



Rochester Public Library

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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 our community, residents and visitors alike turn to Rochester Public Library to use WiFi on their tablets, laptops, and other devices. Our users download job applications, apply for financial aid, seek health information, and communicate with family members. Without adequate access to WiFi, our users are denied the access they need to get new jobs, go to school, learn about their health conditions, or connect with their families. C2 funding is imperative to keeping our WiFi service at a level that our community needs.

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(\$5.00 for a selected category of larger urban and suburban libraries) per square foot, libraries can finally upgrade outdated equipment or plan for new construction.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.