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*Celebrating 25 years of serving the community!*

October 20, 2017

**In the Matter of:**

Wireline Competition Bureau Seeking Comments on E-rate Category Two ) WC Docket No. 13-184

The Clinton-Macomb Public Library (CMPL) is pleased to be able to provide input on the impact of having access to secure and sufficient funding for our library's WiFi and internal connections. Before the E-rate Modernization in 2014, virtually no libraries received funds for services defined as Priority 2 at that time. Unless a library had a 90% discount rate, it was practically guaranteed that 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 investing the significant staff time required 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 2016 CMPL was fortunate to receive \$87,246.49 in funding for not only internet access but also for upgrading our internal connections equipment. This funding enabled us to provide our library customers with increased data speeds as well as greater protection against viruses, security threats and malware by upgrading our Ethernet routing, switching and unified threat management devices. We were also able to extend our coverage beyond our building for after-hours access. This equipment upgrade was also essential to ensure that our library customers were able to take full advantage of the increased internet speeds.

Not only in our library district, but also in communities across the country, people turn to the library to use WiFi on their tablets, laptops, phones and other devices. Our library customers download job applications, apply for financial aid, seek health information, and communicate with family - all dependent on a strong, reliable WiFi signal. Increasingly, libraries also provide services that depend on WiFi, like coding clubs for K-12 youth, test proctoring, tutoring and much more. Libraries everywhere know WiFi throughout the library is not a "nice to have" - it is an essential, core community service.

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(\$5.00 for a selected category of larger urban and suburban libraries) per square foot, libraries can finally upgrade outdated equipment or plan for new construction. We can 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 citizens depend on that funding.

Sincerely,

*Terri Dedischew*

Terri Dedischew  
Head of Information Technology  
Clinton-Macomb Public Library

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