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**Upper Skagit Library among 50 libraries nationwide to conduct PLA's Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) Basics workshop, supported by AT&T**

Concrete — The Upper Skagit Library is among 50 public libraries nationwide awarded funding by the Public Library Association (PLA) this year to conduct workshops using the new DigitalLearn Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) Basics training materials, developed in collaboration with AT&T. The [PLA ACP Basics Workshop Incentive, supported by AT&T](#), enables libraries to conduct the workshops that help families and households learn about ACP and how to apply for the benefit.

The Affordable Connectivity Program, also known as the ACP, from the United States Federal Communications Commission (FCC) helps families and households with affordable internet service. In collaboration with AT&T, PLA developed the [ACP Basics digital course and workshop materials](#) to help provide families and households identify the information they need to apply for the program, how to apply for the program, and how to use the benefit.

The library's efforts will focus on targeted outreach and training for low-income families and senior citizens. In 2023, a large percentage of low-income families in Concrete didn't have fixed broadband service. The training and resources that the library plans to provide will aim to help senior citizens access affordable internet service, maintain their independence, and stay connected with their family and friends.

PLA Past President Maria McCauley remarked, "Public libraries continuously play a vital role in providing digital literacy tools and information to their communities. The expansion of this powerful collaboration with AT&T will ensure that even more families and communities can benefit from programs and resources like ACP that increase digital access and equity".

The Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) Basics course and more digital literacy resources are freely available in English and Spanish through [AT&T ScreenReady](#) and PLA's [DigitalLearn.org](#). The Upper Skagit Library will help patrons utilize these resources in an upcoming workshop series that will be conducted IN PERSON at the Upper Skagit Library on August 5th, 12th, 19th, & 26th at 3:00pm.

**About the Upper Skagit Library**

The Upper Skagit Library strives to encourage intellectual freedom and lifelong learning to achieve personal, educational, and professional goals and to enhance the social, economic, and cultural vitality of the cities of Birdsvie, Concrete, Rockport, and Marblemount. The Upper Skagit Library is the main spot to access new technology and knowledge in the Upriver area. There are no other public organizations that provide free high-speed internet access 24/7, just as it is the only public center that allows and promotes the use and learning of technology "Upriver", which is very important for low-income people who live in our area.



### **About the Public Library Association**

The Public Library Association (PLA) is the largest association dedicated to supporting the unique and evolving needs of public library professionals. Founded in 1944, PLA serves nearly 9,000 members in public libraries large and small in communities across the United States and Canada, with a growing presence around the world. PLA strives to help its members shape the essential institution of public libraries by serving as an indispensable ally for public library leaders. For more information about PLA, contact the PLA office at 1 (800) 545-2433, ext. 5PLA, or [pla@ala.org](mailto:pla@ala.org).

### **About Philanthropy & Social Innovation at AT&T**

We're committed to advancing education, creating opportunities, strengthening communities, and improving lives. As part of our company wide \$2 billion commitment from 2021–2023 to address the digital divide, we launched AT&T Connected Learning to invest in connectivity and technology, digital literacy, and education solutions. We aim to help today's learners succeed inside and outside of the classroom. Since 2008, we've committed more than \$600 million to programs that help millions of students across all 50 states and around the world, particularly those in underserved communities.

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