

LIBRARY



HELP OREGON LIBRARIES BY

CREATING A STATE E-RATE FUND



WHAT IS E-RATE?

The FCC's E-Rate program provides discounts for internet connectivity and network infrastructure to eligible schools and libraries. Discounts range from 20% to 90% based on the poverty level of the schools in the region. The discounts cover broadband infrastructure investments and on-going reductions on internet bills.

WHAT HB 4092 DOES:

Section 6 of HB 4092 establishes a state-run E-Rate fund.

PLEASE
SUPPORT
HB 4092



WHY LIBRARIES WANT A STATE E-RATE FUND:

Oregon can maximize broadband funding for libraries from the FCC's E-Rate program by establishing an E-Rate fund of its own and providing additional funding to help libraries move forward on critically needed broadband infrastructure projects. Establishing a state E-Rate fund in Oregon is also the first step to securing up to 10% in extra Federal funds for projects that meet certain criteria.

MANY
OREGON LIBRARIES
DON'T MEET THE FEDERAL
BROADBAND DEFINITION

10% BELOW 25/3 SPEEDS
40% BELOW 100/100 SPEEDS

PROJECT EXAMPLE

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OREGON TRAIL LIBRARY

The Irrigon Branch of the Oregon Trail Library District in Morrow County, has limited internet coverage. The upload speeds vary day by day and even hour by hour. This affects the district Cataloger, who works at the Irrigon Branch and catalogs all of the materials for the district. They experience long delays waiting for records to open. Bringing fiber to the building would solve this problem; fiber is available at the edge of the property. The cost to bring it to the building, \$10,000, is prohibitive for the small library district. If they had an E-Rate consultant, they could access Federal E-Rate funding that would reduce the cost by 80-90%. If the state created an E-Rate fund of its own and provided funding to cover the nexus of costs not covered by the Federal program, this project could move forward, resolving the delays experienced by staff and providing the community members with a place to access fast and reliable internet.