September 29, 2022

Service Invoice Summary – Website Update

On September 22nd, USAC published the "Service Invoice Summary" to streamline the overall review of Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF) service invoices for not only the applicant, but for the reviewers as well. The Service Invoice Summary requests the relevant information USAC is seeking during its review of a service invoice, such as the service start and end dates, number of lines, and unit price for each line to show how you determined the dollar amount requested on your ECF request for reimbursement. The use of this summary is not required but is intended to be a leading practice example of how to provide the relevant information that is needed to streamline the review of reimbursement requests for ECF-funded services. If you choose to use this summary, please upload the completed summary to the "Communications" tab in the ECF Portal. The Service Invoice Summary and additional tips for submitting invoices can be found on the USAC ECF Website, under the 'Request for Reimbursement Reminders and Tips."

Total Connections and Connected Devices by State Now Available

The FCC just added detailed information about the total number of ECF-funded connections and connected devices by state to its website, which will be updated with each commitment wave. The downloadable list can be found here.

WCB Grants Three Waivers of Third ECF Application Filing Deadline

Last week, the Wireline Competition Bureau (WCB) granted three petitioners waivers of the ECF Program's third and final application filing window deadline (DA 22-993). WCB determined that these three applicants demonstrated special circumstances that justified a waiver of the Commission's rules as they were unable to timely file their ECF FCC Form 471 due to technical issues with their accounts that prevented the applicants from being able to access the ECF Portal prior to the May 13, 2022 deadline. Please note that the 30-day deadline to request a waiver of the third application filing window deadline has passed.

WCB Waives USF, Broadband Program Rules due to Hurricane Fiona

On September 22nd, WCB also waived certain E-Rate, ECF, Rural Health Care, COVID-19 Telehealth, Lifeline, and Affordable Connectivity Program rules to assist participants and service providers located in areas impacted by Hurricane Fiona (DA 22-998). For ECF program participants located in impacted areas, WCB provided 150-day extensions of the deadlines to submit waivers and appeals and the deadlines to respond to USAC related information requests. WCB also provided impacted program participants with a waiver of the document retention rule for records destroyed by Hurricane Fiona and greater flexibility when requesting service substitutions for eligible equipment or services. You can find the latest orders related to the ECF program, including any hurricane relief, in WC Docket No. 21-93.

ECF Requests for Reimbursement Reminders & Tips

Invoicing Checklists – Check out our Request for Reimbursement ECF FCC Form 472 (BEAR) Checklist and Request for Reimbursement ECF FCC Form 474 (SPI) Checklist for step by step guidance on what to do after you receive a Funding Commitment Decision Letter.

Check SAM.gov Registration – We remind applicants and service providers, who agree to invoice on behalf of the applicant, to ensure your SAM.gov information and registration is updated and active. If you will be submitting ECF requests for reimbursement (i.e., ECF FCC Form 472 or ECF FCC Form 474) and have not completed or updated your SAM.gov registration, please do so now. Visit the SAM.gov website to complete or renew your registration. SAM.gov registrations must be renewed on annual basis. If not renewed, the account will be deactivated.

For more reminders and tips regarding requests for reimbursement, please visit the Reminders and Tips page on the ECF Program website. Following these reminders and tips will help streamline the review of your ECF request(s) for reimbursement and can help you receive the funds more quickly. Requests for reimbursement will be reviewed and processed on a rolling basis.

For More Information

Please review the FCC's Emergency Connectivity Fund FAQs, which the FCC continues to update as new questions are received.

More detail on the ECF Program is available in the FCC Order that established the Emergency Connectivity Fund Program. For information on the program, please visit EmergencyConnectivityFund.org, join our training sessions, and sign up for Emergency Connectivity Fund Program emails.

Applicants and service providers can also contact the ECF Customer Service Center (CSC) with questions at (800) 234-9781 Monday – Friday from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. ET or submit a case in the ECF Portal.

We appreciate your interest in the ECF Program and look forward to your ongoing engagement as we work together to close the Homework Gap!