
Hotspot Program

From David Ingram <dingram@flatheadcountylibrary.org>

Date Sat 6/28/2025 2:25 PM

To MEGA WATT <mtmegawatt@yahoo.com>

Dear Ms. Danford,

Thank you for sharing your thoughts regarding the termination of the hotspot program. Please accept my apologies for the delayed response. Your correspondence was received following the finalization of the agenda for the June Board meeting, and as such, it was not included as a formal agenda item. However, the topic was addressed during the housekeeping section of the meeting.

Several points were raised during the discussion. The hotspot program was initially implemented during the COVID-19 era as a temporary measure to help bridge the gap caused by the suspension of in-person services. Now that we have thankfully moved beyond the pandemic, the Board felt it was appropriate to reevaluate the program.

Key concerns included the lack of ongoing federal or state funding, the program's limited reach relative to its cost, and questions about whether providing rural broadband access falls within the core responsibilities of the library. Additionally, it was noted that many individuals now have access to mobile phones with data plans, which may serve as a more sustainable alternative. Ultimately, the Board emphasized the importance of being good stewards of taxpayer funds and making difficult decisions in that context.

That said, we remain committed to supporting digital access across our service area. The library continues to offer free public Wi-Fi at all branch locations, including access from outside the building during business hours. We also provide public computer stations, printing services, and technical assistance for patrons who need help accessing digital resources. We will continue exploring other ways to expand equal access to technology as funding and partnerships allow.

We appreciate your engagement and welcome your continued input as we assess and adapt library services to best serve the community.

David Ingram, MD
Trustee/Chair

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