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USAC

Emergency Connectivity Fund Program Newsletter

June 14, 2022

The FCC [announced](#) that it has received requests for \$2,814,736,532 in the third, and final, application filing window of the Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF) program to fund 5,120,453 connected devices and 4,285,794 broadband connections. Because the demand exceeds available funds, applications will be prioritized to fund schools and libraries with the greatest need first, with a preference for schools and libraries located in rural areas, as explained in more detail in the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) on the FCC website.

Funding Commitments

Last week, the FCC [announced](#) the first wave of funding commitments for requests filed during the third application filing window totaling over \$244 million. This funding will provide support in the upcoming 2022-2023 school year for 259 schools, 24 libraries, and 1 consortium across the nation. The FCC and USAC also committed \$18 million in funding for Window 1 and Window 2 applications. This brings the total funding commitments approved to date to \$5.1 billion.

ECF Window 3 in Open Data

ECF FCC Forms 471 certified during the third application filing window are now available in the [open data set](#) and [tool](#). You can filter Window 3 application data using the field 'Filing Window'.

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). At this time, only entities that receive direct payments or disbursements from the FCC must obtain a UEI 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. 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 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

Our school's summer break is coming up. Will there be a "Summer Deferral" Period for PIA inquiries in the ECF Program like there is in the E-Rate program?

No. In the E-Rate program, USAC provides applicants additional time to respond to requests for information about their FCC Form 471 or other program forms during the summer and winter holiday seasons when schools are not in session. USAC will place forms and requests in a deferred status for E-Rate applicants that do not respond during these times. However, given the emergency purpose of the Emergency Connectivity Fund, there are no seasonal deferral periods in the ECF Program. Applicants should continue checking the ECF Portal for requests for information and respond by the deadline provided. Failure to respond to requests for information may lead to the denial of an application. Updates to holiday and summer contact information can be requested in the ECF Portal at any time by using the "Contact Reviewer" button under the Communications or Related Actions tab.

ECF Requests for Reimbursement Reminders of the Week

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. To learn more, 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!

Need Help? Contact Us!

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