300 SW 10th Ave.
Rm 312-N
Topeka, KS 66612-1593

phone: 785-296-3296
fax: 785-368-7291
www.kslib.info

Cindy Roupe, Interim State Librarian

State Library of Kansas

Sam Brownback, Governor

In the Matter of:

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

The State Library of Kansas is committed to assisting public libraries in getting maximum benefit from E-rate program of discounts for Internet access, telecommunications, and related eligible services and equipment. We are at a critical time in the evolution of the program. The quality and effectiveness of Kansas public library service stands to benefit greatly from the enhanced opportunities for Category 2 services offered since modernization in 2014.

To the best of our determination, prior to that year, fewer than 3% of Kansas libraries applied for priority 2 services. At this writing, 14%, or 50 legally established public libraries have Category Service 2 requests on file. The $55,000 committed to date, while seemingly a small amount, represents a significant step forward in the ability of libraries to plan, implement, and carry out the improvements E-rate makes possible.

Expectations regarding WiFi availability in our country have changed dramatically since the onset of modernization, and it is no longer possible for a library to live up to their own reputations, their missions, or the expectations of their communities without robust WiFi as an avenue of access and delivery.

By moving to ensure a library budget of $2.30 ($5.00 for a selected category of larger urban and suburban libraries) per square foot, the FCC can ensure our libraries greater ability to implement upgrades that will make this possible.

Kansas residents depend on reliable dependable library access in ways that go far beyond those of a very short time ago. We cannot strongly enough encourage and support your efforts enable libraries to be of service and positively affect the quality of life.

Sincerely,

Jeff Hixon
Director, Statewide Services