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Huachuca City Public Library Gets Connected with Mobile Hotspots

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The Arizona State Library, Archives and Public Records, a division of the Secretary of State, has awarded \$4,285.00 to the Huachuca City Library for a pilot hotspot lending program.

Library Director Suzanne Harvey is excited about the program. “This program is particularly suited to our community. There are not many internet providers offering service in Huachuca City and because of the lack of competition, internet prices are higher than in the surrounding area. Many folks here simply cannot afford internet. A hotspot lending program is ideal. Folks can check out a hotspot to meet temporary needs such as job searches, homework assignments, as well as to access online resources such as ACCHS or SNAP without having to commit to a monthly bill that they may not be able to afford. We do have folks using our library computers every day but there is no privacy and patrons must plan their computer use for times we are open. The really great thing about the hotspots is that they can be used in the privacy of patron’s home at their convenience after school or after work. I think they will be a big hit with the community!”

The hotspots and hotspot service is being provided through Mobile Beacon. Mobile Beacon is a company that provides high-speed, low-cost, mobile internet access to the anchors of communities: the nonprofits, schools, libraries, and healthcare organizations that provide vital services to millions of Americans every day. Through this broadband service, organizations have an essential tool to fulfill their missions and maximize their philanthropic impact, which allows organizations to access more information, reach more people, and help more in their communities.

The hotspot lending program in Huachuca City is a pilot program. The Huachuca City Library will collect data on the frequency of use as well as the effectiveness of the program. That data will be provided to the Arizona State Library for use in future planning throughout the state. If the program proves valuable to the community, it will continue--on a limited basis--after the conclusion of the grant period. The program is set to kick off next week.

In 2017, the Arizona State Library received about \$3.2 million under the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA), which is administered by the Institute of Museum and Library Services. Arizona libraries received \$800,000 awarded on a competitive basis. The remaining funds are used to support statewide services, including family literacy and reading programs, electronic databases, digital government initiatives, continuing education classes, and other programs.

“Libraries are community centers that address diverse needs, including employment and economic development, civic engagement, and human services,” said Secretary of State Michele Reagan whose office oversees the State Library. “It is an honor to assist libraries to transform to meet the needs of the community.”