



E-Rate for Kentucky Public Libraries



What is E-Rate?

- E-rate provides discounts on internet access, internal networking equipment, and maintenance or managed services for internal networking to eligible schools and libraries



The Impact of E-Rate

- Since 1998 (first year to apply), Kentucky public libraries have received over \$28 million in E-rate discounts (exact total: \$28,347,102.36)
- Over 80% of Kentucky public library branches have fiber internet connections and 50 libraries receive a discount on hotspot services for bookmobiles each year



E-Rate in 2024

- In 2024, 102 Kentucky public libraries received a total of \$2,135,953.94 in E-rate funding commitments—\$1,144,395.41 (54%) for Category One internet access and \$991,558.53 (46%) for Category Two networking equipment



Emergency Connectivity Fund (Hotspot & Laptop Lending)

- ECF was a pandemic-related program to help schools and libraries provide hotspots and connected devices (laptops, tablets) to students and library patrons who lacked access to services needed for remote learning
- 42 Kentucky public libraries received \$1.762 million in ECF discounts which funded over 3,000 hotspots and 370 connected devices over a 2-year period

In 2025, a projected 106 Kentucky public libraries will file for E-rate discounts—this is 88% of all Kentucky public library systems—including 30 libraries that will file for hotspot lending, a new addition to the E-rate Eligible Services List for Funding Year 2025.

Robertson County Public Library's previous director, Carol Mitchell says, "Many people in our community rely on our library for internet access. Our computers and Wi-Fi are used to search and apply for jobs, complete coursework, obtain medical information, and receive government information and services. It's crucial that we provide both reliable and high-speed access to information resources our customers need to fulfill their goals."