The Flint River Regional Library System, consisting of 8 public libraries south of Atlanta, was one of the first library systems to benefit from the Cat 2 grant in 2015, the first year it was available. It provided funds we desperately needed to build critical network infrastructure to support our increasing bandwidth demands.

Statistics on these improvements are as follows:

- We upgraded from 3mbps to 50-60mbps per library. The Cat 2 grant gave us the switches and Firewalls to support this infrastructure and support future increases up to 250mbps. We are anticipating getting at least 100mbps in the next several years.
- Increase in wireless usage by 19%. The ability to print from any mobile device is anticipated this year.
- Firewall tunnels between libraries allow for remote access, so IT people don't have to "drive out there" to fix the problem.
- Cloud-based management – granular control of the network and its users from any web browser.

Cat2 provided necessary funds to reach these achievements, but most of our equipment is licensed-based and we will need to rely upon it again in 2020 to continue to provide these services. Please maintain secure funding through the full five-year budget period as adopted during the 2014 Modernization. Our communities depend on that funding.

Scott T. Martin

IT Manager