Gigabit Libraries for California. Work is underway to bring high-speed broadband to all of California’s public libraries over the next three years by connecting them to CalREN, a high-capacity 3,800-mile fiber optic network operated by CENIC, the Corporation for Education Network Initiatives in California, a non-profit California corporation that connects California to the world. The Califa Group, a non-profit library consortium, has been appointed by the California State Library to manage the rollout process with CENIC.

Because libraries are central to their communities, connecting them to CalREN will effectively provide all of California’s residents with high-performance access to the myriad resources that constitute 21st century digital citizenship and will provide California with all of the economic benefits of a digitally empowered population.

Expand your connectivity and get the right level of service for your needs. Most library jurisdictions connecting to CalREN will be connected at 1000 Mbps or 1 Gigabit. Some jurisdictions may choose a 10 Gigabit connection, if needed. CENIC does not limit its members to a one-size-fits-all solution. Members are always able to choose the right level of services for them with cost-efficient scalability as their needs evolve.

Count on access to the most advanced technologies. The cost per megabit of connectivity will decline dramatically. Libraries in Year 1 are expected to realize a savings of more than 50% for 25 times more bandwidth. CENIC provides broad access to the most advanced technologies by passing along the pricing advantages of our large economies of scale. By keeping network-related costs low and predictable, we help organizations meet challenging budget constraints.

Obtain federal E-rate discounts on one-time and recurring costs. Because of CENIC’s ability to file for E-rate discounts for libraries as a California Library Consortium, all libraries are expected to receive these discounts on both one-time and recurring costs without having to go through the complicated process of filing themselves.
**Obtain reliable connectivity.**
CENIC operates a Network Operations Center that understands its member institutions and is ready to provide advanced network services 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

**Expand your community.**
Libraries become part of a statewide high bandwidth intranet, connecting libraries to existing and prospective school and college partners. They also have access to other national and international networks such as Internet2 and Pacific Wave. Members share the progress made by the entire CENIC community and connect with peers at CENIC hosted workshops and conferences.

**Join forces with an influential policy and funding advocate.**
CENIC is a respected advocate and thought leader in policy making and funding decisions. Owned by its charter members in education and research, CENIC represents their vital interests in helping shape a regulatory environment that supports connected communities and makes wise investments for the future.

**Anticipated results: Year 1**
By the end of the first year, taking place in 2015, 75 library jurisdictions comprising 447 libraries will be connected. This is over one-third of all libraries in California. Their bandwidth will increase dramatically from an average of 76 Megabits per second (Mbps) to an average of 2,001 Mbps per jurisdiction. Despite the increase in bandwidth, costs will decrease from an average of $9,194 annually per jurisdiction to an average of $3,442 annually per jurisdiction, a savings of 62.5%. In addition, California libraries will receive $455,715 in new federal money through the E-rate discount program, with 20 library jurisdictions in this group accessing this discount program for the first time.

**Joining the project in Year 2**
Public library jurisdictions that participate in the California Library Services Act are eligible to connect to CalREN in Year 2 of the project which begins in July 2015. Funding for technology improvement grants is included in the Governor’s 2015/16 budget. Details will be forthcoming. For more information, contact our project team at: broadband@califa.org.