

**Before the Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554**

In the Matter of Lifeline and Link Up)	
Reform and Modernization, Telecommunications)	WC Docket No. 11-42, 09-197, 10-90
Carriers Eligible for Universal Service Support)	

**COMMENTS BY LIBRARIES
RELATED TO THE LIFELINE AND LINK UP REFORM
NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING (NPRM)**

Via Electronic Submission August 31, 2015

Ms. Marlene Dortch
Federal Communication Commission
445 12th Street, SW, Room TW-A325
Washington, DC 29554

Dear Ms. Dortch,

On behalf of millions of Library patrons across the country we applaud the Federal Communications Commission's Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (FNPRM) on the vital Lifeline universal service program.

For more than 150 years our libraries have served as a crucial resource for Americans looking to advance their education, access community resources and engage in our democracy. Over the past 20 years libraries have expanded this service to include access to computers, Internet access and now high-speed broadband and wifi.

Libraries have also been at the forefront of digital inclusion efforts for many years. We provide not only free and open Internet access but also training and guidance to support meaningful broadband use in our communities. The FCC's E-Rate program continues to play a fundamental role in establishing libraries as bulwarks of digital access in our neighborhoods. The increased funding for E-Rate will ensure that libraries continue to provide these essential resources and offer free Internet access into the future.

Unfortunately as the Internet becomes more critical as a tool for learning, communicating, creating and accessing information and services, the gaps in access across our communities are growing. Libraries help close these gaps, but more must be done to increase access for the 30% of Americans who lack home broadband. Furthermore, as libraries make more of their resources available online, lack of home broadband access threatens to leave some Americans in the digital dark.

The Lifeline program provides support to low-income individuals to ensure they remain connected to their community. Lifeline began by supporting access to landline phones but as technology changed, the program evolved. The FCC recognized this by including wireless phones as an allowable use nearly a decade ago.

We support expanding the Lifeline program to include broadband internet as an allowable use. Helping ensure all Americans are able to access affordable, quality broadband is critical to equal opportunity in our modern digital era.

Sincerely,

Arlington Public Library
Baltimore County Public Library
Brooklyn Public Library
Broward County Libraries Division
Chattanooga Public Library
Chicago Public Library
Columbus Metropolitan Library
County of Los Angeles Public Library
Dayton Metro Library
Denver Public Library
Hennepin County Library/Hennepin County Law Library
Indianapolis Public Library
Jacksonville Public Library
Kansas City Public Library
Madison Public Library
Memphis Public Library and Information Center
Multnomah County Library
Nashville Public Library
New Orleans Public Library
New York Public Library
Oakland Public Library
Palm Beach County Library System
Pima County Public Library
Queens Library
Saint Paul Public Library
Sno-Isle Libraries
Toledo-Lucas County Public Library
Tolleson Public Library
Wichita Public Library