



Main Library
P.O. Box 970
Jamestown, KY 42629
(270) 343-READ
(270) 343-2019 (fax)

Branch Library
P.O. Box 244
Russell Springs, KY 42642
(270) 866-READ
(270) 866-5201 (fax)

RussellCountyLibrary.com

October 20, 2017

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

To whom it may concern:

In the Matter of: Wireline Competition Bureau Seeking Comments on E-rate Category Two
WC Docket No. 13-184

The Russell County Public Library is 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 a 70% discount or less and according to the American Library Association, many libraries stopped bothering to apply for WiFi funding. Some states have reported that none of their libraries have received WiFi funds since the beginning of the E-rate program.

In communities across the country, and especially our rural area, people turn to the library to use our WiFi on their tablets, laptops, and other devices. Our patrons are downloading job applications, applying for financial aid, seeking health information, and communicating with family, completing classwork and homework - all dependent on a strong WiFi signal. Increasingly, libraries also provide services that depend on WiFi, like coding clubs for K12 youth. Libraries everywhere know WiFi throughout the library is not a "nice to have" - it's a core community service that many rely on. Our patrons are using WiFi to improve their lives and our community as a whole.

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

Discover What Speaks to You

outdated equipment or plan for new construction. They have confidence that desperately needed support will be there.

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

Sincerely,

Christina Myers
Library Manager