

# ALA American Library Association

## RESOLUTION REAFFIRMING SUPPORT OF UNIVERSAL SERVICE AND THE E-RATE DISCOUNTS FOR LIBRARIES AND SCHOOLS

- WHEREAS,** the E-rate telecommunications discount program was wisely included by Congress under Universal Service provisions of the Telecommunications Act of 1996; and
- WHEREAS,** the nation requires technologically literate students, life-long learners and library users; and
- WHEREAS,** the Schools and Libraries Division (SLD) of the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC), previously known as the Schools and Libraries Corporation, administered the first year of applications for the E-rate discounts; and
- WHEREAS,** the SLD is in the process of sending commitment letters to applicants for the first year of the E-rate; and
- WHEREAS,** approximately 5,000 libraries and 25,000 K-12 schools have developed the necessary technology plans and submitted applications for the discounts during the first application year; and
- WHEREAS,** communities have signed or are about to sign contracts for technological investments based on the availability of discounts during the first year of the E-rate; and
- WHEREAS,** the window for applications for the second year of discounts has now begun and libraries and K-12 schools are urged to complete applications by the deadline established; and
- WHEREAS,** the E-rate provides discounted costs for ongoing telecommunications connectivity and related Internet services and for internal connections for those libraries and schools with the deepest discounts; and
- WHEREAS,** the discounts can range from 20-90% based on a community's eligibility to participate in the Federal school lunch program now, therefore, be it

- RESOLVED,** that the American Library Association reaffirm its ongoing commitment to preserve and strengthen the E-rate and universal service; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** that the American Library Association continue to work to improve the E-rate program including the application process; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** that the American Library Association encourage all recipients of year one discounts to express their appreciation to Congress, the Federal Communications Commission, and the Schools and Libraries Division of Universal Service Administrative Company for ongoing support and administration of the program; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** that the American Library Association urge all eligible libraries and K-12 schools to apply for the second year of E-rate discounts; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** that the American Library Association communicate its ongoing support of the E-rate to Congress, the Federal Communications Commission and the Schools and Libraries Division, and be it further
- RESOLVED,** that the American Library Association actively participate in all appropriate Federal Communications Commission, Schools and Libraries Division, congressional and other forums and proceedings regarding the evaluation and review of the E-rate program; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** that the American Library Association establish a presidentially appointed task force with staff support from ALA Washington, to work with the SLD on improvements and streamlining of the E-rate program; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** that the American Library Association continue to support and encourage ongoing dialogue between E-rate applicants and the Federal Communications Commission and the Schools and Libraries Division regarding development and improvements to the E-rate program.

Adopted by the Council of the  
American Library Association  
Philadelphia, PA  
February 3, 1999  
(Council Document 20.1)