

**X. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. FY2021 Enhancement Considerations - Discussion**

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**PUBLIC LIBRARY BROADBAND INCREASE IN REIMBURSEMENT FUNDS - \$107,400**

This is a proposal to increase our appropriation for the Education Opportunity Resource Act (EOR), the state broadband reimbursement program for public library and school district broadband costs, from its current level of \$192,600 to a new level of \$300,000, necessitating an increase of \$107,400. We are requesting this increase to ensure sufficient reimbursement funds are available to public libraries for the one-time and ongoing costs of their internet content filters.

The Education Opportunity Resource Committee (EORC) determines the reimbursement methodology for this program and has recently elected to include internet content filter costs as a reimbursable expense, assuming remaining funds are available after fully reimbursing broadband (internet and WAN) costs. Based on E-rate funding requests, we estimate that our current level of \$192,000 of EOR funds will be exhausted after reimbursing broadband costs for libraries in FY2020 and beyond, leaving no funds remaining to reimburse public libraries' internet content filters costs. With the new requirement for public libraries to provide internet content filtering on their public wireless access starting July 1, 2020, (in addition to the existing requirements to provide internet content filtering on all library computers used by minors), we anticipate increased costs and subsequent pressure on public libraries' budgets to meet content filtering requirements in a responsible and robust manner. Because the E-rate program does not provide any funding for the costs of internet content filters, public libraries are wholly on their own to cover these rising expenses unless we can increase our EOR funds to a new level to support reimbursing these significant and required costs.

**FEDERAL AND MISCELLANEOUS REVENUE FUNDS ADJUSTMENT- \$0**

The ICfL began awarding smaller federal grants supporting various aspects of our programs. The ICfL tracks data and requests adjustments based on these ongoing trends. In FY2019, the ICfL awarded \$77,200 in additional grants. In FY2020, the amount of Trustee and Benefits (T&B) payments to libraries is projected to be \$100,000. This request is for an ongoing increase in T&B spending authority for federal funds to better anticipate expenditures and meet the needs of local libraries.

Based upon trend data, these adjustments to spending authority in fund 0349 will allow the ICfL to better anticipate donations and grants for special projects and partnerships. Ongoing partnership with the STEM Action Center requires an increase of \$45,000 (for a total of \$100,000) in operating and \$65,000 (for a total of \$75,000) in T&B spending authority for miscellaneous revenue funds.