June 19, 2018

I would like to request a waiver of FCC rules for e-rate funding for funding year 2018-2019. I am a fairly new Library Director (in fact I am the only employee other than a cleaning lady who works 6 hours a month) and I misunderstood when I was supposed to file for my library. Our library is open 22 ½ hours a week. I volunteer part of that time and am paid for the rest. I try very hard to complete all the requirements and to help the patrons who use our library daily.

We are in an extremely disadvantaged, poverty-stricken area. Every child in the Hardin County School receives free meals. Our town is very small (1,160 people) and our tax base is very low. These funds are essential to our library. Our computers and wifi are used daily. It is impossible to apply for a job, file for unemployment benefits, or even work toward receiving a GED without computer access, and many of our residents don’t have that access. We also have children who use our computers daily both for learning and for play. During the school year we have children who use our computers for homework and to accumulate Accelerated Reading points. The people who come here do not have computers or Internet at home. They rely on the library.

Last year I received several notifications that I needed to file for e-rate funding. This year I received none. Please allow me to file now for the upcoming year, July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2018. I truly appreciate your consideration in this matter.

Sharon Wiesemann

Library Director

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