American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Grant through South Central Regional Library Council
Approved by the State Library February 2, 2022

Finger Lakes Library System (FLLS) service area comprises small and rural libraries where many communities struggle with reliable Internet. They will upgrade routers for 24 of 33 member libraries. The routers include a one-year licenses (January-December 2022). They will also provide at least one access point per library to allow greater bandwidth, supplying libraries with greater broadband when/where it is available. The access points also come with a January-December subscription. FLLS will also update public access computers for 14 of their members to provide faster computer access for patrons for job searching, homework help, etc. They will also participate in digital literacy training for staff and patrons. **$69,743.**

Four County Library System (4CLS): The service area of Four County Library System (4CLS) comprises some of the region's and state's most broadband challenged areas according to the NYS Digital Equity Portal Cornell map (https://blogs.cornell.edu/nysdigitalequity/explore-map-layers/) including Delaware County. Their project will increase the range of public library WiFi (especially outside the buildings), replace outdated public internet computers, and provide access to digital literacy resources to library staff and patrons. **$75,215.**

Southern Tier Library System (STLS) will upgrade and expand access to Internet-enabled devices (public computing infrastructure) to meet the needs of community members and improve access to digital literacy training by offering learning opportunities to member librarians on how to assist library patrons with online content designed to enable and encourage self-sufficiency, participation and collaboration. STLS also contains counties with extremely limited broadband services, e.g. Yates. **$80,000.**

SCRLC will lead a region-wide accessibility/disability justice project entitled, Digital Justice 4 Disability Justice, to increase digital inclusion among the disabled community. The pilot will involve 4-5 public libraries, who will receive special training and assistive technology to help the disabled community engage online. There will also be a webinar series to help library workers understand more about the need for and ways to include members of the disabled community for digital equity. **$43,445.** SCRLC will also provide a subscription for all three public library systems to Niche Academy. Niche Academy contains library worker training as well as modules/programs geared toward the public. Their webinars are closed-captioned. **$16,830.**