PRESS RELEASE   **Contact: Chantal Downing**
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE   **951-955-7274**

INTERNET HOTSPOTS FOR LOAN AT RIVERSIDE COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM

Riverside County, CA (March 15, 2022) - Ninety hotspots have been acquired by the Riverside County Library System, thanks to funding from the Southern California Library Cooperative (SCLC) and the California State Library.

Starting Friday March 10, these hotspots were made available to borrow from each branch. This new collection will help to bridge the digital divide in the community, bringing internet to those who need it outside of the library walls.

Excited about the possibilities these new acquisitions will bring to people, Jon Solomon, Director of RCLS, said "The new hotspots will really benefit those in our community who may not have regular access to internet. We are pleased that we can continue to offer this crucial service even after our doors have closed for the day."

The hotspots will provide portable Wi-Fi to assist with job seeking, school work, accessing online health portals and more, and will connect to mobile enabled devices such as smartphones, laptops and tablets.

They can be borrowed for up to three weeks and will work in any area covered by the Sprint or T-Mobile network. These hotspots will enable all members of the community, with an active RCLS library card, to access the internet from home or on the move, opening up opportunities and increasing productivity.

This initiative is a recipient of the State wide $1.6 million emergency COVID-19 recovery fund, which is providing hotspots and laptops to community libraries across California. Funding for this initiative comes from the federal Library Services and Technology Act, which requires libraries comply with the Children's Internet Protection Act to receive devices.

The Riverside County Library System is a division of the Office of Economic Development. For more information, please contact the Riverside County Library System at (951) 369-3003 or visit www.rivlib.net.

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