



# CARES Act Grants and CIPA

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## FILTERING FOR MOBILE DEVICES & HOT SPOTS.

The CARES Act (Public Law 116-136) includes the purpose “To expand digital network access, purchase internet accessible devices, and provide technical support services.” In response, the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) included a digital inclusion priority in the CARES Act allotments distributed to state libraries. The IMLS priority is to “address digital inclusion and related technical support.” In practical terms, meeting this priority can include providing community members internet accessible devices and increased or improved wi-fi access, which is a focus of the Library of Michigan CARES Act grants for public libraries.

However, the Children’s Internet Protection Act (20 USC 9134 (f)), also known as CIPA, does apply to the provision of internet access with federal funds, including CARES Act funds. Compliance with CIPA requires a filtering provision to block access to visual depictions deemed obscene, child pornography, or harmful to minors. When libraries purchase mobile devices, hotspot devices or data plans for those devices with federal funding, the devices or data access plans must be configured to ensure compliance with CIPA. It is important to note that there is no single method or strategy for applying filtering. For data contracts used to provide internet access to circulating devices, vendors have different methods of applying filtering. For example:

- T-Mobile has 3 different filtering levels that are available for a fee of \$2.00/month per device.
- Mobile Beacon (which utilizes Sprint devices and the Sprint network) offers CIPA compliant filtering for free. Libraries must request the filtering at the time of ordering.
- Verizon does not offer a filtering service. Libraries would need to purchase devices and service from another vendor, such as Kajeetc, to apply filtering at cost.

Typically, libraries should request CIPA filters from the vendor at the time of order. Since each hotspot has an IP address, it is also possible for a library IT staff to configure the hotspots to connect through the library’s filtered network or an existing paid filtering software. Adults may request that filtering be turned off, so be aware of how to do that with circulating devices.

Please note that while E-Rate funding requires filtering of all devices that connect to the federally discounted internet access, grant funding applies only to those devices and/or data access purchased with the grant funds during the grant contract period.

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