

CRCPL request for funding: 500 WiFi Hotspots

To help bridge the homework gap, the Chillicothe & Ross County Public Library would like to obtain 500 T-Mobile WiFi hotspots to distribute to students in Ross County, Ohio, who are lacking adequate Internet connectivity at home. The hotspots will be distributed on first-come, first-served basis for the duration of the 2021-2022 school year. 500 devices will meet the needs of approximately 20 percent of Ross County's high school population.

Educators in all seven school districts in Ross County, Ohio, claim that they have many students who would greatly benefit from this program. Students in our rural areas have no access to high-speed internet, as plans offering approximately 5 mbps down are all that are available in those locations. Many households are sharing this weak connection. Parents use the Internet for work, doctor's appointments, filing for benefits, etc., and students often need Internet for homework and other school requirements. Speeds that low can't handle multiple connections.

Many Ross County students also lack Internet for financial reasons. Ross County's seven school districts qualify for anywhere from 34 to 100 percent free and reduced-price school lunches, signaling a level of poverty that might not allow families to afford an Internet connection.

Site Name	NSLP Provision	Enrollment	Free Lunch Applications	Reduced Price Lunch Applications	Percent Free Lunch	Percent Reduced Price Lunch	Percent Free and Reduced Price Lunch	CEP Eligible Students
Chillicothe Intermediate School	Community Eligibility Provision	820	0	0	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	515
Chillicothe Primary School	Community Eligibility Provision	606	0	0	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	394
Ross Co Sc Oh Reg Juv Dt Ctr	Traditional	34	34	0	100.00%	0.00%	100.00%	
Lighthouse Youth Services	Traditional	55	55	0	100.00%	0.00%	100.00%	
Ross-Pike ESC	Community Eligibility Provision	31	0	0	0.00%	0.00%	87.74%	17
Chillicothe High School	Community Eligibility Provision	1,316	0	0	0.00%	0.00%	80.85%	665
Paint Valley Elementary School	Community Eligibility Provision	882	0	0	0.00%	0.00%	78.37%	432
Huntington High School	Community Eligibility Provision	1,038	0	0	0.00%	0.00%	67.21%	436
Mt Logan Early Childhood Center	Community Eligibility Provision	118	0	0	0.00%	0.00%	63.73%	47
Buckskin Elementary School	Traditional	207	104	16	50.24%	7.73%	57.97%	
Pickaway-Ross Career & Technology Center	Traditional	713	322	40	45.16%	5.61%	50.77%	
Ross County Board of MR&DD	Community Eligibility Provision	97	0	0	0.00%	0.00%	47.84%	29
Unio Elementary	Traditional	1,123	436	76	38.82%	6.77%	45.59%	
Southeastern Middle School	Traditional	1,068	400	54	37.45%	5.06%	42.51%	
Zane Trace High School	Traditional	1,350	475	91	35.19%	6.74%	41.93%	
Adena Elementary School	Traditional	1,406	520	69	36.98%	4.91%	41.89%	
Unio High School	Traditional	1,103	351	88	31.82%	7.98%	39.80%	
Bishop Flaget	Traditional	146	36	13	24.66%	8.90%	33.56%	

Families who check out a library hotspot will need to sign a form stating that they lack an adequate Internet connection at home. These forms will be kept on file for the prescribed period of time.

CRCPL is CIPA-compliant.