

Austin Free-Net (AFN) wishes to thank the FCC for its original decision to open the spectrum for nonprofit community groups and all others to share while committing to not interfere with each other's networks. Now in its 10th year, Austin Free-Net is among several nonprofit coalitions and organizations locally, in Texas, and nationally who welcome wholeheartedly the allocation of additional spectrum for nonprofit use. Such resources are as important to social equity, economic development, and public welfare as publicly supported education, social services, roads and highways, public transportation and basic utilities.

Austin Free-Net supports continued equitable access to telecommunications resources for U.S. communities by preventing the auctioning of most, if not all of the spectrum to the highest bidder(s). Austin Free-Net opposes the reopening of the 3650-3700MHz proceedings.

Austin Free-Net's (AFN) mission is to ensure that underserved communities can access and effectively use the Internet and computer technologies in public spaces throughout Greater Austin. Austin Free-Net was established in 1995. AFN provides equitable access and training programs at public Internet and computer access sites, and intermediary services facilitating private sector-provided Internet access at City of Austin public libraries. Additionally, Austin Free-Net offers a discounted fee-for-service technical support and training program on a sliding scale to local non-profits and community-based organizations.

