

In the Matter of: E-rate Category Two WC Docket No. 13-184 .

We are VERY happy to be able to provide input on the impact of having access to secure and sufficient funding for our 43 public libraries' WiFi and internal connections. Before the E-rate Modernization in 2014, we applied for Priority 2 funding a couple of times but received zero funds so we stopped applying since it took quite a bit of staff resources with no financial gain. Since then we have applied each year and received funding so that we could replace all of our old security appliances and our WiFi access points. We have also been able to upgrade every library to a minimum speed of 100MB when some of them were only at 5MB or 7MB. This funding has had a HUGE impact on our communities and we can report that there is HEAVY use of our connections in all libraries. What we think is most striking is when we drive by a library when it is closed and see people in the parking lot, on benches or sitting on the steps with their devices out and realize they are using the WiFi. So even when a library is closed, the WiFi connection is important to those that don't have any other internet access. It is not a "nice to have" - it's a core community service. Here are just a few examples of what's being done:

- Job searches
- Applying for benefits
- Updating resumes
- Paying Bills
- Email
- Listening to videos or tutorials on subjects
- Career help
- Games
- Coding
- E commerce
- Travel research and documents
- Accessing the county Law Library
- Live chat with librarian
- School work
- Online classes (college) and Tech education classes
- Entertainment
- Social media
- Obtaining craft patterns and Pinterest projects
- Correspondence with family and friends
- Educational websites
- Health and wellness research
- Printing out: tickets, coupons, online documents, tax forms, photos, recipes, personal documents...
- Taxes
- DSS forms
- Researching legal rights
- Downloading eBooks, eAudiobooks and magazines

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\$2.30 (\$5.00 for a selected category of larger urban and suburban libraries) per square foot, we can finally upgrade outdated equipment and have confidence that desperately needed support will be there.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 really depend on that funding!***

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