

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: [LIBRARY REPRESENTATIVE]

[DATE], 2021

Wi-Fi Hotspots Available at [LIBRARY]

Wi-Fi hotspots are available for check out at [LIBRARY]. Hotspots are portable devices that allow users to connect to the Internet using a computer, smartphone, tablet, or other wireless-capable device. Their small size allows them to be taken anywhere and will enable library patrons to access the Internet wherever they are to do homework, look for and apply to jobs, or connect with loved ones. Like everything else from [LIBRARY], the Wi-Fi hotspots are available free of charge to library patrons. We do however ask that you pay a replacement fee if the device is lost or broken.

Many of Baldwin County's rural communities lack adequate Internet connectivity. Often the local library is the one place in town where anyone can go to access the Internet free of charge. When COVID forced schools, businesses, and libraries to close, many Alabamians were suddenly left without Internet access to meet their increasingly pressing information needs. Students learning online, workers applying for unemployment benefits, and residents using telemedicine services were at risk of falling behind.

[LIBRARY DIRECTOR] said, "We are excited to partner with Baldwin County Library Cooperative, Inc. and the Institute for Museum and Library Services to provide Wi-Fi hotspots to our patrons. If COVID-19 taught us anything, it's important to prepare for a crisis before it happens. These devices will help people connect to important services they need now, but will also help the library be there for our community before the next crisis."

Hotspots are available for two-week loans to [LIBRARY] patrons in good standing aged 19 and up. Limit one per household per loan period. Children under the age of 19 can connect to a hotspot checked out to their parent or legal guardian. Patrons should check with library staff for more details on the Wi-Fi hotspot program.

This project was made possible in part through funding from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (ARPML-250538-OMLS) and the Baldwin County Library Cooperative, Inc. with support from Alabama Public Library Service. [BOILER PLATE FROM IMLS: The Institute of Museum and Library Services is the primary source of federal support for the nation's libraries and museums. We advance, support, and empower America's museums, libraries, and related organizations through grantmaking, research, and policy development. Our vision is a nation where museums and libraries work together to transform the lives of individuals and communities. To learn more, visit www.imls.gov and follow us on Facebook and Twitter.]

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