

August 24, 2022

Announcement - ECF System Unavailable

The Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF) will be unavailable on Friday, August 26 beginning at 7 p.m. ET through 11 p.m. ET for scheduled system upgrade. During this time, users will be unable to log in to and use ECF. We apologize for any inconvenience.

Reminder For Affected Applicants

Last month, the FCC's Wireline Competition Bureau issued an Order ([DA 22-799](#)) granting a waiver to certain "Affected Applicants" who modified a first or second window recurring service funding request before the Bureau had extended the applicable service delivery date to June 30, 2023. Specifically, Affected Applicants are those applicants who modified a committed first or second window recurring service funding request to reduce the months of service based on the former June 30, 2022 service delivery date. The Bureau provided Affected Applicants 30 days from the release of the Order on July 27, 2022 to submit requests with USAC to restore the voluntarily reduced months of service for their first or second window recurring service funding request(s). We therefore remind Affected Applicants that the deadline to submit requests to restore months of service per the Order is this Friday, August 26, 2022 (i.e., 30 days after the Order was released). Each request should contain a precise explanation of the relief sought, including the application number, the number of months originally requested, and any documentation supporting the modifications made to the months of service on a committed first or second window funding request.

Funding Commitments

The FCC and USAC have committed over \$5.7 billion in ECF support to date. Of this total, approximately \$4.1 billion is supporting applications from Window 1; \$830 million from Window 2; and \$774 million from Window 3. For more information, see the [current list of funding commitments](#) or all requests in the [Open Data Portal](#). USAC and the FCC are continuing to review funding requests as expeditiously as possible.

Additional Data Resources

Did you know that in addition to the information available in the [Open Data Portal](#), USAC has an ECF program specific page of data resources? The [ECF program open data page](#) summarizes the various resources published by USAC and the FCC, including the [Invoice Decision Report](#). The Invoice Decision Report gives applicants and service providers visibility into the status of requests for reimbursement from the ECF program that have been processed.

SAM.gov Transition From DUNS to UEI

On April 6, 2022, the FCC released [Public Notice DA 22-371](#) announcing the transition from the Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number to the Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) number that is generated by SAM.gov. At this time, only entities that receive direct payments or disbursements from the FCC must obtain a UEI number and complete full entity registration in SAM.gov, including for the ECF Program. Most organizations who participate and receive payments in the ECF Program should have already registered with SAM.gov. If you are submitting requests for reimbursement for the ECF Program, you are required to register in SAM.gov and already have a UEI number. No further action is required; USAC will reach out directly to these ECF participants,

if needed. If you will be submitting requests for reimbursement for the ECF Program and have not completed your registration in SAM.gov, you should do so now.

If you need help obtaining a UEI number or have additional questions, please visit the [Contact USAC](#) page to contact USAC's Customer Service Center (CSC) for the ECF Program.

Frequently Asked Questions

I submitted a request for reimbursement in the ECF program, but it is taking longer to process than requests for reimbursement I've submitted in the E-Rate program. Why is it taking longer?

The review and processing times for requests for reimbursement submitted in the ECF and E-Rate programs vary. The ECF program is an appropriated program and the review and processing of ECF requests for reimbursement entails more steps and, in some cases, further review than in E-Rate. For example, after USAC has recommended approval for an ECF request for reimbursement, the request is approved and processed as part of a batch by the Commission and the disbursement is made through the U.S. Department of Treasury. If you have any questions about the status of your ECF request for reimbursement, please contact the Customer Support Center at 1-800-234-9781.

For applications submitted in the third application filing window, how is the discount rate calculated for consortia applicants with a mix of urban and rural members?

Consortia applicants calculate their discount rates using a simple average of the ECF discount rates of the consortium members included on the application.

Should applicants cancel or reduce ECF funding commitments, if they do not end up using all of the committed amount (e.g., applicant requested and received a commitment to purchase 500 laptops, but only purchased 400)?

Yes, we encourage applicants to file a Post-Commitment Request to cancel or reduce the amount of their ECF funding commitment(s) if they do not need or use the full commitment amount. This will allow the Commission to de-obligate the ECF funds more quickly and make the funds available to applicants who submitted requests in the third ECF application filing window.

Please visit the ECF program website for additional information about submitting a Post-Commitment Request for [applicants](#) and [service providers](#).

ECF Requests for Reimbursement Reminders

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 SAM.gov registration. SAM.gov registrations must be renewed on annual basis. If not renewed, the account will be deactivated.

Following these reminders and tips will help streamline the review and processing 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 reminders and tips regarding requests for reimbursement, please visit the [Reminders and Tips](#) page on the ECF Program website.

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, please visit [EmergencyConnectivityFund.org](#) 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!