

ALA American Library Association

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

RE: WC Docket No. 03-109
WC Docket No. 96-45
WC Docket No. 11-42

Dear Secretary Dortch:

On January 24, 2012, Larra Clark, Director of Program on Networks, Office for Information Technology Policy (OITP) American Library Association (ALA); Marijke Visser, Assistant Director, OITP; and John Windhausen, consultant to ALA and founder of Telepoly Consulting; met with FCC staff Angie Kronenberg of Commissioner Clyburn's office to explore the potential for funding digital literacy training out of the Lifeline program and through the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS).

ALA requested that the Commission consider adding language to the Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (FNPRM) that will seek comment on using savings from USF reforms to increase digital literacy training at libraries and schools. The ALA respectfully suggests that the FCC seek comment on an option that would allow the IMLS to distribute funds from the Lifeline program to state library agencies to promote digital literacy.

ALA's main points are summarized below.

1. IMLS is the primary source of federal support for the nation's 123,000 libraries and leverages these funds through formula-based grants to state library agencies through competitive discretionary grants to libraries.
2. Because of this long-standing relationship, libraries may be more likely to apply for a new digital literacy funding opportunity through IMLS, as opposed to the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC).
3. IMLS already has programs in place that provide funding to tribal libraries, whereas a significant number of tribal libraries are not eligible to receive funding through the E-rate program.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me. Please call 202.628.8410 or email me at mvisser@alawash.org.

Respectfully submitted,



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