Bridging the Digital Divide
Laptops & Internet Access for Families in Need

The Early Childhood Alliance (ECA) and Onondaga County Public Libraries (OCPL) have partnered to launch a new Tech Pack Loan Program for families of children birth through age five who are having difficulty accessing virtual early learning services as a result of limited computer and/or internet access.

Tech packs include a Chromebook, WiFi hotspot, and appropriate chargers and may be requested on a family’s behalf on a first-come, first-served basis according to the process at right.

If you have questions about the program or would like to request more information, please contact Emily Dillon at 315.440.9690 or ecaonondaga3@gmail.com.

How To Request a Tech Pack

• Tech Packs will be loaned to OCPL cardholders only when requested by a service provider.

• Service providers must confirm that a member of the family is a cardholder. If not, the provider should assist the family in obtaining a card.

• To request a Tech Pack, complete the online request form at bit.ly/TechPackRequest. You will need to provide the name of the cardholder as well as your name, contact information, and agency affiliation.

• The Tech Pack will be signed out to the cardholder, but the provider must collect it from the Central Library (447 South Salina St., Syracuse, NY 13202) and deliver it to the family.

• The initial loan period is four (4) weeks and may be extended by the provider for up to four (4) months. If the tech pack is still needed and in active use at the conclusion of the extended four (4) month loan period, the provider may submit another extension request for review.

• At the end of the loan, the provider will collect the Tech Pack and return it to the Central Library.

• If equipment is damaged or lost, the Library will not hold the cardholder or provider liable.

Funding support for the Early Childhood Tech Pack Loan Program has been generously provided by the CNY COVID-19 Community Support Fund and the Health Foundation for Western & Central New York
Applications may also be completed in-person at any OCPL branch. Please call prior to visiting to confirm current hours of operation and inquire about COVID-19 policies and procedures. Acceptable forms of alternate ID include: automobile registration; bus pass with current address; National Grid or telephone bill; school or college ID; Sheriff’s identification; and tax receipts.

Eligibility
Tech Packs will be loaned to OCPL cardholders only and must be requested by a service provider. The provider should assist the family in obtaining a Library card if a member of the family does not already have one.

Requesting
To request a Tech Pack, complete and submit the online request form at bit.ly/TechPackRequest. You will need to provide the name of the family’s cardholder as well as your name, contact info, and agency affiliation.

Obtaining
The Tech Pack will be signed out to the family cardholder. The provider must collect it from the Central Library1 and deliver it to the family. The initial loan period is 4 weeks but may be extended up to 4 months by the provider.2

Returning
At the end of the loan, the provider must collect the Tech Pack from the family and return it to the Central Library. If equipment is damaged or lost, the Library will not hold the cardholder or provider liable.

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