



Worth County Library System

Margaret Jones Public Library

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In the Matter of:

Wireline Competition Bureau Seeking
Comments on E-rate Category Two

WC Docket No. 13-184

We are pleased to be able to provide input on the impact of having access to secure and sufficient funding for our library WiFi and internal connections. Before the E-rate Modernization in 2014, virtually no libraries received funds for then, Priority 2 services. Unless we were at a 90% discount rate, we could assume there would be no funding left after all requests for internet access were funded. USAC data shows that most libraries are eligible for 70% discount or less.

In my community people turn to the library to use our WiFi on their tablets, laptops, and other devices. Library users are downloading job applications, applying for financial aid for college, seeking health information, and communicating with family – all dependent on a strong WiFi signal. Being in rural Georgia, WiFi is not available in homes outside of the city limits so many people are in need of the library's WiFi. It's a fundamental service that goes beyond being "nice to have."

With the commitment of the FCC to ensure a library budget of \$2.30 (\$5.00 for a selected category of larger urban and suburban libraries) per square foot, libraries can finally upgrade outdated equipment or plan for new construction. In our case, we used Priority 2 funds to replace an outdated switch with a shelf rack and install new cabling throughout the building. Our library was built in 1985 and the shelf was needed to clean up the wiring area.

Please maintain secure funding through the full five year budget period as adopted during the 2014 Modernization. Our communities depend on that funding.

Leigh Wiley, Library Director