



In the Matter of:

Wireline Competition Bureau Seeking)
Comments on E-rate Category Two)

WC Docket No. 13-184

The New Mexico Library Association is pleased to provide input on the impact of having access to secure and sufficient funding for the libraries throughout the state of New Mexico's rural and cities 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 of the requests for internet access were funded. USAC data shows that most libraries are eligible for a 70% discount or less and accounting 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 New Mexico, people turn to the library, whether it is a tribal, public or school to use our WiFi on their tablets, laptops, and other devices. Library users are downloading job applications, applying for financial aid, seeking health information, and communicating with family – all dependent on a strong WiFi signal. Increasingly, libraries also provide services that depend on WiFi, like coding clubs for K-12 youth. Libraries throughout New Mexico know it is not a “nice to have” – it is a core of 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(\$5.00 for a selected category of larger urban and suburban libraries) per square foot, libraries can finally upgrade outdated equipment or plan new construction. Libraries across the state of New Mexico believe that needed support to meet their community's needs will be there.

Therefore, we ask that secure funding be maintained through the full five year budget period as adopted during the 2014 Modernization. Our New Mexico Library communities depend on that funding.

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