Emergency Connectivity Fund: *Pottsboro Library* and *TekWav* partner to provide Library Patrons internet access

POTTSBORO, TX – The Pottsboro Library through a public-private partnership with local internet service provider, TekWav, announces that they have received funding through the Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF) Program to bring internet service to library patrons.

The funding comes from the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) $7.17 billion ECF Program and can be used to purchase laptops and tablets, Wi-Fi hotspots, modems, routers, and broadband connections for use by students, school staff, and library patrons in need. The funding also can be used to support off-campus learning, such as homework and virtual learning.

Through the partnership with TekWav, the Pottsboro Library plans to use these funds to provide connectivity to library patrons within Grayson County, TX.

"Our library is very happy with this development as we seek to bridge the digital divide in our schools by partnering with TekWav to utilize this ECF funding. This is critical as we want to ensure our patrons have quality both in education and technologies. This funding will aid in providing our patrons with internet connectivity." Said Dianne Connery, director of the Pottsboro Library.

The FCC to date has committed approximately $6.93 billion in program funding to provide nearly 18 million students with broadband connections and equipment. Total commitments to date have funded nearly 13 million connected devices and more than 8 million broadband connections.

The top (3) states receiving the most funding in the latest round are:

- New York – $794,722,960
- Texas – $802,140,288
- California – $982,297,401;

"As a local business owner providing educational opportunities and internet connectivity here in our community is of utmost priority for TekWav. This will empower the future of our workforce here in Texoma. The digital divide is serious in rural-Texas and we believe this partnership is going to significantly improve connectivity for people ultimately aiding in their success and in turn improve our local economic vitality." Said JJ McGrath, owner/operator of TekWav.

The partnership is currently working on implementing this new program up and intend to have it up and running within the next 30 days. Library patrons will receive a form for the family to fill out - showing the need for internet and/or their current service is very poor quality and not sufficient.

From there TekWav and the Pottsboro Library will provide internet service paired with guidelines as well as support to ensure patrons continue to receive high-quality service. To learn about the partnership and the internet access program, please visit www.GetFreeInternetToday.com.

###