# county sealSISKIYOU COUNTY LIBRARY

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The High-Speed Broadband project has been a tremendous success for Siskiyou County Library and, from 2016 – 2019, we have connected 11 of our 12 branches to the 100 Mbps broadband service.

The last remaining branch was always intended to be brought online alongside the other branches, but the circuit provider was unable to connect McCloud during the original 5-year contract. As we begin our second 5-year contract for services, it our expectation that the McCloud branch will finally be connected during this current fiscal year (July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022).

However, the deployment to McCloud is coinciding at a time when the County’s finances are still recovering from the COVID pandemic. For our current fiscal year, the County imposed a 5% reduction from the Library’s submitted status-quo budget, resulting in a $25,000 cut. The Library had to reduce its materials budget and forgo other planned outreach efforts to balance its budget.

But connecting McCloud is when costs are most expensive for the library to bear. We anticipate that the initial costs will be $9,000, representing over 3% of the Library’s non-payroll expenses for the current fiscal year budget.

And while we will eventually benefit from E-rate and CTF rebates which will make McCloud’s service sustainable in the long-run (as reimbursements from the previous year’s expenses will offset the current year’s expense), it will be a struggle to front the initial costs during these difficult economic times. And delaying the McCloud service until the next fiscal year will not place us in a better budgetary environment as the projected fiscal situation for the Library is not expected to significantly improve.

Please consider supporting this application for Hardship funds to allow us to connect our final branch and complete the transition of our entire library system to the 100 Mbps high-speed network.