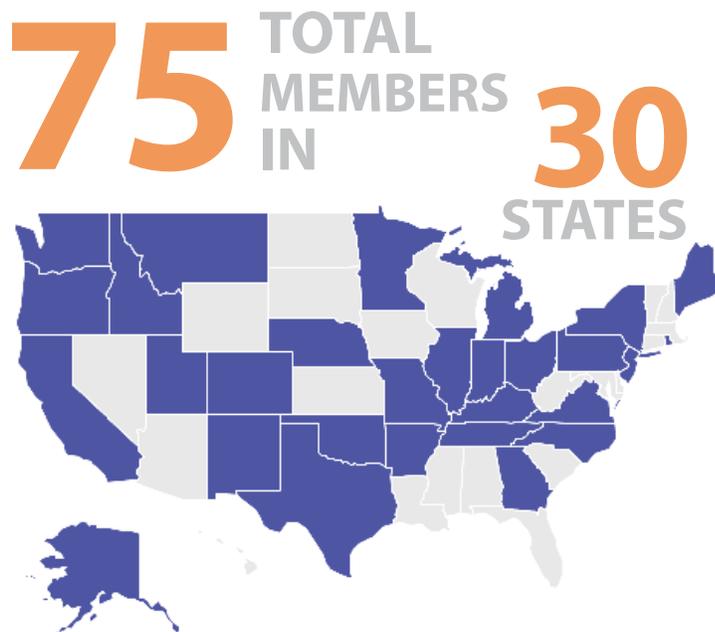
This was the first year that SHLB Members elected a board member. Full members elected Elwood Downing from Merit Network in November. This process incorporates members' voices and perspective in leadership roles and will be conducted annually from here on out.

MEMBERSHIP

With 23 new members, SHLB saw its largest membership growth ever in 2016! These members represent a diverse group of anchors, broadband providers, consulting firms, non-profit foundations, and public interest advocates.

SHLB Members become a part of a greater community. Members participate in bi-weekly policy calls, receive visibility on SHLB's website and at its conferences, qualify for discounts for events, and have the opportunity to learn from other members.

23 NEW MEMBERS



Arkansas Research and Education Optical Network (AREON) • Axiom Technologies • Boulder Valley School District • CENIC • Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools • Cisco • Eastern Shore of Virginia Broadband Authority • eX² Technology • Forsyth County Schools • Funds for Learning • iGate • Indiana Rural Health Association • Level 3 • MiCTA • MoreNET • Network Nebraska • New England Telehealth Consortium • Northwest Council for Computer Education (NCCE) • Next Century Cities • Parana River Group • San Joaquin Valley Regional Broadband Consortium • State Educational Technology Directors Association (SETDA) • Virginia Rural Health Association

FINANCES

SHLB continues to strengthen financially as an organization. SHLB receives financial support from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Annual Conference sponsors, as well as membership dues.

In 2016, SHLB received the second half of its Gates' grant. This generous three year grant has funded SHLB's general operations and enabled it to grow at an expedited rate. 2018 is the last year of the Gates grant. Therefore, SHLB is currently developing an organizational strategy and pursuing new initiatives to become fully self-sustaining by 2019.

In addition, SHLB was a sub-grantee of an Institute of Museum and Library Services award to help libraries explore how to expand Internet access in their communities by using TVWhiteSpace (TVWS), a new low-cost wireless technology.

SHLB's Sixth Annual Conference was also profitable, and SHLB plans to build upon this success by expanding sponsorship options and offering exhibit space in 2017.

THANK YOU TO OUR FINANCIAL SUPPORTERS!

SHLB would not be able to accomplish all that it does without the financial support of our donors. Our donors contribute to special initiatives, such as the Broadband Action Plan, as well as make our Annual Conference possible. Thank you for joining in the fight for digital equity!

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| BENTON FOUNDATION | GLOBALSTAR |
| BEST BEST & KRIEGER, LLP | GOOGLE |
| BILL & MELINDA GATES FOUNDATION | HENKELS & MCCOY INC. |
| BOB COLLIE | KELLY DRYE |
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| FUNDS FOR LEARNING | |

2016 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

“The membership is so diverse from all over the country representing anchor institutions of every ilk, and having those voices involved in policy debates is, I think, what SHLB brings to the table.”

Adrienne Furniss
Benton Foundation

“SHLB has changed my life, literally. [...] The real world impact on policy, the advocacy for the community - advocacy that I don't believe would take place otherwise - it's second to none.”

John Harrington
Funds for Learning

“SHLB has the unique benefit of bringing a lot of different community anchor institutions' interests under one roof.”

Stanley Adams
SEA Broadband Consulting

“I think what's so great about SHLB is that they provide a place for all of us to come together to hear new ideas.”

Carrie Coogan
Kansas City Public Library

CHAIR OF THE BOARD: Jennie Stapp, Montana State Librarian

VICE-CHAIR OF THE BOARD: Denise Atkinson-Shorey, President and CEO, e-Luminosity (on behalf of the Consortium for School Networking)

TREASURER: Bob Collie, Senior Vice President of Technology, Chief Technology Officer

SECRETARY: Mark Johnson, Chief Technology Officer, Vice President of Data Architecture, MCNC

Eric Brown, President and CEO, California Telehealth Network

Larra Clark, Director, Program on Networks & Associate Director, ALA

Crosby Kemper III, Executive Director, Kansas City Public Library

Jen Leasure, President and CEO, The Quilt

Sean Taketa McLaughlin, Executive Director, Access Humboldt

Don Means, Principal, Digital Village Associates / Coordinator, Gigabit Libraries Network

Sascha Meinrath, Palmer Chair in Telecommunications at Penn State and Executive Director of X-Lab Associates

Susannah Spellman, Executive Director, U.S. UCAN, Internet2

John Windhausen, Jr., Executive Director, SHLB Coalition

NEWLY ELECTED OFFICERS FOR 2017:

Elwood Downing, Vice President for Business Development and Community Networks. Merit Network, Inc.

Sari Feldman, Executive Director, Cuyahoga County Public Library

HOW CAN YOU HELP?



SHARE: Help spread the word about anchor institution broadband and share on social media. Tweet @SHLBCoalition and follow #Grow2Gig. Find us on Facebook and LinkedIn.



LEARN: Stay informed and learn about the best broadband policies and how to improve anchor institution connectivity by reading SHLB's Action Plan and attending the Seventh Annual Conference.



ADVOCATE: Reach out to policymakers at the local, state, and federal level and help us fight for digital equity.

2017 SHLB ANNUAL CONFERENCE: UNITED STATES OF ANCHORS



@SHLBCoalition
#USofAnchors

MAY 31–JUNE 2, 2017
HYATT REGENCY IN
CRYSTAL CITY, VA

REGISTER NOW!

The SHLB Annual Conference unites leaders across diverse sectors, such as education, health, government, and broadband providers.

The theme this year is “United States of Anchors.” We are at a pivotal moment of change in our country, and schools, libraries, health providers, and other community anchor institutions (CAIs) have the power to unite and move us forward. This conference will explore five tracks:

- 1) **Broadband Policy in the Trump Administration**
- 2) **Building Telehealth Networks to Rural Communities**
- 3) **The Future of the E-rate Program**
- 4) **Financing Broadband Networks**
- 5) **Anchor Institutions and Home Access**

Learn more at <http://2017conference.shlb.org>



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