

MEGAN BARRY
MAYOR

METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT OF NASHVILLE AND DAVIDSON COUNTY



NASHVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY
615 CHURCH STREET
NASHVILLE, TN 37219

In the Matter of:

Wireline Competition Bureau
Seeking Comments on E-rate Category Two

) WC Docket No. 13-184
)

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.

Nashville Public Library's buildings have reached the maximum number of desktop computers they can hold; however, the number of people needing Internet service continues to grow as more and more services become available online only. WiFi allows us to provide Internet services to many additional users who are downloading job applications, applying for financial aid, seeking health information, and communicating with family on laptops, tablets, and smartphones.

It is clear from 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 for Internal and WiFi connections.

Sincerely,

Kent Oliver, Director
Nashville Public Library