
CENIC Research & Education Network | Circuit Deployment Fee

In 2014, the California State Library (CSL) received funding to connect California's public libraries to California Research and Education Network (CalREN), operated by the [non-profit CENIC](#). To date, approximately 80% of all public library outlets are connected to CalREN. In addition to libraries, CENIC members on CalREN include K-12 schools, the California Community College system, the University of California system, the California State University system, and a number of private universities (including Stanford University, California Institute of Technology, and the University of Southern California).

CENIC delivers cost-effective, high-speed broadband to California's public libraries. In some parts of the state, this program has resulted in broadband to the library at speeds not previously available in the area. The out-of-pocket costs to libraries for these services are significantly lowered through CENIC's high-volume purchasing, as well as CENIC's administration of the application process for federal E-rate and state California Teleconnect Fund (CTF) discounts on behalf of member libraries.

Starting July 1, 2021, libraries will be assessed an additional fee in order to maintain the high quality of the non-profit CENIC's CalREN network and network services. Due to the labor-intensive nature of circuit deployment work, the CENIC Board of Directors developed a Circuit Deployment Fee to help defray the cost to CENIC for activities related to ordering and delivering circuits. All CENIC member segments will incur this new fee. The circuit deployment process is outlined in these [steps to connect to CalREN](#). This document provides answers to common questions about the Circuit Deployment Fee.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q1: How was the decision to introduce this new fee made?

A1: CENIC has experienced a substantial increase in the number of new connections to the network, resulting in a need for increased resources at CENIC to effectively deploy these circuits. For example, when libraries joined, they brought over 900 new circuits to the CalREN network. Increases in the number of new connections from all member segments prompted

CENIC's Board of Directors (including three Directors who represent California libraries) to conduct a sustainability review, which included the fee structure.

The fee review began in 2017 and culminated in a unanimous decision by CENIC's Board of Directors early in 2020, prior to the COVID pandemic. The Board decided to assess fees related to circuit provisioning activity in a manner that ensures each member pays its fair share of cost based on the volume of provisioning activities performed for that member.

Ordering and installing circuits is a labor-intensive process, so a per-circuit fee structure was deemed the fairest approach. The Circuit Deployment Fee is only assessed when a library requests a change to existing service or when adding new service(s) and does not apply to any library maintaining their existing service. All quotes will incorporate the new fee as appropriate so libraries can make the best-informed decision for their outlets and budgetary constraints.

Q2: Will these fees be incurred by other CENIC members?

A2: Yes. All CENIC members are subject to Circuit Deployment Fees. Most other members began paying the new fee on July 1, 2020.

Q3: Will libraries be charged a Circuit Deployment Fee to upgrade existing circuits?

A3: Yes. Upgrades and any other non-elected changes (see Q8) are subject to the Circuit Deployment Fee. The Circuit Deployment Fee is \$6,333 per circuit connected to CalREN and \$2,550 for non-CENIC managed circuits that are used on a library's internal network to interconnect library sites.

Q4: Will libraries be charged a Circuit Deployment Fee to move a circuit from one location to another, e.g., a library that relocates to a new library facility down the street from an old location?

A4: Yes. Since moving a circuit involves the same amount of work as installing a new circuit, these requests are subject to fees outlined above.

Q5: Will libraries be charged a Circuit Deployment Fee for collector circuits?

A5: No. There will be no additional charges for collector circuits since these circuits are part of the larger network design for delivering service to the library. That is, each library circuit will only incur one Circuit Deployment Fee even if the circuit includes a collector circuit component.

Q6: Will libraries be charged a Circuit Deployment Fee to renew an existing circuit with the same circuit provider at the end of a five-year agreement if there are no changes to speed or location?

A6: No. If there are no changes to your service and you are only renewing existing services for another 60 months, the Circuit Deployment Fee does not apply.

Q7: If I am adding multiple locations or making multiple changes, will I be charged multiple times?

A7: Yes. The Circuit Deployment Fee will be applied separately to each individual circuit added or changed.

Q8: At the end of the five-year Califa agreement, when circuits go out to rebid via the CENIC RFP, what happens when a different circuit provider submits the lowest bid, forcing a circuit provider change? Will the Circuit Deployment Fee apply in this scenario?

A8: Yes. When CENIC reviews provider bids, they will evaluate all bids received, choosing the overall most cost-effective bid. The evaluation matrix will take into account any Circuit Deployment Fees (which are NOT eligible for E-rate) in the overall evaluation. That is, CENIC will consider the library's total net five-year cost (including Circuit Deployment Fees) when selecting the service provider for any given circuit. However, please note that USAC requires the price of the eligible products and services (the circuits and construction costs) to carry the highest weight in the evaluation matrix.

Q9: What is a non-elected change vs an elected change?

A9: A "non-elected" change is one that CENIC is requiring the library to make. For example, if the commercial service provider for your circuit is requiring a circuit change due to changes in the technologies it supports, you will not be charged a Circuit Deployment Fee. An "elected" change is a change requested by the library and is subject to the Circuit Deployment Fee. Elected changes include moves, upgrades, new or additional circuits, or changing service providers.

Q10: When is the Circuit Deployment Fee due?

A10: The Circuit Deployment Fee may either be paid in full at the start of service, as a one-time cost on your first quarterly bill, or amortized into 60 equal monthly payments with each 1/60 share added to your monthly recurring costs. If, for any reason, service is disconnected prior to the end of the full 60-month term, the library will be invoiced for all remaining Circuit Deployment Fee charges at that time

For further questions regarding quotes or connections, contact Susan Swank at sswank@cenic.org. For questions regarding billing, contracting or grant questions please reach out to Broadband@califa.org.