



Soldotna Library Friends  
235 N. Binkley St.  
Soldotna, AK 99669

Thursday, August 04, 2022

Re: Remote Connectivity support

Dear Soldotna Library Friends:

I'm writing today to request your financial support for our Remote Connectivity program through the end of June 2023.

In February 2022 our library began circulating mobile hotspots to library patrons. We purchased hotspots and the accompanying data plans using grant funds from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), distributed through the Alaska State Library and the Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS). These funds are only available through September 30, 2022, at which point we must discontinue the program or secure alternate funding.

This program is both popular and timely, and is meeting an important need for internet access in our community. According to Census data, over 20% of local residents do not have broadband internet, and around 17% have no internet access at all. Based on feedback we've received, patrons borrowing these hotspots are using them for important activities such as attending school remotely, applying for jobs, and attending interviews, as well as staying connected to loved ones, learning about current events, managing their health and finances, or de-stressing during difficult times. Between February-July 2022 the library's hotspots circulated 90 times. They are in high demand, and usually stay on the shelf for no more than an hour.

Mobile data is expensive to purchase, and library hotspots are saving community members who need internet access thousands of dollars. Based on the average mobile data used per checkout, and the current retail value of this data, individuals and families would have spent an average of \$375 each month to obtain a similar service. Our library is paying \$53.22 per hotspot each month. Altogether patrons have saved an estimated \$27,000 over the last six months by using library hotspots. This is an outstanding return on investment.

Circulating mobile hotspots will allow our library to continue providing vital internet connections to local individuals and families that need internet access. We are requesting \$5,750.00 to help us continue offering this important program to our patrons through June 30, 2023. We're working to secure continuous City funding for the project starting July 1, 2023.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Rachel Nash  
City Librarian  
(907) 714-1252  
[rnash@soldotna.org](mailto:rnash@soldotna.org)