



TO: California Public Library Community  
FROM: Greg Lucas, California State Librarian  
DATE: October 22, 2015  
SUBJECT: High-Speed Broadband in California Libraries, Year 2

I am pleased to announce the grant process for the second year of the Broadband Technology Improvement grant program for public libraries. We've worked with Califa, CENIC and the Southern California Library Cooperative to review Year 1 activities and have streamlined the process accordingly.

Additionally, these three partners held regional meetings and webinars last summer to better explain how libraries could connect to CENIC's broadband network. We asked interested libraries confirm their participation in Year 2 of the project by October 1. The list of libraries that did so and are now eligible for grants in Year 2 is included in the attachment named Appendix B.

The deadline for these libraries to submit applications is December 11, 2015. All grant materials are available on our website at <https://www.library.ca.gov/lds/broadband.html>

On Tuesday, October 27 the California State Library in conjunction with Califa and the Southern California Library Cooperative will conduct two webinars detailing the broadband equipment grant program for the 2015-2016 fiscal year. You only need to attend one session, as both are the same. Here are the registration links for the webinars:

Tuesday 10/27/2015 @ 10:00 am – 11:00am  
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2156363673942923778>

Tuesday 10/27/2015 @ 1:30pm – 2:30pm  
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8369310257342485762>

Later in January 2016, we'll release information on how libraries connected to, or in the process of connecting to the CENIC network, can apply for funds to connect additional branches. Also in January, we'll provide information on how Central Valley Independent Network project libraries can request equipment upgrades.

Also, as an earlier memo pointed out, separate from this program but related to it, for those libraries already applying for E-rate discounts be aware that the FCC offers discounts of up to 85 percent, based on the number of free or subsidized lunches

served at schools in your jurisdiction, for equipment purchases like those covered in this state grant program.

While under most circumstances content filtering is required for receipt of federal funds, the amount of discount offered through the E-Rate process could be significantly higher than that available through the state's grant program.

The timeline was too short for the current application cycle but the State Library is laying the groundwork to create a consortium, like the one CENIC conducts to help libraries connect to their network, which will simplify the process for those libraries that want to pursue a federal equipment discount in future years.

For further information, please check the USAC Schools and Libraries E-Rate website <http://www.usac.org/sl/>.

We're very excited to continue working with our partners Califa, CENIC and the Southern California Library Cooperative. We continue to make steady progress towards our goal of expanding broadband access for all public libraries across our state. If you have questions, please contact [Broadband@socallibraries.org](mailto:Broadband@socallibraries.org).