

In the Matter of:

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

We are pleased to provide reply comments on the impact of having access to secure and sufficient funding for our library WiFi and internal connections. **We echo the call to the FCC of more than 140 libraries to ensure a fully funded and stable E-rate program, including maintaining the category two (C2) budget system for libraries.** Comments submitted to the FCC came 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.

Before the E-rate Modernization in 2014, virtually no libraries received funds for then, Priority 2 services. Comments filed in response to this Public Notice indicate libraries are taking advantage of the C2 funding made available through the Modernization. We support the points made by the American Library Association (ALA) that underscore that it is premature for the FCC to make changes to the budget system given that we are midstream in the five-year C2 system. We 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 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 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(\$5.00 for a selected category of larger urban and suburban libraries) per square foot, libraries can finally upgrade outdated equipment or plan for new construction.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.

You want better economics for the USA. One obvious method is giving Americans the skills they need to compete, to spark the interest of minds to enter the fields now required in the technology-pushed world we live in. You can create more poverty or more economic wealth by providing WiFi funding to all libraries across the USA. Your choice and *our* choice. We choose Wi-Fi secured access.