



USAC

# Emergency Connectivity Fund Program Newsletter

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August 2023

## Invoice Deadline Date Extension

On August 14, 2023, the FCC's Wireline Competition Bureau (WCB) released an Order ([DA-23-669](#)) granting a one-time extension of the invoice filing deadline to October 30, 2023, for any funding requests with an invoice filing deadline date occurring before October 30, 2023. The Order also provides 60 days to submit invoices from the date that USAC issues a notification that a refund request submitted by an ECF participant has been processed. The updated invoice filing deadlines should be reflected in the ECF Portal for affected participants. Please note that the Order does not extend ECF program participants' service delivery deadlines or eliminate the obligation for participants to comply with other ECF program requirements.

## Hawaii Wildfires

On August 18, 2023, WCB released an Order ([DA-23-723](#)) in response to the damage caused by the Hawaii Wildfires. In the Order, WCB waived the following ECF program rules for applicants and service providers in the affected areas of Maui and Hawaii counties: (1) the 30-day deadline to file appeals and requests for waiver; (2) the deadline to file FCC Forms 472 and 474; (3) portions of the service and equipment substitution rule; and (4) document retention and production requirements for participating ECF program participants whose documents were destroyed by the Hawaii Wildfires. With these waivers, the deadline to file appeals and waivers, and for the relevant FCC Forms is January 16, 2024, or 150 calendar days from the release date of the Order.

## New Open Data Tool

To determine the amount of funds left on an approved funding request (FRN), please see the ECF Invoice Deadline Tool, located here: [Emergency Connectivity Fund Invoice Deadline Tool](#). Use the instructions provided to locate and identify available funding amounts as well as the deadline by when those funds must be invoiced. The invoice deadline date(s) included in this tool are accurate and consistent with the FCC's recent order.

## ECF Program Compliance and Other Friendly Reminders

Please continue to check the ECF Portal and your email communications, and keep your entity information up-to-date in the ECF Portal. It is crucial that your organization does not miss any communication that comes from USAC. For example, the ECF program team may contact you after ECF funds have been dispersed to request payment verification, if you received funds before paying your service provider and have not uploaded the payment verification into the ECF Portal, or for other post-commitment-related reviews. As a reminder, failure to respond to a USAC information request(s) may lead to denial or recovery of ECF support, so it is important to timely respond to these requests.

If your Account Administrator currently listed in the ECF Portal has changed or the individual is no longer with your

organization, call the ECF Customer Support Center (CSC) at (800) 234-9781 and request an update to your information to reflect the name and email address of the new Account Administrator.

## For More Information

Please review the [FCC's Emergency Connectivity Fund FAQs](#) to learn more about the program's requirements and commonly asked questions. Additional information is also available in the FCC's [ECF Program Report and Order](#) and in the [March 1, 2023 Public Notice on ECF Compliance Obligations](#).

You can also visit [EmergencyConnectivityFund.org](#) and sign up for [Emergency Connectivity Fund Program emails](#) for more information about the ECF program.

Applicants and service providers can also contact the ECF CSC with questions at (800) 234-9781, Monday – Friday, from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. ET, or submit a customer support request through the ECF Portal.

We appreciate your participation in the ECF program and look forward to your on-going engagement as we work together to close the Homework Gap!

### Need Help? Contact Us!

Please contact the Emergency Connectivity Fund Customer Service Center (CSC) at (800) 234-9781 or create a case in the ECF Portal.

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