

VI. General, Misc. Revenue, and Library Services and Improvement Funds

A.4. FY2021 Budget Submission – Action Item

The FY2021 budget request will be prepared according to the Division of Financial Management's (DFM) forthcoming budget development manual and will be submitted by August 30, 2019. The following enhancement request is recommended:

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

This enhancement would increase ICfL's 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, an increase of \$107,400. This increase would 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 our current level of \$192,600 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 filtering costs. With the passage of House Bill 193 in 2019, there is a 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). With this new requirement, 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 and HB 193 did not include any additional funding support, 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.

Suggested motion: I move that the FY2021 agency budget request be approved as described in Board Document 20-06, including the \$107,400 enhancement for public library internet content filters and that the State Librarian be authorized to make adjustments in the request as may be required by the Division of Financial Management or the Legislative Services Office.