Together we can close the digital divide and promote digital equity for all.

WHO IS SHLB?

The Schools, Health & Libraries Broadband Coalition (SHLB) is the **leading national public interest organization** promoting low-cost, high-capacity Internet access for anchor institutions and their surrounding communities. Schools, libraries, telehealth providers and other anchor institutions play a vital role in eliminating the digital divide and solving the homework gap. SHLB's advocacy ensures that anchor institutions' unique needs and contributions are recognized and included in federal, state and local broadband programs.

Based in Washington DC, SHLB ("Shell-bee") works closely with Congress, federal agencies (like NTIA and the FCC), and state and local governments to promote its mission. We publish research and blogs, develop recommendations (with input from our members) on key policy issues, and meet with policymakers to promote our ideas. SHLB focuses on those broadband issues that are essential to bring affordable Internet access to all, such as E-rate, rural telehealth, wireless broadband, digital equity, broadband infrastructure, pole attachments, and Universal Service Fund reform.

Founded in 2009, SHLB was initially supported by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and now is funded principally from membership dues. SHLB's membership includes hundreds of organizations from across the broadband ecosystem. Any organization that supports our mission can join.

WHY SHOULD YOUR ORGANIZATION JOIN SHLB?

Shape Broadband Policy and Funding	SHLB develops real world solutions based on our members' experiences and brings these lessons to the attention of policymakers. Our reputation for thoughtful recommendations and our experience navigating the government processes ensures we can influence policy outcomes. We've had significant impact on several issues, including E-rate, Rural Health Care, and broadband funding legislation. As a member, your organization has a seat at the table in shaping government programs that could be important to your success.
Connect and Collaborate for Success	Joining SHLB connects your organization to a diverse network of stakeholders like schools, libraries, telehealth providers, state broadband offices, research and education networks, and technology companies. Membership fosters collaboration and best practices. We can also introduce you to and develop relationships with policymakers that will help you succeed.
Stay Ahead of the Curve	SHLB provides in-depth, real-time updates and expert analysis of broadband policy developments on Capitol Hill and around the country. Our policy staff are broadband policy experts with years of experience working with federal and state officials. We hold several policy calls with our members every month to keep you informed and to provide our insight into broadband policy and politics.

By joining SHLB, your organization becomes part of a powerful coalition dedicated to expanding affordable, high-capacity Internet access to anchor institutions and the communities they serve.

Examples of SHLB's Impact on Broadband Policy 2019-2024

School Bus Wi-Fi	Rural Health Care Program	Emergency Connectivity Fund	Broadband Equity, Access & Deployment Program	E-rate, ECF & RHC
SHLB worked to convince the FCC to make E-rate funding available for school bus Wi-Fi to help students with their homework on commutes to and from school. (2019-2023)	SHLB held regular meetings with the FCC and USAC, which has led to improved operations and faster funding decisions for Rural Health Care applicants. (2019-2024)	SHLB inspired Congress to create the Emergency Connectivity Fund, a program that enabled over 8 million households to obtain low-cost Internet access. (2021)	SHLB worked with Congress so that anchor institutions would be eligible for gigabit broadband connectivity through the BEAD program. (2021)	SHLB convinced the FCC to extend the E-rate, ECF and RHC deadlines during Covid to help schools, libraries and healthcare providers obtain funding. (2021-2022)

Cybersecurity	E-rate Program	Pole Attachments	Universal Service Fund	Other Issues
SHLB helped convince the FCC to adopt a three-year pilot for schools and libraries to strengthen their cybersecurity protections and also to clarify how to apply for funding. (2021-2024)	SHLB stopped the FCC from creating a federal E-rate portal, which would have usurped school and libraries' authority without curtailing waste, fraud and abuse. (2023)	SHLB adopted pole principles and filed FCC comments promoting expedited resolution of pole attachment disputes, leading to a positive FCC Order. (2023)	SHLB filed intervenor briefs in several appellate courts to uphold the constitutionality of the Universal Service Fund, leading to three positive court decisions to date. (2023-2024)	SHLB supports the ACP; advocates to include anchors on broadband maps; supports USF contribution reform; and promotes unlicensed and shared spectrum.

Ready to Join? Visit our membership page for more information.