

October 23, 2017



ADMINISTRATION  
401 S. Capitol Avenue  
Lansing MI 48901-7919

517.367.6300  
FAX 517.374.1068

In the Matter of:

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

To Whom It May Concern,

Prior to the Modernization Order, Capital Area District Library tried one time to obtain funding through the Priority 2 program for telephone infrastructure. After a long wait, we ultimately did not receive funding and thereafter did not attempt further applications because our chances of obtaining them were small to none. In the year prior to the Modernization Order, we made a significant investment in our WiFi infrastructure. As the new Category 2 program rolled out, we knew we would not be able to immediately take advantage of it for our WiFi infrastructure. However, we have successfully used the program to help fund the replacement of our primary firewall and support services. Appropriate network security is essential to running a public access network for modern library service. Our experience using the new Category 2 formula was very positive. The most important aspect of the new formula is that it is predictable and we are assured that, as long as our application is eligible and appropriately requested, we will obtain funding.

Every year, we see our WiFi service increase in use. At most of our branches (we have 13), use of our wireless service surpasses use of our public access computers. A number of school districts in our service area have instituted 1-to-1 technology programs and the library is a crucial bridge over the homework gap. Internet capable devices are not the barrier to access they once were, but ubiquitous, affordable, reliable Internet access still is. As we look forward to the next refresh of our WiFi infrastructure in 2019, we surely hope that Category 2 funding will still be available. We will surely use it for this mission critical library service.

Sincerely,

*Sheryl Cormicle Knox*

Sheryl Cormicle Knox  
Technology Director