

The Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners has distributed over 3000 hotspots to approximately 220 public libraries for loan to library users.

MBLC is providing the hotspot devices and will cover the cost of the internet service / data plan through the end of September 2022. Libraries may elect to take over the ongoing costs when funding ends. Hotspot lending is on track to begin by mid-August, 2021.

Please continue to check here for progress, guidance regarding device set-up, use, and troubleshooting; marketing materials; example circulation policies/templates; hotspot program FAQs, etc.

Funded through the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), the hotspot lending program focuses on IMLS' primary goal for these funds, digital inclusion.

Program Timeline

Dates	Activities
	Survey to Assess Library Interest - Complete
May 12 – 26, 2021	MBLC released a survey to all public library directors requesting information on current hotspot lending, cellular services in the library's service area, and interest in participation in the new program. 307 of 369 (83%) libraries responded. Of those, 93% were very or somewhat interested.
June 1 - July 15, 2021	Vendor Selection and Contracting - Complete
	MBLC analyzed the survey results to determine how many hotspots to procure in total, whether a single vendor or multiple vendors will be necessary, and approximately how many hotspots will be allocated to each library.
	MBLC entered into a relationship with T-Mobile to provide over 3,000 hotspots to 217 public libraries as well as the Talking Book libraries at Perkins and Worcester. Approximately 6 municipalities determined that they would not have sufficient coverage with T-Mobile. An alternative service will be considered later in the

Dates	Activities
	summer.
	Q&A with MBLC - Complete
June 14, 2021	MBLC ran a Q&A sessions to discuss the program with libraries considering participation.
	Formal Request for Participation - Complete
June 7 -24, 2021	Libraries completed a brief form confirming their wish to participate and certify that they will abide by the program rules.
	Notification to Each Participant
Late June, 2021	MBLC will notify each participating library about the number of hotspots, the vendor selected for that city/town, and the estimated delivery date.
	Hotspots Delivered to Libraries
July 15 - , 2021	T-Mobile / Franklin T9 hotspots and cases begin shipping on or around Thursday, July 15th.
	Orientation and Training
	Libraries will receive initial training to help them prepare to circulate hotspots.
July / August, 2021	Initial presentations from scheduled T-Mobile and Franklin Wireless on: July 29th at 1pm, August 3rd at 11am, and August 4th at 3pm
Late Summer 2021 –	Libraries continue to lend hotspots

Dates	Activities
September 2022	Libraries circulate hotspots. Circulation figures will be reported as part of normal ARIS data collection.

Libraries keep hotspots or return to MBLC

MBLC will no longer pay for mobile hotspot data plans or monthly equipment costs, if any, after September, 2022. The ARPA funds supporting this program through IMLS must be expended by this deadline.

October 1, 2022	Libraries will have the option to take over monthly costs for some or all of the hotspots received at that time.
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