

In the Matter of:

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

This is a comment on the impact of having access to secure and sufficient funding for library WiFi and internal connections. I agree with the FCC and more than 140 libraries that there must be a fully funded and stable E-rate program, including maintaining the category two (C2) budget system for libraries. Comments submitted to the FCC have come from small rural libraries, suburban libraries, and large urban libraries, all of which indicate they depend on the E-rate program to provide internet access as a core community service.

I also support the recommendations made by ALA to make it easier and more streamlined for libraries to apply for C2 funding.

In communities across the country, people turn to the library to use the 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 K12 youth. Libraries everywhere know WiFi throughout the library is not a “nice to have” - it’s a 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(\$5.00 for a selected category of larger urban and suburban libraries) per square foot, libraries can finally upgrade outdated equipment or plan for new construction. They have confidence that desperately needed support will be there.

It is clear for library comments filed, that the FCC should maintain secure funding through the full five-year budget period as adopted during the 2014 Modernization. Our communities depend on that funding.

Sincerely,
Renate Bernstein