



Cherokee Regional Library System

DADE | CHICKAMAUGA | LAFAYETTE-WALKER | ROSSVILLE

☞ SINCE 1942 ☞

October 19, 2017

In the Matter of:

Wireline Competition Bureau Seeking)
Comments on E-Rate Category Two)

WC Docket No. 13-184

We consider it a privilege to share with you the impact of access to Category 2 funds for providing internal connections and WiFi in our public library system. Our library system has been applying for e-rate funds since its inception but because our discount rate was 80% we were never able to receive even one penny of internal connections funding. That changed two years ago. For two years straight our library system has been able to count on these Category Two e-rate funds to provide what we feel is a very basic need in our community; equal access to a world of knowledge and opportunity that begins with access to the internet. If it weren't for these funds, our library would not have been able to install wireless access points or upgrade our firewalls. We were using outdated firewalls that could not handle our traffic.

Having quality devices in our library system, providing reliable WiFi and internet service has afforded our community citizens the ability to apply for jobs, renew important services that require a weekly "check-in", fill out their income taxes and get their child's financial aid forms in by deadline. Our community knows we now have reliable, strong WiFi signals with enough bandwidth for their needs.

We commend you for committing \$2.30 (\$5.00 for larger urban and suburban libraries) per square foot as a budget for us so that we have access to these essential Category 2 funds that eluded our library system for almost 20 years.

Please do everything in your power to keep this funding in place through the full five year budget period as adopted during the 2014 Modernization. Our community depends on that funding.

Sincerely,

Lecia Eubanks

Lecia Eubanks, Director
Cherokee Regional Library System